



Islamabad POST

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Briefs

Rise of TTP not in Pak interest

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Friday said the strengthening of the ranks of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) was not in the interest of Pakistan and categorically stated that the country would "not favour its Talibanization". "The comeback of TTP is not in Pakistan's interest. We do not want Talibanization of our country," the foreign minister said in his remarks at the meeting of the Senate's Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, here at the Parliament House. The foreign minister expressed concern over the chances of breaking out a civil war after the pullout of military forces from Afghanistan and said Pakistan did not want such a scenario to repeat. He stressed that "power-sharing" of different Afghan factions was the best option to avert a civil war.

Pakistan welcomes Iran's mediation

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday welcomed Iran's engagement with the Taliban and the Afghan to sort out a peaceful solution for the conflict-hit country after the pullout of American troops. "Pakistan welcomes Iran's engagement with Afghan parties to achieve a negotiated political settlement," the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in response to queries by media persons about the visit of Taliban and Afghan government delegations to Tehran. Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said Pakistan considered the role of Iran in Afghan peace process as important. Iran, like Pakistan, is a neighbouring country of Afghanistan and host to millions of Afghan refugees, he added. He hoped that the Afghan parties would seize the opportunity and achieve an "inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement".

Holiday Notice

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

No air travel sans Covid-19 vaccination

The NCOC has termed the Delta variant "extremely dangerous"

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Friday announced that unvaccinated people will not be allowed to travel by air starting August 1. In its review of the measures put in place to curb the spread of the coronavirus, particularly in view of the impending spread of the Delta variant, which it termed "extremely dangerous", the NCOC also declared it mandatory for adult students to get themselves vaccinated by August 31. The latest instructions of the NCOC come in the wake of an uptick in Covid-19 cases in the country. Earlier, the NCOC had confirmed the presence of different variants of coronavirus in Pakistan, including the Delta variant, the Beta variant that was first detected in South Africa, and the Alpha variant that was discovered in the United Kingdom. The NCOC had said that these variants were detected in Pakistan in May and June. The government's Covid-19 portal indicates the number of daily Covid-19 cases dropped from four digits to three digits on June 25.

'Clear signs 4th wave is starting'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar said on Friday that there are clear signs of a fourth Covid-19 wave starting in Pakistan. In a message on Twitter, the minister said: "Two weeks ago, I had tweeted that our artificial intelligence models are showing the possible emergence of a fourth wave. Now there are clear early signs of a fourth wave starting." Umar blamed poor compliance with coronavirus-related standard operating procedures (SOPs) and spread of virus variants, particularly Delta variant that was first detected in India, for the looming fourth wave of Covid-19.

Qadri, Amb. Kaminara for tackling Islamophobia

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of European Union (EU) to Pakistan Androulla Kaminara, on Friday, has called on Minister for Religious Affairs Noorul Haq Qadri in Islamabad. According to the details, both the leaders discussed about formulating mutually beneficial policies to facilitate the public of two countries in the matters pertaining to religious freedom and rights of minorities. Moreover, a brief discussion on unifying the heads of Islamic countries to eradicate Islamophobia from the Western-world also took place. Earlier this week, Androulla Kaminara stressed Intrafaith and interfaith harmony is the need of the hour. Unity is a symbol of



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of European Union (EU) to Pakistan Androulla Kaminara in a meeting with Minister for Religious Affairs Noorul Haq Qadri. - DNA

national 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. She was addressing the Intrafaith and Interfaith Roundtable Peace Conference at Lahore.

Pakistan cannot accept Afghan refugees: Moeed

ALI FURQAN / VOA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's National Security Adviser Moeed Yusuf said that the United States withdrawal from Afghanistan without political settlement is a tragedy which might lead towards a civil war. In an exclusive interview with VOA's special correspondent Ali Furqan he said that Pakistan had been urging U.S. and its allies that the withdrawal from Afghanistan should be responsible. Moeed

Yusuf said, United States is repeating the mistake of 90's in Afghanistan by leaving the country without power sharing agreement between Taliban and Kabul administration. Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security Moeed Yousaf said that Pakistan has been of the view that there should be a responsible withdrawal from Afghanistan but the United States has left Afghans to fend for themselves and spread unrest in the region. National Security Adviser said that Pakistan's efforts in Afghanistan wouldn't result because the

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RAWALPINDI: Nong Rong, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan calls on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ. - DNA

Chinese envoy calls on COAS

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Nong Rong, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ, on Friday. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security situation, bilateral cooperation in various fields and update on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) were discussed. COAS thanked the Ambassador for unwavering Chinese support extended to Pakistan during testing times of pandemic. Ambassador appreciated and acknowledged Pakistan's positive role in the region and pledged to play his role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation between both countries.

Maryam accuses PM of 'buying votes'

The PML-N leader said Pakistan was now again experiencing 12-hour load shedding

DNA

AJK CEC writes to PM Imran

STAFF REPORT

PATTAKA: PML-N Vice-President Maryam Nawaz on Friday alleged that Prime Minister Imran Khan was spending money to "buy votes" ahead of the July 25 general elections in Azad and Jammu Kashmir (AJK). Addressing a rally in Pattaka, AJK, as part of her party's election campaign, Maryam said Imran Khan was now again talking about approaching the International Monetary Fund (IMF), hinting "he doesn't have money to provide people with food supplies, but he has enough

resources and money to buy votes in the AJK elections," she claimed. She called upon people to rein in and "catch Imran if he attempted to "rig" the AJK elections, like people caught 'manipulators' in the Daska by-election.

Syed Zahoor takes charge as Governor

DNA

QUETTA: PTI's senior vice-president of the provincial chapter, Syed Zahoor Agha, on Friday took oath as the 25th governor of Balochistan at a ceremony held at the Governor House. Chief Justice of Balochistan High Court Justice Jamal Mandokhel administered the oath to the newly-appointed governor. Agha took the oath two days after President Arif Alvi named him as the new governor of Balochistan after the former governor, Amanullah Khan Yasinza, tendered his resignation. Yasinza, who was appointed as Governor of Balochistan by President Alvi in October 2018, was asked to step down by Prime Minister Imran Khan in a letter after which the retired judge resigned.

US desires stable, sustainable ties with Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi received a telephone call from U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken. They discussed bilateral relations and important developments in the region. On bilateral relations, the Foreign Minister emphasized Pakistan's commitment to forging a broad-based, long-term and sustainable relationship with the United States that was anchored in deep economic cooperation, regional connectivity and peace in the region. The Foreign Minister highlighted Pakistan's focus on geo-economics as per the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan and reiterated the importance of enhancing economic, trade and investment ties between Pakistan and the United States. As regards the situation in Afghanistan, the Foreign Minister stressed that there was a fundamental convergence between Pakistan and the United States on the need for a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan. The Foreign Minister highlighted the steps Pakistan had taken in support of

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Taliban captures major border crossings

NEWS DESK

KABUL: The Taliban have captured major border crossings with Iran and Turkmenistan in a sweeping offensive across northern Afghanistan, officials say. The militants say they seized two key border towns - Islam Qala near Iran, and Torghundi bordering Turkmenistan. Video footage appeared to show Taliban forces taking down the Afghan flag from the roof of a border customs office. The Taliban are rapidly retaking land across Afghanistan as the US-led mission removes the last of its troops. Taliban officials say their fighters have taken control of 85% of territory in Afghanistan - a claim impossible to independently verify and disputed by the government.

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Afghan FM seeks Pak support for talks with Taliban

The situation in Afghanistan has taken a turn for the worse, with the Taliban launching a blistering campaign and capturing key districts of the country, drastically emboldened as US and other forces gear up to leave the country

NEWS DESK / DNA

KABUL: Afghanistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammad Hanif Atmar has sought Pakistan's help to end the raging conflict in Afghanistan, saying that he hoped Islamabad would persuade the Taliban to return to talks again. The situation in Afghanistan has taken a turn for the worse, with the Taliban launching a blistering campaign and capturing key districts of the country, drastically emboldened as US and other foreign forces gear up to leave the country. In an interview with a private TV channel, he said "We are hopeful Pa-

kistan will help Afghanistan disrupt the Taliban's supply and 'brutal campaign'," said the Afghan minister. In response to a question about whether the Afghan government thinks the US betrayed it, Atmar said that Washington signed an agreement with the Taliban with honest intentions. "The Taliban did not fulfil their part of the deal and deceived the whole world," he said. "The Taliban are making a huge mistake. All of us have extended a hand of friendship towards them," he added. He said the Afghan government was telling the Taliban to honour the Doha peace deal, adding that Kabul had fulfilled its obligations of the deal when it came to the prisoners exchange and ensuring foreign troops leave the country. The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Al-Qaeda have banded forces with

other terrorist elements and are fighting alongside the Taliban against the government of Afghanistan, said Atmar. "We are monitoring links between the TTP, Taliban and Al-Qaeda on a daily basis," said Atmar. "These ties certainly exist." The Afghan foreign minister said these 'elements' were fighting against the "government and people of Afghanistan" alongside the Taliban, adding that these elements were fighting the Afghan government in Badakhshan, Kunduz, Faryab and other provinces of the war-torn country. Speaking about the militants, Atmar said the Afghan government has divided these groups of foreign fighters into three categories. "The first among them are the [militant groups] that are fighting for a

'Afghan revamping not US responsibility'

KABUL: US President Joe Biden has called on Afghan leaders to come together to drive Afghanistan towards the future Afghan people want and deserve making it clear that rebuilding Afghanistan was not US responsibility. President Biden also announced that US military mission will continue till the end of August, American's objectives to prevent a base against American interests and ridding bin Laden from his safe haven was accomplished. The televised

'Afghanistan could be on path to civil war'

LONDON: The UK military chief has warned there is the possibility that Afghanistan could be on a path to civil war as US and coalition forces leave the country. Britain's Chief of the Defense Staff, Nick Carter, said it was "plausible" that the country's state would collapse without international forces there. Afghanistan could see a situation like the country's 1990s civil war "where you would see a culture of warlordism and you might see some

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Briefs

CCPO
shuffles
11 DSPs

PESHAWAR: The Capital City Police Officer (CCPO), Abbass Ahsan here Friday shuffles 11 Divisional Superintendents of Police (DSPs) and posted them against new assignments.

