



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Briefs

Zardari rushed to hospital

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Former president and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari has been shifted to a hospital owing to his worsening health. The former president was rushed to the hospital on the advice of his doctors. Sources told that Asif Ali Zardari is under treatment at Zia-ud-Din Hospital in Karachi where doctors have conducted his different medical tests. Hearing the news about the illness of the father, Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and his sister Bakhtwar Bhutto have landed in Karachi from Islamabad and Dubai respectively. Hospital sources said the former president was suffering from fatigue after attending the National Assembly's budget session and making an appearance in a court in Islamabad.

Govt buying expensive LNG

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: PML-N leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said the PTI government over the purchase of LNG for power generation, claiming that the incumbent government was buying the natural resource at an expensive rate due to their "incompetence". The former prime minister, while addressing a press conference alongside other PML-N leaders, alleged that the federal ministers have been lying about the country's electricity woes. "Ministers have been lying constantly. Why are plants closed and why is expensive electricity being made?" asked Abbasi. The PML-N leader said that a government minister had accused the previous government of running expensive plants "but today those same plants are open and the cheap ones have been shut down".

Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday. - Editor

Army stands by govt decision about air base

Military leadership made it clear that the case of Pashtun Tahafuz Movement leader and MNA Ali Wazir is not personal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Thursday said Pakistan will not give airbases to the US if the government has decided against it. The army chief was responding to questions posed by journalists after he had attended a military and intelligence briefing to parliamentarians on national security and the Afghanistan situation. "You should have put this question to the government. Why have you asked this from me?" Gen Bajwa said when first questioned on the military's position on the matter. However, when pushed, the COAS echoed the government in saying no base would be given to the US. According to sources, military leadership said that the case of Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) leader and Member National Assembly (MNA) Ali Wazir is not personal but using provocative language against country and state institutions cannot be easily forgiven. According to sources, Pakistan's military and political leadership has

'Pakistan Army to modernize infantry for future threats'

NEHAL MIRAJ

RAWALPINDI: General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited Punjab Regimental Centre (PRC), on Friday. During the visit, COAS installed Lieutenant General Majid Ehsan, Inspector General Arms as Colonel Commandant of the Punjab Regiment. Outgoing Colonel Commandant of the Punjab Regiment Lieutenant General Shahid Baig Mirza (Retired), large number of serving and retired officers and soldiers attended the ceremony.

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Pak pushing for Afghan negotiations: Fawad

"It won't be so easy for the Taliban to take over the government," Chaudhry said

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information Fawad Chaudhry on Friday said that Pakistan is pushing for negotiations in Afghanistan. "It won't be so easy for the Taliban to take over the government," Chaudhry said on the prospects for peace in the war-torn neighbour. "We want that the Afghan Taliban and the Ghani government negotiate [a way out]." Commenting on the prime minister's absence from the military and intelligence leadership's briefing on national



security, Afghanistan and Kashmir to parliamentary leaders, the minister said that the premier had not attended the briefing to accommodate the leader of opposition. "The prime minister was scheduled to attend the national security huddle, but the opposition leader [Shah-

baz Sharif] had conveyed to the speaker that if [Prime Minister Imran Khan] came to the briefing, he would not attend," Fawad said in an interview with a private news channel. Echoing the talking points from a day earlier, Fawad said the government hopes and prays that there is a peaceful transfer of power in Afghanistan. "There are three million Afghan nationals in Pakistan - if another three million are pushed in, it will put a lot of pressure on our economy," he said.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi exchanging views with Ambassador of Romania, Nicolae Goia at Naval Headquarters. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Ali Alizada calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan. - DNA

Pakistan keen to boost ties with Azerbaijan: PM

The Prime Minister congratulated Ambassador Alizada on successful completion of his assignment in Pakistan

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan received Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ali Alizada, for his farewell call, on Friday. The Azeri Ambassador conveyed warm greetings from Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan, to the Prime Minister. He also thanked the Prime Minister on Pakistan's

steadfast support on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue and the recent liberation of occupied territories. The Prime Minister congratulated Ambassador Alizada on successful completion of his assignment in Pakistan, and appreciated his contributions to the deepening and broadening of Pakistan-Azerbaijan relations. The Prime Minister fondly recalled his earlier meetings with President Ilham

Aliyev and warmly reciprocated his cordial greetings. The Prime Minister said that Pakistan highly values its close brotherly ties with Azerbaijan, and hoped that bilateral relations would be further strengthened, including through regular high-level exchanges. On Thursday, Ambassador Ali Alizada called on President Arif Alvi. Talking to the outgoing Ambassador, the President said Pakistan

highly valued its ties with Azerbaijan which are based on strong historic, cultural and religious bonds. The President said the two countries enjoyed excellent cooperation at various international fora which needed to be further expanded in the areas of trade, economy and culture for the mutual benefit of the two sides. He congratulated the Ambassador on the liberation of Nagorno-Karabakh from Armenia.

PTI to wipe out PPP from Sindh: FM

BUREAU REPORT

MULTAN: Foreign Minister, Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Friday expressed the optimism that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf would wipe out Pakistan People's Party from Sindh in the next general elections on account of performance. During his visit to different union councils of his constituency, he said that the PPP was no more the party of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and now it had turned to be the party of Asif Zardari.

Romanian envoy meets Naval Chief

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan Nicolae Goia visited NHQ, Islamabad & called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi. According to a statement, both the dignitaries discussed matters of mutual interest, bilateral collaborations & maritime security in the region during the meeting.

Pak rejects Indian claims about drone flying over embassy

Indian foreign ministry had claimed that a drone was sighted over the premises of the Indian HC

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Friday dismissed allegations by India's External Affairs Ministry regarding a "drone" being spotted over the Indian High Commission in Islamabad as "patently false". The statement came after the Indian foreign ministry claimed that a drone was sighted over the premises of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad on June 26.

"This has been taken up officially with Pakistan. We expect Pakistan to investigate the incident and prevent recurrence of such breach of security," NDTV quoted the Indian Ministry of External Affairs as saying in a statement. Responding to the claims, FO spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said: "We have seen the Indian MEA's statement and reports in

certain sections of the Indian media alleging a drone flying over the premises of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad." He said these "preposterous" claims were contrary to the facts and "no proof whatsoever has been shared with Pakistan to substantiate these allegations." Chaudhri pointed out that "this propaganda campaign by India" was happening at a time when evidence gathered in the recent Lahore blast was largely pointing to "external forces with a history of perpetrating state-sponsored terrorism against Pakistan". "Pakistan rejects these patently false allegations and diversionary Indian tactics and will continue to stand by the people of [Indian-occupied Kashmir] in their just struggle for the right to self-determination, as enshrined in the UNSC resolutions."

Spain qualify for semi final

SPORTS DESK

SAINT PETERSBERG: Spain has qualified for the semi final of the Euro Cup 2021 after beating Switzerland in penalty shoot outs. The match ended in 1-1 draw in the stipulated time. Even there was no result in the extra time. Switzerland's first ever UEFA European Championship quarter-final pit them against three-time winners Spain in Saint Petersburg. Both sides came through epic round of 16 ties. Spain needed extra time to finally see off Croatia in an eight-goal thriller in Copenhagen; Switzerland ousted FIFA World Cup holders France on penalties after sharing six goals in Bucharest.

