



# Islamabad POST

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

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**Protection of historic sites vital for religious tourism: PM Imran**

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**Iran ready for co-op in energy sector**

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**Shahbaz slams government on load-shedding**

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## Briefs

### Talks vital for peace: Shahzad

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the House Shahzad Waseem said a negotiated peace settlement is the only solution to Afghan issue. Speaking on a motion, he said Pakistan wants people's chosen government in Afghanistan. He said in result of emerging situation in Afghanistan, planning should be completed to contain the refugees in border areas. The leader of the House said we are fully prepared to deal with terrorist activities that are being planted by spoilers of the peace in the region. He said cyber-crimes are major challenge which demands unity.

### Corrupt ministers must be sacked

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said that corrupt ministers are sitting in the govt challenging the government to oust them, besides asking the National Accountability Bureau chief whom he is showing his loyalty. The PML-N leader was talking to media outside the accountability court on Monday where he came to attend a reference against him regarding abuse of power. Abbasi said that a case pertaining to the appointment of PSO managing director had been in the court for the last two years.

### Exams going on smoothly

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Education Shafqat Mahmood has said the decision to hold board exams this year for matric and intermediate was taken with consensus after consultation with the federating units. Participating in the discussion in the National Assembly, he asked the opposition leaders not to do politics on the matter as it is the matter of the future of students. The Education Minister recalled the Covid-19 situation badly impacted the education of students.

## Will not let Afghan war hurt Pakistan

Chaudhry Fawad Hussain has said Pakistan is in contact with all the Afghan Groups for an inclusive government



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

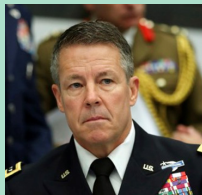
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry said on Monday that even if Afghanistan descended into a civil war, the government would not let the fallout affect Pakistan. In a message on Twitter, Chaudhry said the government's policy on Afghanistan was "in Pakistan's interest". "[We] are monitoring the changing situation in Afghanistan. [We are] trying our best for a way forward in Afghanistan through a peaceful regime that is [formed] on the basis of suggestions from all [stakeholders]," he added. Later in the day, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain has said Pakistan is in contact with all the Afghan Groups for an inclusive government to have peace in Afghanistan. Addressing a joint news conference along with Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar and Prime Minister's Advisor on Interior Mirza

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### US commander in Afghanistan quits

AGENCIES

KABUL: The top U.S. commander in Afghanistan relinquished his position at a ceremony in the capital Kabul on Monday, taking the United States a step closer to ending its 20-year war. The move came as Taliban insurgents continue to gain territory across the country. Another four-star general will assume authority from his U.S.-based post to conduct possible airstrikes in defense of Afghan government forces, at least until the U.S. withdrawal concludes by Aug. 31. Gen. Scott Miller has served as America's top commander in Afghanistan since 2018. He handed over command of what has become known as America's "forever war" in its waning days to Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, the head of U.S. Central Command. McKenzie will operate from Central Command headquarters in Tampa, Florida.



## Bulgarian Envoy, Shafqat discuss co-op in education



**ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Bulgaria to Pakistan Irena Gancheva calls on Shafqat Mahmood, Federal Minister for Education, Professional Training & National Heritage. – DNA**

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Bulgaria to Pakistan Irena Gancheva called on Shafqat Mahmood, Federal Minister for Education, Professional Training & National Heritage here in his office. Federal Minister for Education, Professional Training & National Heritage, to Shafqat Mahmood in a meeting with the newly appointed Ambassador of Bulgaria to Pakistan Irena

Gancheva, stressed to further enhance the need for cooperation between the two states in the field of education and culture. Federal Minister said that our relations have always been marked by trust, mutual understanding and close cooperation and Pakistan attaches high importance to its relations with Bulgaria and is desirous of further enhancing these relations in all fields of mutual interests. During the meeting, Am-

bassador of Bulgaria to Pakistan Irena Gancheva said that there is a lot of scope of mutual cooperation in various fields including education and culture. She also expressed keen interest in enhancing and promoting people to people contact and cultural exchanges between the two countries. Mohyuddin Ahmed Wani, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Education and officials from National Heritage & Culture Division also attended the meeting.



**DUSHANBE: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi in a bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister of Tajikistan, Sirojiddin Muhiddin. – DNA**

### Kuwait Emir for expanding Pak-Kuwait relations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has reiterated to expand relations between Kuwait and Pakistan for mutual benefit. Replying to President Dr. Arif Alvi's letter, he expressed satisfaction over the strong relationship between Kuwait and Pakistan. He accepted the invitation from the President to visit Pakistan. He thanked Pakistan for appreciating Kuwait's role regarding issues of Muslim Ummah especially Palestine. In the letter, he expressed hope that world will soon get rid of this Coronavirus pandemic.

### Corona situation worsening

NEHAL MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: In Pakistan, 15 more people died from the global coronavirus epidemic and 1,808 new cases were reported Monday morning. According to the latest statistics by the National Command and Operation Center, 47,015 tests for coronavirus were conducted across the country in the last 24 hours, of which 1,808 people tested positive. According to the official portal, the country's positivity rate stands at 3.84%. According to the NCOC, the number of deaths from coronavirus has risen to 22,597 across the country, while the number of people affected has reached 975,092. During the last 24 hours, the most deaths occurred in Sindh followed by Punjab. Out of the 15 deaths in the last 24 hours, nine people died on ventilators.

## Qureshi discusses ties with Tajik FM

The FM reiterated Pakistan consistent support for a peaceful, united, stable and prosperous Afghanistan

DNA

DUSHANBE: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi held a bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister of Tajikistan, Sirojiddin Muhiddin on the sidelines of the Council of Foreign Ministers meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO-CFM) in Dushanbe on Monday. Recalling the recent visit of the President of Tajikistan to Pakistan, the two Foreign Ministers resolved

to further enhance bilateral trade, promote regional connectivity and strengthen people-to-people linkages in line with the vision of the two leaders. The two Foreign Ministers reviewed the entire range of bilateral relations, with particular focus on reactivation of Joint Ministerial Commission, affected by COVID-19 pandemic; enhancing parliamentary linkages and early completion of CASA-1000. Foreign Minister Qureshi emphasised the importance of regional connectivity;

transit trade mechanisms and cooperation in the fields of education and tourism between the two countries. They also exchanged views on recent evolving situation in Afghanistan. Foreign Minister Qureshi apprised his Tajik counterpart of Pakistan's facilitator role to achieve durable peace and stability in Afghanistan. The Foreign Minister reiterated that there was no other way except an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive

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## PM Imran Khan arrives in Tashkent on Thursday

Tashkent all set to host Central and South Asia conference



**CENTRAL & SOUTH ASIA 2021**  
JULY 15-16, TASHKENT

DNA

TASHKENT: The International Conference "Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity.

Challenges and Opportunities" will take place in Tashkent on 15-16 July at the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The forum is aimed at strengthening historically close

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Shahbaz slams govt on 'curse of load-shedding' – Page 08

## Indonesian embassy launches B2B Online Portal for trade

The portal was launched in collaboration with Ecommerce Gateway Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Punjab Board of Investment & Trade (PBIT), Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Islamabad and E-Commerce Gateway Pakistan Private Limited jointly organized the 1st Indonesia – Pakistan Business to Business (B2B) Hybrid Road Show 2021 and launched Indonesia – Pakistan B2B online portal to facilitate increased trade between both the countries. Both the initiatives aimed at providing a platform for business communities of the two countries. Provincial Minister for Industries & Trade Mian Aslam Iqbal and Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan Adam M. Tugio inaugurated Indonesia - Pa-



kistan business to business online portal. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador of Indonesia Adam M. Tugio congratulated the Punjab govern-

ment and Punjab Board of Investment & Trade for holding a successful

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## Briefs

## UAF inks MoU with Xinjiang Agricultural University

FAISALABAD: The University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) and Xinjiang Agricultural University China inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for further strengthening educational and academic ties. The MoU was inked by UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Anas Sarwar Qureshi and Xinjiang Agricultural University China President Dr Jinag Ping'an during online meeting on the eve of 70 years diplomatic Pak-China ties and 7 years ties of both universities.

Dr Jinag Ping'an said that China and Pakistan were enjoying deep and time-tested relations that were being further strengthened to get benefit from each others experiences. He added that people of China and Pakistan were like brothers who were enjoying long lasting ties. He said that Confucius Institute (CI) at UAF was helping bringing both nations closer to each other. He said that different courses relating to language, culture and others were being offered at the CI in order to help the students to pursue their further studies in China. He said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a hallmark step towards the uplift and prosperity.

Dr Anas Sarwar Qureshi said that China and Pakistan were enjoying brotherly relations and China stood with us in the difficult times also. He said the CPEC would bring a positive change in the social setups by providing infrastructure and equal opportunities, educational improvement and social status uplift. He said that strengthened economical ties would help learn from each other experiences. He said the Confucius Institute in Faisalabad was established seven years ago. Vice Chairman, Confucius Institute Dr Zahir Ahmad Zahir said that Pakistan fruits especially Pakistani mangoes with unique taste and aroma have an access to other countries of the world especially Chinese markets. He stressed the need for learning from each others experiences to excel in agriculture, academia and research work. — APP

## Shopkeepers arrested over SOPs violation

PESHAWAR: The district administration Monday arrested 52 shopkeepers from various localities over violation of coronavirus preventive standard operating procedures (SOPs). According to an official news release issued here on Monday, the officers of district administration conducted visits to various bazaars within their areas of jurisdiction and inspected the implementation of officially announced coronavirus SOPs. The officers also inspected various bus stations. During inspection, they collectively arrested 52 shopkeepers over violation of Corona SOPs from different localities. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Khalid Mahmood has directed the trading community for implementation of officially announced SOPs in letter and spirit and action against the violators. — APP

## Another five cases of corona reported

FAISALABAD: Another five cases of coronavirus were reported in the district during the last 24 hours. According to the health department sources, 623 tests for coronavirus were conducted in public and private sector labs during the same period. He said that total active cases in Faisalabad were 137 while 20,470 patients so far recovered. He said that 339 beds were allocated at the Allied Hospital, 133 at the DHQ Hospital and 150 at Government General Hospital Ghulam Muhammad Abad for COVID-19 patients. At present, 32 patients were under treatment at the Allied Hospital and 7 at DHQ Hospital. He further said that 84 confirmed patients were isolated at their homes in the district. — APP

## KP to propose 13 mega projects during 10th Pak-China JCC

## STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: As the 10th meeting of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)'s Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting is scheduled for July 16 via video link, the northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa expects to receive a dozen development projects that may change the fate of the people of the region, according to Gwadar Pro.

Most of the projects aim to raise living standards in the less developed areas of the province. The Government of KP will present the mega projects during the JCC meeting, officials said.

The proposed projects include five transport infrastructure projects, three projects in industrial cooper-

ation, three energy projects and two projects in the agriculture sector.

There is a tourism project as a sub-working group under Industrial Cooperation JWG, according to official documents. Currently, work on two mega-projects under CPEC is in progress in KP. The projects are Rashakai Special Economic Zone (RSEZ) and Hakla D.I Khan Motorway (cost Rs. 122, 181 million).

Out of 13 proposed projects, if approved, four projects will be executed in the southern district of KP to uplift the once-deprived and backward parts of the province.

The proposed projects for southern KP include Special Economic Zone-Draband, D.I. Khan, which would be set up at 3,125 acres of land. The SEZ with an estimated cost of Rs. 4.312 billion, is ex-

pected to create an estimated 512,000 jobs for the locals.

The second important project in southern KP is the 365-kilometer Peshawar D.I Khan Motorway. The motorway will connect the upper parts of KP with CPEC's western alignment Hakla-D.I Khan Motorway (M-14) in the southern part of the province. Chashma Right Bank lift cum gravity Canal (CRBC) is the third proposed project for southern KP. Besides creating jobs, this agriculture project will bring 286,000 acres of arid land under irrigation. Tank Zam Dam is a forth-proposed agriculture project in southern KP that would cultivate 70,000 acres of land. The project would be completed with an estimated cost of Rs. 18 billion in a five-year period. For upper districts of the province, the provincial gov-

ernment has completed the feasibility of nine projects.

