

### **Briefs Rise of TTP** not in Pak interest

MAHNOOR ANSAR



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 fa-

vour 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.

## 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, believed to have originated in India, 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.

Shujaat Hamza

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador

of European Union (EU) to

Pakistan Androulla Kami-

nara, 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 per-

taining to religious freedom

Moreover, a brief discus-

sion on unifying the heads

of Islamic countries to erad-

icate Islamophobia from the

Western-world also took

place. Earlier this week, An-

droulla Kaminara stressed

Intrafaith and interfaith

harmony is the need of the

hour. Unity is a symbol of

and rights of minorities.

*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.



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

### Maryam accuses PM of 'buying votes'

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

> AJK CEC writes to PM Imran

### **STAFF REPORT**

ISLAMABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chief Election Commissioner, retired Justice Abdul Rashid Sulehria, has written a letter to Prime Minister Imran Khan requesting him to ensure that ministers observe the code of conduct set for the July 25 elections to the AJK Legislative Assembly.

The development comes after a video began circulating on social media which shows Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Ali Amin Gandapur handing over a thick bundle of cash to some supporters in AJK's LA-1 Mirpur 1 constituency where he had gone to campaign this week.

Qadri, Amb. Kaminara for tackling Islamophobia

#### SAIFULLAH

wel

Pakistan

welcomes

Iran's

mediation



out a peaceful solution for the conflict-hit country after the pullout of American troops. "Pkistan 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 adedd. He hoped that the Afghan parties would seize the opportunity and achieve an "inclusive, broadbased 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

Adviser Moeed Yusuf said

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





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

vironment and climate are our common heritage. Protecting it is our national responsibility. Women have an important role to play in the Roundtable Peace Conferdevelopment and prosperence at Lahore.

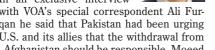
national solidarity. The en- ity of Pakistan. Protecting the rights of children and women is our first responsibility. She was addressing the Intrafaith and Interfaith

Pakistan cannot accept **Afghan refugees : Moeed** 

#### ALI FURQAN / VOA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's National Security

that the United States withdrawal from Afghanistan without political settlement is a tragedy which might lead towards a civil war.

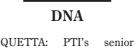


Yusuf said, United States is repeating the mistake of 90's in Afghanistan by leaving the country without power sharing agreement between Taliban and Kabul administration. Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security Moeed Yousaf has said that Pakistan has been of the view that there should be a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

Continued on Page 06

times of pandemic. Ambassador appreciated and Pakistan's acknowledged positive role in the region and pledged to play his role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation between both countries.

Syed Zahoor takes charge as Governor



vice-president of the provincial chapter, Syed Zahoor Agha, on Friday

ernor 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 Yasinzai, tendered his resignation. Yasinzai, 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.

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

DNA

PATTAKA: PML-N Vice-Pres-ident Mar-

spending money to "buy

votes" ahead of the July 25

general elections in Azad and

Jammu Kashmir (AJK). Ad-

dressing a rally in Pattaka,

AJK, as part of her party's

yam Nawaz

alleged that

Prime Min-

ister Imran

Friday

was

on

Khan

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

### US desires stable, sustainable ties with Pakistan

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, longterm 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

Continued on Page 06

### 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.



### Inside...

Faisalabad: NHMP starts issuing int'l driving permits – Page 02

Envoy calls for boosting Pak-Palestine bilateral trade – Page 03

M&NH police hold session on 'Road Safety' at Punjab College

– Page 04 Time is not right for full Afghan withdrawal – Page 05

UNGA President holds meeting with Kazakh President, Speaker – Page 06

Pakistani diaspora a bridge between Pakistan & Canada – Page 07

Afghan situation needs to be carefully handled – Page 08

### **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



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 govern-

ment of Afghanistan, said Atmer. "We are monitoring links between the TTP, Taliban and Al-Qaeda on a daily basis," said Atmer. "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 Afghanistan 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

Continued on Page 06

### '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

Continued on Page 06



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

'Afghanistan could be

on path to civil war'

Continued on Page 06

### DNA ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi received

took oath as the 25th governor of Balochistan at a ceremony held at the Gov-

## 02

## NATIONAL

### Islamabad **POST** Saturday, July 10, 2021

### **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 Mukhtiar Ali (BS-16) posted Acting DSP Investigation Cantt., Inspector Fazle Rabi (BS-16) posted Act-ing 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 inSa darSammundri 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



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 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 TalatMahmood Senior Vice President FCCI welcomed the participants of the meeting

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 Pa-

#### 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 (FIED-MC)", he said and added that however now he is contemplating to shift these to Qatar. He also urged the NHMP to launch

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 FaizullahKamoka, 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 DrShahid 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 spraved 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

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 Sammundri.

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 launched on the special directives of Chief Minister Khyber pakhtunkh waMahmood Khan, said a press release issued from Central Police Office (CPO) here on Friday.

For this purpose, special Eradication Narcotics Teams (NETs) have been constituted across the province while the Inspector General of Police IGP) Pakhtunkhwa, Khvber 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 of ficers 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.

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

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

kistan and other developed countries and said that even our educated vouth lack road sense and hence we must regularly arrange awareness sessions for them.

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.

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 ChakJhumrah, Sports Complex Jaranwala,

Govt General Hospital Chak 224-RB, New Building RHC Khur-

rianwala, New Building THQ Sammundri, 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 KhurrianwalaJaranwala, Pindi Sheikh Musa,

Kanjwani, Mamukanjan, RHC Chak 400-GB, RHC Chak 153-

jects such as provision of interest-free

loans to the youth to ensure employ-

ment as the country's prosperity is

correlated to success of the youth, the

minister said and added that the govern-

ment was focusing on the development

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

He also said that the Billion Tree Tsunami

was appreciated all over the world but the

Opposition political parties were also criti-

of youth and environment.

they failed to prove it, he added.

cizing the same without proof.

RB, RHC Chak 374-GB and Chak 469-GB, he added. – DNA

a portal for the immediate redressal

of complaints filed by the regular

### '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 ststed by UAF Vice Chancellor Prof DrAnasSarwar Qureshi here on Friday. He was chairing a meeting of the Graduate Studies Research Board at the Syndicate Room.

