



# Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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### Novak Djokovic wins The Wimbledon to complete 20 Slams

Detailed News On Page-08

### PPP, PML-N lack candidates in AJK elections

Detailed News On Page-01



### People-to-people links strengthen bilateral ties

Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

### PM praises Billion Tree project

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has said Government's Billion Tree Tsunami campaign is producing incredible results as barren hills of Matta area of Swat are turning green. In a tweet on Sunday, he expressed the firm belief that his government's campaign will leave a clean and green Pakistan for future generations. The Prime Minister also attached a video showing incredible results of Billion Tree Tsunami campaign in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

### Khalilzad on mission peace

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: Top US peace broker Zalmay Khalilzad has begun his shuttle diplomacy tour of Qatar, Uzbekistan and Pakistan amid ensuing violence across Afghanistan. In a series of tweets, the Afghanistan-born seasoned US diplomat said he was returning to Doha and the region to continue "determined diplomacy" in pursuit of a peace agreement between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Taliban. "We will work vigorously with all Afghan parties and regional and international stakeholders to try and help the sides find a path to ending this war, one that ensures Afghanistan's security, unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and ends the agony of the Afghan people," Khalilzad added.

### Negotiated settlement crucial: FM

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said that a negotiated settlement is the best option for durable peace in Afghanistan. Talking to media persons in Multan, he said Pakistan wishes to engage senior leaders of Afghanistan for holding talks to seek a durable peace, which is possible only through a negotiated political settlement.

## India pulls officials from Afghanistan

### The reason cited by Indian Ministry for temporary closure of consulate is 'intense fighting near Kandhar'

AGENCIES

MUMBAI: As Taliban fighters continue to gain control amid the withdrawal of international forces, India said Sunday it had temporarily brought back officials from its consulate in Kandahar, a major city in southern Afghanistan. "Due to intense fighting near Kandahar city, India-based personnel have been brought back for the time being," Arindam Bagchi, chief spokesperson at India's foreign ministry, said in a statement. "India is closely monitoring the evolving security situation in Afghanistan," Bagchi said, adding that India's consulate in Kandahar was being run by local staff temporarily. Taliban officials said on Friday they had taken control of 85% of Afghanistan's territory, as the US and others withdraw the bulk of their troops after 20 years of fighting. Afghan government officials dismissed the assertion as a propaganda campaign.

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### Australia completes troops' withdrawal

MONITORING DESK

SYDNEY: Australia's defence minister on Sunday confirmed the end of his country's involvement in the 20-year Afghanistan war, saying the troops withdrawal had taken place "in recent weeks". Australia announced in April that it would remove its remaining troops by September in line with the US decision to end its military operations in the war-torn country. Defence Minister Peter Dutton told Sky News that the country's last 80 support personnel had left Afghanistan "in recent weeks". "That doesn't mean we won't be a part of campaigns with the United States... where we deem that to be in our national interest or in the interest of our allies," he added. "For now, though, that campaign has come to an end."

## 'PPP, PML-N lack candidates in AJK'

### Fawad says PPP's Bilawal and PML-N's Maryam Nawaz are running "Abbu Bachao" campaigns

STAFF REPORT

ABBOTABAD: PPP Chairperson Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and PML-N Vice-President Maryam Nawaz are running "Abbu Bachao" campaigns during their Azad Jammu and Kashmir election campaigns. Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry said. Chaudhry, addressing party workers at Abbottabad, took a dig at the two parties,



### 'Government trying to steal PML-N's mandate'

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz said on Sunday that she and her father Nawaz Sharif had a blood relation with the people of Kashmir. Addressing a public gathering at Hatyan Bala,

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LONDON: Pakistan High Commissioner to UK moazzam Ahmad Khan along with his spouse Amb. Leena Salim Moazzam visiting the Multani Blue Pottery Exhibition. (More News On Page 07). - DNA

### Malaysia offers scholarships to Pakistan students

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) has invited full time postgraduate Master's Degree Programme students from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to apply for MTCP Scholarship for the Academic Year of 2021/2022. All applications are to be submitted through online application system via the link <https://biasiswa.mohe.gov.my/INTER/>. Full time postgraduate students are invited to take Master's Degree Programme in 20 Malaysian Higher Learning Institutions including Universiti Malaya (UM), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia (UIAM), Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), Universiti Teknologi

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## Pakistan reports highest Covid-19 ratio since May

### The NCOC said 1,980 virus cases were detected from 48,382 tests conducted across the country

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan recorded the highest coronavirus positivity ratio at 4.09% in the last 24 hours since May 30, which was at 4.05%, according to the National Command and Operations Centre's (NCOC) data. The NCOC, sharing the daily statistics on Sunday, said 1,980 coronavirus cases were detected from 48,382 tests conducted across the country in the last 24 hours. Twenty-seven deaths occurred in the last 24 hours, with the most recorded in Sindh followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, according to the NCOC's data. Out of the 27 people who lost their lives, 16 died on ventilators.

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### 'Encourage people aged 50 to get vaccinated'

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The head of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) - the apex body leading Pakistan's fight against COVID-19 - Asad Umar, on Sunday, urged the nation to reach out to all people aged 50 and above and encourage them to get vaccinated. "Pakistan has [27 million] people who are 50 years or older. This age group is most vulnerable to serious health effects of COVID," he wrote. Umar said that so far, 5.6 million people or 20.6% of the people of this age group have gotten at least one dose of the vaccine. "Please encourage all in this age group to vaccinate as soon as possible," he urged. Meanwhile, 22 people to have arrived from Afghanistan tested positive for the virus in Karachi. They include a woman and four children. The Sindh health department said that they have all been sent to the quarantine facility in Dumba Goth.



## Central and South Asia moot: Uzbekistan leads from the front

### The proposed regional energy projects will pass through Afghanistan before reaching the final destination, which is yet another reason that the neighboring countries and especially those that are part of all such projects, must ensure that peace and stability return to Afghanistan. The upcoming Central and South Asia moot therefore has acquired an added significance and relevance.



ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI



ISLAMABAD: The Central Asian region is becoming more and more important not only for the Central Asian states but for the neighboring countries such as China, Pakistan, Iran as well because of its geo-political significance. Central Asia is enriched with natural resources besides its being located at the crossroads of the region between East and the West. Central Asia has been facing some serious challenges including terrorism and extremism since long. Many great powers have huge interest in the region therefore it was necessary to put together all these powers with a view to devising a consensus policy and reaching an understanding to usher in a new era of peace and prosperity especially in the context of Central and South Asia. In view of these ground realities President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev decided to convene an international conference in order to not only secure and ensure regional peace but mull collective efforts to promote intra-state trade and economic activity besides laying special focus on regional and in-

tra-regional connectivity. President Mirziyoyev ever since taking charge of the office has been working whole-heartedly and zealously for regional connectivity and peace. While his attention remains on ameliorating the lot of his people by introducing a number of reforms, President Mirziyoyev, on the international front too has led various initiatives. He spearheaded a similar conference on Afghanistan as well for the Uzbek leadership is well aware of the fact that until and unless peace and normalcy return to Afghanistan, regional peace will remain elusive. Uzbek leadership maintains a principled position that there is no military solution to the Afghan issue and Afghanistan must be the integrated part of Central Asia. Uzbekistan therefore has rightly been supporting all forms of negotiations whether it be the Doha process; Turkey initiative etc. Uzbekistan was the first country to establish direct contacts with the Taliban, albeit it was criticized at that time as if the Uzbek leadership had recognized Taliban. Uzbek leadership strongly believes that regional countries such as Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Iran can play and should play a role to help Afghanistan have peace. International community must also extend its full support to achieve this end. Perhaps that is why the Uzbek President decided to lead from the front by convening the Cen-



tral and South Asia conference where leaders of the region would sit together and mull ways and means in order to not only spur pace of regional cooperation but ensure connectivity as well. The President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev proposed an initiative to strengthen regional connectivity in the context of the new open foreign policy strategy of Tashkent. The idea is aimed at further deepening economic cooperation in Central Asia, with access to South Asia, which has historically been closely linked to our region in economic, social, cultural and civilizational dimensions. The High Level International

Conference 'Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity, Challenges and Opportunities' is intended to form a political and expert platform for multilateral discussion of the mutually beneficial strategic model 'Central Asia - South Asia' in transport and logistics, energy, trade, industry, investment, technological, cultural and humanitarian domains. The conference will consist of an opening ceremony, a plenary session, three breakout sessions and a final part. The conference will be attended by more than 250 participants from over 40 countries and international organizations who have confirmed their participation. Over 90 journalists

and other media representatives will be in Tashkent to cover the conference. During the meeting, it is foreseen that the Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres and the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, as well as the heads of foreign states and governments and ministers of foreign affairs and international financial organizations will make their addresses. The session will also consider the state of affairs and prospects of interregional cooperation in Central and South Asia, successful examples of cooperation, promising interconnected infrastructure projects.

Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan has already confirmed his participation in the conference. Pakistani PM's presence in the conference is a clear manifestation on the part of the Pakistan govt that it genuinely believes in peace in the region and would like to be part of all initiatives meant for regional connectivity and stability. It is in this backdrop that when the Uzbek President extended an invitation to Prime Minister Imran Khan, he immediately accepted it, which was a unique gesture of brotherhood towards Uzbekistan because by and large the Prime Minister does not travel abroad frequently. Let us hope the conference is able to achieve the desired results particularly when the US and other forces have already left Afghanistan and the emerging situation makes it incumbent upon all stakeholders to put their heads together in order to find a solution. Afghanistan ostensibly holds keys when it comes to regional peace and stability. The proposed regional energy projects will pass through Afghanistan before reaching the final destination, which is yet another reason that the neighboring countries and especially those that are part of all such projects, must ensure that peace and stability return to Afghanistan. The upcoming Central and South Asia moot therefore has acquired an added significance and relevance, in this perspective.

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Political and cultural realities of Central and South Asia: ISRS expert - Page 07

EU-UNICEF sign accord for education in Balochistan - Page 08



## Briefs

## Pak, Japan to exchange cultural delegations

KARACHI: Deputy Consul General of Japan in Karachi, Ashida Noori said cultural delegations from Pakistan and Japan will visit each other's country this year on the eve of 70th anniversary of the diplomatic relations. Speaking at a dinner hosted for him by Skills Valley at a local hotel, the Japanese envoy said he had not been able to participate in diplomatic and social activities for last two years due to COVID-19 pandemic. "Before that, he used to attend different events every week at Beach Luxury Hotel," he remarked, says release on Sunday. Sindh Economic Zones Management Company's CEO, Abdul Azeem Aqeeli, Thara Foundation's President Amir Thara, President and Founder of Diplomatic Forum for Socio-Economic Foundation Asif Haroon, Ali Sohad, Surgeon Arif-ur-Rehman, and the host Mubeen A. Durrani also spoke. The Deputy Consul General said Japan-Pakistan relations were established in 1952. Referring to trade activities, he said dozens of Japanese companies were operating in Pakistan. There was a great demand for Pakistani mango, which was being sold at Rs 1000 per Kg against Rs 100 in Pakistan. Sindh Economic Zones, Abdul Azeem Aqeeli said that there was a great opportunity for investors to invest in 7 economic zones in Sindh enjoying income tax holiday for ten years. He said that 110 companies (local and foreign) would start operations at these economic zones in January 2022. The infrastructure worth billion of rupees was being completed in the economic zones. — APP

HED extends summer vacations till July 31

PESHAWAR: Higher Education Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa extended summer vacations of all public sector universities and colleges till July 31, 2021, said a notification issued on Sunday. In continuation of the department notification dated June 30, the competent authority has announced extension of summer vacations in all public and private sector universities, colleges and Degree Awarding Institutions (DAIs) from July 12 to July 31. The examinations already in progress or scheduled would be continued under strict adherence to the already notified standard operating procedures (SOPs) for COVID-19. Special Assistant to Chief Minister on Higher Education Department KP, Kamran Bangash in his tweet clarified that all the public and private sector universities, colleges and Degree Awarding Institutions (DAIs) will be closed from July 12 to July 31 in connection of summer vacations. — APP

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## Nepal envoy visits Multan; explores educational links

The ambassador also interacted with Nepali students who are pursuing their Medical education in NMU and BZU

DNA

MULTAN: Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan visited Multan and met Prof. Dr. Ahmad Ijaz Masood, Vice-chancellor, Nishtar Medical University and Prof. Dr. Mansoor Akbar Kundi, Vice-chancellor, Bahauddin Zakariya University at their offices respectively. During the visit, they discussed the need to increase cooperation between Nepal and Pakistan in the field of education. The ambassador thanked them for providing Medical education to Nepali students in their universities and taking care of their wellbeing. The Professors appreciated Nepali students hard labour, discipline and keen interest to learn. They expressed their happiness on the performance of Nepali students and becoming a part of their universities. The ambassador also in-



teracted with Nepali students who are pursuing their Medical education

in NMU and BZU and suggested them to take knowledge, skills and goodwill

of Pakistan to Nepal and help Government of Nepal in expanding Medical

services in particular providing medical services to poor and needy peoples in

Nepal. In Multan, 30 Nepali students are pursuing medical education.

## Sustainable economic growth major challenge: Abdul Razak

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Sustainability of economic growth is a major challenge after improving the economic indicators and in this connection, a series of meetings have been proposed with the stakeholders at the highest level immediately after Eid. One direct meeting will be held with the Prime Minister Imran Khan so that the exporters could interact directly with the Prime Minister and explain their core issues, said Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile, Industries, Production and Investment Mr. Abdul Razaq Dawood. He was addressing the business community in the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) here today. He pointed out that our economy is moving

in the right direction and industry is making phenomenal growth. "The PTI government during the last three years has attained the growth targets and now the challenge is to ensure the

sustainability of economic growth", he added. Dispelling the impression that exporters are continuously demanding more and more, he said that market conditions are changing

with every passing day and accordingly new challenges are cropped up and we have to handle these issues with wisdom and prudence in a fast changing business environment.



## Govt committed to providing relief to masses: Kamoka

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: The meeting of the District Coordination Committee (City Area) was held in the Committee Room of the DC Office under the chairmanship of District Convener/Chairman Standing Committee Finance MNA Faizullah Kamoka. Punjab Minister for Colonies and Culture Mian Khayal Kastro was also present in the meeting. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali apprised the members of the Assembly about the current situation of Corona and dengue and the implementation of Chief Minister's Development Package, development programs of various sectors. He informed that as many as nine sales points were functional in the district in order to sale and purchase of sacri-

cial animals regarding Eid ul Adha while MD WASA presented the moonsoon contingency. DG FDA Dr. Faisal Azeem, Deputy Director Development Rana Tahir Iqbal, CEO Health Dr. Musthaq Sipra, Assistant Commissioner City Syed Ayub Bukhari, Officers of Roads, Sui Gas, Fesco, Metropolitan Corporation, Sports and other departments / institutions were present. The meeting was attended by the Parliamentarians Raja Riaz Ahmed, Sh. Khuram Shahzad, Shakeel Shahid, Mian Waris Aziz, Latif Nazir. Deputy Commissioner said that all available resources are being utilized and the issues identified by parliamentarians are also being addressed on priority basis for which there is system adopted for strict monitoring of the performance of the concerned departments.