According to a notification issued here, DSP Investigation Rural, Janan Habib (BS-17) has been transferred and posted as DSP Security CCP, DSP Investigation Cantt., Said Rahim (BS-17) posted as DSP Security Khyber Teaching Hospital, DSP Headquarters, Tayyab Jan (BS-17) posted as SDPO Chamkani, the services of DSP Investigation-II Cantt., Inayatullah and DSP Investigation Saddar, Noor Ullah have been given at the disposal of Chief Traffic Peshawar.

Similarly, Inspector Ihsan Shah (BS-16) has been posted as Acting SDPO Cantt., Inspector Mukhtar Ali (BS-16) posted Acting DSP Investigation Cantt., Inspector Fazle Rabi (BS-16) posted Acting DSP Investigation Saddar, Acting SDPO Cantt., Inspector Shabir Khan (BS-16) has been transferred and posted as Acting DSP Investigation Rural, Inspector Fazal Ur Rehman (BS-16) as Acting DSP Investigation City, and Acting DSP Complaint & Enquiry, Inspector Sher Afzal (BS-16) as Acting DSP Headquarters. - APP

Two killed,
two injured
over water
dispute

FAISALABAD: Two farmers were killed and two others sustained injuries over an irrigation water dispute in Sarda Samundri police limits on Friday.

A police spokesman said Tahir Barkat, his brothers and other farmers were busy in repairing a water channel in Chak No174-GB when their rivals opened fire on them over the water dispute.

As a result, Tahir Barkat, 40, and his brother Asif Barkat, 45, died on the spot while his third brother Arif Barkat, 50, and Shahzaib-Gujjar, 22, were injured and shifted to the Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital Samundri.

On information, the police reached the spot and started investigation after taking bodies into custody. However, no arrest has so far been made in the case.

Crackdown
against drug
peddlers on
cards in KP

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police have planned to launch an aggressive campaign against narcotics dealers and peddlers especially against ICE across the province.

The campaign to be launched on the special directives of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan, said a press release issued from Central Police Office (CPO) here on Friday.

For this purpose, special Narcotics Eradication Teams (NETs) have been constituted across the province while the Inspector General of Police IGP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Moazzam Jah Ansari has issued guidelines for the campaign.

According to guidelines, a dedicated DSP will head NET in each district and one third of the total strength of such teams will be selected from Elite Force while young and enthusiastic officers with personal commitment will be encouraged to join these teams and Station House Officers (SHOs) on duty would be bound to provide all the necessary assistance to them.

These teams will take action against drug dealers and Mafias in their respective districts. The involvement of local police will also be checked during these investigations and any link or negligence will be strictly dealt with according to law. All Regional Police Officers have been directed to send their progress report in this connection to the CPO on daily basis.



ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan at Islamabad. - DNA

Faisalabad: NHMP starts
issuing int'l driving permits

Khawaja Shahid Razzaq Sikka President Anjuman-e-Tajiran Faisalabad City expressed deep interest in road safety and said that he has already published a booklet on road safety which was widely circulated among the public

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD. National Highways & Motorway Police (NHMP) has started issuing international driving permits which are acceptable in 57 different countries, said Beat Commander Motorway Police Mr. Iftikhar Ali Wince.

Addressing a function in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he said that society has to play its proactive role to make road travel safe and secure. In this connection NHMP has been regularly organizing road safety seminars to sensitize the different segments of society. He said that NHMP has convinced the education department to include road safety as an integral part of our curriculum. "It will help youth to understand and practice road safety rules in their practical life by emulating the road safety culture of the west. About his visit to FCCI, he said that he intends to organize an awareness session at a larger scale for which FCCI has to play its important and productive role.



He said that the officials of NHMP will give a comprehensive briefing through multimedia while printed material about road safety would also be distributed among its participants. Responding to a question about a toll plaza established right in the middle of the road near Pindi-Bhattian, he said that three/three-lanes have been added to facilitate the travelers. He further said that the contract

of M2 and M3 is expected to be allotted to the Frontier Work Organization (FWO) and this toll plaza will be removed after two months. Chaudhary Talat Mahmood Senior Vice President FCCI welcomed the participants of the meeting and assured that it will extend full cooperation for the proposed awareness session on road safety. He said that due to the ignorance of the drivers, their lives remain

at stake while they are also a potential threat for the others. He said that in order to cultivate road safety culture in our society, we must include it in our syllabus. He also presented a comparative study of road-safety sense in Pakistan and other developed countries and said that even our educated youth lack road sense and hence we must regularly arrange awareness sessions for them.

Khawaja Shahid Razzaq Sikka President Anjuman-e-Tajiran Faisalabad City expressed deep interest in road safety and said that he has already published a booklet on road safety which was widely circulated among the public.

He said that realizing his moral obligation, he is regularly cooperating with the local traffic police. He said that he had imported a road marking machine which could mark a 15-20 Kilometer stretch of road in an hour.

"These machines were used for road marking in different projects of National Highway Authority (NHA), National Logistic Cell (NLC) and Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development & Management Company (FIEM-DC)", he said and added that however now he is contemplating to shift these to Qatar. He also urged the NHMP to launch a portal for the immediate redressal of complaints filed by the regular travelers. He also assured full cooperation in organizing road safety seminars in different cities of Pakistan, adding that Anjuman-e-Tajiran will bear all its expenses.

GCWUF holds final project
exhibition of fashion design

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Department of Home Economics, GCWUF displayed final year projects of its first batch of BS Fashion Design on 8th July 2021. Chief guest of the event was Worthy Vice Chancellor, GCWUF, Prof. Dr. Robina Farooq. The occasion was graced by the President Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry "Mrs. Tehmina Pasha" accompanied by Ms. Robia Shafiq and Ms. Shahida Aftab. Sixteen students presented their theme-based project that reflected their creative, aesthetic,

and artistic skill. Their themes covered Cubism, Winter Queen, Dancing Fountain, Blue Pottery, Egyptian Art, Hope in Autumn, and various other. Their source of inspiration varied from top notch designers like Givenchy, Jean Paul, Dolce&Gabbana to Art legends like Pablo Picasso. Students worked on different outlines and embellishment techniques that gave the dresses their individuality.

6th Semester students of Fashion Design also presented their work which consisted of head gears and handbags based on the

theme of Egyptian, Greek and Rome.

These were magnificent and delicate embellishments. The guests and the visitors liked and appreciated the skill of the students. Students presented handmade Jewelry and clay sculptures as well. Illustration work was also a part of the display. "COVID-19 Art" was presented as a tribute to our doctors and paramedical staff. Final year project was highly admired by the guests and visitors who applauded the efforts of the student and advised them to continue their work on commercial level.

CS directs
observance of
corona SOPs

PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary (CS) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dr. Kazim Niaz on Friday directed relevant authorities to ensure strict implementation of corona standard operating procedures (SOPs) on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha.

The Chief Secretary issued these instructions while presiding over a high level meeting on prevention of potential fourth wave of Covid-19 and implementation of precautionary measures. The meeting was attended by administrative secretaries of Health, Local Government, Transport and Information Department.

The meeting was informed that positivity ratio of corona cases was on rise and Covid-19 variants of UK, South Africa and India had been also confirmed in KP. The Chief Secretary said that fourth wave of corona could emerge on Eid-ul-Adha, adding time demands strict implement of precautionary protocols. He also directed health authorities to speed up corona vaccination drive. The meeting also decided that next week would be observed as Corona SOPs Implementation and Awareness Week. - APP

DC Faisalabad visits
cattle markets

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali went to cattle market Chak 241 R.B Chanchal Singh wala and checked the necessary arrangements for the sellers and buyers. He directed to finish the self proclaimed markets for selling animals inside the city. He urged to take special measures to protect the market from the effects of weather and not allowed to anyone without face mask. He checked dispensary, Cleanliness at cattle market and instructed necessary arrangements in line. He also asked the sellers and buyers about facilities and asked Assistant Commissioners to visit the cattle markets regularly to ensure arrangements. Meanwhile as many as 9 mobile veterinary dispensaries and 32 motorbikes have been deputed from Livestock for treatment of the sacrificial animals in the streets and mohala level. Deputy Commissioner departed them from DC office. Director Livestock Dr. Ashfaq Ahmad Anjum and Additional Director Dr. Haider Ali Khan was also present. Deputy Commissioner said that this was a facility for citizens to check up their sacrificial animals.

