

Briefs Zardari rushed to hospital

NAZIR SIYAL

and



co-chairman Asif Ali Zard ari 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.

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 modernize infantry 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

Continued on Page 06

'Pakistan Army to for future threats'

NEHAL MIRAJ

Chief

Regi-

Centre

Army Staff

RAWALPINDI: General Qamar Javed Bajwa, of (COAS) visited Punjab mental (PRC), on Fri-

day. 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.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Ali Alizada calls on Prime Minister Imram 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 Aliyev and warmly recipro-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 the President said Pakistan

DNA

cated 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 Pres-

ident Arif Alvi. Talking to

the outgoing Ambassador,

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-Karab-

akh from Armenia.

Pak pushing for Afghan negotiations: Fawad "It won't be so easy for the Taliban to take

STAFF REPORT

Govt buying

expensive

LNG



government over the purchase of LNG power generation, for 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 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

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



Afghanistan and security, 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

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

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 Zulifkar Ali Bhutto and now it had turned to be the party of Asif Zardari.

Romanian envoy meets Naval Chief

DNA

cording 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

certain sections of the Indian media alleging a drone flying over the premises of ISLAMABAD: The Foreign the Indian High Commis-Office on Friday dismissed

sion in Islamabad. He said these "preposterallegations by India's External Affairs Ministry regardous" claims were contrary ing a "drone" being spotted to the facts and "no proof over the Indian High Comwhatsoever has been shared mission in Islamabad as "pawith Pakistan to substantitently false". The statement ate these allegations." came after the Indian for-Chaudhri pointed out that

eign ministry claimed that a "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

PERTERSBERG:

has

Spain qualified for the semi final of the Euro 2021Cup EURO2021 after beating Switzerland in penalty shoot outs. The match end ed 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 stav but with their only mission to secure the American embassy in Kabul.

Inside..

FCCI continues its efforts to revive all sick units - Page 02

Economic development is on right path: Ali Nawaz Awan – Page 03

British High Commissioner lauds CDA green initiative – Page 04

Democracy means disagreement with dignity - Page 05

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

Continued on Page 06



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.

Continued on Page 06

Commission in Islamabad on June 26. "This has been taken up officially with Pakistan. We expect Pakistan to in-

vestigate the incident and prevent recurrence of such breach of security," NDTV quoted the Indian Ministry of External Affairs as saving in a statement.

drone was sighted over the

premises of the Indian High

Responding to the claims, FO spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said: "We have seen the Indian MEA's statement and reports in

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan Nicolae Goia visited NHQ, Islamabad & called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi. Ac-

NATIONAL

Islamabad POST Saturday, July 03, 2021

Briefs

FCCI demands to shift Ehsas office

DNA

FAISALABAD: Public office of "Ehsaas" may be shifted from the congested area of Batala Colony, demanded Chaudhary TalatMahmood 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 reduced 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 an-



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Nawaf Bin Saeed Al-Maliky calls on President Dr. ArifAlvi 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 f still many units could not start functioning as their financial problems are still pending. He said that FCCI will con-

 the said that FCCI will colltinue 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



if a physical meeting is not imperative to remove the petty bottlenecks. He said possible. He said that Mr. FaizUllahKamoka, Chairthat heads of all concerned man National Assembly banks and stakeholders would also be invited to Standing Committee on participate in it and explain Finance, Revenue and Ecotheir revival plans directly. nomic Affairs would also be He said that a zoom meetinvited to participate in it to ing also could be arranged remove the hurdles relating

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 in the leade Chairman FCCI Standing ident FCCI.

Committee on Revival of Sick Units appreciated the efforts of FCCI and said that Engineer Hafiz IhtashamJaved 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.

their units. The meeting was also attended by Former President Syed Zia AlamdarHussain, Omar Farooq and Malik Rizwan of Orient. They also explained their

They also explained their individual problems and expressed full confidence in the leadership of Pres-

in consultation with whole-

salers, retailers, traders and

consumer representatives.

Assessing the volatility, the

prices of various essential

commodities for the com-

mon markets were unani-

The Deputy Commission-

er said that the price of

grammoong Kori (without

washed) has been reduced

by Rs. 42. Similarly, the

price of gram Mash (with-

out wash) has been reduced

by Rs. 28. He said that gram

Mash (washed) has been

The prices of lentils have

been reduced by Rs 11, ba-

sin 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, yougart, mutton and

beef have been maintained.

reduced by Rs 12.

mously fixed.

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 MaulanaAtaurRehman, brother of JamiatUlema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief MaulanaFazlurRehman and JUI-F 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 ministerShahidKhaqanAbbasi will stay at MalamJabba.

Pakistan Muslim League-(PML-N) leader Nawaz Ameer Muqam said that Shehbaz would be brought to venue of the jalsa in a rally. MaulanaFazlurRehman 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 AsadMehmood, MaulanaFazl'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, adjusted on reasonable and



nounced 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 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

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

IGP urges Ulema to play role for peace

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa MoazzamJah 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 la forward and play their indispensable role for putting an effective halt to the nefarious designs of unscrupulous elements.

He was talking to a 15-memspreading hate and violence ber delegation of Ulama is an unwanted act and urged Council from Madrassa the Ulema to come forward HaqqaniaAkoraKhattak led and foil such attempts with by Maulana Yusuf Shah that the active support of the public. The IGP urged the called on him at his office here on Friday. The IGP Ulama to sensitize the peopointed out that the Ulama ple and propagate religious harmony and Ittehad Bain have played a pivotal role in Pakistan movement as well ulMuslimeen in their seras in the solidarity of the mons. The members of the country. He added that Isdelegation informed the lam is the religion of peace IGP that whenever their and tranquility and huge services were required by responsibility rests on the the country, they came forshoulders of Ulama to reward and played their role form the misguided people. in maintaining peace and The IGP asserted that 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. maximum relief

Commodities' rates re-fixed for

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 became 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

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** 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 rise sector.

tivity 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 MrJaved Iqbal while speaking at a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony.

(MoO) signing ceremony. Syngenta Pakistan and Galaxy Rice(Pvt) Limited signed the (MoU) to impart training to rice growers regarding the promotion of green chemistries whithshote 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 (FPC-CI) 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

stakeholders over resolution of current crisis, which might cause further delay in the stage. definition of normal gas supplies. – APP

Pak, Germany enjoy excellent ties in academia

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Germany and Pakisran 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

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 Affair Dr Aftab Wajid were also present on the stage.

Islamabad POST ENTROLEMENT 03Saturday, July 03, 2021

NDU to hold int'l conference on Hindutva

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Depart ment of International Relation at National Defense University (NDU) Islamabad is organizing a two-day international conference, entitled, "Institutionalization of Hindutva in India: A Regional Security Perspective".

The conference aims to examine global rise of farright extremism, its manifestations in South Asia and how this new variant of fundamentalism termed "Hindutva" impacts region al security.