## Security taken from several KP politicians

DNA

PESHAWAR: The concerned authorities on Sunday have taken back special police security from several politicians in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). According to a notification issued by the KP government, the security detail consisting of eight security officials provided to former chief minister Amir Haider Hoti of Awami National Party has been withdrawn. Also, the security provided to President ANP (KP) Aimal Wali Khan and Mian Iftikhar Hussain has been withdrawn. The security detail giving protection to Quami Watan Party President Aftab Ahmad Sherpao and PML-N (KP) President Amir Muqam has been taken back. The other important figures from whom the government has withdrawn the security detail are included: Nawabzada Amir Khan, Dr Naqem, Dr Iftikhar, PTI MNA Noor Taj, Senator Ayub Afridi (four security officials taken back), PTI MPA Somi Falak Naz, ANP leader Salahuddin and NAB DG (KP) Nasir Farooq (7 security men withdrawn). Responding to the act, PML-N president termed it as a criminal move, adding that these leaders had already escaped attacks. Who will be held responsible if these leaders encounter any mishap? he asked.

## 'Mango exports can help earn forex'

FAISALABAD: University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Anas Sarwar Qureshi has said Pakistan can earn precious foreign exchange and lessen rural poverty by enhancing export of exotic varieties of mangoes. He was addressing the 5th National Mango Festival, arranged by the Agri Tourism Development Corporation at Asghar Farm in Chak 116-JB, Millat Road. He said that the mango export could be doubled as Pakistani mangoes were famous due to their taste, appearance and aroma. The VC said that fruit fly and other diseases were posing a serious threat to the agricultural exports. Marketing issues were also hampering the process of enhancing exports. He said that despite the Covid-19 pandemic situation this year, Pakistan met the target of mango export. He said that new orchards of preferred varieties should be planted on scientific basis so that economic condition of farmers could be improved. Director General Ayub Agricultural Research Institute Dr Zafar Iqbal Qureshi said that they were setting up a Mango Research Institute in Rahim Yar Khan, which would help and guide mango growers to increase their production. He said Pakistan is the sixth largest producer of mangoes. — APP

## Mandatory vaccination for wedding functions

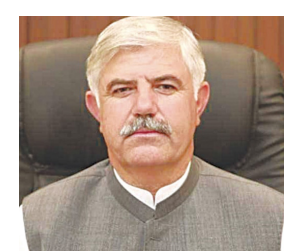
PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has declared Corona vaccination mandatory for participation in wedding ceremonies and dining in restaurants, said an official handout issued here by Home and Tribal Affairs Department on Sunday. In this connection, on the directives of Chief Secretary KP Dr. Kazim Niaz, the Special Secretary Home and Tribal Affairs, Mohammad Asif held a meeting with the representatives of Restaurants

and Wedding Halls Owners Association. Those who attended the meeting were included Patron-in-Chief of the Association Asif Jamal, President Khalid Ayub, General Secretary Jamroz Khan, Khan Gul, Rahat Mughal and Fahad Khan. During the meeting, Corona situation in the province was discussed in detail while the representatives of the Association briefed the Special Secretary about their problems and apprehensions.— APP

## KP CM directs timely completion of prerequisites for PSDP projects

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has directed the authorities concerned to take steps for timely completion of PC-1s, feasibility and other prerequisites of the projects to be proposed for inclusion in Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) 2022-23 and said that the prerequisites of all those projects be completed and forwarded to concerned federal forum before March 2022. He issued these directives

while chairing a meeting regarding projects to be proposed for inclusion in PSDP 2022-23 here the other day, said an official handout issued here on Sunday. Provincial Minister Akbar Ayub Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Amjad Ali Khan, administrative secretaries of the concerned departments and other concerned high ups attended the meeting. The chief minister also directed them to devise a



mechanism for close liaison with the concerned federal entities in order to ensure the inclusion of important and priority projects of the province in next PSDP. The chief minister further di-

rected that mega projects of public importance for all the four regions and the newly merged areas be identified for inclusion in the next PSDP. He said that those mega projects which couldn't be reflected in current PSDP, necessary steps be taken on priority basis for their inclusion in next PSDP adding that all the projects to be proposed for next PSDP, must be cleared from Provincial Development Working Party by December this year. — APP

## DC stresses balance between population and resources

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali has said that balance between the population and resources was imperative for the durable development and progress therefore everyone should collectively strive to overcome the challenges and proactive try to curb rampant population growth.

He was leading the awareness walk alongwith Chairman Standing Committee for Finance/ MNA Faizullah Kamooka on the eve of World Population Day. AC City Syed Ayub Bukhari, DPWO Zafar Iqbal, Dy DPWO Tayiba Azam and religious leader Pir Sidique ur Rehman alongwith members of civil society participated. The walk started from Tehsil Council Sadar (District Council) chowk and culminated at Katchri

bazar chowk passing through Khaleeq Qureshi road and outside Faisalabad Press Club. Participants of walk were carrying banners and placards inscribed slogans of importance of small family and issues confronted to the nation due to the rapidly increasing population. Deputy Commissioner said that district govt. was following comprehensive policies for the success of the population welfare program however

people should thought seriously regarding importance of small family and issues confronted to the nation due to the rapidly increasing population. He said that rapidly increasing population was swallowing the available resources and we should consciously follow the population welfare program to overcome the problems of education, health, employment and other social issues. He said having a small family went a long way in guaranteeing prosperity. DC said observance of World Population Day was demanding to control the population by highlighting the importance and significance of small family. He appreciated the steps and efforts of District Population Welfare Department and vowed for expanding the population welfare program in the coming days. MNA stressed upon maintaining mother and child health by following the population welfare program. He said it was prerequisite to invest for the good health and education of the daughters for the welfare of coming generations and prosperity of the society. Other speakers highlighted the importance of family planning, empowerment of the society and development of nation. They appreciated the step of conducting an awareness walk regarding population welfare program.



FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali led an awareness walk in connection with World Population Day.

Government of Pakistan  
Ministry of National Food Security & Research  
(Federal Water Management Cell)

Situation Vacant

Applications are invited for one vacant post of Sweeper (BS-01) for indefinite period, in the Federal Water Management Cell, Ministry of National Food Security & Research, Islamabad. The requisite qualification and experience are as under:-

Name of Post & BPS	No. of posts	Age Limit	Qualification / Experience	Quota
Sweeper (BS-01)	01	18-25	i) Middle/Primary pass ii) Professional Cleaner	Local based Domicile (Islamabad/Rawalpindi)

APPLICATION FORM

Post applied for: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Domicile Province: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth according to CNIC: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: Years \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Days \_\_\_\_\_

Computerized CNIC No. \_\_\_\_\_

Educational Qualification: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of passing \_\_\_\_\_

Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Disability: (Yes/No) \_\_\_\_\_ Armed Forces: \_\_\_\_\_ Already Govt. Servant: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile No. \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

(Ali Raza Naqvi)

Irrigation Agronomist (Admn)  
Federal Water Management Cell  
Ministry of National Food Security & Research  
69-East (1<sup>st</sup> Floor), Adesl Plaza, Faisal-e-Haq road  
Blue Area, Islamabad  
(Ph: 051-9245105)

PID (I) No. 151/21



**Briefs****E&T Dept.  
amasses  
record  
Rs11.2 bln tax**

ISLAMABAD: The Excise and Taxation (E&T) Department Islamabad has amassed Rs.11.2 billion tax during fiscal year 2020-21 against set target of Rs 5.8 billion, registering around 80 per cent increase in revenue collection as compared to last three years. Of the total Rs11.2 billion collection, the excise revenue was Rs 7.98 billion with inclusion of Rs 3.2 billion Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) tax, said Director Excise, Bilal Azam. Sharing details of tax collection of last three years, Azam told APP that the department had collected Rs 6.3 billion during fiscal year 2017-18, Rs 6.5 billion in 2018-19 while the collection reached Rs 8.7 billion in 2019-20. "The department had beaten all records of previous years and thanks to efforts of concerned excise department employees to meet the set enhanced targets," he remarked.

Giving further details, he said reforms in tax collection by department led to increase in revenue, following directions of Chief Commissioner, Islamabad, Amir Ali Ahmed to ease tax payment process for Capital's residents, he added.

Bilal Azam said the Department had introduced new methods for tax collection including online payment system, registration and transfer fee through integrated credit cards, bank accounts and other digital means which ultimately helped in increasing revenue collection. The Director said vehicle owners were submitting token fee through National Database and Registration Authority's (NADRA)'s e-Sahulat Centres across the country without visiting Excise Office that also helped increased tax revenues. - APP

**Anti-measles  
drive extends**

RAWALPINDI: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Health Dr. Faiza Kanwal has said that six days long anti-measles campaign, which began in the 35 Union Councils of the district on July 5, has been extended for one more day to reach hundreds of children who remained unattended during the campaign that was to conclude on Saturday. She told APP that the campaign would now continue till July 12 as the department wants to cover the maximum number of children in the ongoing special campaign. The CEO informed, "We have so far covered the 98 per cent target of the campaign and the set mark to administer the injection to 185,849 children between six months to five years of age would be achieved till Monday". She advised parents to come forward and fulfill their obligation of ensuring vaccination of their children to help eliminate the crippling disease. - APP

**IRSA releases  
291,100  
cusecs water**

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 291,100 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 326,300 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1438.45 feet, which was 54.45 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 171,100 and 155,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1155.30 feet, which was 117.50 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 44,100 and 25,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 180,800, 137,400 and 30,600 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 38,200 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 39,000 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala.

# NAVTTTC to link skilled workforce with industry

NAVTTTC chairman further said that as the CPEC project and other global emerging advancements were bringing technological innovations to Pakistan which required greater preparedness of youth in high-end and high-tech technologies

**STAFF REPORT**

ISLAMABAD: The National Vocational and Technical Training Commission's (NAVTTTC) initiative for establishing Job Placement Centres with dedicated resources is linking Pakistani skilled workforce with employers in both national and international job markets. In addition to this, 104 Job Placement and Vocational Counseling Centers (JP&VCCs) have been established across the country for the benefit of youth, NAVTTTC Chairman Syed Javed Hassan said this while talking to private TV channel. He said that skill profiles

of more than 570,000 Pakistani youth were available on this job portal. NAVTTTC was providing free of cost facility to both youth and Pakistani industry to bring them closer and realize the dual objective of employment for youth and quality skilled workforce for industry, he added. For this purpose, NAVTTTC is formulating skill development programmes, funded by public & private sector and other international organizations i.e. ILO, British Council, JICA, TIKA, Korean HRD, Department of Foreign Assistance Ministry of Commerce, China etc. he said. NAVTTTC chairman fur-

ther said that as the CPEC project and other global emerging advancements were bringing technological innovations to Pakistan which required greater preparedness of youth in high-end and high-tech technologies. Therefore, keeping in view such needs, a detailed market gap analysis has been conducted by NAVTTTC, both for identifying the demand for such high-end trades and the available institutional capacity for conducting training courses in these trades. Sharing the further details, he said that a wide-ranging skill development programme namely, "Prime Minister's Skills for All-

Hunarmand Pakistan Programme" under the umbrella of Kamyab Jawan has been formulated and was being implemented by NAVTTTC. The programme, Javed said, targets two major categories of interventions including, human resource development through youth skill development and up-gradation of TVET infrastructure at par with standards of local and international job market. More than 100,000 youth will be equipped with technical and vocational hands-on skills, he mentioned. "To cater the needs of the modern industry both nationally and internationally,

with specific focus on the expected requirements for CPEC projects, NAVTTTC is introducing Skill trainings in High-Tech / High-End and cutting edge technologies aligned with 'Industrial Revolution 4.0' and the courses such as Mechatronics, Robotics, Industrial Automation, Internet of Things (IoT), Cloud Computing, Free Lancing are being introduced in state of the art universities, institutions and Industries". He said that curricula of more than 100 trades have been completely updated and brought in accordance with demands of local and international job markets with technical assistance of

development partners. For this purpose, three Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) have been established in the Construction & Hospitality, Renewable Energy and Textile Sector. The concept of Institute Management Committees (IMCs) has been introduced for the first time in the country, which gives greater representation to private sector in the management and training delivery at the TVET institute level, added the chairman. The industry has been actively involved in all aspects of training such as curricula development, final assessments, on-job training and selection of institutes, Javed Hassan said.

**3 markets  
set up for  
sacrificial  
animals**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) has set up three markets in the outskirts of the federal capital to allow sale and purchase of sacrificial animals ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. The sale points were established in suburban areas including Barakahu, Taramri and Tarnol in compliance with the anti-coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs) issued by the district administration to curb the virus spread, MCI Administrator SyedaShafaq Hashmi told APP.

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

"A complete ban will remain in place on the sale of sacrificial animals within the premises of cities," she said, adding the staffers and the traders at the cattle market would be vaccinated. Earlier, the National Health Ministry has also issued guidelines to contain the virus spread during Eid ul-Azha. "Social distancing should be ensured at the cattle markets besides also implementing directives regarding face-mask," the ministry said. It further added that the temperature of those entering the market should be checked other than sanitizing the hands of the visitors.

**Sale of items  
for animals  
rises in ICT**

ISLAMABAD: The sale of sacrificial animals and their decorative items is witnessing rise in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad as the religious festival of Eid-ul-Azha is knocking on the door. Decorating the sacrificial animals with ornamental items is a popular trend amongst the people especially children before the festival.

Traditional decorative items available in cities like Multan, Sahiwal, Kasur and interior Sindh are brought to different cities and are available in and around cattle markets of twin cities. "I have been selling animal ornaments for the past many years. I usually sit beside different cattle markets where most of the people visit and keep on moving from one place to another to grab more and more customers, Ali Khan, a vendor said. Talking to APP, he said, "Youngsters especially children are more inclined to visit the stalls of decorative items as they wanted to decorate their sacrificial animals with latest garland available in the markets". He said the prices of garlands, anklets, bells and facial ornaments with flowers and garlands ranges between Rs. 200 to Rs. 400 while the decorative cloth to cover the animal costs from Rs. 1500 to Rs. 3000 depending on the size.