616,219 people vaccinated in Faisalabad
As many as 616,219 people have so far been vaccinated against the COVID-19 in the district. District Health Officer Dr. Ataul-Mun'im said on Friday that 482,524 people had been given the first dose while 92,665 were administered the second one. He said a sufficient stock of vaccine was available in the district, adding that 35 vaccination centers were operational. To facilitate people the centers had been established in various areas of the city, including Allied Hospital, District Head Quarters Hospital, Govt General Hospital GM Abad, Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology, Govt General Hospital Samanabad, Children Hospital, Sports Complex Samanabad, Tehsil Head Quarters Hospital Jaranwala, Samundri, Tandlianwala, ChakJhumra, Sports Complex ChakJhumra, Sports Complex Jaranwala, Govt General Hospital Chak 224-RB, New Building RHC Khurrianwala, New Building THQ Samundri, New Building THQ Tandlianwala, Social Security Hospital Madina Town, Wapda Hospital, Rural Health Centers Mureed Wala, Chak 174-JB, Chak 134-JB, Chak 229-Rb, Chak 65-GB, RHC Lundianwala, Jaranwala, RHC Khurrianwala, Jaranwala, Pindi Sheikh Musa, Kanjwani, Mamukanjan, RHC Chak 400-GB, RHC Chak 153-RB, RHC Chak 374-GB and Chak 469-GB, he added. - DNA

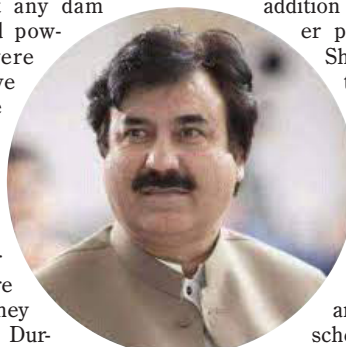
Pak has vast potential of hydel power: Shaukat Yousufzai

Shaukat Ali Yousufzai said Pakistan has vast potential of hydel power generation which can end the power crises in the country but no previous regime was interested to construct any dam and they only produced power through plants that were working on expensive furnace oil which is the real cause

BUREAU REPORT

ABBOTTABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Labor and Culture Shaukat Ali Yousufzai Friday said that when Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) came into power, the country was at the verge of default. The previous governments took 24 billion dollars loans for 10 years and the PTI government has to pay it, he said while addressing a three-day National Youth Leadership Conference at Namal-Maira Waterfall Galyat. Shaukat Ali Yousufzai said Pakistan has vast potential of hydel power generation which can end the power crises in the

country but no previous regime was interested to construct any dam and they only produced power through plants that were working on expensive furnace oil which is the real cause of inflation and shortage of electricity in the country. He said that the past regimes of PPP and PML-N used Kalabagh dam for politics and if they were sincere with the country they could build many dams. During only three years of the present government, Prime Minister Imran Khan



inaugurated Momand and Shah Dams, in addition to starting many other power projects, the minister said. Shaukat Yousufzai stated that today's youth was very intelligent, anyone who wanted to get involved in practical politics would be definitely welcomed. Youth is the future of this country and Prime Minister Imran Khan has emphasized the welfare of the youth and he has launched several schemes to facilitate the youth, he expressed. At the same time, we have started pro-

jects such as provision of interest-free loans to the youth to ensure employment as the country's prosperity is correlated to success of the youth, the minister said and added that the government was focusing on the development of youth and environment. The minister said that the Opposition was criticizing BRT but we have completed it and now 1.5 million people and students were using this service. Similarly, they also claimed corruption in the BRT project but they failed to prove it, he added. He also said that the Billion Tree Tsunami was appreciated all over the world but the Opposition political parties were also criticizing the same without proof.

GCUF,
PBM signs
MoU

FAISALABAD: Managing Director Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal Malik Zaheer Abbas Khokhar has said Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal will provide scholarships to 100 deserving students of the Government College University Faisalabad (GCUF).

He was addressing a ceremony held to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the GCUF, here on Friday. Chairman Standing Committee on Finance Faizullah Kamoka, Vice-Chancellor GCUF Prof Dr Shahid Kamal, Chairman Saylani Welfare Trust Maulana Bashir Ahmed Farooqi, Project Director Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal Islamabad Qasim Zafar and others were present.

GCUF Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Shahid Kamal said that the needy students were being provided financial support from an endowment fund by the university. He said that for the second time, an memorandum of understanding had been signed with Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal for provision of scholarships to 100 students. Later, wheelchairs were also distributed among the physically challenged students by the Heart Saver Foundation. - APP

Wearing mask
mandatory in
travelling BRT

PESHAWAR: The management of the Trans Peshawar has decided to make wearing of masks as mandatory in travelling BRT for the safety of the citizens, Spokesman Trans Peshawar told APP here on Friday.

He said, for ensuring safety to the citizens, the decision was taken to make wearing of masks mandatory in travelling BRT on different routes. He urged the citizens to wear masks taking care of themselves and others. He said, no one will be allowed to travel in BRT without a mask.

He also advised the citizens to collaborate with BRT staff and take the corona virus seriously. He said the violations of Corona SOPs will result in fines as well as getting off the bus. BRT buses and stations are being sprayed on a daily basis, spokesman Trans Peshawar informed. The institution is fulfilling its responsibility and Citizens should also play their role in following the SOPs, he concluded. - APP

'UAF to
produce
quality seed'

FAISALABAD: The University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) will pace up efforts to produce quality seed in order to boost up agriculture productivity and address the problems of farming community.

This was stated by UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Anas Sarwar Qureshi here on Friday. He was chairing a meeting of the Graduate Studies Research Board at the Syndicate Room.

Director Graduate Studies Dr Ejaz Ahmad Warraich presented the agenda. The VC said that the country was importing seeds worth billions of rupees that may be curtailed by producing at national level.

He said that the UAF, being the mother of all agricultural institutions, was taking all possible measures to address the problems of the farming community and combat different agricultural challenges. The meeting also okayed different programs including MPhil Bio-technology for main campus and MSc Entomology, Plant Breeds and Genetics, and Environmental Sciences for Burewala Campus that would be presented before Academic Council for approval. Registrar Tariq Mehmud Gill, Treasurer Umar Saeed Qadri, all deans, directors and principals of sub campuses attended the meeting. - APP

CM offers
condolences

FAISALABAD: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar arrived at Dijkot on a short visit on Friday and went to the residence of MPA and Adviser Malik Umar Farooq to offer condolences on the death of his father Malik Mushtaq Ahmed. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear the loss with fortitude. - APP

Briefs

SECP registers 2,504 new companies

ISLAMABAD: Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 2,504 new companies in June 2021, indicating a growth of 63% as compared to corresponding period last year. The total number of registered companies increased to 145,913, said a press release issued here. Ninety-nine per cent of these were incorporated online and 45 per cent applicants were issued registration certificates the same day, whereas 203 new foreign users were registered from overseas. Of the newly registered companies, 65 per cent were registered as private limited companies, 31 per cent as single member public and four per cent as public unlisted companies, not for profit associations, foreign companies and limited liability partnership (LLP). Total capitalization (paid-up-capital) of newly incorporated companies for the current month is amounting to Rs3.3 billion. The construction & real estate sector took the lead with the incorporation of 474, trading with 382, IT with 275, services with 216, e-commerce with 129, food and beverages with 105, textile with 86, corporate agricultural farming with 76, education with 66, engineering, and market & development 54 each, pharmaceutical with 50, healthcare with 45, tourism with 39, mining & quarrying, and transport with 36 each, chemical with 34, auto & allied with 33, cables & electric goods with 31, logging with 27, communication with 26, power generation with 24, paper & board, and cosmetics & toiletries with 19 each, steel & allied with 18, broadcasting & telecasting, and fuel and energy with 16 each, wood & wood products with 13 and 105 companies were registered in other sectors.

Mutual Legal Assistance Bill passed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senate Standing Committee on Interior on Friday passed "The Mutual Legal Assistance (Criminal Matters) (Amendment) Bill, 2021. The committee meeting which met here under the Chairmanship of Senator Mohsin Aziz passed the bill with a majority vote after detailed deliberations. Chairman Committee Senator Mohsin Aziz said that members committee can present their observations in writing and the bill can be amended any time. Senator Samina Mumtaz Convener of the Senate Sub-committee on Interior submitted the progress report of the Sub-committee constituted on "The Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety Bill 2020" which was adopted by the standing committee. On the issue of the dilapidated condition of the corridors, galleries, open spaces of the Parliament Lodges the members of the committee expressed their serious reservations of the situation and over the absence of chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) in the standing committee meeting.

KPP to be launched soon

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue, Dr. Waqar Masood Khan on Friday said that Kanyab Pakistan Program (KPP) will be announced by the Prime Minister Imran Khan very soon to uplift lives of the poor people. Talking to a private news channel, he said that Rs 500 billion has been allocated for this program and the government would provide subsidy of Rs 25 billion on housing and business sectors. Waqar Masood said that through this program, interest free loan would be provided to farmers and small medium enterprises.

Envoy calls for boosting Pak-Palestine bilateral trade

The Ambassador said that Pakistan & Palestine should promote business linkages between their private sectors to explore all untapped areas of mutual cooperation

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Ahmed Ameen Rabea, Ambassador of Palestine said that Pakistan and Palestine should focus on further improving bilateral trade to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes and create new opportunities of progress and prosperity for their people. He said this in a meeting with Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry during his visit to ICCI. Fatma Azim Senior Vice President, Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI and Ms. Aya Arafat Advisor to Palestine Ambassador were also present in the meeting. The Ambassador said that Pakistan and Palestine should promote business linkages between their private sectors to explore all untapped areas of mutual cooperation. He said that both countries should expand existing political cooperation to other areas including economy, agriculture, bank-



ing, health, education, social and cultural sectors. He thanked the government and people of Pakistan for showing strong support to Palestine during Gaza crisis, which was a source of encouragement for Palestinian people. He also thanked ICCI for donating a significant amount for the

Palestinian people affected by the recent aggression of Israel. Speaking at the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Pakistani nation has special sentiments for Palestine and we want to see Palestine as a strong economy of

the region. He said that ICCI was already in touch with Palestinian Business Association (PBA) to encourage and promote direct contacts between the entrepreneurs of Pakistan and Palestine so as to develop strong commercial and industrial cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

He said that ICCI and PBA intended to work jointly for promoting the exchange of trade delegations that would help in exploring new avenues of enhancing trade, JVs and investment between the two countries. He said that both trade bodies were interested in assisting each other for participation of private sectors in each other's trade fairs and exhibitions.

He said that ICCI and PBA would also try to hold roundtable conferences and seminars for business communities of both countries and encourage setting up of business partnerships in areas of interest. Both sides also discussed a wide range of topics to strengthen the trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Palestine. Fatma Azim, Senior Vice President and Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI also stressed the need of further enhancing bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Palestine as they have good potential to cooperate with each other in many areas.