Center of Excellence for Mohmand Marble City would be developed on 350 acres of land in Mohmand tribal district. The estimated cost to develop the city is Rs. 703.94 million that would create an estimated 14,000 jobs. Kumrat Cable Car is a tourism project of tourism that would be developed under Industrial Cooperation JWG at Upper Dir. The length of the cable car is 14 kilometers with an estimated cost of Rs. 32 billion while the setting up of tourists' facilitation at Kumrat will cost Rs. 400,000. Toren More Kari HPP Chitral is an energy project that would cost Rs. 115.962 billion. It will produce 350MW electricity and it will be completed in an estimated time of 24 months.

Similarly, Jameshill Toren More HPP Chitral is the second hydel power project in Chitral that would be completed with an estimated cost of Rs. 94.864 billion. The 260 MW capacity project would be completed in two years. The 500 KV Transmission Line from Chitral to Chakdara is another energy project. The 225-kilometer-long transmission line between Chitral and Chakdara will be completed with an estimated cost of Rs. 34.67 billion. Swat Expressway Phase-II is another important connectivity project, which will reduce the distance between Swat and Islamabad to almost three hours. The 82-kilometer long motorway between Chakdara (Lower Dir) and Chakdara to Fatehpur in Swat will cost Rs. 57.5 billion. CPEC Western Route Chi-

tral-Chakdara-M1 is another proposed connectivity project linking Chitral, the northernmost district of KP, with Chakdara.

The length of the proposed motorway is 214 kilometers. The Chitral motorway will join Swat Expressway at Chakdara to reach Islamabad-Peshawar Motorway (M1) at Karnal Sher Khan Interchange close to RSEZ. Dir-Chakdara Motorway is a 30-kilometer connectivity project that would be constructed with an estimated cost of Rs. 38.991 billion.

Khawazakhela-Bisham Expressway is a 28-kilometer-long road that would cost an estimated amount of Rs. 10.50 billion. It will provide the fastest access from the Khawazakhela area in Swat district to Bisham, Shangla district.



KARACHI: European Union ambassador to Pakistan Androulla Kaminara calls on Governor Sindh, Imran Ismael at Governor House Karachi. — DNA

## EU envoy calls on Governor Sindh

KARACHI: Ambassador of the European Union (EU) in Pakistan Ms Androulla Kaminara called on Governor Sindh Imran Ismail at Governor's House here on Monday. Matters of mutual interest were brought under discussion, said a statement. On exchanging views about the pandemic, the ambassador offered complete assistance to Pakistan in combating the novel coronavirus. The governor said that the government was trying its level best to achieve a balance between health and economic needs of people. "Our overall performance has been quite satisfactory in majority of the areas, however, there is always room for improvement and we keep striving for the best", he added. — DNA

## Faisalabad to have modern Kabaddi Stadium



## BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: A state-of-the-art stadium will be constructed with an estimated cost of Rs.10.5 million exclusively for the promotion of Kabaddi while the government is also contemplating to allow use grounds of all schools and colleges after education hours for the youth of the adjacent localities. Addressing a medal awarding ceremony of Kabaddi Coaching Course in the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), Mr. Faizullah Kamuka Chairman NA Standing Committee on Finance, Revenue & Economic Affairs said that Tayyab Gilani and his team is making strenuous efforts to keep alive this popular traditional and

cultural sport of Punjab during this era of Information Technology. He said that in addition to the construction of Kabaddi Stadium in Malik Pur, playgrounds would also be developed on available state land in Chak No.204-RB, Chak No.208-RB, Chak No.203-RB Mannanwala and Dhuddiwala. He said that feasibility reports of these grounds are under active consultation. He said that 3 sports complexes would also be added in Faisalabad to involve youth in healthy sports pursuits. He said that available land at both sides of Hockey Stadium would also be allotted for a mini Kabaddi Sports Complex and being Chairman Divisional Coordination Committee (DCC), he will move this proposal in the next meeting of the DCC.

## FWCCI for empowering young women entrepreneurs

## ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FWCCI) has emerged as a dynamic platform for female entrepreneurs and has now come out to collaborate with academia and provide best possible facilities to young passed out girl students to start their own businesses instead of running from pillar to post to seek squeezing jobs. In this connection FWCCI has launched its own incubation centre for the young and dedicated female start ups, said Mrs. Tehmina Pasha, President FWCCI.

She was addressing a function to ink Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between FWCCI and Government College Women University Faisalabad.

Mrs. Tehmina Pasha said that FWCCI is the only platform which has taken this bold initiative to facilitate female entrepreneurs in this male dominated society. She said that other such institutions should also come forward and play their role in mainstreaming the female population. She also

briefed the Vice Chancellor and her team about the future projects of FWCCI and said that land is being acquired for the purpose of building a state of the art FWCCI complex which will also house entrepreneurs Block and Skill Development Institute in addition to offering a number of other facilities. She said that the job market has shrunk due to Coronavirus and female entrepreneurs are the worst hit by this pandemic. "However, the situation is gradually improving and now we have re-started our activities to motivate existing entrepreneurs in addition to attracting young girls to start their own micro level businesses instead of seeking job" she added. She said that it is

the only solution to revive the national economy and being patriotic Pakistanis, we are duty bound to play our role to earn much needed self-reliance and prosperity with accelerated economic activities. She appreciated the cooperation of Women University and hoped that our collaboration will help students to complete their internship in most conducive environments under the banner of FWCCI and harness their practical skills to independently launch their own projects.

Dr. Robina Farooq, Vice Chancellor, Government College Women University (GCWU) requested the FWCCI to submit proposals and share these with Dr. Rizwana Batool for implementing the same. Dr.

Rizwana from GCWU and Ms. Haniah Javed from FWCCI were also appointed focal persons by their respective organizations.

Founding President Mrs. Rubina Amjad also emphasized the need to motivate young female students to enter into the field of entrepreneurship and earn their livelihood. Earlier signing ceremony of MOU was also held while Mrs. Tehmina Pasha and Dr. Robina Farooq exchanged the documents. Later Mrs. Rubina Shafiq, Vice President offered vote of thanks. Meeting was also attended by Mrs. Shahida Aftab, SVP, Dr. Najma Afzal, Ms. Nimra Rahim, Mrs. Hadia Chawla, Mrs. Naureen Javed, Mrs. Nighat Shahid, Ms. Saira and others.



## Faisalabad: 50,000 trees to be planted in a week

## BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Divisional Commissioner Saqib Manan said that under the "Khidmat Aap Ki Dehleez" Par Program a target of 55,000 saplings has been set across the division for which the cooperation of the citizen is utmost necessary. He said this while sapling the plant at Commissioner Complex. Additional Commissioner Coordination Imran Raza Abbasi, Divisional Forest Officer Wajihuddin, Divisional Forest Officer Extension Muhammad Ali Butt, Information Officer Muhammad Awais Abid and others also sapled the plants on the planting campaign. An information staff on the importance of plants and was also set up on the occasion, which also contained literature. The Divisional Commissioner said that all possible steps are being taken to make the Prime Minister's Ten Billion Tree project a success and the KAKDP program till July 18 is also a link in the chain of tree planting during which government offices, parks and the target will be achieved by planting trees in public places. He said that the support of all sections in the tree planting campaign along with government initiatives is commendable. He asked the officers of the forest department to make effective arrangements for their maintenance and development by planting different types of long plants on the available lands so that they can grow and meet the challenges facing the environment.

The Divisional Forest Officer Extension Wing said that citizens should also participate in the national planting campaign. All available resources will be utilized for the success of the campaign. The Divisional Forest Officer said that

a target has been set to plant 2.5 million saplings across the division during the monsoon season which has already started.

## DC visit to review anti-dengue SOPs

Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali paid a surprise visit to various public transport stands to review the implementation of anti-dengue measures and went to the different points to check the

presence of dengue teams and surveillance at the hotspots. Assistant Commissioner City Syed Ayub Bukhari and District Coordinator for Epidemics control Dr. Zulqarnain was also present. Deputy Commissioner said that there is a danger of breeding of dengue larvae due to possible heavy rains in the coming monsoon season so anti-dengue teams should be vigilant in the field. He said that

on the directions of Punjab Govt. the district administration is taking administrative and preventive measures but without the cooperation of all sections, success in anti-dengue campaign is not possible therefore, everyone should play role in clearing the possible sources of breeding of dengue larvae.

The Deputy Commissioner also went inside various buses and distributed pamphlets on precautionary measures among the passengers and appealed to them to follow the precautionary measures in a conscious manner. He said that the role of every individual is important for the eradication of dengue larvae so citizens should ensure cleanliness inside their homes to eradicate dengue hotspots. He said that cooperation should be extended to the anti-dengue teams of the health department which are active for outdoor and indoor surveillance. He warned the concerned officers and anti-dengue staff of the health department to stop the spread of dengue larvae and checked the hotspots regularly. Earlier the Deputy Commissioner also visited the corona vaccination center at Sport Complex Samanabad and reviewed the process of vaccinated the people. He checked the utility services and directed the health officials to maintain necessary arrangements inline.



FAISALABAD: Divisional Commissioner Saqib Manan Sapled a plant on tree plantation week in connection with Khidmat Aap Ki Dehleez Par. — DNA

## KP Govt sincere in holding LG polls

PESHAWAR: Advisor to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister for Information and Higher Education Department, Kamran Bangash on Monday said that provincial government had finalized all arrangements for holding Local Government's election across the province and allocated appropriate funds. Talking to media after KP Cabinet meeting, he said that government was sincere in holding LG elections. He said that cabinet had constituted a committee to increase punishment and penalties under the Child Protection Act. The members of the committee were Minister Social Welfare, Hasham Inamullah Khan, Law Minister, Fazal Shaakor Khan, Labour Minister, Shaukat Yousafzai and Advocate General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said that the committee would present its report on increasing punishment and penalties under Child Protection Act. The cabinet also approved annual report of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority which would be presented in the provincial assembly for discussion.

Kamran informed that a two-member committee comprising of himself and Minister Finance has been constituted to resolves financial issues in the universities of the province. The cabinet also approved to change the name of Nawaz Sharif Kidney Hospital Swat. — APP

## CJ PHC inaugurates new block of PHC

PESHAWAR: Chief Justice (CJ) Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Qaiser Rashid Khan Monday inaugurated newly constructed building of PHC Bannu Bench and assured all the facilities under one roof. Addressing the occasion, he said High Court Bannu bench is connected with the PHC through video linkage which would be improved through cyber link. On the occasion, he also administered oaths from the newly elected cabinet members of PHC Bannu Bench. Addressing the legal fraternity, he said that Pakistan is a blessing of Allah and it is joint responsibility to make it a strong democratic and stable state for the coming generation.

He emphasized upon lawyers of family courts to do utmost efforts to resolve family disputes especially between wife and husband amicably to remove resentment from society and strengthen the traditional family system. The CJ said that on his way to Bannu he inspected the quality of work on Indus Highway and directed the concerned authorities to expedite construction work and ensure timely completion of the project so that the sense of deprivation among people of southern districts could be addressed. — APP

## Food authority launches pre-Eid crackdown

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority Monday started crackdown against production of sub-standard bakery products in the province and have sealed several shops besides imposing fine on various others.

The food authority launched pre-Eid crackdown on bakeries and during the operation, the authority sealed three bakeries production unit in Bannu over violation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and poor hygiene practices and imposed fine on it.