Ahmad, a 14-year old buyer at a decorative items stall in cattle market of Rawalpindi said, "We are here to buy colourful garlands, crown and 'payals' for our cow but the prices are so high that we even can't buy all the desired items". - APP

**CTP facilitates  
19,077  
citizens for  
licensing**

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi facilitated 19,077 citizens and provided various services including learner driving permits, new licenses, renewal of expired driving licenses, duplicate licenses, endorsement of licenses, international licenses and renewal of licenses issued by other districts of the province in June. According to In Charge Licensing Branch Azmat Hayat, the licensing branch on the directives of Chief Traffic Officer Rawalpindi Rai Mazhar Iqbal, made all-out efforts to facilitate the applicants at CTP Headquarters established at 'Khidmat Marakaz' in different tehsils of the district.



ATTOCK: Advisor to PM for Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Babar Awan talking to media at the residence of MNA Maj (R) Tahir Sadiq. - APP

## HEC to conduct LAT test till July 25

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) is conducting Law Admission Test (LAT) for applicants desirous to get admission in five-year undergraduate LLB Degree Programme, which will be continued till July 25. The test was being conducted in HEC/PBC-recognized public and private sector universities/institutions and valid colleges affiliated with public sector universities, official sources told APP on Sunday. The sources said that the test was being conducted in compliance with directions of the Supreme Court. The students who have passed the Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) or equivalent/Grade 12 education and those who have appeared in the final examination of HSSC or equivalent/Grade 12 education and awaiting results can apply for the test. They said, the test would be conducted in the major cities. The applicants may select any test/examination centre from the roll down list available in the application form. The HEC asked the students that Examination Centre would not be

changed after registration. The HEC urged the students to visit the following link: <http://etc.hec.gov.pk> for online registration. In case of any difficulty during the online registration, they may visit [Onlinehelp.hec.gov.pk](http://Onlinehelp.hec.gov.pk) or visit HEC regional offices for guidance. Application submission comprises of two steps; profile completion using "My Profile" section and application submission using "Law Admission Test" links on the menu panel on the left hand side bar of online portal, they informed. According to HEC, the test will be held on August 8, 2021 tentatively. Any change in test date will be communicated through [www.hec.gov.pk](http://www.hec.gov.pk) and <http://etc.hec.gov.pk>. Applicants, who have registered will be able to download their Roll Number Slip from <http://etc.hec.gov.pk> once intimated via email sent to them. "Email/SMS will also be sent to registered applicants for test date, time and venue. While filling online application forms, candidates are required to provide valid email/mobile number on

which they wish to receive official messages". The original CNIC and a printout of Roll Number Slip will be required to enter the test centre on the test date. (Failure to present these two forms of IDs shall result in entry refusal). It is worth to mention here that LAT Test and applications in save or incomplete mode will not be entertained. Test fee of Rs. 1000 is to be deposited Online/ATM in the Account No. 1742 7900 133401, Account Title: Higher Education Commission, Bank: Habib Bank Limited, Branch Code: 1742. Bank Draft/Pay Order will not be accepted. The applicants are required to send a copy of fee deposit slip/ATM/online transfer through courier at the address: Member's House, HEC Sector H-8, Islamabad on or before the last date of registration. Please mention your CNIC number at the backside of the Deposit Slip. HEC declared July 25, is the last date for online registration. In case of any further information the students may contact HEC helplines: 051-111-119-432, 0334-111-9432. - APP

## Encroachment is on rise in G-9

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: A number of shops have encroached upon the footpaths at Sector G-9 Peshawar Mor. When a citizen Hafeez Khan was asked why he had established this illegal settlement, he said this is my single source of income. He further said that he pays Rs 8,000 to the shopkeeper in front of whose shop he had established his stall. Khan told NNI here on Saturday when workers of Capital Development Authority's Encroachment Wing visit to raid, some of his friends working the wing confide in him about it as he keeps separate their livelihood from his daily earning so he can easily tackle the situation. The CDA seems active in his job but the encroachers remain stuck to encroaching the state land. One CDA official said that footpaths available alongside the roads are mostly encroached. The departments cornered can save lives by providing safe infrastructure. The encroachments are narrowing the width of thorough, making life difficult not only for pedestrians but also commuters.

## Planning ministry launches mental health support unit

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives launched on Sunday the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) unit as a part of its emergency response to COVID-19. According to a press release issued by the ministry, the initiative is funded by United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Pakistan. The aim of this initiative is to develop an evidence-driven MHPSS model which is right-based, scalable and sustainable. The project is also aimed at raising public awareness for psychosocial well-being of at-risk population and address stigma and discrimination of infected populations. It would also help identify-

and managing stress related conditions in frontline responders, and integrate mental health and psychosocial support in response activities.

The project would also provide psychosocial support to the most vulnerable population groups including women and children at risk, bereaved families, and people with disabilities besides providing mental healthcare for those suffering from mental disorders. A Mental Health Co-ordination Unit has been set up at the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives to implement a pilot project in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) to develop a mental healthcare which will be trained to provide mental health and psychosocial support through inter-sectoral collaboration.

## Dist. admin to deduct pay of unvaccinated employees

RAWALPINDI: The district administration has decided to take strict measures after 20 cases of Indian Delta variant of coronavirus were reported in Rawalpindi. The salaries of government employees who do not get vaccinated will be deducted. According to the details, the district administration, fearing the spread of the fourth wave of coronavirus, has issued instructions to submit at least certificate of first dose of coronavirus by July 12. The guidelines state that in case of non-compliance, lists will be issued to the District Accounts Officer for deduction in salaries of non-vaccinated employees. According to the district administration, 86,889 people have been vaccinated against Covid-19 in Rawalpindi including 836,770 civilians and 32,127 frontline health workers. A total of 25,235 people have been reported infected with the virus in Rawalpindi district so far. 23,831 patients have been discharged from the hospitals while the number of active cases is 404 out of which 377 are in home isolation while 27 are still undergoing treatment in the hospitals. - DNA

## PNCA postpones talent hunt

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on Sunday postponed week-31 'talent hunt music edition'. In a statement, the Arts Council said that this week's competition has been postponed. PNCA appealed to the participants of the talent hunt to pray for the early recovery of Director General PNCA Dr Fouzia Saeed. "By the grace of Almighty Allah, she has been progressively recovering. We would like to appeal to everyone to continue keeping her in your prayers", PNCA said. She was seriously injured in a road accident the other day at Panjgur National Highway. - DNA

## HEC bars students to choose unauthorized degrees

These programmes have been phased out because of quality concerns so the students must avoid to get admission in these banned programmes

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has advised the students to not waste their time and money by enrolling in unauthorized degree programmes, such as 2-year BA/BSc or MA/MSc programmes. The official sources told APP that these programmes have been phased out because of quality concerns so the students must avoid to get admission in these banned programmes. HEC in Students/Parents alert said that one or two universities have announced admission to unauthorized BA/BSc and MA/MSc programmes. While this will earn money for the

university, it will not be in the interest of the students. These discarded degrees will not enable students to apply for jobs or further education, the sources added. The decision to phase out the BA/BSc and MA/MSc programmes, and replace them with a single, composite, 4-year BS degree was taken in 2004. However, universities were allowed to continue both systems in a transition period. As per HEC, in 2011, the Associate Degree (AD) was announced as an alternative to the BA/BSc degree. AD is equivalent to 14 years schooling, and entitles graduates to get admission in the 5th semester of respec-

tive BS programmes after fulfilling the admitting university's requirements. In 2016, the transition period was concluded, and a final decision made to stop admissions in BA/BSc programmes on December 31, 2018, and in MA/MSc programmes on December 31, 2020. It was also decided that the last BA/BSc exam would be held in 2020, and that the admission to the last batch of MA/MSc students

would take place before December 31, 2020. These decisions were confirmed in 2017, and again in 2018, 2019, and 2020. However, because of the disruption caused by the coronavirus, the following flexibility was allowed: Universities were given a grace period of three months to conclude the final BA/BSc exams before March 31, 2021. Similarly, the deadline for admission to the final co-

hort of the MA/MSc programmes was extended to March 31, 2021 so that the final cohort of BA/BSc students could apply for admission. In addition, holders of BA/BSc degrees were allowed to apply for admission in the third year or 5th semester of the BS programme, subject to the completion of a bridging semester or any additional course requirements that the university may impose. Any student who has missed the deadline to get admission to the MA/MSc programmes can apply instead for admission to the third year (i.e., 5th semester) of the BS programme, which

is a far superior option. The sources said that fresh students can be admitted either directly into the 4-year BS programme, or in the 2-year Associate Degree Programmes, offered through recognized campuses, constituent and affiliated colleges in place of the old BA/BSc programmes. In case of admission in illegal and phased-out programmes, the students will end up bearing all risks and costs or any associated loss incurred. HEC cannot recognize degrees of students who enrolled in conventional BA/BSc programmes after December, they mentioned. - APP





## Briefs

## Workshops owners loot poor bikers

## AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: The puncture workshops owners are looting the poor bikers in the federal capital.

A puncture worker working at Sangam Market Sector I-8/3 Ammarul Hasan told NNI on Saturday "I charge Rs 50 even if no puncture is detected. Although prices may vary from place to place and city to city, the puncture for motorcycles is usually fixed at a cost of Rs 50 to Rs 80, depending on the number of punctures," he added.

Unlike fuel station tyre repair shops using modern machinery, most roadside puncture workers do everything from extracting tyre tubes to mending holes by hand which makes this job very difficult, prices charged here are usually relatively cheaper, but over here the poor people are exploited in another way.

A biker said the puncture workers should charge relatively less for those punctures except that of first but they multiply the price of one puncture with the number of punctures which is tantamount to exploiting the poor bikers. He said the puncture workers also use a needle to increase the number of punctures.

A puncture worker close to this scribe said, "I cannot meet my expenditures if I don't use unfair means." When asked if someone catches you on the matter, he said, "I will pay some money to the police."

## ITP to control lane violation: Spokesman

## STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) was making all-out efforts to reduce road accidents rate in the Federal Capital by educating motorists about lane discipline and other traffic rules, said its spokesman on Sunday.

In a news release, he said the campaign, recently launched by the ITP to check lane violation, was in full swing and road users were being educated about traffic rules.

He said the main objective of the road safety campaign was to ensure safety. The spokesman said special squads to control lane violation on various roads of the capital city was formed by Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Syed Karrar Hussain in line with directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Qazi Jamil ul Rehman.

He said the squads remained present on all important roads including Islamabad Expressway, Sirnagar highway to educate road users about traffic rules. Pamphlets and leaflets were being distributed among citizens while teams of education wing headed by SSP (Traffic) Syed Karrar Hussain were sensitizing motorists about traffic rules on regular basis, he added. He said ITP's FM Radio 92.4 was also disseminating the messages about road safety.

## Police arrest 2, recover 59 beer tins

## DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Race Course police have arrested two bootleggers and recovered 78 bottles of liquor and 59 tin can of beer from their possession.

According to a police spokesman, Race Course police in two raids netted Danish with 66 bottles of liquor and 19 beer tins while another accused namely Furqan Javed was sent behind the bars for possessing 12 liquor bottles and 40 beer tins. Separate cases have been registered against both the accused while further investigations are underway.

Superintendent Police (SP) Potohar appreciated police team and directed to continue operation against drug peddlers and bootleggers.

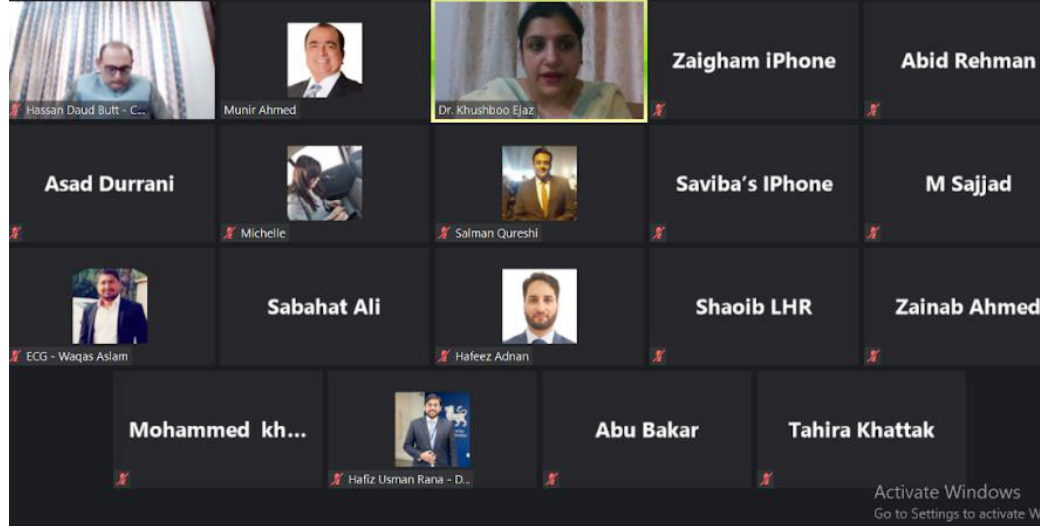
## Region's future depends on Pak-China economic ties

## DNA

ISLAMABAD – Speaking at a webinar on Saturday, the panelists envisaged Pakistan's stronger bilateral strategic and economic partnership with China in the coming years. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects would play a central role in domestic economic productivity, connectivity with the countries in the region and beyond, and mutual strategic collaboration against the hegemonic designs against China, Pakistan, and peace and prosperity of the region.

They said Pakistan and China have enjoyed mutual trust and respect for decades, and have played a role in supporting each other on different forums. Pakistan played a backbone role for bridging China-US relations as far back as the 1960s. Many are the Chinese models of development and citizens' engagement for the economic productivity that could be followed by Pakistan.

Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) and



DTN organized the webinar on the subject "Pakistan-China diplomatic relations beyond 70" on Saturday. The panel of experts included Lt. General ret'd Muhammad Asad Durrani, Lt. General ret'd Talat Masood, CEO Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade (KPBIOT)

Hassan Daud Butt, educationist Dr. Khushboo Ejaz, water and environment expert Dr. Zaigham Habib, and Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed who also moderated the webinar.

Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed while intro-

ducing the subject said it is the moment that Pakistan shall think of the future of Sino-Pak ties and develop a strategic framework for different sectors, and the set the yearly targets. Lt. General ret'd Muhammad Asad Durrani said Pakistan and China has to play very

significant role in the region, and their strategic partnership can add more value to efforts being taken out for peace and prosperity of the region. It is for sure that Pakistan cannot go against the all-weather friend China but cannot afford to lose ties with the USA.