Work on a women's park in the federal capital in full swing



ISLAMABAD: The construction work of a special ladies park for healthy activities of women and children in the Federal Capital has entered its final stages on the special directions of Capital Development Authority Chairman Amir Ali Ahmed. According to the details, the construction work of a special park for women and children was initiated in the Federal Capital for the healthy activities of women and children on the vacant space adjacent to the Green Belt between Sector I-8/2 and H-8/2. It is now nearing completion and is expected to open by July 15. The park has state-of-the-art, security arrangements to provide a safe environment for women and children, as well as jogging tracks, special cycling tracks for young children, swings, benches and lights to sit in the park proper arrangements are being made. The Capital Development Authority Chairman while instructing the DG Parks said that the pace of work should be further expedited and all possible facilities should be provided to the citizens. It should be noted that only women and children can enter this park. It is expected to open to the public after July 15. - DNA

Pakistan's exports to Afghanistan increase 8.29% in 11 months

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's exports of goods and services to Afghanistan witnessed an increase of 8.29 percent during the first eleven months of financial year (2020-21) as compared to the corresponding period of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported. The overall exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$895.380 million during July-May (2020-21) against

exports of \$826.802 million during July-May (2019-20), showing growth of 8.29 percent, the SBP data revealed. Meanwhile, on year-to-year basis, the exports to Afghanistan during May 2021 also increased by 289.39 percent, from \$17.117 million as against the exports of \$66.653 million. On month-on-month basis, the exports to Afghanistan however decline by 19.10 percent during May 2021 as compared to the exports of \$82.399 million in April

2021, the SBP data revealed. Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed growth of 10.31 percent in 11 months, from \$20.963 billion to \$23.125 billion, the SBP data showed. On the other hand, the imports from Afghanistan during the period under review were recorded at \$163.728 million against \$119.321 million last year, showing growth of 37.21 percent in eleven months of this year. Meanwhile, on year-to-year basis, the imports from Af-

ghanistan during May 2021 also rose by 356.77 percent, from \$3.574 million last year to \$16.325 million. On month-on-month basis, the import from Afghanistan decreased by 18.16 percent during May 2021 when compared to the import of \$19.948 million in April 2021, the SBP data revealed. The overall imports into the country increased by 17.901 percent, from \$40.085 billion to \$47.262 billion, according to the data.

Continued hike in health budget lauded

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Friday lauded the continued hike in the health budget in the provinces of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and demanded more attention to this critical sector to provide relief to the masses.

Presently masses have to pay for sixty percent of the healthcare expenses which hit many badly as almost half of the population is living in poverty requiring more financial commitment on the part of the government, it said. Middle-income and poor generally avoid treatment unless very necessary as hospitalization leads to poverty and bankruptcy which is not desirable for them, Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President PEW. He said that government can improve the situation by refining the health system, paying attention to state-run hospitals, regulating private

hospitals, imposing a ceiling on profits, and introducing universal health insurance, he added. Dr. Mughal said that World Bank and WHO studies suggest that healthcare expenses are pushing one hundred million people below the poverty line every year. It is safe to assume that among the 100 million people becoming poor every year, hundreds of thousands of Pakistanis are also included, he said. He said that the poor deserve free or subsidized healthcare facilities as a healthy person can take care of his family, bring food to the table, and play his role in the national development.



ISLAMABAD: PPP Parliamentary Leader, Sherry Rehman presides over a meeting in the Senate. -DNA

Misconduct in E-Cat successfully traced by VU

ISLAMABAD: Virtual University of Pakistan in an isolated incidence, during the conduct of Engineering College Admission Test 2021, one candidate was found to be using unfair means in violation of the code of conduct, at one of its private virtual campuses (exam center). According to a press release on Friday, the Virtual University has just conducted the Engineering College Admission Test 2021, on behalf of UET, Lahore. The University immediately took notice and identified the culprits involved through digital footprint. The University is taking necessary measures to enhance the integrity & sanctity of its examinations. The Virtual University has successfully conducted 33,649 tests through its state-of-the-art ICT based system, wherein every candidate gets a unique paper without human interaction, generated automatically from a progressive 'Question Bank'. This system guarantees anonymity, uniformity, and secrecy up to the last minute. Virtual University takes the integrity and sanctity of its examinations/tests very seriously and has a zero-tolerance policy in this regard. -APP

Trudeau pointing China to hide genocidal policies

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The horrific genocidal policies against indigenous children in British Columbia have surfaced at an inappropriate time for Canada, the U.S., and its allies who are embroiled in the 'Pivot to Asia' strategy, which aims to contain the growing economic and military power of China and demonize it for its alleged human rights abuses. This was stated by Shabana Syed, a print and TV journalist based in Britain in an article carried by Gwadar Pro on Friday. This happened when China called on the UN Human Rights Council to investigate the cultural genocide of indigenous people in Canada. Jiang Duan, a senior Chinese official to the UN said, "historically Canada robbed the indigenous people of the land, killed them and eradicated their culture." Prime Minister Trudeau attempted to deflect attention from Canada's crimes by saying that the country accepts its responsibility while China is not recognizing there is a problem. "That is why Canadians and people from around the world are speaking up for people like the Uyghurs." To maintain maximum stress on China the Canadian Ambassador presented a joint statement to the UN that defended the rights of the Muslim Uyghur community and was signed by more than 40 countries including Britain, Australia,

France, and Germany. Mostly all signatories are allied to the US's plan to contain China and derail the Belt Road Initiative which will transform the South Asia Pacific region through economic and infrastructure development. To refocus world attention away from Canada's crimes against indigenous people, Trudeau raised the issue of the alleged Uyghur oppression in China, and in the process, negated the pain and sufferings of its indigenous people and exposed the historical "willed amnesia" and inhumanity of western leaders. Historian David Harvey in New Imperialism (2003) argues, "the most powerful myth of modernity, is the belief there has been a radical break with the past." Modernity, he argues, "is the story of new beginnings and 'creative destruction,' of "starting over and willed amnesia." However, this "willed amnesia" becomes a problem when reality surfaces, like the recent revelations of thousands of indigenous children's who have suffered systematic rape violence and torture in British Columbia, part of Canadian governmental policy based on "enforced assimilation". Or when the US on its mission to export "democracy and human rights" tries to cover up the abuses in Iraq's Abu Gharaib prison. Anyone exposing this "willed amnesia" as Julian Assange did, will be incarcerated and tortured as Assange has been without any criminal charges against him. The residential schools were set up

in the late 1800s and were still in operation till 1996. They were set up by the Canadian government in a policy of forced "assimilation", but close inspection reveals it was more a policy of indiscriminate genocide. Catholic and Protestant nuns' priests and monks ran the schools. The Canadian Mounty would hunt indigenous children, snatching them from their mothers. Children as young as three were put into these residential homes. Survivors have testified as to how they were systematically tortured and beaten if they spoke "Cree", their own language. They were forced to dress and speak like white people and follow Christianity. A book documenting the genocide of indigenous people in America titled Red Nation Rising (2021) states that the Indian Health Service "sterilized between 25 and 50 percent of all Native women between the years 1970 and 1976." The authors of the book argue that the genocide of indigenous people had less to do with race and more about a land grab. While this is true, one cannot underestimate how racist ideas played a major part in justifying imperialism and genocide in the colonies. Edward Said points out in his book Orientalism (1978) that centuries of western literature, media, and government policies depicted other languages, religions, and cultures as savage and inferior, justifying imperialism and the 'civilizing mission'. If we examine the 'civilizing mission',

it is closely linked to the war on terror rhetoric of President Bush that you are "either with us or with the terrorists". Anyone opposing British colonial rule was viewed as a terrorist and imprisoned or killed. The US is also on a mission after 9/11 to hunt down people or organisations they deem as terrorists. Testimonies from many US soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan along with WikiLeaks, exposed the indiscriminate shooting and bombing of innocent Iraqi and Afghan men, women, and children. Today President Biden is hunting "domestic terrorists" against US government policies. While many in France and Britain agree with President Macron's inflammatory speeches about millions of Muslims lining in the West and the need for them to assimilate. One can argue that Macron's proposals for 'mandatory schooling of minors from the age of 3 to avoid cultural indoctrination within the family, is similar to the proposals or intentions of Canadian and US governments who took small indigenous children to residential homes to be indoctrinated by the state. The UK government is also distrustful of Muslims, who may be disgruntled about US wars against Islamic countries. Ex-British Prime Minister Tony Blair has often called for a reformation of Islam which adheres to western values. The 'Prevent' strategy (2011) outlines methods to prevent children from be-

coming radicalized. One of the proposals was that teachers should report to police if any Muslim child is expressing 'extremist' views like defending the rights of Palestinians or against US and UK wars in Afghanistan or Syria. While Prime Minister Trudeau shamefully stands at the UN, highlighting western leaders concern for "Muslim suffering" in Xinjiang, his willed amnesia ignores the US's genocidal war on terror aimed at Muslims. Nobel Peace Laureate Mairead Maguire in The U.S. and the UK Committed Genocide Against the Iraqi People argues "both countries have committed genocide against the Iraq people between 1990/2012, killing 3.3 million including 750,000 Iraqi children through sanctions and war, not including subsequent wars by US and NATO, against Afghanistan, Libya, Sudan, and their attempted and well-funded efforts through a proxy war to destroy Syria, is criminal." As Prime Minister Trudeau tries to deflect attention from the US, Canada, and Australia's ongoing crimes against the indigenous people, by pointing to China, he ignores the fact that cultural imperialism and white privilege are embedded in western countries and there is little remorse. And the only logical conclusion one can come to is that the west's cultural genocidal policies will continue with the US in pursuit of unipolar domination, the article added.

Pakistan to promote peace in Afghanistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PML-Q Punjab Deputy Secretary Information Khawaja Rameez Hassan said in a press release that Pakistan has always played a role for peace and prosperity in the region. He said the fact that the civilian-military leadership is on the same page on the Afghan peace issue is a practical example of seriousness. He more added the region is very complex at the moment and the best diplomatic strategy is inevitable.

Lockdown in 11 areas to contain "Delta variant"

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The district administration Rawalpindi on the directives of the Punjab Primary and Secondary Health Care Commission has imposed smart lockdown in eleven areas of the district to contain the threat of the spread of the new wave of "Delta COVID-19 Variant". According to a district health authority report issued here Friday, the areas which have been vulnerable for delta variant spread sealed from July 8 till July 18 include Street 8,10 of Mohalla Khehshan colony, House no, CB 81 Misriyal road, Sanjoli street, Adyala road, St no 29, Taxila jalalabad, Trench Bhatta, Abadi no 2, Gulshan Abad st no 9, Dhoke Kashmiria, Zia street no 20 and 23, Amarpura chowk, B block sector 4b Khayban Sirsyed, and Dhok Dal tehsil Taxila.

