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US-Pakistan shared interests go beyond Afghanistan issue

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Briefs

Free and dynamic media vital

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Hussain on Thursday said that free, active and dynamic media was essential for the strengthening of democracy and the promotion of democratic norms. In his congratulatory message to the newly elected President of Parliamentary Reporters Association (PRA) Siddique Sajid, Vice President Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Secretary General Asif Bashir Chaudhry and other office bearers the minister said their election was a sign of the journalist community's confidence in them.

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All foreigners to be registered

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Interior has decided to register all foreigners residing in the country and facilitate all those Pakistanis for their return who are stuck at Torkham border. Addressing to media-men here on Thursday, the Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said, "It has been decided to register all foreigners present in the country and persons having fake Afghan visas have been also arrested. Around 40 to 50 thousands living in the country have no record for the last 70 years and every foreigner would be now registered".

Asad warns of complete lockdown

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar says the government will not impose complete lockdown during the 4th wave of coronavirus pandemic feared to surface during current month. Addressing a ceremony in Islamabad, he said during the past waves of coronavirus, the government's strategy to handle the pandemic and overcome its after-effects has been very successful. The Minister urged the people to keep on following the SOPs.

'Interests with Pak beyond Afghanistan'

Pakistan has been a helpful and constructive partner, says Ned Price

IP REPORT /DNA

WASHINGTON, The United States on Thursday said that Pakistan is an important partner in various fronts and both the countries have shared interests in peace and stability in Afghanistan. During the weekly press briefing, US State Department spokesperson Ned Price while replying to a query about Pakistan's influence in bringing the Afghan Taliban, at this crucial juncture, to the table in Doha said that Pakistan and the US have shared interests, adding that Pakistan has been helpful when it comes to this shared interest in Afghanistan. The spokesman said interests of the United States and Pakistan go well beyond that and include broader counterterrorism interests and the people-to-people ties that unite our two countries. He said all of Afghanistan's neighbors need to play a constructive role in helping to bring durable political settlement as well as a comprehensive ceasefire. He said the United States is going to work

Afghan govt, Taliban agree to work for peace

AGENCIES

TEHRAN: In a joint seven-article statement published, Intra-Afghan delegations agreed that the Afghan misery does not have military solution but a peaceful and political one. The intra-afghan delegations expressed their gratitude to the hospitality of Iran and applauded its efforts in establishing peace in Afghanistan. The visiting delegation to Tehran also agreed on another meeting to be held on the issues which need further discussion and elaborate negotiations namely the Islamic system and devising a mechanism for reconciliation. The intra-afghan delegations strongly denounced attacks causing demolition of

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan inspects indigenously built electric bike. - DNA

Imran urges nation to follow the SOPs

The premier warns the nation about the dangers of the Delta variant; lauds National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) for carrying out research and taking timely decisions

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday urged the masses to strictly observe the government's mandated COVID-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs) on the occasion of Eid ul Adha to keep the virus at bay. PM Imran Khan warned the nation about the dangers of the Delta variant - which first emerged in India - and said that India, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Indonesia are currently suffering because of it. "Given the current situation in countries like Afghanistan, where there is an acute shortage of oxygen, I would like to say a few things to the

First ever electric bike launched

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday launched Pakistan's first ever locally manufactured electric motorcycle. Speaking at a ceremony in Islamabad, the prime minister said the launch of the electric motorcycle was a "futuristic step", adding that his government's new electric vehicle (EV) policy laid down a plan and defined a direction for the future. The launch of the electric motorcycle is part of the present government's five-year Pakistan Electric Vehicles Policy 2020-2025.

ation in countries like Afghanistan, where there is an acute shortage of oxygen, I would like to say a few things to the

nation," the PM said. He said that so far, Allah has been very merciful towards Pakistan and even foreign publications like The Economist has listed Pakistan as one of the top three nations that were able to control the pandemic in an efficient way. He lauded the government, particularly the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) for carrying out research and taking timely decisions to contain the virus from spreading. He said that Pakistan was

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ISLAMABAD: Senator Sherry Rehman presenting a souvenir to Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul during her visit to the Turkish embassy. Faisal Karim Kundi is also present.-DNA

Bilawal tells Kashmir to get rid of political 'cats'

DNA

HAVELI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhatti-Zardari said Thursday "they" should do politics like lions, not cats, as he took a veiled dig at the PML-N, a day after he had slammed the party for seeking deals with the government. Bilawal, addressing an election rally at Azad Jammu and Kashmir's Haveli

Maryam vows to end sufferings of Kashmiris

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz said that she will end the sufferings of Kashmiri people under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif. Maryam Nawaz said this while addressing a public gathering in Chhatar Kalas. She said that despite the theft of 2018 elections, the PML-N has stood as a rock. Our party will solve the problems of the Kashmiri people. "They say Nawaz Sharif's politics is over, these

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PM likely to visit Lahore next week

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Prime Minister Imran Khan will pay a day-long visit to Lahore on July 12 (Monday) where he will inaugurate several development projects. During his visit, the premier will hold a one-on-one meeting with Chief Minister Punjab Usman Buzdar to get a briefing about the political and administrative situation of the province. The chief minister will brief the premier on the steps taken by the provincial government to tackle the deadly Covid-19 third wave. He will also chair important meetings at CM House.

Will never lower our guard: COAS

General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) was visiting Corps HQ Mangla

NEHAL MIRAJ

RAWALPINDI: General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited Corps Headquarters Mangla. COAS was briefed about operational preparedness, training and administrative matters of the Corps. COAS was also apprised of the ongoing Corps War Games aimed at evaluating operational plans in wake of the



emerging battlefield challenges. COAS lauded the performance and dedication of Strike Corps formations for undertaking innovative futuristic training. Addressing the garrison officers, COAS highlighted regional environment and its implications on

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COVID-19 tally records rise in cases

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The national tally on Thursday of total active COVID-19 cases was recorded 34,531 with 1,683 more people testing positive for the deadly virus and 1,084 people recovering from the disease during last 24 hours. Twenty-four corona patients have died during past 24 hours, 23 of whom were under treatment in the hospitals and one of them perished in their respective homes or quarantine facilities, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). Most of the deaths occurred in Sindh and followed by Punjab. Out of the total 24 deaths occurred, 15 of them died were under treatment on ventilators.

Zilhaj Moon sighting on 10th

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: As the Eid al-Adha approaches and is expected to fall on either July 20th or 21st, the central Ruet e Hilal committee is all set to meet on July 10 (i.e. 29th of Ziqad) for Zilhaj moon-sighting. The committee comprising officials from the Met department, Suparco, Navy and religious affairs ministry will meet on Saturday with Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad as its chair. On the same day, the sessions of zonal ruet-e-hila committees will take place in their respective regions. Separately, it may be noted that PMD predicted there is no chance of sighting the new moon of Zilhaj.

EU envoy for protection of women rights

Ambassador of the European Union Androulla Kaminara was addressing the Intrafaith and Interfaith Roundtable Peace Conference

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Androulla Kaminara, Ambassador of the European Union Delegation to Pakistan, spoke on women and children's rights and said that the protection of the rights of women and children is one of the top priorities. The issues of underage young girls' marriages and forced conversions were discussed at length. Androulla Kaminara Ambassador of EU, Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad, Dr. Qibla Ayaz and Ejaz Alam Augustine addressed at Intrafaith and Interfaith Roundtable Peace Conference at Lahore. A one-day Intrafaith and Interfaith roundtable conference was held at Avari Hotel Lahore in collaboration with the Intrafaith Council for Peace and Harmony Pakistan and the European Union Delegation



tion to Pakistan. The conference was attended by representatives of all denominations, great scholars and leaders of world religions and civil society, human rights and women rights experts and environmentalists. Intrafaith and interfaith harmony is the need of the hour. Unity is a symbol of na-

tional solidarity. The environment and climate are our common heritage. Protecting it is our national responsibility. Women have an important role to play in the development and prosperity of Pakistan. Protecting the rights of children and women is our first responsibility. Mr. Ijaz Alam Augustine, Provincial Minister for Human Rights attended the closing ceremony as the Chief Guest. Addressing the meeting, Ijaz Alam said that intolerance, violence and religious extremism are amongst the major challenges being faced by the state of Pakistan today. Today's conference is a proof that there is no shortage of good people in our country who strive to achieve good and noble goals. Ms. Kaminara stressed on the importance of climate and

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UBG believes in women's empowerment: Bakhtawari - Page 03

Over 33m children vaccinated in anti-polio campaign - Page 04

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Euro 2020: England into final after win over Denmark - Page 06

Pakistan provides medical equipment to Bangladesh - Page 07

Amb. Nong Rong says CPEC JCC will be held in July - Page 08

Briefs

Govt fully focused on uplifting agrisector

PESHAWAR: KP Minister for Labour and Culture, Shaukat Ali Yousafzai has said that the provincial government was concentrating on the uplift of agriculture sector to make the province self-sufficient in agricultural products including wheat. Addressing 16th National Weeds Conference here in Agriculture University on Thursday, he said that a budget of Rs.14 billion have been allocated for financial year 2021-22 to develop agriculture sector and minimize dependency on other provinces. Beside, Vice Chancellor, Agriculture University, Bakht-Jahan, Secretary Higher Education, Daud Khan and faculty members of the university were also present on the occasion. The provincial minister was of the opinion that research in agriculture sector is essential for national development, but unfortunately, he said only 10.7% area of the country is allocated for agriculture. He urged the authorities of Agriculture Department to send their suggestions and recommendations to provincial government. So they could be reviewed for implementation. The provincial minister criticized previous rulers over purchasing costly electricity from Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and others that inflicted colossal loss to national exchequer. He said that they are thankful to Prime Minister Imran Khan for starting construction work on Bhasha and Mohmand Dams on priority basis, which will also generate cheap electricity and help abolish load shedding. - APP

Pakistan partners for "Changing Diabetes® in Children"

DNA

LAHORE: The Changing Diabetes® in Children partnership has announced, Pakistan as its 16th country partner and marked the kick-off activities to support children and adolescents with type-1 diabetes in Pakistan. Changing Diabetes in Children is a project of Novo Nordisk which will be implemented by the Health Promotion Foundation to facilitate the access that children and adolescents living with type 1 diabetes need through hospitals and clinics. The project is endorsed by the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination under their existing MoU with Novo Nordisk. The partnership has a clear goal: That no child should die from diabetes. In time, it is hoped 4000 children will be enrolled into the partnership where they can learn about living with diabetes and receive support and education.

'No room for corrupt officials in LG departments'

PESHAWAR: Minister for Local Government, Elections, Human Rights and Parliamentary Affairs Akbar Ayub Khan Thursday warned that there was no room for lethargic and corrupt officers in his departments. "The reward and punishment policy of KP government will be strictly implemented whereas all the officials will have to bring about vivid change in their behaviour and public delivery mechanism", he maintained adding that provincial government would never compromise on punctuality of staff and quality of public service delivery. He was presiding over meeting on improving the performance of municipal bodies especially the Tehsil Municipal Administrations (TMAs) at his office LG Secretariat Peshawar. The meeting was attended by Secretary Local Government Shakeel Ahmed, Secretary Local Council Board Saleem Khan, Chief Engineer Rashid-ullah Khan, Deputy Director Information Technology Shakrullah and other concerned officers. The meeting took stock of the 50 directives of the Minister LG in order to enhance the performance of TMAs and necessary decisions were also taken. - APP

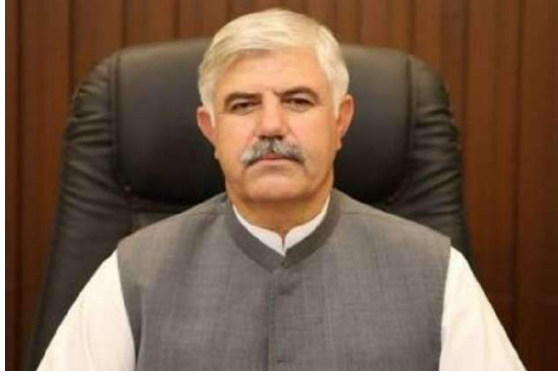
KP CM announces special uplift package for JaniKhel

The Chief Minister lamented that some elements tried to incite the people of JaniKhel against the government for their political purposes. However, the people of JaniKhel did not listen to them and thwarted their nefarious designs

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan Thursday announced a special development package of Rs. 2 billion for JaniKhel area and a fund of Rs. 2 billion for the construction of Shakti Dam in JaniKhel. He was addressing a 40-member jirga of the elders of JaniKhel tribe of district Bannu that called on him here and apprised him in detail about all the issues being faced by people of the area. Besides Provincial Minister Shah Mohammad Wazir, Chief Secretary DrKazimNiaz, Inspector General of Police MoazzamJah Ansa-

ri, Commandant Frontier Constabulary Salahuddin, Additional Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah, Commissioner Bannu, Regional Police Officer, Deputy Commissioner and District Police Officer Bannu were also present on the occasion. The Chief Minister assured the jirga to resolve all their problems on priority basis, maintaining law and order to ensure rapid development of the area. In order to provide employment opportunities to the youth of JaniKhel, the Chief Minister announced recruitment of five platoons comprising of JaniKhel youth in Frontier Constabulary and said that all expenses would be



borne by the provincial government. He directed the authorities concerned to prepare a proper case in this regard at the earliest and submit it for approval. The Chief Minister also announced the construction of a police station at JaniKhel. The Chief Minister assured to start developmental schemes in health, education, road infrastructure and other social sectors for the area on priority basis. Mahmood Khan said that the provincial government

was taking serious steps to maintain law & order in the area and urged the elders of the area to play their due role in this regard. The Chief Minister lamented that some elements tried to incite the people of JaniKhel against the government for their political purposes. However, the people of JaniKhel did not listen to them and thwarted their nefarious designs. Mahmood Khan said that being the Chief Minister, he striving for peace and development in all parts of the province for which result oriented steps were being taken. The Chief Minister further said that the provincial government stands by agreement reached with the

people of JaniKhel adding that the promises made to them would be fulfilled. He said that he was fully aware of the sufferings of the people of JaniKhel and all their legitimate issues would be resolved according to their expectations. The Chief Minister thanked the elders of JaniKhel for holding the successful jirga and appreciated the efforts of the administration in this regard. The elders of JaniKhel also thanked the Chief Minister for convening the jirga and giving them time to listen to their concerns and assured full cooperation with the government for maintaining peace and bringing development in the area.