The operation was carried out on the directions of KP FS&HFA Director General Shahrulh Ali Khan, during which 500 kilogram of sub-standard and unhygienic bakery products were recovered from various bakery units. According to the Food Safety Authority, 400 kg of unhygienic ghee and sweets were also recovered from a bakery in Lal Qila area of Dir Lower, the production unit of the bakery was sealed. The KP FS&HFA director general said the field teams of the authority were working round the clock to ensure provision of safe and healthy food to the people. — APP



## Briefs

### Armed person arrested outside Parliament

**STAFF REPORT**

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police on Monday arrested an armed person outside the building of Parliament, police said. The man, clad in shalwarkameez, was waving a pistol in the air and was found earlier roaming in the streets with a pistol. He was arrested near the D-Chowk, police said adding that suspect has been taken to the Secretariat police station where he is being questioned.

Minister for Interior Sheikh Rasheed told medi-amens that the pistol didn't have any bullets and the person is being interrogated after arrest.

### Chairman FBISE visit various exam centres

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: The examinations of matriculation and intermediate under Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) are underway in Pakistan and in the foreign countries. Chairman Federal Board Qaiser Alam, along with Additional Secretary, Federal Education Ministry, Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani on Monday visited various exams centres of Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

Additional Secretary, Federal Education Ministry expressed satisfaction over the arrangements of examinations and directed the Superintendents of the examination centres to strictly abide by the COVID-19 SOPs.

The additional amount of expenditures on implementation of standard operating procedures would be borne by the Federal Board as students' health is our top priority, he added. Today, on Monday, besides Intermediate, the exams of matriculation have also been started. For the purpose a total of 766 exams centres have been established in the country and in different countries. A total of 97103 male and female students have participated in matriculation exams.

## Sports goods exports fall 1.06% in 11 months

ISLAMABAD: The exports of sports goods have witnessed a decrease of 1.06 percent during the first eleven months of fiscal year (2020-21) as compared to the exports of corresponding period of last year. Pakistan exported sports goods worth US \$241.270 million during July-May (2020-21) against the exports of \$243.853 million during July-May (2019-20), showing a decline of 1.06 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

Among the sports goods, the exports of footballs decreased by 11.86 percent as it went down from \$133.163 million last year to \$117.372 million during the fiscal year under review while the gloves exports also declined by 9.11 percent by going down from US \$ 67.519 million last year to US \$61.365 million, the PBS data revealed.

However, the exports of all other sports goods witnessed an increase of 44.85 percent by growing from US \$43.171 million to US \$62.533 million. Meanwhile, year-on-year basis, the sports goods' export rose by 41.80 percent in May 2021 as compared to the export of the same month of last year.

The sports goods' export in May 2021 were recorded at \$19.557 million against exports of \$13.792 million in May 2020. During the period under review, the footballs and gloves exports also increased by 55.22 and 0.19 percent respectively in addition the exports of all other sports products rose by 80.36 percent. Meanwhile on month-on-month basis, the exports of sports goods however decreased by 33.84 percent during May 2021, as compared to the exports of \$29.561 million in April 2021, the PBS data revealed. – APP

# ICCI for promoting women's handicraft products

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, ICCI said that women's handicraft products have tremendous potential for sale and make substantial contributions to exports besides employment generation

**ZUBAIR AHMAD**

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has called upon the government to focus on promoting the handicraft products of women entrepreneurs that would ensure their economic empowerment, reduce poverty and improve living standards of families in rural and urban areas.

He said that Pakistani women were producing marvelous handicraft products including fabric, material, embroidery, jewelry, carving, mirror work and many other items that needed better exposure in domestic and international markets for enhancing their trade and export. He expressed these views while inaugurating as Chief Guest Baji& Co Concepts Store that brought together versatile products of 40 women crafters on a permanent display



under one roof in the federal capital. He appreciated the efforts of women for producing high quality handicraft products, which showed their potential to excel in this business. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said

that women's handicraft products have tremendous potential for sale and make substantial contributions to exports besides employment generation, especially in underdeveloped areas, therefore, he emphasized

that the government should pay close attention to this sector for its better development and growth. He said that the government should set up handicraft training centres in rural and urban areas for

skills development of women in this field so that they could produce demand-driven handicraft products that would improve their trade and exports besides economic empowerment of women artisans.

ICCI President said that handicrafts have a bright future in Pakistan as they do not require heavy capital investment or infrastructure such as machinery, buildings and energy, therefore with better policies, attention and focus of the government, women's handicraft products could achieve global acclaim for their exquisite designs, utility and craftsmanship and earn lot of foreign exchange for the country through exports. He urged that the government should arrange permanent display centres for handicraft products in major cities to showcase their potential for trade and exports.

He appreciated the initiative of Baji& Co Store management for bringing a lot of women crafters, who were doing business from home, under one roof and hoped that it would create new opportunities for better growth of their home-based businesses.

## Delta variant spreads more rapidly

**DNA**

RAWALPINDI: The new Delta COVID-19 virus which has been surfaced in the district spread more than ten times faster compared to other types of a novel coronavirus, District Health Surveillance Officer Health Authority, Dr. Waqar Ahmed said here on Monday.

Talking to media persons, he said that the Delta variant was more transmissible and badly affect the human's respiratory system. He advised the residents to use double face masks, avoid visiting crowded places and dispose of the mask after using it the first time. Dr. Waqar asked the residents to get themselves vaccinated at the earliest to avoid the further spread of the deadly disease.

Meanwhile according to data shared by the District Corona Management centre, around 31 people had become victims of the COVID-19 virus during the last 24 hours in the district with fifteen belonged to Rawal Town, two from Potohar town, three from Rawalpindi Cantt, two Taxila, three Islamabad and one each from Kahutta, Gujar Khan, Attock, Sargodha, Abbottabad and AJK.

## Lok Virsa Museums to remain close on Eid-ul-Azha

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (NIFTH) - Lok Virsa museums will remain closed on the first day of Eid-ul-Azha, an official statement said. As per previous practice, both the Museums National Heritage Museum and Pakistan Monument Museum administered by Lok Virsa will reopen with routine public timings on the second day of Eid.

Executive Director Lok Virsa Talha Ali said that a large number of people were used to visit National Heritage Museum and Monument Museum on special occasions of Eid festivals and Independence Day celebrations. Talha Ali said that visitors should follow COVID-19 SOPs including wearing masks and social distancing. – APP

## Registration of summer courses starts at NCA

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD:Online registration of summer courses of fine arts has started at National College of Arts (NCA) on Monday.

An announcement issued here on Monday informed that the six weeks summer semester will commence from August 2 to September 10. Interested students were asked to click on the link <https://nca.edu.pk/form/registration-summersemester.docx> to register prior to July 26.

The registration form, duly filled, must be emailed using College ID to the exam@nca.edu.pk for NCA Lahore students and exam.pindi@nca.edu.pk for NCA Rawalpindi students with a CC to the administrative focal person of the concerned department.

## IRSA releases 293,300 cusecs water

**STAFF REPORT**

ISLAMABAD:Indus River System Authority (IRSA) released 293,300 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 349,200 cusecs on Monday.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1440.75 feet, which was 56.75 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 183,300 and 155,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1156.55 feet, which was 118.55 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 46,300 and 19,700 cusecs respectively.

## Officials directed to prevent Congo virus: P&SHD

**STAFF REPORT**

RAWALPINDI: The Primary and Secondary Health Care Department (P&SHD) Punjab has asked the officials of the Livestock and Health department to make arrangements for preventing the spread of the Congo virus ahead of Eid ul Azha.

Director Health Services Rawalpindi Region, Dr. Khalid on Monday directed officials to carry out spraying of animals besides taking steps for treatment of animals suffering from any sort of disease including Congo virus.

He directed the officials to ensure immediate fumigation and spray of Cattle at the entry and exit points of the city for prevention of the virus.

Dr. Khalid said that as sacrificial animals were being transported in the city, it has been decided to create public awareness to protect the people from Congo fever and the spread of the virus by taking preventive measures.

The Director advised the citizens to wear gloves, use masks and apply mosquito repellent while going to the animal markets, adding people were advised to take shower and change clothes after returning home from the market. He recommended the people to slaughter animals during the daytime on the occasion of eid.

Congo Crimean Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) is a lethal disease caused by the Congo virus which is present in a tick and animals while high fever, headache, back pain and muscle aches were the symptoms of the virus.

# Seafood exporters see potential in export to China

**SHUJAAT HAMZA**

ISLAMABAD: "China is our backbone in exports. In seafood exports, China is the compulsory aspect of our sales," SuhailFirdous, CEO of Super Star Enterprise told Gwadar Pro. Located in the northern part of the Arabian Sea, Pakistan is endowed with rich fishing potential and its seafood export has shown robust growth.

The seafood exports during July-May (2020-21) were recorded at \$383.088 million against the exports of \$373.382 million in July-May (2019-20), showing growth of around 2.6 percent, according to the latest data of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

The export to China takes up a great proportion. According to data from International Trade Center(ITC), Pakistan's exports of fish and aquatic products to China accounted for 29% of Pakistan's total exports of such products in 2019.

"78 different types of fish are mostly consumed in China. There is a Tianjin City where our Sole Fish is very popular. Pakistan's 70% Sole Fish is consumed in that city. There is also Ribbon Fish, cuttlefish, squid, octopus, and other items that are loved by Chinese people," said SuhailFirdous. Targeting this huge market, SuhailFirdous mentioned that "from a marketing point of view, it's very easy for the export as all we need to do is to prove the quality. In the case of Europe and America, we need many certifications and audits, and

we need to pass through a difficult phase before they accept us."

Pakistan enjoyed zero duties on exports of 724 products to China under phase one of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement signed in 2006.

After the second pact took effect in 2019, Pakistan has been allowed to export more than 1,000 products to China with zero duties, which largely facilitates trade, including in the fishing sector.

"The most exported fishes from Pakistan to China are ribbonfish, squid, mackerel and sole fish. China is buying many products from us," said Muhammad Rafique Awan, CEO of Hei5 International Food Pakistan which exports seafood, such as ribbon fish, squid, cuttle-

fish, and octopus, to China.

"We export ribbon fish to China. It is for the local consumption of China. Similarly, our squid, cuttlefish, and many other fishes are further processed into value-added products there and exported to European countries,"he said.

Thus, as per the improvement needed in the export business, Muhammad Rafique Awan said that the Pakistani fishery industry should switch to value addition. "In export, value-added products are of more importance.

When you have a product less in quantity and you sell it as a value-added product, then it will give you more benefit in income. This is the way to increase export and open job opportunities for locals," he said.



**QUETTA:** RCCI President M Nasir Mirza receiving Shield during his visit of Command and Staff College Quetta on the sidelines of Balochistan Business Opportunities Conference. – DNA

# FPCCI to promote and help women entrepreneurs

RWCCI women said that, business women have ideas for business & trade as well but due to lack of investment opportunity and strict Banking Loan Process it is impossible for us to give these ideas practical picture

**KHAYYAM ABBASI**

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI will facilitate Pakistan women entrepreneurs in every (business) field of life for enhancement of business and trade as well, to provide every available technology and latest ways of business structuring to the women of different trade / business sectors, FPCCI is ready to provide any required services to the said women entrepreneurs.

Mirza Abdul Rehman stated this in a meeting here at FPCCI Capital office Islamabad with Rawalpindi Women Chamber Delegation led by Nelum Khalid Choudhary President RWCCI, included SVP RWCCI Miss RakhshandaJabeen, Vice President Fozia Tabasum,

Founder President Hazara Women Chamber FirdousiaFazal, Former President RWCCI Miss AsmaKawal, Miss RahatJabeen, Shameem Akhtar and others.

RWCCI women said that, business women have ideas for business & trade as well but due to lack of investment opportunity and strict Banking Loan Process

it is impossible for us to give these ideas practical picture. We demand FPCCI to request government for ease of doing business for business ladies make

bank loan process easy, and FPCCI itself provide us Ladies Desk in every FPCCI Secretariat as well, so while availing opportunity of being in FPCCI it will be easy for us to communicate in business ideas and so on.