UK to withdraw troops this weekend

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Britain is expected to bring the last of its regular troops home from Afghanistan over the weekend, ending its official role in a two-decades long conflict even though the Taliban are resurgent across the country. Defence sources told the Guardian that the exit of the last of the UK's 750 soldiers - part of a Nato stabilisation and training mission - is expected to be complete "in the next few days" before formal announcements on both sides of the Atlantic. Although insiders are reluctant to confirm the exact timetable, two military sources indicated that British forces were due out by Sunday 4 July, with the RAF having rescheduled flights to complete the evacuation. The UK exit has been scheduled to match the final departure of US forces, with Washington expected to announce their departure is complete on one of America's biggest national holidays. A mission of 650 US soldiers will reportedly stay but with their only mission to secure the American embassy in Kabul.

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Millions in northern India sizzle in severe heat wave - Page 06

US forces leave Afghanistan's Bagram airbase after 20 years - Page 07

Pakistan needs to prioritize cooperation with ASEAN: FS - Page 08

US donates 2.5mn doses of the Moderna vaccine

"The United States Mission to Pakistan is pleased to share these safe and effective vaccines with the people of Pakistan," said U.S. Embassy Chargé d'affaires Angela P. Aggeler

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: 2.5 million doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine donated by the United States arrived at Islamabad International Airport. These vaccines are being delivered to the Pakistani people in partnership with the COVAX global vaccine initiative, UNICEF, and the Government of Pakistan. This donation is part of the 80 million doses the United States is sharing with the world, delivering on our pledge to facilitate equitable global access to safe and effective vaccines, which are essential to ending the COVID-19 pandemic. As President Biden has said, the United States is committed to bringing the same urgency to international



ISLAMABAD: Doses of Moderna vaccines being offloaded. - DNA

Pakistan rejects US decision on CSPA list

Pakistan does not support any non-state armed group

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday categorically rejected the unsubstantiated and baseless inclusion of Pakistan in the "Child Soldiers Prevention Act (CSPA) List" - published under a domestic U.S. legislation - in the U.S. State Department's Annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report 2021. Pakistan does not support any non-state armed group; nor any entity recruiting or using child soldiers. Pakistan's efforts in fighting non-state armed groups including terrorist entities are well recognised. The inclusion of Pakistan in the "CSPA List" depicts a factual error and lack of understanding. No State institution was consulted by the U.S. prior to the publication of the report.

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Briefs

FCCI demands to shift Ehsaas office

DNA

FAISALABAD: Public office of "Ehsaas" may be shifted from the congested area of Batala Colony, demanded Chaudhary Talat Mahmood Senior Vice President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). He said that this office should be situated in a centrally located open and spacious place where beneficiaries of "Ehsaas" could easily have access without any hurdle. He said that the Batala Colony office is catering to the female beneficiaries from all over the district. Daily around 500-700 women visit this office which creates congestion in the area and residents of the area feel themselves entrapped in their houses. He said that residents had already filed many requests but no authority is inclined to take action or redress the public grievances. He reiterated this demand and urged upon the divisional and district authorities to shift this office to a centrally located spacious place. "It will not only facilitate the beneficiaries of "Ehsaas" but residents of Batala Colony would also take a sigh of relief", he added.

Work on Karakar Tunnel to begin soon

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Chief Minister KP on Communication and Works (C&W), Riaz Khan has said, formal construction work on Karakar Tunnel will begin soon. He said, the construction of tunnel will reduce travel time from Jawar to Bari Kot to only 10 minutes. He expressed these views while addressing a public meeting at Mulla Banda, Union Council Malakpur, district Buner on Friday. On this occasion, several influential political families quit Jamaat-e-Islami and announced joining PTI.

The Special Assistant reiterated no compromise on public interest, adding that he had devoted himself for public service. He said indiscriminate public service is his mission. He said that the steps initiated by the incumbent government for provision of facilities to people at their door step is bearing far-reaching results. He said, public interest is dear to them and would never compromise on it.

He said, a new era of progress and development had begun in Buner wherein billions of rupees are being spent on uplift schemes. Riaz Khan said, beside other areas of the province, the PTI government is also focused on the progress and development of Buner, saying for this purpose, Chief Minister Mahmood had approved billions of rupees. - APP

KP BoR amends Land Revenue Act

PESHAWAR: Board of Revenue (BoR) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for first time in history of last 50 years has tightened noose around land mafia through amendments in Revenue Act 1968 to provide protection to land owners. According to a spokesman of Revenue Department/BoR, the Senior Member BoR, Syed Zafar Ali Shah while following the directives of Chief Minister Mahmood Khan and Chief Secretary, Kazim Niaz has initiated stern legislation to provide protection to land owners and for this purpose has amended Land Revenue Act 1968. Under the additions of sub-sections A and B to Section 67 of Land Revenue Act 1968, land owners will be provided full cooperation and assistance in handing over of occupation to land owners. He said that through this law, common man will be granted ownership of land forthwith and retrieved from land mafia. After acceptance of application of land owners against land mafia, the concerned revenue officer with the assistance of police or without will take decision regarding the concerned property. If required, revenue officer will also register case against land mafia and will stern action for retrieving of the occupied land. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Nawaf Bin Saeed Al-Maliki calls on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr. - DNA

FCCI continues its efforts to revive all sick units

"These units are not only providing jobs to the thousands of workers in addition to contributing their role towards enhancing exports and giving a quantum jump to the national economy" President FCCI said

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: A special meeting with Governor State Bank of Pakistan Mr. Reza Baqir will be arranged very soon to discuss the issues relating to the revival of sick units and relocation of industries from urban areas to Special Economic Zone (SEZ), said Engineer Hafiz Ihtasham Javed President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). Chairing a meeting of the standing committee of FCCI on Revival of Sick Units, he said that many sick units have already been revived with the efforts of FCCI.

"These units are not only providing jobs to the thousands of workers in addition to contributing their role towards enhancing exports and giving a quantum jump to the national economy", he said and added that still many units could not start functioning as their financial problems are still pending.

He said that FCCI will continue its efforts to revive all sick units so that the pace of economic development could be spurred. Appreciating the contribution of Governor State Bank Mr. Reza Baqir for the revival of sick units, he said that his direct intervention is



imperative to remove the petty bottlenecks. He said that heads of all concerned banks and stakeholders would also be invited to participate in it and explain their revival plans directly. He said that a zoom meeting also could be arranged

to the government. He said that Prime Minister Imran Khan has also constituted a committee for the revival of industries. "Although sick units do not fall under its purview, yet we could take its cover to expedite the revival process of sick units."

He said that relocation of industrial units from urban areas to SEZ would also be included in the agenda of this meeting. He said that the government must compensate these units through the Balancing, Modernization and Replacement (BMR) scheme. Mian Muhammad Latif Chairman FCCI Standing

Committee on Revival of Sick Units appreciated the efforts of FCCI and said that Engineer Hafiz Ihtasham Javed should expedite his efforts to revive the remaining sick units. He said that billions of rupees have already been invested and these units need only working capital to start their units.

The meeting was also attended by Former President Syed Zia Alamdar Hussain, Omar Farooq and Malik Rizwan of Orient.

They also explained their individual problems and expressed full confidence in the leadership of President FCCI.



FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali chairs a meeting of District Price Control Committee. - DNA

Commodities' rates re-fixed for maximum relief

DNA

FAISALABAD: The District Price Control Committee has reduced the prices of different pulses upto 42 rupees. According to the detail the prices of Moong, Mash, Gram pulses, gram white and black and Basin has become reduced to provide relief to the consumers while a 20 kg bag of flour will be available at Rs 1,020 and the previous prices of various essential commodities have been maintained. A meeting of the District Price Control Committee was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali in which the current market prices of various essential commodities and their availability rates were discussed

in consultation with wholesalers, retailers, traders and consumer representatives. Assessing the volatility, the prices of various essential commodities for the common markets were unanimously fixed.

The Deputy Commissioner Gujranwala Mr. Javed Iqbal while speaking at a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony. Syngenta Pakistan and Galaxy Rice (Pvt) Limited signed the (MoU) to impart training to rice growers regarding the promotion of green chemistries whitshot pre harvest interval including need-based application of pesticides. The training will sensitize farmers to avoid excessive/blind use of pesticides.

The prices of lentils have been reduced by Rs 11, basins by Rs 7, gram pulse by Rs 7, masoor pulse by Rs 5, white and black chana by Rs 3 each. He said that the previous prices of rice, milk, yogurt, mutton and beef have been maintained.

IGP urges Ulema to play role for peace

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Moazzam Jah Ansari has said that huge responsibility rests on the shoulders of Ulama (clerics) for promoting peace, tranquility and brotherhood in the society. He urged them to come forward and play their indispensable role for putting an effective halt to the nefarious designs of unscrupulous elements.

He was talking to a 15-member delegation of Ulama Council from Madrassa Haqqania Akora Khattak led by Maulana Yusuf Shah that called on him at his office here on Friday. The IGP pointed out that the Ulama have played a pivotal role in Pakistan movement as well as in the solidarity of the country. He added that Islam is the religion of peace and tranquility and huge responsibility rests on the shoulders of Ulama to reform the misguided people. The IGP asserted that

spreading hate and violence is an unwanted act and urged the Ulama to come forward and foil such attempts with the active support of the public. The IGP urged the Ulama to sensitize the people and propagate religious harmony and Ittehad Bain ul Muslimeen in their sermons. The members of the delegation informed the IGP that whenever their services were required by the country, they came forward and played their role in maintaining peace and promoting brotherhood.

50 shopkeepers fined over profiteering

FAISALABAD: Special price control magistrates fined 50 shopkeepers on charge of profiteering in various parts of Faisalabad on Friday. A spokesman of local administration said that the price control magistrates checked prices of various daily use items at 934 shops in 60 markets and bazaars. They found 50 shopkeepers involved in overcharging and profiteering. Therefore, the magistrates imposed a fine of Rs 80,000 on them and warned that they would be sent behind bars if they did not mend their way of profiteering.

70 pc of religious scholars get vaccine

PESHAWAR: About seventy percent of religious scholars and seminary students have taken coronavirus prevention jabs in Peshawar. This was said by participants of a meeting held here on Friday between prominent religious scholars and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Peshawar, Capt @ Khalid Mehmood. The delegation of religious scholars was led by Mufti Zafar Zaman and held a detailed discussion with DC Peshawar about vaccination in seminaries. The meeting was informed that coronavirus vaccination was in progress at religious seminaries where teachers and all students were getting the preventive jabs. They assured that in near future about 100 percent of students and teachers of religious schools would get vaccinated. - APP

Swat admin refuses to allow PDM rally

DNA

SWAT: The Swat administration on Friday refused to allow Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) to hold a public gathering in the city on July 4 (Sunday), citing security concerns. Senator Maulana Aatur Rehman, brother of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUIF) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and JUIF Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Amir, who is also the event organizer, however, has vowed to go ahead with the gathering come what may. Sources in the PDM said that all arrangements for the PDM's power show were complete. Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif and former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi will stay at Malam Jabba. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Ameer Muqam said that Shehbaz would be brought to venue of the jalsa in a rally. Maulana Fazlur Rehman will lead the rally from Katlang Interchange, Mardan to Swat. Sources further said that small processions from adjoining areas such as Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi, Nowshera and Charsadda will join the rally at Katlang Interchange. Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri will lead a rally from Buner while Asad Mehmood, Maulana Fazl's son, will lead a rally from Matta, Swat.

Project launched for enhancing profitability

DNA

LAHORE: The Punjab government has launched a project of Rs 6 billion named "National Program for Enhancing Profitability through Increasing Productivity of Rice" in 15 rice districts of Punjab from last year of project to promote mechanization, usage of certified seed and responsible application of pesticides in line with global standards especially EU & USA.

Under this project, farmers are getting subsidy on purchase of certified rice seed, educated on responsible and controlled use of pesticides etc. It is a complete package being given by the government to enhance the productivity of the rice sector. The project is also aimed at promoting mechanization through subsidizing (50%) use of different machines such as transplanters for increasing plant population and other agricultural implements, said Director Agriculture (Extension) Gujranwala Mr. Javed Iqbal while speaking at a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony. Syngenta Pakistan and Galaxy Rice (Pvt) Limited signed the (MoU) to impart training to rice growers regarding the promotion of green chemistries whitshot pre harvest interval including need-based application of pesticides. The training will sensitize farmers to avoid excessive/blind use of pesticides.

FPCCI seeks Govt's help to resolve gas crisis

KARACHI: Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) President Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo on Friday sought the government's prompt action for a sustainable solution of the gas crisis. The FPCCI president, in a statement, stressed the need to bring all the stakeholders and players on one page as disruption in gas supply was hampering industrial production and fulfillment of export orders. He suggested that PLL, Gas Terminals, Gas Distribution Companies, private licensees for LNG (liquefied petroleum gas) import and all relevant government ministries should sit together under the leadership of prime minister to seek a resolution and timeframe for full resumption of gas supply. Likewise the IPPs (Independent Power Producers) crisis, the prime minister should help resolve the issues in supply of natural gas once and for all, he added. Nasser Maggo claimed that there was difference of opinion among various government departments and stakeholders over resolution of current crisis, which might cause further delay in the resumption of normal gas supplies. - APP

Pak, Germany enjoy excellent ties in academia

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Germany and Pakistan are enjoying excellent relations in academia and research which could be further strengthened by the students completing their higher studies in German universities. This was stated by German Embassy, Head of Press and Cultural Section Christine Rosenberger during a meeting with University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Anas Sarwar Qureshi and alumni of German universities at New Senate Hall. She also performed equipment handing-over ceremony at Laboratory of the Institute of Soil and Environmental Sciences, UAF in which equipment worth 20000 euros donated by Humboldt Foundation Germany was handed over to the Lab management.



She said that this year, Germany and Pakistan celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. She said that young people returning home from higher education in German universities provide a strong network of relations between the both countries. She urged the students to apply in the German universities to get the higher studies that would help further strengthen the academia ties. She said she is impressed to see many

work of relations between the both countries. She urged the students to apply in the German universities to get the higher studies that would help further strengthen the academia ties. She said she is impressed to see many

UAF researchers and teachers had a close liaison with German universities and they are alumni form Germany. She said that Germany has an important place in Europe due to its rich culture and research experience, for which Pa-

kistani youth should go to German universities. UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Anas Sarwar Qureshi said Germany is in close touch with Pakistani universities and experts through various international platforms. He said that Germany is playing a pivotal role in the European economy. He said that the close bilateral relations would provide an opportunity to learn from each other experiences and address the common issues. Dr. Irshad Bibi, Principal Investigator In Charge of FTIR Laboratory said that alumni of German universities had established an effective network in their fields and are providing guidance to the youth for admission in German universities. Dean Faculty of Agriculture Dr. Javed Akhtar, and Principal Officer Student Affairs Dr. Aftab Wajid were also present on the stage.