LAHORE: British High Commission Political Counselor, Iona Thomas called on Amir Jamaat e Islami Pakistan Senator Sirajul Haq. - DNA

Reducing impact of urbanization stressed

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: New eco-friendly landscaping practices are imperative to nullify the ill-effects of industrialisation and urbanisation, said Director Institute of Horticultural Sciences (IHS) University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) Prof Dr Aman Malik. He was addressing a webinar on the 'Use of Mulching in Landscape', which was organised by the IHS in collaboration with 'Let's Lock Technologies, USA' and Horti Club, Faisalabad. Dr Aman Malik said that

rapid industrialisation and urbanisation had resulted in elevated global temperature over the years, which is disturbing the balance of agro-ecological systems worldwide. He said that new eco-friendly landscaping practices are imperative for maintaining the balance of ecological systems. Addressing the participants, other speakers said that use of mulching can potentially serve the purpose by reducing soil evaporation, conserving moisture, controlling soil temperature, reducing weed growth, and improving microbial activities.

USAID's KPRM to conduct diagnostic study of KPRA

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) on Thursday held a meeting with USAID's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Mobilization (KPRM) team and introduced its contractors including KPMG and STEP Nex with the officials of KPRA. The KPRM will conduct the diagnostic study of KPRA identifying any possible gaps/weaknesses in various sections of the authority including collectorate, audit, registration, communications, grievance redressal system, HR and administration. Based on the outcome of the diagnostic study, the KPRM will give suggestions for overcoming those gaps and strengthening of the authority. Trainings will be arranged based on the outcome of the study for the capacity building of KPRA staff. The STEP Nex will assist and strengthen the IT section of the KPRA and in the meeting it briefed the officials on its plan. The KPRM team and the contractors expressed their satisfaction and gratitude on the passion shown by the officials of the KPRA in the project, while, the Director General KPRA Fayyaz Ali Shah told the KPRM team and the contractors that his office is open for them and assured that there will be no delay in the study and the subsequent measures, to be taken after the completion of the study, from the KPRA's side. He told the participants that the study and the measures in the light of the outcome of the study will help KPRA in achieving its next year revenue collection target along with the strengthening of KPRA as an institution.

IIOJK: 1,425 martyred, 29,656 injured in 5 years

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Indian troops have martyred 1425 Kashmiris, including 33 women and 114 young boys, after the martyrdom of popular youth leader, urhan Muzaffar Wani on July 08, 2016 till date in the territory. According to a report released by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service, of those 124 were killed in fake encounters and in custody during the period. The report said at least 29656 people were critically injured due to use of brute forces, firing of bullets, pellets, PAVA and teargas shells on peaceful demonstrators and mourners by Indian military, paramilitary and police personnel in the occupied territory. It said that thousands of Hurriyat leaders, activists, politicians and civil society members, including Syed Ali Gilani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Masarrat Aalam Butt, Aasiya Andrabi, Naheeda Nasreen, Fehmeeda Sofi, Dr Hameed Fayaz, Nayeem Ahmad Khan, Ayaz Akbar, Altaf Ahmed Shah, and journalist, Asif Sultan have been facing illegal detentions in different of jails and the occupied territory. - DNA

DC warns miscreants against disturbing peace in district

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: District Peace Committee meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali in the Committee Room of DC Office in which SSP Operations Muhammad Afzal, Additional Deputy Commissioner General Khurram Perez and other officers, Maulana Muhammad Yousaf Anwar, Sahibzada Zahid Mahmood Qasmi, Pir Faiz Rasool Rizvi, Syed Jafar Naqvi, Qariyaseen Zafar, Malik Baksh Elahi, Iftikhar Naqvi, Dr. Mumtaz, Syed Tajmal Hussain Zaidi, Abdul Rashid, AslamBhali, Mian Tanveer Riaz and other members of the committee

tee were also present. During the meeting, the anti-national elements who spread evil, sedition and disorder were strongly condemned and the determination to unite and crush external conspiracies was reiterated. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali paid rich home to scholars of all sects to maintain an atmosphere of religious harmony and unity. He paid rich tributes to the exemplary services of the religious scholars and appealed to the religious leaders to spread the message of tolerance and religious harmony at the grass root level in the society so that an atmosphere of unity prevails and the conspiracies of anti-national elements are foiled.

He said that the affairs of the mosque committee would be run in a more efficient manner in which the scholars of all schools of thought would be taken along. The Deputy Commissioner apprised the meeting of the serious dangers posed by dengue and appealed to the scholars to give a strong message from pulpits regarding adopted precautionary measures against dengue responsibly and continued cooperation with anti-dengue teams. He also issued necessary instructions to the concerned officers for setting up corona vaccination camps in mosques and madrassas. The SSP Operations said that strong co-ordination between the Ulema and the

district administration and the police was essential for maintaining peace and it should not be underestimated. He also assured that some of the issues identified by the Ulema would be resolved. The members of the peace committee said that the efforts for religious harmony and brotherhood would not be slowed down and no one would be allowed to spread unrest by disrupting the unity and not a minute will be spared for maintaining peace and tranquility. At the end of the meeting, special prayers were offered for the development of the nation, unity and harmony, security of law and order and maintaining religious harmony.



FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali presides over the meeting of District Peace Committee. - DNA

Burhan Wani icon of resistance: Shehryar Afridi

All Parties Hurriyat Conference leader Syed Faiz Naqshbandi, ED of KIIR Altaf Wani, Abdul Hameed Lone and other Kashmiri activists were also present. He said that immediate restoration of article 370 and 35-A was the only way for India which may pave the way for peace in South Asia region

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir Shehryar Khan Afridi Thursday said that BurhanMuzaffarWani is an icon of Kashmiri resistance as he relives in every Kashmiri's heart which cements resolve of Kashmiris to fight for freedom. He was addressing a seminar held here on the martyrdom day of Kashmiri freedom fighter BurhanWani held here under the auspices of Kashmiri Institute of International Relations (KIIR). All Parties Hurriyat Conference leader Syed FaizNaqshbandi, Executive Director of KIIR AltafWani,

Abdul Hameed Lone and other Kashmiri activists were also present. He said that immediate restoration of article 370 and 35-A was the only way for India which may pave the way for peace in South Asia region. Shehryar Khan Afridi said that the nations remember their martyrs as they cement the very foundations of those nations. He said BurhanWani had adopted an innovative and brave methodology to spread his message through social media. He said the sacrifices submitted by BurhanWani and his comrades had set a new example for future resistance leaders. He said that the Kashmiris could no longer be misguided and misled due to the campaign run by



BurhanWani and his comrades and India's fascist face had been exposed to the world. He said that the new delimitation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir was aimed

at turning Muslim-majority areas into Hindu-majority areas. He said that Kashmir is facing a serious threat in wake of demographic changes being made under the ideologic designs of the Hindutva regime. He said that Pakistan provides new energy to the Kashmiri freedom struggle and it would not shy away from providing all sorts of support to Kashmiris. He said that Pakistan would not only keep fighting the case of Kashmir but also would keep exposing India's fascist Hindutva agenda to the world. He urged the Pakistani and Kashmiri youth to become followers of BurhanWani and become voice of Kashmiri freedom struggle. He

said that Kashmiri youth should use modern tools of social media to spread imagery and stories of Indian oppression in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. "India wants to gag Kashmiri media so as no tales of Kashmiri sufferings and imagery would not come out of Jammu and Kashmir. Youth should act as bloggers, vloggers, social media activists and expose brutal face of India in Jammu and Kashmir to the world," he said. Shehryar Afridi said that civil, military leadership and all political parties stand united on the issue of Kashmir and all stand together to reassure their Kashmiri brethren that Pakistan stands by them in their quest for freedom.

British HC aide meets Punjab law minister

DNA

LAHORE: The political counsellor of British High Commission (HC) Islamabad, Ms.Lona Thomas, called on Minister for Law and Cooperatives Punjab Raja Basharat at the Punjab Assembly, on Thursday. They discussed issues of mutual interest between the UK and the Punjab government. Raja Basharat said that the Punjab government was taking historic steps for protection and development of minorities as significant increases had been made in the recent budget for churches and other minority worship places in Punjab. He said that the Punjab government was ensuring implementation of all points of FATF [Financial Action Task Force] and had successfully handled high profile cases of terrorism by implementing federal policies against extremism and sectarianism to the maximum. Raja Basharat said that the Punjab Assembly, under the leadership of Chief Minister Usman Buzdar, had enacted record legislation while centuries old laws were being updated as per the existing requirements. He said that the orders of the Supreme Court regarding local governments would be implemented. The minister said that successful measures had been taken against coronavirus pandemic in Punjab and the process of vaccination was also going on successfully.

Capital police charge-sheet 7 cops on corruption

PESHAWAR: Capital City Police on Thursday filed a charge sheet against seven suspended policemen and initiated departmental inquiry against them. The decision was taken at the meeting chaired by Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Abbass Ahsan. He directed SSP Operation, YasirAfridi, and District Police Officer Khyber District, WasimRiaz to complete departmental inquiry as soon as possible and take strict action under four-point policy instructed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General of Police, MoazzamJah Ansari. The CCPO once again warned policemen to avoid malpractices saying there was no place for corrupt and lethargic employees in the department. He said stern departmental action would be taken against those found guilty of corruption and malpractices. It is pertinent to mention here that six police officials of Khyber district were suspended over charges of corruption. The suspended employees included In-charge police check post TakhtaBaig, Khan Zeb, In-charge Kharkhano check post district Khyber, Asif Khan, Head Constable Traffic Police district Khyber Fahim, Incharge PP Khyber ASI Fayaz, In-charge Kharkhano Head Constable Safdar and Constable Mohammad Ishaq who was posted in Hayatabad police station. - APP

Six lakh people get vaccine in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD: As many as 604,661 people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in Faisalabad district. District Health Officer DrAtaulMun'im said on Thursday that 474,740 citizens had been given the first dose while 89,180 were administered the second dose of vaccine. He said that 26,213 health workers were also given the first dose while 14,528 received the second dose of vaccine. He said that sufficient stock of anti-coronavirus vaccine was available in the district. As of now, 42,264 first doses and 28,176 second doses were in the stock at Faisalabad. He said that 35 vaccination centres were operational in Faisalabad where registered persons were also getting anti-coronavirus vaccine doses. To facilitate people, the centers had been established in various areas of the city including Allied Hospital, District Head Quarters Hospital, Government General Hospital Ghulam Muhammad Abad, Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology, Government General Hospital Samanabad, Children Hospital, Sports Complex Samanabad and Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Jaranwala, he added. - APP

Briefs

Alleged assassin of PPP leader arrested

FAISAL MUNIR

ATTOCK: Attock Police on Thursday announced to arrest the assassin of former member Punjab assembly from Attock and Pakistan Peoples party leader Malik Shahhan Hakmeen Khan and recovered the weapon utilized in the cold blood murder. The accused, 19 years old, Malik Sherdil Hakmeen Khan was the son of his step brother and during interrogation has confessed to kill Shahhan over property dispute.

In the first investigation report (FIR) launched by Humera Malik, 75 years old mother of the deceased and widow of the veteran and founder leader of Pakistan Peoples Party Malik Hakmeen Khan stated that there was dispute of property between Shahhan and his step brother Asif and they were in litigation in various courts.