Mirza Abdul Rehman, added here that FPCCI is always here to facilitate business women of every chamber all over the country, and we feel proud to help business women at any stage, whenever and where ever they need our help. FPCCI doors are open for every business lady of Pakistan. We are here to listen and to solve problems of business women, and our full cooperation is with you and promise to solve your problems on priority bases. Mirza Abdul Rehman added here.





## Briefs

## 3 stolen motorcycles recovered

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested a man and recovered three stolen motorcycles from his possession here Monday, informed police spokesman.

During the course of action, the New Town police arrested a man namely Nauman and recovered three stolen motorcycles from his custody. Police have registered a case against him and started investigation. The SP Rawal Division commended the police team and said that the facilitators of the accused should also be arrested and operations against motorcycle and vehicle theft should be continued. — APP

## 2 week camp to conclude at all NCA campuses

## STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A two-week long summer camp, happening simultaneously, at National College of Arts (NCA) in Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Lahore would conclude on July 15. NCA organized annual Summer Camp under its Community Outreach Programme. In NCA Islamabad, the participants were offered courses in drawing, oil painting, fashion illustration, water colour painting, graphic design, calligraphy, animation and digital photography. In NCA Rawalpindi, offered courses included drawing, painting and graphic design. Similarly, drawing, oil painting, water colour painting, fashion illustration, sculpture, graphic design, calligraphy, animation, write shoot and edit, (short film) and digital photography (basic level) courses were organized in NCA Lahore. An official of NCA Khalid Raza said that COVID-19 SOP's are strictly observed at the camps.

He said that the participants were taking a keen interest in the courses, adding that certificates would be issued to the participants on completion of summer camps.

## Chances of rain likely in ICT, Punjab, Sindh

## STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chances of rain-wind, thundershower and gusty winds in Islamabad, Kashmir, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan-Baltistan, Balochistan and Sindh during next 24 hours, Met Office Islamabad forecast on Monday. It said heavy rain-falls are also expected in Upper Punjab, Kashmir and Upper Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa at isolated places during the period. A strong Monsoon currents from Bay of Bengal are penetrating in upper and lower parts of the country. A shallow westerly wave is also present over upper parts of the country. The rainfall in mm was recorded in Punjab as 198 and 123 in Sialkot Airport and City respectively, 98 in Noorpur Thal, Jhelum, 92 in Jhang, 70 in Mangla, 67 in Narowal, 63 in Gujrat, 60 in Toba Tek Singh, 50 in Mandi Bahauddin, 57 in Gujranwala, 36 in Hafizabad, 34 and 20 in Lahore Airport and City respectively, 26 in Kasur, 21 in Murree, 20 in Chakwal, 20 and 09 in Chaklala and Shamsabad areas of Rawalpindi respectively, 08, 07, 06 and 04 in Bokra, Saidpur, Zero Point and Golra areas of Islamabad respectively, 12 in Joharabad, 06 in Faisalabad, 04 in Sargodha City, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; 175 in Kakul, 104 in Saidu Sharif, 50 in Malam Jabba, 39 in Balakot, 20 and 10 in Lower and Upper Dir respectively, 10 in Bannu, 06 in Mirkhani, Kashmir; 41 in Kotli, 18 in Garhi Dupatta, 09 and 05 in Muzaffarabad City and Airport respectively, 07 in Rawalakot, 35, 32, 28,19 and 16 in Gulshan Hadid, PAF Faisal, Saadi Town, Landi and University Road areas of Karachi respectively, 29 in Mirpur Khas, 28 in Hyderabad, 19 in Chacharo, 15 in Chhor, 12 in Nagarparkar, 11 in Thatta and Mithi, 06 in Tando Jam and Diplo, 03 in Badin, Gilgit-Baltistan and 06 in Bagrote.

## Government agrees on climate actions to counter challenges

Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change, Ms. Rukhsana Naveed, urged both the treasury and opposition benches to work together to better respond to all the climate related challenges

## ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The parliamentarians of Pakistan hailing from all leading political parties have agreed on undertaking climate actions based on long-term sustainable approach to counter emerging challenges and threats from climate change including in the areas of food, water and energy security. Speaking at a consultation gathering on 'Impacts of Climate change across different sector of Pakistan' organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) they were of the view that shifting towards clean energy is the need of the hour

for being the safest, reliable, and efficient means of energy production. They called for harnessing abundant indigenous resources as they are important for economic growth of the country. Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change, Ms Rukhsana Naveed, urged both the treasury and opposition benches to work together to better respond to all the climate related challenges. She said, both sides can work under a 'Green Parliamentary Caucus' in the parliament on the cause of climate change to save the nation from climatic hazards. Member, National Assembly, Ms Zille Huma, on the occasion sug-

gested that for decarbonization and environment mitigation, Pakistan needs to think beyond just tree plantation and address the reasons that are leading to water, air and land pollution. While sharing learning from previous experience, Ms Romina Khurshid Alam, Member, National Assembly, said climate change is impacting food security and causing water scarcity. Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, said that there is high time now that the members of the parliament representing various political parties develop a multi-party consensus on critical challenges climate change is

posing for the country. The participants of the consultation including MNA Khurram Dastgir Khan, Ms Shaista Perwaiz, MNA, Mr Sher Ali Arbab, MNA Ch Amir Sultan Cheema, MNA Ghazala Saifi, MNA, Ms. Shahida Rehman, MNA, Ms Syma Nadeem, MNA, Ms Andleeb Abbass, MNA, Mr Rai Muhammad Murtaza, MNA, Ms Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro, MNA, Ms Naureen Farouq Ibrahim, MNA, Dr Nausheen Hamid, MNA, Mr Ali Pervaiz Malik, MNA, Ms Shandana Gulzar, MNA, Ms Shaza Fatima Khawaja, MNA, Ms Shunila Ruth, MNA, Ms Munawara Bibi Baloch, MNA, Ms Nafeesa Inayat Ullah, MNA Kishwar Zehra, M-

NA Shamsunisa, MNA Dr. Seemi Bukhari, MNA Ms. Naseem Zehra, MNA Munawar Bibi, MNA Ms. Kiran Imran Dar, MNA Kheal Das, Mr. Atta Tarar Agha Mr. Abdul Sabour, Mr. Muhammad Tariq and Mr Moazzam S Bhatti, Director Advocacy and Campaigns, SDPI, during the consultation highlighted various dynamics of the climate change, energy sector, and the need of policy interventions. The participants added further that through law-making, parliamentarians can propose or amend legislation to strengthen the legal framework and the policies pertaining to clean energy and renewable energy development.

## Govt. releases 100% petroleum sector funds

## STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The government has provided 100 per cent funds, amounting to Rs1, 339.589 million, allocated under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP 2020-21) to execute petroleum sector projects. According to the official data that showed a slight readjustment in funds' allocation, an amount of Rs1, 339.589 million had been authorized in the last fiscal year, which stood 100 per cent of the total allocation for the timely and smooth execution of the projects. The projects against those funds that have been released include Expansion and Up-gradation of Pakistan Petroleum Corehouse (PETCORE), Exploration and Evaluation of coal in Noshah and Bahlol areas of Balochistan, Supply of 13.5 Million Cubic Feet per Day (MMCFD) gas to Dhabeji Special Economic Zone, Supply of 30 MMCFD gas at the doorstep (Zero Point) of Rashakai Special Economic Zone Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Up-gradation of HDIP's POL testing facilities at Islamabad, Lahore, Multan, Peshawar, Quetta and ISO Certification of Petroleum Testing Laboratory at Islamabad, Geological Mapping of 50 Toposheets (out of 354 unmaped Toposheets) of outcrop area of Balochistan and Up-gradation and ISO certification of Karachi Laboratories Complex (KLC) at HDIP Operations Office, Karachi.

## DC reviews measures to cope flood

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Commissioner (DC), Rawalpindi Amir Aqib Khan Monday held a meeting to review arrangements to cope flood like situation in the city. He was informed in the meeting that the local administration had taken various measures to tackle the flood like situation and also canceled the leaves of entire staff of Rescue-1122, health department, allied hospitals, Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Civil Defense and Solid Waste Management Company. The Rescue 1122 officials apprised the meeting that the emergency service had earlier in June. — DNA



ISLAMABAD: A group photo with the parliamentarians after a consultative meeting dinner hosted by SDPI at Local Hotel. The Parliamentarians talked about climate change and issues relating to food, water and energy security. — DNA

## COVID-19 Cases; partial lockdown on cards in ICT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Capital is facing a surge in COVID-19 cases during last a few days which has prompted its local administration to adopt some remedial measures including possibilities of imposing partial lockdown during Eid-ul-Azha holidays to curb spread of deadly virus. Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has already sealed some areas in different localities under its smart lockdown strategy as positivity rate in the capital city has touched 5 per cent mark from less than one percent a few weeks ago. "People have been showing leniency in observing the anti-coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs)," said Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Hamza Shafaqat on Monday. Talking to APP, he said if the situation remained same and spread of the Delta variant would continue to rise, it would left the administration with a little option, but to impose partial lockdown. With reports of Delta variant cases, he said the district administration had stepped up efforts and launched new safety measures to prevent its further spread. "We have started imposing smart lockdown in the areas from where the new patients of this variants reported to hospitals," he added. He said the ICT admin teams in collaboration with health authorities and others had so far sealed street 13 Qurtaba Town, Khanna, Street 18 G-11/2, Street 19 F-6/3, Street 24 G-7/2, Street 29 Block H, Soan Garden, Kips Academy PWD and Islamabad Model School for Boys F-8/3. The DC maintained that strict implementation of health guidelines were being ensured in restaurants, tourist spots and public transport, adding over 25 shops including restaurants with no vaccinated staff were sealed recently. He said vaccination certificates of people coming to restaurants and shopping malls were also being checked, besides imposing heavy fines to the SOPs violators. To a query, he said over 700,000 residents in the federal capital got Covid-19 jobs while vaccination process had been expedited to achieve the target of 1 million by August this year. Meanwhile, District Health Officer (DHO), Dr. Zaeem Zia, in a COVID-19 advisory said the citizens should observe all the SOPs regarding prevention of COVID-19 during the Eid days. "Citizens should avoid crowded places as much as possible," he said while recommending shopping and sale and purchase from only those Bazaars and cattle markets which had been observing precautionary measures in the letter and spirit. — APP

## Nigerian delegation visits COMSTECH

## STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of 30 Nigerian officials who are participants of a senior executive course at the National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies, Nigeria, visited COMSTECH on Monday. The delegation is on study tour to Pakistan with the purpose to benefit from Pakistan's best practices in the context of policy implementation. Coordinator General, COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary extended warm welcome to the delegation at COMSTECH Headquarters. Prof. Choudhary gave a detailed briefing on COMSTECH establishment, objectives, past activities, progress and future plans to the delegation. He briefed the delegation on the benefits of COMSTECH programmes to OIC member states including Nigeria in detail. Prof. Choudhary highlighted the facilities available at COMSTECH for capacity building activities and subsequently arranged a tour of the delegation to the entire COMSTECH facility. The tour was part of training programme of the senior executive course of National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Nigeria.

## Barren lands to be turned into forests

This was revealed by the President of Punjab Forest Guards and Foresters Association Hafiz Sajjad in a meeting held here

## DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab Forest Department (Extension) Rawalpindi Division has all set to start a massive tree plantation campaign in all districts and tehsils of the division with a special aim to turn all public and private unproductive barren lands into forests with the active participation of land owners. This was revealed by the President of Punjab Forest Guards and Foresters Association Hafiz Sajjad in a meeting held here on Monday. Vice President of the Foresters Association Mian Imran, District Range Officer Chakwal Sher Afzal Raja and others were present on the occasion. "Growing forests on barren and uncultivated privately owned lands under Prime Minister Imran Khan's Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Movement is our prime concern", DRO Sher Afzal Raja said and added that thousands of kanals of such private land in Chakwal District had so far been turned into dense forest. He said that all field staff including forest officers and



forest guards of the Division had set targets to approach land owners for the purpose. He said, apart from this, we shall distribute millions of saplings among farming community and those who can plant and take care of them after planting. He appealed to the farmers and cultivators to resettle their barren lands through afforestation and announced that the forest department would provide them saplings at the rate of Rs. 2 per seedling. "Farmers would plant these saplings in their barren lands and the Forest Department shall help them grow these saplings in a

proper way", he added saying that millions of these plants would be given to farmers in all districts and tehsils of the division. Mian Imran said that field workers were not only struggling to save the existing forests from the hands of timber mafia but they were doing their best to plant and grow maximum number of sapling leaving no space empty. "Along with these practical and immediate steps, we are also raising public awareness to highlight the need and importance of trees for which a massive publicity campaign has also been launched," he added.

