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Turkish envoy shares details of July 15 2016 coup attempt

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CPEC ushers era of economic prosperity

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Chris Gayle passes 14000 T20 format runs

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Briefs

500,000 doses given in a day

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has successfully achieved the target of 500,000 Covid-19 vaccine doses per day, Planning Minister Asad Umar said Tuesday. The country achieved the target on Monday, said Umar, who heads the National Command and Operation Centre on coronavirus. The pace will be increased further, according to the minister. Last week, Umar warned that the early signs of a fourth coronavirus wave had started showing. "Two weeks ago, I had tweeted that our artificial intelligence models are showing possible emergence of a fourth wave," he said.

Balouchistan development top priority

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin has said development of Balochistan is the top priority of the government and it is working to provide better employment opportunities for the youth of the province. He was talking to Special Assistant on Reconciliation and Harmony in Balochistan Nawabzada Shahzain Bugti in Islamabad. Shaukat Tarin said the CPEC has renewed focus on the socio economic development of Balochistan. He said the government has initiated mega projects in road and irrigation infrastructure, education and health facilities, agriculture.

Delta variant making up 50% of cases

MONITORING DESK

ISLAMABAD: The Delta variant of the coronavirus — which first emerged in India — is now making up a whopping 50% of the total infections in Pakistan, Federal Parliamentary Health Secretary Dr Nausheen Hamid said Tuesday. The lawmaker, speaking in a private news channel programme, said the COVID-19 vaccines that Pakistan is administering are effective against the Delta variant.

PM advocates equal vaccine access for all

Speaking of Pak efforts to fight Covid-19, the premier said that the country has been "more fortunate than other countries"

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday urged the countries currently producing vaccines for coronavirus to ramp up production and ensure rapid distribution to all, including developing countries. "While the support offered by some major nations is commendable, more needs to be done," the prime minister said, while addressing the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2021. He earlier remarked that the forum is being held "at a critical moment in human history". "The world is facing an unprecedented triple challenge: the COVID-19 pandemic; the reversal of economic progress; and the existential threat posed by climate change," he said. He commended the "excellent role" played by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and "the entire UN system's relief and recovery efforts in the wake of the pandemic". Speaking of Pakistan's efforts to fight COVID-19, the prime minister said that the country has been "more fortunate than other countries". "Through our policies of 'smart lockdowns' and focus on the disadvantaged, we have been able to somehow contain the virus. We managed to save precious lives and at the same time livelihoods," he said.

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PIA airlifts 2m doses of Sinovac

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A special plane of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has airlifted another batch of two million doses of Sinovac vaccines from Beijing Capital International Airport to Pakistan to help health authorities prevent and control Covid-19 pandemic in the country. So far, 16.5 million doses of Sinovac and six million doses of Sinopharm have been transported from China to Pakistan. Qadir Bux Sangi, PIA Country Manager for China said on Tuesday, Pakistan has been using mainly Chinese vaccines namely Sinopharm and Sinovac, although others are also available and so far around 20 million people have been vaccinated. The government has run a massive vaccination drive across the country to achieve the target of providing 70 million doses of vaccines aimed at fighting the Covid-19 pandemic. It may be mentioned that Pakistani health authorities had launched a nationwide vaccination drive with around a million doses of Sinopharm vaccine donated by China, starting with older people and frontline healthcare workers, in March.

Ban on TLP to stay, cabinet decides

The Cabinet also approved proposed agreements with Uzbekistan, which shall be signed during the upcoming visit of the PM of Pakistan to Tashkent



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Cabinet has decided to continue ban on Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan. This was stated by Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, while briefing media, in Islamabad this afternoon, about decisions taken by the Federal Cabinet, which met in the federal capital today (Tuesday) with Prime Minister Imran Khan in the chair. The minister said that the Cabinet also approved proposed agreements with Uzbekistan, which shall be signed during the upcoming visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to Tashkent. Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said the cabinet approved Interior Ministry's report

recommending the ban on TLP to continue. He said the ban on TLP had been imposed on merit and in light of solid facts as the organization was involved in arson and torture of police personnel. He said the Law Ministry is working to get the election symbol of TLP cancelled as per law. The Minister said the cabinet also gave approval to 25 percent special allowance to the armed forces to bring their salaries at par with other departments. He said the Prime Minister also instructed to extend this facility to Rangers and FC as they were not included initially. He said it was also approved to fix retail prices of 49 medicines. Chaudhry Fawad said the cabinet was informed that Saudi Arabia would release