Lt. General Ret'd Talat Masood said the US and West in general knows that China is not only an economic power but has raised its strategic and military capacity as well. Therefore, the new cold war even if intensified has less chances to convert into hot pursuits.

Hassan Daud Butt highlighted that Pakistan's relation with China has never been a transactional one and has grown from strength to strength and has withstood the test of time. We are not just neighbors but much beyond from the very beginning and particularly it is based on win-win, mutual trust and a relationship of brotherhood. It is vital that the next generation share the history of the great strategic partnership so that it maintains constant growth.

## CDA to make capital cleanest and greenest

## KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) Department Teams of Sanitation, City Sewerage and other departments have been collecting garbage, sewerage and other tree wastes due to rains and storms from major highways, roads, streets and other places in the federal capital.

Meanwhile, on the direction of Chairman CDA Amir Ali, CDA Department teams

of Sanitation, City Sewerage and other departments started raining the city from 8 am onwards. Work began to clear major highways, roads and streets from falling tree waste, sewage / drainage water. Ninety-nine percent of the complaints have been resolved so far. Sanitation staff, officers

and city sewerage staff in their respective offices are always engaged in resolving people's grievances and completing their work.

Regarding the rains in Islamabad, the CDA chairman while issuing instructions said that the rains are starting from Saturday and CDA sanitation, city sewerage and all concerned agencies should be activated.

In this regard, to save the citizens from any problem, sanitation staff and city sewerage staff will be present everywhere

from 8 am to make it possible to clean the drainage holes and sewerage on the roads.

Along with this, the street lights department has been directed that all street lights should be restored even during rains and it should be ensured that no bare wires are seen anywhere.



## Peasants start planting grapes in Islamabad

The peasants in this area have cultivated grapes for over a decade as the yield of traditional crops decreased tangibly due to uncertain weather patterns

## AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: In a rapid switch from the traditional crops like wheat, groundnuts, maize and others, the peasants at Chahan have started planting grapes.

The peasants in this area have cultivated grapes for over a decade as the yield of traditional crops decreased tangibly due to uncertain weather patterns.

Talking to NNI at a village Chahan in the suburbs of garrison city of Rawalpindi on Sunday, a peasant Nawab Khan said he planted grapes in almost 4 acres of land in 2015. His experience proved to be a good one as after passage of three years, a grape orchard started bearing fruit which gave him Rs 1.4 million as a total amount of income.



Khan said he is earning enough to meet his family's expenditures.

He suggested other farmers of the area follow his example of planting grapes so as to get maximum income from the minimum input lest they meet irreversible loss in the traditional crops. However, Khan recalled that the last year was the worst in terms of produc-

tion in face of unbridled rainfalls that played havoc with his fortune, as sheer decline was observed in the production, rendering lowest income. All varieties being used in this land of ours are imported ones so the scientists should invent such varieties that are commensurate with the local environment, he added. An agriculture specialist Dr.

Zia-ul-Haq, working as lecturer at Pir Mehr Ali Shah (PMAS) Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi said the government institutions are training grape farmers as to how to get maximum fruit and thus income from the minimum piece of land. Pakistan is also working on developing local varieties, but this will take time, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Work in progress, at sector I-8 parks by CDA Environment staff west with machinery. – DNA

## Man held for harassing woman

## SHAHEEN HANIF

RAWALPINDI: A man, identified as Hamid Shah, has been arrested for harassing and blackmailing a woman in Rawalpindi, the police said Saturday. A video of the complainant narrating the crime and demanding justice started doing rounds on social media earlier this week. The Rawalpindi chief police officer took notice of it. The suspect was arrested by the Airport police. Shah confessed to the crime. "He was the woman's relative and had been forcing her to file for a divorce so that he could marry her," the investigating officer said. An FIR has been registered. Shah's mobile phone has been seized and further investigation is ongoing. Online harassment in Pakistan, if you or anyone you know is a survivor of online harassment, then you can contact the following organisations: Punjab Commission on the Status of Women- 1043 FIA cyber-crime wing- report the complaint at complaints@fia.gov.pk or helpdesk@nr3c.gov.pk

## NoC issues to applicant on order of Ombudsman

## STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The administration of Punjab Government Servants Housing Foundation (PGSHF), on the directive of the provincial Ombudsman Rawalpindi Region-2, Baqir Ali Rana, has issued No-objection Certificate (NoC) to the allottee namely Abdul Majid Abbasi, required to submit in a bank to get a loan for construction of the house under Prime Minister scheme. According to details, the applicant, Abdul Majid Abbasi had submitted an application to the Punjab Provincial Ombudsman, Rawalpindi Region-2, requesting direction for the administration of PSHF, Adiala Road which was reluctant to issue NoC. The applicant repeatedly requested the administration of PSHF but, it did not issue the letter. He later submitted an application to provincial Ombudsman, Rawalpindi Region-2, which after a preliminary hearing instructed the authorities concerned, directing them to issue NoC. Majeed Abbasi expressing satisfaction over the response said the Ombudsman was providing quick relief to the citizens.

## 1102 raids to check hoarding conducted

## DNA

RAWALPINDI: Under a campaign launched by the Rawalpindi district administration against profiteering and hoarding, the teams on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Aamir Aqil Khan, conducted 1102 raids in seven tehsils of the district during last five days. According to a district administration spokesman, fines amounting to over Rs 198,500 were imposed on 93 shopkeepers. The teams conducted 1102 raids in seven tehsils of the district, and fines were imposed on the rules violators while two accused were sent behind the bars.

Assistant Commissioner (AC) Saddar raided at 52 points in Saddar Sub-division. Two violators were sent behind bars while Rs 26,500 fines were imposed on the profiteers. Assistant Commissioner, Cantt conducted 130 raids and imposed Rs 28,000 on nine violators. AC City also penalized 19 rules violators with Rs 26,000 fines. AC Kalar Syedan conducted 138 raids and imposed Rs 11,000 fine on 12 violators. AC Kahuta in 119 operations checked 10 violations and imposed fines amounting to Rs 9,500. AC Gujar Khan penalized 21 shopkeepers with fines amounting to Rs 52,500 in 201 raids. AC Murree conducted 99 raids and fined 11 violators Rs 16,000. Similarly, AC Taxila in 131 raids penalized 11 with Rs 29,000 fines.

He informed that raids were also conducted in several other areas of the district and the rules violators were imposed fines in accordance with the law.

## Virtual projection of arts continue in pandemic

ISLAMABAD: Despite the deadly COVID-19 contagion prevailing in the country, various cultural organizations including art galleries of the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi have continued their efforts to compile and share artistic pieces virtually observing social distancing to slow down the disease spread.

Executive Director National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage- Lok Virsa Talha Ali told APP that the pandemic forced many cultural institutions to adopt Information Technology based innovative solutions to reach their audience. He said that during the first wave of COVID-19 many cultural programmes were postponed that put a huge economic blow on the artists. Talha Ali said it was difficult situation where virtual programmes had kept us connected with artists and their creative works.

He said that art had a significant role in uniting the society, provide comfort, inspire creativity and ease stress among masses that was prevailing in these troubling times. – APP

## NAB brings corrupt elements to Justice: Chairman

He said that NAB is the focal department under the United Nations Convention against Corruption which is pride for Pakistan

## ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: NAB is absolutely committed to bring the corrupt elements to justice to eradicate corruption from the country by adopting the "Accountability for All" policy as Corruption is the mother of all evils which is a major hurdle in the development and prosperity of the country. This was stated by Honorable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB. He said that NAB has no affiliation with any political party, group and individual. NAB officials have been directed to perform their duties in accordance with law with the realization that eradication of corruption is their national duty. He said that NAB Chairman of SAARC An-

ti-Corruption Forum as NAB is considered as a role model for entire SAARC countries.

He said that NAB is the focal department under the United Nations Convention against Corruption which is pride for Pakistan. He said that NAB has established a state of the art Pakistan Anti-Corruption Training Academy on modern lines to train its investigation officers and Prosecutors in order to inquire/investigate white collar cases more professionally and to plead them very vigorously in the respected Courts on the basis of solid evidence as per law. He said that NAB's proactive Anti-Corruption Strategy has started yielding positive dividends. Due to its effective anti-corruption strategy, NAB has not only recovered Rs.



814 billion looted money from corrupt directly and indirectly since its inception and deposited it in the national exchequer which is a record achievement of any Anti-Corruption Organization working in Pakistan. NAB's conviction ratio is about 66

percent. NAB is utilizing all its resources to apprehend Proclaimed Offenders and Absconders to bring them to justice as per law. The Chairman NAB said that there are about 1273 references under trial in respective Accountability Courts and their approximately worth is Rs 1300 billion. NAB has conducted probes in 56 public limited companies, probes in offshore companies, Fake Accounts, money laundering and misuse of authority, assets beyond known sources of income and cheating the public at large in illegal Housing/Cooperative Societies and Modaraba scams etc. He said that NAB has great regard for the business community as they are the backbone of the development of any country. NAB has established special cells for addressing

the complaints of the business community related to NAB. He said that NAB also respects bureaucracy and directed all concerned to ensure self-respect of all persons visiting NAB offices as per law. He said that NAB during the period of present management of three years has recovered Rs. 533 billion from corrupt elements which is a record achievement. NAB has also introduced a new System of Combine Investigation Team (CIT) in order to benefit from the experience and collective wisdom of senior supervisory officers, a system of CIT consisting of Director, Additional Director, Investigation Officer and a Senior Legal Counsel has been put in place. This is not only lending quality to the work.



## Dangerous rise

THIS has become a pattern. The government of Pakistan imposes strict restrictions to prevent the spread of coronavirus and for a period we see a dramatic drop. But then the rules are relaxed by only a slight degree, and we see an exponential rise in cases. On Friday, the positivity rate for Islamabad alone was over seven percent. The average positivity rate across Pakistan stood at almost four percent. Cases of the delta variant have also been confirmed. This should ring alarm bells for both the public and the administration. The vaccination drive has stabilised at a good pace, but the sheer number of the total population tells us that we are in for a long process before we can even begin to consider herd immunity as a possibility. Over 19 million doses have indeed been administered, but out of this number only close to 3.8 million are complete vaccinations. With Eid less than 10 days away, and all tourist locations crowded with visitors, we might see an even bigger spike in the next two weeks. There must be more vigilance on part of the government and basic adherence to preventive measures on our part. Peshawar's BRT has imposed a mandatory facemask regulation; this should be replicated elsewhere as well. Gyms, restaurants and other businesses that have recently opened must not allow for any customers to flout the rules, as has been observed recently. The government has already issued this warning; if another closure is enforced customers will lose out a bit but the biggest hit will be felt by the owners themselves. Even if the pandemic's numbers are lost on individual businesses, the threat of another serious loss should lead to a more careful attitude. The government can speed up this process by sending teams out for inspection and closing any place of business that is seen to be violating procedures. If we want normalcy for more than a few weeks, there must be an attitude change, and for that, the government must keep hammering in information and awareness for the general public. It is quite the uphill task but this is what is needed.

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## Battling for energy

PAKISTAN will almost certainly face a shortage of gas this winter, just as it did the previous year and indeed the year before that. The current government has failed over the past two and a half to three years to lay any new pipeline, while the future of the one laid by the PML-N government from Sindh to Punjab is in doubt. There appear to be two threads of thought. Since 2015, negotiations have been continuing with Russia over the laying of a pipeline that would offer Pakistan much needed gas. While a Russian delegation is due to arrive in the country within a few weeks to discuss the matter and the possible hurdles coming up from Pakistan in this pipeline project, there is a lobby within the country which wishes to use a different pipeline combining the resources of Sui Northern and Sui Southern to solve the problem. To add to this, we have additional energy-producing capacity, according to Engro, from a floating cargo-carrying vessel currently docked at Karachi – at least while the main Engro terminal is away for dry-docking. Pakistan needs to learn from its past mistakes and put priorities in place. These priorities must be to ensure commercial and domestic consumers do not suffer needlessly due to a failure to offer them energy badly needed for multiple purposes. We are somewhat short of time. There has already been too long a lag. Pakistan's dependence over decades on the US, which now appears to be pulling away from Pakistan, has after all done little good. Yes, our relationship with nations like China must continue – but diversifying cooperation can do no harm. It is essential that companies, LNG terminal owners and others with vested interests not be allowed to work for their own purposes. The cabinet, as the prime decision-making body for the nation as a whole, must focus on the interest of the nation. It should also consider why things have been left so late, with no new pipeline built in years. The only way to remedy the situation is to put in place a plan which will allow a short-term tackling of the energy crisis this winter and at the same time enable us to move ahead with longer-term, more efficient plans which do not force the country to burn furnace oil to generate energy as is currently happening. This simply adds to the burden on the country's exchequer. This must be kept in mind as the decision is made about which pipeline and what other measures we need to move ahead with quickly over the few months we have remaining till the winter, and then for the years ahead.

# Uzbek-Pak model of greater regional connectivity

Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan



Pakistan will be benefited from increasing close ties with Uzbekistan which is indeed a gateway of Central Asia and has borders with Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan. On its parts, Pakistan offers shortest and easy route for connecting with Central Asia its seaport are value-addition

UZBEKISTAN the real "jewel" of the Central Asian Region (CAR) has been striving hard to get connected with outer world to achieve extra-regional socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic "integration" with South Asia Region (SAR) and beyond. For the further strengthening of bilateral relations and achieve the dreams of greater regional connectivity, an international conference entitled "Central Asia and South Asia: Regional Connectivity. Challenges and Opportunities" will be held on July 15 in Tashkent. It would be a new chapter in the national history and commercial diplomacy of Uzbekistan. Now Uzbekistan's "Double Landlocked Syndrome (DLS)" has been successfully "swayed" through implementation of constant structural economic reforms having strong political commitment and "Immaculate Conception" of conflict resolution strategies of the President H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev. It will be

further be consolidated after the successful holding of international conference which will be a giant step towards achieving the optimal levels of regional connectivity and immense socio-economic integration, energy and food cooperation between the Central Asia and South Asia.

It's "Massive Drive of Diversification of Economy (MDDE)", "Pragmatic & Friendly Foreign Policy Module (PFPM)" and last but not the least, "Holistic Model of Connectivity (HMC)" based on "shared prosperity" has now been getting "momentum" and new "heights" since the start of presidency of Shavkat Mirziyoyev 2017.