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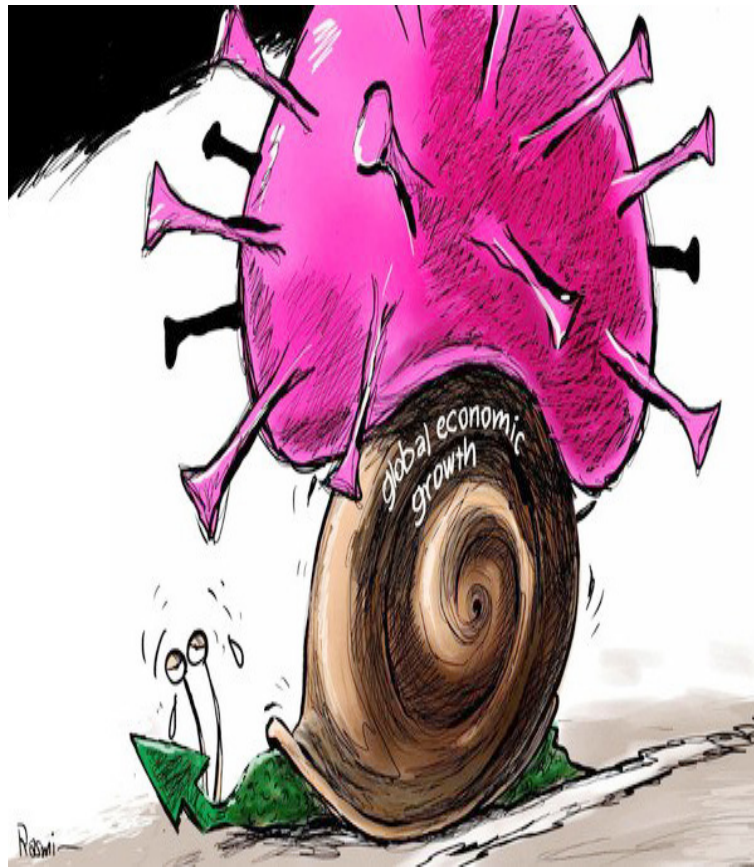
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Faint opposition

AFTER first threatening the government with a street movement and a march to Islamabad, the opposition has failed to pull off either of these events and also failed to move a vote of no confidence against the prime minister in parliament. There are also clear signs that the PPP and PML-N no longer see eye to eye and have passed jibes against each other, both on the floor of the House and elsewhere. Such jibes were heard again on Wednesday, as Bilawal Bhutto asked why the PML-N president had not been present during the session when the budget for 2021-2022 was passed smoothly. It is quite obvious then that the 'united' opposition will not be marching to Islamabad and has already failed in the Senate as well as in other places. This leaves open the question of what the future is to bring. While Prime Minister Imran Khan has made some gestures of acceptance to the opposition, the tactics of the government in attacking it again and again also in the past were not useful. The opposition has asked why accountability has been carried out selectively.

This indeed is a question that needs to be answered by the government. There is also little reason left for why the opposition leaders should not participate in talks and electoral reforms. While the angry exchanges of words in the past have been unfortunate – as was the rather bizarre exchange between Bilawal Bhutto and Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Wednesday – there should now be a point where the opposition understands it does not stand united, is compromised, and has no real plan at all. As such, like mature oppositions across the democratic world it must learn to work within the framework of a parliamentary democracy and play a constructive role in building the country and taking it forward. So far, we have seen very few useful suggestions put forward from the opposition in parliament.

The fact is that the opposition and the government need to function together in order for parliament to function smoothly. The unfortunate events seen outside and inside parliament are not welcome. We need to show our people that we are capable of running a mature democracy with the support of both sides in the House.



Censorship in India

THE spat between the Indian government and social media giant twitter has been making headlines fairly regularly recently. The most recent issue in this saga was the complaint lodged by a Hindu hardline group, Bajrang Daal. Leader Praveen Bhati's report filed to the police over the small issue of Ladakh not being displayed on a map on twitter careers page has led to yet another case of treason being filed against both the platform and its managing director in India.

There is a strategy at play here and that is geared around the single-minded approach to bring twitter and eventually other social media firms under the Indian government's heel. With the Modi government consistently marginalising minority populations, particularly Muslims and Kashmiris more specifically, this would help India avoid the recent scrutiny it has been getting in international media over its transgressions. With the new rules announced in February, the past four months have seen an undue amount of pressure on the platform to comply or face dire consequences. It is clear that the Indian government will not stop until its demands are met. This unreasonable action is in line with other clampdowns attempted over the world on social media and the sort of opinions the users can propagate on the websites.

Here at home, we are well aware of the online harm rules that the government was looking impose—robustly protested by civil society activists and experts alike. But in that case, there was a concerted effort by the platforms to not only engage with the government, but also highlight the steps the Pakistan government was looking to take on an international level.

We must now see the same sort of active opposition from twitter India as well. Misinformation and censorship of divergent views as a state-sponsored tactic to paper over the crack and hide abuses will never be acceptable. The Muslims of India and the Kashmiris fighting for their rights have the right to a voice, and the Modi's government's clampdown must be fought against at all costs.

Democracy means disagreement with dignity

Wajeeha Bilal



Humans have gone to war because the people representing them do not learn to resolve their issues or differences with the opposing forces. Humanity may have found a way to rule through democracy but there is a dire need for democratic strategies when their representatives need to negotiate with one another. The main reason for human agitation at having different opinion is the lack of patience and tolerance for others and their ideas

WE live in a controversial world where we are compelled to pick sides and any criticism of an idea leads to the belief "you're either with us, or against us" sandbagging everyone into friends or foes. Unfortunately, the social media debates among parties and their supporters move from the planning of a prosperous future into a domain of utter disrespect and disregard for each other. This kind of stubbornness restricts the potential to grow and reform new objectives and viewpoints for the future of the country. Just because you hold a different opinion from mine does not mean we are against each other, or we have to develop hateful terms for our opinions.

Humans have gone to war because the people representing them do not learn to resolve their issues or differences with the opposing forces. Humanity may have found a way to rule through democracy but there is a dire need for democratic strategies when their representatives need to negotiate with one another. The main reason for human agitation at having different opinion is the lack of patience and tolerance for others and their ideas. We realize that democracy has come to be recognized as the best form of government, but democratic leadership does not mean a compromise of ethics and morals by exploiting the leading status rather it is the path to coexisting with moral dignity and eminence. Coexistence in society means that we can learn to stand up for our values and speak up for what we believe in with grace. Dignity is vital to the development of any debate in a civilized culture; whether it is at The National Assembly turning into a battleground as the opposition and treasury members scuffle with each other and use budget documents as attacking weapons OR about an international interview of the Prime Minister

with Jonathan Swan. PM Khan had received backlash for his controversial statement, "If a woman is wearing very few clothes, it will have an impact on the men, unless they are robots. It's just common sense."