Director Graduate Studies DrEjaz 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** 

### GCWUF holds final project exhibition of fashion design

Their themes covered

Cubism, Winter Queen,

and artistic skill.

### 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. RobiaShafiq and Ms. ShahidaAftab. Sixteen students presented their themebased project that reflected their creative, aesthetic,

**BUREAU REPORT** 

ABBOTTABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Minister for Labor and Culture Shaukat

Ali Yousafzai Friday said that when Pa-

kistan 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-

Shaukat Ali Yousafzai said Pakistan has

vast potential of hydel power generation

which can end the power crises in the

iMaira Waterfall Galyat.

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&Gabana to Art legends like Pablo Picasso. Students worked on

and Rome.

different cutlines 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



PESHAWAR: Chief Sectheme of Egyptian, Greek 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.

rona 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. corona vaccination drive. The meeting also decid-

ed that next week would be observed as Corona SOPs Implementation and Awareness Week. - APP

addition to starting many other pow-

er projects, the minister said.

Shaukat Yousufzai stated that

today's youth was very intel-

ligent, anyone who wanted

to get involved in practical

politics would be definite-

ly welcomed. Youth is

the future of this country

and Prime Minister Im-

ran 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-

Pak has vast potential of hydle power: Shaukat Yousufzai

Shaukat Ali Yousafzai 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

country but no previous regime was inaugurated Momand and Shah Dams, in

interested to construct any dam

and they only produced pow-

er through plants that were

working on expensive

furnace oil which is the

real cause of inflation

and shortage of elec-

tricity in the country.

He said that the past re-

gimes of PPP and PML-N

used Kalabagh dam for

politics and if they were

sincere with the country they

could build many dams. Dur-

ing only three years of the present

government, Prime Minister Imran Khan

#### CS directs DC Faisalabad visits observance of cattle markets corona SOPs

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali went to cattle market chak 241 R.B Chanchal Singh wala retary (CS) Khyber Pakhand checked the necessary arrangements for the sellers tunkhwa Dr. Kazim Niaz and buyers. He directed to finish the self proclaimed maron Friday directed relevant kets for selling animals inside the city. He urged to take 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

Government, Transport and Information Department. the COVID-19 in the district. District Health Officer DrAtaul-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

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 aslo 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 veternarydispensites and 32 motorbikes have been deputed from Livestock for treatment of the sacrifical animals in the streets and mohala level. Deputy Commissioner departed them from DC office. Director Livestock Dr.Ashfaq Ahmad

#### presiding over a high level meeting on prevention of potential fourth wave of Covid-19 and implementation of precautionary Anjum and Additional Director Dr.Haider Ali Khan was also measures. The meeting was present. Deputy Commissioner said that this was a facility attended by administrative for citizens to check up their sacrifical animals. secretaries of Health, Local 616,219 people vaccinated in Faisalabad As many as 616,219 people have so far been vaccinated against

The meeting was informed that positivity ratio of co-He also directed health authorities to speed up



### **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 percent were registered as private limited companies, 31 percent as single member companies and four percent 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 amounted to Rs3.3 billion.

The construction & real estate sector took the lead with the incorporation of 474, trading with 382, I.T 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

# **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 Rabaie, 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 cooper-

ate with each other in many areas.

ghanistan during May 2021

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 MohallaKhehshan colony, House no, CB 81 Misriyal road, Sanjoli street, Adyala Road, St no 29, Taxila jalalaroad, Tench-Bhatta, Abadi no 2, Gulshan Abad st no 9, DhokeKashmiria, Zia street no 20 and 23, Amarpura chowk, B block sector 4b Khayban Sirsyed, and DhokDalal 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

### 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

### 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.

ports 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-

Presently masses have to pay for sixty percent of the healthcare expenses which hit many badly as al-Dr. Mughal said that World Bank and most half of the population is living

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

On the other hand, the im-

to the data. hospitals, imposing a ceiling on profits, and introducing universal health insurance, he added.

### Mutual Legal Assistance Bill passed

other sectors

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senate Standing Committee on Interior on Friday passed "The Mutual Legal Assis tance (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 ab sence 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 Kamyab 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.

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

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.

Continued

hike in health

budget lauded

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

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

### 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.

digenous people in America titled Red Nation Rising (2021) states that the Indian Health Service "sterilized between 25 and 50 percent of all Native women

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 coming radicalized. One of the proposals 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-

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

> 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.3

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.

## A book documenting the genocide of inbetween the years 1970 and 1976."

## 04

## **TWIN CITIES**



### Briefs

### **Federal Board** finalizes all arrangements for exams

### **STAFF REPORT**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) has finalized all arrangements for the annual examination 2021 of SSC/HSSC that will start tomorrow (Saturday). According to a press release

issued on Friday, FBISE said that the exams are being held from tomorrow (Saturday) as per given schedule.

The staff has been deployed on all examination centres while the students have also been issued roll number slips The first intermediate paper of Biology/Mathematics will be conducted on Saturday 10-07-2021 at 02 PM. All students are requested to report at their examination centres as per their date sheet keeping in view the Covid-19 safety measures.

### STH submissions to conclude

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: The last date of Sarangi Talent Hunt (STH) singing contest season 5 submissions would conclude July 10 (Saturday) here.

According to the statement issued here, the platform invited emerging interested singers and citizens to be part of the journey by submitting a video showcasing vocal skills, for the chance to become Sarangi Star Season 5.it is a singing talent hunt platform which has discovered unique and wonderful voices from across the country so far.

Sarangi music initiative, launched in October 2017, was a part of local Hotel's Cultural Diplomacy Initiative which aimed to project and promote the cultural heritage of Pakistan by encouraging young talent and giving them an opportunity to become the nation's rising star. Through engaging social media, the music competition has received tremen-

## M&NH police hold session on 'Road Safety' at Punjab College

Prof. Ch M Akram Director, Punjab colleges, Islamabad /Rawalpindi welcomed and thanked the team for giving comprehensive briefing regarding the use of road to the students of PCS, Blue Area Islamabad

### ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The team of motorway and National highway police held a comprehensive interactive session on road safety at Punjab College, Blue Area Islamabad. A detailed briefing on the use of road by drivers, bikers and pedestri-

an was given on multimedia. The students showed utmost interest and asked questions regarding the road safety.