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DUSHANBE: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi in a meeting with his Afghan counter-part Haneef Atmar. — DNA

Blame game will not serve region: Qureshi

The Foreign Minister expressed these views during a meeting with Afghan FM Hanif Atmar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Tuesday said that blame game would not serve the region, urging his Afghan counterpart to address all concerns through established institutional mechanisms. Shah Mahmood Qureshi also reaffirmed Pakistan's consistent support to a peaceful and united Afghanistan, at peace with itself and with its neighbours. "Pakistan supports a peaceful and stable Afghanistan, which would yield mutual dividends and benefits in terms of peace in the region, economic prosperity and regional connectivity," he added. The Foreign Minister expressed these views during a meeting with Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Hanif Atmar held on the sidelines of

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FM Qureshi meets his Uzbek counterpart

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi held bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov, on the sidelines of SCO Council of Foreign Ministers meeting today in Dushanbe. The two Foreign Ministers exchanged views on ways and means to enhance bilateral ties as well as discussed the regional situation. Recalling Uzbek Foreign Minister's visit to Pakistan and the virtual Summit at the leadership level, Foreign Minister Qureshi remarked that the continued interaction has injected new dynamism into the bilateral relations. The two Foreign Ministers discussed the forthcoming visit of the Prime Minister to Tashkent in the bilateral context and for participation in the international conference on connectivity. It was agreed that close consultations were necessary for successful visit.



The Uzbek Foreign Minister appreciated Pakistan's policy to pursue geo-economic goals which was aligned with Uzbekistan's foreign policy goals. During the discussion, regional security including Afghanistan and human rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir also came under discussion. Foreign Minister Qureshi briefed his

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Two jawans martyred in Kurram



NEHAL MIRAJ

KURRAM: Two security forces personnel were martyred during an area sanitisation operation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kurram District, the military's media wing said Tuesday.

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RCCI organizes Balochistan business opportunity moot — Page 07

Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan regular direct flights from Sept: envoy — Page 08

Turkish envoy shares details of July 15 coup attempt

Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul says Turkey will never forget Pakistani support during difficult times; announces plantation ceremony on 15th in Fatima Jinnah Park

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul has said on 15 July one of the most treacherous attempts was made on the people of Turkey with a view to making the Turkish people slaves, but the brave Turkish people valiantly thwarted that attempt. Ostensibly, the Turkish people had to pay a price also. And what was that price; the price was bombing of the presidential palace; bombing of the Turkish national assembly and bombing of police headquarters; intelligence headquarters

and Special Forces headquarters. But at the end of the day will of the people prevailed and the move was vehemently rejected.

The ambassador expressed these views during a press conference on Tuesday. A commemoration ceremony will take place on July 15.



ISLAMABAD: Turkish ambassador Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul briefs the media about July 15 coup. — DNA