He went on to state that it was "cultural imperialism", while netizens had shown much resentment by calling him a rape apologist, his party members and social media supporters have found ways to justify that it was about the act of observing veil "purdah" and in no way related to the crime of rape. Well to be honest if that be the case then the answer about observing 'purdah' in a religion, was in no way related to the question that was asked about a heinous crime which is mostly inflicted on the innocent. The purity of "purdah" (veil) in a pious religion is not a valid answer to a question about a despicable crime, whose victims are mostly children in a society. Since I disagree with my leader on this statement, it does not mean I hate the leadership in any way, I just find it right to stand for what I believe in.

While the debates of the supporters and the attackers have rained the media for a long time, it is a fact that there is no shame in accepting your own or your leader's fault with dignity. Having the courtesy and the ability to listen to opposing views and understanding something wrong is the essence of a true leadership.

The excuse for justifying a wrong statement lies in the inability to be strong enough to admitting a mistake. Admitting a fault is not weakness, it is a way that humbles and dignifies people. Democracy can also civilize the leaders by coming out with an apology by saying that the question could have been handled in a better way, as there is no excuse for a heinous crime. Any kind of humble acceptance surely triumphs over any justification. Following a democratic leader requires

that we stand unanimous in creating awareness and exposing any wrong attitude that aims at justifying criminal behavior. If there was no awareness and check by the people who stood with their leader, this earth would be an abode of mischief. A criminal is a criminal and abuse is an abuse whether physical or verbal, there is no how and why to it and we stand against it.

There always comes a point in an argument when it is to be realized by both the parties that future debate will prove useless unless it is ended with a civilized understanding. You can learn to disagree at appropriate terms without resorting to hateful verbal or physical aggression. At this crossroad of witnessing the daily talk shows and live attacks in the assemblies, democracy and freedom of speech seem to lose their values with the lack of civility. When aggression becomes a way of earning more views, the lawmakers become the law breakers and the leaders become the perfect examples of barbaric inhuman cruels. How can one claim to be a nation of Unity, Faith and Discipline when these words are overtaken by savagery, the moment there is a disagreement between two leading representatives? Debates and discussions are the quintessence of Democracy as long as they are carried out with respect and honor.

We should provide space for different viewpoints so that all debates are countered with dignity and honor. The reality is that we are all humans who are likely to make mistakes and that not everyone has the same beliefs as we do. There must be a mutual respect for each other in an argument and a tolerance for accepting our mistakes, or those of our leaders'.

(Wajeeha is the author of "The Conscious Ego" and "The Beautiful Present")

Chinese leadership is most trustworthy in the World

R A Shiekh

Last four decade of politics in Pakistan has given nothing to masses except mistrust on the political system. Pakistani politics is marred with cloudy deals with external and internal power brokers, massive corruption, political vengeance, maligning and weakening of institutions. Only two families have ruled Pakistan except one semi military rule in which alternative political leadership was part of the government. Hence there is no ideological politics in the country

IN an era of post-truth, it is difficult to desilt truth from lies. Politicians hit emotions of the target audience to gain their sympathies and avoid telling them facts. A polarized society is ideal ground for propaganda. Bias of one group helps to spread fake news against other group. It is a chain reaction which results into chaos in a society. Chaos help the defeated echelon of politics.

EU DisinfoLab recently revealed in by exposing Indian propaganda against Pakistan since last one and a half decade. Indian are hitting soft power of Pakistan for global political gains. Populist demagogue all over the world will hit emotions and disguise the fact to influence their voters and no amount of fact checking will reduce their appeal. It is only when people feel alienated from a political system that they accept lies from a politician who claims to be a champion of the "people" against the "establishment" or "elite".

This practice is prevalent in other parts of the world as well. Nawaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz, Asif Ali Zardari, Modi (India), Kim Jong-Yun (N Korea), Trump (US), Johnson (UK), Duterte (Philippine), Bolsonaro (Brazil) believes in blatant disregard of facts. But they don't know this type of behavior only gets approval in front of their supporters, nobody else. The immediate use of story for political use clearly mani-

fest the people behind fake story.

Last four decade of politics in Pakistan has given nothing to masses except mistrust on the political system. Pakistani politics is marred with cloudy deals with external and internal power brokers, massive corruption, political vengeance, maligning and weakening of institutions. Only two families have ruled Pakistan except one semi military rule in which alternative political leadership was part of the government. Hence there is no ideological politics in the country. Major political parties are outcome of the necessity of that particular time and frame and created for vested interests by internal and external players. Those in politics are in politics only to increase their wealth and power. This inward approach of politicians has left institutions at the mercy of Bureaucracy. The civil servants couldn't have got more ideal environment to play their own games. Thus, this jigsaw puzzle has ultimately made a mockery of itself.

An international survey found that former US President trump shook the global trust on US leadership. Chinese leadership has 34% approval rating globally as compared with 31% of the US. Joe Biden will have to work at home and abroad to redo the image and enhance the influence of superpower in global politics.

Modi has earned disrepute for himself as

well as his party to ignite Hinduism through lies put India in a bumpy ride. India is no more a secular state, it is now established Hindu state with no room for minority. There is no quick and easy recipe for this process. It is not surprising that inequality has been identified as one of the variables that has compromised the legitimacy of democracy in the eyes of so many people. To defang demagogues, and to make lying unacceptable again, requires that voters regain trust in the political system. A research showed that when people consider a political system to be legitimate and fair, they reject politicians who tell untruths and they resent being lied to. So the key to moving on involves pursuing politics that reduce the appeal of populist demagogues and that create incentives for politicians to be more honest.

It is encouraging to note that in other countries with different political structures and policies, voters do not tolerate politicians' lies. In Australia voters reduce their endorsement of politicians if they are revealed to be dishonest. In Australia, voting is mandatory and preferential. Everyone must vote or risk being fined, and voters rank their preferences among all parties. These measures help contain political polarization, underscoring how the design of a political system can determine a country's welfare.

Briefs

Army stands by govt decision...

FROM PAGE 01

decided in principle not to give military bases to the United States. This important decision was taken in the meeting of the National Security Committee yesterday. The meeting agreed to advance foreign policy and national security issues with national consensus. DG ISI Lt Gen Faiz Hameed briefed the committee for an hour and a half and expressed concern that after the US withdrawal, Afghan refugees may relocate to Pakistan. The participants of the meeting were told in the briefing that seven to eight warlords want a civil war in Afghanistan and if there is a civil war, the effects will be on Pakistan. According to sources, Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari raised the issue of Ali Wazir in the National Security Committee meeting and said that actions against him should be stopped and he should be pardoned. To this, the military leader said that the case of PTM leader Ali Wazir was not personal but using provocative language against state institution and such an apology cannot be easily granted for insulting the country and state institutions.

'Pakistan Army to modernize infantry...

FROM PAGE 01

While interacting with the officers and troops, COAS appreciated the Regiment for displaying the highest standards in all professional pursuits, including their exemplary performance in operations. He also said that Pakistan Army would do all that is possible to modernize the arm of Infantry as part of its overall drive to prepare for the future threats. Earlier on arrival at Punjab Regimental Centre, COAS was received by the Incoming, Outgoing Colonel Commandants and Commandant of Punjab Regimental Centre. COAS also laid floral wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada.

US donates 2.5mn doses of...