Renowned scholars including Prof Arie Kruglanski from University of Maryland-US, Prof. Xie Chao from Tsinghua University-China, Prof. Mezan Bin Aslam from Naif Arab University for Security Studies, Omid Babelian from University of Tehran, Prof. Lubna Abid Ali from National Defence University, Michel Kugelman from Woodrow Wilson Centre-US, Prof. Qiu Yonghui from Sichuan University-China, and many prominent South Asian experts are set to present their papers in the conference.

Briefs Economic development is on right path: Ali Nawaz Awan

PM always promotes Quaid's ideology; government sets record of \$26 billion exports

President Dr. Arif Alvi is set to inaugurate the mega academic huddle, said a press release issued by NDU here on Friday.

MO appointed at traffic office

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has appointed a medical officer (MO) to facilitate those visiting its office to get driving license and also ensured other facilities for applicants through its one-window operation.

According to details, newly appointed SSP (Traffic)



SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Ali Nawaz Awan has said that the government has taken some pragmatic measures to uplift country's economic situation.

"Under the leadership of Imran Khan, the federal government has sincerely started moving forward on the path of economic development by eliminating the fiscal deficit of 20 billion dollar this year," Ali Nawaz added. He expressed these views at a dinner hosted by Zafar Bakhtawari Secretary General UBG in honor of visiting delegation of Council of Economic and energy

Journalists from Karachi. The Special Assistant said that Prime Minister Imran Khan always promoted the Quaid-e-azam ideology of self-reliance, which will help Pakistan to come out from economic crisis.

The government has also abolished the duty to promote exports and provided the highest incentives in this regard. He further claims that first time in the history of Pakistan, the government has set a record of exports which is close to 26 billion dollars. On the other hand, Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General of United Business Group, said that a healthy business environment in which policies always formulate in consultation with the busi-

ness community has become mandatory for economic uplift.

The best energy policy is that the first condition for economic development and for this continuous supply of electricity, gas and oil and stability in prices are essential. The only private electric company, K-Electric, is being operated in the private sector, but always center of most criticism. Private sector stands with the K-Electric and considers its success as the success of the private sector. The privatization of

entire energy sector has become indispensable for country development. Besides, President of Islamabad Chamber

of Commerce and Industry Sardar Yasir Ilyas said that Pakistan could earn more

than \$100 billion in foreign exchange by paying proper attention to the agricultural sector alone and this required an agricul-

tural revolution in the country. He said that attention should be paid to solar energy and exports and new markets should be explored in Africa.

Sardar Ilyas further said that special measures should be taken for the development of Information Technology and promotion of its exports.

Senator Sami Azidi in her address said that the present government has formulated the policy in consultation with the present budget traders and we will continue to take the traders into confidence and formulate economic policy.



great loss He has always been instrumental in the development and progress of the Chamber and the promotion of business activities. His remarkable efforts and contribution will always be highlighted. Group leader Sohail

Altaf said in a condolence statement that his deeds will always be remembered. Heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

> Police committed to eradicate crime: DIG

Ex-President of RCCI M. Shabbir

passes away

DNA

ISLAMABAD: His funeral

by senior officials, members

of the Rawalpindi Chamber

and prominent business

personalities and govern-

ment representatives. RCCI

President Mohammad Nasir

Mirza said that the demise

of the Sheikh Shabbir was a

prayers were

offered at H-11

graveyard,

Islamabad

which was

attended 🛚

DNA

ISLAMABAD: DIG (Operations) Islamabad Afzaal Ahmed Kousar has said that the police have recorded successes in several crime cases recently as they are committed to eradicate crime from the society.

He was addressing a press conference at this office here on Friday. SSP (Investigation) Atta ur Rehman. SP (Industrial Area) Fida Hussain Satti, DSP CIA Hakim Khan, SHO Ramana police station Akhtar Zaman and others were also present on the occasion.

Giving background of a case, the DIG told the me-

SC rejects PPP leader's apology

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Friday rejected PPP leader Masood-ur-Rehman Abbasi's apology over his insulting remarks about the Chief Justice of Pakistan Gulzar Ahmed. Abbasi, who is facing con-

tempt of court charges. had appeared before a four-member bench of the

the bench reviewing the case, asked Abbasi earlier this week to submit his response in writing. Bandial said that a verbal statement from the PPP leader would

not help in deciding the case. Abbasi made derogatory remarks in public against the judiciary last month over the removal of encroachments in Karachi as seen on videos that circu-



Syed Karar Hussain has made efforts to ensure all facilities for applicants of driving license through one-window operation. After being appointed SSP (Traffic) he personally endeavored for appointment of medical officer at ITP office on permanent basis who may check the applicants and decide about their medical fitness. Owing his efforts, a medical officer has been appointed on permanent basis. SSP (Traffic) has thanked IGP İslamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman and DIG (Security) Wagar Uddin Syed for taking special interest to resolve traffic related issues. He said that all-out efforts would be made to ensure safe road environment in the city and ensure equal implementation of law. He appealed the citizens to forward their suggestions to him so that further improvement may be ensured in police related affairs. - APP

NEPRA finalizes training programme

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) recently finalized an online training program for its employees in collaboration of prestigious Florence School of Regulation (FSR) and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

This training programme was first of its kind being delivered in Pakistan, said a press release.

An introductory session was held on Friday at NEPRA tower joined by Chairman NEPRA, Tauseef H. Farooqi, and Professionals from NEPRA and Professors from FSR-MIT.

Chairman NEPRA in his opening remarks highlighted the importance of learning from the best and envisioned to equip the NEPRA employees with the necessary skills and tools, which would ultimately put NEPRA as one of the top regulators in the world. He further envisioned that better understanding of lat est regulatory practices and tools would lead to better regulations.

apex court to answer for his outburst. A suo motu notice had been taken by the SC over the matter. The PPP leader submitted

a written apology to the top court, after Justice Umar Ata Bandial, who is heading

lated on social media Justice Mazahar Ali Naqvi wondered at whose behest the PPP leader uttered the words against the chief justice and asked the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to find out who had tasked

him with this.

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with Korean ambassador Mr. Suh Sangpyo at Parliament House. - DNA

Chairman Standing Committee lauds ICT police performance

Chairman Standing Committee on Interior Raja Khurram Nawaz distributed certificates to the police officers who completed the course

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Standing Committee on Interior Raja Khurram Nawaz visited Islamabad Police Lines. On the occasion, Chairman Standing Committee on Interior Raja Khurram Nawaz distributed certificates to the police officers who completed the course of forensic science through the use of modern technology to make the police interroga-

tion system effective. On arrival at the police lines, DIG Headquarters Kamran Adil Sahib and Headquarters Mu-SSP hammad Umar Khan welcomed Chairman Standing Committee Raja Khurram Nawaz. The Chairman Committee lauded all the youth



who have completed forensic science course.