IESCO for measures in monsoon season

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Friday asked the people for adopting precautionary and safety measures during monsoon season. IESCO spokesman told that in view of expected rain during coming days necessary instructions have been issued to all field formations to make necessary arrangement for replacement of weak electric poles before rainy spells. -DNA

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Investment from Singapore in CPEC

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

IT is indeed a welcome step by the CPEC Chairman, Lt Gen (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa to urge investors from Singapore to tap into the opportunities at the newly established Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under CPEC. He was addressing as a Key-note Speaker at a webinar on "Investment Opportunities in CPEC related SEZs". Indeed, such collaboration will be a win-win scenario for CPEC and all investors involved. The Chairman CPEC was confident that Pakistan is moving towards development and tapping into the potential of industrialization. Such aspects will be attractive for the investors in Singapore. During the webinar, Chairman CPEC shared that Singapore could be a role model for economic development in Pakistan. He added that the Pakistani government can use such expertise in industrialization as well as in science and technology. In a broader context, Singapore and Pakistan can join hands through MoUs to exchange information, develop expertise in technology and assist each other in socio-economic projects. While Pakistan and China are moving together to complete CPEC, countries such as Singapore – having smooth relations with Pakistan and China – can add value to the project. CPEC needs to be completed as per the schedule so it can provide benefits – social and economic – to the stakeholders. Pakistan and China - if their governments allow – can create a union of all stakeholders involved in the CPEC project so they can work towards regional development through collaboration, cooperation, and partnership. While this is just a dream, the CPEC itself will create a harmonious union of all stakeholders who will pursue effective planning and implementation of their respective goals and projects. Through CPEC, trade, and economy, industrialization, along with manufacturing will take a front seat in Pakistan and in countries where CPEC is making its mark. With a joint effort, the economic future of South and Southeast Asia looks bright.



Peace in Afghanistan

IN the midst of the ongoing process of the US' withdrawal, the Taliban have made significant advances in Afghanistan which led high-level peace talks to stagnate. However, in recognition of the important role its neighbours have to play in conflict resolution, Iran hosted a conversation with the Taliban. In doing so, certain progress was made as the Taliban agreed to return back to Doha for further negotiations with the Afghan government. We expected this to be a tough process but we must all now rally to protect the region from worsening circumstances. Initially, it seemed as though Afghanistan's government and the Taliban were making headway in their Doha conferences but all progress was halted in the face of increased violence, occupations and diplomatic impasse. The power vacuum left behind by the US' withdrawal is also a contributing factor for this surge in tensions as both stakeholders scramble to consolidate their hold on the area and the people—the recent attack of Qala-e-Naw for instance. Well aware about the ramifications of this civil war—including a refugee crisis, economic instability, heightened terrorism and regional security threats—Afghanistan's neighbours must join hands in preventing the country from turmoil. Collaboration by Iran and Pakistan is particularly vital considering that we share our borders with the war-stricken country. Playing a constructive role dictates that we provide a platform through which further conversations can be held, create peace strategies that might aid the country and direct our resources towards improving the standard of living for the masses. Through a closer partnership amongst ourselves, we will be able to put up a stronger stand against regional clashes. Thus, this is something that we must work towards. Independently, we have been directing our efforts in facilitating peace in Afghanistan. Now, Pakistan must nurture its relationship with regional powers so that the resolution process is as successful as it can be.

Time is not right for full Afghan withdrawal

Alistair Burt



My briefing was clear that the one thing I needed to reiterate constantly was the UK's "long-term" commitment to Afghanistan and its people. There was an unspoken awareness that, somehow, someday, we were going to leave; that the international community would abandon Afghanistan following the drawdown of international troops

IN common with the US and other NATO partners, the UK is this week examining its role in Afghanistan as troops leave and a new phase of our engagement with that country begins.

It is quite a harsh spotlight. The media has much sympathy for our forces who were engaged there, for those who have returned with life-changing injuries, and for families who have lost loved ones, as in any conflict. The harder questions are for policymakers. What has been achieved? Why are we leaving now? And, above all, what is going to happen next, not least to those in Afghanistan whose lives have been altered by our engagement and who must face a future that our very involvement has dictated?

As minister for South Asia between 2010 and 2012, I made visits to Afghanistan. My notes remind me of the cautious optimism of those times. It was not all about the military. I traveled to the agricultural college in Helmand and the university in Mazar-e Sharif, and I met the Afghan Olympic Committee, speaking to those building their country in the midst of conflict. I saw the work of the UK, training those who were to take on the responsibilities of civil law enforcement, requiring immense personal bravery to do so. In particular, I recall meeting, and being inspired by, the women who were creating a new future for themselves – those training in the civilian police, working for nongovernmental organizations on a variety of projects to advance women's rights, and female parliamentarians who knew there could be no lasting peace or stable future for the country unless women fulfilled widespread roles in

society, and unless they themselves braved hostility and threats to lead such efforts.

My briefing was clear that the one thing I needed to reiterate constantly was the UK's "long-term" commitment to Afghanistan and its people. There was an unspoken awareness that, somehow, someday, we were going to leave; that the international community would abandon Afghanistan following the drawdown of international troops. It had happened before in the country's recent history, and the consequences of leaving were as significant as the consequences of the intervention in the first place.

We have reached that point in the test. The hope always was that the work that was being done on building institutions and encouraging the development of a stronger, more inclusive government based on Afghan needs, not the principles of the West, would take root and ensure that the internal peace talks to come would give those who wanted such a future for Afghanistan sufficient weight to overcome those who did not. It was also hoped that a trained, equipped and dedicated army and civilian police force would be strong enough to resist those with the intention of stopping the development of such a state in its tracks.

I fear that is not where we are. The US "peace agreement" with the Taliban looks thin and increasingly one-sided as the Taliban takes territory and women disappear from the streets. Switching the lights out, as US forces left Bagram Air Base last week, making it easier for looters, suggests a painful symbolism of what is to come.

The UK has rightly made provision for those who actively assisted our forces in their ef-

orts to bring and safeguard peace, such as interpreters, to be removed and given new lives abroad. So they should. But what about others? What about those whose work in building their Afghanistan was predicated on the belief that they would have sufficient external support for long enough to enable them to succeed? They have also placed their futures in our hands through their dedication to values that they shared with us and in the "long-term commitment" people like me made speeches about. What is to happen to them?

It is not that I do not understand the political and practical difficulty of "never-ending" conflict. I visited enough of our forces to appreciate the extraordinary work they do; how they have stopped the threat of terrorist attackers using Afghanistan as an ungoverned space in which to base themselves. And I share the sense that, as in any operation, there has to be a time to go home. I feel for those who now must make difficult political decisions, and there is always a ready ear for any cry of "bring the troops home."

But as the troops leave, have nations ensured that the long-term commitment outside of our forces will remain, and that the continuing promises of development support can be realistically delivered? Are we going to be able to meet the gaze of women in Afghanistan in five years' time?

I do not agree that the time is right. American Gen. David Petraeus' key consideration "tell me how this ends" is usually quoted as a warning before military action. It is just as pertinent, and requiring of an answer, before engagement is concluded.

– Courtesy: Arab News

Our planet is suffering from climate anxiety

Sarah Jaquette Ray

As the science writer Britt Wray has argued, the term runs the risk of pathologising and depoliticising the problem, making it solely a mental health concern rather than a systemic problem rooted in economic, historical and social structures. Assuaging individuals' climate anxiety without challenging these systems only addresses the symptoms, not the causes, and places the burden of fixing the problem on individuals. A second problem with "climate anxiety" as a term is that it is too amorphous to conjure the kinds of actions required to mitigate climate change

THE American Psychological Association defines "eco-anxiety" as a "chronic fear of environmental doom." Lots of people are feeling it.

A 2020 survey of people ages 8-16 showed that 73% were worried about the state of the planet. Since 2009, the number of Americans worried about the threats posed by climate change increased by 44%. Two-thirds of Americans are worried about climate change, and these numbers are still on the rise.

But if it takes anywhere between 10% to 51% of any given population to care about an issue to make significant change, why hasn't all this climate anxiety led to more dramatic change?

Contrary to popular progressive belief, we don't necessarily need to get more people to care about the climate; climate anxiety is rampant, and people overwhelmingly care enough to tip the scales.

Perhaps the answer lies in the term itself. Perhaps climate anxiety as a concept fails to motivate the kind of changes we need to see.

As the science writer Britt Wray has argued, the term runs the risk of pathologising and depoliticising the problem, making it solely a mental health concern rather than a systemic problem rooted in economic, historical and social structures. Assuaging individuals' climate anxiety without challenging these systems only addresses the symptoms, not the causes, and places the burden of fixing the problem on individuals.

A second problem with "climate anxiety" as a term is that it is too amorphous to conjure the kinds of actions required to mitigate climate change. We feel too small to do anything about it. Climate change in general is hard for people to perceive as a risk because it is too big, too far, or too in the future, to feel in time and space. It seems uncannily designed to not be perceived as a risk.

We may feel climate change's effects, such as increased heat, extreme weather events, rising sea levels and more infectious diseases like COVID, but climate change itself is imperceptible.

It is thus hard to figure out what our object of worry is, and so we don't know what to do to avoid the threat. In other words, climate just doesn't make the cut as a villain in this story – it isn't like a burglar breaking into your house at night, or even your house on fire, as Greta Thunberg, the Swedish activist, asks us to imagine.

If COVID showed us that it's possible to not perceive a more immediate threat such as a deadly virus, what hope does climate change have?

The solution may be to call climate change by its many ripple effects: pollution, disease, injustice, displacement, the list goes on. We can make it more perceivable by focusing on one of its myriad tendrils. This will help us feel there's something in our sphere of influence that we can tackle.