She added that few days ago, Asif came to the house and asked Shahhan to withdraw the cases failing which he would face dire consequences and on Thursday he sent his son to assassinate him.

Court awards RI in murder case

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The Additional Session Judge Hakim Khan Bhakar on Thursday awarded Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) to one accused in a murder case.

Ibrar was found guilty of killing his wife Madeha Kanwal over a family dispute in the area of Police Station Kahutta, in March 2019.

After recording evidence of the witnesses and final arguments by the defence and prosecution, the Court awarded rigorous imprisonment to the accused while a fine of Rs 400, 00 was also imposed on him.

PBM, IIUI ink MoU to support students

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) inked Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) at its Head Office, to keep the deserving students on their educational track.

PBM Managing Director Malik Zaheer Abbas and IIUI President Dr. Hathal Hamoud Al-Otaibi signed the agreement to support the poor students in International Islamic University Islamabad.

Addressing the ceremony, Malik Zaheer Abbas said that Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal was leading the country towards a social welfare state as envisioned by Prime Minister Imran Khan, with its eminent pro-poor services like medical treatment of poor patients suffering from cancer, hepatitis, cardiac, kidney dialysis, thalassemia and other diseases, educational stipends for underprivileged students, women empowerment, eradication of child labour, support to disabled persons, provision of education, food, clothing and other basic needs of life to orphan and deprived children, Panahgahs for the needy persons, meals on wheels and so on, said a press release.

Accrediting the humanitarian services of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, the International Islamic University Islamabad President expressed his gratitude for enabling the deserving students of the varsity to continue their education.

Following that, the Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal Managing Director also signed the agreements with the representatives of Quaid-e-Azam University and NUML University, Islamabad to help out the deserving and promising students studying there.

UBG believes in women's empowerment: Bakhtawari

Bakhtawari said that to empower women across Pakistan, the govt has set up women's chambers in various districts, including the Rawalpindi Women's Chamber, while the United Business Group also believes in women's empowerment

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: A delegation led by Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General, United Business Group (UBG) and former President ICCI visited Rawalpindi Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry congratulated President Neelam Khalid on assuming her new office and post. Former Senior Vice President of ICCI Khalid Chaudhry, President of Transport Association Malik Shabbir Former Vice President Nisar Mirza, Nasir Chaudhry, babar Chaudhry, Intiaz Abbasi and Zulqarnain Abbasi were present.

On the occasion, UBG Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari said that to empower women across Pakistan, the government has set up women's chambers in various districts, including the Rawalpindi Women's Chamber, while the



United Business Group also believes in women's empowerment. Nowadays it is very difficult for women to run their own business

while many women have established their businesses despite all odds. More than 200 women are working in our organization D.

Watson. Instead of encouraging women, government has imposed sale taxes on beauty parlor. The government is required to declare

women's business tax-free so that more women can join the business community.

Expressing her views on the occasion, Rawalpindi Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Neelam Khalid Chaudhry thanked Zafar Bakhtawari for visiting her office she said that beauty parlors and other business are in lockdowns for the last two years. It is also difficult to pay rent of shops and offices. Owners of properties are not ready to give any concession in rent. CDA has increased taxes while the government has also imposed 17% sales tax in the current budget on beauty parlor. This is a time to encourage Women. Senior Vice President Rakhshanda Jamil, Founder President Asma Kanwal, uzma Shahid, Asiya Shahid, Azeema Ijaz, Noor Tariq, Rahat Jabeen and Sadia were also present on the occasion.

AIOU's exams start from July 12

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is commencing face to face examinations of the Faculty of Education from July 12 for MPhil and PhD programs for spring 2021 semester. Date sheet and number slips for these examinations have been uploaded on the university website (www.aiou.edu.pk) and are also being dispatched to the students. Roll number slips downloaded from the university website will be treated valid for appearing in the examinations. These examinations will be held at the main campus of the university. COVID-19 SOPs including wearing of masks and social distancing will be strictly implemented to constrict spread of the pandemic. Moreover, AIOU is going to offer admissions via fully automated mechanism from autumn 2021 semester. - DNA

RCCI holds condolence reference



DNA

RAWALPINDI: A condolence meeting was held at the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) to pay tribute to the services of the late Sheikh Muhammad Shabbir, former president and group leader of RCCI. Station Commander Ijaz Qamar Kayani, Group Leader Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz Malik, Former Presidents, Former Senator Mian Atiq, Dr. Qa-

ayyum of PANA, Representatives of Islamabad Stock Exchange, Islamabad Chamber Group Leader Akram Farid, Former Presidents ICCI, Nadeem Sheikh of Small Chamber, Malik Sohail from UBG, Representatives of Anjuman-e-Tajir of Rawalpindi City Shahid Ghafoor Paracha, Zahid Bakhtawari, Sharjeel Mir, Sheikh Hafeez, Sheikh Siddique, Arshad Awan, Chaudhry Iqbal, Flour Mills officials, members of the executive committee and a large number of chamber members were also present.

The life and services of late Sheikh Muhammad Shabbir were highlighted in the condolence reference. President Nasir Mirza said that the late Sheikh Shabbir, like a kind father, shared the secrets of the success of chamber and guided us in promoting trade activities. Being from Rawalpindi city, he had deep ties with the business community. Sharing his close memories, Group leader Sohail Altaf said that Sheikh Shabbir was a man of high stature. His role in the development

and progress of the Chamber and in the promotion of business activities is exemplary and a beacon for us. Appreciating the services of the late Sheikh Shabbir in strong words, speakers said that we lost a great man and a teacher. His services to the business community and to humanity will always be remembered. As the President of Rawalpindi Chamber, he crossed many milestones. In the end, Hafiz Khurram Shabbir, son of the late, offered condolence prayer.

CCP conducts search, inspection of PVMA

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: As part of an investigation into the alleged violations of Sections 3 and 4 of the Competition Act, 2010 in the edible oil and ghee sector, the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) today carried out search and inspection of the office of Pakistan Vanaspati Manufacturers Association (PVMA) located in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi. The search inspections were carried out under Section 34 of the Act to impound documents and computer-stored information relating to the suspected role of PVMA in anti-competitive activities. Three different teams of authorized officers entered and searched the premises of PVMA, and seized impor-

tant information. PVMA officials fully cooperated with the search teams and handed over required documents and computer-stored information after signing the inventory details. During the investigation, the CCP's enquiry committee observed that PVMA is an association of 125 edible oil and ghee manufacturers, and as per media reports, it seems that they are involved in collective price-fixing of retail prices of various brands of cooking oil and ghee for different market segments.

Data available with the enquiry committee also indicates that PVMA circulates freight charges among its member mills/companies and frequently revises these charges as a result of an increase/decrease in the prices of High-Speed Diesel (HSD).

COMSTECH Webinar on Thermodynamic held

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH organized international webinar on "Thermodynamic systems in biology and physics" delivered by Prof. Dr. Utkir A. Rozikov, of V. I. Romanovskii Institute of Mathematics, Tashkent, Uzbekistan on Thursday, online. Prof. Rozikov discussed thermodynamic system of biology and physics and defined the thermodynamic systems by discussing available mathematical models and giving examples of real world problems. He talked about sex determination systems of species, and said that in some species of reptiles, including alligators, some turtles, and a few birds sex is determined by the temperature provided to the egg.

CDA to beautify Islamabad through calligraphy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Calligraphy (artwork) work on the walls of underpasses on all major highways across the city to beautify the Federal Capital has been completed soon directed to CDA Chairman Amir Ali Ahmed. Orders were issued to the concerned department in this regard. The artwork on the walls of underpasses on all major highways across the city to make the Federal Capital more beautiful and attractive on the instructions of CDA Chairman has been going on. In this regard, the calligraphy (artwork) on the side walls of all the bridges on Shaheed Millat Road has been completed which is an attractive and captivating sight for the beholder.

Similarly, the work on the walls of all the underpasses on 7th Avenue Road have been completed. The Art at the Underpasses and bridges under the direction of Chairman CDA will specially include students of schools, colleges and universities associated with painting and calligraphy, further more bridges in Sector I-8 Fly-over will be designed with truck art. In addition, calligraphy (artwork) on the walls of all underpasses on Faisal Avenue will be completed as soon as possible. Meanwhile, considering the problems being faced by the masses, Chairman CDA has directed to complete Rawal Dam Project in October 2021 instead of completing it in December

2022. This project will resolve the traffic issues at Rawal Dam chowk. The construction of under passes and flyovers at Rawal Dam Chowk will facilitate the road users of areas including Rawal Chowk, Faizabad, Shehzad Town, Bani Gala, Lehtrar road, and others. Construction work is going on in two shifts. 05 out of 10 columns have been completed. The construction of other 05 is also underway. 18 graders have been completed. Work on Rawal Town and Rawal Chowk underpasses is continued so that both the underpasses could be completed at once. 50% work of RCC walls of bridge has been completed. Construction of flyovers will be completed in November.

Efforts of Ghani Chemical lauded

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Makhdoom Khuro Bakhtyar Thursday appreciated and acknowledged the efforts of Ghani Chemical Industry for increasing their production in the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic. He said this while meeting with Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Ghani Chemical Industries, Antique, said a press release issued here. He noted that as the world braces for an overwhelming number of corona virus cases, the government had taken some drastic measures to contain the spread of the virus through effective anti-corona strategy. The Minister remarked, the government and the industry would work in unison for synergy and coordination to deal with COVID challenge as AI-based disease modeling analysis shows that the danger of next wave of COVID-19 isn't over yet. Ghani Chemicals is the largest producer of medical & industrial gases mainly oxygen, nitrogen, argon in the country. During the meeting, the CEO briefed on the firm's latest investment for installation of additional 275 MT/day capacity of medical and industrial gases at Hat-tr Economic Zone, District Haripur. He informed that construction of said plant would be completed in this financial year. - APP

Dist. admin retrieves Govt land

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The District administration on Thursday retrieved eight kanals and 15 marlas government land, located at 'Mouza Bewal' in Gujjar Khan Tehsil under the ongoing operation against land mafia. According to a district administration spokesman, the operation was conducted with the help of police under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner Gujjar Khan. The administration also demolished concrete structures constructed at the encroached land. The spokesman informed that a report was compiled by the revenue officers about the encroached state land at 'Mouza Bewal' for which the operation was launched.

Tanker mafias not allowed to exploit people

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Shibli Faraz Thursday said that the water tanker mafias will not be allowed to take advantage of the issue of water shortage in Islamabad. "We will not allow water tanker mafias to exploit people in Islamabad", he said while speaking at a signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at resolving water related issues in Islamabad between Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), Ministry of Science and Technology and Capital Development Authority. The water project, as per MoU, will resolve the biggest problem of the residents of Sector I-10 of Islamabad which is water shortage. Shibli Faraz said that the rains occur in our country frequently but there was no system for the storage of rain water due to which water is wasted. He said that steps will be taken for the storage of water underground. The clean water will be available to the whole city within two to three years. Speaking to the media, the Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Asad Umar said that the project would provide 200 million gallons of clean water to Rawalpindi and Islamabad. He said that the biggest problem of Islamabad is water shortage and the demand of the people from NA-54 constituency was also related to the availability of water.

Launching ceremony of 'Paigham-e-Pakistan held

'Paigham-e-Pakistan' draft unanimously approved document after Constitution of Pakistan'

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Stressing the need to promote reconstruction of a peaceful and inclusive Pakistani Society, Minister for Religious Affairs Dr. Noor-ul-Haq Qadri has said that minorities in Pakistan are enjoying complete religious freedom as per the constitution. Addressing a ceremony of "Paigham-e-Pakistan Action Plan for Reconstruction of a Peaceful and an Inclusive Pakistani Society" organized by Islamic Research Institute (IRI) of the International Islamic University (IIU) at its Faisal Masjid campus on Thursday, he said minorities in Pakistan have a historical connection to this land and are the valuable citizens of this country. The Minister said the Paigham-e-Pakistan document has been prepared after an extensive consultative process and hard work and it should be implemented with letter and spirit.



He said there is an exemplary interfaith harmony and sectarian unity in Pakistan due to prudent steps taken by the government taking all religious scholars and stakeholders on board. The Minister said elements who hurt the feelings of any religious class are enemies of

Pakistan and Islam as well. On the occasion, Maulana Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, Special Representative of Prime Minister of Pakistan on Religious Harmony and Middle East Affairs addressed the ceremony. He said that Pakistan has potential to deal with challenges

of Muslim world. Prof. Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Chairman Council of Islamic Ideology (CII), in his speech hailed the role of IIUI for construction of national narrative "Paigham-e-Pakistan" which has gained global recognition for dissemination of true message of Islam.