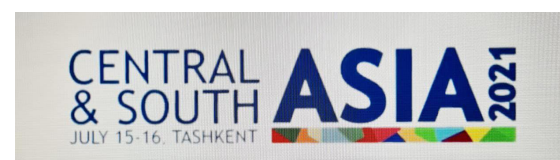
The upcoming international conference would be vivid reflection of rich multiculturalism of Uzbekistan and for its further strengthening of multidimensional cultural supremacy Heads of Foreign States and governments, representatives of international organizations, financial institutions, investment funds and companies, as well as global research and analytical centers, think tanks have already been cordially invited during which hearts and souls will be submerged to chalk out a comprehensive policy for achieving the greater regional connectivity.

On its part, being the "ideal" "connecting" hub between CAR and SAR having "easiest & shortest" route, Pakistan has been working hard to further strengthening the diplomatic ties with all the CAR especially the Republic of Uzbekistan in diverse fields of economy, trade & commerce, joint venture, foreign direct investment, food & energy cooperation, civil aviation, direct linkages, textiles, garments, automobiles, agro-economy/manufacturing, banking/finance, Islamic banking, micro-financing, insurance, science & technology, medical sciences, educational cooperation and last but not least, cultural cooperation. According to reliable diplomatic resources and foreign office officials during the conference Pakistan will sign trade agreements with Uzbekistan to explore over US\$90 billion exports potential in central Asia.

Moreover, both sides will hold a Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) meeting in Tashkent on July 14, 2021 followed by Pakistan-Uzbekistan Trade, Investment and Connectivity Conference on July 15-16 for which a record numbers of potential investors and businessmen are going to Tashkent to attend this conference from Pakistan. The conference will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Imran Khan and the president of Uzbekistan. Hopefully, several big trans-regional transport projects in the region will also be discussed especially most recently proposed trans-regional railways project, CASA-1000 and TAPI gas pipeline. It is hoped after the successful conference the development of solid conceptual foundations for closer interaction between the regions of Central and South Asia will be further consolidated. It will facilitate the inter-regional agenda with specific projects of a strategic nature.

This conference will further gear-up Uzbekistan's efforts for securing peace and stability in the region and achieving greater regional connectivity. Hopefully, Uzbekistan's diplomatic efforts and spirits of commercial diplomacy will be showcased in the upcoming conference which will consequently strengthen its role as a reliable conductor and vital stabilizer/leveler of all Central Asian states. Moreover, it will further strengthen Tashkent regional stature. Pakistan will be benefited from increasing close ties with Uzbekistan which is indeed a gateway of Central Asia and has borders with Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan. On its parts, Pakistan offers shortest and easy route for connecting with Central Asia its seaport are value-addition.

Visionary leaderships of Uzbekistan and Pakistan H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Imran Khan have now further "redefined", "re-



phrased", re-shaped", re-planned and re-implemented noble concept of regional connectivity by announcing numerous befitting Zero Customs Duties Regimes (ZCDRs), beneficial Strategic Oriented Policies/programs (SOPs), doable Trans-Regional Railway Project (TRP), the Innovative & Integrated Transportation System (IITS), TIR Carnets, Preferential Treatment Facility (PTFs) at Karachi Port Trust (KPT) and Gwadar seaports, the Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement (QTTA) and last but not least, Cluster Trading Scheme of Arrangements (CTSAs). In this regard, both countries have agreed to allocate dedicated space in Gwadar and Tashkent for establishing warehousing facilities to help each other in the transportation of goods to other regional countries. A big Pakistani delegation will also participate in the business forum to be held during this international conference.

Uzbekistan's Holistic Model of Connectivity (HMC) is primarily based on its macro-economic stability, sustainability and "transformation" through rigorous "structural reforms" initiated by the leadership of Shavkat Mirziyoyev which has now enabled his country to "expand" its trade & commerce relationship beyond the immediate neighborhood of the CAR. In this context the upcoming international conference will be instrumental.

To achieve this strategic goal, series of high officials meetings, interactive sessions, exchange of mutually beneficial proposals, economic incentives, trade promotion pledges, and last but not least, constant seaports facilitations has been rigorously discussed and consequently finalized which has actually revolutionized "concept" of regional connectivity between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Due to which "caravans" of Greater Regional Connectivity (GRC) have now further been stimulated and their successful Mutual Infinite Voyages (MIVs) of creating bridges of trust & trade, connecting minds & souls, merchandized commodities, commercial apparatus and of course Exchange of Valuable Services (EVSs) have been achieving new skies. It is indeed a giant and gigantic step towards modern revival of the ancient "Silk Route" of Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan presented the concept of greater regional connectivity through the construction of the Mazari-Sharif-Kabul-Peshawar railway. The Uzbek Chairperson of the Senate, Tanzil Narbaeva termed it as the "event of the century". Prime Minister Imran Khan described the project as the important connectivity project and endorsed Pakistan's efforts for the early implementation of the railway line.

In this connection, dreams of greater regional connectivity will be further speed-up and streamlined with the implementation of the Mazari-Sharif-Kabul-Peshawar which will provide easy access to all the Central Asia countries particularly, to the Pakistan's ports of Karachi, Port Qasim and Gwadar.

It is estimated that once this entire project is operationalized, the trade between Pakistan and Uzbekistan may reach up to 90 billion USD. Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan has already signed US\$4.7 trans-regional railway project. It has been jointly submitted to World Bank for approval.

In this regard, a road map was signed by all the participating countries in Tashkent. It is indeed a giant step towards regional integration of the CIS and South Asia Region which has com-

pleted population of 1.9 billion people 25 percent the world and a GDP of 3.5 trillion dollars.

Furthermore, most recently, the first shipment under the Convention on International Transport of Goods for traffic-in-transit of goods crossed the border and reached Pakistan from Uzbekistan via Afghanistan in 48 hours. It has actually diminished the concept of double landlocked doctrine and enhanced regional connectivity. The Pakistan Ministry of Commerce labeled it a "new milestone" which has now been achieved as the result of collaboration between the transport companies of the two sides. It followed the successful shipment of first-ever cargo from Pakistan to Uzbekistan earlier this month. It labeled the beginning of a new era where trucks from both sides will take trade cargo to and from Karachi and Gwadar ports. It has successfully started exchange of goods and commodities between Faisalabad and Fergana.

The Embassy of Uzbekistan in Pakistan together with Pakistani transport company Best Trans Pvt Ltd and Uzbek freight forwarding company Asad Trans for the first time implemented a pilot trans-Afghan logistics project for direct delivery of Uzbek export goods to Pakistan through the territory of Afghanistan.

For further regional connectivity, in the near past, Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime Minister for Investment and Foreign Trade, Sardor Umurzakov visited Pakistan and met with high dignitaries including Prime Minister Imran Khan, COAS General Bajwa and various Ministers. During his stay in Pakistan, Sardor Umurzakov showed his government's willingness to become the Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement (QTTA) which has already been signed by Pakistan, China, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan which has now further consolidated because of the construction of Karakoram Highway Phase Two.

Uzbekistan President H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev established strategic cooperation with Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan which has now started a completely new political atmosphere based on mutual trust and good neighborliness in the CAR. Uzbekistan's socio-economic oriented ties with Afghanistan are now bearing fruit and dividends. His "Border Integration the Key to Development" commercial diplomacy has further consolidated ties with Pakistan.

According to Uzbekistan official statistics (January 2021) due to constant structural reforms the average annual investment growth rate was 22 percent during the last four years. The total volume of foreign investment reached \$26.6 billion, including direct investments of \$17.5 billion. Critical analysis indicates that the total volume of investments over the past 4 years has increased by more than 2.1 times, including foreign investments by 2.7 times. The share of investment of GDP in 2019 exceeded 38 percent for the first time, which created a solid foundation for ensuring economic growth in the coming years. A Joint Infrastructural Development Company (JIDC) may be established to accelerate affordable housing schemes in both the countries. A Joint Railway Consultancy Company (JRCC) would be established to streamline the technical modalities of the proposed trans-regional railway project. A Joint Investment Company may be useful to mobilize and channelize domestic investments potential through innovative Sukuk Bonds. Revival of banking and financial integration is the need of the hour. Afterwards, Swapping of National Currencies Regime (SNCR) may be initiated to accelerate mutual inflows of trade & commerce. Last but not least, formation of "Corridor of Knowledge (CK)" may be an "innovative" idea to stimulate the bilateral trade in the days to come.

# Israeli settlers: The face of US imperialism

Haythem Guesmi

"DEATH to Arabs!" "May your village burn!" "A second Nakba is coming!" These were the slogans young Israeli settlers chanted as they marched through occupied East Jerusalem's old city on June 15.

The Zionist nationalist march, celebrating the anniversary of Israel's 1967 occupation of East Jerusalem, had eerie similarities not only with last century's Nazi rallies in Europe, but also with the more recent examples of racial hatred we have seen on the other side of the Atlantic, in the United States.

For example, watching last month's so-called "March of the flags" in Jerusalem, it was difficult not to be reminded of the 2017 white supremacist march in Charlottesville, Virginia, where American white nationalists carrying tiki torches chanted slogans like "You will not replace us" and "The South will rise again". Perhaps the only difference between these two public declarations of racial hatred and the genocidal intention was the fact that, unlike their American counterparts, the Israeli racists faced no backlash or punishment.

Indeed, as genocidal slogans filled the streets of occupied Jerusalem, the Israeli police refrained from making any attempts to control the settlers, but arrested 17 Palestinians protesting against this blatant provocation for "disturbing the peace". The similarities between white supremacists in the US and Zionist settlers in Israel are not coincidental. The connection between the two groups goes much deeper than a shared disdain for "the other". In fact, the Israeli settlers epitomise the ideals and policies of US imperialism in the MENA region. In May 2021, Muna al-Kurd, a young Palestinian woman, accused an Israeli settler named Jacob of stealing her family home in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood in East Jerusalem.

"Jacob, you know that this is not your home," she told him in English. The settler replied in a thick US accent: "Yes, but if I go, you don't go back, so what's the problem? Why are you yelling at me?"

Jacob, who gained worldwide infamy after a video of the above interaction went viral, was later revealed to be Yaakov Fauri – a Trump supporter from New York who is affiliated with the US-based settler organisation Nahalat Shimon.

No one, of course, was surprised to find out that the new poster boy of violent settler colonialism in Palestine is an Israeli American with apparent ties to white supremacist politics in the US. Israeli American settlers have long been leading the efforts to dispossess Palestinians of their homes and land with the support of the Israeli Supreme Court and the Israeli government. And the arguments settlers use to justify their violence – that they are the rightful owners of the land, that they are culturally superior to the Indigenous population, that they are only "defending" themselves – are almost identical to those that are being used by white supremacists in the US.

The best place to look to understand the obvious parallels between the goals and methods of Israeli settlers and US white supremacists is perhaps the life and politics of Naftali Bennett, Israel's new prime minister.

Born to American parents who emigrated from San Francisco after the 1967 Six-Day War, Bennett was once the head of the settlers' Yehsa Council, whose objective is "to safeguard Israel's strategic expanses – between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea". He built his political career as the protégé of Benjamin Netanyahu and boasted of being even more right wing than the warmonger former prime minister.

To this day, he is a staunch supporter of the one-state solution and the annexation of the West Bank by Israel. "I've killed lots of Arabs in my life," he once declared, "and there's no problem with that." Like the white supremacists in the US, Bennett is adamant that the Indigenous inhabitants of the lands his people are trying to claim for themselves are somewhat sub-human,

and he is willing to imprison, abuse, and even kill them to achieve his goals. His story is an ethno-nationalist one penned in Palestinian blood and stolen soil.

Israeli settlers, from Naftali Bennett to Yaakov Fauri, are undoubtedly genuine embodiments of violent ethno-nationalism and the US brand of white supremacy in Israel. But they are also much more than that. Today, Israeli settlers are the "Jewish face" of US imperialism in the MENA region.

Palestinian-American intellectual and literary critic Edward Said famously talked about the connection between imperialism and Zionism. "There is an unmistakable coincidence between the experiences of Arab Palestinians at the hands of Zionism and the experiences of those black, yellow, and brown people who were described as inferior and subhuman by nineteenth-century imperialists," he wrote in his 1979 essay, Zionism from the Standpoint of its Victims. "It is important to remember that in joining the general Western enthusiasm for overseas territorial acquisition, Zionism never spoke of itself unambiguously as a Jewish liberation movement, but rather as a Jewish movement for colonial settlement in the Orient."

For Said, it was clear that the same policies of ghettoised segregation and pogroms perpetuated against Indigenous peoples and cultures and on which the very ideas of US nationalism and imperialism were built are integral to how Zionists have imagined and executed the dispossession and annihilation of Palestinians.

Today, in light of the global dominance of the US, there is little doubt that Zionism, and thus Israel's settler colonialism, is an extension of American imperialism. And not only Palestinians, but also Jews across the globe, are its victims.

In her popular 2007 pamphlet, The Past Didn't Go Anywhere, Jewish activist April Rosenblum argued that "the point of anti-Jewish oppression is to keep a Jewish face in front, so that Jews, instead of ruling classes, become

the target for peoples' rage."

She explained how for centuries the ruling classes used Jews for "middlemen" jobs "that put them in direct contact with the exploited, disgruntled peasantry, shielding themselves from the backlash for their unjust policies". And today, the US imperialists and Zionists are using Jews as a buffer, a middle agent, to shield themselves from any backlash against their imperial and ethno-nationalist ambitions in the Middle East.

Indeed, for centuries, ruling classes in Europe and beyond allowed anti-semitism to rage and Jews to be scapegoated for their oppressive actions and policies. Today, they are doing the very same thing by politically and culturally pushing the idea that the violent settler colonialism of Israel represents all Jews and that anti-Zionism is in fact anti-semitism.

The US anti-BDS laws, which continue to be effective under the Biden government, have driven much of the political and institutional decisions in the Western world against any criticism of anti-Zionism.

Also, mainstream media in the West is routinely pushing anti-Semitic narratives alongside arguments in support of Israel and its violent settler colonialism. They are repeatedly equating the Israeli state to Jews at large, once again laying the ground for Jews to be scapegoated for the genocidal excesses and misdeeds of violent imperial powers – this time the US and its Zionist allies.

In sum, despite its self-declared commitment to protecting Jews in Israel, what the US is trying to protect in Israel is its own imperial interests and ambitions. And Israeli settlers, the carbon-copies of America's own home-grown white supremacists, are acting as the foot soldiers of the empire.

Today, as the racist violence of Israeli settlers continues to rage, it is time to acknowledge and disempower the zealous efforts by US imperialists and Zionists to put a "Jewish face" to their pogroms and genocidal oppression and dispossession of Palestinians – for the sake of Jews and Palestinians alike.