On the occasion, Khurram Nawaz said that PTI government has taken historic steps to reform Islamabad Police and provide resources. He further said that Martyrs package was announced for Islamabad police for the first time

which is a historic decision for the sacrifices made by Raja Islamabad police for the

protection of the people. Raja Khurram Nawaz said Rs 400 million has been given to the police stations to solve the economic problems of Islamabad police. It is also a historic decision to give permanent employment to police personnel instead of contract, said the Committee Chairman. At the government level, efforts are being made to provide necessary resources to the police to enhance the efficiency and professionalism of the police, Raja Khurram Nawaz said. He praised Capital Police by saying that Islamabad Police is a model police for the

whole country. IG Islamabad and other senior officers deserve congratulations on police reforms for public service, Raja Khurram Nawaz added. On the occasion, DIG Headquarters presented an honorary shield to the Chairman Standing Committee on Interior by IG Islamabad Police and thanked him for attending the function.

ROs must pass FPSC exam for service regularization: SC

already become wrecked by

making appointments with-

out interviews and tests.

The counsel for Railways

officers pleaded that his

clients had been working

in Railways for the last 11

years, it would become dif-

ficult for them to qualify the

He said he had been working

as a lawyer in the apex court

for years, but if he had to

take the LLB exam, it would

be difficult for him to pass it.

The petitioners prayed to the

court to grant them time for

the exam preparation as the

FPSC exam was scheduled to

Chief Justice Gulzar won-

dered that the officers were

working on grade 17 and they

were not ready for the basic

test. He remarked that the

way the appointments had

been made in Railways all

these years, all the people

knew about that. In future, no

one could get a government

that the President of the Repub-

to the delegates and ended with

a group photo.

be held on July 28.

competition exam.

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has directed 15 Railways officers (RO) appointed on technical contracts to clear the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) exam before applying for reg-

ularizing their jobs. Chief Justice of Pakistan Supreme Court Gulzar Ahmad was heading a threejudge bench hearing a case regarding the regularization of services of 15 technical contract officers of Railways Department on Friday.

The apex court said that the Islamabad High Court had given six months to the contract officers to pass the competition exam. Justice Ijazul Hassan remarked that there were so many judgements of the Supreme Court in which the FPSC test was compulsory for the grade 16 employees for their upgradation.

job without test and inter-He said the Railways had view, the CJ concluded.

dia that last week, three dacoits forced their entry into a house in the jurisdiction of Ramana police station, however, and the police immediately got the information and reached the spot.

Upon seeing the police party, the accused started firing on them and resultantly two of the personnel, Muhammad Saqlain and Muhammad Arshad got injured. However, the police managed to arrest two accused; Shakaz Baig and Shehram Asghar. The ring leader however, made good his escape from the crime scene.

The DIG said that IG Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman taking notice of the same, directed him for the arrest of the absconding accused. He constituted a team under the supervision of SSP (investigation) to arrest the third culprit.

CPI inflation decelerates to 9.7% on YoY basis

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based monthly inflation decelerated to 9.7 percent on year-onyear (YoY) basis during the month of June 2021, from 10.9 percent during May 2021, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. On month-on-month (MoM) basis, it decreased by 0.2% in June as compared to a decrease of 0.1 percent in May 2021 and an increase of 0.8

percent in June 2020. According to PBS data, the urban CPI based inflation increased by 9.7% on yearon-year basis in June 2021 as compared to an increase of 10.8% in the previous month and 7.6% in June 2020. On month-on-month basis, it decreased by 0.4% in June 2021 as compared to an increase of 0.2% in the previous month and an increase of 0.7% in June 2020. The rural CPI increased by 9.7% on year-on-year basis in June 2021 as compared to an increase of 10.9% in the previous month and 10.0% in June 2020. On month-on-month basis, it decreased by 0.1% in June 2021 as compared to a decrease of 0.03% in the preature materials about Azerbaijan vious month and an increase of 1.0% in June 2020.

PAAA members bid farewell Amb. Ali Alizade Kashmir issue. He informed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The delegation comprising the senior members of Pakistan-Azerbaijan Alumni Association (PAAA) called on Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Ali Alizade. On behalf of the delegation Engr. Qaiser Nawab, Founder PAAA appreciated the meritorious and valuable services render by Ali Alizade towards building strong diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan. Mr. Alizade warmly welcomed the delegation and expressed the importance and significance Pakistan-Azerbaijan Alumof ni Association (PAAA) in promoting bilateral relations and strengthening people to people contacts. He appreciated the

exemplary support of the people particularly the youth and the Govt. of Pakistan on the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh based on justice and obligations of international law.

On the issue of landmines in the liberated area of the Nagorno-Karabakh, he urged the youth to raise the issue nationally and internationally, so that we can save innocent lives and

expedite the resettlement process of the Internally Displaced Persons IDPs.

Mr. Alizade showed his solidarity with the people of Pakistan in the peaceful resolution of the



lic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev assured his strong support based on justice to COAS of Pakistan General Qamar Javed Bajwa in his recent visit to Baku. The delegation also assured full support to the mission and goals of Azerbaijan and Pakistan diplomatic relations towards global peace and sustainable development. In the end, Dr Aneela Malik presented a souvenir and Mr. Asif presented the Ambassador's personal portrait on behalf of the Pakistan-Azerbaijan Alumni Association (PAAA) as a token of appreciation with the best wishes for his personal and family life. The Ambassador gave liter-

TWIN CITIES



Briefs Rawalpindi **33 corona**

cases reported

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: As many as 33 corona positive cases were reported during the last 24 hours in the district with eight belonged to Rawal Town, ten from Potohar town, six from Rawalpindi Cantt, 2 Gujjar Khan, three Taxila and one each from

Murree, Attock and KP. According to the daily situation report issued by the District Corona Management centre, "presently 45 Coronavirus confirmed patients were admitted to various facilities of the city including 15 were admitted in Holy Family Hospital,10 in Benazir Bhutto Hospital, 9 in Institute of Urology and 11 in Fauji Foundation Hospital.

One patient was on a ventilator in critical condition, 9 stable and 35 were in moderate condition, it added. District Health Authority updated that so far 746,009 people including 31,546 health workers and 714,463 senior citizens have jabbed themselves against the coronavirus (COVID-19) across the district since the vaccination administering drive launched on March 10. The report said only one patient Asim Hussain belonged to tehsil Taxila had died due to this deadly disease in the last 24 hours.

AIOU to conduct online exams of PG

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is commencing final ex-aminations of Post Graduate Diploma, MA, MSc, M.Com, MLIS, MBA / MPA and M.Ed. (Old) offered in spring semester 2020 from July 4 to 11.

These examinations will be conducted online through Learning Management Sys-

British High Commissioner lauds CDA green initiative

The High Commissioner acknowledged the recent campaigns of Capital Development Authority for uplift of green areas in Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Dr. Christian Turner visited the Capital Development Authority Headquarters today.

He met with Chairman CDA Amer Ali Ahmed, and matters of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting. It was resolved that the British High Commission and CDA will explore more avenues of cooperation.