Prizes were given to right answer

givers. At the end of the session, director Punjab colleges, Islamabad /Rawalpindi region Proffessor Ch Muhammad Akram thanked the team and also thanked campus Principal Prof Shahid Islam and prof Qaiser Nadeem for coordinating with the team

Director, Proffessor Chaoudhry M Akram urged that the students should abide by traffic rules and set examples for others.







### UK-Pakistan to establish centre of emerging technologies

CEO MagnaCarta College Ejaz Chaudhry said 'The IT certifications by BCS UK will increase the employability and freelance opportunities for our youth in the global arena

### STAFF REPORT

signed by the Founder and ISLAMABAD: UK-Pakistan Managing Partner Accredi-Academic Partnership to Nation (in country partner Strengthen Research and organization for British Development in Emerging Computing Society), Asad Technologies - Mike Nith-Aamir Ansari and Head avrianakis, Britain's Depuof Institution (ECMCC), ty High Commissioner and Abdul Hafeez Malik. His Trade Director for Pakistan. Excellency Mike Nithavr-Internet age and its usage, ianakis, Britain's Deputy new technologies that are High Commissioner and currently being developed Trade Director for Pakistan was the Guest of Honor will be developed within the next five to ten years or and witnessed the partare referred to as emergnership signing along with ing technologies. Extreme Commerce Magna Carta College (ECMCC) and British Computing Society/AccrediNation are jointly establishing Pakistan's first Centre for Emerging Technologies in Pakistan. in agreeing on this part-The agreement to cement this partnership was nership, which he hopes signed by both organizawill flourish and lead to

excellence in the area of was emerging technologies" The world has seen a technological revolution since the advent of the internet. Sunny Ali, Founder Extreme Commerce in his message said, Pakistan has lacked a Centre for Emerging Technologies. Although there have been efforts in the public sector. We are proud to take this lead in Pakistan to launch a private sector driven initiative. He further said, this partnership will set new benchmarks in training a new breed of hu-

gence can be used in many different industries, including IT, medicine, finance, and more. These technologies are making our daily usage devices smarter, providing deeper, more valuable insight into data and making cloud-based tools more efficient. In terms of impact, these technologies have the power to change the way we deploy, engage, and make use of technology at all levels.

CEO MagnaCarta College Ejaz Chaudhry said 'The IT

### **SAPM Usman** Dar chairs NYC planning meeting

### SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Planning meeting of National Youth Council (NYC), chaired by Usman Dar SAPM on Youth Affair, has been held today in Islamabad. During the meeting, the members of NYC shared their plan of activities for the year 2021. The deliverables and timeline for NYC goals and objectives were discussed and concluded during the meeting whilst defining roles and responsibilities of each member of the council.

Farrukh Habib, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting also attended the event and spoke to the participants. He said that the political struggle of Prime Minister Imran Khan is exemplary for Pakistani youth. "We need to put in our hard work and cope with the challenges valiantly to become successful", remarked Farrukh Habib. He further lauded PM's Kamyab Jawan Programme for providing immense opportunities to young people and particularly the business Loan Scheme which is playing a crucial role in making youth independent, economically empowered and successful. SAPM on Youth Affairs while

### First monsoon spell to start from today

ISLAMABAD: The first spell of monsoon is likely to start from Saturday (July 10) in the federal capital and various other parts of the country.

Spokesperson Met Office Zaheer Baber on Friday said monsoon currents from Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal are penetrating in upper parts of the country which would onset monsoon, he told APP.

He informed that during the spell, rains are expected in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum, Gujrat, Mandi Bahauddin, Sialkot, Narowal, Gujranwala, Hafizabad, Lahore, Sheikhupura, Kasur, Okara, Faisalabad, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Sargodha, Mianwali, Khushab, Bhakkar and Layyah.

Met Office also warned possibility of damages due to windstorm during the first monsoon spell. The prevailing water stress in rain-fed areas would likely to subside and there would be improvement in water reservoirs due to the upcoming rain spell, he said. - APP

### MCI to set up 3 cattle markets

### STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Administrator, MCI, Syeda Shafaq Hashmi on Friday said that the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) would set up three cattle markets at different locations in the outskirts of the federal capi-

tal ahead of Eid-ul-Adha. He said that the cattle markets would be established at Barakahu, Taramri and Tarnol, following National and Command Operation Center (NCOC) guidelines for Eid-ul-Adha, directing the authorities concerned to assure that cattle markets were established outside the cities to curb the virus spread,

Talking to APP, she said the markets would be functional from 1st Zilhaj, likely to start on July 11 (Sunday), with strict implementation of standard operating pro-

dous response over the years from across the country and an incredible pool of talented singers and musicians has been identified and given opportunities to many.

### PM updated on harassment case

#### KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police Islamabad Qazi Jameel-ur-Rehman called on Prime Minister Imran Khan here on Friday and briefed him on the ongoing investigation into the case of a couple, that was assaulted by a group of gangsters.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister was briefed by the IG on the progress made on the incident of sexual harassment and detention of the couple in the capital's Sector E-11. The IG informed the prime minister that he was personally overseeing the case to ensure effective criminal

proceedings after the arrest of the accused. All scientific resources were being used to gather evidence for the trial, the IG said. He also briefed the Prime Minister on the law and order situation in Islamabad.

Fawad pays tribute to Fatima Jinnah

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Friday paid tributes to Mother of the Nation Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah on the occasion of her 54th death anniversary. In a tweet the minister said, it was a great honor for his family that his paternal uncle Chaudhry Altaf was one of the key leaders of her caravan in West Pakistan in the 1964 elections. Sharing a rare group photo of Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah on the occasion of her arrival in Jhelum, he said this memorable picture was an asset of his family.

leading corporates from the tech industry. British Deputy High Commissioner Karachi and Trade Director for Pakistan Mike Nithavrianakis attended and congratulated the institutions involved

tions today.

partnership

The

man resource in the country that can provide leadership for the industry and business community alike for the emerging technologies for global challenges.