FROM PAGE 01

vaccination efforts that we have demonstrated at home. "The United States Mission to Pakistan is pleased to share these safe and effective vaccines with the people of Pakistan," said U.S. Embassy Chargé d'affaires Angela P. Aggeler. "These vaccines will save lives and help Pakistan emerge from this crisis, which has devastated so many families and communities in both our countries. A vaccinated public will also help bring back the economic and social interactions we all welcome. We appreciate the ongoing collaboration with the Pakistani government and our international partners to make this delivery and these goals a reality." In addition to today's vaccine donation, the United States has delivered nearly \$50 million in COVID assistance through our partnership with the Pakistani government. Since the start of the pandemic, we have worked together to improve infection prevention and control, enhance patient care, expand laboratory testing, disease monitoring, and case tracking in all districts, and support frontline healthcare workers. Separately, the United States has pledged \$4 billion to support COVAX with the purchase and delivery of COVID-19 vaccines to 92 low- and middle-income countries. This contribution is supporting equitable access to vaccines for the world's most vulnerable and at-risk populations, including frontline healthcare workers. In May, Pakistan received 1.2 million doses of the Astra Zeneca vaccine as part of the COVAX effort.

Pak pushing for Afghan...

FROM PAGE 01

"We are only concerned when India uses Afghan territories against us," he added. "Meanwhile, we will continue to try and mediate between the Afghan Taliban and the Ghani government."

Spain beat Switzerland on pens to Qualify for Semi-Final

Switzerland's first ever UEFA European Championship quarter-final pit them against three-time winners Spain in Saint Petersburg

SPORTS DESK

SAINT PETERSBURG: Spain has qualified for the semi final of the Euro Cup 2021 after beating Switzerland in penalty shoot outs. The match ended in 1-1 draw in the stipulated time. Even there was no result in the extra time. Switzerland's first ever UEFA European Championship quarter-final pit them against three-time winners Spain in Saint Petersburg. Both sides came through epic round of 16 ties. Spain needed extra time to finally see off Croatia in an eight-goal thriller in Copenhagen; Switzerland ousted FIFA World Cup holders France on penalties after sharing six goals in Bucharest.



KPL will unearth talented cricketers in Kashmir



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Sadiq Sanjrani believes that Kashmir Premier League (KPL) will help to find talented cricketers in that region. Sanjrani met Muzaffar Khan Tanoli here on Friday. In a cricket-friendly meeting, they both discussed the future of the upcoming franchise league, KPL. Tanoli told Sanjrani about the roadmap of finding out the hidden talent in Kashmir and grooming them for higher-level cricket. Sanjrani praised KPL's management and expressed high hopes for a successful inaugural season of the event. "KPL is a great initiative to find out the hidden talent in Kashmir. I am hopeful that this league will provide a platform for youngsters in Kashmir to showcase their talent," he said. "KPL will take Kashmir to a higher-level cricket map very soon," he added. On the other hand, Tanoli shared that he has plans to build a cricket academy in Muzaffarabad. - DNA

Serena Honors Sports Journalists on World Sports Journalists Day

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels in collaboration with Rawalpindi-Islamabad Sports Journalists Association held a reception to honor sports journalists on World Sports Journalists Day, as part of Serena Hotels Sports Diplomacy Initiative. The prominent journalists of print and electronic media from the twin cities were invited to an exclusive get together at Islamabad Serena Hotel, followed by a cake cutting ceremony. Farrukh Habib, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting along with Shahbaz Gill, Special Assistant to the PM were the Chief Guests on the occasion World Sports Journalists Day, observed



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib and Special Assistant on Political Communication Dr Shahbaz Gill along with other jointly cutting the cake during a function to mark World Sports Journalists Day. - DNA

globally on 2nd July every year, aims to acknowledge the contributions of sports journalists, especially their role in the development of

sports culture and propagation of sport activities all over the world. The Chief Guests as well as the Serena Hotels management praised the Pakistani sports journalists for their positive role in the propagation and coverage of local and int'l sports.

Statues of British Queens toppled in Canada

OTTAWA: Protesters in the Canadian city of Winnipeg have toppled statues of Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II in the face of growing anger over the discovery of the remains of hundreds of children in unmarked graves at former Indigenous schools. Crowds chanted "no pride in genocide" before pulling down the statues of the monarchs on Canada Day on Thursday, when traditionally celebrations take place across the country. This year, however, many cities scrapped events as the scandal over the Indigenous children made Canadians confront their colonial history. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the day would be "a time for reflection". The hashtag #CancelCanadaDay was trending on social media, and rallies in support of the Indigenous community were held around the country. Almost 1,000 unmarked graves have been found at former residential schools in British Columbia and Saskatchewan that were mainly run by the Catholic Church and funded by the government. For 165 years and as recently as 1996, the schools forcibly separated Indigenous children from their families, subjecting them to malnourishment and physical and sexual abuse in what the Truth and Reconciliation Commission called "cultural genocide" in 2015. In Winnipeg, a crowd cheered as Queen Victoria's statue fell outside the Manitoba provincial legislature. Protesters, many of whom wore orange clothing, also kicked the toppled statue and danced around it. The pedestal and statue were daubed in red paint hand marks. - DNA



BUCHAREST: Leading Romanian mountaineer Alex Gavan (specialist in climbing of 8000 meter peaks without using supplemental oxygen or sherpas, and who calls Pakistan his second home) met the Pakistani ambassador. He presented to the Embassy an autographed picture he took, in July 2019, from the summit of Gashbrum 2 (8035 meters) showing Broad Peak (8047 meters), #K2 (8611 meters), the highest mountain seen in the pic), Gashbrum 3 (7952 meters), Gashbrum 4 (7925 meters), and Baltoro Glacier (one of the longest glaciers outside the polar regions). - DNA

Millions in northern India sizzle in severe heat wave

FOREIGN DESK

NEW DELHI: Tens of millions of people in India are suffering under a severe heatwave that has pushed the temperature to a nine-year high in capital New Delhi as monsoon rains run behind schedule. Heatwaves have killed at least 6,500 people in the world's second-most populous nation since 2010, and scientists say climate change is making them harsher and more frequent. Daytime temperatures were above 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) for the fourth consecutive day on Friday across the northern states of Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. Large parts of Punjab in the west and Madhya Pradesh in central India were also wilt-

ing. Delhi saw 43.1 degrees Celsius on Thursday, the hottest July day in the city since 2012 when the capital sweltered under 43.5 degrees Celsius. On Friday, the temperature again shot up to 41 degree Celsius in the city of 20 million. Temperatures have remained more than seven degrees Celsius above normal for this time of the year, prompting India's weather office to classify it as "severe extreme heat". The India Meteorological Department said the mercury will stay above 40 degrees for the coming week because of the late arrival of the southwest monsoon and a hot wind blowing in from the desert state of Rajasthan and neighbouring Pakistan. The weather department has issued a heatwave alert for the region, with

India COVID death toll crosses 400,000

FOREIGN DESK

NEW DELHI: India has reached the grim milestone of 400,000 deaths from the coronavirus, half of them during a second wave in the past few months that overwhelmed the healthcare system and crematoriums. India has recorded 30.45 million cases since the outbreak of the pandemic last year and is the second-most affected country behind the United States, which has 33 million cases. The US has at least 604,000 deaths and about 518,000 people have died in Brazil. India, the world's second-most populous nation, recorded 853 deaths in the past 24 hours, health ministry data showed on Friday. That took it past the 400,000 mark, with the last 100,000 being added in just 39 days, according to a Reuters news agency tally. But health experts believe India may have undercounted deaths significantly and the actual number could have reached one million or even higher. Scores of bodies washed up along the Ganges river in northern India in May, as people struggled to keep pace with deaths and cremations at the peak of the second wave.

forecasters also saying some isolated places will witness thunderstorms. In Punjab, authorities announced a two-day weekly closure of industrial units and reduced office hours for its employees after electricity demand topped 15,000 megawatts. Forecasters predict that the annual rains will not hit New Delhi before July 7, making it the most delayed monsoon in the national capital since 2006. The deadliest year for India was 2015 when at least 2,000 were killed by intense heat. The intense heat has driven up power consumption as more and more people turned to air-conditioners and air coolers. Delhi's power consumption peaked to nearly 7,000 megawatts (MW) this week, 10-15 percent higher than the average demand at this time of the year.