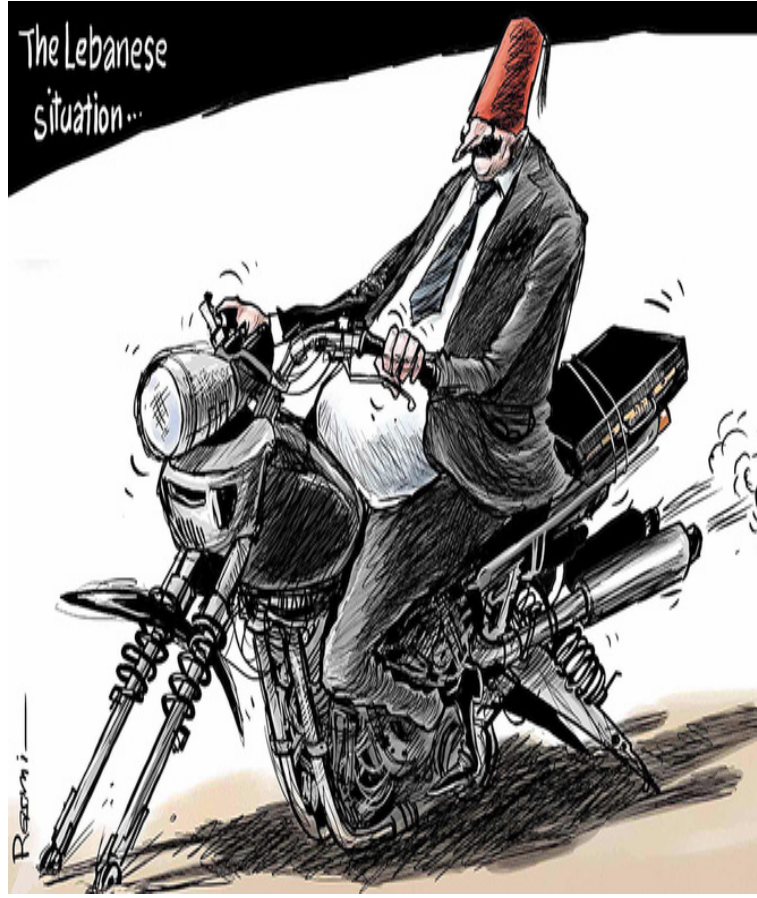
The ambassador shall also plant a tree in the Fatima Jinnah Park. The Ambassador further said, 15th of July coup attempt was planned by the FETO leadership and carried out by members of the organization, whom infiltrated into our army by disobeying the chain of command of the armed forces. "We have never before witnessed such savagery and treachery in our history as the one exhibited by the perpetrators of this coup attempt: our Parliament Building, the Presidential complex,

Continued on Page 06

Rain, havoc, repeat

EVERY year now, monsoon rains ravage Karachi, with residents left at nature's mercy and scrambling to ensure supply of basic necessities, while the provincial and federal governments engage in political point-scoring and the usual blame game. As Monday's downpour presented a much-needed respite from the summer heat, for many the cheer dissipated as power outages notoriously accompanied the first drops of rain. While power disruption during rains should be the exception, in Karachi it has become the rule. Every year we see the same scenes with people going through painful experiences at the hands of power supply companies, be it K-Electric in Karachi or other companies in various cities across Pakistan. It does not take rain to be disastrous, it just needs the first drop to make the power supply disappear. While overnight rain in several areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and interior Sindh resulted in flash floods and power breakdowns, for Karachi's residents, Monday's surprise shower brought back haunting memories of last year's catastrophe, when record-breaking monsoon rains, spread across several spells in July and August, wreaked havoc on the city's infrastructure, including several days of a power breakdown and flooding of several major and minor arteries along with entire neighbourhoods, leading the provincial government to declare a 'rain emergency'. In June this year, it was reported that 60 percent work on clearing storm-water drains had been completed by the various federal, provincial and local government agencies involved, and last week, the Karachi administrator asserted that preparations had been made after last year's bad experience and hoped to see a better situation this year. Researchers predict monsoons in Asia to become more intense and erratic with the annual rise in global warming. As for Karachi, the mega city needs a dedicated, functioning storm-water drainage system free of sewage and encroachments, as well as upgraded power infrastructure which can withstand rains. But most of all, it needs a representative and empowered local government which cares.

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India's double game

A MIDST the ongoing violence in Afghanistan, it has been revealed that two Indian C-130 planes landed in Afghanistan to drop off ammunition to be used against the Afghan Taliban. Apparently, these planes were intended to airlift India's team of a diplomatic mission. This makes sense in light of reports that India was evacuating its staff members of the Kandahar consulate due to the intense fighting near Kandahar city, however, the dropping of 40 tonnes of 122-mm cannon being delivered on both July 10 and 11 came as a surprise. These reports clearly expose the double game being played by the Indian government, where it is engaging with the Taliban in Doha and is at the same time providing ammunition to be used against them. This development only further vindicates Pakistan's concerns about India acting as a spoiler in Afghanistan. It is imperative that we raise this issue with regional and international actors involved in the peace process because repeating mistakes of the past has to be avoided at all costs. With the burden of responsibility being shifted to regional countries following the exit of US forces, it is crucial that all actors including Russia, Iran, China, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and India come together and commit to not taking any sides if a civil war breaks out. Doing so will only be to the detriment of the Afghan people and the region. To aid the peace process instead of fueling violence on the ground, India should abandon its attempts to act as a spoiler and instead cooperate sincerely as part of the ongoing multilateral process. It is high time that India starts behaving as a responsible regional actor and works towards meaningfully contributing to regional security and stability. Picking sides to guard its parochial interests will only perpetuate the cycle of violence.