Asad Aamir Ansari, Founder and Managing Partner for AccrediNation said, emerging technologies, especially artificial intellicertifications by BCS UK will increase the employability and freelance opportunities for our youth in the global arena. In today's ever-changing and competitive market, IT professionals need knowledge, expertise and practical skills that are internationally recognized and industry relevant.'

addressing to NYC members, highlighted the challenge of employability being faced by government for the youth in the job market and suggested that promoting entrepreneurship among youth is the most viable and sustainable solution to tackle this challenge.

"Young potential entrepreneurs with lack of resources can benefit from Kamyab Jawan Loan Scheme by proposing a feasible business idea to establish their own start-up." Stated Usman Dar"Become a job creator, rather a job seeker", underlined Usman Dar SAPM thanked international donor partners for their continuous support and guidance.

cedures (SOPs) issued by the district administration in wake of COVID-19.

"It was responsibility of MCI to provide opportunity to citizens of Islamabad to perform their religious duties along with safety measures," she noted.

According to NCOC guidelines, "A complete ban will remain in place on the sale of sacrificial animals within the premises of cities," "The staffers and the traders at the cattle markets should be vaccinated," it added.

It further added that the temperature of those entering the market should be checked other than sanitizing the hands of the visitors.

### PPRA organizes 3 day workshop

ISLAMABAD: Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Pakistan (PPRA) has organized a three-day capacity building program for senior officers of federal institutions to improve and enhance their capacity on modern techniques of public procurement to ensure transparency, efficiency, and value for money in public spending.

The officers of NADRA, Civil Aviation Authority, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Pakistan Airlines, FBR, State Bank of Pakistan and State Life Insurance among others attended the three-day capacity building on "Advance Procurement Management Level II for Procurement Officials" workshop held in the federal capital.

PPRA Managing Director Rizwan Malik chaired the workshop, while DG HR Farukh Bashir Qazi, lead trainer Ali Raza Hanjra besides Faiza Nair, Saghir Ahmed, Jahangir Rizvi and other officers participated in the workshop, PPRA spokesperson said.

PPRA MD Rizwan Malik said the purpose of the workshop was to acquaint the participants with the international best practices of public procurement at practical level.

He further stated that the workshop provided an opportunity of mutual learning by sharing problems encountered during public procurement and solutions in the light of PPRA Rules. Managing Director PPRA Rizwan Malik presented certificates to the participants. – APP

### **PRCS, Government of AJ&K launch** "Corona Free Kashmir Initiative"

President AJK Masood Khan lauded PRCS's efforts and initiatives in helping the vulnerable communities during pandemic

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Red Crescent Society in collaboration with Health Department of Azad Jammu & Kashmir has launched "Corona Free Kashmir" Initiative under which public will be vaccinated through mobile vaccination units in different districts of the AJK. An inaugural ceremony of the initiative was held at Kashmir House here on Friday.

The ceremony was attended by President AJK Sardar Masood Khan, Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society Abrar ul Haq, Chairman PRCS AJK Ejaz Raza, Secretary General PRCS Dr. Adeel

ALMAN come and have your lunch" shouted his mom from the door of

their hut in the Katchi abadi.

He was playing marbles with his

friends of adversary. His mother

was thin, a widow who lived in

a slum of Karachi. Her husband

died when Salman was 6 years of

age. He was 10 now in the ado-

lescent phase. She worked hard

as a domestic servant in the city.

Their slum was outside the city.

Salman knew that she always

kept the meat for him. If Salman

asked her to have it she would

say she had eaten at Begum Sa-

heba's. But Salman, although

not so old, knew in his heart of

hearts that his mom was laying.

He knew that she saved as much

food as she could for him, of the

little that they had. He entered

his hut with his friend, his mom

looked up as if to say, there is not

enough for the both of us. But she

told Rahman to come in. So Rah-



Nawaz, IFRC Head of Delegation Peter (Piwi) Ophoff, health care workers, officials of GoAJK, PRCS and volunteers. Under this initiative, in the 1st phase vaccination

mobile units have been established in Muzaffarabad and Mirpur, beside mobile units will also be set up in other districts of AJK. PRCS will deploy its ambulances and volunteers for the mass vaccination under this initiative. Speaking on this occasion, AJK President Sardar Masood Khan lauded the efforts of PRCS in combating

coronavirus pandemic, saying that the swift actions of the National Society played a key role in preventing the spread. He said PRCS volun-

ing the affected people from its own resources. In a statement on the occasion, PRCS Chairman Abrar ul Haq said that PRCS has expanded its recently launched campaign. teers have played an effective

Why Should I Be Hungry

man and Salman sat together and ate the dried bread with curry. One day Rahman told Salman that a guest to the slum whom he called, Ustadji, had given him 5 rupees, which was a lot of money for Rahman. He asked Salman to come with him to meet Ustadji. Ustadji seemed to be a nice person. He gave Salman Rs. 5; only nice persons gave money, just like that, thought Salman.

Upon enquiring Salman found out that Ustadji lived in the city. He told Salman that he had a big house and he. Salman could come and stay with him. He would receive Rs. 500 per month.

Salman convinced his mom to let him go. He wanted to help his mom by earning some money to give her.

They sat in a taxi, which wound through roads that Salman had not seen in a lifetime. After an hour or so, the taxi stopped outside a building. Ustadji stepped

outside and asked Salman to follow. A boy about 14 years of age came to Ustadii. He enquired about who Salman was. Ustadji asked him to take Salman to his room.

There Salman saw a quilted robe and Kashkol A pair of crutches were propped up against the wall. Many cases of children being de-



liberately mutilated and disabled by their inhuman Ustadji's for the purpose of beggary have been reported. A substantial amount of takings from these poor and innocent child-beggars fill the purses of their cruel tormentors.

After a couple of days, Salman found himself on the streets with the boy who shared his room, begging for money. He had to report

to Ustadji in the evening, declaring the amount of money he had collected to him.

It is facts that a vast majority of beggars are able bodied and have taken to this lucrative profession as a means of making some easy money. Well, meaning people give alms to them on Fridays in particular and during Ramazan. But they don't realize that by doing so, they are not really implementing the spirit behind the concept of charity. No doubt, some of the destitute need our help, but by giving alms to them we are really encouraging them to become lazy and to harass people.