Prof. Dr. Masoom Yasinzai, IIUI Rector hoped that Paigham-e-Pakistan's Action Plan for peace, cohesion and inclusiveness will be a source of peaceful inclusive Pakistani society. Dr. Hathal Hamoud Alotaibi, President, IIUI spoke about the objectives and importance of the Action Plan made in the light of Paigham-e-Pakistan narrative and said that "Paigham-e-Pakistan rules out any form of terrorism and self-proclaimed acts of violent extremism in the name of religion. Dr. Zia ul haq, Director General IRI, briefed about the details of the Action Plan produced by Islamic Research Institute, IRI, IIUI. He also elaborated future goals of IRI and Paigham e Pakistan forum for inclusive society and shared social impact of IIUI's efforts on Muslim Societies. He elaborated the 5 years plan of action for inclusive society from this forum of Paigham-e-Pakistan.

Briefs

Govt providing relief to masses

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Capital Development Authority Affairs Ali Nawaz Awan Thursday said that the people were gaining benefits from the steps taken by the government for the welfare of people.

Talking to private news channel, he said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf formed government in financial crises, which was very difficult time after winning of general elections 2018.

Ali Nawaz said, entire world appreciated the efforts of the government and steps taken during Covid-19 pandemic situation, on the other hand all big economics were shrinking at that time. He said due to relentless efforts by the PTI government, imports and exports were significantly impacted on national economy, while the manufacturing, auto policy and agriculture sectors were also improved, he added. He said record foreign remittances were seen by the expats which shows their trust on government and its policies.

Met Office issues alert amid Monsoon

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Thursday advised all provincial and federal authorities to remain on "Alert" as the active phase of Monsoon season has been predicted to prevail in the next week. The MET Office in its Monsoon Alert issued here informed that monsoon onset would likely to remain in active phase during next week. The forecast alert issued mentioned that rain-wind and thundershowers were predicted in upper and central parts from weekend. The Met Office informed that strong monsoon currents were likely to penetrate northeastern parts of the country from weekend perpetrating the monsoon active phase.

Rain-wind-thundershower (with few heavy falls at time) was expected in Kashmir, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum, Gujrat, Mandi Bahauddin, Sialkot, Narowal, Gujranwala, Hafizabad, Lahore, Sheikhupura, Kasur, Okara, Faisalabad, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Sargodha, Mianwali, Khushab, Bhakkar and Layyah from Saturday (evening/night) till Wednesday.

Rain-wind-thundershowers (with few heavy falls at time) was expected in Dir, Swat, Buner, Kohistan, Shangla, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Mardan, Swabi, Charsadda, Nowshera, Peshawar, Waziristan, Kurru, Bannu, Kohat, Lakki Marwat, Tank, Karak and Dera Ismail Khan, Gilgit-Baltistan (Ghizer, Astore, Diamer, Skardu, Gilgit, Hunza Nagar, Ghanche and Kharmand) from Sunday (evening/night) till Wednesday.

VC lays foundation of FUU'S Masjid

ISLAMABAD: Federal Urdu University (FUU) Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rubina Mushtaq Thursday laid the foundation stone of the Jamia Masjid Younis here at Islamabad Campus of university. Islamabad Campus In-charge Dr. Amir Nadeem, Additional Registrar Shah Ji Muhammad and heads and employees of all departments of Federal Urdu University Islamabad were present at the inauguration ceremony.

A local landlord of Mouza Mohriyan Sardar Mhammad Tauqeer has dedicated four kanals of land for the Masjid. Expressing her gratitude on the occasion, the Vice Chancellor of Federal Urdu University said that all the issues of the university were being resolved one by one. Today, Allah Almighty has given her the opportunity to lay the foundation stone of Allah's house with her own hands. She hoped that the construction of the Masjid would be completed soon. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Asad Umer, Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, participated as a Chief Guest in oath ceremony of the appointment of new members for National Youth Council. — DNA

Over 33m children vaccinated in anti-polio campaign

"This is the most critical time for the programme, reaching and sustaining zero polio cases and transmission requires even greater efforts."

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Over 33 million children under the age of five years received their vaccinations during the sub-national anti-polio campaign. The campaign was conducted from June 7 to 11 in 124 districts of the country, including all four provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the federal capital Islamabad.

The sub-national campaign was inaugurated by Prime

Minister Imran Khan reaffirming the government's commitment to eradication. Congratulating the provincial government and partners for the successful polio campaign, the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services Dr. Faisal Sultan said, "This is the most critical time for the programme, reaching and sustaining zero polio cases and transmission requires even greater efforts."

He added, "We must work in close integration with

broader routine immunization services to tackle all vaccine-preventable diseases. More than 225,000 Sehat Tahafuz frontline workers visited families and caregivers during the campaign ensured vaccination of children from the crippling poliovirus. He said, as a result, the programme successfully achieved its target to build children's immunity amid the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, the frontline workers strictly followed the standard

COVID-19 operating procedure during the campaign. "With the great support of parents and communities, the programme achieved the campaign target; however, now is not the time for complacency. The current gains of the programme are fragile and can easily be reversed, especially during the upcoming season when the virus is especially active," said Dr. Shahzad Baig, Coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Centre, Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI).

He urged everyone to continue their hard work and concerted efforts to overcome the hurdles in the last mile to eradication. The Sehat Tahafuz Helpline 1166 and 24/7 WhatsApp Helpline 0346-777-65-46 helped parents during the campaign, and all reported missed children received the vaccination. He said Polio is a highly infectious disease caused by poliovirus mainly affecting children under the age of five years. It invades the

nervous system and can cause paralysis or even death.

He added while there is no cure for polio, vaccination is the most effective way to protect children from this crippling disease. Each time a child under the age of five is vaccinated, their protection against the virus is increased. Repeated immunizations have protected millions of children from polio, allowing almost all countries in the world to become polio-free, he said.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed addressing participants of National Security Workshop Balochistan at Convention Center. — APP

Irfan Niazi appointed as DG environment at CDA

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Irfan Niazi has taken charge as new director general Environment Directorate Capital Development Authority (CDA). Talking exclusively to NNI at DG Office P-9 on Thursday, Niazi said he is committed to his job of making Islamabad a green city. He said this after presiding over a meeting of CDA officials held at his office in connection with monsoon plantation drive to be carried out in the offing. He said his

directorship has planned to establish jogging and walking tracks in all sub-sectors of the federal capital. "I'm a lover of team work. A single garden may brighten up the name of CDA as a whole and may blur its name. These are the gardeners whose hectic efforts have placed the name of Pakistan as the second most beautiful capital of the world. My directorship has a target of planting 0.35 million trees in the forthcoming monsoon season. I always work diligently on the professional assignments," he added.

NUMS to help pharmaceutical produce "Healing Bandage"

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) research will help pharmaceutical industry produce "Healing Bandage" in Pakistan which will quicken healing various kinds of wounds of the injured people across the country, said a young scientist of the university here Thursday.

"NUMS Department of Biological Sciences has already been awarded many Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Pakistan Science

Foundation (PSF) research projects which will help it move forward towards realizing the university's vision of understanding and improving life. The dawn of many innovations is not very far and we need to stay the course of the research," said NUMS Vice-Chancellor Lt Gen Syed Muhammad Imran Majeed (Retd) while lauding the efforts of Dr. Hussain Wahedi. Healing Bandage can be used for 5 to 12 hours to accelerate the wound-healing process. The testing of the bandage on human subjects

will be carried out in collaboration with Rawalpindi Medical University (RMU). The scaffold will be developed with the help of his co-investigator, Dr. Adnan Haider from NUMS department of Biological Sciences. He will be testing the bandage on human subjects in collaboration with RMU with the help of Dr. Amdad Fahim from NUMS Clinical Trial Unit. This research project will lead to the development and commercialization of a skin wound healing scaffold within two years, said Dr. Hussain Mustatab Wahedi,

a PhD from South Korea in "Regenerative Medicine" who is working on Rs 10 million research project. HEC awarded him this project after reviewing his submitted proposal to produce an innovative Healing Bandage. It will be a step forward to provide relief to the wounded people, he added. His research project will be another step in NUMS's continuing endeavours to the commercialization of this technology for pharmaceutical industry and establishing links between the academia and the industry.

ICCI inks MoU with Whispering Pines for discounts

By signing MoU with ICCI, Whispering Pines Hotel will offer various discounts to ICCI members ranging from 20% to 30% on its various services and facilities including food and stay in rooms

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Whispering Pines Hotel & Residence, Pir Sohawa Road, Haripur, KPK to get a discounted package for its members. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President ICCI and Baber Aman Malik, Chairman/CEO Whispering Pines Hotel signed the MoU during a ceremony held at Chamber House. Fatma Azim Senior Vice President ICCI, Abdul Rehman Siddiqui Convener ICCI Healthcare Committee, Ch. Ashraf Farzand and others were present at the occasion.

By signing MoU with ICCI, Whispering Pines Hotel will offer various discounts to ICCI members ranging from 20% to 30% on its various ser-



vices and facilities including food and stay in rooms. Speaking at the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad

Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that providing value-added services to members was a key priority of ICCI and signing MoU with Whis-

pering Pines Hotel, Pir Sohawa was a right step in that direction. He said that ICCI has already signed MoUs with various institutions including

schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, pharmacies, labs, airline, IT service providers, fitness clubs to get discounted packages for its members and reiterated that ICCI would continue to get more discounts for members from other institutions in order to make their association with ICCI a valuable experience for them. He lauded the efforts of Abdul Rahman Siddiqui, Convener, ICCI Healthcare Committee for playing a positive role in getting discounted packages for ICCI members from various institutions. Baber Aman Malik, Chairman/CEO Whispering Pines Hotel, Pir Sohawa in his remarks said that ICCI members were playing an important role in the economic development of the region and their hotel would try to provide them best quality services so that their visit to their hotel could be a valuable experience for them.

Lok Virsa Open Mic reopening urged

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Amateur artists on Thursday demanded reopening of Lok Virsa 'Open Mic' program, a popular platform for emerging singers. Open Mic program was an initiative to discover melodious voices and used to be held on weekly basis audition.

The Open Mic program was helping those who were eager to sing but they lack a proper or available platform to perform. An emerging singer Uzma Nadeem said Open Mic was very popular music audition program which was started in 2017, she also participated in the first session of Open Mic. Another amateur singer Nasir Jamal said that Open Mic was very productive platform he said that in Open Mic singers sang a number of songs which were judged by a panel of judges comprising of top professional singers.

Lok Virsa Executive Director Talha Ali said that many programs postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic adding he said that recently Lok Virsa had arranged an Open Mic program on test basis.

He said that Lok Virsa would continue its efforts to provide opportunities to talented singers.

IRSA releases 263,800 cusecs water

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Thursday released 263,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 261,400 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1436.70 feet, which was 52.70 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet.

The water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 133,300 and 132,500 cusecs respectively.

The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1154.20 feet, which was 116.20 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 36,800 and 40,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 150,400, 140,300 and 30,200 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 37,600 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 19,800 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala.

All major rivers flowing normal: FFC

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) Thursday said that all major rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej) are flowing normal at present with "No Riverine Flood Situation". According to daily FFC report, present combined live storage of three main reservoirs is 20.73 % of the maximum value of 13,516 MAF, i.e. about 79% of storage space is available in these reservoirs. As per Flood Forecasting Division (FFD), Lahore, moist currents from the Bay of Bengal (India) and Arabian Sea are likely to start penetration into the upper parts of Pakistan during the next 24 hours.

PBCC wants raise in its annual budget

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) has asked Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to raise its annual budget to Rs 19.2 million as to meet the games growing expenditures.

"PBCC's current budget is Rs 17 million which has not been increased for many years," PBCC Chairman Syed Sultan Shah told APP on Thursday.

Sultan said that they wanted to raise the amount of the central contracts paid to the players and the staff salaries which has not been increased since five years. "Currently, PBCC is paying Rs 12,000 to Category A players while Rs 10,000 to Category B and Rs 9,000 to Category C, respectively," he said.

He said PBCC had written the letter to PCB for raise in annual budget in early June. "We have been in contact with the PCB Director Cricket Operations who has informed us that he has yet to receive the PCB budget which was passed on June 30," he claimed.

Returning to the blind cricket affairs, Sultan said they were still awaiting for the only Blind Cricket Stadium (built in Lahore) to be handed over to them. "We have written letters to the Prime Minister Imran Khan and Punjab government in this regard," he said.

Sultan said the 90 percent construction work of the cricket stadium was completed but the field which was the most important thing is still in progress. — APP

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Penalties given

THE central bank issued a circular according to which all banks will face penalties for failing to disburse funds for the government's Mark-up Subsidy Scheme, despite strict instructions. This shows the kind of reluctance that makes affordable housing for the poor nearly impossible. If the government is to achieve this objective, it must ensure that all banks fall in line with government directives and adhere to deadlines given.

Over Rs90 billion were given to banks as part of this affordable housing scheme. The banks were expected to attract customers who would utilise loans on obtaining property, which they failed to do. Accordingly, penalties will be enforced starting from July 31, 2021, with the aim that this additional financial burden will incentivise them to work more diligently. They must achieve their targets of disbursements and housing units sold. Without this, the affordable housing scheme remains out of reach for those members of the society that need it the most.