The High Commissioner acknowledged the recent campaigns of CDA for uplift of green areas in Islamabad.

Chairman CDA thanked the High Commissioner for his support and appreciated his particular interest in preservation of environment.



ISLAMABAD: A meeting was held between Dr. Christian Turner High commissioner of United Kingdom and Chairman CDA Amer Ali Ahmed, at CDA Headquarters. - DNA

Islamophobia rising threat for Muslims in the World

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

ISLAMABAD: Islam is a great religion of peace and harmony among all the other religions where as in Europe negative propaganda against Islam has created many concerns among the Muslims of the whole world. Incident which have happened in Canada and New Zealand are directly linked with a planned terrorism against Muslims, Unluckily Muslims have no proper forum to express their point of view in front of other nations of world.

Due to increasing incidence of terrorism are a hateful example of "Islamophobia" to control these incidence Rabita Alam-e-Islam started a campaign by the name of reject hate campaign to prove that Islam is a religion of Islam which is increasing hatred of piece not terrorism, these ideas have been expressed by Secretary General of World Muslim League, Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al-Essa in organizational meetings.

He also said that "No to the hatred" campaign is a message of peace to all the world. He also emphasized the fact that Muslims should have a proper representation to express their point of view whereas they have no such forum for the present time, "Islamophobia" is not restricted to some countries it became an epidemic and spread in all the world and it is common in UK, Canada, New Zealand and other countries of the world which is a shameful act.

unawareness with the basic teachings

against Muslims in the shape of direct attack on the Muslims to their life and property.

In the western society and western media both are continued propaganda against Muslims, the reason in unawareness with the basic preaching's of Islam and wrong interpretation of Muslim teaching by the different groups. Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al-Essa said that now time is changed, it is need of the time that Muslims and Non-Muslims they should understand Each other's point of view and live with harmony and peace. Muslims, Christians and other people from different religions should have freedom to visit their worshipping places with

PM commends FBR for 'record' tax collection

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday appreciated the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) efforts for collecting 'record' tax revenues in the last financial year (FY) 2020-21, totaling Rs.4732 billion, 18 percent higher than the previous financial year.

In a tweet, the prime minister said by collecting such a huge amount, the Board exceeded the target of Rs4, 691 billion it had set for the last fiscal year. Towards the end, the prime minister claimed that this performance was a proof of strong economic revival spurred by Pakistan Tehreeki-Insaf (PTI) government policies.

Meanwhile, according to the

Police arrested 23 drug peddlers

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi District Police in their ongoing drive against drug peddlers, bootleggers and other lawbreakers conducted raids in different areas and arrested 23 accused besides recovering 52 bottles of liquor, over nine kg hasish and other items from their possession.

According to a police spokesman, Kahuta police rounded up two bootleggers identified as Zahid Ali and Rizwan Hanif and recovered 45 bottles of liquor from their possession.

Morgah Police held Muhammad Javed and recovered 6 liters liquor, while Rawat police apprehended Naveed Akhtar for having seven liters liquor. Race Course police sent behind the bars an accused identified as Nadir Khan for carrying two liquor bottles.

Airport police netted Jibran and Nasir with two liquor bottles. Sadiqabad police held a drug peddler namely Waqar Nisar and seized 2400 grams charras. Pirwadhai police arrested Arif Khan for having 1340 grams charras while Gunimandi police netted Luqman and recovered 1530 grams charras.

Naseerabad police nabbed Irfan Khan for possessing 1200 grams charras. Kotli Sattian police also recovered 1160 grams charras from the possession of Siraj ul Haq. Waris Khan, Sadiqabad, Saddar Wah, Gujar Khan and Kotli Sattian police arrested Ali Raza, İslam Gul, Muhammad Bilal, Zahid Abdullah, Toseef Anjum, Amad Amir and Mehtab on recovery of 280, 220, 210, 400, 230 and 190 grams charras respectively. Westridge and Rawat police arrested Muhammad Ali and Muhammad Shakeel for running illegal LPG and petrol agencies.

Police starts campaign against fire arms display

FAISAL MUNIR

ATTOCK: Police have started a vigorous campaign against elements involved in

Basically "Islamophobia" is result of complete safety. Senate body for ensuring transparent recruitment policy

Establishment also briefed ing, the committee received nation Board. Senator Mou-

tem (LMS), said a press release. The university has made all the necessary arrangements for the online examinations and ICT department has created accounts for all students on the AIOU Agahi LMS portal.

The students can access their LMS account with their username (Student's AIOU registration number) and password (roll number). It is pertinent to mention here that date sheet along with important instructions for students have been uploaded on the university website (www.aiou.edu.pk). All those students who lack computer and internet facilities are instructed to utilize computer laboratories established at the regional centres for this purpose. All regional centres have been given instructions to facilitate students in this regard.

Food point 'Lok Khaba' opening demanded

ISLAMABAD: The visitors of Lok Virsa on Friday demanded the re-opening of famous traditional food point "Lok Khaba" and "Sharbat Point' which was located in the premises of arts institute. The Lok Khaba was famous for traditional foods like 'saag roti', 'chapal kebab' 'Lassi' and many more, said a visitor Moin Khan. The 'Lok Khaba' initiative was meant to create a space to gather exchange ideas, develop the taste for traditional foods and have a good time at Lok Virsa, said Arshi Khan. She said that Lok

Khaba and Sharbat point were attracting a large number of people of twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. "Due to negligence of the authorities, the Lok Khaba roof

shed was perished in rains and seating space was also removed and presenting deserted look," another visitor Muhammad Shafiq said.

Lok Virsa Executive Director Talha Ali said that the present management was planning to reopen Lok Khaba with more professional and train chefs in traditional foods. He expressed the hope that soon Lok Khaba will be ready to welcome and serve traditional foods to a much larger crowd. He said that Lok Virsa was playing its role in preserving cultural heritage. - APP

DNA ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretarat Parliament House.

iat was held today, under the chairmanship of Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmad here The Committee received a detailed briefing on the working and performance of the

Cabinet Division. Secretary

the committee on the work ing and performance of the Establishment Division. The Chairman Committee welcomed the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Ali

Muhammad Khan, members of the committee and introduction of the officials of the Cabinet Division, Establishment Division and its attached departments. At the outset, of the meet-

comprehensive briefing from the Secretary Cabinet Division. Senator Rana Magbool Ahmad, in his opening remarks, emphasized on a more robust role of the committee. While discussing the role of attached organizations of the Cabinet Division, the Chairman recommended constituting a board of members for the monitoring of the National Tourism Coordi-

la Bux Chandio, raised the question that why members of the parliament cannot become members of the board. During the briefing, on the Regulating Authorities, Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zubari, put forward her recommendation to summon the officials of the OGRA and called for briefing on the overall working and performance of the organization.

initial details the FBR has released record 18 percent increase was witnessed in revenues collection in the preceding FY, 2020-21 than the previous year. The Board collected total Rs4, 732 billion in the year under review which was Rs41 billion more than Rs4, 691 billion, the target set for that year.