Salman hated this job, but what could he do. He missed his mom and Rahman very much. But what could he do. Ustadji kept giving excuses for not sending him home. Salman did not know how to find his way home. At night he cried himself to sleep. Take this

money. Ustadji gave him Rs. 10 as a bonus whenever he was in a good mood.

One day, Salman set out early. In the midst of the crowd, he thought he saw Begum Saheba. She lived in the city. He ran like a bullet towards her. With wet eyes he told her his story. She said she would take him to

his mom. She gave him some clothes to wear and made sure he had a bath. He hugged his mom and would not leave her. He hugged Rahman

and thanked Begum Saheba, profoundly. He would skip a meal, even three and live on an empty stomach as long as he could be with his mom and Rahman.

One wonders where the crores of rupees which the government annually collects as zakat goes. Of course the bulk of the amount should be given as annual aid to the poor whether they live in slums or are beggars.

### Peace in Afghanistan

N the midst of the ongoing process of the US' withdrawal, the Taliban have made significant advances in Af-L ghanistan 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.

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### Investment from Singapore in CPEC

### MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

T is indeed a welcome step by the CPEC Chairman, Lt Gen (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa to urge investors from Singapore **L** to tap into the opportunities at the newly established Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under CPEC. He was addressing as a Keynote 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.

### 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 "longterm" 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

N 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 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.

society, and unless they themselves braved forts 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

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

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

HE 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 24/7news (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

## 06

## WORLD / SPORTS



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



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-



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

### US desires stable...

#### From Page 01

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.

6-4.6-4.

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.

an inclusive, broad-based

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 shif.

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

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 the 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 UN GA 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.

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, Jerusa-

lem is a divided city and its

eastern part is considered

occupied Palestinian land,

which gives the Palestinian

Football Association juris-

diction over any football

activities that take place in

Rajoub went on to say that

the accompanying events

for the planned match in-

this part," he continued.

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

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.

talks. He announced that

### Afghanistan could be...

From Page 01

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 staved 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 Xiniiang 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-

nomic 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 Xiniiang.

clude activities scheduled The ship will also particihow to organise its friendly to take place within the Old pate in a bilateral exercise matches, we have the right City of occupied East Jeruwith the Royal Navy after KARACHI: A professional golfer plying his shot during 25th CNS Open to object to the choice of salem, which "constitute a the port visit. - DNA Golf Championship 2021 at Karachi Golf Club. -- DNA Jerusalem as the venue violation of our rights".



Zulfiquar to visit Portsmouth LONDON: Pakistan Navy

#### Ship PNS ZULFIQUAR, 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 Com-

mander whereas Captain Rao

Ahmed Imran Anwar is the

Commanding Officer at the

PNS ZULFIQUAR.

PNS

## **Π7**

## **BUSINESS / WORLD**

### Briefs

### **Russian** FM to visit **Uzbekistan**

### DNA

TASHKENT: Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Sergei Lavrov will visit Uzbekistan from 15 to 16 July 2021. This was announced by the official representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry Maria Zakharova. According to her, Lavrov will take part in the International Conference "Central and South Asia: Regional Interconnectedness. Challenges and Opportunities". forum participants The are planning to consider issues of interregional cooperation. Also, on 16 July, Tashkent will host the 4th meeting of the Foreign Ministries of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The heads of the foreign affairs agencies will discuss issues of interaction in the field of regional security, countering drug trafficking and terrorism.

### Azerbaijan, Russia mull border demarcation

### **News Desk**

BAKU: The ninth meeting of the Azerbaijani-Russian joint demarcation commission took place in Baku on July 6-9, the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry has reported. The meeting was charied by Azerbaijani Deputy Foreign Minister KhalafKhalafov and head of the Russian delegation in the commission Amir Bilyalitdinov.

"The meeting discussed issues related to the continuation of the demarcation process, approved the documents necessary for the organization and conduct of field demarcation work. The installation of border markers will continue in accordance with the Work Plan of the joint Azerbaiiani-Russian demarcation commission for 2021," the report added.

In its statement, the ministry noted that the well-coordinated constructive worl

## Pakistani diaspora a bridge between Pakistan & Canada

HC thanked the organizers and the participants for arranging the event and told them how he always looked up to the Canadian Pakistani community as a reservoir of strength and support in building bridges between Pakistan and Canada

### DNA

OTTAWA: Pakistan High Commissioner to Canada Raza Bashir Tarar has lauded the role of Canadian Pakistani community and their young and enterprising parliamentarians in promoting understanding and strengthening bilateral ties between Pakistan and Canada.

"The Canadian Pakistani community and their young representatives in the Parliament are a testimony of how a community can be a voice of reason and strength in creating understating and harmony in bilateral relations between two countries," he said while talking to a large group of Canadian Pakistanis who attended a Zoom session with him and his wife ahead of his return to Pakistan after completion of a successful tour of duty in Canada.

The event was hosted by Canada Pakistan Affiliated Chamber of Trade (CPACT) led by its founder HaveeBokhari, Chairman Nasir Malik, Co-Chairman Zaheer Khan, President Uzma Khan, Vice President IftikharMirza, Treasurer Amin Akhai and Secretary Iffat-Kazmi. A large number of noted Canadian Pakistanis such as MP



Salma Zahid, MP Iqra Khalid, MP Sameer Zuberi, MP Marie France Lalonde, MP Chandra Arya, Ottawa Councilor Eli El Chantiry and others attended the session and expressed candid views about the legacy and work of High Commissioner Raza Bashir Tarar during his posting in Canada.

The High Commissioner thanked the organizers and the participants for arranging the event and told them how he always looked up to the Canadian Pakistani community as a reservoir of strength and support in building bridges between Pakistan and Canada. He said the recent London Ontario tragedy showed the Canadian Pakistani community could rise to any occasion with the support of Canadian government and people and continue to play its role as a caring and engaged community in the Canadian system.