In order to ensure that banks comply now, there will be a review after a few months of penalties after which the government will decide if the punishment will be lifted off of a particular bank. This review will take into account the bank's house financial approvals, logins of applications, evidence of board information and support along with sales and marketing efforts. This will enable the authorities to get a more accurate picture of the bank's performance and this is something we need urgently. We cannot condone this inaction for longer. There are millions in our country who are homeless and looking for opportunities to improve their standard of living. Without this degree of accountability and surveillance, affordable housing will become a faraway dream.



Hindutva terror

AT long last, the Hindutva ideology has been recognised as a form of religious terrorism in the seventh review of the global counter terrorism strategy, for which a resolution has been adopted by the UN General Assembly. Terminology matters and one wonders why it took so long for this ideology to be designated in this list. There was no hesitancy whatsoever in the case of equating Islam with terrorism, essentialising a significant part of the world population—the consequences of which continue to impact the lives of Muslims all over the world.

In addition to this, another diplomatic victory for Pakistan is that Islamophobia has also been included in this list because of how it has become a global issue which needs to be addressed. The issue of Islamophobia has been on the rise in India, particularly since the Modi government came into power. One would hope that as a result of this designation, more people around the world understand the issues being faced by Muslims in India and around the world.

Pak-India relations have always been strained, but the ideological underpinnings of the current BJP government do not just pose a threat to Pakistan, but also the rest of the region. The recent surge in terrorist attacks in Pakistan and the oppression being carried out in Kashmir is a practical manifestation of the Hindutva ideology.

Thankfully, Pakistan has been proactive in contesting false manufactured narratives and taking concrete steps in the realm of security. The security establishment's swift response in apprehending the culprits behind the Lahore blast and exposing their links to RAW must be lauded. Also, President Arif Alvi's remarks about how Hindutva ideology will continue to strain relations with Pakistan and ultimately lead to internal strife in India, serve as a timely reminder of the perils of an ideology based on racism and hate. Pakistan must capitalise on this momentum and ensure that the international community does not continue to turn a blind eye to the oppression being carried out against Muslims in India and IIOJK.

Goran Pin showcases Arab Kings and Queens

SherZada



The rise of NFT's changes this, allowing creators the authority to rent digital artworks out, to sell them or showcase them according to their well. Thought the concept of NFTs surfaced since December 2012 with the inception of "Colored Coins" a project VitalikButerin, the creator of Ethereum, had a lead role in building on the Bitcoinblockchain. But due to some script language technicality could not get proper pitch till 2014, the year that is associated with grand emergence of NFT

CRYPTOCURRENCIES are on one hand have been financially nudging every digitally conscious person for earning across the globe, have cascaded ways of advertisements and opened venues of cultural and

archaeological preservation on another hand as well. The aspirants of art and music hold a right track in the rush of crypto culture, that's called Non-Fungible Tokens (NFT). The business hype created by the digitally run cryptocurrency planed ground for NFT. However, the question would be squaring double in the minds of many digitally less aware readers like me that actually what is an NFT? An NFT is platform of digital asset that represents real-world objects like art, music, in-game items and videos. They are showcased online and bought and sold virtually, frequently with cryptocurrency, and they are generally encoded with the same underlying softwares as many crypto currencies, means the same block mechanism is used as used for crypto transactions. Before the existence of Cryptocurrency, we never hear too really on a system that enables us to own something that was completely digitalized. We passed around videos and



motion graphics, refurbishing and reposting them, but there wasn't such trend like current opportunity to automatically assume complete, concrete ownership over a digital file or artwork. The rise of NFT's changes this, allowing creators the authority to rent digital artworks out, to sell them or showcase them according to their well. Thought the concept of NFTs surfaced since December 2012 with the inception of "Colored Coins" a project VitalikButerin, the creator of Ethereum, had a lead role in building on the Bitcoinblockchain. But due to some script language technicality could not get proper pitch till 2014, the year that is associated with grand emergence of NFT. Counterparty was the first peer-to-peer financial platform/open-source to launch online protocol built on the Bitcoinblockchain. However that took a time gape of nearly six years to return the trend of Non-Fungible Tokens. In

March 2021, Mike Winkelmann, the digital artist known as Beeple, sold an NFT of his work for \$69 million at Christie's, leading as a catalyst for booming crypto art technology. There exist immense potential in the NFT space, and we can see more quality crypto artists like Trevor Jones, Fewocious, Pak, Trevor Jones, Slimesunday, mostly the aforementioned artists have been working touching the historical artistic phantoms of west through NFT. While Goran Pin a European portraitist, seems to lead the Arab NFT revolution. Goran Pin a European artist, but it's quite interesting that he has been coining his expertise in countries like Bahrain, Brunei, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia, according to Pin the mentioned countries are historically significant for NFT art pieces. The work of Goran Pin is focused on the first-ever portraits of 16 rulers from 10 Arab countries. Which he



thinks would lead to Arab NFT revolution. Ping encircled half of the Kings and Queens Collection aimed bringing a significant historical impact in the field of NFT revolution from Arab world. Goran Pin would be the first Portraitist who has minted following Arab royal rulers (Kings and Queens) portraits on crypto blockchainsystem. From Bahrain, King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, from Brunei, Sultan Hassanalkhalifa, from Jordan, King Abdullah II, from Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, from Malaysia, Al-Sultan Abdullah of Pahang, from Morocco, King Mohammed VI, from Oman, Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, and from Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, from United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Sharqi, Sheikh Humaid bin Rashid Al Nuaimi III, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Sheikh Saud

bin Rashid Al Mualla, Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi and from Saudi Arabia, King Salman Portraits. According to Pin, "in previous times, portrait paintings were mainly reserved for rich and powerful class in societies. But after the emergence of technological era of NFT and crypto world it seems, will not happen now, so a lot changed today; just the digital world takes over". Pin views that it is hard to establish digitally fixed values for antiques, artworks, and other collectible items, but it's evident that some of them worth millions. But he believes that the leading art appraisers estimate that Kings and Queens Collection might have a higher value than Mike Winkelmann's record-smashing \$69 million due to the historical landscape of Arab royalties who have not been digitally pin pointed in the past by any portraitist. Interesting is that no portraits from the Kings and Queens Collection are not available for sale at the moment. Goran Pin started Connecting Digital and Traditional Art World Exhibition, which introduces and put crypto art into traditional art galleries worldwide. Pin argues many developments are happening in this decentralized blockchain technology. No matter what it looks like at first glance, NFT art is safer for investment than buying cryptocurrencies from an investment perspective, because it sustains for long as it not fungible and not rotting at all. NFTs will topple the traditional art system as much as Bitcoin and Ethereum are going to change the financial landscape. People have made a lot of money from Bitcoin. If one would invest \$100 when the coin first launched in 2009, his/her Bitcoin could be worth millions of dollars today. It can be said that crypto art will be a much more transparent and direct type of market than what we are used to seeing in the traditional art world. Blockchain technology changed our lives and evolved slowly but constantly. It has also had a profound impact on almost all spheres of human activity. On one hand NFT would reduce the chances of theft and will be helpful in restricting illegal smuggles of antique and rare items in future, while another hand it will provide opportunities of earning for the portrait artists, who are being suffered due to the current Covid-19 pandemic since 2020. While the post-pandemic would be an era of NFT a hope of preservation our art culture from forging and stealing and prism of ownership for the painting portraitists.

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Impact of withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan

Samra Athar Kakakhel



Loss of aid will be painful and tragic for the Afghan government. Afghan institutions remain heavily dependent on external aid

THE impending withdrawal of American and NATO troops from the country, the question is what will the impact be on Afghanistan and Afghans? It will be felt very deeply by everyone from humanitarian aspects, as far I see the three effects are most threatening and alarming for Afghanistan: a reduction in aid; devalue political and diplomatic interest and the increase of indirect involvement of other countries like proxy war in Afghanistan. America holds power and also has assets that strengthen its impact. Afghanistan's ground power is a combo of money and troops. Since a number of years, the US has spent approximately \$144 billion in Afghanistan on "relief and rebuilding," the overwhelming of which has gone toward infrastructure, the development of new security institutions, and the support of Afghan forces. Aside from this, America has spent more than \$35 billion on state funding. Loss of aid will be painful and tragic for the Afghan government. Afghan institutions remain

heavily dependent on external aid. This will not change even if the Taliban take over or become part of a future government of Afghanistan. It is not shocking that Afghans are fearful that the military drawdown would mean a reduction in US aid for Afghanistan, as it previously did in 2014 when the majority of US-led NATO forces departed the country. A massive cut in aid will be dangerous and traumatic for the fragile health, education, local governance, and other public sector programs, and will have a significant effect on ordinary Afghan lives. Patronage system in Afghanistan has now become a key tool to manage different elite loyalties, ethnic – second thoughts and local interests. This patronage system is the shocking levels of corruption. The Afghan government and its institutions are heavily dependent on external aid. An absence of aid will damage the patronage system where the anti-Taliban will be more effected. The consequences of all this could be result in competition and violence over remaining resources.

Secondly, the troop exit may also lead the disturbance and decrease in the political and diplomatic commitment by the US and other NATO countries to support a settlement between the Taliban and the Afghan government. Third, a rapid military exit will smooth the ground for an Afghan regional war. Pakistan, India, Iran, China, Russia, and the Arab Gulf powers may all indulge in military conflict through their proxy country in Afghanistan. The absence of American assistance will hinder the political process. The Taliban and the Afghan government may increase their attacks on each other, raising the possibility of bloodshed in which anti-Taliban civilians suffer. This would lead to civil war, and no Afghan government would be able to handle the situation. The exit of the US forces from Afghanistan would provide an avenue for extremists. The military disturbance has left deeper marks on Afghanistan, but the seriousness of the wound will only become clear upon the withdrawal of international forces.

Briefs

'Interests with Pak beyond...

From Page 01

very closely to ensure that Afghanistan's neighbors play constructive role in Afghanistan.

He said that the US has encouraged Pakistan to be a constructive partner when it comes to Afghanistan as they strive to bring semblance of peace and security. "We have - and this goes over the course of successive administrations now - encouraged Pakistan to be a constructive partner when it comes to Afghanistan and our collective efforts to bring about some semblance of peace and security there.

"Pakistan has been helpful when it comes to this shared interest. Absolutely not," says PM to allowing US bases in Pakistan post Afghanistan withdrawal. "Our shared interests go well beyond that: broader counter-terrorism interests as well, not to mention the people-to-people ties that unite our two countries," Price added.

When asked about Prime Minister Imran Khan's decision to refuse the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) bases in Pakistan, the spokesperson replied that all of Afghanistan's neighbours need to play a constructive role in helping to bring "about a just and durable political settlement as well as a comprehensive ceasefire".

"... what we know to be true is that all of Afghanistan's neighbors need to play a constructive role in helping to bring about a just and durable political settlement as well as a comprehensive ceasefire," said Price.

Imran urges nation...

From Page 01

the only Muslim country that kept mosques open for two consecutive Ramazans - thanks to the efforts, monitoring, and preemptive measures of the NCOOC as well as the cooperative attitude of the nation. "It was also because of the cooperation of the Pakistani nation that the government could save the country from getting into a catastrophic situation [like other countries]," the premier said.

The premier said that at present, however, the coronavirus cases in the country are suddenly rising again after plummeting because of the arrival of the Delta variant in the country.

"Even though I know that people are fed up of following the SOPs across the world and I understand that, I would again like to appeal to the masses to [at least] wear a mask at all times so that the country could be saved from the possible fourth wave of the pandemic."

He explained that masks should be worn at all times whenever someone is in a confined space with other people - including wedding functions, restaurants, and rooms - because the chances of the virus spreading within indoor environments are extremely high. "If someone is out in the open, for example in a park, they can take their masks off, but when they are inside a bus or a car with other people, for instance, they must wear a mask," the premier explained while holding a mask in his hands.

"It's a very easy job to wear a mask, and this simple step can save the country and our economy from disaster," he continued.

Afghan govt, Taliban...

From Page 01

residences, schools, mosques, and hospitals and targeting civilian people, and they unanimously agreed that the culprits destroying facilities of social services should be punished. The Tehran get-together was too considered rather fruitful and effective and was dubbed as an opportunity for a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan.

Tehran hosted four delegations from Afghanistan who have traveled to the country to discuss intra-Afghan peace talks. Cultural Commission delegation from Afghan Parliament, Senior Taliban political delegation, Jom-houriyat senior political delegation, and the senior delegation supervising identity verification of Afghan citizens, were the four delegations from Afghanistan who have traveled to Iran.