The tax collection authority, in its statement, has said that

Furthermore, the FBR says in its statement that refunds totalling Rs251 billion were released in the year under review which stood at Rs135 billion in the preceding year, registering an increase of 86 percent.

Rs568 billion were collected

in June during the financial

year 2020-21; which marks

26 percent increase on the

amount collected in the same

month in the last FY, which

The Board says that the in-

crease witnessed in tax col-

lection in June besides 18

percent more tax collection

during the entire financial

year was unprecedented.

was Rs451 billion.

The statement discloses that 3.01 million people filed tax returns till June 31, 2021, while during the last financial year, 2019-20, 2.67mn people had filed the returns.

Pak ties with China. US reflect good foreign policy ISLAMABAD: PML-Q Punjab Deputy Secretary Information Khawaja Rameez Hassan said in a press release that Pakistan's indication of working with both China and the United States is a reflection of its excellent foreign policy. Relations with moderate countries in the region are very important. "The current situation in Afghanistan is very complicated," he added. Civil-military relations are the need of time for a secure and stable state. – DNA

displaying fire arms on social media and creating fear, unrest and sense of insecurity among the public.

According to Police, Amir Ahmad r/o Shakardara has been arrested by Attock Saddar police who was involved in displaying fire arms on social media. A pistol and six rounds had been recovered from his

possession. Meanwhile police have arrested Juma s/o Faqeer Muhammad and recovered two bottles liquor from his possession.

Two dengue patients reported in district

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Syed Gulzar Hussain Shah on Friday said that only two dengue patients were reported so far in the district who had been discharged after required treatment.

Chairing a meeting to review the anti-dengue situation, he informed that Breteau Index had crossed level 3 in three union councils of the district including Dhoke Mangtal, Pirwadhai and Wah. The effective measures discussed include sweeping surveillance, awareness campaign, improved water supply and sanitation. The Commissioner said "Due to the forecast of heavy monsoon rains, there is a need to remain vigilant during the current year to control dengue mosquito breeding." He informed that during inspection of dengue breeding sites, the anti-dengue teams issued notices to 1391 owners, registered FIRs' against 49 violators and sealed 88 shops since January 2021 where SOPs regarding dengue was not being followed. Gulzar directed the officials concerned for checking and surveillance of commercial plazas, hotels, restaurants, hospitals, schools and colleges, junkyards, graveyards, under construction sites. parks, open plots, abandoned sites and petrol pumps. He said that besides, taking anti-dengue measures, a vigorous public awareness

campaign was also essential

for effective community par-

ticipation.

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with Cuban ambassador,

Mr. Zenar Javier Cargo Gonzalez at Parliament House. – DNA

from a distance approached the

scene of the theft; "move aside"

he roared "corner the thief". The

thief was a smart cookie. Dodg-

him to interact with persons from

various stratus of society. Some-

times there were persons from

affluent families also. One bright

sunny day when fate was to take

a turn for Anwar, Mr. and Mrs.

Ahmed sat in his cab. "We want

to go to Nazimabad. Will you take

us?" "Hope in." said Anwer. "We

are going to this place for the

first time. I hope you will be able

to follow our instructions," said

Mr. Ahmed. After clearing a few

traffic jams, they finally arrived

HAT all is involved in a taxi drivers life; physical labour and not much exercise for the grey matter. One such driver was Anwar. He got his driving license from the back door. He did not learn how to drive a car, neither was he aware of the traffic rules and regulations. He was however, a man with a generous heart, known for his hospitality.

ing Anwar he entered the allev Overheard conversation, as he sat with his mates at a tea stall. "Tea and hid behind a rubbish can. To keeps me on my feet", have anoththe thief's misfortune a cat inside er, everything should be done in the can scared of the noise the moderation". "Tea is a milder adthief made, leapt out of it. Anwar diction". The conversation drifted pounced on the thief and recovto the price of petrol and passenered the money from him. Like the lady above, his work led gers. "Things have become so ex-

pensive. I bought a kilo of meat for Rs. 150/-. It seems that if the price does not come down, it will be difficult for us to make ends meet". One of the reasons why Anwar stood out amongst his mates was his wife. She never harassed him for extra money. The hard work that he put in was evident from his bronze rugged skin tone. Tanned from the hours, days, years that he had spent driving his cab, exposed to the merciless sun. He was so vigilant that

The Honest Taxi Driver he pierced the distance with the at the destination. They got off on the main road and said they would manage on foot the rest of

> for a meal after dropping Mr. and Mrs. Ahmed. The parcel had jewelry inside. He was somewhat anxious regarding how to locate them so that he could give them their parcel back. He searched for some form of identification, but to



no avail. His friends tried to persuade him to keep the parcel. But he took pride in being honest and there was no way he would compromise over it.

Little did he know that this parcel was to seal the fate of a couple about to be married? The couple was Ammar and Shagufta. Ammar and Shagufta had been engaged for a year. It was customary to give dowry to the daughter. Not to display wealth, but to support her in her new home, till she was self-sufficient.

He reached home and asked his wife to keep the parcel in safe custody. Weeks passed, and lo and behold, he spotted Mrs. Ahmed. She was shopping in a market where he had just dropped a passenger. He hurriedly approached her and told her that she had forgotten a parcel in his taxi. She told him, she had searched for this parcel. She could not hold back her happiness and gratitude. "I was so worried. The parcel had jewelry, which was my daughter's dowry. I had fallen sick due to the loss. This jewelry was an heirloom. It had been handed down from Shagufta's grandmother to Shagufta's mother and then to her. The grandmother was married to one of Ammar's father's uncles. Shagufta's grandmother had grey eyes and brown hair and so had Shagufta. These qualities endeared Shagufta to Ammar.

Anwar arranged for the jewels to be returned to Mrs. Ahmed. "We will expect you and your family at the wedding". Mrs. Ahmed's happiness knew no bounds. The return of the jewelry meant a big load off her delicate shoulders. Mrs. Ahmed just could not stop praising Anwar. She told every one she met, about how honest he was and how difficult, it was to find people like him. She thanked God, five times a day, when she prayed.

"Welcome Anwar". Anwar was welcomed in a big way at the wedding. All the family were eager to know him, although he was not a rich man and the other guests were all, well, rich people. But who could deny, that Anwar was 'rich at heart'. The richest in the gathering at the wedding. He walked, in with his head held high. He felt so good, after returning the jewels. Although he was in a gathering of rich people, he did not feel lost as he was bestowed with 'wealth' of honesty.

And as Shagufta wore the wedding band, she looked at Anwar and smiled, a smile of gratitude, before she was whisked off to her new home. Her wedding was memorable right from the beginning to the end. A new life, lay ahead of her, and as she entered the threshold of her new home and prepared to remove the heavy necklace, she heaved a sigh of relief, recalling all that had happened.

the way. To his utter surprise Anwar found a parcel on the back seat of his



IF

Faint opposition

FTER 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.