The High Commissioner urged the Canadian Pakistani community to

remain engaged, promote linkages and build bridges by promoting tourism, trade and business collaborations between both the countries. He urged the community to stand behind their elected representatives and work as human family rising above prejudices and differences and realizing that we all had to live in the same planet and had to protect it from common dangers like climate change and hateful ideologies. Earlier, MP Iqra

Khalid lauded High Commissioner Raza Bashir Tarar for uniting the community and building on trade and cultural links and people-to people contacts. MP Salma Zahid thanked the High Commissioner for serving the community through various initiatives such as virtual public forums and e-kathcheries despite the limitations of COVID-19 to reach out to the community. MP Marie France Lalonde applauded Raza Bashir Tarar for demonstrating during his tenure in Canada the importance of engaging on key questions with

strengthening partnership and collaboration between Canada and Pakistan through his legacy of cooperation, peace and friendship. MP Sameer Zuberi paid tributes to High Commissioner Raza Bashir for his excellent diplomacy and best representation of Pakistan and its interests in Canada which made every Canadian Pakistani proud of him. MP Chandra Arya highlighted and praised the High Commissioner's role in having Pakistan included in Student Di-

rect Stream, open only to seven coun-

tries so far, to allow Pakistani students

quick time in visa processing to fly to

the international community and

Two new military units opened in Karabakh DNA

Islamabad **POST** 

Saturday, July 10, 2021

BAKU: Azerbaijan's State Border Service has inaugurated two military units in liberated Gubadli and Lachin districts on the border with Armenia, the agency's press service reported. Addressing the opening ceremony on July 8, Chief of the State Border Service Col-Gen ElchinGuliyev said that the new military unites would enable Azerbaijan effectively control significant part of the state border with Armenia. Guliyev stressed the impor-

tance of border defense and security infrastructures and the creation of new military units in these areas. He also emphasized the role of the Azerbaijani border guards in ensuring the inviolability of the country's state borders during the Second Karabakh War in autumn 2020.

During the ceremony, medals were given to servicemen who were awarded by the presidential decree last month for heroism in the liberation of Khojavend, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Zangilan regions and historic Shusha city during the war between September 27 and November 10.

Furthermore, Gulivev stressed that the improvement of the service conditions and social security of servicemen is always a top priority for the state. He also met leadership of the Gubadli Special Border Division to discuss the future measures in protecting the state border.

### Thailand's daily Covid-19 cases again top 9,000

BANGKOK: Thailand's COVID-19 cases rose by 9,207 on Friday, the second-highest daily record since the start of the pandemic, as the country mulls to tighten social distancing rules once again to contain the surge in infections.

The number was close to the record daily high of 9,635, which was reported on May 17 this year. With the new infections, Thailand's total tally now stands at 317,506, according to the Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) The recent rapid increase in coronavirus cases was mainly attributed to the spread of the highly transmittable Delta variant, and the country is expected to see up to 10,000 new daily cases soon, CCSA said. A total of 72 deaths were recorded on Friday, the second consecutive day with fatalities over 70, raising the death toll to 2,534. The Thai government has approved a plan to procure more COV-ID-19 vaccines to raise the inoculation capacity. As of Thursday, nearly 12 million doses of COV-ID-19 vaccines have been administered in Thailand. with about 4.8 percent of its population fully vaccinated. - APP

### SAARC Chamber hails Pak-Afghan transit trade accord extension

### DNA LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Friday hailing Pak-Afghan transit trade accord exten-

sion for another six months said it was essential to facilitate uninterrupted flow of transit trade between the two brotherly neighbouring Muslim countries. Talking to a delegation

of importers and exporters led by Muslim Khan Banowari from KPK SAARC Chamber chief Iftikhar Ali Malik that the decision to

extend the agreement was on the secure, open, conmainly aimed at preventing sistent, reliable and finally any disruption in trade and legal movement of goods transit affairs between the at Afghan boarders along both countries whereas it with enhanced connectivwould help buy time to furity with Afghanistan and ther discuss and finalise the CARs he added.

proposed amendments in Iftikhar Ali Malik said it's good omen that both sides He said Pakistan's clear expressed satisfaction with the another extension vision for trade and economic relations with of the agreement and de-Afghanistan and central cided that technical teams Asian republics (CAR) of either countries would was to make Pakistan a conclude the accord soon. hub for trade, transit and He said that over the last extension a total of He further explained that Pakistan trade was based

ing goods valued \$33billion had passed through Pakistan which totalled 30 percent of Afghan transit trade remaining crossed through Iran,Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

Concluding he said Pakistan always attached great importance to Afghanistan and played key role for durable peace in the region. He said SAARC chamber had established a special cell to facilitate the Afghan traders, importers , exporters and private sector to



would lift the newly independent country's economy out of the shatters of Soviet central planning. But 30 years into its operation, Kumtor has for many come to symbolise some of the developing world's greatest ills: corruption, environmental degradation and neocolonial greed. In May, it became clear that dark clouds had gathered over Centerra Gold Inc, a Canadian-registered company operating the high-altitude mine, 26 percent of which belongs to the Kyrgyz state. First, a court ruled that the mine had committed environmental violations by dumping mining waste on glaciers, a move that caused their gradual erosion and cost the state \$3bn. Soon after, the parliament backed a proposmanagement at the mine for three months.





### **FOREIGN DESK**

BISHKEK: In the early 1990s, it was hoped that a large gold mine in eastern Kyrgyzstan, near the Chinese border,

of specialists from both states during the demarcation work was noted.

"The meeting was held in the spirit of good neighborliness and constructive dialogue. The next meeting of the joint commission will take place on the territory of the Russian Federation. The timing of the meeting will be agreed through diplomatic channels, "the Foreign Ministry said.

The border between Rus sia and Azerbaijan was established by an agreement signed in Baku on October 3. 2010. It was ratified on July 18, 2011. The length of the land border between the two countries is 284 km. The joint demarcation commission was founded on May 15, 2013, in Moscow.

## receives emergency medical supplies

Virus-hit Indonesia

the agreement.

shipment.