Uzbekistan under President Shavkat Mirziyoyev

Khalid Taimur Akram



It is a clear manifestation that the country has been striving hard to gain high status in the comity of nations. Therefore, the third Renaissance would prove to be a milestone for Uzbekistan to portray its image as a more accountable nation

IT is generally believed that every country in the world has some potential to achieve respectable status among nations' comity. However, only a few of these countries find leaders who possess the far-sightedness and prudence to steer their nations through tumultuous waters of scathing hardships and challenges to ensure a prosperous future for them. In the 21st century C.E., the rise of Uzbekistan's potential role both within and outside the Central Asian block has been witnessed due to the remarkable efforts of incumbent President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Uzbekistan's global outreach and economic benefits have been enhanced due to the incumbent visionary leadership of His Excellency, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. He has continuously emphasized



the importance of creating a coherent and win-win economic environment for all the countries. Moreover, he has emerged as a dynamic leader to work for regional peace, development, and resolve the Afghan conflict. Uzbekistan is one of the major stakeholders in the Afghan peace process. The country has been considered as one of the fastest-growing economies in the region. It has witnessed significant structural policy reforms under H.E. President. Therefore, the article elaborates on President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's unprecedented rise to the helm of socio-economic and political affairs in Uzbekistan. Moreover, this study highlights Uzbekistan's substantial role and efforts to strengthen the nation and integrate other regional countries. **Towards Successful Development:** Under H.E. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's, Uzbekistan has been committed to keep a strategic equilibrium within the region. More proactive and prudent interest in seeking positive regional influence and conducting international peace activities by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has enabled the state to become a key regional player. There are various reasons which have accelerated this change in the approach of Uzbekistan's leadership. Any country's realistic economic goals cannot be achieved unless it forms strong socio-economic alliances with the dominant countries in its region vis-vis economic development. To achieve this objective, Uzbekistan has significantly improved its relations with its neighbors and regional allies. The greater alliance among the countries is important for the expeditious socio-economic growth of all regions. Under the visionary leadership of H.E. President Shavkat Mirzi-

yoyev, Uzbekistan has adopted an exceptional approach amid efficacious strategies to modernize and diversify its economy. The result-orientated policies by the visionary Uzbek leadership ultimately prove to be a driving force for the amicable resolution of common global menaces and persistent challenges. Furthermore, the internal structural reforms in the country paved the way for ambitious market-oriented economic policies. **Uigonish Davri (Third Renaissance) under President Shavkat Mirziyoyev:** Renaissance is a French word that means to be reborn. The Uzbek concept "Uigonish Davri" (Evolutionary period or Renaissance) is a synonym for this term. In this aspect, the current reforms in Uzbekistan are worth mentioning and praising. The third Renaissance wave is amid the new paradigm shift that Uzbekistan has taken to play a full-fledged and pro-active role in uplifting the economy, maintaining and promoting regional peace and stability. Uzbekistan's government has rightly felt the need to have a peaceful approach to achieve economic and political prosperity goals with wider regional connectivity. Under the third Renaissance, the new dynamics within Uzbek society and a fresh approach to foreign relations, where a new spirit of regionalism is taking root, is highly commendable. In the new Uzbekistan reforms, the government liberalized the foreign currency market to attract investments. There have been considerable improvements in the media landscape. Moreover, in order to strengthen openness and transparency, the visionary leadership of Uzbekistan is ambitious to implement the constitutional rules on freedom of speech, spreading infor-



mation, and regional integration. **The new reforms, include political openness, bank sector reforms, agriculture reforms, financial market reforms, privatization, education reforms, energy sector reforms, and tax reforms.** In this aspect, the structural changes within the country would definitely bring positive outcomes outside the country. The economic and trade openness would integrate many regional nations with Uzbekistan. Furthermore, Uzbekistan also aims to incorporate the phenomena of academic cooperation into regionalism. Uzbekistan pays great attention in improving the educational sphere, especially the comprehensive support to science & technology and research & development. The foundation for a new revival for the Third Renaissance is being laid in Uzbekistan because today's Uzbekistan has been transformed, and His Excellency, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has emerged as a most important leader in the regional political and economic discourse. Thereby, the broader reforms with structural adjustments would enable Uzbekistan's potential role in the world. It is a clear manifestation that the country has been striving hard to gain high status in the comity of nations. Therefore, the third Renaissance would prove to be a milestone for Uzbekistan to portray its image as a more accountable nation.