Feeling too small to tackle the problem can cause us to feel apathy, nihilism, despair and what mental health professionals might call a "hijacked amygdala." The sense of being in a constant state of alert triggers the part of the brain that wants to survive – the "fight, flight, or freeze" instinct – which bypasses the rational part of the brain.

No wonder we feel powerless: access to 24/7 news (most of which portrays climate change in a doomsday frame) and our addictive doom-scrolling makes the problem seem so big that it's not even worth fighting.

The reality is bad, but believing that an apocalypse is inevitable is a self-fulfilling prophecy. In fact, an army of people is working to address climate change from every imaginable angle; they're just not covered in the news that most of us consume.

Anxiety is an understandable and appropriate re-

sponse to the ecological devastations people are experiencing around the world. But there isn't an automatic connection between individual climate anxiety and collective climate action.

This is because most of us don't know how to engage the political process as a collective, and because most of us don't know how to use uncomfortable emotions for that collective work. We need to channel our negative emotions to building community, rather than wringing our hands over how insignificant our actions feel.

We can do this by finding others who feel the urgency as we do, who see the connections between climate and other social ills, and who also want to channel their worry into action. Communities like this are all around us at both the national and local levels, from mutual aid and sustainability programmes in your schools, religious places and places of employment.

You can help make sure your local green spaces are accessible. You can contribute to a community garden. You can learn the indigenous practices of the land you are on. You can support young people who care about climate justice.

We needn't remove carbon from the atmosphere in one fell swoop to be effective in addressing climate change. We need to start where we are, use the talents we already have, and plug into groups and communities that are already doing the work.

Building community around action should be our measure of success, and it can happen right now. When we are working to nurture what we value, it gives us a sense of control which is an antidote to anxiety.

You can use your climate anxiety for immense good. The planet needs you to be resilient, not anxious to the point of debilitation. Paying attention to your mental health, in this case, will help the survival of life on the planet.

– Courtesy: Gulf News

Briefs

World No. 1 Barty to face Pliskova at Wimbledon final



WEB DESK

LONDON: World number one Ashleigh Barty of Australia and the eighth seed Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic won in the women's singles semifinals at the Wimbledon Championships on Thursday.

Barty, 25, saw off former champion Angelique Kerber of Germany 6-3, 7-6(3). The Australian hasn't lost a set since the opening round and will face her last opponent Pliskova on Saturday as the Czech came from behind to beat the second seed Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

"I think I was really able to enjoy myself today right from the start. I had a lot of fun," said Barty, who had clinched the junior title at Wimbledon 10 years ago, but has never passed the fourth round in her previous four appearances at the grass-court Grand Slam. "That was a focus of mine. I wanted to go out there and enjoy playing against Angie in such an incredible moment, and regardless of the result, walk off the court knowing that I enjoyed it, I had fun, and I kind of gave it a crack and gave it my all," added Barty.

US desires stable...

From Page 01
The Afghan peace process. Foreign Minister Qureshi underscored that securing peace in Afghanistan was the shared responsibility of all stakeholders inside Afghanistan as well as key regional and international players. It was imperative for all relevant stakeholders to press all Afghan parties to engage constructively towards achieving an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement. For its part, Pakistan will remain a reliable partner for peace in Afghanistan. The Foreign Minister and the Secretary of State stressed the need for the two sides to continue close coordination and cooperation to ensure meaningful progress in the peace process. The two sides also exchanged views on regional connectivity and other key issues. Foreign Minister Qureshi thanked Secretary Blinken for the Covid-related support extended to Pakistan by the United States.

Pakistan cannot accept Afghan...

From Page 01
Washington's policy for the region was not based on ground realities. He said, it's irony that world is asking us for do more in Afghanistan. He said that Pakistan convinced the Taliban for negotiations with U.S. which resulted in Doha peace agreement while on the other hand, no such pressure seems on Kabul administration by U.S. for political settlement. Moeed Yusuf further said that Afghanistan needed a political settlement for which Pakistan was looking for a regional approach. Expressing concern over the worsening situation in Afghanistan, he said that this time Pakistan was not in a position to accept Afghan refugees. International forces will have to deal with them inside Afghanistan. He said, Pakistan wants to work with US in the areas of mutual interests with equality including in Afghanistan but it seems that Washington has taken a policy shift. Replying to a question that how Pakistan would balance its relations with US and China Moeed said Pakistan wouldn't be part of block-politics and Washington shouldn't ask us to choose either china's or U.S. side. He said if U.S. forces Pakistan to choose a side between Washington and Beijing the world knows which camp Pakistan will choose.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of European Union Androulla Kaminara and UNICEF Pakistan chief exchange documents after signing grant for education sector. — DNA

UNGA President holds meeting with Kazakh President, Speaker

On his part, Mr. Volkan Bozkir thanked the Kazakh President for the warm welcome and commended the results of Kazakhstan's efforts in the UN Security Council as well as the work done to settle the Syrian conflict

NEWS DESK

NUR-SULTAN: A meeting between Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and United Nations General Assembly President Volkan Bozkir focused on the priority areas of Kazakhstan-UN cooperation, including joint efforts in the fight against the pandemic, ensuring regional security and stability, Kazinform cites the Akorda press service. During the meeting, the Kazakh President noted that the visit of the UNGA President to Kazakhstan and the region demonstrates the growing role of Central Asia. «Your visit is very important in terms of evaluating the situation development in Central Asia the role of which is increasing in the context of global policy,» said the Kazakh President. Tokayev believes that Mr. Volkan Bozkir's mission in the post of UNGA President will be successful. He also noted that the country regards the UN as the mainstay of multilateralism, expressing its commitment to the UN goals. «Under your chairmanship the General Assembly greatly contributes to the achievement of the goals of the Organization, especially during the pandemic which affected all spheres of day-



to-day life,» said Tokayev. The Kazakh Head of State believes that the international community should be more unified in countering the pandemic impact. «As a responsible member of the Organization, Kazakhstan will make every effort to overcome the crisis. The country has its own COVID-19 vaccine, which will be ready to supply to needy countries if necessary,» said the President. On his part, Mr. Volkan Bozkir thanked the Kazakh President for the warm welcome and commended the results of Kazakhstan's efforts in the UN Security Council as well as the work done to settle the Syrian conflict. The meeting

also discussed the issues of ensuring regional security and stability in the context of the situation in Afghanistan. NUR-SULTAN. KAZINFORM – Senate Speaker Maulen Ashimbayev met with President of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly Volkan Bozkir, Kazinform has learnt from the press service of the upper chamber of the Kazakh Parliament. During the meeting, the sides discussed the issues of interaction between Kazakhstan and the United Nations and its agencies. «Interaction with the UN is one of the priorities of Kazakhstan's foreign policy. Presently, 27 UN

agencies function in Kazakhstan,» Speaker Ashimbayev said at the meeting. The Senate Speaker went on to brief Volkan Bozkir on the overriding political and democratic reforms implemented in Kazakhstan at the initiative of President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. The sides also debated the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in Kazakhstan. Speaker Ashimbayev stressed that parliaments play an important role in implementing the SDGs through the adoption of corresponding laws, adding that Kazakhstani senators are ready to cooperate in that respect. In conclusion, Maulen Ashimbayev

expressed gratitude to the UNGA President for the scheduled annual session of the UN GA commemorating the International Day against Nuclear Tests. Kazakhstan attaches utmost importance to this day because August 29 is the day of the official closure of the Semipalatinsk testing site. According to Ashimbayev, it is of paramount historical importance not only for Kazakhstan, but for the entire humanity. Volkan Bozkir later tweeted that he had an informative meeting with Maulen Ashimbayev focusing on the role of parliaments in implementing the UN GA objectives and more.



KARACHI: A professional golfer plying his shot during 25th CNS Open Golf Championship 2021 at Karachi Golf Club. — DNA

PNS Zulfiqar to visit Portsmouth

LONDON: Pakistan Navy Ship PNS ZULFIQAR, with embarked helicopter, will visit Her Majesty's Naval Base Portsmouth (UK) from 12-14 July 2021 as part of Pakistan Navy's overseas deployment. The ship will be received by Deputy High Commissioner Dr Faisal Aziz and Defence & Naval Adviser Commodore Jamal Alam together with senior Royal Navy officials. Commodore Syed Rizwan Khalid is the Mission Commander whereas Captain Rao Ahmed Imran Anwar is the Commanding Officer at the PNS ZULFIQAR. The ship will also participate in a bilateral exercise with the Royal Navy after the port visit. — DNA

PFA criticises planned game in Jerusalem

NEWS DESK

JERUSALEM: The Palestinian Football Association (PFA) has criticised a planned exhibition match in Jerusalem involving Spanish side Barcelona. In a letter to the world governing body FIFA, PFA chairman Jibril Rajoub said Jerusalem has been declared a divided city in a United Nations resolution and that Barcelona's planned opponents Beitar Jerusalem are a racist club. «Although we do not have the right to tell any club how to organise its friendly matches, we have the right to object to the choice of Jerusalem as the venue

for the proposed match,» Rajoub said in the letter, which was also addressed to football's European and Asian governing bodies, UEFA and AFC. «According to international law, Jerusalem is a divided city and its eastern part is considered occupied Palestinian land, which gives the Palestinian Football Association jurisdiction over any football activities that take place in this part,» he continued. Rajoub went on to say that the accompanying events for the planned match include activities scheduled to take place within the Old City of occupied East Jerusalem, which «constitute a violation of our rights».

Afghan FM seeks Pak...

From Page 01

global agenda, such as Al-Qaeda and Daesh,» he said. «Al-Qaeda and Daesh militants have been present in the region where Pakistan and Afghanistan are situated,» he added. Atmer said his government was aware of the locations in Pakistan and Afghanistan where Al-Qaeda members were killed and arrested.

«Then, we have regional players,» the Afghan minister said. «[These include] the TTP, Lashkar-e-Tayyaba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, ITIM, the Ansarullah and Jundullah are also fighting with them [Taliban],» he added. «The entire region, not Afghanistan alone, is at threat from these groups,» he stressed. «Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, India, Russia and the Middle East are in danger from these groups,» he said. Atmer said the government of Afghanistan spoke about regional cooperation as «there are no good or bad terrorists and they all are the same». «Peace between Afghanistan and the Taliban will ensure these elements do not find a safe haven in Afghanistan,» he added. Taliban launch blistering campaign as US, other foreign forces prepare to leave Afghanistan.