Euro 2020: England into final after win over Denmark

Kane slotted home the rebound after Denmark keeper Kasper Schmeichel had saved his spot kick after Raheem Sterling went down under a slight contact in the Danish penalty area and the Dutch referee pointed to the spot

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: Harry Kane scored a 104th minute goal to give England a 2-1 win over Denmark on Wednesday night and end a 55-year wait for his country to qualify for the final of a major football tournament.

Kane slotted home the rebound after Denmark keeper Kasper Schmeichel had saved his spot kick after Raheem Sterling went down under a slight contact in the Danish penalty area and the Dutch referee pointed to the spot.

It was harsh on Schmeichel, who was magnificent all game, and the penalty will no doubt lead to plenty of comments, but the result did justice to an England side that totally dominated the second half and extra time of the match.

The game got off to a high energy start with England looking to impose themselves and pin the Danes back in their own half.

A low cross from Harry Kane just evaded Raheem Sterling, who then cut inside only to shoot tamely at Schmeichel, before Kane hit a powerful shot well over. Denmark



then began to work themselves into the game with Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg working Pickford from outside of the penalty area and the England keeper then conceded a corner after a poor clearance. They were nervous minutes for the majority of the 70,000 fans in Wembley as Denmark took control

and Mikkel Damsgaard curled a shot wide of Pickford's goal. The Danish forward made no mistake in the 30th minute with a vicious free kick from 25 meters which flashed past Pickford to put Denmark ahead. It was the first goal England had conceded in all of the competition,

but they were level in the 39th minute; Bukayo Sako did magnificently down the right to collect a pass from Kane and his low cross for Sterling, who moments earlier had seen Schmeichel save from point blank range, was turned into his own net by Simon Kjær. The second half was also played

at a ferocious pace with both sides swapping chances in the opening minutes; Harry Maguire was booked for a challenge on Kjær after a free kick and then saw Schmeichel get across to tip away his header from a corner. At the other end Pickford got down to deny Dolberg, who then fired another effort straight at the England keeper. England were getting more and more on top, with Schmeichel tipping over a cross from the hard-working Mason Mount and Sterling having a shot blocked from the resulting corner, although the Danes always looked as if they could threaten on the break.

The half ended with England controlling the ball in and around the Danish area, but they were unable to find a clear chance against the massed Danish defense and the game went into extra time. Schmeichel was the hero again with a low save from Kane in the 93rd minute and even stopped his 104th minute spot kick after Sterling went down under a slight contact, but he could do nothing to stop the England captain slotting home the rebound to end a 55-year wait for his country.

25TH CNS Open Golf Championship kicks off



KARACHI: Commander Karachi Rear Admiral Owais Ahmed Bilgrami tees off the 25th Engro CNS Open Golf Championship 2021 at Karachi Golf Club. - DNA

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: 25th Chief of the Naval Staff Open Golf Championship 2021 is being played at picturesque Karachi Golf Club from 8 to 11 July 2021. This was announced by Pa-

tron PN Golf (South), Commodore Muhammad Vaqar during opening media brief held today at Karachi Golf Club. Commander Karachi, Rear Admiral Owais Ahmed Bilgrami graced the occasion as Chief Guest. 25th Chief of the Naval Staff

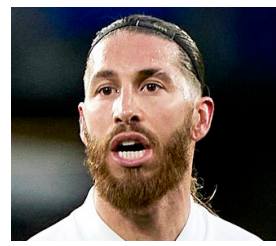
Open Golf Championship 2021 will be played in Professionals, Senior Professionals, Junior Professional, Amateurs, Seniors, Veterans, Ladies and Juniors categories. 72 holes matches for professional and amateurs each, 18 holes match-

Spanish defender Ramos joins PSG

WEB DESK

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain on Thursday confirmed the signing of former Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos on a free transfer after the Spanish central defender penned on a two-year contract with the Ligue 1 giants. Ramos left PSG after 16 years when his contract expired at the end of June. The 35-year-old veteran won the Champions League four times with Los Blancos and scored 101 goals in his 671 appearances.

"This is a big change in my life, a new challenge and it's a day I will never forget. I am very proud to be a part of this ambitious project, to be a part of this squad with so many



great players," Ramos told PSG TV. With the national team, Ramos won the World Cup in 2010 and two Euros in 2008 and 2012, becoming the most-capped Spanish player (and European player) of all time with 180 appearances. He has twice been named UEFA Defender of the Year (2017 and 2018) and has featured 11 times in the FIFA/FIFPro World XI between 2008 and 2020.

England beat Pakistan by 9 wickets in first ODI

Pakistan team collapsed to 141 runs in 35.2 overs as the batting lineup failed to perform due to impressive bowling by England players, exclusively Saqib Mahmood who claimed four wickets in the first ODI match in Cardiff on Thursday

SPORTS DESK

CARDIFF: With an impressive performance by both batting and bowling lineup, England on Thursday trounced visiting Pakistan by nine wickets in the first of three-match ODI series in Cardiff.

Chasing a small total of 141 runs, the top order of the host team bagged the victory in just 21 overs. Dawid

Malan and Zak Crawley's thrilling inning of 68 and 58 runs, respectively, helped the team to win the match despite home camp was jolted by COVID-19.

Pakistan team collapsed to 141 runs in 35.2 overs as the batting lineup failed to perform due to impressive bowling by England players, exclusively Saqib Mahmood who claimed four wickets in the first ODI match in Cardiff on Thursday.

Matters started worsening from the start when opener Imamul Haq and skipper Babar Azam were sent to the pavilion for a duck by Mahmood.

However, Fakhar Zaman helped the team to recover before he was dismissed by Matt Parkinson at 47 runs. Mohammad Rizwan made 13 runs while Shadab Khan and Sohail Maqsood scored 30 and 19 respectively. Craig Overton and Matt

Parkinson took two wickets each while Lewis Gregory claimed one wicket. Earlier today, England won the toss and decided to field first against Pakistan.

Ben Stokes lead the hosts side after English Cricket Board announced a new squad to play against the guests. The new squad has been announced after three players and four members of the backroom staff tested positive for coronavirus.

Rockets fired at US embassy

AGENCIES

BAGHDAD: American diplomats and troops in Iraq and Syria were targeted in three rocket and drone attacks in the past 24 hours, US and Iraq officials said on Wednesday, including at least 14 rockets hitting an Iraqi airbase hosting US forces, wounding two American service members. While there were no immediate claims of responsibility for the attacks - part of a wave targeting US troops or areas where they are based in Iraq and Syria - analysts believed they were part of a campaign by Iranian-backed armed groups. US forces, who have 2,500 soldiers deployed in Iraq as part of an international anti-ISIS (ISIS) group coalition, have been targeted almost 50 times this year in the country, but the last few days have seen an increase in the frequency of attacks.

Iraqi armed groups aligned with Iran promised to retaliate after the US raids on the Iraqi-Syrian border killed four of their members last month. Two people were slightly wounded in the rocket attack on the Ain al-Asad airbase in western Iraq, said coalition spokesman US Army Colonel Wayne Marotto. The rockets landed on the base and its perimeter. He said earlier that three people were wounded. Commenting after Thursday's development, Wayne said each attack "undermines the authority of Iraqi institutions" and sovereignty. US officials, speaking to Reuters news agency on condition of anonymity, said the two personnel injured were US service members. One suffered a concussion and the other had minor cuts, one of the officials added.

Two rockets were fired at the US embassy in Baghdad's Green Zone early on Thursday, Iraqi security sources told Reuters. The embassy's anti-rocket system diverted one of the rockets, said one of the sources - a security official whose office is in the Green Zone. The second rocket fell near the zone's perimeter, security officials said. Sirens blared from the embassy compound inside the zone, which houses government buildings and foreign missions, the sources said.

Will never...

From Page 01

Pakistan's security. We must stay abreast of the evolving situation and never lower our guard whatsoever, COAS said. Speaking about Pakistan's consistent support to Afghanistan peace process, COAS underscored the need for better management of the western zone with due focus on border security. Referring to the national effort against coronavirus pandemic, COAS commended all ranks for their all out support to civil administration in ensuring public safety and well being. However, we must continue to exercise max caution and follow relevant SOPs until the pandemic is completely over, COAS remarked. Earlier, upon arrival, COAS was received by Commander Mangla Corps Lieutenant General Shaheen Mazher Mahmood.

EU envoy...

From Page 01

environment and emphasized that protection of the environment is a common responsibility of all of us. Addressing the participants, Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khair Azad, Chairman Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Pakistan and Khateeb Imam Badshahi Masjid Lahore said that intrafaith and interfaith harmony is the need of the hour. The efforts of all the delegates and participants in this regard are commendable. At this time, the country is in dire need of unity and solidarity. Representatives of all religions, scholars and leaders should make efforts to promote unity and brotherhood in Pakistan. Religious scholars and leaders have always played a key role in unity and solidarity. The role of scholars against extremism and terrorism is praiseworthy. Islam is a religion of peace. We must emphasize religious harmony and tolerance. Maulana Azad paid high tribute to Androulla Kaminara, the Ambassador of the European to Pakistan and Prof. Qibla Ayaz Chairman of the Council of Islamic Ideology for holding this successful conference.

Maryam vows to end...

From Page 01

people are so scared that they start their speeches with Nawaz Sharif and end with him", said Maryam. Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the vice-president of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, arrived in Kashmir on Thursday to campaign for the upcoming elections in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. While addressing a public rally in Muzaffarabad, she remarked that the PML-N is not the same party anymore, it now knows how to snatch back 'stolen' seats. "Those who are planning to rig the elections should know they can't run away with it," she said. Four PML-N ministers, a presidential adviser, and assembly members have reportedly left the party before the elections. Sardar Mir Akbar and Chaudhry Shehzad Mahmood, who are members of the legislative assembly, are expected to join PTI, along with Ali Raza.

Bilawal tells Kashmir...

From Page 01

District, said PPP would defeat all political parties, as he urged the region's people to get rid of "cats" - another dig at PML-N. "We want them to do politics like lions, not cats; we want them to play their due role as an Opposition party so we can give a tough time to the [PTI-led] government," he said. The PPP chairman asked PML-N to behave like a group of lions, not cats, as the latter makes a run for and refrains from facing a group of the former. "A lion stays within his pride and faces adversities."

PPP will follow PML-N into battle, Bilawal said but asked the party to wage a war first. "PML-N and PTI cannot look [Indian premier] Modi in the eye and confront him." "The people who talk about sensitivities do not care about people's emotions, as our prime minister deprived people of roti, kapra, makaan," he added. Bilawal is campaigning for the upcoming 11th General Elections of Azad Jammu and Kashmir - which will be held on July 25. PML-N Vice-President Maryam Nawaz is also in the region and is leading her party's campaign.

Japan declares COVID emergency in Tokyo

AGENCIES

TOKYO: Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga has declared a coronavirus state of emergency for Tokyo that will run through the city's hosting of the Olympics, as organisers consider banning all spectators from the event.

Suga said on Thursday that the state of emergency would go in effect on Monday and last until August 22. This means the Olympics, opening on July 23 and running until August 8, will be held entirely under emergency measures.

Suga said the state of emergency was needed to "prevent the resurgence of the future spread on cases across the country". Medical advisers experts have said for weeks that having no spectators at the Games would be the least risky option amid widespread public concern that the influx of thousands of athletes and officials will fuel a

fresh wave of infections. Organisers have already banned overseas spectators and have set a cap on domestic fans at 50 per cent of capacity, to a maximum of 10,000 people. Talks to finalise the restrictions on the spectators are expected either on Thursday or on Friday. International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach, who arrived in Tokyo on Thursday to oversee the last leg of the preparations, will preside over the talks. Other participants in the discussions include the Tokyo and national governments and Paralympic officials. Japan has not suffered the kind of explosive COVID-19 outbreaks seen in many other countries but has had more than 810,000 cases and 14,900 deaths. A slow vaccine rollout has also meant that only a quarter of the population has had one COVID-19 vaccine shot so far.

The new state of emergency in Tokyo comes as the capital announced 896 new daily infections on Thurs-

day, near highs last seen in mid-May. The main focus of the state of emergency is a request for bars, restaurants and karaoke parlours serving alcohol to close. A ban on serving alcohol is a key step to tone down



Olympic-related festivities and keep people from drinking and partying. Tokyo residents are expected to face stay-home requests and watch the games on TV from home. "How to stop people enjoying the Olympics from going out for drinks

is a main issue," Health Minister Norihisa Tamura said. The uptick in infections has also forced the Tokyo city government to pull the Olympic torch relay off capital streets, allowing it to run only on remote islands off the Tokyo coast. It is unclear how the torch will enter the stadium for the opening ceremony. Further underscoring the last-minute nature of the preparations, organisers told Olympic sponsors on Wednesday they are anticipating two scenarios when Tokyo goes under the state of emergency: having no spectators or setting a 5,000-person limit on spectators, a source familiar with the matter told Reuters news agency.