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.

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Censorship in India

HE 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

E live in a controversial world where we are compating 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 that we stand unanimous in creating awarebacklash 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 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 in the assemblies, democracy and freedom 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

ness 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 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 crudes. 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

N an era of post- truth, it is difficult fest the people behind fake story. 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-

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 try's welfare.

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 coun-

WORLD / SPORTS



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 vesterday. 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 mili tary 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 Cen-

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 PERTERSBERG: 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.

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 Muzaffarabad Tigers' chairman Arshad Khan Tanoli here on Friday. In a cricket-friendly meeting, they both discussed the future of the upcoming franchise league, KPL.

Tanoli told Sajnrani 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



KPL will unearth talented

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 manage- cal and int'l sports.

J&J vaccine effective

against delta variant

ment praised the Pakistani sports journalists for their positive role in the propagation and coverage of lo-

told a news conference.

against other

just delta.

could

On Thursday, J&J said its

vaccine generated strong

and persistent activity

coronavirus variants, not

showed 85% efficacy, and

prevent

illness and hospitalization.

"Current data for the eight

months studied so far shows

that the single-shot Johnson

& Johnson COVID-19 vac-

cine generates a strong neu-

tralizing antibody response

that does not wane; rather,

we observe an improvement

over time," said a company

statement. Here's a run-

down of other major corona-

virus developments around

the world. German Health

Minister Jens Spahn urged

people to get fully vaccinat-

ed in order to contain the

spread of the delta variant.

prevalent

serious

The vaccine

Pakistan rejects US decision on **CSPA** list

Islamabad **POST**

Saturday, July 03, 2021

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

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 chanted 'no nride ada 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.

also laid flora 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 assis tance 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."

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 Gashebrum 2 (8035 meters) showing Broad Peak (8047 meters), #K2 (8611 meters, the highest mountain seen in the pic), Gashebrum 3 (7952 meters), Gashebrum 4 (7925 meters), and Baltoro Glacier (one of the longest glaciers outside the polar regions). - DNA

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

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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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.

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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 nineyear 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 Puniab 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 de-

grees Celsius. On Friday, the temperature again shot up to 41 degree Celsius in the

city of 20 million. have re-Temperatures mained 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 issued a heatwave has 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.

BUSINESS / WORLD

Briefs

1 killed, five injured in an explosion at oil refinery

BUCHAREST: A worker at Romania's largest oil refinery was killed and five were injured in an explosion here on Friday, emergency services told AFP.

The incident took place at the Petromidia refinery on the Black Sea coast which belongs to the Kazakh KazMunayGas (KMG) group, however the cause of blast could not be revealed. The injured persons, one of them, were in serious condi-

tion and were shifted to hospital in city of Constanta. "An incident occurred on

the platform of the Petromidia refinery, therefore its operations have been stopped as a security measure," the KMG group said in a statement.

A thick column of black smoke could be seen from the site after the incident, which is only around 15 kilometres from Mamaia, the country's main coastal resort.

Around 50 firefighters have been dispatched to help tackle the blaze. – **APP**

Neo-Nazi leader faces murder charges

ATHENS: The deputy leader of Greek neo-Nazi party Golden Dawn was sent to a high-security prison on Friday after months on the run, a judicial official said. Christos Pappas had evaded justice since October, when he was sentenced to more than 13 years in jail during a landmark trial of 50 Golden Dawn members.

The defendants faced charges including running a criminal organization, murder, assault and illegal weapons possession.

Pappas was jailed for his leading role in running Golden Dawn. The 59-yearold was arrested on Thursday in an apartment in the Athens district of Zografou and appeared Friday before a prosecutor, who ordered his transfer to a prison.

US forces leave Afghanistan's Bagram airbase after 20 years

The withdrawal from the airbase is the clearest indication that the last of the 2,500-3,500 US troops have left Afghanistan or are nearing a departure, months ahead of President Joe Biden's promise that they would be gone by September 11

AGENCIES

KABUL: After nearly 20 years, the United States military has left Afghanistan's Bagram airbase, the epicentre of its war to remove the Taliban and hunt down the al-Qaeda perpetrators of the 9/11 attacks, two US officials have said.

The airbase was handed over to the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces in its entirety, they said on Friday on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to release the information to the me-

dia, The Associated Press reported. One of the officials also said the US top commander in Afghanistan, General Austin S Miller, "still retains all the capabilities and authorities to protect the forces".

At its peak, Bagram airbase saw more than 100,000 US troops pass through its sprawling compound 50km (30 miles) north of capital, Kabul. An Afghan official said the base would be officially handed over to the government at a ceremony on Saturday, Reuters news agency reported.

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It was clear soon after the mid-April announcement that the US was ending its "forever war," that the departure of US sol-

diers and their estimated 7,000 NATO allies would be nearer to July 4, when the country celebrates its Independence Day.

Most NATO soldiers have already exited Afghanistan as of this week.

Announcements from several countries analysed by The Associated Press show that a majority of European troops left with little ceremony – a stark contrast to the dramatic and public show of force and unity when NATO allies lined up to back the US invasion in 2001. The US has refused to say when the last of its soldiers would leave Afghanistan, citing security concerns, but also the protection of Kabul's Hamid Karzai International Airport that is still being negotiated. Turkish and US soldiers currently protect the airport.

The US will also have about 6,500 troops in Afghanistan to protect its sprawling embassy in the capital. Their presence it is understood will be covered in a bilateral agreement with the Afghan government.

The US and NATO leaving Afghanistan come as Taliban fighters make strides in several parts of the country, overrunning dozens of districts and overwhelming the beleaguered Afghan Security Forces. In a worrying development, the government has resurrected militias with a history of brutal violence to assist the Afghan security forces. At what had all the hallmarks of a final press conference, General Miller this week warned that continued violence risked a civil war in Afghanistan that should have the world worried. Last month, Biden told his Afghan counterpart, Ashraf Ghani, that "Afghans are going to have to decide their future, what they want".

Ghani said his job was now to "manage the consequences" of the US withdrawal. The agreement with the Taliban on the US pullout was struck under the administration of former Provident Deced Trump

of former President Donald Trump. In exchange for the US withdrawal, the Taliban has vowed to prevent any armed group from launching international attacks from the Afghan soil.

The group has also made a commitment to enter into talks with their Afghan rivals but little progress has been made in negotiations.

Speaking to Al Jazeera, Faiz Zaland, political commentator and professor at Kabul University, said the pulling out of US troops is "a bit hasty in the current situation because we don't have peace on the ground". "The withdrawal is happening right at a time when the Taliban is at the door of Kabul," he said. "There are severe and harsh fights going on all over the country. More than 80 districts have fallen into the hands of the Taliban in the past one month," he said, calling June "the deadliest month for Afghan forces in the past two decades". Zaland said the US is making an "irrespon-

zaland said the US is making an irresponsible exit" by leaving before an intra-Afghan peace deal has been finalised. "It does seem likely that the country might be heading towards a civil war," he told Al Jazeera. The US departure is rife with symbolism. Not least that it is the second time that an invader of Afghanistan has come and gone through Bagram. The former Soviet Union built the airfield in the 1950s. When it invaded Afghanistan in 1979 to back a communist government, it turned it into its main base from which it would defend its occupation of the country.