JAKARTA: Indonesia received desperately needed supplies of oxygen and protective equipment from neighbouring Singapore on Friday to support its overwhelmed healthcare system, as the country battles its deadliest coronavirus wave yet. The Southeast Asian archipelago is being hit by a major outbreak driven by the highly infectious Delta variant, which has led to authorities imposing new curbs nationwide. Hospitals are struggling to cope, with many now refusing new patients, leaving scores to die at home, while desperate relatives hunt for oxygen tanks to treat the sick. Singapore sent supplies including oxygen cylinders, ventilators, masks, gloves and gowns on two air force planes to Jakarta, the city-state's foreign ministry said. Another 1,000 ventilators were due to arrive from Australia later Friday, while Indonesian officials plan to buy more supplies of oxygen and other equipment. The supplies are sorely needed as hospitals set up makeshift treatment tents in parking lots and doctors and other medical workers increasingly become infected. Nearly 1.000 Indonesian medical workers have died of Covid-19, including more than a dozen who were already fully inoculated, according to the country's medical association. - APP

SHUSHA: Envoys of different countries posing for a group photo on their visit to the cultural capital of Azerbaijan Shusha. Pakistani ambassador Bilal Hayee is also present on the occasion. - DNA

### US, Pakistan at 'Convergence' on Afghanistan: Asad Majeed

### Both sides want peace and stability in the region. What's next for the bilateral relationship as the US withdraws from Afghanistan?

#### DNA

WASHINGTON: For the last two decades, U.S.-Pakistan relations have been defined by the war in Afghanistan and counterterrorism concerns. With the United States military withdrawal almost complete, the relationship should broaden to focus on other issues important to both countries and the broader South Asia region. The Afghan peace process, however, will continue to be an important component of U.S.-Pakistan relations, said Pakistan's envoy to the United States on Wednesday. "Afghanistan, for some time, did become [a point of] contention in our relationship. But today, clearly, Afghanistan is a [point of] convergence between Pakistan and United States" as both want to see peace and stability, said Ambassador AsadMajeed Khan.

Khan urged Washington to remain engaged in the peace process after the U.S. withdrawal is complete. "The whole conversation in Washington [on Afghanistan] has come around to the protection of the U.S. embassy, securing the airport and [providing] visas for Afghan interpreters," he said. Meanwhile, intra-Afghan negotiations seem to be at an intractable stalemate and the Taliban are rapidly advancing across rural areas and gaining control of more and more districts across Afghanistan's 34 provinces.

It's not just Washington and Islamabad that have come to a "convergence" on Afghanistan: the broader region, from China to Iran to Russia, do not want or benefit from a Taliban takeover or a civil war. "The disruption to regional trade and flows of refugees are major concerns," said Scott Worden, the director of USIP's Afghanistan programs.

Khan pointed to the Troika Plus Declaration made by Russia, China, Pakistan and the United States - as an example of this regional consensus, which, among other things, asserts that the Taliban and Afghan government will need to come to a common understanding and reach a political settlement to end the war.

Pakistan's complicated relationship with the Taliban has long been a point of discord between Washington and Islamabad. Islamabad been widely criticized opprobrium for providing support and safe haven to the Afghan Taliban. When asked by Olson, a former U.S. special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, what message Pakistan would deliver to the Taliban, Khan again pointed to the principles adduced in the Troika Plus Declaration and similar communiques. "That's the message ... Taking over Kabul by force will not be acceptable ... All countries support an inclusive end state. There has been a clear message on the reduction of violence," he said, adding, "What we have made clear is that we want the parties to talk, and we are ready to help in every possible way."

Nonetheless, Olson noted that Taliban fighters are still able to get medical attention in Pakistan as one example of how the lines remain blurred when it comes to Pakistan's support for the Taliban and the peace process.

"Pakistan has long had leverage over the Afghan Taliban and at times has used it to facilitate talks between the Taliban and the United States," said TamannaSalikuddin, USIP's director for South Asia programs. "While the nature of this leverage is changing given the Taliban's military gains inside Afghanistan, the United States and the region will continue to look to Pakistan to exert its influence with the Taliban to get them to negotiate in good faith," added Salikuddin, who previously served as a senior advisor to the U.S. special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Ultimately, Khan said there is no military solution, a sentiment shared across the region, "I hear the president of the United States say that this is not a winnable war, but then peace is certainly winnable," he said. The Biden administration has focused its foreign policy on countering China's influence worldwide. For its part. Pakistan has a longstanding strategic relationship with its northeastern neighbor and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor – a \$60 billion investment in infrastructure projects -

has only deepened those ties.

But, for Islamabad, great power competition is not a zero-sum game. "Pakistan has very successfully managed good relations between China and the United States. We are definitely keen and determined to maintain that balance," Khan said.

Khan said that Pakistan would like to see Washington and Beijing work together when common interests are at stake. "We clearly see enough space for both the United States and China to co-exist and cooperate ... it also serves the interests of the region," said Khan.



He pointed to Afghanistan as an opportunity for the two great powers to work together to help ensure peace and stability in the region. As China continues to invest billions in the region, the allure of Beijing is strong, particularly among countries with struggling economies, like Pakistan. "While [the United States] is the indispensable nation, China today is an irresistible country for many developing countries for what they bring to the table in terms of trade and investment related incentives ... [and] economic assistance and support," said Khan. Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan has been a leading voice against Islamophobia,

particularly in European countries. Pakistan has also been a prominent advocate for the rights of Kashmiris. Yet, Olson noted that Islamabad had not responded similarly to the plight of the Uyghurs in China's western Xinjiang province. "We really don't see any comparison at all," said Khan. "Kashmir is a dispute between Indian and Pakistan and Pakistan has a legitimate right to voice its concerns on whatever happens there.'

The decades old India-Pakistan rivalry has intensified in recent years, particularly after New Delhi's 2019 decision to revoke the constitutional autonomy and statehood of the disputed Indian-administered region of Kashmir. With both countries holding nuclear weapons arsenals, the Line of Control - a military control line between the Indian- and Pakistani-administered parts of Kashmir - "is perhaps the most dangerous place in the world," said Olson.

The rise in tensions has left many to worry about how to enhance strategic stability in South Asia. "The basic framework for any conversation will have to start from some level of trust and confidence on both sides." said Khan. "And the situation in Kashmir has vitiated the environment to a point that there is, frankly, very little or no engagement with India."