## Formation of PPC-Right of Physiotherapist

## SAMAN JAHANGIR

DOCTOR of Physical Therapy, a five year degree that includes 1-year house job training as well, also covers medical, physical and bio-mechanical aspects of diseases and health. In this, Physical therapists are considered as evidence-based, health care professionals who not only diagnose and treat individuals of all ages who have medical problems or other health-related conditions that limit their abilities to move and perform functional activities in their daily lives. Physiotherapists deal independently with complexities and make decisions in the management of cases regarding both preventive and therapeutic ways. A Physiotherapist works independently covering Person-centred approaches, Assessment, investigation and diagnosis, Condition management, intervention, and Treatment plan, Service and Professional Development. Physical Therapist, belong to a dynamic profession having established theoretical and scientific evidence for their treatment

interventions, with a aim to enhance and optimize the person's potential and capacity for movement. Physical therapist, movement experts, use not only their extensive education, clinical experience but also use latest medical research in order to assess and treat people of all abilities and ages, from newborns to people at the end of life. Physi-

otherapist ensure patients as independent by using their manual therapy techniques, corrective exercises, and patient education. Physical therapy is a conservative intervention that is a high-benefit, low-risk solution that can make a difference in many conditions like, Avoid surgery. Increase your functional independence, Assess your Injury risk, Prevent falls, Recover

from a stroke, neurological injury or chronic disease, Reduce or eliminate pain, Avoid Prescription Medications, Recover from sports injury, Find the best workout for you, Diagnose your movement pathology and Achieve Developmental milestones. For several years, the Physiotherapist community has struggled for the materialization of

Physiotherapist's independent regulatory authority. In reaction to this a draft bill "Pakistan Physical Therapy Council Act 2014" was made by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination. The Draft was presented and approved in the Federal Cabinet but later on, the government was changed and the progress on the said bill was halted. Now it was decided that Physiotherapist are under the 'Allied Health Professional council' 2021 that is highly discriminatory and against the standards set by International standard classification of occupations" (ISCO 2008). So, it's a need of the hour that we, the physiotherapist community, take stand against this act. Besides all this, the government should take action regarding this social injustice and should immediately exclude physiotherapist from the 'Allied Health Professionals Council Bill 2021' and ensure legislation for Physiotherapists' Independent regulatory authority/council as drafted earlier in the bill titled 'Pakistan Physical Therapy Council Act 2014' which was approved in the Federal Cabinet Meeting Dated 3rd of May 2018.



## Ashab outplays Noor in PSA Satellite Tournament

ISLAMABAD: The 3rd PSA Satellite Tournament which kicked off here at the Mushaf Squash Complex Monday saw a major upset in the quarterfinals when World No 721 Ashab Irfan downed World No 206 and Top seed of the tournament Noor Zaman. Ashab beat Noor with a game score of 7-11, 11-9, 11-5, 6-11, 11-5. The match lasted for 51 min. The semi-finals and final of the 3rd PSA Satellite Tournament would be played on Tuesday. Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) was organizing a series of four PSA Satellite Tournaments of US\$1,000 prize money each at Mushaf Squash Complex. The third tournament of the series kicked off here on Tuesday. In the other quarterfinals, Salman Saleem beat Asad Ullah Khan by 11-5, 11-3, 7-11, 11-8 (30 Min), Hamza Sharif beat Haris Qasim by 12-10, 11-5, 11-8 (24 Min) and M Farhan Hashmi beat Waqar Mehbod by 6-11, 12-10, 11-4, 11-3 (30 Min). — APP







## Briefs

## Will not let Afghan war hurt Pakistan

FROM PAGE 01

Shahzad Akbar in Islamabad this evening, he said the entire world is appreciating Pakistan's efforts for peace in Afghanistan. He said the government is pursuing the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan that Pakistan will be a partner in peace, but not in the conflict. Talking about political situation in the country and on-going election campaign in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said position of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf is very strong in AJK, which is evident with the fact that it has fielded candidates in all the constituencies. He said Pakistan People's Party is contesting elections on just eight seats, while Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz is also not sure about its future in Azad Kashmir. In another tweet in continuation of the previous one, the information minister recalled that Prime Minister Imran Khan had already clarified that Pakistan could be partners with the US in peace, but not in conflict. He further stated: "Pakistan's land is not being used against Afghanistan and [we] hope that Afghanistan's territory, too, will not be used against Pakistan." Chaudhry added that the political and parliamentary leadership in Pakistan had agreed on the "principle of non-interference [in case of Afghanistan]". The information minister's remarks are the latest in a string of statements by Pakistani authorities regarding growing concerns over rising violence in Afghanistan and its expected fallout in Pakistan, with the US draw-down in the war-torn country now in its final stages.

## Qureshi discusses ties with Tajik FM

FROM PAGE 01

political settlement in Afghanistan. He expressed the hope that the Afghan leaders would recognize the urgency of the situation and seize historic opportunity. The Foreign Minister reiterated Pakistan's consistent support for a peaceful, united, stable and prosperous Afghanistan. Appreciating the close cooperation between the two countries at the multilateral fora including at SCO, Foreign Minister Qureshi congratulated his Tajik counterpart on successful stewardship of SCO under the Tajik Chair this year. The two sides agreed to continue to remain in contact.

## PM Imran arrives in Tashkent on Thursday

FROM PAGE 01

and friendly ties, trust and good-neighbourliness between Central and South Asia in the interests of all peoples and countries of both regions. The conference will be attended by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, foreign ministers and high representatives of the Central and South Asian countries, other foreign states, heads of authoritative international and regional organizations, global financial institutions and companies, leading research and analytical centers. During the plenary and breakout sessions, the forum participants will discuss the possibilities of promoting initiatives aimed at developing trade, economic, transport, communication, cultural and humanitarian cooperation in the context of further deepening regional connectivity. The agenda includes a comprehensive exchange of views and joint development of proposals for enhancing cooperation in trade, investment, transport, energy and innovation, green technologies, implementation of specific projects and cooperation programs, enhancing interaction in tourism, education, healthcare, science and culture, ensuring the stability and security of the two regions.

## Italy lift Euro-2020 after penalties against England

Southgate's tactics paid immediate dividends when Luke Shaw volleyed England into a second minute lead. Harry Kane dropped deep and created space for Kieran Trippier and the wing-back had time to pick out Shaw's run at the far post

## SPORTS DESK

LONDON: Italy keeper Gianluigi Donnarumma was the hero with two saves in the penalty shootout as Italy won the title 3-2 on penalties after the final against England ended 1-1 after extra time. Marcos Rashford sent his penalty against the post and then the Italian goalkeeper saved kicks from Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Sako after Jordan Pickford had done well to save from Jorginho and Andrea Belotti. Once again the penalties were cruel on England, but Italy will argue that after suffering in the first half, they did enough in the remainder of the game to deserve the win. While Italy were unchanged from the squad that beat Spain in the semifinal, England coach Gareth Southgate returned to the three central defenders who had served so well against Germany. Southgate's tactics paid immediate dividends when Luke Shaw volleyed England into a second minute lead.



Harry Kane dropped deep and created space for Kieran Trippier and the wing-back had time to pick out Shaw's run at the far post.

Once ahead, England look comfortable with Kieran Trippier seeing a low cross cleared, but overall, the English were content to close

down the spaces in midfield and defense, with Kalvin Phillips, Declan Rice, Mason Mount and at times even Harry Kane, closing down

and denying the Italians angles to pass the ball. Perhaps that meant the English at times lacked men to launch effective counter-

tacks, but Italy were unable to build anything and their only chance of the half came from an individual run and shot just wide, by Federico Chiesa. Italy came out strongly at the start of the second half, looking to dominate where they had struggled before the break. Insigne fired a free kick just high and wide after a needless foul from Raheem Sterling and although Harry Maguire headed a free kick over, it was game on for Italy. Federico Chiesa's run ended with Pickford blocking from a narrow angle and Pickford did even better to block Chiesa's shot in the 62nd minute. Italy were playing in and around the England penalty area and although Maguire flicked Chiesa's cross out for a corner, Leonardo Bonucci was able to scramble home from close range after Pickford had blocked Marco Veratti's original header. Bukayo Saka and Jordan Henderson came on as England reverted to four at the back, while Chiesa had to limp off with an ankle injury as the game went into extra time.

## Daraz partners with Pakistan Olympic Association

*Muhammad Khalid Mahmood, Secretary General, Pakistan Olympic Association said, "We appreciate the start of a new beginning. Alibaba is a Top Partner of the International Olympic Committee and Daraz is looking after the interest of Alibaba in Pakistan"*

LAHORE: Daraz (Alibaba Group), Pakistan's leading e-commerce powerhouse, has announced its Olympic Games partnership to support the National Olympic Team of Pakistan. Through this partnership the organizations aim to support national athletes who are partaking in the prestigious sporting event and uplift and inspire local communities. Ehsan Saya, Managing Director, Daraz - Alibaba Group said the company's partnership with Pakistan Olympic Association is a step to show the support to our national athletes. He further emphasized on the role Daraz has played in uplifting communities saying, "Daraz has always stood to empower the youth of Pakistan and hence, this partnership is a very natural association for us. We are super excited to stand with our national heroes as they represent Pakistan in Tokyo." Lt Gen (R) Syed Arif Hasan HI(M), President, Pakistan Olympic Association in his message stated the collaboration a milestone and long awaited recognition of national heroes. He congratulated the Daraz (Alibaba) Team for taking the initiative to support elite athletes. Muhammad Khalid Mahmood, Secretary General, Pakistan Olympic Association said, "We appreciate the start of a new beginning. Alibaba is a Top Partner of the International Olympic Committee and Daraz is looking after the interest of Alibaba in Pakistan. We are happy to join hands with an IOC Top Partner and initiate sponsorship for the Pakistani athletes. This partnership will encourage the national athletes particularly and Olympic Movement inspire others to come forward too." Our nation's interest in sports serves as an equilibrium. The beauty about it is that it brings people together from different walks of life. In the spirit of this partnership, Daraz - Alibaba Group extends its support to particularly Olympic Movement and our national athletes who have demonstrated dedication to follow their dreams. - DNA

## India lightning strikes kill at least 38 people

## FOREIGN DESK

NEW DELHI: Lightning has killed at least 38 people across two Indian states over the past 24 hours, officials said on Monday. A majority of the deaths occurred in the western state of Rajasthan, where 11 people died after being struck by lightning near a watchtower at the 12th century Amber Fort, police said. Senior police officer Anand Srivastava said some of the victims were taking selfies near the watchtower when lightning struck late on Sunday. Srivastava said at least nine more people were killed and nearly 20 others were injured in separate lightning strikes when the state was lashed with thunderstorms and monsoon rains. In Uttar Pradesh, 18 people were killed by lightning on Sunday, said Manoj Dixit, a government official.