For 10 years, the Soviets fought the USbacked "mujahideen", dubbed freedom fighters by the then President Ronald Reagan, who saw them as a front-line force in one of the last Cold War battles.

When the US and NATO inherited Bagram in 2001, they found it in ruins, a collection of crumbling buildings, gouged by rockets and shells, most of its perimeter fence wrecked. It had been abandoned after being battered in the battles between the Taliban and rival warlords fleeing to their northern enclaves. The enormous base has two runways. The most recent, at 12,000 feet (3,660 metres) long, was built in 2006 at a cost of \$96m. There are 110 revetments, which are basically parking spots for aircraft, protected by blast walls. GlobalSecurity, a security thinktank, says Bagram includes three large hangars, a control tower and numerous support buildings.

The base has a 50-bed hospital with a trauma bay, three operating theatres and a modern dental clinic. Another section houses a prison, notorious and feared among Afghans.

the country - the last

one closed in 1996 - and

150,000 Indigenous chil-

dren were taken from their

parents and forced to at-

tend the schools. The goal

was to instill white culture

There was a litany of hor-

ror at the schools, with

abuse rampant and chil-

dren often buried in un-

marked graves - 1,148 have

been discovered at three of

the former schools in the

past five weeks, leading to

Traditional Canada Day

celebrations were muted

or cancelled in many com-

munities, and Irudeau said

in a statement obtained by

Anadolu Agency that for

some, July 1 is "not yet a

day of celebration.

Thursday's protests.

in the "savages."

Canada thousands

mourn residential

school victims

WEB DESK

TRENTON: Tens of thou-

sands of Canadians ex-

changed the traditional

Canada Day colors of red

and white to don orange

shirts Thursday in a show

of mourning for child vic-

tims of Indian residential

An estimated 10,000 peo-

ple gathered in London,

Ontario and marches took

place in Montreal, Thunder

The term 'genocide' has

been used by Prime Min-

ister Justin Trudeau to

starting in the 1820s. In

all. 139 Indian residential

schools were set up across

Indigenous children

was

aone

wnat

Bay and other cities.

schools.

USAG freezes all federal executions

Islamabad **POST**

Saturday, July 03, 2021

MONITORING DESK

WASHINGTON: US Attorney General Merrick Garland has ordered a moratorium on federal executions while the Justice Department continues its review of the death penalty, the department said in

a statement. 'The Department of Justice must ensure that everyone in the federal criminal justice system is not only afforded the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States, but is also treated fairly and humanely," Garland said in the statement on Thursday. "That obligation has special force in capital cases." Garland's predecessor, William Barr, resumed the use of capital punishment last year after

a 17-year hiatus. In the waning months of the administration of President Donald Trump, the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) carried out 13 executions, as the COVID-19 pandemic raged throughout the federal prison system and sickened some of the prisoners on death row and even some of their lawyers.

The 13 executions during Trump's tenure – carried out beginning in July 2020 and ending just days before Trump left office on January 20, 2021 – exceeded the executions undertaken by any other US president since the 19th century.

Azerbaijan ranks 3rd for cyber security in CIS

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan has ranked third for cyber security index among the CIS countries following Russia and Kazakhstan.

The country moved up 15 places to rank 40th in the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) Global Cyber Security



"Christos Pappas is being transferred to Domokos prison," a judicial official told AFP after the hearing, referring to a high-security facility in central Greece. Besides, a 52-year-old woman who allegedly hid Pappas in her home was also arrested, a police statement said.

The Golden Dawn trial, which lasted more than five years, has been described as one of the most significant in Greek political history. Pappas, a mustachioed former furniture store owner whose lieutenant general father was part of the 1967 army coup that installed a seven-year dictatorship in Greece, was considered a leading ideologue of Golden Dawn. – APP

Iraq power cuts stir protests

FOREIGN DESK

BAGHDAD: The electricity cut on Friday was caused by the failure of a major power line, local media report. The capital, Baghdad, and southern provinces have been particularly badly affected.

Protesters have taken to the streets against the outages - anger over power cuts has previously fuelled mass street demonstrations.

Earlier this week Electricity Minister Majed Mahdi Hantoosh submitted his resignation as political pressure built over repeated power cuts across the country.

Iraq's electricity ministry has cited a number of causes for the prolonged cuts. They included terrorist attacks on electricity lines, shortages of fuel for power stations, and the suspension of energy supplies from neighbouring Iran.

Crippled by US economic sanctions, Iran has been pressuring the Iraqi government to settle unpaid energy bills.

On Friday, Iraq's Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi announced urgent steps to tackle the widespread power cut. In a statement, he said he would form a committee to support the electricity ministry and "strongly confront all kinds of interference with power systems".

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf Bin Saeed al Maliki calls on Chairman Senate Sadig Sanjarani at Parliament house Islamabad. – DNA

Strategy for 24-hour trading of stock exchange finalized

Trading is always possible with the introduction of blockchain technology on stock exchanges

SHUJAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: To keep the stock exchange operational round the clock, Chairman Technology Movement Pakistan Waqar Zaka has sent recommendations to the Security Exchange Commission, according to which the introduction of blockchain

technology on the stock exchange will allow shares to be traded at any time. Additionally, Waqar Zaka's team TenUp Nation has also

prepared its own currency through which it will be possible to buy and sell shares of various companies. Chairman Technology

Movement Pakistan Waqar Zaka said that after coming to Blockchain, it is possible



to increase the number of stock exchange users by 2.5 lakh. In addition, blockchain is the only technology that can run the stock market 24 hours a day

ket 24 hours a day. Last month, Waqar Zaka was nominated for Binance Awards 2021 for his crypto awareness work for the community. He has regularly been advocating the legalizing of cryptocurrency in Pakistan.



to

DNA

GAZA CITY: Israel said its fighter jets targeted a weapons manufacturing site in the Gaza Strip overnight on Friday in the latest unrest since a ceasefire ended May's attacks. Security sources with Hamas said the raids hit training sites and no casualties were reported. The Israeli army spokesperson stated that the air raid came in response to the launching of incendiary balloons from the Gaza Strip towards the surrounding Israeli settlements.

"In response to the arson balloons fired towards Israeli territory today, [military] fighter jets struck ... a weapons manufacturing

a weapons manuacturing site belonging to the Hamas terror organisation," the statement said. There was no immediate indication as to which Gaza-based group was responsible for the balloon launch, but Israel holds Hamas responsible for any action. It was the third time

Yale students denounce Israeli 'apartheid'

NEW HAVEN: The student council in Yale University has approved a statement denouncing Israel for "genocide", "ethnic cleansing" and "apartheid" in occupied Palestine.