The non-spectator scenario, the opening and closing ceremonies, as well as all sports events, will probably be carried out without fans, including tickets allocated to the sponsors, the organisers told companies in online meetings. If the number of spectators is

capped at 5,000 per venue, tickets allocated to Olympic sponsors would be halved, and organisers also expect any session after 9pm (12:00 GMT) would be staged without spectators, the source said.

The absence of crowds will likely further strain the Games' budget, which has already blown out to an estimated \$15.4bn, with ticket revenues of about \$815m expected to take a big hit. Until this week, officials have insisted they could organise the Games safely with some spectators, but a governing party setback in a Tokyo assembly election on Sunday, which some of Suga's allies attributed to public anger about the Olympics, had forced the change of tack, sources told Reuters. Japan will hold a parliamentary election later this year and the government's insistence that the Games - already postponed by a year because of the pandemic - should go ahead could cost it support at the ballot box, they said.

Briefs

Bangladesh sees record single-day deaths

FOREIGN DESK

DHAKA: Bangladesh reported 201 COVID-19 deaths on Wednesday, the highest single-day toll since the pandemic started in March last year. It was for the first time that the death toll had crossed the 200-mark in a 24-hour cycle in the South Asian nation of some 165 million people, taking the total death count to 15,593. The previous single-day high of 164 deaths was recorded on Monday. The first week of July saw 1,090 deaths, which is also the highest in any week during the pandemic in the country.

A total of 11,162 people were also diagnosed with the disease in the past 24 hours, taking the total tally to 9,77,568, officials said on Wednesday. With coronavirus cases and deaths hitting new records, Bangladesh extended on Monday a strict nationwide lockdown by another week. The Delta variant of the coronavirus, first identified in neighbouring India, is behind the surge in infections in Bangladesh, overwhelming its healthcare system and raising fears of a medical oxygen crisis.

KSA voices concern over Iran's nuclear activity

AGENCIES

VIENNA: Saudi Arabia has expressed its concern over the latest report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), confirming that Iran has taken steps in the production of enriched uranium metal.

In a series of tweets, Saudi Arabia's governor to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Prince Abdullah Bin Khalid Bin Sultan, strongly denounced the Iranian move.

Prince Abdullah, who is also Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Austria and the Kingdom's permanent representative to the UN and international organizations in Vienna, said that Iran's bid to produce uranium metal enriched to 20 percent purity, which is not required for any peaceful purpose, is a matter of concern in terms of its real intentions.

"This approach negatively affects any negotiations related to the nuclear agreement as the knowledge gained from research and development work cannot be reversed," the Saudi envoy said. "The escalatory steps announced by Iran do not match with its statements about the peacefulness of its nuclear program and confirm its intentions and pursuit of the capabilities to produce a nuclear weapon."

Armenian mines injure two more civilians

DNA

FUZULI: Two Azerbaijani civilians were injured in mine explosion in liberated Fuzuli on July 8, the country's Interior Ministry reported today. Both civilians - NuruNuriyev and ElnurHashimov who are residents of Fuzuli region, illegally entered the territory of the AshaghyAbdurahmanly village in the region, passing by the checkpoints and received serious injuries as a result of a mine explosion. Currently, police officers, servicemen of the Interior Troops and specialists of the Azerbaijan Mine Action Agency are taking urgent measures to transport them to a safe area, the ministry's press service reported. The ministry said that despite repeated warnings, residents are still trying to illegally enter the liberated territories. Over 140 Azerbaijanis have been killed or injured in explosion of mines planted by Armenians in Azerbaijan's formerly-occupied regions since the end of war in autumn 2020 that saw Azerbaijan liberate most of its territories in and around Nagorno-Karabakh region. Azerbaijan has warned its citizens against travelling to formerly-occupied territories without permission, citing land mine threats. It should be noted that NuruNuriyev was detained back in February for attempting to visit these territories.



RAWALPINDI: Ambassador Hamid Asghar Khan called on the Minister for Defence Production Madam Zubeida Jalal to discuss cooperation possibilities in Africa. – DNA

Pakistan provides medical equipment to Bangladesh

HC Siddiqui underscored Pakistan's vision of regional partnerships for peace and sustainable development while reiterating its commitment to addressing the impact of the pandemic jointly with the regional countries particularly Bangladesh

DNA

DHAKA: High Commission for Pakistan, Dhaka has provided life-saving equipment to Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital, Dhaka. The equipment, which will be used in a separate Covid ward of the Hospital include 10 ventilators, 20 C-PAP breathing aid machines, 10 beds, an elevator for the Hospital building and a vehicle for use by the Covid ward staff. High Commissioner Imran Ahmed Siddiqui handed over financial assistance to President, Ahsania Mission, KaziRafiqulAlam for locally sourced items this afternoon. On this occasion, High Commissioner Siddiqui underscored Pakistan's vision of regional partnerships for peace and sustainable development while reiterating its commitment to



addressing the impact of the pandemic jointly with the regional countries particularly Bangladesh with

which it enjoyed fraternal ties. In this connection, the High Commissioner recalled telephone conversa-

tion between Prime Minister Imran Khan and Prime Minister Shaikh Hasina last year on the impact of

Covid pandemic. In the context of regional cooperation, the High Commissioner mentioned that Pakistan had contributed US\$ 3 million to the SAARC Covid-19 Emergency Fund to support regional efforts in the common fight against Coronavirus pandemic.

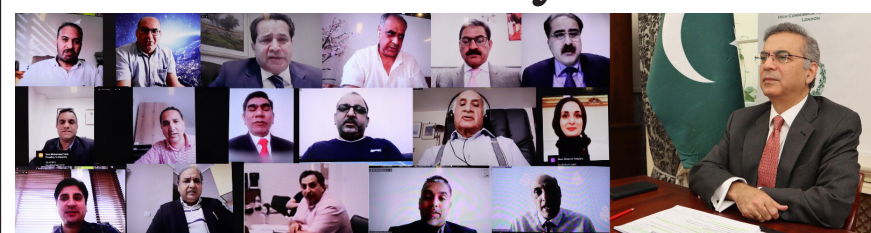
"Our cooperation with Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital is a robust expression of solidarity and support to Bangladeshi sisters and brothers in their fight against Covid. It is also a testament to Pakistan's strong commitment to promotion of regional cooperation under SAARC," High Commissioner Siddiqui added.

President Ahsania Mission Kazi Rafiqul Alam thanked the High Commissioner for Pakistan for timely contribution and briefed the High Commissioner on various projects of the Hospital.



VIENNA: Ambassador AftabKhan had a very useful and productive maiden interaction with Ambassador Roman Buzek, DG, Political Directorate General at Slovak Foreign Ministry. Agreed to pursue and promote ties between Pakistan and Slovak Republic. – DNA

HC London holds virtual 'Khuli Katchehry' on trade



DNA

LONDON: The Pakistan High Commission, London organized a Virtual KhuliKatchehri on Trade and Investment opportunities between Pakistan and the United Kingdom on 7th July 2021. More than 70 British and Pakistani businessmen, office bearers of the chambers, and trade bodies attended the event.

The objective of the event was to answer queries of the British and Pakistani business community on import potential from Pakistan, tariff concessions available in the UK market and to apprise the participants about investment prospects in Pakistan. The event was attended by many existing and potential investors with

keen interest in doing business with Pakistan. Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK, Moazzam Ahmad Khan, Director General Board of Investment, Pakistan Mr Jamil Qureshi, MrShafiq A. Shahzad, Trade and Investment, Pakistan High Commission London and Mr Akhtar, Commercial Secretary, Manchester responded to the questions raised by the participants. The High Commissioner during his welcome remarks stated that the UK was one of the largest trading and investment partners of Pakistan. He said that despite Covid -19 pandemic, and nationwide lock down, Pakistani exports to the UK and remittances from the UK recorded the highest ever growth and underlined the need to sustain this momentum. He expressed his intention that the Pakistan High Commission, with the help of the business community, was endeavouring to further strengthen Pakistan-UK economic relations. Holding of such events bears testimony to this fact, he stated.

During the course of discussion, the business community raised various issues including the need for institutional reforms, trade disputes resolution mechanism, high cost on lands in the Special Economic Zones, and potential sectors for investment. While responding to the questions, the High Commissioner stated that the issues would be taken up with the authorities concerned in Pakistan and persistent efforts shall be made to address these concerns.

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PM urged to curtail financial impact in power companies

Mian Usman also said it has nothing to do with the efficiency or integration as it solely based on the extra benefit of millions of rupees which is being paid to the posted officials

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Businesses Forum has demanded the federal government to carry out due structural changes in the power sector through measures to inculcate service oriented approach in power distribution companies (Discos). "Despite huge circular debt on the country, Pakistan Electric Power Company (PEPCO) have recently further extended the duration for outside posting of the DISCO officers from the parent company to other power distribution companies from one year to three years which also put heavy burden before national exchequer and even it makes no sense". PBF President, SahibzadaMian Usman Zulfiqar said the decision will further increase the financial burden of power companies Discos whose mostly already running in losses and what's the use to created those companies if you people only cater the interest of the employees only? He said as per the initial policy introduced in 2017, the tenure of posting on promotion out-

side parent company will be at least one year. As per Transfer/Posting Policy, all officers on 'promotion' are required to be posted out of their Parent Company from nearer to farthest companies according to Seniority in descending order. Similarly minimum tenure of posting outside Parent Company will be three years Officers who will be posted out of their parent/present companies, in the interest of work, will be entitled to Dislocation Allowance. The lien of such officers will remain intact with their parent companies. The officers post are entitled to dislocation allowance, one week of paid leave with TA/DA as per respective entitlement. Mian Usman also said it has nothing to do with the efficiency or integration as it solely based

on the extra benefit of millions of rupees which is being paid to the posted officials. When WAPDA was integrated, there was no extra payment of any kind for posting in any part of the country. Even the bureaucrats serving other parts of the country don't claim extra pay then why huge extra payment is being made to the officers of disco for outside posting, he questioned. The new policy of transfer and posting was introduced in 2017 during the tenure of PML(N). The loss or extra payment is not being paid by the disco's from its own resources as it is either transferred to the power consumers or being added to the circular debt; On one hand, the government claims that it wants to reduce the burden of common man and striving

for reduction in power tariff but on the other hand it is burdening the consumers with extra administrative cost, he said. One officer cost millions of rupees extra annually when posted outside his parent disco's, he said. Beside, an official vehicle and house is also provided by the host disco. A total of 160 percent extra of the basic pay is being paid by the host disco's which include 100 percent extra basic pay and 60 percent house rent of basic pay. Some officials are posted for the past four years in other discos and are getting extra payments. In these four years, these officials have made millions of rupees over and above their salaries paid by the parent companies. Currently, hundreds of officers of are working outside their parent DISCOs and they are costing millions of rupees to the host companies, he added. PBF President further stressed that improvement in the power sector could be possible through addressing the root causes- corruption, inefficiency and poor engineering practices - and promoting professionalism in Discos.

US, top threat to global cyber security

DNA

BEIJING: "As facts have proven time and again, it is the US that has been forcing companies to install backdoors and obtaining user data in violation of relevant rules.

The US itself is the top threat to global cybersecurity," said Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin at a regular press conference in response to the overusing of secret orders for Americans' data by the US government, according to Gwadar Pro.It's reported that in the last five years Microsoft had received 2,400 to 3,500 secrecy orders a year to gather vast amounts of data on American internet users and the US courts provided little by way of meaningful oversight, said Tom Burt, a Microsoft vice president, at a US House of Representatives Judiciary Committee hearing on June 30.

Wang remarked that the US has long been taking advantage of its advanced tech capacity to run invasive surveillance on people at home and abroad, steal various types of data and violate all kinds of privacy.Reviewing US's long-term practices that endanger cybersecurity, Wang gave examples including the Patriot Act adopted after 9/11 which requires cyber companies to offer regular updates on user information.

UNSC to discuss Ethiopia dam

FOREIGN DESK

NEW YORK: The United Nations Security Council is set to discuss a bitter regional dispute over a massive dam built by Ethiopia on the main tributary of the Nile River. The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) is the source of an almost decade-long diplomatic stand-off between Ethiopia and downstream nations Egypt and Sudan. Ethiopia says the project is essential to its development, but the governments in Cairo and Khartoum fear it could restrict their citizens' water access.

Thursday's open session comes after Egypt and Sudan turned to the 15-member body as Ethiopia began this week the second stage of filling GERD. The government in Addis Ababa insists the African Union (AU) should resume handling the talks. On Tuesday, the UN called on the three countries to recommit to talks on the project's operation and urged them to avoid any unilateral action.

"Solutions to this need to be guided by example ... by solutions that have been found for others who share waterways, who share rivers, and that is based on the principle of equitable and reasonable utilisation and the obligation not to cause significant harm," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres's spokesman, StephaneDujarric, told reporters in New York.

Azerbaijan to host int'l defence exhibition

DNA

BAKU: The ADEX-2022 International Defence Exhibition is planned to be held in Azerbaijan, local media reported on July 8.