## AGENCIES

BEIJING: China's military said it "drove away" a United States warship that it said illegally entered Chinese waters near the disputed Paracel Islands on Monday, the anniversary of a landmark international court ruling that Beijing has no claim over the South China Sea. The USS Benfold entered the waters of the Paracels without the approval of the Chinese government, seriously violating China's sovereignty and undermining the stability of the South China Sea, the People's Liberation Army's Southern Theater Command said. "We urge the United States to immediately stop such provocative

actions," the Southern Theater Command said in a statement. In a statement, the United States Navy 7th Fleet said the Benfold had "asserted navigational rights and freedoms in the vicinity of the Paracel Islands, consistent with international law" and dismissed Chinese claims of a serious violation of its sovereignty as "false" and a misrepresentation. It stressed that all ships have the right of "innocent passage" under international law as reflected in the Convention on the Law of the Sea and permission is not required. "The operation reflects our commitment to uphold freedom of navigation and lawful uses of the sea as a principle," the statement said. "The United States will continue to fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows, as

USS Benfold did here. Nothing PRC (the People's Republic of China) says otherwise will deter us." The Paracels, called Xisha in China, are among hundreds of islands, reefs and atolls in the resource-rich South China Sea contested by China, Vietnam, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei, with Beijing claiming historic rights to everything within its so-called nine-dash line, which covers most of the region. China took control of the Paracels, a chain of barren islands about 250 miles (400 kilometres east of Vietnam) and 220 miles (350 kilometres) southeast of Hainan Island, in the 1970s. They are also claimed by Vietnam, which calls them Hoang Sa, as well as Taiwan. All three countries require permission or advance notification before

any military vessel sails through the area, the US Navy said. On July 12, 2016, the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague rejected China's nine-dash line and ruled that Beijing had no historic title over the South China Sea. It also said China had interfered with traditional Philippine fishing rights at Scarborough Shoal and breached the Philippines' sovereign rights by exploring for oil and gas near Reed Bank. China has repeatedly said it does not accept the ruling and has continued to expand its South China Sea presence over the past five years. In a written statement on Sunday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said freedom of the seas was an "enduring" interest of all nations. "Nowhere is the rules-based

maritime order under greater threat than in the South China Sea," Blinken said. "The People's Republic of China continues to coerce and intimidate Southeast Asian coastal states, threatening freedom of navigation in this critical global thoroughway." He also repeated a warning to China that an attack on Philippine armed forces in the South China Sea would trigger a 1951 US-Philippines mutual defence treaty. "We call on the PRC to abide by its obligations under international law, cease its provocative behavior, and take steps to reassure the international community that it is committed to the rules-based maritime order that respects the rights of all countries, big and small," he added.

## FA condemns racist abuse of England players after final

## AGENCIES

LONDON: England's Football Association and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson have condemned the online racist abuse of players following the team's penalty shoot-out loss to Italy in the Euro 2020 final. On Sunday the sides drew 1-1 after extra time and Italy won the shoot-out 3-2, with England players Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka, who are all Black, missing spot-kicks. "The FA strongly condemns all forms of discrimination and is appalled by the online racism that has been aimed at some of our England players on social media," the statement posted in the early hours of Monday

morning said. "We could not be clearer that anyone behind such disgusting behaviour is not welcome in following the team. We will do all we can to support the players affected while urging the toughest punishments possible for anyone responsible." The England team also released a statement, condemning the abuse directed at its players on social media. "We're disgusted that some of our squad - who have given everything for the shirt this summer - have been subjected to discriminatory abuse online after tonight's game," the team tweeted. Prime Minister Johnson stood behind the players as well, saying that team deserved to be lauded as

heroes. "Those responsible for this appalling abuse should be ashamed of themselves," he tweeted. Following his tweet, Johnson was criticised for initially failing to condemn England fans for booing their football team for taking the knee in protest against racial injustice. British police said they would investigate the racist posts against the players. "We are aware of a number of offensive and racist social media comments being directed towards footballers following the #Euro2020 final," the Metropolitan Police tweeted. "This abuse is totally unacceptable, it will not be tolerated and it will be investigated." London Mayor Sadiq Khan called on social media

companies to remove such content from their platforms. "Those responsible for the disgusting online abuse we have seen must be held accountable - and social media companies need to act immediately to remove and prevent this hate", Khan said in a tweet. England's players have made a strong stand against racism at the tournament, taking a knee before their games, including at Sunday's final. Arsenal sent a message of support to their winger Saka while Rashford was backed by his club Manchester United. "Football can be so cruel. But for your personality ... your character ... your bravery ... We'll always be proud of you. And we can't wait to have you back with us," Arsenal tweeted.

## Pakistan overseas cricket cup tournament

LONDON: Pakistan High Commission London's Cricket Team participated in Pakistan Overseas Cricket Cup Tournament on 11 July 2021 and reached the final. The tournament was played at the Osterley Cricket Ground London. High Commissioner Moazzam Ahmad Khan together with his spouse Ambassador (R) Leena Salim Moazzam and local MP Ms Ruth Cadbury attended the event besides the local fans of cricket. The High Commissioner, who himself has played First Class Cricket in the past, was part of the HC Cricket Team. Other teams included Bestway Group, UKPCCI and United Lawyers Society. Speaking on the occasion, the High Commissioner thanked the organizers for making excellent arrangements for the match. He said sporting events are a useful tool of public diplomacy and act as bridges between communities. The HC always encouraged sporting activities to bring different communities together, he added. Ms Ruth Cadbury MP welcomed the teams to the local ground and said she was looking forward to more such healthy activities. She said, among many other common interests, cricket bound our two peoples together. Matches were followed by a prize distribution ceremony by the HC and Ms Ruth Cadbury MP. Maintaining necessary social distancing, the teams and the local cricket fans enjoyed the day out. - DNA



LONDON: Pakistan HC to the UK, Moazzam Ahmad Khan and Ruth Cadbury MP distributing prizes at the Pakistan Overseas Cricket Cup Tournament at Osterley Ground. - DNA



LONDON: Pakistan HC cricket team in a group photo with High Commissioner Moazzam Ahmad Khan at the Pakistan Overseas Cricket Cup Tournament at Osterley Ground. - DNA

## Indonesian embassy launches B2B Online Portal for trade

FROM PAGE 01

event. He said the embassy would convene a series of events to promote tourism and investment. This series of activities would be complementary to cultural diplomacy i.e. being conducted by the embassy in collaboration with E-Commerce Gateway Pakistan. He hoped that such activities would enhance people-to-people contacts and increase trade volume which amounted to \$2.5 billion last year. CEO PBIT Dr. Erfa Iqbal briefed on various sectors and availability of numerous potential opportunities for investors in Punjab. She pointed out that special economic zones were being set up in all the provinces and regions of Pakistan. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Provincial Minister said Pakistan and Indonesia shared deep potential, cultural, religious ties and respect for democratic values. Being the largest countries in the Islamic world, the two stand together for their progress and prosperity.

He said Indonesia-Pakistan preferential trade agreement had been beneficial for private businesses of both countries and instrumental in focusing growth in Pakistan. The level of trade and investment between the two countries had not kept pace with global trends. There was considerable untapped potential to expand trade taking advantage of the PTA, he observed. He said the recent understanding between PBIT and Indonesian Embassy in Pakistan to form a joint working group to facilitate bilateral trade and investments clearly indicates our resolve to strengthen the economic ties between the two countries. Provincial Minister said, "As a result of bold economic reforms of the PTI government, we have achieved significant improvement in all major economic fronts; Pakistan's economic growth has increased despite the challenges of COVID-19."

He said Punjab had taken regional lead in special economic zone development and colonization. "I invite the business communities of both countries to make use of the attractive incentives package available in our special economic zones and export processing zones and set up their manufacturing units there." Vice President E-Commerce Gateway Pakistan Uzair Nizam underscored that such events played a vital role in increasing bilateral trade between the two countries as well as hosting economy and business activities.

## Musk defends Tesla's SolarCity deal

NEW YORK: Tesla chief Elon Musk defended the electric car maker's controversial 2016 acquisition of SolarCity Monday at the start of a trial on whether the billionaire put his own interests ahead of investors. Musk told a Delaware court that he was not enriched by the Tesla-SolarCity deal and that he did not inappropriately pressure fellow board members to greenlight the transaction, according to CNBC. A group of Tesla shareholders contends that Musk, who was chairman of both Tesla and SolarCity at the time of the transaction, "poisoned" Tesla's ability to fairly evaluate the purchase, wasting corporate assets in the \$2.6 billion deal and harming shareholders, according to a complaint. The group of investors, which includes union pension funds and other institutional investors, argues that SolarCity was a failing enterprise that faced "likely bankruptcy" were it not for the actions of Musk and other Tesla board members, who also had large equity stakes in SolarCity. The plaintiffs contend Tesla's board breached their fiduciary duty to Tesla shareholders. They are seeking unspecified monetary relief in the complaint. - APP



## Briefs

Pfizer to meet  
US officials  
over vaccine  
booster

## WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: Pfizer says it plans to meet with top United States health officials on Monday to discuss the drugmaker's request for federal authorisation of a third dose of its COVID-19 vaccine, as President Joe Biden's chief medical adviser Anthony Fauci acknowledged that "it is entirely conceivable, maybe likely" that booster shots will be needed. The company said it was scheduled to have the meeting with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other officials on Monday, days after Pfizer asserted that booster shots would be needed within 12 months. Pfizer's Dr Mikael Dolsten told The Associated Press last week that early data from the company's booster study suggests people's antibody levels jump five to 10-fold after a third dose, compared with their second dose months earlier – evidence it believes supports the need for a booster. On Sunday, Fauci did not rule out the possibility but said it was too soon for the government to recommend another shot. He said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the FDA did the right thing last week by pushing back against Pfizer's assertion with their statement that they did not view booster shots as necessary "at this time".

Sydney  
anticipates  
extended  
lockdown

## AGENCIES

SYDNEY: Australia's largest city, Sydney, is expected to prolong its lockdown restrictions as cases spike. Sydney is located in the state of New South Wales, which recorded 112 new coronavirus cases on Monday, the largest daily rise this year. New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian said Sunday she believes cases will continue to rise, and signalled the state may extend its lockdown beyond the current end date of July 16. Residents of New South Wales are not allowed to leave their homes except for shopping for food or other essential goods and services. Residents can also leave their homes if they have medical appointments, among other exceptions. Australia reported its first death of the year on Sunday from the virus. The woman who died of the illness was in her 90s. Taiwan may soon receive 10 million doses of the BioNTech-Pfizer vaccine. Two Taiwanese companies, Foxconn and TSMC, were put in charge of procuring the vaccines for the island. The two companies reportedly reached a \$350 million (294 million) deal with the Chinese sales agency for BioNTech to obtain the doses.

EU puts  
digital tax  
plan 'on hold'

## WEB DESK

BRUSSELS: The European Union's plans to unveil a new digital tax plan later this month have now been delayed, a European Commission spokesperson said on Monday. "We have decided to put on hold our work on our new digital levy as a new EU own resource," EU commission spokesman Daniel Ferrer told reporters in Brussels. The move follows intense lobbying by the United States for the 27-member bloc to drop the levy amid fears that it will largely affect the country's tech giants. US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said a draft OECD/G20 deal on a minimum global corporate tax rate of 15% includes an agreement "to dismantle existing digital taxes that the United States has regarded as discriminatory and to refrain from erecting similar measures in the future." "So it's really up to the European Commission and the members of the European Union to decide how to proceed," she said on Sunday.

Pakistan vows to enhance  
energy cooperation with Iran

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Minister for Energy has expressed the commitment to work for further enhancing energy cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran as per the MoU signed during the recent visit of Pakistani Prime Minister to Iran. According to an official statement Muhammad Hammad Azhar said this during a meeting with Ambassador of Iran Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini here on Monday. The two sides discussed matters relating to cooperation between the two countries in the energy sector. "Hammad Azhar while underscoring the importance of Iranian electricity import to the



neighboring districts of Balochistan especially Gawadar, said that it is playing pivotal role in provision of electricity to these area," the statement said. It said the minister also expressed the commitment to work for further enhancing cooperation between both countries in the energy sector as per the MoU signed during the recent visit of Pakistani Premier to Iran. The Iranian Ambassador informed the minister that Iranian side is ready to deliver more electricity to Pakistan and necessary infrastructure in this regard is built by his country. He informed that close coordination between the relevant organizations dealing with import of electricity is needed for early materialization of the project.