The Yale College Council, the undergraduate student government, approved the statement earlier this week. The vote was 8-3 in favour, with four abstentions. "As students at one of the most privileged academic institutions in the world, we must call out injustice wherever it may occur," said the students. "We stand against the discriminatory application of the law that strips Palestinians of basic rights. We stand against the violent expulsions of those living under occupation in Sheikh Jarrah." The statement also connected legitimate Palestinian resistance to Israel's occupation with the civil rights movements in the US which saw Black Americans work to dismantle racial segregation during the 1950s and 60s.

Many see a clear parallel in racialised segregation between Jews and non-Jews in 'Israel' and the then legal racism in the American south. – **DNA**

Israel has carried out air attacks in Gaza since the end of the 11-day offensive it launched in the blockaded territory in May this year. The conflict killed at least 256 Palestinians, including

66 children, according to Gaza authorities. In Israel, 13 people, including two children, were killed by rockets fired from Gaza, the police and army said. Egyptian and international

mediators have been trying to shore up the informal ceasefire that ended the most recent war. In recent days, Israel has eased restrictions to allow in Qatar-funded fuel, extended Gaza's fishing zone and permitted increased cross-border commerce. There have been multiple flare-ups since the ceasefire, including a series of balloon launches last month. Israel has responded with air strikes. Following an exchange of

ronowing an exchange of fire on June 18, Israeli army chief ordered forces to be ready "for a variety of scenarios including a resumption of hostilities".

The Gaza Strip has been under an Israeli-Egyptian blockade since 2007, after Hamas – which was democratically elected the year before – took control of the coastal enclave. At least two million people – half of them under the age of 18 – live in the territory, one of the world's most densely populated area, in dire humanitarian conditions. Index 2020 (GCI). With 89.31 points, Azerbaijan left behind Georgia and Ukraine from the CIS countries, as well as Switzerland, Ireland, Iceland, Slovenia and the Czech Republic from European countries.

A representative of the Center for Analysis of Economic Reforms and Communication (CAERC) Masums Talibova said that Azerbaijan is demonstrating sustainable development through international cooperation in cyber security through the application of best practices globally.

Azerbaijan closely cooperates with Estonia in the field of digital solutions that ranks third among the European countries, she said. The United States ranked first in Global Cybersecurity Index 2020 and was followed by the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia. The GCI report assesses the level of cyber security in 5 key areas - legal framework, technical training, organizational issues, human resources, as well as communication and cooperation. The report has great importance for countries in terms of exchanging knowledge, identifying their weaknesses and strengths in the relevant fields and setting priorities for the future development.

Uzbek President attended the Youth and Student Forum

DNA

TASHKENT: President Shavkat Mirziyoyev visited the Forum of Youth and Students of Uzbekistan. The Botanical Garden where the forum is held is festively decorated. Exhibitions and demonstrations reflecting the achievements of young people in the fields of science, technology, literature and art have been organized. The head of state walked around these exhibitions and examined the inventions, skills and artistic performances of young people. He talked to them and wished them success in their reading and research.

The President came to the square and congratulated all the young men and women on June 30 - Youth Day. "In our country, priority is given to the education, rights and interests of young people. In this regard, a separate state organization - the Agency for Youth Affairs was established. In addition, the Youth Union has more than thirty non-governmental organizations. In all cities and districts, the State Program "Youth - Our Future", "Five Initiatives" covering various areas are being implemented.

The fact that this year has been declared the Year of Youth Support and Public Health in our country is also a bright manifestation of the attention paid to young people. There are two most important directions in



the youth policy of the President: the first is to provide them with modern education, and the second is to ensure youth employment. This goal is at the heart of the reforms, initiatives and new systems of recent years. In particular, in order to develop the knowledge and skills of young people, a new system of Presidential schools, creative and specialized schools has been

created. In general, attention to all schools, encouragement and respect for teachers has increased. The desire for knowledge increases in the younger generation. Last year, our educated and intelligent youth won 4 gold, 18 silver and 29 bronze medals at the International Science Olympiads. All 96 students who graduated from the Presidential Schools this year entered the prestigious foreign universities ahead of schedule on a grant basis. In line with the growing demand for knowledge-hungry youth, the number of higher education institutions has been increased to 127, and branches of 26 foreign universities have been opened. In the last 5 years, the quota for admission to higher education has been tripled, reaching 182,000 this year. This means that the total coverage will be 28 percent. Four years ago, the figure was only 9 percent.

The increase in state grants from 21,000 to 47,000 and the allocation of special grants for 2,000 girls from needy families to enter higher education have brought joy to thousands of families.

This year, another higher education institution, Yangi Uzbekistan University, was established. In the new academic year, 300 young people will be admitted to it. Even when it comes to employment, it can be seen that attention and care for young people has become a priority. The number of entrepreneurs under the age of 30 has increased fivefold in the last four years, to more than 500,000. As a result of practical work, over the past eight months, 300 billion soums have been allocated to solve the problems of 430,000 young people included in the "youth book". In particular, the contract was paid to more than 2,000 students from families with children in the "iron notebook", the presidential press service said.







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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

in Islamabad (ACI). The members of the ASE-AN Committee in Islamaincluded the Chair had 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 Deddy Faisal Ahmad Salleh, Charge d'Affaires, Malaysia



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

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

ISLAMABAD: A view of the mango festival in Islamabad. Ambassadors of Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Morocco also attended the festival.

PM Special Assistant on Commerce Razzaq Daowd was the chief guest. - DNA Photos

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: "ASEAN has transformed into a vibrant 10-member Organization, an increasingly integrated economic community, and a central pillar of regional arre 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 deepen 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

(CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with the Indonesian Embassy and the ASEAN Committee

for Strategic Perspectives

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

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

who joined on zoom. Speakers from Indonesia and Pakistan made short presentations on three dimensions of Pakistan-ASE-AN 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 Minis-

ter 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.

tum 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 He further stated that we great potential for Pakistan-ASEAN relations. require a delicate balancing

building 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 engageact and that Pakistan must ment between Pakistan and increase its cooperation with ASEAN and a quan-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.

vide technical assistance to

legal reforms and the Rule

of Law roadmaps in KP and

(PTA) to suspend the services of the video-sharing site on a citizen's petition, who was aggrieved by the "immorality and obsceni-

ty" 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 (NCOC) 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 NCOC. 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 NCOC. It added that it has also increased the capacity of flights from the United Kingdom, Europe, Canada, China, and Malavsia from 20% to 40%.

The NCOC 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.

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



Aamer 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)



Furgat 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.

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 pro-

STAFF REPORT

ards. The project will pro-

gramme 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 standit to achieve its goal.'

ISLAMABAD: The Europe-Balochistan. Special focus an Union and its partners will be set on access to launched a programme 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,

EU launches

new Rule of Law

programme

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 and the marginalized groups and improve service delivery. The Government of Pakistan will extend all its support to the programme, enabling

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