The Turkish structures and companies will also be presented at the exhibition. The ADEX exposition, which is scheduled to be held on September 6-8, will demonstrate the products of the defence industry of the two countries, the report added.

Azerbaijan was represented at the international arms and military equipment exhibition MILEX-2021 in Minsk (Belarus) on June 23-26, the Defence Industry Ministry reported on June 23.

Azerbaijan exports ammunition, modern small arms, UAVs, and armored vehicles of its own production to more than 10 countries, and the country's defence enterprises produce more than 700 items and their components. Azerbaijan has been producing and exporting weapons to foreign countries since 2013, including the NATO member states such as the U.S. and Turkey, as well as Russia, Belarus, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, and others.

Briefs

UK ends military mission in Afghanistan

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Boris Johnson has announced the end of Britain's military mission in Afghanistan following a hasty and secretive exit of the last remaining troops 20 years after the post 9/11 invasion that started the "war on terror".

The prime minister confirmed to MPs that the intervention, which claimed the lives of 457 British soldiers, would end even as the insurgent Taliban were rapidly gaining territory in rural areas, as UK, US and other forces withdrew.

Speaking in the Commons, Johnson said "all British troops assigned to Nato's mission in Afghanistan are now returning home". While he would not disclose the exact timetable of the departure for security reasons, the prime minister added: "I can tell the house that most of our personnel have already left."

In a separate defence briefing the head of the armed forces, Sir Nick Carter, acknowledged that recent news from Afghanistan had been "pretty grim" but said the Afghan military had been regrouping to defend urban areas.

He said that while it was fair to say the Taliban now held nearly 50% of the rural districts in Afghanistan and that the Afghan army would also "no longer have access to [western] air power" from within the country, he hoped there would eventually be peace talks between the Taliban and Afghan government.

K-IV water project to be completed by Oct 2023

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Thursday expressed the hope that the Greater Karachi Water Supply scheme (K-IV) would be completed by October 2023.

Addressing the contract signing ceremony for hiring consultancy services of a foreign company for the project, he said K-IV was crucial to resolving water woes of Karachi's dwellers that had been facing shortage of 650 million gallons of water on a regular basis.

He added that the initiative would help purge the "tanker mafia" which had been exploiting Karachiites for the last several decades.

The minister said Prime Minister Imran Khan, under the Karachi transformation plan, had tasked the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) with the execution of the K-IV project.

"WAPDA has unchallenged [authority] as it has not only been maintaining and running the old dams, but also working on new [water] projects," he stressed, while also pointing out the growing trust of foreign investors on the Authority.

'Pakistan to stand by Kashmiris'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday paying rich tribute to the martyred Kashmiri youth leader Burhan Wani, said it would stand by the Kashmiris till the Jammu and Kashmir dispute was resolved in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and the wishes of Kashmiri people.

"On the fifth martyrdom anniversary of prominent Kashmiri youth leader Burhan Muzaffar Wani, we pay tribute to his selfless contribution to the just struggle for right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people, and through him to the oppressed people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK)," Foreign Office (FO) Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said in a statement issued here.

"Burhan Wani, through his sacrifice, has come to rightly symbolize the indigenous Kashmiri struggle against the illegal Indian occupation. - APP

Amb. Nong Rong says CPEC JCC will be held in July

Conference on 'Pakistan-China At 70; Pakistan-China relations termed a 'model bond

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Commemorating 70 years of Pakistan-China relations, Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) arranged the concluding session of the conference titled, "Pakistan-China At 70: Vision for the Future". The conference, which was packed to capacity, brought together Pakistan's Parliamentarians, Foreign Ambassadors, former Pakistani diplomats, academicians, government officials from China and Pakistan, media representatives, think tanks and civil society members under one roof.

The conference featured four panelists including Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Ambassador Nong Rong, Syed Fakhar Imam, Minister of National Food Security, and Research, Qasim Suri, Deputy Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan, and Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed who is heading Pakistan-China Institute and is the Chairman Senate Defence Committee.

Executive Director of Pakistan-China Institute, Mustafa Hyder Sayed moderated the proceedings of the conference and summarized the proceedings of 1st four sessions which were conducted yesterday. He lauded Chinese support to Pakistan during testing times and talked about emerging prospects of people-to-people connectivity.

At the start, national anthems of Pakistan and China were played for the audience of more than 250 people. The conference was initiated by a special keynote address via video by Mr. Wang Yi, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister of People's Republic of China. Wang Yi said that all countries should get together to defeat the pandemic and work against vaccine nationalism. He urged Pakistan and China to promote strategic communication and closer



coordination on all issues of common interests. While affirming commitment to Pakistan, Wang Yi said that no matter how the world or the region changes, China will always stand firmly with Pakistan. He also thanked Senator Mushahid Hussain for his role in promoting Pakistan-China friendship.

In his speech, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said, "Today is a historic day because on this day 50 years ago, Dr. Henry Kissinger flew to Beijing from Islamabad on a PIA, thanks to Pakistan being a bridge between China and the US

invested in their human capital which allowed them to achieve 10-13% growth rate for a persistent 25 years. For the third world, there is another partner instead of the US now, and that is China. He added that under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China has brought 140 countries together and is helping them develop rapidly.

Fakhar Imam said that China has always supported Pakistan's stance on the Kashmir Issue, and was able to call the UN Security Council meeting after August 5, 2019, on the request of Pakistan to urge India to halt atrocities in the valley. Moreover, he said Beijing is creating numerous opportunities for Pakistanis.

Ambassador Nong Rong announced that the long-awaited Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of CPEC would convene later this month in July.

Moreover, he mentioned how the two countries enjoy strong bilateral relationship in various sectors. He added that the military leaderships of both countries enjoy unique strategic partnership. Ambassador Nong Rong thanked the political leaders of Pakistan for sending congratulatory letters to CPC on its 100 years. He also appreciated the role of PCI as an important bridge to connect our two peoples.

Moreover, he said that CPEC has now moved from infrastructure, energy, and development to agriculture, industry, IT, science and technology. He also mentioned how the two countries especially deepened their cooperation during the pandemic. He also thanked Pakistan's military for their strong support for protection of China's core interests. He lauded the remarkable performance of Pakistan in handling COVID-19.

He labeled urbanization, digitization, and modernization as the pre-requisites for rapid development in the years to come.

Mufti Taqi unharmed in attempt at life

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: After the initial scare on Thursday of a suspected assassination attempt on Mufti Taqi Usmani, Vice President of Dar-ul-Uloom in Korangi, it has emerged that the man suspected of being an attacker had only wished to meet the religious scholar and does not appear to have harboured any malicious intent, police said.

According to SSP Korangi Shahjahan, the man, a 35-year-old named Asim Laeeq, did not attack Mufti Usmani and had simply sought a meeting with the scholar after Fajr prayers.

The SSP said when interrogated, the man revealed he was tired of frequent quarrelling with his family and had tried to approach Mufti Usmani to ask him to pray for him. According to the police officer, he chose the time of Fajr as Mufti Usmani is usually free at the time. The SSP said the man is a resident of Gulistan-e-Jauhar. Earlier, it was reported that Mufti Usmani was saved from what was suspected to be an assassination attempt. Mufti Usmani was walking with his guards by his side after Fajr prayers when the man (viewed to be suspicious at the time) started to follow him.

Pakistan to get 5m doses of vaccines from China

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will receive five million more doses of coronavirus vaccine from China this month. Chinese vaccine companies will provide five million Covid-19 vaccines in two consignments to Pakistan, sources at Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) said. According to sources, Chinese vaccine firms giving preferential treatment to Pakistan in supply of the vaccine. The vaccine consignments from China this month, will likely to arrive after July 23, according to sources.

According to EPI sources, Pakistan will receive two million doses of Sinopharm and three million shots of Sinovac vaccine in July. Pakistan has already received four million vaccine doses from China and 2.5 million doses of Moderna vaccine from Covax this month.

Moreover, a consignment of the raw material of Cansino vaccine will also reach Islamabad in current month. The country will also receive a batch of one lac doses of Pfizer vaccine purchased by the government. It will also receive a consignment of AstraZeneca vaccine from Covax in July, EPI source said. Around 15 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines, will arrive in Pakistan this month.

French embassy sheds light on Islamic Art

The first Islamic art works entered the Louvre when the museum was founded in 1793, and the first Islamic galleries date from 1893

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: In a bid to show France's positive and soft image for Islam, the French embassy in Pakistan Thursday brings the Department of Islamic Art at the Louvre Museum into the light. Taking to Twitter consisting many pictures of the Islamic art displayed at the Louvre Museum, the embassy wrote at its official handle: "Since 2012 & a presidential decree, the Flag of France Louvre Museum has an independent Department of Islamic Art. The collection spans 3 continents. The treasures displayed are an invitation into the fascinating world of the Islamic creativity & excellence."

The embassy also tagged Federal Education Minister Shafiqat Mahmood and Foreign Office Pakistan, a private television channel reported. The Louvre, or the Louvre Museum, is the world's largest art museum and a historic monument in Paris, France, and is best known for being the home of the Mona Lisa. Together with the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Louvre Museum is home to the largest collection of Islamic works of art in the world. The recent developments completed in 2012 included the arrangement of spaces, where more than 3,000 pieces documenting Islamic art from Spain to India are on display.

The first Islamic artworks entered the Louvre when the museum was founded in 1793, and the first Islamic galleries date from 1893. Back then, the preferred term was 'the Muslim arts' - a reference not to religious art, but to the predominance of Islam in the Middle East and Africa. The collection expanded considerably in the 19th and 20th centuries, when Paris was at the forefront of Orientalism. The Louvre's Islamic artworks were initially presented in the Department of Decorative Arts before joining the Department of Eastern Antiquities, but after the creation by presidential decree of an independent Department of Islamic Art, they were moved to their present, purpose-designed structure in 2012. The glass and metal structure was designed by architects Rudy Ricciotti and Mario Bellini and architect and exhibition designer Renaud Piérard. It stands in the Cour Visconti, formerly an open-air courtyard. Under the golden veil, the collection is spread over two levels with different lighting effects.

Ambassador Khokhar presents credentials to Slovak President



DNA

BRATISLAVA: Ambassador Aftab Ahmed Khokher, presented his credentials to the President of the Slovak Republic, H.E. Zuzana Čaputová, during an official ceremony held at the Presidential Palace in Bratislava. Presenting his credentials, Ambassador Khokher conveyed to the President Zuzana Čaputová the warm greetings of President Dr. Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan. He pledged to further strengthen and expand the bilateral relations between Pakistan and the Slovak Republic. There is immense potential for cooperation, particularly in the field of renewable energy, green economy and higher education. The two countries can also enhance trade and investment linkages.

Ambassador Khokher is currently serving as Ambassador of Pakistan to Austria. He is also Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the Vienna-based international organizations which include the International Atomic Energy Agency, UN Industrial Development Organization, UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the UN Commission on International Trade Law. His last assignment at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad was Additional Secretary (Americas).

He has previously served as Pakistan's ambassador to Lebanon. He has also served at Pakistan's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva and as Pakistan's Consul General in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

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Muslim women put for auction on social media

MONITORING DESK

NEW DELHI: The misuse of social media platforms in India to promote Hindutva ideology and harassing Muslims particularly women have come to the fore, as pictures of a number of Muslim women were put for auction by an unidentified group on an app using GitHub.

Taking cognizance of media reports that a website has put some Muslims women "on auction", the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) issued a notice to Delhi police and sought to what action they have taken in this regard, the South Asian Wire reported Thursday.

DCW chief Swati Malawal asked the Deputy Commissioner of Police to provide a copy of the FIR registered in the matter and details of the accused identified and arrested. Malawal has given the police one week to provide the details, South Asian Wire reported. Talking about the incident, the DCW said, "The Delhi Commission for Women has taken suo-moto cognizance on media reports of uploading pictures of many Muslim girls on internet platform namely 'GitHub' without their consent.

Wang Yi calls for closer ties with Pakistan

BEIJING: Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi has urged closer ties between China and Pakistan amid already close friendship. China and Pakistan need to step up in forging a closer community with a shared future more than ever, he said. Wang made the remarks via a video link at the opening ceremony of a seminar commemorating 70 years since China and Pakistan established diplomatic relations, according to the Chinese media here on Thursday. Noting that China and Pakistan have forged over the past 70 years a unique "iron-clad friendship" with mutual political trust. He called their bilateral ties a most valuable strategic asset. The Chinese diplomat called for strengthening strategic communication, especially top-level official dialogues for on-time strategic guidance for the development of bilateral ties. Wang also urged the two sides to work together to defeat COVID-19, earnestly advance the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), jointly safeguard regional peace and practice real multilateralism. He said China sincerely hopes Pakistan would enjoy unity, stability and development, and be stronger. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi attending launch of Foreign Office Coffee Table Book, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. - DNA