With the US pullout 90% complete, according to the Pentagon, the insurgents have launched a blistering campaign to capture new territory, and fears are mounting that Afghan forces will collapse without vital American air support. President Ashraf Ghani had said the government had the capacity to handle the situation, but admitted difficulties lay ahead. «What we are witnessing is one of the most complicated stages of the transition,» he had said in a speech in Kabul. The withdrawal of US and NATO troops – after two decades in the country – has drastically emboldened the Taliban, who appear to be pressing for a full military victory. Supposed peace talks between the insurgents and the government in Doha have largely fizzled out after months of a deadlock. Meanwhile, a meeting between an Afghan government delegation and Taliban representatives in Tehran ended Thursday. Iran's state news agency said, with both sides urging an end to the fighting, and more talks.

He announced that these troops are now returning home and that most have already departed Afghanistan. He reiterated that there is no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan and that a sustainable, inclusive peace can only be achieved through a political settlement.

«What we are witnessing is one of the most complicated stages of the transition,» he had said in a speech in Kabul. The withdrawal of US and NATO troops – after two decades in the country – has drastically emboldened the Taliban, who appear to be pressing for a full military victory. Supposed peace talks between the insurgents and the government in Doha have largely fizzled out after months of a deadlock. Meanwhile, a meeting between an Afghan government delegation and Taliban representatives in Tehran ended Thursday. Iran's state news agency said, with both sides urging an end to the fighting, and more talks.

Afghanistan could be...

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of the important institutions like security forces fracturing along ethnic, or for that matter, tribal lines,» Carter said as quoted by Reuters. He added, «If that were to happen, I guess the Taliban would control part of the country. But, of course, they would not control all of the country.» Meanwhile, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that after combat operations ended in 2014, around 750 British service personnel stayed in Afghanistan under NATO's mission to train and assist the country's security forces.

Afghan revamping...

From Page 01

address, with a group of reporters in the East Room, came just hours after his security team briefed Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris on the latest developments in Afghanistan. Earlier, the U.S. military announced the withdrawal process was more than 90% complete. Officials have said the entire process is expected to finish by late August. NATO troops also are following suit, and most of them have left the country. The US president said with partners to secure the airport, Blinken and Khalilzad are working with regional partners and the international community to pursue a peaceful settlement. The US president also pledged to provide continue funding and equipment, capacity to maintain an air force. Biden also said that efforts are being made to get translators, interpreters and other Afghans that worked with the US government out of the country. He said 2,500 special immigrant visas have been issued to allow them to come to the United States, but only half have come so far.

US to blacklist more companies over Xinjiang

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: The Biden administration is set to add more than 10 Chinese companies to its economic blacklist as early as Friday for alleged human rights abuses and high-tech surveillance in Xinjiang, two sources told the Reuters news agency. The US Commerce Department action follows the addition of five other companies and other Chinese entities to the blacklist over allegations of forced labour in the far western region of China. The additions to Commerce Department's Entity List are part of the Biden administration's efforts to hold China accountable for human

rights violations, the sources said. China dismisses accusations of genocide and forced labour in Xinjiang and says its policies are necessary to stamp out separatists and religious extremists, who plotted attacks and stirred up tension between mostly Muslim ethnic Uighurs and Han, China's largest ethnic group. The Chinese embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment. One of the sources said the department plans to add 14 Chinese companies to the Entity List for reported abuses in Xinjiang. The identities of the companies being added were not immediately known. Some companies from other countries are also set to be added to the department's

blacklist as soon as Friday. The White House declined to comment, while the Commerce Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The additions are the latest salvo as President Joe Biden presses China for what the administration has said are worsening human rights abuses against the Uighur population in Xinjiang. Generally, entity-listed companies are required to apply for licences from the Commerce Department and face tough scrutiny when they seek permission to receive items from US suppliers. Last month, the Commerce Department said it was adding the five Chinese entities «for accepting or utilising forced labour in the implementation of the People's Republic

of China's campaign of repression against Muslim minority groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region». The department said the action in June targeted the ability of the five entities, including Chinese-based solar panel material firm Hoshine Silicon Industry, «to access commodities, software, and technology ... and is part of a US Government-wide effort to take strong action against China's ongoing campaign of repression against Muslim minority groups» in Xinjiang. This is not the first time the US government has targeted Chinese firms linked to allegations of high-tech surveillance activity in Xinjiang. In 2019, the Trump administration added some of China's top artificial intelligence startups to its eco-

nomical blacklist for its treatment of Muslim minorities. The Commerce Department under Trump targeted 20 Chinese public security bureaus and eight companies including video surveillance firm Hikvision, as well as leaders in facial recognition technology SenseTime Group and Megvii Technology. The Commerce Department said in 2019 the entities were implicated in «high-technology surveillance against Uighurs, Kazakhs, and other members of Muslim minority groups.» UN experts and rights groups estimate more than a million people, most of them Uighurs and members of other Muslim minorities, have been detained in recent years in a vast system of camps in Xinjiang.

Briefs

Stranded citizens in Europe, ME to be brought home by 20

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Aviation Ghulam Sarwar Khan has assured that all the stranded Pakistanis in Europe and the Middle East will be brought to the country by 20th of this month. Speaking in the National Assembly on Friday, he said PIA has operated special flights to bring overseas Pakistanis to the country from the Middle Eastern Region. By now, 54116 stranded Pakistanis have been brought to the country in a dignified manner. He said those in Europe and the UK are also being transported to the country through chartered flights. Ghulam Sarwar Khan said overseas Pakistanis are our precious asset and they are contributing immensely to the country's economy. He said their remittances reached 29 billion dollars during the last fiscal year. Responding to a calling attention notice, Adviser on Parliamentary Affairs Babar Awan said several projects have been initiated in different cities under Naya Pakistan Housing Scheme to provide low cost houses to the common man. Construction of forty five thousand housing units is underway and work on them will be completed in eighteen months' time.

Fire at Bangladesh juice factory kills 52

AGENCIES

DHAKA: A massive blaze that killed 52 people in a Bangladesh factory and forced workers to leap for their lives from upper floors set off angry recriminations on Friday over the country's industrial safety record. About 30 other people were injured in the fire, and hundreds of distraught and angry relatives clashed with police on a highway outside the food factory even as the building continued to burn. The inferno was the latest to tarnish Bangladesh's safety record, which has been marred by a series of disasters in factories and apartment buildings. The country pledged reforms after the Rana Plaza disaster in 2013 when a nine-storey complex collapsed, killing more than 1,100 people. But in February 2019, at least 70 people died when an inferno ripped through Dhaka apartments where chemicals were illegally stored. Critics said lax safety standards have been exposed again by the new disaster at the Hashem Food and Beverage factory in Rugganj, an industrial town outside Dhaka. Highly flammable chemicals and plastics had been stockpiled inside and enabled the fire to quickly take over the building, according to Dhaka fire chief Dinu Moni Sharma Sharma.

Pfizer pushes for third shot amid Delta surge

DNA

NEW YORK: Pfizer and BioNTech announced on Thursday they would seek authorisation for a third dose of their Covid-19 vaccine to boost its efficacy, as the Delta variant drove devastating outbreaks in Asia and Africa and cases rose again in Europe and the United States. With the pandemic once again regaining intensity, Japan banned fans from most Olympic events and placed Tokyo under a virus state of emergency throughout the Games. The decision comes just two weeks before the opening ceremony. Delta is the most infectious strain of the virus since the start of the global pandemic in early 2020. Originally detected in India months ago, it has quickly spread and today is accelerating outbreaks even in countries with high vaccination rates. This led the WHO to warn that the world was at a "perilous point" as the official global death toll passed four million.

Afghan situation needs to be carefully handled

It is important to discuss these issues in an open and constructive environment, says Sherry Rehman, chairing Senate Foreign Committee meeting

SUJJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Chairing the first Senate's Foreign Affairs Standing Committee meeting, PPP Parliamentary Leader in the Senate, Senator Sherry Rehman said, "The Foreign Affairs Committee is an optimal parliamentary instrument for building consensus on key issues that beset the country at a difficult time in the region. This is not a political jalsa, but an important venue for building stakes in inclusive policy-making, particularly when pressures from Afghanistan loom large, including the threat of civil war and escalating violence which could likely result in a spillover into Pakistan. Since the task of any effective foreign policy is first to protect the country's people, territory and state,

it is crucial we have some meetings that are public in order to send a message to the world that Pakistan's parliament speaks with a mature, self-confident voice about both our responsibilities in the region and limits on them. Peace both at home and abroad, connectivity, neutrality in Afghanistan and support for a negotiated political settlement that is Afghan-owned and led have been Pakistan's state policy since 2012, when strategic depth was officially jettisoned as both a plan and message to send to a sovereign Afghanistan. It is good to see that there is a multi party constant on these even today. Hence, it is important to discuss these issues in an open and constructive environment". "Members have voiced concerns about the impact

Afghan situation out of control: Moeed

ISLAMABAD: National Security Adviser Moeed Yusuf on Friday said that the situation in Afghanistan is not stable and that Pakistan does not have control over things happening there. Speaking to the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs at the Parliament House, Yusuf questioned the narrative that if there is no peace in Afghanistan, there wouldn't be peace in Pakistan either. Shedding light on the situation in Afghanistan, Yusuf said that security is not possible there without the prevalence of peace. He said that the withdrawal of the US forces from Afghanistan is more of a "psychological evacuation" instead of a physical one, adding that Pakistan should make efforts to maintain stability in the war-torn country. He said that the Government of Pakistan is devising a strategy for the country's future, adding that the government is planning to connect with the world in terms of development, partnership, and regional peace. The national security adviser also briefed the forum about the security measures that the government is taking for Pakistan in terms of border security and said that a special visa policy has also been formulated for Afghanistan. He also spoke about the civil-military coordination in Pakistan and said that problems that arose in the past in this regard are no longer there. - DNA

of the accelerated United States' exit, and the security vacuum that has ensued. We hope the security stalemate is resolved peacefully as talks continue in other regional countries, and we also hope that gains made in the last 20 years are not reversed. There are natural questions based on a potential worsening of the crisis, and the fact remains that the Taliban are negotiating now from a position of unprecedented strength. Pakistan's first priority must be to protect our population from a surge in violent extremism, as well as a constructed narrative from certain spoiler quarters that Pakistan has to bear the responsibility of both security and peace in Afghanistan. The burden must be shared by the region and international community

in meaningful ways, and for this Pakistan must launch a diplomatic offensive for a big-tent conference that shares the task of negotiating peace, and shoring up a torn country driven by a war economy." Rehman also said "It is not the best time to be making enemies in any geopolitical contest in the region or in the broader global context, given our exposure to the multilateral system. Pakistan should not get caught up in the crosshairs of any new great game, or at least manage a balance," she added. Vice President PPP Senator Sherry Rehman concluded by saying, "The situation in Afghanistan needs to be carefully handled as Pakistan cannot afford any possibility which threatens our national interests and undermines our efforts for a peaceful solution to the Afghan crisis."