Earlier this year, Pakistan's powerful army chief, Gen. QamarJavedBajwa asked India to "bury the past and move forward," a moment that Olson called "striking." Prime Minister Khan has also called on India to work with Islamabad to resolve issues over Kashmir. Ambassador Khan said that it was both "ironical" and "sad" that the Pakistani premier "wishes to resolve outstanding issues with India through dialogue and engagement," but Indian Prime Minister NarendaModi wants to "use Pakistan as a punching bag to basically prop up their falling approval ratings.

"This is both sad and very unfortunate for the prospects of peace between India and Pakistan," said Khan. For its part. India sees the revocation of Kashmir's autonomy as an internal matter and as a way to prevent a repeat of the intense terrorism that Kashmir saw after the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan as U.S. troops leave the country.

When you add China to the mix - which has had its own border tensions with India in recent years - there are three of the world's five biggest countries, all of which are nuclear armed. Stability in South Asia is tantamount to global security. Khan said this should spur engagement from the international community, particularly the United States, to engage with all three parties and "seek resolution through dialogue."

Earlier this year, senior Pakistani officials signaled that Islamabad's foreign policy will shift from a focus on geopolitics to geoeconomics, moving, in other words, from a hard-power approach to an economic-focused one.

"Our foreign policy should be driven by our economic interests and by the preference and priority of the government to provide better a life and livelihood to our people," said Khan. "So that is what geo-economics is for us."

Critics of this approach note that Pakistan needs to get its economic house in order before such a shift can take place in any meaningful way. Strengthening the country's economy remains an uphill battle. A recent World Bank report, for example, said that Pakistan's total export potential stands at more than \$88 billion, nearly four times its current export earnings. But Islamabad is mired in a debt crisis that financial institutions like the IMF, World Bank and Asian Development Bank have all said requires deep structural reform.

One area Khan focused on that he said could improve Pakistan's struggling economy is enhanced trade and collaboration with the United States. He pointed to energy, agriculture and technology as three areas ripe for stepped up U.S.-Pakistan economic cooperation.

The United States is one of the top investors in Pakistan and one of the largest remittance providers. In 2019, two-way goods trade between the two countries reached \$6.6 billion. Yet, Khan said, "We are just scratching the surface.







### **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 Nava 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 Friday over the country 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 Rupganj, 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.

## **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

### SHUJAAT 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 stated 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 en-

vironment". "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 Unitin meaningful ways, and ed 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 undermines our efforts for shared by the region and a peaceful solution to the international community Afghan crisis.

concerns on Afghan situation WEB DESK

WHO raises

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.

for this Pakistan must

launch a diplomatic offen-

sive for a big-tent confer-

ence 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 multilat-

eral system. Pakistan should

not get caught up in the

crosshairs of any new great

game, or at least manage a

Vice President PPPP Sen-

ator Sherry Rehman con-

cluded by saying, "The situ-

ation in Afghanistan needs

to be carefully handled as

Pakistan cannot afford any

possibility which threatens

our national interests and

approval

DNA

bly staff, and the interest-

ing thing is that neither the

prime minister nor finance

ministry has so far approved

Yet they were pretending

that one order from federal

minister could stop exams

He said. PML-N leaders

have attempted again a

failed attempt at cheap

Shafqat Mahmood said

exams were starting from

Saturday in the remaining

provinces and federating

units. He also wished all

students who would ap-

pear in exams good luck.

While offering an oppor-

tunity to those students

who wanted more time for

preparations, he said they

could avail the chance of

appearing in supplemen-

tary exams that would be

taken after two to three

"Why should these ex-

ams be postponed and

students who have been

studying be penalised",

Last month, Saudi Arabia

said that due to the contin-

uation of COVID-19 and its

variants, performing this

year's Hajj will be confined

to 60,000 pilgrims from

Saudis and Muslim foreign

'There will be an escort for

every 20 pilgrims, acting

as a health leader to offer

guidance and verify imple-

mentation of precautionary

measures during all move-

ments of the pilgrims,'

spokesman for the Saudi

Ministry of Hajj and Um-

rah, Hesham Saeed said.

residents in the kingdom.

he questioned PML-N.

months by all boards.

across the country.

politics.

balance," she added.

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.

### UNSC extends

cross-border



### 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.

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

PM raises voice of Kashmiris at all int'l forums: Farrukh Kashmir cause at any cost.

it is a transparent program.

mits, Saudi Gazette report-

ed. The pilgrims shortlisted

for this year's Hajj repre-

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 per-

formed the pilgrimage and

The ministry also called

their age group.

sent 150 countries.

### 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. Seperately, 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

### control of 85% Afghan territory

ISLAMABAD: US Chargé D' Affaires A.I Angela Aggeler call on Mr. Tabish Gohar, Special Assistant

Taliban claim

### 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.

Asad Qaiser's decision. to the Prime Minister on Petroleum & Power at his office. - DNA 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 Mehmood on Friday said exams would start in federal capital as well as provinces from Saturday, terming Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), which is politics with students to gain cheap popularity by demanding cancellation of examinations.

Shafqat Mahmood said people like Ahsan Iqbal and Saad Rafiq knew that exams have already started in Baluchistan and Sindh, there-

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.

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 Moise 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 diplo

matic 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 Moise, 53, was found lying on his back with 12 bullet wounds and a gouged eve, according o authorities. Martine Moise, 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

on all eligible pilgrims who the health and regulatory have received Hajj permits requirements and standards to take the second dose for this year's Hajj, have of the COVID-19 vaccine without booking an apbeen issued necessary perNo outsider allowed to perform Hajj: Ashrafi

### SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Special Representative to the Prime Minis ter on Religious Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Friday warned strict ac tion 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 nas 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 Saud Arabia had issued Majamla visas to Pakistan, would be dealt with strictly. He said Hajj was a sacred religious obigation for which good health, having sufficient expendi tures of travelling were must for an intending pilgrim.

pointment and adhere to organising the Muslim pilgrimage curtailed due to preventive and precaution-COVID-19. ary 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

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breaking apart, as playing

In a series of Tweets,

fore other students could not be treated differently. "They know that decision to take exams was taken unanimously by all federating