Currently, just five percent of Indian households have air conditioning compared with 90 percent in the United States and 60 percent in China. But the market is forecast to boom in the coming years, driving up energy consumption in what is already the world's third-largest emitter of carbon dioxide. The refrigerants inside AC units also exacerbate global warming, while the heat that the machines generate makes cities even hotter. The country of 1.3 billion people also suffers from severe water shortages with tens of millions lacking running water. Parts of Delhi and elsewhere regularly see scuffles when tankers arrive to deliver water. In 2019, Chennai made international headlines when the southern city ran out of water entirely.

Pakistan rejects US decision on CSPA list

FROM PAGE 01

Nor were any details provided of the basis on which the conclusion was reached. Overall, on the issue of Trafficking in Persons, Pakistan is committed to fighting this scourge both at the national and international levels. We have taken a range of legislative and administrative actions in that regard during the last one year, including the approval of Rules under the domestic Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants Acts; National Action Plan 2021-25 prepared jointly by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); and enhancement of capacity building and inter-agency cooperation of Law Enforcement Agencies involved in anti-human smuggling. Pakistan has been voluntarily submitting information for the TIP Report to the U.S. Government since 2007 and has actively worked on implementing the practicable recommendations of these reports. Pakistan calls upon the authorities concerned in the United States to review the baseless assertions made in the TIP Report, especially with regard to the unwarranted inclusion of Pakistan in the "CSPA List." Pakistan also expects the sharing of "credible information" on cases involving Trafficking in Persons as well as on allegations pertaining to support to armed groups using child soldiers. Pakistan's views and perspective on the subject have been conveyed to the U.S. side. Pakistan would continue to remain engaged with the U.S. Government through bilateral channels for constructive dialogue on all issues of mutual interest.

J&J vaccine effective against delta variant

WEB DESK

NEW YORK: Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine works effectively against the delta variant that now dominates new infections in South Africa, the head of the country's Medical Research Council said on Friday. As well as South Africa, delta is now rife across Europe, and has spread around the world since initially being identified in India, but data shows the J&J shot can help combat the highly contagious variant. "All the data that we see indicate good immediate and sustained immune response against Delta, and we see surprising durability in the immune response for the single dose J&J right up to eight months," Glenda Gray told a news conference. On Thursday, J&J said its vaccine generated strong and persistent activity against other prevalent coronavirus variants, not just delta. The vaccine showed 85% efficacy, and could prevent serious illness and hospitalization. "Current data for the eight months studied so far shows that the single-shot Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine generates a strong neutralizing antibody response that does not wane; rather, we observe an improvement over time," said a company statement. Here's a rundown of other major coronavirus developments around the world. German Health Minister Jens Spahn urged people to get fully vaccinated in order to contain the spread of the delta variant.

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Flaws uncovered in EU vaccination passport

BRUSSELS: The EU's digital vaccination certificate for smartphones promises more secure freedom of movement, both within Germany and beyond its borders this summer. While politicians have been quick to take the credit for its speedy rollout from Thursday, experts from the German security firm GData Cyber Defense have discovered a number of vulnerabilities, including the risk of counterfeiting. Thomas Siebert, head of protection technologies at Bochum-based GData, said this was not due to a lack of technology but rather to the speed of the passport's implementation. "Being able to present a quick solution before the start of the holiday season was obviously more important than a solution that was secure from the start," Siebert told DW. - Agencies

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AGENCIES

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Briefs

'Govt to promote mango exports'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Abdul Razak Dawood, Advisor for Commerce and Investment said that besides traditional markets, Pakistani mangoes were now entering the Australian and Japanese markets while the current government would focus on providing all possible facilitation and support to mango producers and exporters to tap more new markets for enhancing the exports of mangoes.

He said that taxes and duties on raw material of mango packaging and processing would be abolished. He said that a special committee led by him has been formed for the promotion of the mango sector.

He said this while expressing his views after inaugurating as Chief Guest the Mango Festival organized by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) in collaboration with Centaurus at Centaurus Mall, Islamabad, which will continue up to 5th July 2021. He visited various mango stalls, asked the exhibitors to tell him any issues being faced by them so that he could play a role to address them. He appreciated the initiative of ICCI for organizing a mango festival and said that such events were important to create new opportunities for promoting mango exports.

UNGA admits terror threats on Islamophobia

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has unanimously adopted the revised Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) and called on the international community to take appropriate measures to address new and emerging terrorist threats on the basis of xenophobia, racism and Islamophobia. The initiative for the recognition of Islamophobia as an emerging terrorist threat under the GCTS was spearheaded by Pakistan, together with other OIC countries, the Foreign Office said on Friday. First adopted in 2006, the GCTS is an international normative and operational framework against global terrorism, which is reviewed and updated bi-annually in view of emerging trends in global terrorism. It consists of four "Pillars," that focus on conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; measures to prevent and combat terrorism; build states' capacity to fight terrorism; and ensure respect for human rights in this regard.

Ministry releases Covid statistics

KARACHI: The Federal Ministry of Health has recently issued age-wise statistics about youngsters affected by the novel coronavirus in the country in the month of June. According to the data, in the month of June, a total of 137 girls and 201 boys, within the age bracket of 1 to 10 years old, were affected by the virus.

Similarly, about 506 girls and 579 boys, aged 11 to 20 years old, were affected by the virus in the month of June, the ministry of health said. The statistics further revealed that in the same month, three girls and three boys within the age bracket of 1 to 10 years succumbed to the virus. As for those aged 11 years old to 20 years old, six girls and an equal number of boys died of COVID-19 related complications, the ministry of health said. A total of 28 girls and 36 boys aged 1 to 10 have died from coronavirus in the country so far, while a total of 84 girls and 106 boys between the ages of 11 and 20 have died from the virus so far, ministry of health said. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: A view of the mango festival in Islamabad. Ambassadors of Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Morocco also attended the festival. PM Special Assistant on Commerce Razaq Daoud was the chief guest. - DNA Photos

Pakistan needs to prioritize cooperation with ASEAN: FS

Dialogue concluded with remarks by Ambassador Tugio with a proposal for an interactive engagement between Pakistan and ASEAN