WHO raises concerns on Afghan situation

WEB DESK

GENEVA: A World Health Organisation official said Friday health workers are struggling to get medicines and supplies into Afghanistan where facilities have come under attack and some staff have fled escalating violence. Taliban fighters have signalled they want continued support for health services in the areas they are taking, the WHO's regional emergencies director, Rick Brennan, said. But the situation was fluid and needs remained "enormous and complex" in a country where at least 18.4 million people require humanitarian assistance, including 3.1 million children at risk of acute malnutrition, he added. Taliban officials said on Friday they had taken control of 85% of territory in Afghanistan. Government officials dismissed the assertion by a Taliban delegation visiting Moscow as part of a propaganda campaign launched as foreign forces, including the United States, withdraw after almost 20 years of fighting. "We are concerned about our lack of access to be able to provide essential medicines and supplies and we are concerned about attacks on health care," Brennan, speaking via videolink from Cairo, told a UN briefing in Geneva. There had been 30 attacks on facilities this year, including a reported artillery attack on a health centre in Kunar province two days ago, he added, without saying who was responsible. Health workers in some rural clinics had fled, though others had returned to their jobs, he added. "The Taliban are asking through indirect means, informally, for support for the continuity of health services in the areas that they are taking ... So I hope that there will be some stability," Brennan said.

NA speaker distributes millions sans approval

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser has doled out Rs310 million to members of the assembly staff in the name of honorary salaries. Speaker NA did not bother to seek permission from Prime Minister Imran Khan or the Ministry of Finance, hence causing the loss of millions of rupees to the national exchequer. Quoting sources, a private television channel reported that the speaker even gave three honorary salaries to each member of the assembly staff, and the interesting thing is that neither the prime minister nor finance ministry has so far approved Asad Qaiser's decision.



ISLAMABAD: US Chargé D' Affaires A.I Angela Aggeler call on Mr. Tabish Gohar, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Petroleum & Power at his office. - DNA

PM raises voice of Kashmiris at all int'l forums: Farrukh

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib says Prime Minister Imran Khan has proved himself a true ambassador of Kashmir. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad, he said Imran Khan has exposed the real face of India in front of the world. The Minister of State said the Prime Minister raised the voice of Kashmiris at all international forums including the United Nations and OIC. He said Pakistan will continue to support the

Kashmir cause at any cost. Farrukh Habib said PML-N leader Maryam Nawaz is trying to deceive the people of Azad Kashmir by claiming herself a Kashmiri. He said people of Azad Kashmir will reject PML-N in upcoming elections. Separately, Farrukh Habib said the Prime Minister's Kamyab Jawan Program is aimed at uplifting the country's youth and providing them opportunities to excel in their lives. Addressing a ceremony in Islamabad on Friday, he said the Kamyab Jawan Program is heading successfully and it is a transparent program.



Taliban claim control of 85% Afghan territory

WEB DESK

MOSCOW: The Afghan Taliban on Friday claimed that 85% of Afghanistan's territory was under their control as the group continued its offensive amid a US military withdrawal. At a press conference in Moscow, Taliban negotiator Shahabuddin Delawar said that "85% of Afghanistan's territory" is under the group's control, including some 250 of the country's 398 districts. "All administrative bodies and hospitals continue their work on this territory. We ensured their functionality," he said, calling on international organisations "not to interrupt their missions." Delawar said that the US withdrawal was a result of the Taliban bringing Afghanistan's population over to its side under the "principle of Islam". "The United States was forced to leave our territory," he said.

PML-N playing politics with students: Shafqat

"They know that decision to take exams was taken unanimously by all federating units including PML-N Govt in AJK, and PPP in Sindh"

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Shafqat Mahmood on Friday said exams would start in federal capital as well as provinces from Saturday, terming Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), which is breaking apart, as playing politics with students by cheap popularity by demanding cancellation of examinations. In a series of Tweets, Shafqat Mahmood said people like Ahsan Iqbal and Saad Rafiq knew that exams have already started in Baluchistan and Sindh, therefore other students could not be treated differently. "They know that decision to take exams was taken unanimously by all federating units including PML-N Govt

in AJK, and PPP in Sindh". They knew that students could not be promoted on the basis of previous exams as there were no exams last year, he mentioned. Saad Rafiq and Ahsan Iqbal should know that for educating people, exams are the best measure to evaluate students' ability, adding, class 12 is much important as the students have to go to universities and professional colleges on the basis of HSSC results, Shafqat Mahmood added. He stressed that why should hardworking students be discriminated and asked PML-N leaders to stop cheap politics. He went on saying that both PML-N leaders should know that after 18th amendment, out of 30 educational boards, only one board, the federal board is under the federal government.

Yet they were pretending that one order from federal minister could stop exams across the country. He said, PML-N leaders have attempted again a failed attempt at cheap politics. Shafqat Mahmood said exams were starting from Saturday in the remaining provinces and federating units. He also wished all students who would appear in exams good luck. While offering an opportunity to those students who wanted more time for preparations, he said they could avail the chance of appearing in supplementary exams that would be taken after two to three months by all boards. "Why should these exams be postponed and students who have been studying be penalised", he questioned PML-N.

UNSC extends cross-border aid operation for Syria

AGENCIES

NEW YORK: The UN Security Council on Friday unanimously approved an extension of activity at the only border crossing through which humanitarian aid reaches a rebel-held part of Syria. The UN's cross-border aid authorization for northwest Syria, due to expire Saturday, will now be prolonged by six months, with a possible six month renewal. The approved text is an amalgam of two drafts - one proposed by Norway and Ireland and another by Russia.

Foreign hit squad killed Haiti's president

NEWS DESK

LONDON: A group of 28 foreign mercenaries, including retired Colombian soldiers, assassinated Haiti's President Jovenel Moïse earlier this week, police say. After a gun battle in the capital Port-au-Prince, 17 were detained, some at the house they were using, others after entering Taiwan's diplomatic compound. Three suspects were killed by police and eight are still being sought. Bloodied and bruised, arrested suspects were shown to the media on Thursday, along with a slew of seized weapons. It is still unclear who organised the attack and with what motive. The attack took place in the early hours of Wednesday, when gunmen broke into the president's home in Port-au-Prince, shooting him dead and wounding his wife. Mr Moïse, 53, was found lying on his back with 12 bullet wounds and a gouged eye, according to authorities. Martine Moïse, 47, was seriously wounded and is in a stable condition after being flown to Florida for treatment.

Online registration for this year's Hajj completed

"There will be an escort for every 20 pilgrims, acting as a health leader to offer guidance and verify implementation of precautionary measures during all movements of the pilgrims," spokesman for the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, Hesham Saeed said

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah announced completion of online registration for 60,000 domestic pilgrims for this year's Hajj. The online registration for pilgrims from among citizens and residents from inside the Kingdom began on June 13, the ministry said in a statement. The pilgrims, who fulfilled the health and regulatory requirements and standards for this year's Hajj, have been issued necessary per-

mits, Saudi Gazette reported. The pilgrims shortlisted for this year's Hajj represent 150 countries. Deputy Minister of Hajj and Umrah Dr. Abdelfattah Bin Suleiman Mashat said that as many as 558,270 people applied for the Hajj during the first phase of registration, adding that the priority was given to those who had not previously performed the pilgrimage and their age group. The ministry also called on all eligible pilgrims who have received Hajj permits to take the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine without booking an ap-

No outsider allowed to perform Hajj: Ashrafi

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Friday warned strict action against those trying to mislead the intending pilgrims about issuing hajj visas for performing upcoming hajj this year. In a video statement, he said the Saudi government has not issued any Majamla visa or granted Hajj quota to Pakistan or its embassy for performing the upcoming hajj. The people spreading baseless rumours that Saudi Arabia had issued Majamla visas to Pakistan, would be dealt with strictly. He said Hajj was a sacred religious obligation for which good health, having sufficient expenditures of travelling were must for an intending pilgrim.

pointment and adhere to preventive and precautionary measures. The Ministry of Hajj and Umrah clarified that pilgrims will be received during the 7th and 8th of Zilhaj in four reception centers, after which they will be transported by buses to the Holy Mosque in Makkah to perform Arrival Tawaf before heading to the Holy Sites. Saudi Arabia will designate a health escort for every 20 pilgrims in the annual Hajj season due later this month, according to a Saudi official, as the kingdom has ramped up efforts for

organising the Muslim pilgrimage curtailed due to COVID-19. Last month, Saudi Arabia said that due to the continuation of COVID-19 and its variants, performing this year's Hajj will be confined to 60,000 pilgrims from Saudis and Muslim foreign residents in the kingdom. "There will be an escort for every 20 pilgrims, acting as a health leader to offer guidance and verify implementation of precautionary measures during all movements of the pilgrims," spokesman for the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, Hesham Saeed said.