Israel's demographic war on Palestinians

Ramzy Baroud



Netanyahu's Likud party and its allies in the opposition voted against renewing the discriminatory law to score a political point. Their justification, however, was more appalling than the law itself

WHEN the Israeli Knesset last week failed to renew what is commonly referred to as the family reunification law, news reports and analyses misrepresented the story altogether. The even split of 59 members of the Knesset voting in favor of extending the law and 59 against gave the erroneous impression that Israeli lawmakers are equally divided over the right of Palestinians to obtain permanent residency status or citizenship in Israel through marriage. Nothing could be further from the truth. Under the guise of "security," the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law, which was initially passed in 2003, prohibited Palestinians in the West Bank who married Israeli citizens from permanently moving to Israel and obtaining work, permanent residency and, ultimately, citizenship. The law was never made permanent and was instead the subject of an annual vote, which successfully renewed it 17 times. However, the 18th vote, held on July 6, ran into an obstacle. Contrary to the perception given by much of the media coverage, those who voted against the renewal of the ban did so for purely political reasons and not out of concern for the tens of thousands of Palestinian families that have been splintered since the law came into effect. Since the ousting of former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — at the hands of his protégé, Naftali Bennett — Israel's former leader has been determined to topple the latter's fragile coalition. Bennett's government allies extreme right-wing parties, including his own Yamina, with centrist and leftist parties. It even hosts a Palestinian party, the United Arab List, or Ra'am, of Mansour Abbas. A coalition of this nature is unlikely to survive long, considering Israel's tumultuous politics, and Netanyahu — eager for an early election — will do everything in his power to facilitate what he sees as an imminent collapse. Netanyahu's Likud party and its allies in the opposition voted against renewing the discriminatory law to score

a political point. Their justification, however, was more appalling than the law itself. Likud wants the temporary law to become a permanent fixture, to be added to the dozens of other similarly racially motivated laws that target the very fabric of Palestinian society. Welcome to Israel's demographic war on the Palestinian people. This one-sided war is based on the belief among Israel's Jewish majority that the country's greatest challenge is sustaining its demographic advantage. Israel's main fear is not simply a decisive Palestinian majority between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea; the ruling classes are also rattled by the growing political influence of Palestinian citizens and are doing everything in their power to ensure this is restricted. The Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law was designed specifically to keep this population in check. The general elections of March 2020, in particular, provided a taste of what a doomsday scenario might look like. Palestinian parties doomed under the single ticket of the Joint List and emerged with 15 seats, making it the third-largest political bloc in the Knesset, after Likud and Blue and White. If the Palestinians could muster this much influence when they make up only 20 percent of the overall Israeli population, imagine what they could do if the demographic tide continues to shift in their favor. For Israel, the future of the Jewish majority — i.e., supremacy — is dependent on keeping the population equation in favor of Israeli Jews at the expense of Palestinians. Most of the laws that discriminate against Palestinians, regardless of where they reside, is motivated by this consideration. According to the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel (Adalah), Israel's Palestinian population has been targeted by more than 65 government laws and regulations that aim to ensure they do not prosper as a community, keeping them politically disempowered, socio-economically disadvantaged and constantly threatened with the loss of their residency and even citizenship.