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: "ASEAN has transformed into a vibrant 10-member Organization, an increasingly integrated economic community, and a central pillar of regional architecture. Pakistan needs to prioritize five areas of cooperation with ASEAN, which include: strengthening of Pak-ASEAN connectivity, support for the business communities to comprehensively upgrade economic cooperation with ASEAN countries, focus on tourism, explore avenues of cooperation in Science & Technology, IT and higher education and lastly deepening our cultural exchanges." This was stated by Pakistan's Foreign Secretary, Mr. Sohail Mahmood who was the Chief Guest at the Pakistan-ASEAN Experts Dialogue titled, "Pakistan-ASEAN: Shared Future and the Way Forward", organized by the Centre

for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with the Indonesian Embassy and the ASEAN Committee in Islamabad (ACI). The members of the ASEAN Committee in Islamabad included the Chairman of the Committee, Adam M. Tugio, Indonesian ambassador in Islamabad; Nguyen Tien Phong, Ambassador of Vietnam; Abdul Mubdi Osman, Charge d'Affaires, High Commission of Brunei Darussalam; Lutfee, Charge d'Affaires, Embassy of Thailand; San Yu Kyaw, Minister Counselor, embassy of Myanmar; Dan Erwin Bagaporo, Third Secretary and Vice Consul, embassy of Philippines; and Dedy Faisal Ahmad Salleh, Charge d'Affaires, Malaysia who joined on zoom. Speakers from Indonesia and Pakistan made short presentations on three dimensions of Pakistan-ASEAN cooperation including



political and security cooperation; economic collaboration; and socio-cultural cooperation. Director CSP, Najam Rafique moderated the dialogue and said that it seeks to bring together experts and practitioners of policy together to make recommendations for a comprehensive engagement between Pakistan and ASEAN under Pakistan's Vision East Asia and Prime Minister

Imran Khan's desire for geo-economic engagement with regional countries. During Session-I, titled, "Pakistan-ASEAN: Political and Security Cooperation", Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, in his presentation, shed light on the changing world order, declining multilateralism, US-China rivalry in Asia-Pacific and its effects globally. He further stated that we require a delicate balancing

act and that Pakistan must increase its cooperation with ASEAN and a quantum leap is required in this regard. Prof. Dr. Dewi Fortuna, in her presentation stated that we must look at the ASEAN's vision of inclusivity and work on two areas of cooperation, the normative sphere and the technical areas. Dr. Dewi further said that there is great potential for Pakistan-ASEAN relations.

In the Session-II on 'Pakistan-ASEAN: Dimension of Economic Cooperation', Dr. Usman spoke at length about Pak-ASEAN economic relations. He appreciated Pakistan's foreign policy shift to geo-economics and expressed his optimistic views on building deeper economic ties. Dr. Fithra Faisal Hastiadi offered a succinct analysis on effectively tapping the economic potential of ASEAN. The dialogue concluded with remarks by Ambassador Tugio with a proposal for an interactive engagement between Pakistan and ASEAN in order to analyze each and every aspect of Pak-ASEAN relations. In his vote of thanks, Chairman BoG, ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood thanked all the participants for making this dialogue a successful event while making a case for nurturing socio-cultural ties and economic linkages with the ASEAN countries.

Pakistan, Uzbekistan hold political consultations

Pakistan side was led by Aamar Aftab Qureshi while Ambassador Furkat Sidikov, Deputy Foreign Minister; The two countries have been closely collaborating at regional and international fora, especially the UN, OIC, ECO and SCO

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The Inaugural round of Pakistan-Uzbekistan Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) was held in virtual mode. The Pakistan side was led by Aamar Aftab Qureshi, Additional Secretary (Afghanistan and West Asia) while Ambassador Furkat Sidikov, Deputy Foreign Minister, led the Uzbek side. The two sides exchanged views on whole gamut of bilateral relations including political, economic and trade, culture, people-to-people exchanges, regional connectivity, defence and security and regional as well as global issues. They expressed satisfaction on the positive momentum in high-level visits and interactions including the visit of the Uzbek Foreign Minister to Pakistan and virtual summit between Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The two sides agreed to continue the momentum of high-level exchanges and further expand bilateral cooperation and understanding in myriad fields. The two sides discussed progress on Trans-Afghan railway project between Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan. Additional Secretary Qureshi emphasized the importance of direct air connectivity for promoting trade, tourism



Aamar Aftab Qureshi

and people-to-people contacts. He welcomed the resumption of Uzbek Air flights from Lahore to Tashkent. Additional Secretary Qureshi highlighted Pakistan's positive efforts in facilitating Afghan peace process with the aim of promoting inclusive and broad-based political settlement. The two sides underlined the convergence of views in ensuring security, stability and lasting peace in Afghanistan through an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process. Additional Secretary Qureshi highlighted the dire human rights and humanitarian situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK)



Furkat Sidikov

since 5 August 2019, as well as the ongoing human rights violations of the Kashmiri people and attempts to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory. Additional Secretary Qureshi underscored the importance of resolution of Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people. Pakistan and Uzbekistan enjoy cordial and brotherly relations based on common faith, shared history and cultural affinities. The two countries have been closely collaborating at regional and international fora, especially the UN, OIC, ECO and SCO.

EU launches new Rule of Law programme

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: 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 Pakistan, with a specific focus on the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan. 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. Honourable 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/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. Honourable 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/marginalized groups; and improve service delivery of the security sector in line with constitutional safeguards and international standards. The project will provide

APNS strongly condemns Punjab Privilege Bill 2021

DNA

KARACHI: The President, Mr. Sarmad Ali and Secretary General, Ms. Nazafreen Saigol Lakhani of All Pakistan Newspapers Society in a statement have stated that the bill provides a judicial committee of the house with dictatorial powers to order arrest without warrant of a journalist and award sentence of six months with fine of Rupees ten thousand without adopting the legal procedure if the committee is of the opinion that any privilege of a member is violated. It is highly unfortunate that the treasury and opposition benches always stand united on the issues of perks, privileges and matters of their vested interests. The APNS office bearers stated that no such bill or action will be accepted by the journalist fraternity and human rights activists which is extrajudicial and contravenes the democratic norms and values. The APNS called upon the provincial legislators and the Punjab Government to withdraw the anti press bill without delay.

Pakistan revokes TikTok suspension

NEWS DESK

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Friday withdrew the suspension on TikTok services after the telecom regulator assured the court of issuing a ruling on the petitioner's request by Monday. The SHC had on June 28 ordered the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to suspend the services of the video-sharing site on a citizen's petition, who was aggrieved by the "immorality and obscenity" on the mobile app. During today's hearing, the PTA apprised the court that it had blocked access to the app on June 30. It had requested the court to review its decision and allow it to restore the services. The PTA counsel assured the court that it would expedite the process on the petitioner's request and issue a ruling on it by July 5. After hearing the arguments, the SHC withdrew the suspension order and directed the PTA to make a decision on the matter till then. The hearing was then adjourned till next Monday.

CAA issues notice to foreign airlines

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOCC) said on Friday that the Civil Aviation Authority has taken strong notice of the flight cancellation by some international airlines. "Cancellation of flights despite issuance of clear instructions has caused problems for passengers travelling to Pakistan," said the NCOCC. It added that the CAA has issued a warning to airlines for cancelling the flights. The country's nerve centre against the coronavirus said that the body has gradually increased the number of flights from abroad after the coronavirus situation improved internationally as well as in Pakistan. "From June 15 till now, the number of passengers has been increased from 4,000 to 8,000," said the NCOCC. It added that it has also increased the capacity of flights from the United Kingdom, Europe, Canada, China, and Malaysia from 20% to 40%. The NCOCC said that Pakistan has developed a "strong system to prevent the spread of coronavirus," adding that passengers taking inbound flights are subjected to routine testing and quarantine.