Turkey, Azerbaijan set to  
lay new gas pipeline

## DNA

ANKARA: Ankara is awaiting Baku's approval after completing all necessary preparations for the Nakhchivan natural gas pipeline project, which came to the agenda after Azerbaijan's historic victory in the war with Armenia over Karabakh in 2020. The Turkish part of the project lays from Ighdir to Nakhchivan's Sadarak. It will have a length of 85 kilometers. When completed, it will meet all the gas needs of the region with a population of 500,000. "After the completion of all the works related to the route, survey, expropriation, and project design, the eyes have been turned to Azerbaijan. After the approval of the technical data, the construction of the project will begin," the newspaper said. After Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Fatih Donmez and his Azerbaijani counterpart Parviz Shahbazov signed the memorandum of understanding on the natural gas supplies to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, all necessary



expropriations were carried out on the Turkish side, the report added. Emergency expropriation in three regions. Yeni Shafak noted that with the decision published in Resmi Gazete (Turkey's national and only official journal that publishes the new legislation and other official announcements) it was decided to expropriate the immovables that fall on the route within the borders of Ighdir province, Merkez, Karakoyunlu and Aralik districts for the purpose of realizing the Nakhchivan natural gas pipeline project. Moreover, the Petrol Transport Corporation General Directorate immediately

decided to expropriate the immovables needed for the construction of fixed impact access roads, energy transmission lines, cathodic protection lines, and anode beds within the scope of the project. With the project, a new line will be established between Turkey and Azerbaijan after the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan, the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum, the TANAP natural gas pipelines. BOTAS and SOCAR have been authorized to implement the project. Gas needs of 500,000 residents. The implementation of the Turkey-Nakhchivan natural gas project will play an important role in deepening and developing strong coopera-

tion between the two countries. The annual natural gas consumption of Nakhchivan, which has a population of around 500,000, reaches half a billion cubic meters. With the opening of the line, all the needs in this direction will be met through Turkey. The Turkey-Nakhchivan natural gas pipeline will be built in the continuation of the Ighdir natural gas pipeline, which takes off from the East Anatolian natural gas main transmission line. The Turkish section of the line, starting from Ighdir to Nakhchivan's Sadarak, will have a length of 85 kilometers. With the project, the economy of Nakhchivan will also be revived and the way for many initiatives and investments for the region will be opened. Regional transportation system's main vein On the other hand, the establishment of a land corridor with Nakhchivan, which is the only Azerbaijani territory on the Turkish border and has no connection with the rest of the country, will further strengthen Azerbaijan's position in the international transport and logistics system.

Tajik President  
Rahmon calls  
Ilham Aliyev

## AGENCIES

BAKU: On July 12, President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon made a phone call to President Ilham Aliyev. The heads of state discussed topical aspects of Tajik-Azerbaijani bilateral relations, particularly economic and trade ties, and emphasized the positive dynamics of development of these relations in recent years. The sides paid special attention to the current military-political situation in Afghanistan. In this regard, informing

the President of Azerbaijan in detail of the alarming situation in the provinces of Afghanistan bordering Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon expressed serious concern over the escalation of the situation on the southern borders of the CIS. The President of the Republic of Tajikistan invited the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan to pay an official visit to Tajikistan at a time convenient for him. The President of Azerbaijan accepted the invitation with gratitude. The date of the visit will be agreed on through diplomatic channels.

South Africa  
deploys  
army in two  
provinces

## FOREIGN DESK

JOHANNESBURG: The South African military said it was deploying soldiers in two provinces, including its economic hub of Johannesburg, to help police cope with looting and arson attacks on businesses. The move comes as the country's top court began hearing a challenge on Monday by former president Jacob Zuma against a 15-month prison term. Police said six people have been killed and more than 200 arrested in related protests and looting since last week. "The South African National Defence Force has commenced with pre-deployment processes and procedures in line with a request for assistance received ... to assist law enforcement agencies deployed in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal provinces respectively to quell the unrest that has gripped both Provinces in the last few days," South African military said in a statement on Monday. Zuma, 79, was sentenced for defying a constitutional court order to give evidence at an inquiry investigating high-level corruption during his nine years in office until 2018. The decision to jail him resulted from legal proceedings seen as a test of post-apartheid South Africa's ability to enforce the rule of law, including against powerful politicians.

Jordan  
sentences 2  
ex-officials

## WEB DESK

AMMAN: A Jordanian court has sentenced a former royal aide and a minor royal to 15 years in jail on charges of attempting to destabilise the monarchy. Bassem Awadallah, who has United States citizenship and once served as a top aide to King Abdullah II, and Sharif Hassan bin Zaid, a member of the royal family, were found guilty of sedition and incitement charges on Monday. The court said it had confirmed evidence backing the charges against the pair and that they had been determined to harm the monarchy by pushing former heir to the throne Prince Hamzah as an alternative to the king. Bin Zaid was sentenced to another year in prison and 1,000 dinars (\$1,400) for drug abuse, Petra news agency reported. The charges have exposed rifts within the ruling Hashemite family that has been a beacon of stability in a volatile region in recent years. Awadallah, a former finance minister who was a driving force behind Jordan's liberal economic reforms, was charged with agitating to undermine the political system and committing acts that threaten public security and sowing sedition.

Tokyo enters  
4th COVID-19  
state of  
emergency

TOKYO: Tokyo begins its fourth state of emergency on Monday to contain a resurgence in COVID-19 infections, local media reported Monday. Katsunobu Kato, the Chief Cabinet Secretary, said that the state of emergency was to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 from Tokyo during the summer break and Bon holiday period. "We ask the people for their understanding and cooperation as the declaration this round is to make sure we prevent the nationwide explosion of infections until vaccination progresses," Kato said at a regular press conference. The fourth state of emergency in Tokyo, lasting until Aug. 22, will cover the duration of the Tokyo Olympics. Some people expressed fear over an increase in infections in Japan even with the new state of emergency in place. "It is natural to have the games with no spectators, but I believe it would surely increase the flow of people. I'm worried that it could lead to a further rise in the number of infections," Toshihiro Numata, a worker in the city of Yokohama, told local media. Bars and restaurants under the state of emergency are requested not to serve alcohol and are obliged to close by 8:00 p.m. local time. – APP

Nepal's Supreme  
Court reinstates  
parliament

## FOREIGN DESK

KATMANDU: Nepal's Supreme Court has reinstated its parliament, which was dissolved by caretaker Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli in May, and ordered that his rival Sher Bahadur Deuba be appointed as prime minister. The move on Monday deals a major blow to Oli, who was unable to muster a majority in the House of Representatives and had sought to force a fresh election by dissolving parliament on May 22. Oli's move had sparked a fresh constitutional crisis in the Himalayan nation and it marked his second attempt to dissolve parliament in recent months after an initial attempt in December 2020, following a split in his party, was reversed by the Supreme Court in February. After Nepal's parliament had been reconstituted, Oli lost a confidence vote on May 10. Before his rivals could stake a claim, however, he advised Nepal's President Bidya Devi Bhandari to dissolve parliament, saying neither he nor opposition leader Deuba were able to muster a majority and form a new government. On Monday, Supreme Court official Debendra Dhakal said the court had ordered parliament be reconvened within seven days. "It has also ordered that Sher Bahadur Deuba be appointed as prime minister within two days," Dhakal told Reuters news agency.



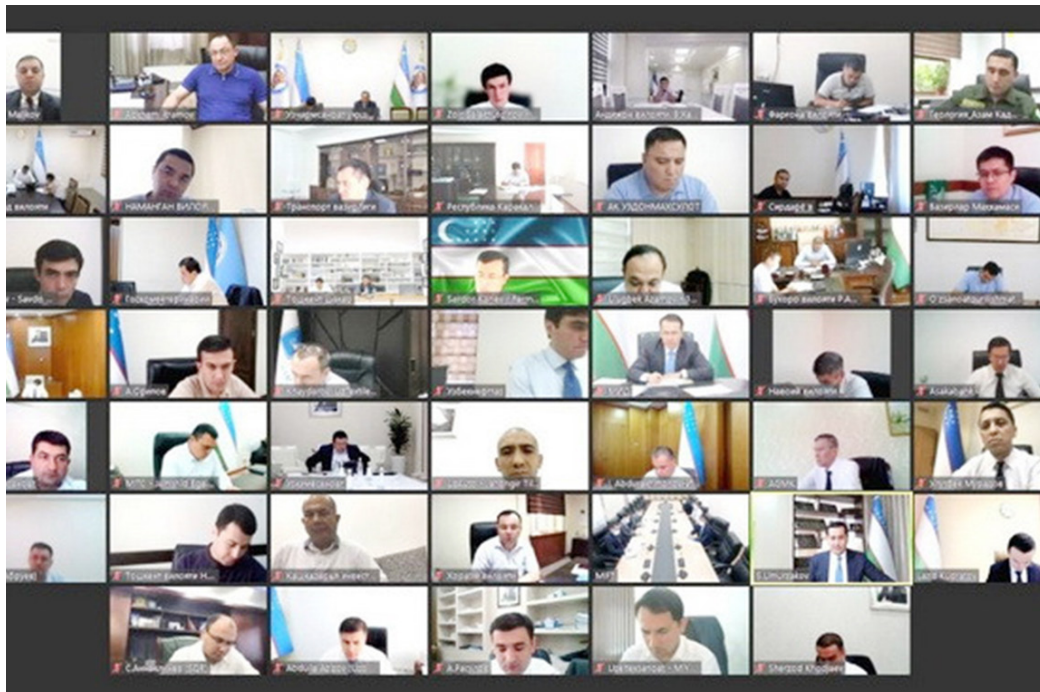
DOHA: Qatar Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Bin Abdul Rehman Al-Thani meets US Special Representative for Peace in Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad. – DNA

## Uzbekistan sets tasks to expand ties with Pakistan

It was announced that at the moment the potential of economic partnership between the two states is not fully used, in connection with which the heads of ministries, departments, industry associations and regions of the country were tasked to establish contacts with Pakistani companies

## DNA

TASHKENT: Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurzakov held a videoconference meeting on preparations for the official visit of the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Uzbekistan. On the eve of the high-level visit, a number of bilateral economic events will be held, including a regular meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic and Scientific and Technical Cooperation, the Uzbek-Pakistani Business Forum and a meeting of the Uzbek-Pakistani Business Council. It was emphasized that the management set the task of carrying out the planned events at a high level and ensuring their effectiveness, meaning the development of new directions for strengthening bilateral ties in the fields of investment, trade, industrial cooperation, transport and cultural and humanitarian cooperation and reaching specific agreements on implementation joint projects



and initiatives.

It was noted that more than 100 representatives of the Pakistani business community will take

part in the business forum, including heads of large companies operating in such industries as agriculture, food processing, in-

formation and communication sector, logistics, construction, electrical engineering, pharmaceuticals and other areas. Also,

the event is expected to be attended by heads of investment and trading companies, as well as large banks in Pakistan. It was announced that at the moment the potential of economic partnership between the two states is not fully used, in connection with which the heads of ministries, departments, industry associations and regions of the country were tasked to establish contacts with Pakistani companies in order to explore opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation and elaboration of specific investment projects and firm trade agreements. Instructions were also given to take measures to attract domestic entrepreneurs, manufacturers and exporters to participate in the planned events and to assist them in reaching appropriate agreements with potential partners from Pakistan. The heads of commercial banks were instructed to work out opportunities for establishing direct interaction with Pakistani colleagues in order to develop specific proposals for cooperation.



## Briefs

NAB seeks  
reference  
against  
Abdul Hafeez  
Shaikh

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) Karachi office has requested to file a reference against former finance minister Abdul Hafeez, a spokesperson for the anti-graft watchdog said Monday.

The spokesperson said NAB Karachi's Regional Board meeting has sent requests to the central office for filing two references and decided to start proceedings in several cases.