Palestinians elsewhere suffer an even worse fate. For example, those living in Jerusalem, who supposedly hold permanent residency status, are subjected to different types of legal harassment so that the city maintains its current Jewish majority. When Israel illegally occupied East Jerusalem in 1967, it was almost entirely Palestinian. Due to numerous Israeli tactics, the city's Palestinian population is now an ever-shrinking minority. Worse still, in 2018, Israel passed a law that granted the Ministry of Interior the right to revoke the residency of Jerusalemites based on the murky accusation of "breach of loyalty." Meanwhile, the Israeli military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip has taken population control to a whole new level; it is almost an exact science. This is also why Israelis abhor even the discussion of the right of return for Palestinian refugees, for they consider it an implicit call for the destruction of Israel as a Jewish state. According to this logic, if millions of Palestinian refugees are allowed to return to their homes and lands in historic Palestine, Israel will no longer exist in its current form and will instead become a democratic state for all of its citizens. Following last week's vote, what is likely to happen next is that Israel's Ministry of Interior will continue to find caveats in the country's ever-flexible statute book to block the reunification of Palestinian families until the Knesset officially renews the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law or, worse, makes it permanent. Either way, Israel's demographic war on Palestinians is likely to intensify. Considering that this is a war that cannot be won rationally, Israel will fall deeper into the abyss of apartheid. As Israel continues to experiment with controlling the Palestinian population, it would be shameful if the international community continued to remain silent. This outrage must end.

Courtesy: Arab News

Briefs

PM advocates equal vaccine access for all

FROM PAGE 01
PM Imran Khan appreciated the international recognition of Pakistan's pandemic containment strategy and the Ehsaas social protection programme. "We are now making all possible efforts to accelerate our vaccination campaign," he said. The premier said that unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic had "revealed and accentuated the endemic inequalities which exist within and amongst nations". "The global economy will not recover fully until all countries — rich and poor — are enabled to accelerate and expand investment for achieving the SDGs (sustainable development goals) and climate goals," he continued. The premier said that he believes the following actions, at the national and international level, are "indispensable to respond effectively to the triple crisis". PM Imran Khan said that it is "essential" that universal and affordable access to COVID-19 vaccines be ensured "to defeat the virus and to revive global trade, investment and growth". "The world must ramp up vaccine production, including in the developing countries, and ensure its rapid distribution. While the support offered by some major nations is commendable, more needs to be done," he stressed.

Turkish envoy shares details of July 15 coup attempt

FROM PAGE 01
The building of the National Intelligence Organization (MIT), buildings of the Turkish National Police, the Headquarters of the Police Special Operations Department located in Ankara was bombed by rogue pilots. While giving an account of what happened on July 15 the ambassador said Tanks were driven to the streets to mow down innocent civilians, while helicopters and jets dropped bombs from the air and shot everyone in sight. That night, two hundred and fifty one citizens were killed and more than two thousand people were injured. Ambassador said in the past three years, the fight against FETO both inside and outside Turkey has constituted one of the main priorities of our State. Within Turkey, our efforts are being conducted under three pillars: a) Firstly, on the basis of the rule of law, the perpetrators of the 15th of July coup attempt have been brought to justice. b) FETO's organizational structure within governmental institutions has been unveiled; administrative and judicial procedures have been initiated against its members and hence the "parallel state structure" has been brought down. Ambassador Ihsan Mustafa thanked people of Pakistan and Pakistani government for standing shoulder to shoulder with the people of Turkey by extending whole hearted support. He said the FETO organization also made inroads into Pakistani society by establishing schools.

Two jawans martyred in Kurram

FROM PAGE 01
The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), in a statement, said the operation was conducted after security forces had received reports of terrorists' presence in the area. During intense exchange of fire, three terrorists were killed, the military's media wing said, adding a-cordon-and-search operation is underway to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area. The security forces personnel who were martyred include: Captain Basit, 25, who is a resident of Haripur; and Sepoy Hazrat Bilal, 22, who is a resident of Orakzai. Last month, a soldier of the Frontier Corps Balochistan was martyred during an attack launched by militants on M-8 near Shapak, District Hoshab. Sepoy Kifait Ullah, a resident of Sibi, embraced martyrdom when militants attacked a water bowser through a pressurised IED.