—Courtesy Aljazeera



## Briefs

## India pulls officials from Afghanistan

FROM PAGE 01

India's foreign minister on Friday called for a reduction in violence, saying the situation in the war-torn nation has a direct bearing on regional security. With the rapid advance of the Taliban towards the capital Kabul and the failure of the Indian government to find a sweet spot with them, the Narendra Modi regime has been left with little option but to order an evacuation of its staff from Afghanistan. A high-level security official confirmed news reports about the evacuation of the Indian officials from its various consulates spread across Afghanistan. The staff leaving the Afghan Consulates comprises of a few diplomats and a large number of Research and Analysis Wing operatives, working on cover positions. Pakistan presented to the world "irrefutable evidence" in the shape of a dossier comprising translated letters, supply chain of weapons and equipment, telephonic conversations, video recordings and funding details from banks in India to the terrorists in Pakistan in November last year. Foreign Policy experts termed it yet another nail in the coffin of the Narendra Modi government which has repeatedly failed at every front, be it the handling of the covid pandemic, India's foreign policy or Afghanistan. The hurried departures speak of India's failed strategy to use the American security umbrella for its dirty operations in Afghanistan. With the departure of the American troops from Afghanistan, India once again stands exposed.

## Pakistan reports highest...

FROM PAGE 01

The country has recorded a total of 973,284 cases, 22,582 deaths, 913,203 recoveries, the NCOC said, adding that there were 37,499 active cases. According to a province-wise breakdown, the total cases reported in Sindh so far are 346,360, Punjab 348,085, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 139,313, in Islamabad Capital Territory 83,647, in Balochistan 27,961, in Gilgit-Baltistan 6,851, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir 21,067.

## Malaysia offers...

FROM PAGE 01

MARA (UfTM) Priority will be given to the following areas of study: Economics and Banking, Business Management, Science and Technology (not including nursing, medicine, clinical pharmacy), International Relations and Diplomacy, Public Policy and Governance, Agriculture and Livestock and Social Science. For more information, the applicants may visit the following website to have more information [https://biasiswa.mohe.gov.my/INTER/index\\_criteria\\_MTCP.php](https://biasiswa.mohe.gov.my/INTER/index_criteria_MTCP.php).

## McGregor breaks leg in UFC trilogy loss to Poirier

LAS VEGAS: Conor McGregor suffered a broken leg in another crushing defeat to Dustin Poirier at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, with the fight stopped by doctors at the end of the first round. It was an anti-climactic finish to an action-packed round in the fight on Saturday, as both fighters were still trying to land McGregor stumbled backwards, trapping his foot under himself and breaking his leg. Medics were immediately called into the octagon and it was clear that McGregor could not continue, prompting referee Herb Dean to declare a stop to the bout on the instructions of the doctor. Interviewed in the octagon with his leg in a cast, McGregor raged about his misfortune. "I was boxing the head off him, kicking the leg off him, [he was doing] the usual, diving to close the distance. This is not over - if I have to take this outside with him, it's on outside," he roared. - DNA

## People-to-people relations strengthen ties: Amb. Sangpyo

K-Pop festival will greatly enhance the friendly ties between Korea and Pakistan



SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Islamabad held the 2021

K-Pop Festival in LokVirsa (Heritage) Museum. The K-Pop Festival Pakistan was held as the regional dance competition for the 2021 Changwon

K-Pop World Festival. The top three teams will have the opportunity to participate in the final which will take place in October in Changwon, Korea.

The young participants performed on the stage to showcase their talent and skills that can compete with Korean dancers and musical bands.

On the occasion, Suh Sangpyo commented that among various relations between countries, the people-to-people and cultural relations strengthen

the fundamental of the relations. In that sense, today's K-Pop festival will greatly enhance the friendly ties between Korea and Pakistan.



## Messi ends trophy drought as Argentina beat Brazil



SPORTS DESK

RIO DE JANEIRO: Superstar Lionel Messi won his first trophy with his national team as Angel Di Maria's goal gave Argentina a 1-0 win over hosts Brazil in the Copa America final on Saturday. The victory at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium ended Argentina's 28-year wait for a major trophy, and also ended Brazil's unbeaten home record that stretched back more than 2,500 days. Argentina had last tasted success at a major tournament in 1993 when the

great Gabriel Batistuta's brace gave them a 2-1 win over Mexico in the Copa final in Ecuador. "It's a great title, especially for our people. The fans support the team unconditionally. I think they can identify with this team that never gives in," said Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni. It was the first time in six editions playing at home that Brazil had failed to lift the trophy. And while 34-year-old Messi's odyssey has come to an end, Brazil's Neymar, five years his junior, is still without a major title at international level

having missed the Selecao's win on home soil two years ago through injury. Argentina edged a brutal and fractious affair thanks to Di Maria's goal on 22 minutes. The 33-year-old winger ran onto Rodrigo De Paul's sumptuous through ball to lob Brazil goalkeeper Ederston with a first time finish. "We fell short so many times, we dreamt so much about this, fought so hard," said Di Maria, who was named man of the match. "Many people said we wouldn't manage it, we were criticised a lot. But we kept knocking at the

door and kept going until today we knocked it down and entered." Messi could have wrapped up the win two minutes from time but slipped when clean through with only Ederston to beat. "We have to be big enough to recognise (the defeat) regardless of how painful and difficult it is," said Brazil coach Tite. In a frantic start, Argentina's burly enforcer Nicolas Otamendi was quickly in with his first foul while Brazilian midfielder Fred picked up the first booking after just three minutes for a studs up lunge at Gonzalo Montiel. Brazil were unchanged from their semi-final win over Peru while Scaloni made five alterations, notably bringing in Di Maria - who made an energetic and decisive entry off the bench against Colombia last time out. The final was the first match of the tournament, which was originally due to take place last year, to allow in fans as 7,800 - a tenth of the Maracana capacity - took their seats after authorities partially lifted pandemic restrictions. The first clear chance came on 13 minutes as Richarlison headed down Marquinhos's long ball into the path of Neymar but the Brazilian star was crowded out by a pair of defenders.



## Ambassador Sajjad meets Belarusian Football Federation

The meeting concluded with a commitment to pursue an MOU for mutually beneficial cooperation

DNA

MINSK: AmbSajjadHaider Khan called on the Chairman of the Football Federation of Belarus Vladimir Bazanov. The meeting was also attended by DHM Abdullah Amin. During the meeting, opportunities of bilateral cooperation were discussed, including the possibility of supplies of football balls from Pakistan, organising coaching sessions for the Pakistani Football Team in Belarus and holding friendly football matches between Pakistan and Belarus. Chairman Bazanov offered the Pakistan football team to play a FIFA match with Belarusian team during 2022, exact dates will be notified later. He offered to provide sports facilities and football coaches for the Pakistani team during their training sessions in Belarus. The meeting concluded with a commitment to pursue an MOU for mutually beneficial cooperation between Pakistan and Belarusian Football Federations.

## Tennis camp for special kids begins

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Under the aegis of Special Olympics Pakistan more than thirty five special kids are taking part in tennis camp for special childrens with disabilities to improve their skills in the field of tennis. The three months long tennis camp aimed to introduce the game of tennis to special people are organised with the collaboration of Engro Foundation and

Islamabad Tennis Complex inaugurated by Regional Head of Engro Foundation Fareed Mehdi. "We have recently established the Benazir Bhutto Academy at the Complex. Since special people are also an important part of society, it is pertinent for us to engage them in healthy activities. We have decided to teach the basics of tennis. This practice will continue for the next three months-three days a week.



## Nagarparker, Pakistan's hidden sphere of historical architecture

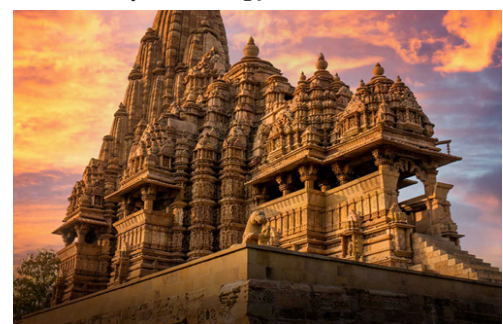
MUNAZA KAZMI

MAGICAL wells, Spectacular Jain temples, Gigantic sand dunes hiding several exotic tales, wow...sounds like "Ali Baba and Forty Thieves". I believe readers could only imagine these enchanted tales in Arabian nights story books but never heard or thought of those in real world. For living your imaginations Come with me to a mesmerizing journey of magical and undiscovered lands of Pakistan. Pakistan is not just about the mountains and streams like my friends think it's far much interesting, full of mysterious stories, adventurous and yeah beautiful indeed. Today am taking you to Nagarparker. Born from under the sea, Nagarparker is a beautiful town situated at the base of the dramatic and mineral-rich Karunjhar hills and neighboring the Indian border in Tharparker, Sindh. The area is surrounded by rocky belts and sand dunes same of that of Aladdin, also it is the home to centuries-old Jain and Hindu temples, a beautiful white marble mosque, a magical well, thousands of resident snakes like you see in National Geographic Channel, memorial stones, granite deposits also rare flora and fauna. It is said that the Karunjhar hills provide 1.25 kg of gold every day in the form of red granite stone, china clay, and honey. Nagarparker is home to almost 200,000 inhabitants, who mostly belong to modest backgrounds. The town is majorly inhabited by Hindus, who have historically lived in harmony with the Muslim minority. In fact, the famous temples of the area make it mostly a town of the Hindus and Muslim pilgrims who visit each year to perform religious rituals or attend meals at the local shrines. In the past Nagarparker was largely populated by Yogis and Jain Munis, the followers of Lord Mahavira and Parsanatha, some hundreds of years ago. These Jains and Shaivites were known to practice

austerities in the hills of Karunjhar. Stories from the locals relate that wealthy Hindu merchants built temples and dedicated them to Lord Parshwanath, the 23rd Jain prophet. But with hardly any Jains left, these major archaeological monuments lie abandoned, neglected and shrouded in mystery.

## Jain Temple

Apart from the golden sand, exotic wild life and rich mineral reserves, Nagarparker is famous for the Jain history and their remarkable architecture. There are over twelve Jain temples that you can find in the area. These dates back to as far as the 14th century - the era when the Jain architectural expression was at its ultimate - and are now one of the oldest heritage sites of Pakistan. Some of the notable shrines include; Karoonjar Jain, Virvah Jain, Gori and a cluster of three temples at Bodhesar etc. These are richly decorated with sculptures and paintings. The carvings on the pillars and entrances of these temples are magnificent for their intricacy. One of these sanctuaries is believed to have been built by a Jain woman and is locally called, PoniDaharo. The walls of these abandoned buildings are geometric steps of marble - a particular style that shows up everywhere from the temple's steps to the frames carved inside some of its walls and are widely seen among Jain constructions.



The canopies at the entrance of these temples are decorated with paintings that represent Jain mythology. It is believed that the frescoes at Gori temple are some of the oldest Jain frescoes in existence. Unfortunately, not much has been done to conserve these heritage sites and you would find some are merely ruins of what were once considered architectural wonders. I believe we should not leave everything on government since this heritage is belong to the citizens as well, we our self could preserve our precious heritage for the coming generations.

## Bhodesar Mosque

Going further alongside the pond at the foothill of the Karunjhar you would discover a beautiful, shining white mosque. This remarkable structure, built entirely with cold and welcoming marble, is said to have been built by Sultan MahmoodBegra, the ruler of Gujarat. On a closer inspection you could see an inscription on the mosque lists the year 880/1505, which is also a reminder of the Jain-inspired architecture at the mosque.

## Durga Mata Temple

Next, lies on the ChurrioJabal hill, there's a historic Hindu sanctuary hosts up to 200,000 pilgrims annually on Shivratri. Visitors bring cremated ashes of their departed beloveds to immerse in the holy water. The valuable and multi-colored hill supporting the temple is mined for its rare and expensive granite, which I believe is posing a serious threat to the foundation of the house of the Hindu goddess, Durga.

By now you are in the thoughts of golden land, and its preservations that's a great idea work on it. Well I think now let's move to another totally different view of this beautiful land, something like we use to see in Bollywood movies...yeah, it's a "Love Story".

## Marvi's well

Located in the Bhalwa village, this well is regarded as one of the primary cultural standpoints of the Thar Desert and has now been extended into a cultural center. This complex is a historical reminder

of the story of Umar and Marvi. Umar Soomro, a local ruler of the area in the 13th century, fell in love with the beautiful Marvi while she was drawing water from this well, same as in films though. The story, however, takes a bleak turn where after continuous rejection, King Umar kidnapped the girl and kept her hostage for a year in hopes for her to settle one day. But after realizing that no number of jewels could waive Marvi's love for her fiancé back in her town, alas, he had to let her go. Marvi was immortalized because of her strong-will, determined character and her pure love for her homeland. She is remembered today as one of the bravest women in Sindh history.

## Interesting indeed... hasn't Pakistan.

However, there are some difficulties in to getting these vivid places reasoning the tough weather and security. Also, the Lodging facilities have been almost non-existent in the area, except for a few rest houses. However, in 2017, the Sindh culture and tourism ministry opened the 'RooploKolhi Resort', in hopes of promoting tourism in the area. On the other hand, ones with wandering souls can rent a charpai, from any local restaurant to spend the night under the starry skies of Thar. Indeed, there's a need to build the hotels in order to promote the tourism.



## 'PPP, PML-N lack candidates in AJK'

FROM PAGE 01

saying that they had campaigned for the GB elections but were frustrated as they could not find candidates to field. "They are facing the same situation in the AJK as [both parties] cannot find candidates to field in several constituencies," the federal minister continued. Fawad said both the PPP and the PML-N had no political culture as they were being run by two royal families, adding that one has a "queen" and the other a "king" at the helm of affairs. He said leaders of the PPP and the PML-N have no respect for their party workers and treat their parties' former prime ministers like 'slaves'. Slamming the Opposition, he said during the marriage of Maryam's daughter a few years ago, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was invited as the special guest, while Bilawal was unaware that Pakistan had fought three wars with India over the Kashmir dispute. "Pakistanis and Kashmiris are a nation and no one can separate them," he said. There is no graveyard in Jhelum, Abbottabad, and Mansehra where the army personnel martyred at the Line of Control were not buried, Fawad said. Fawad said PTI - under Prime Minister Imran Khan's leadership - would break "political idols" in the AJK elections as it had already done in other parts of Pakistan. He said both Bilawal and Maryam knew nothing about running the national economy, as they had practically done nothing to earn even a single rupee.