Hafeez Shaikh — who left the ministry a few months back — and two former chairmen of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Abdullah Yousuf and Salman Siquique, have incurred losses worth \$11 million to the national exchequer, the spokesperson said.

Utilisation, Ghulam Mustafa Phal, who has allegedly allotted valuable government land through illegal means. The board also allowed an inquiry against former deputy commissioner West Fayyaz Solangi on corruption charges, the NAB spokesperson added. Shaikh's exit as from the ministry marked the third time Prime Minister Imran Khan had changed his finance minister in the two and half years since coming to power.

Nawaz  
becomes  
'Altat Hussain  
II': Farrukh

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Monday said Chief Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Nawaz Sharif had become 'Altat Hussain II' (banned MQM-London founder) for saving his money amassed through corrupt practices.

In a tweet, he said Nawaz Sharif narrative's mainstay was to plunder national wealth after coming into the power, whereas corruption and money laundering were their (Sharif family) identity. He regarded PML-N Vice President Maryam Safdar as a 'certified liar' and said there was no difference between narrative of her father Nawaz Sharif and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Kulbhushan Jadhav's arrest in Pakistan was enough to hush them up, he said. To appease Modi, he said Nawaz Sharif, being Prime Minister of Pakistan, abstained from meeting the Kashmiri Huriyat leaders when he went India to attend his oath taking ceremony, and preferred to have an audience with Indian Bollywood actors.

Anti-poverty  
goals: Munir  
calls for  
action

NEW YORK: The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) President, Pakistani Ambassador Munir Akram, Monday called for "concrete actions" at all levels to advance the 2030 global development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"We need the ambition and concrete actions on the ground especially at the local and sub-national level, and for the United Nations, governments and private sector to work together with the local, national and the sub-national governments in the different contexts and levels," he told the fourth edition of the High-Level Local and Regional Governments Forum.

The event is being held in connection with the ongoing high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) under the auspices of ECOSOC. The ECOSOC chief said the nations and people of the world are currently facing the greatest socio-economic and development challenge since the creation of the United Nations stemming from the devastating coronavirus pandemic. — APP

Shahbaz slams govt on  
'curse of load-shedding'

"When in power, the PML-N took measures to completely eliminate the problem of electricity load-shedding. As against that, the entire nation has been subjected to the curse of load-shedding by the PTI once again"

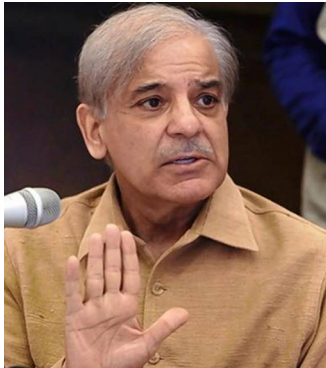
ABID RAZA

LAHORE: PML-N President Shahbaz Sharif on Monday criticised the PTI-led government and said that it has subjected the masses to the curse of electricity load-shedding. "There can be no greater crime than this," Shahbaz said while addressing a press conference in Lahore along with other PML-N leaders.

"When in power, the PML-N took measures to completely eliminate the problem of electricity load-shedding. As against that, the entire nation has been subjected to the curse of load-shedding by the PTI once again," he said. "There can be no greater crime than this."

He continued: "The cause of load-shedding is not only incompetence and negligence but it is a tell-tale sign of rampant corruption over the course of three years." Shahbaz said that the PTI resorted to hurling abuses, calling names, and levelling corruption allegations against the PML-N government but it could not prove anything.

"[Under the PTI government's rule], Balochistan is facing 10 hours of electricity load-shedding every day," he said, adding that the PTI government left no stone unturned in terms of "looting the people of Pakistan" and "left millions of people unemployed." Shahbaz alleged that the incumbent government could not finalise a gas agreement despite its tall



claims because it had been providing gas to its favourites, adding that it is up to the public to decide who takes practical steps for them and who merely delivers speeches while standing atop a container.

"Despite hydel power plants being less costly, the government could not manage to build a single dam in the country," he said. "At present, it [the government] is benefiting from capacity payments worth billions of rupees." The PML-N leader said that the PTI-led government failed to come up with long-term power projects, and the short-term ones it introduced turned out to be excessively costly. As against that, he said, the PML-N government installed the cheapest power plants in the country during its tenure and saved Rs250 billion.

"If we had been corrupt, the mega projects we introduced would have proven that but the PTI could not prove any corruption against the

PML-N," he said. He went on to say that the people of Pakistan are suffering from power crisis and electricity load-shedding because of the incompetent policies of the PTI-led government.

"Is this the Naya Pakistan that was promised to the masses?" he questioned.

The Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly also provided comparative statistics and pointed out how the PML-N government worked to introduce two LNG terminals during its tenure.

The PTI government, despite being in power for the last three years, could not introduce a single LNG terminal, he said.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen to Pakistan Mohammad Motahar Alashabi calling on Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed in his office. — DNA

Senate bill  
'criminalising'  
torture passed

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Senate on Monday passed The Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Bill, 2021, less than a month after the opposition expressed alarm over its key human rights bills disappearing in a black hole.

The bill, which was presented by PPP Senator Sherry Rehman and supported by Minister for Human Rights Shireen Mazari, states that any public servant involved in torture would face up to 10 years imprisonment and a fine of up to Rs2 million.

Thanking the Senate members on their support for passing her historic Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Bill 2021, Pakistan People's Party Vice President and Chair Foreign Affairs Senate Standing Committee, Senator Sherry Rehman said, "There is currently no existing law in Pakistan which criminalises or explicitly defines torture. This Bill provides a comprehensive definition of torture, delineating its various constituent elements. Torture by police and other law enforcement agencies is endemic & prevalent in Pakistan. The inhu-



mane practice is so common that it is largely considered a routine part of criminal investigation".

"As a signatory to international treaties, Pakistan has an obligation to criminalize torture but it is shocking that there is currently no existing law in Pakistan which criminalizes or explicitly defines torture. Now this legislation will provide a comprehensive definition of torture, delineating its various constituent elements. This is a substantive law which stipulates express penalties for torture ranging from imprisonment to fine. This is a much-needed law which is long due & will protect the lives & dignity of our people," she added.

She said, "Torture by police remains widespread due to impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators which in turn is fuelled by socio-cultural acceptance of violence, procedural and legal loopholes and lack of independent oversight of the police.

'Rangers,  
FC to be  
deployed in  
AJK polls'

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed says on the request of election commission 7200 personnel of Rangers and FC will be deployed in Azad Kashmir to ensure smooth conduct of elections there on 25th of this month.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad on Monday, he said army is always ready to support Election Commission for security purposes.

The Minister expressed hope that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf will form the next government in Azad Kashmir. Commenting on issuance of fake national identification cards by National Database and Registration Authority, he said 39 officials have been suspended in Karachi and this will not be tolerated. The Minister said a summary has been moved regarding the decision about Tehreek e Labaik Pakistan which will be discussed in tomorrow's meeting of federal cabinet.

Responding to a question, he said India has always remained involved in sabotage activities in Pakistan. He however said that our security agencies always foiled their sordid designs.

UAE to  
launch digital  
currency  
within 5 years

DUBAI : The United Arab Emirates will launch its first digital currency by 2026, the central bank of the oil-rich Gulf state, which serves as the region's financial hub, said Monday.

Several central banks around the world have recently announced similar plans, while criticising decentralised cryptocurrencies like bitcoin.

The Emirates central bank said its plans include "issuing a digital currency and driving digital transformation in the UAE's financial services sector, by utilising the latest artificial intelligence and big data solutions."

The announcement is part of its "2023-2026 strategy" which aims to "position it among the world's top 10 central banks", it said according to state media.

In 2019, Saudi Arabia and the UAE announced a test phase of a common cryptocurrency for cross-border transactions. — APP

Covid-19: Pak Army's  
help can be sought

Dr Sultan said the main cause of surge is violation of SOPs and the new variant

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Army may be called in to implement coronavirus standard operating procedures, says Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services Dr Faisal Sultan. He said this may happen as coronavirus cases have increased due to the negligence of citizens.

Dr Sultan was speaking to the media in Islamabad on Monday.

He said that the last few weeks have seen an increase in COVID-19 cases, with the positivity rate going up from 2% to 4%. He also spoke about the rapid increase in the Delta variant of coronavirus cases after an increase in the Alpha variant. Dr Sultan said the main cause of this surge is violation of SOPs and the new variant of coronavirus coming from India.

KSA allows entry to  
Pakistanis inoculated  
with Chinese vaccine

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has allowed Pakistanis inoculated with Chinese vaccine against the coronavirus (COVID-19) to enter the Kingdom. However, authorities said, they will have to get a booster shot of Covid-19 vaccine recommended by Saudi Arabia upon arrival in the Kingdom. Beside two doses of Chinese vaccine, Pakistani nationals will be required to get a booster shot, the authorities said, adding the condition of a negative PCR test for all such travelers also remains in place.

The Kingdom has approved four Covid vaccines, including Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Moderna and Johnson and Johnson for emergency use. Earlier, the Kingdom had issued a list of recommended vaccines, which does not include vaccines manufactured in China. Most Pakistanis are being inoculated with Chinese vaccines, including Sinopharm, Sinovac and single-dose CanSino. — DNA

Dr Sultan expressed the belief that the best strategy to deal with coronavirus is to complete your vaccination, follow restrictions, wear a masks in public places. He said

vaccination is necessary and that the country has an abundance of vaccines. It is necessary, he said, to implement the existing SOPs and coronavirus restrictions.

Taliban  
surround  
Afghan city  
of Ghazni

NEWS DESK

KABUL: Taliban fighters have surrounded the city of Ghazni in central Afghanistan, taking over civilians' homes to fight security forces, officials said on Monday, the latest urban centre under threat from the insurgents.

The offensive was the latest on a provincial capital as the Taliban make a fresh push to surround cities and gain territory, emboldened by the departure of foreign forces.

"The situation in Ghazni city is very critical ... the Taliban use civilian houses as hideouts and fire upon the ANDSF (Afghan security forces), this makes the situation very difficult for the ANDSF to operate against the Taliban," said Hassan Rezayi, a member of Ghazni's provincial council.

Violence has surged in the country since US President Joe Biden announced in April that American troops would withdraw by Sept 11, ending 20 years in Afghanistan.

Protection of historic sites  
vital for religious tourism

The prime minister was briefed in detail about the project for preservation, rehabilitation and beautification of Lahore's historic and religious places

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday — describing mausoleums across the country as historical heritage — said the rehabilitation and preservation of such sites was very important for the promotion of religious tourism.

The premier's statement came as he presided over a meeting on the comprehensive development and management of the mausoleum of Hazrat Data Ganj Bukhsh and the preservation, rehabilitation, and beautification of Lahore's historic Badshahi Mosque and other mausoleums in Punjab.

He called for the formation of a com-

prehensive plan for the proper use of state lands around the mausoleums so that those could be utilised for hospitals and educational institutions.

Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar, Provincial Minister for Aauqaf Pir Syed Saeedul Hassan, Provincial Finance Minister Hashim Jawan Bakht, Special Assistant to CM Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan, Chief Secretary Punjab and other senior officials attended the meeting through video-link.

Minister of State for Information Farrukh Habib was also present during the meeting.

The prime minister was briefed in detail about the project for preservation, rehabilitation and beautification of Lahore's historic and religious places including the mauso-

leum of Hazrat Data Ganj Bukhsh Ali Hijwari, and Badshahi Mosque.

Late last month, the prime minister had inaugurated various tourism-related projects in Naran, where he also planted a sapling as part of a tree campaign during his visit. Under this plan, Data Darbar will be transformed into a welfare center where the deserving Zaireen will not only be provided with food and accommodation but arrangements will also be made for their education.

As regards the renovation and conservation plan of Badshahi mosque, the meeting was informed that arrangements will be made to provide better facilities to the worshippers besides construction of different facilities including Quran Hall.



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For further information please contact the following.

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