## 'Govt trying to steal PML-N's mandate'

FROM PAGE 01

Azad Jammu, and Kashmir (AJK), she told Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government against making Kashmir the fifth province of Pakistan and also trying to rob PML-N of its mandate in the elections to be held on July 25th. "If you try to rob our party of its mandate, AJK Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider will not spare you," she warned. Maryam questioned why India snatched from Kashmir the special status it had granted to the state under Article 370 of its constitution when Imran Khan was Pakistan's prime minister. "You have lost Pakistan's case on Kashmir," she alleged. She said that the PTI government's only agenda was to divide Kashmir. "Imran Khan, please bring with you the list of your contributions to the Kashmir issue next time you visit AJK," she commented. She said she had a message for people of the Indian occupied Kashmir, and that was PML-N stood by them in these times when they were facing brutalities at the hands of Indian forces.



## CENTRAL AND SOUTH ASIA CONFERENCE 2021

## Political and cultural realities of Central and South Asia: ISRS expert

It is noteworthy that on 15-16 July, Tashkent will host a high-level international conference "Central and South Asia: Regional Interconnectedness: Challenges and Opportunities"

DNA

TASHKENT: The new political reality in the region, formed by the proactive, proactive and constructive diplomacy of the President of Uzbekistan ShavkatMirziyoyev, had a positive impact on building up cooperation on a wide range of issues both between the countries of Central Asia and on an international scale. The modern foreign policy of Uzbekistan has led Tashkent to take steps to find solutions to a long-overdue request - to intensify and expand the process of regional interconnectedness in the direction of Central and South Asia.

Such a prospect will give an additional impetus to the strengthening of trade, economic, scientific, technical, investment and humanitarian ties between Central and South Asia - two historically, culturally, civilizational, economically and geographically close regions.

It is noteworthy that on 15-16 July, Tashkent will host a high-level international conference "Central and South Asia: Regional Interconnectedness: Challenges and Opportunities". Taking this into account, on the eve of this high event, "Dunyo" IA correspondent turned for a comment to the head of the department of the Institute for Strategic and Interregional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan AlisherKadyrov.

Alisher Kadyrovich, today the upcoming conference is widely discussed in the mass media. Its very name suggests the question: what is the history of the interconnection of these two regions? - The political and cultural relationships of the vast sub-region of Central and South Asia are rooted deep in history. They date back to the period of such empires of antiquity as Bactria, Kushan, Eastern and Western Turkic Khaganates, as well as the later states of the Seleucids, Sassanids, which appeared in the period after the conquests of Alexander the Great. All of them were located on vast territories, including partially or completely modern territories of Central and South Asia. It was then that the foundations of trade routes, cultural ties and mutual influences between the peoples of the two regions were laid.

On this occasion, the ancient historian and geographer Strabo, referring to the notes of Greek travelers and other authors, reported that on the river Oaks (Amu Darya) goods were delivered across the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea to Europe. Due to its convenient geographic location, Central Asia has become an important mediator between the West and the East. Merchant caravans from India went to Central Asia, and from there Indian goods were distributed to European countries.

However, archaeological excavations of the Kushan era (1st-4th centuries) and later pe-



riods confirm that Central Asia was not only an intermediary, but also an active trading partner of India. An interesting fact is that the capital of the Kushan Empire was initially located in Dalvarzintepe, near Termez. Then it was moved to Purushapura - this is the current Pakistani city of Peshawar.

The spread of Buddhism became a milestone in the development of regional contacts. Vairochana, a Buddhist scholar from Kashmir, was the first missionary who brought Buddhism to Central Asia and further spread to China and other countries.

Cultural interaction gained new strength between regions during the period of Muslim rule. In Central Asia, Buddhist and Islamic ideas, together gave rise to a new, partially synchronized school of thought about a single cultural space, laid the foundations for tolerance and cultural diversity of the peoples of Central and South Asia. It is important to note that the Kushan, Greco-Bactrian empires were characterized by interfaith tolerance. This was seen on the coins of that era, where various Deities were depicted - Greek, Eastern, Turkic. Historical facts of this kind testify to the existence of a single cultural and civilizational space, a common trade and economic zone based on dialogue, mutual understanding and mutual benefit. This was the foundation and key factor for sustainable development and shared prosperity in the subregion.

- It is known that the Great Silk Road had a great influence on the development of all-round ties between peoples. Trade was, in today's language, the driver of the development of the economies of the countries. In this regard, how did the trade and economic relations develop between the two subregions?

- The rich cultural interaction between Central



and South Asia was accompanied by extensive trade and economic ties.

From ancient times, even before the Great Silk Road began to function, large caravan routes were formed between Hindustan and Central Asia, which served the purpose of developing mutual trade.

Already in the III-III millennia BC an extensive network of land routes emerged that included access to India via Afghanistan. In turn, the ancient cities of Central Asia were the intersection of trade routes from China, Europe, India, where cultures, trade and religions converged. The opening of the Great Silk Road served as an even greater impetus for the expansion of interregional trade and economic exchange.

At an early stage in the development of the Silk Road, the Kushan Empire (1st-4th centuries AD) established political and economic stability in most of Central Asia and extended its control to the Indian Ganges valley in the south. The trade-based Kushan economy provided a steady flow of goods, people and cultures across the two regions.

In the later development of the Silk Road and during the heyday of its trade (13th century and the first half of the 14th century), important secondary routes to the Indian subcontinent were part of the main southern route.



brought medicines with them. The famous physician from Herat, Abu Mansur Mawafak, admitted that he adopted the Indian way of teaching, "because Indians are very shrewd in medical sciences and more accurate in their research."

- You noted that there were quite wide and varied ties between the peoples of the two regions. Historical data show that there were large diasporas of South Asians in Central Asia and vice versa. Could you tell us a little more about this?

- Expansion of cultural and trade ties led to the emergence of a large Indian diaspora in the Central Asian region.

In 1901, 52 Indians lived in Kokand, and 28 and 4 Indians, respectively, in Namangan and Osh. In the second half of the 19th century. About 8 thousand Indian settlers lived in this region. Immigrants from Central Asia also lived in the Indian subcontinent, although their exact number is unknown. They lived in separate neighborhoods, or makhallas. Many of them arrived during the Mughal dynasty and were literary men who held high positions at the royal courts, artisans who made a significant contribution to architecture. A fine example of architectural excellence are "Badshahi Mosque", "Shalimar Bagh", "ShahiKila" in Lahore and "TajMahal" in Agra.

Historically, between Central and South Asia, there have been wide and deep connections in all many spheres of life. There were also regular diplomatic missions to resolve economic and trade issues. At present, the interests of the countries of the two great regions require expanding and deepening interconnection by reviving their rich heritage of historical and cultural contacts. The past of the countries of Central and South Asia in the modern period of history can be viewed as a bridge to the development of broad and meaningful interaction between regions.

## Briefs

## Explosion in Sudan kills 4

KHARTOUM: An explosion has killed four people in a Sudanese Red Sea port city, officials said Sunday, the latest in a series of violent incidents in the area. Tensions have been simmering in recent days in Port Sudan where anti-government protesters have reportedly blocked roads over rising insecurity.

Local media have linked the unrest to rejection by the Hedendoa tribe of an October peace deal between rebel groups and the Sudanese government.

Hadendoa, the largest subdivision of the Beja people in the region, fear their tribe will be under-represented in regional legislative and executive bodies under the Juba agreement.

Saturday's blast took place late in the evening at a busy sporting club in Port Sudan, the provincial capital of the Red Sea state, and also involved an armed attack. "An explosive device went off at Al-Amir club... killing four people," the Central Committee of Sudan Doctors said in a statement. - APP

## Azerbaijan registers 156 Covid cases

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan registered 156 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, Operational Headquarters under Cabinet of Ministers reported on July 11. Some 37 patients have recovered and 0 patients have died in the reported period.

So far, 337,254 COVID-19 cases have been registered in the country. Some 330,762 patients have recovered, 4,984 people have died. Currently, 1,508 people are under treatment in special hospitals. Over the past day, 10,144 tests were conducted in Azerbaijan to reveal coronavirus cases. In general, 3,852,280 tests have been conducted in Azerbaijan so far. So far, some 4,107,950 COVID-19 vaccines have been provided to Azerbaijani citizens.

## Prime Minister urged to restructure country disco's

ABID RAZA



LAHORE: Pakistan Business Forum has demanded the federal government to carry out due structural changes in the power sector through measures to inculcate service oriented approach in power distribution companies (Discos). "Despite huge circular debt on the country, Pakistan Electric Power Company (PEPCO) have recently further extended the duration for outside posting of the disco officers from the parent company to other power distribution companies from one year to three years which also put heavy burden before national exchequer and even it makes no sense". PBF President, Sahibzad Mian Usman Zulfiqar said the decision will further increase the financial burden of power companies disco's whose already running in losses and also what's the use to creation of independent power

companies; if you people only cater the interest of the employees only? He said as per the initial policy introduced in 2017, the tenure of posting on promotion outside parent company will be at least one year. Officers who will be posted out of their parent/ present companies, will be entitled to Dislocation Allowance. The lien of such officers will remain intact with their parent companies. Mian Usman also said it has nothing to do with the efficiency or integration as it solely based on the extra benefit of millions of rupees which is being paid to the posted officials. Currently, hundreds of

officers of are working outside their parent discos and they are costing millions of rupees to the host companies, he added. He said when WAPDA was integrated, there was no extra payment of any kind for posting in any part of the country. Even the bureaucrats serving other parts of the country don't claim extra pay then why huge extra payment is being made to the officers of disco for outside posting, he questioned.

The new policy of transfer and posting was introduced in 2017 during the tenure of PML(N). The loss or extra payment is not being paid by the disco's from its own resources as it is either transferred to the power consumers or being added to the circular debt; On one hand, the government claims that it wants to reduce the burden of common man and striving for reduction in power tariff but on the other hand it is burdening the consumers with extra administrative cost, he said.

## Water shortage halts factory output

DNA

KARACHI: Faisal Moiz Khan, President, North Karachi Association of Trade & Industry (NKATI), while expressing deep concern over non-supply of water to the industries, requested Sindh Governor Imran Ismail and Syed Murad Ali Shah, Chief Minister Sindh to take notice of the severe and issue directives to MD Water Board for supplying water as per consumption of the industries. So that production activities can continue without any hindrance. In a statement, Faisal Moiz Khan said that water is of utmost importance for the continuation of production activities and is one of the basic raw materials, but these days, North Karachi's industries are facing severe water shortages, while the tanker mafia has plenty of water. In contrast, water is not available from water board lines, which is a question mark. "Production activities are stalled due to non-availability of water to factories. This can affect both the production of goods and the timely delivery of foreign orders", he feared.

## Multani Blue Pottery exhibition in London



LONDON: High Commissioner Moazzam Ahmad Khan together with his spouse Ambassador (R) Leena Salim Moazzam visited MULTANI BLUE POTTERY EXHIBITION which was organised by Saniyas Cultural Express in London on 09 July 2021. A vast collection of blue and white pottery of current day Multan was displayed. Multani pottery, famous world over, is identifiable by its floral motifs and geometrical patterns in vivid blues and whites. The High Commissioner and his wife appreciated Saniya for promoting artistic traditions of Multan in the UK. The event was attended by a diverse set of collectors, designers and British sculptors. - DNA

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## OPEC+: Azerbaijan fulfills its obligations

AGENCIES

BAKU: Azerbaijan fulfilled its obligations under OPEC+ agreement in June by maintaining its production of crude oil at 610,000 barrels. In June, the country's daily oil production, including condensate, amounted to 705,100 barrels. Out of the total daily production, crude oil amounted to 610,000 barrels and condensate to 95,100 barrels. Azerbaijan has supported the OPEC+ agreement on increasing the crude oil production up to 1.1 million barrels during May-July, reached at the 15th ministerial meeting.

Under the new Declaration of Cooperation, the country's daily crude oil production should be maintained at 603,000 barrels in May, 610,000 barrels in June and 620,000 barrels in July. In April 2020, OPEC and non-OPEC countries entered into an agreement on the reduction of daily oil production by 9.7 million barrels in May-June and 164,000 barrels for Azerbaijan. - APP

## Indonesia reports 35,094 new Covid cases

JAKARTA: The COVID-19 cases in Indonesia rose by 35,094 in the past 24 hours to 2,491,006, with the death toll adding by 826 to 65,457, the Health Ministry said Sunday. According to the ministry, 28,561 more recovered patients were discharged from hospitals, bringing the total number of recoveries from the pandemic in the Southeast Asian country to 2,052,109. The virus has spread to all the country's 34 provinces. Specifically, in the past 24 hours, Jakarta recorded 12,920 new confirmed cases, West Java 4,926, Central Java 3,618, East Java 2,237 and Yogyakarta 1,809. - APP

## Raza Bashir hails Canada's support to combat polio

DNA

OTTAWA: Pakistan High Commissioner to Canada Raza Bashir Tarar has lauded the Canada support for its generous support to Pakistan to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 pandemic and combat polio in Pakistan. "We appreciate the help and value the cooperation Canada has extended to us," he said while speaking at a farewell meeting arranged by Global Affairs Canada for him following completion of his tour of duty in Canada. The event was moderated by Christopher Gibbins, Executive Director Afghanistan and Pakistan while Paul Thoppil, Assistant Deputy Minister Asia Pacific, Global Affairs Canada was the host. Heads of Missions of the State of Qatar, People's Republic of China, the State of Kuwait in Canada as well as Chief Representative of the Palestinian General Delegation

in Canada and Representative from Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Canada also attended the virtual farewell and spoke about their associations with High Commissioner Raza Bashir Tarar and his services and strength of bilateral relations between Pakistan and their respective countries. In his speech, Raza Bashir Tarar thanked Global Affairs Canada for the "extremely useful interactions" he had with them during his tenure in Canada. He said both Pakistan and Canada had similar views on a range of issues, including climate change and Security Council expansions. He said Pakistan admired Canada's commitment to mitigating the ill-effects of climate change and combating Islamophobia and standing up against racism and hateful ideologies. He also appreciated inclusiveness and tolerance in the Canadian society, saying Canada would likely continue to remain a global destination for the immigrants. He said



Canada was also host to a sizable and vibrant diaspora of nearly half a million Canadian Pakistanis who were actively engaged with Pakistan. The community had done very well in Canada as was manifested by a number of MPs of Pakistani origin in Pakistan doing a great work for their constituents

and for bilateral relations between Pakistan and Canada. Speaking on the occasion, Paul Thoppil, Assistant Deputy Minister Asia Pacific, Global Affairs Canada expressed appreciation and gratitude for the sincere and diligent efforts made by High Commissioner Raza Bashir Tarar for strengthening Canada-Pakistan relations since his arrival in Canada in February 2019. He lauded the High Commissioner for vigorously engaging with the Canadians to cultivate a range of relationships within the diplomatic and political circles and the Pakistani community and providing Pakistan and its people an excellent representation in Canada. He noted that during the last two years, the number of interactions between leaders and senior officials of both countries had grown, and in 2020 alone, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Prime Minister Imran Khan had two fruitful discussions on the phone besides

similar interactions between the Foreign Ministers and Trade Ministers of both countries. He said the Canadian government was grateful to Pakistan for its support in facilitating Canada's unprecedented global repatriation efforts which included repatriation of over 6,000 Canadians from Pakistan since March last year. He said Canada was pleased to have supported Pakistan's COVID-19 relief efforts, including its donation of ventilators and related consumer goods. He thanked the High Commissioner for his direct and frequent engagements with the Global Affairs division of Canada and for offering insights into priorities of Pakistan's foreign policy, ever-evolving situation in Afghanistan and the progress on the peace process. He said his country was looking forward to the upcoming Canada-Pakistan structured consultations on a range of global and regional topics including Afghanistan, bilateral trade, investment and human rights issues.



**Briefs**

**Pak earned \$10mn from CanSino phase 3 trials**

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan earned a whopping \$10mn from conducting phase 3 trials of the Chinese vaccine CanSino, revealed Maj Gen Aamer Ikram. Maj Gen Ikram, who is the head of the National Institute of Health (NIH) was speaking at a function in the city where he disclosed that many countries wanted to hold their phase 3 trials in Pakistan. "These experiments can bring millions of dollars into Pakistan," he said. He said Pakistan had also started co-manufacturing the single-dose Adenovirus (Ad5)-vectored Covid-19 vaccine with CanSino Bio at the NIH Islamabad, and claimed that within a year, they were hopeful of earning around \$30 million through the joint manufacturing of the vaccine in the country. "And this successful venture has opened doors of numerous more such opportunities for Pakistan and now several biotechnological companies from the UK, Korea, Japan and of course China are willing to conduct Phase-III clinical trials of their vaccines in Pakistan," he said.

**Indian NIA conducting multiple raids across IIOJK**

DNA

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian infamous National Investigation Agency (NIA) is conducting multiple raids across the territory. The NIA officials claimed that the search operations are taking place in connection with a case regarding the online radicalisation in the Indian subcontinent that was filed 10 days ago. The NIA is being assisted by the Intelligence Bureau, RAW (Research and Analysis Wing) and the Jammu and Kashmir police in the search operations that are taking place in Srinagar, Islamabad and Baramulla districts in the territory. Some persons have been detained for questioning, the officials said. Media reports said, NIA team raided Darul Uloom 'Sirajul Uloom' in Dalal Mohalla Nawabazar in Srinagar and seized some office records and a laptop besides arresting its Chairman, Adnan Ahmad Nadvi, son of Noor Din Butt of Haka Bazar, Hawal. The institution is affiliated with the Islamic seminary in UP. The raid at Srinagar was followed by similar action by NIA at villages Pushroo, Sunsooma, and Achabal in south Kashmir. The NIA teams arrested several persons including one Javid Ahmad Mir, Umar Butt, Ovais Ahmad Butt, Tanveer Ahmad Butt and Zeeshan Ameen Malik.

**945 Pakistani nationals returned via Torkham**

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: As per the instruction of National Command and Operation Centre, as many as 945 Pakistani nationals have returned from Afghanistan through Pak-Afghan Torkham Border, a private television channel reported Sunday. Out of 945 citizens, around 883 were cleared while 30 Pakistani nationals were shifted to quarantine facilities after their COVID-19 result came back positive. On the directions of district Khyber Deputy Commissioner Masnoor Arshad, the officials of the district administration along with health department and PDMA were present at Jirga Hall, a quarantine facility in Landi Kotal. All the Pakistani citizens came back in the last 24 hours.

**EU-UNICEF sign accord for education in Balochistan**

The Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Androulla Kaminara said, "An educated young generation is the basis for Pakistan to pursue a path of inclusive growth and development"

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The European Union (EU) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), have signed an agreement to launch the Balochistan Education Support (BES) II, a five-year education development programme for which the EU will provide 17.4 million Euros (PKR 3.27 Billion). The overall cost of this project is Euro 22.2 million and UNICEF co-financing is Euro 4.8 million (PKR 0.92 billion). The new programme aims to contribute to supporting the Government of Balochistan to build high-quality performance and management education systems in the province. It will contribute to the overall objective of improving literacy, numeracy, skills and qualifications for the people in the province. It will do so through improving access to quality primary and middle-level education and by increasing accountability, reporting and transparency of the Secondary Education Department. BES II is providing continuity to the Balochistan Basic Education Programme (BBEP) for which the EU and UNICEF partnered in 2016, and which has helped education authorities in the province take a major leap forward in providing quality education to all children and young people, boys and girls, in the province. The new programme will help build on all successful reform initiatives of the BBEP such as the new performance management system, the newly established Ba-



lochistan Assessment and Examination Commission, strengthened and expanded parent-teacher school management committees, local education councils and the school development process. The Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Androulla Kaminara said, "An educated young generation is the basis for Pakistan to pursue a path of inclusive growth and development. Education is a basic human right and key to ensuring that people do not fall behind in society and in life. The EU is committed to ensuring access to quality education for all boys and girls in Balochistan, which would enable them to follow their dreams and contribute to a better future for Pakistan. The Pandemic

has had a significant impact on education and our support will focus on addressing some of these challenges. The EU will continue to work closely with its partners including the Government of Balochistan and UNICEF to support and strengthen Pakistan's education system." The EU's support on primary and secondary education is a priority area under the EU-Pakistan Strategic Engagement Plan, which serves as guide for bilateral relations between the two sides and aims to further enhance engagement and work towards addressing emerging global challenges. House No. 9, Street 88, Sector G-6/3, P.O.Box 1608, Islamabad, Ph: +92-51-227-1828 Fax: 282-2604 Email: Delegation-Pakistan@

ec.europa.eu URL: www.delpak.ec.europa.eu Balochistan, Pakistan's largest province in terms of land area, faces serious challenges in the areas of quality of education, access, low educational outcomes and poor governance. While substantial progress was being made under the BBEP, the COVID-19 crisis adversely affected the gains made in the education sector, as schools remained closed for nearly the entire academic year. "The setback to educational activities due to COVID19 must not deter us from trying to provide a better and brighter future for the children and young people of Balochistan," said Aida Girma, UNICEF Representative

in Pakistan. "Led by the Education department, supported by generous funding from the EU and encouraged by the resilience and determination of the people, UNICEF will endeavor to translate children's right to education into outcomes. The BES II will go a long way to help achieve the long-term targets set in BBEP and the new initiatives reflected in the programme." To make up for the academic time lost due to COVID19, additional activities have been included in BES II. These include training of teachers on Standard Operative Procedures (SoPs) for school health and safety, tailoring enrolment drives to ensure that children return to education and providing alternatives for children who drop out due to economic impact of the crises. EU Development Cooperation In Pakistan, the EU is committed to a stable, democratic and pluralistic country that respects human rights and benefits from its full economic potential by supporting sustainable and inclusive development for all its citizens. The EU provides Pakistan with about 100 million annually in grants for development and cooperation. Among other issues, the EU supports Pakistan in its efforts to tackle poverty, increase education, promote good governance, human rights, rule of law and ensure sustainable management of natural resources. EU-funded projects cover all of Pakistan with a special focus on Sindh and Balochistan.

**"Made in Azerbaijan" products in the Pakistani markets**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: With the initiative of the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Gazelli Group, the first local natural cosmetics producer company of Azerbaijan, was introduced in Pakistan in order to sell "Made in Azerbaijan" products in Pakistan. Mrs. Narmin Ismayilova, CEO of Gazelli Group who is in Pakistan for this purpose, held bilateral meetings with a number of Pakistani companies operating in this field, and informed them about local and natural products manufactured by Gazelli Group. She emphasized that her company is ready to do the necessary works to sell the high quality natural products of Gazelli Group in the Pakistani market. During the meetings, an



agreement was reached to sell the products of the Azerbaijani company Gazelli Group in the D.Watson chain of stores of Pakistan, which sells many

different brands from around the world. Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari, Managing Director of Pakistan's D.Watson chain of stores, expressed interest

in the products of Gazelli Group, a well-known brand of Azerbaijan, and told that they will visit Azerbaijan soon to get acquainted with the company's factories.

**Djokovic wins Wimbledon final**

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: Novak Djokovic won the Wimbledon men's singles championship on Sunday, defeating Matteo Berrettini of Italy, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-4, 6-3. The victory gave Djokovic, the world's top-ranked tennis player, his 20th Grand Slam singles title, tying him with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal. Just as importantly, it gave Djokovic his third Grand Slam title of the year and positioned him to become the first man in more than a half-century to win the calendar Grand Slam when he competes at the U.S. Open later this summer. Djokovic won the Australian Open in February, the French Open last month, and captured the Wimbledon title for a sixth time on Sunday,

successfully defending the title he won in 2019, the last time Wimbledon was held. Rod Laver was the last man to win the calendar year Grand Slam, in 1969. Since then, no male player has arrived at the U.S. Open holding three Grand Slam titles in the same year. Djokovic, though, has even given himself a chance to attain the so-called Golden Slam, which is the four major championships plus the singles gold medal in the Olympics. Steffi Graf is the only player to have completed a Golden Slam, in 1988. Djokovic has yet to decide whether he will compete at the Tokyo Olympics, scheduled to begin in less than two weeks. He has said he might skip the event if Japan did not allow any spectators, a decision Japanese officials made last week.

**32 PIA flights to bring Pakistanis back**

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has announced to operate special flights to bring the Pakistanis stranded overseas back home before Eidul Azha as CEO Air Marshal Arshad Malik has issued instructions in this regard. The national flag carrier will bring back the Pakistanis from Kabul via Boeing 777 planes tomorrow (Monday on July 12) and on July 16. Similarly, PIA has announced to operate total 32 flights of Boeing 777 to airlift Pakistanis stranded in Gulf countries, Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Similarly, the airline has announced 10 flights of Boeing 777 to Saudi Arabia for the purpose and eight flights of Airbus-320 to Tashkent. Likewise, the airline will operate special flights to bring back Pakistani students stranded at Bishkek.

**Vaccine certificate must for tourists**

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Centre (NCO) announced on Sunday that COVID-19 vaccine certificate is now a must thing for all tourists going to Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Kashmir, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The apex body to formulate policies for combatting the virus will also set up teams to check the vaccination certificates from the tourists and also form teams to ensure wearing facemasks, observing social distancing and following safety measures in northern areas. Now all tourists who want to book hotels in the hilly areas for tourism purposes would have to get vaccinated themselves first. The body also made mandatory vaccination for all staffers and people attending any gathering like cinemas, restaurants, gyms and wedding halls. It has been directed to ensure corona SOPs at bus stations, railways stations, intra-city and inter-city transport, mosques and markets. And for this, NCO issued a check list.

**Air defence system installed at Kabul airport**

WEB DESK

KABUL: Afghanistan's Kabul airport has been fitted with an air defence system to counter incoming rockets, officials said on Sunday, as the Taliban pressed on with a blistering offensive across the country. Washington and its allies are due to end their military mission in Afghanistan at the end of next month, even as the insurgents say they now control 85 per cent of the country - a claim impossible to independently verify and disputed by the government. The fundamentalist group's rapid gains in recent weeks have raised fears about the security of the capital and its airport - a claim impossible to independently verify and disputed by the government. The fundamentalist group's rapid gains in recent weeks have raised fears about the security of the capital and its airport - a claim impossible to independently verify and disputed by the government. The fundamentalist group's rapid gains in recent weeks have raised fears about the security of the capital and its airport - a claim impossible to independently verify and disputed by the government.

**Pak stands by decision against providing bases to US: Rasheed**

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Sheikh Rasheed said Sunday Pakistan will stand by its decision to not provide air bases to the United States, as the region's politics heads towards a new direction following the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan. "Pakistan aspires for peace in Afghanistan," the interior minister said while addressing a press conference in Rawalpindi, stressing that the government and Opposi-

tion were on the same page in this regard. Rasheed's statement comes after US President Joe Biden last week announced the military mission in Afghanistan would end on Aug 31 despite new concerns about the possibility of a civil war. "We did not go to Afghanistan to nation-build," Biden had said. "It's the right and the responsibility of the Afghan people alone to decide their future and how they want to run their country." "It is important, not only for Pakistan, but the entire



region to initiate talks with the Afghan Taliban," the interior minister said. "No superpower can ignore Pakistan [...] there is no pressure on us," he said and reiterated that the country would not provide bases to anyone for carrying out op-

erations in Afghanistan. The interior minister said that India faced "embarrassment" in Afghanistan and there was no other option for New Delhi to withdraw its personnel from there. Shedding light on why peace in war-torn Afghanistan was necessary, he said China's investment would not bear fruit unless there was stability in Afghanistan. He said India was carrying out terrorist activities in Afghanistan and over the past 40 years, was conveying false news about Pakistan to the world.

**Pak HC donates life saving equipment to hospital**

DNA

DHAKA: High Commission for Pakistan, Dhaka has provided lifesaving equipment to Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital, Dhaka. The equipment, which will be used in a separate Covid ward of the Hospital include 10 ventilators, 20 C-PAP breathing aid machines, 10 beds, an elevator for the Hospital building and a vehicle for use by the Covid ward staff. High Commissioner Imran Ahmed Siddiqui handed over financial assistance to President, Ahsania Mission, Kazi Rafiqul Alam for locally sourced items. On this occasion, High Commissioner Siddiqui underscored Pakistan's vision of regional partnerships for peace and sustainable development while reiterating its commitment to addressing the impact of the pandemic jointly with the regional countries particularly Bangladesh with which it enjoyed fraternal ties.



In this connection, the High Commissioner recalled telephone conversation between Prime Minister Imran Khan and Prime Minister Shaikh Hasina last year on the impact of Covid pandemic. In the context of regional cooperation, the High Commissioner mentioned that Pakistan had contributed US\$ 3 million to the SAARC Covid-19 Emergency Fund to support regional efforts in the common fight against Coronavirus pandemic. "Our partnership with Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital is a robust expression of solidarity and support to Bangladeshi sisters and brothers in their fight against Covid. It is also a testament to Pakistan's strong commitment to promotion of regional cooperation under SAARC," High Commissioner Siddiqui added. President Ahsania Mission Kazi Rafiqul Alam thanked the High Commissioner for Pakistan for timely contribution and briefed the High Commissioner on various projects of the Hospital.