BIRMINGHAM: Pakistani skipper Babar Azam playing a shot during the third Pakistan-England ODI. The skipper scored his career-best 158 runs. — DNA

Chris Gayle crosses 14,000 T20 runs



SPORTS DESK

SAINT LUCIA: A Chris Gayle half-century blasted the West Indies to victory over Australia in St Lucia on Monday, clinching the five-match T20 series between the sides. Chasing a modest target of 142, Gayle recaptured his most destructive form in racing to 67 off only 38 balls to take his team to the target with five overs to spare at the Daren Sammy Stadium. By spearheading the West Indies to an insurmountable 3-0 lead in the series, the 41-year-old also sent an ominous warning that he could yet be a factor in the Caribbean side's defence of the World T20 title later this year. Gayle's pyrotechnics followed another efficient West Indies performance in the field as wrist-spinner Hayden Walsh again presented the most effective challenge to the Australians with figures of two for 18 in limiting the visitors to 141 for six. All-rounder Moises Henriques top-scored with 33 and struck the only two sixes of his team's innings. Henriques' contribution followed his side's best opening partnership of the series — 41 — between captain Aaron Finch and Matthew Wade. However, the tempo of the innings dropped considerably when they were separated by Obed McCoy in what proved to be the seamer's only over of the innings. Mitchell Marsh fell cheaply for the first time in the series and when Walsh accounted for Alex Carey and Finch in the same over, their hopes of a first formidable total of this campaign effectively came to an end given the relative inexperience of their batting line-up.



MINSK: Ambassador of Pakistan to Belarus Sajjad Haider Khan appreciated Golf Coach Khalid Mahmood for his time, dedication and devotion in projecting Pakistan and presented him a Souvenir at the conclusion ceremony. — DNA

Heinous act of revenge: Bahrain death sentences surge by 600%

MONITORING DESK

MANAMA: The use of the death penalty in Bahrain has dramatically escalated over the past decade, specifically since the 2011 Arab Spring uprising, a new report has found. Death sentences in the small Gulf archipelago have risen by more than 600 percent, with at least 51 people ordered executed since anti-government protests erupted in 2011, according to a joint report published on Tuesday by anti-death penalty and human rights group Reprieve and the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (BIRD). Seven people were sentenced to death in the previ-

ous decade, the report found. The joint report noted the use of torture, especially in "terror" related death penalty cases, was particularly widespread, despite pledges for human rights reform by the government. Some 88 percent of men executed in Bahrain since 2011 were convicted of "terror" charges, and 100 percent of these individuals alleged torture, the report found. Today, some 26 men are facing imminent execution on death row, 11 of whom allege torture by Bahraini authorities. According to court documents, this includes individuals whose convictions were based on false torture "confessions", the report said.

It noted the United Nations Committee Against Torture raised concerns about "the widespread acceptance by judges of forced confessions" in Bahrain, and recommended that judges "should review cases of convictions based solely on confessions, since many may have been based on evidence obtained through torture and ill-treatment". The death penalty has been imposed on a scale "never seen before", especially targeting those connected to political opposition, it noted, as several had attended pro-democracy protests. Commenting on the report, Sayed Ahmed Alwadaei, director of BIRD, said: "Sentencing torture survivors to

death for their opposition to the government is a heinous act of revenge by Bahrain's regime. "For those facing imminent execution, the uncertainty of knowing they could be executed at any time is causing an unspeakable strain on their lives and those of their families." Bahrain has been clamping down on dissent since 2011 when it quashed protests with help from Saudi Arabia. Bahraini authorities have denied targeting the opposition and say they are protecting national security. The Gulf island kingdom has also claimed Iran trained and backed the demonstrators in order to topple the Manama government — an accusation Tehran denies.

Olympian Naveed Alam passes away

LAHORE: Olympian and hero of the 1994 Hockey World Cup Naveed Alam passed away due to blood cancer. The 47-year-old Naveed was diagnosed with blood cancer at Shaukat Khanum Hospital last week where doctors estimated the treatment at Rs 4 million (40 lacs). According to his family sources, he underwent chemotherapy last night and his health deteriorated after it. He was transferred to the intensive-care unit. Viewing Naveed's career, he was integral part of Cup in Sydney in 1994. He also represented Pakistan in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. He coached Bangladesh national team at the Beijing Olympics. People from on the demise of former Hockey player and coach (PHF) has postponed matches of four-team series in remembrance of Naveed. "We share the same grief as of Alam's family," PHF, Former captain and Olympian Naveed Alam is a great loss for hockey. "Services for Pakistan Hockey. May Almighty Allah grant patience to Alam's family," Islahuddin said. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) also expressed sadness and offered sincerest condolence to Naveed's family and friends. The PCB, on behalf of its fans, cricketers and officials, expresses its sadness over the passing of former hockey olympian Naveed Alam (member 1994 Hockey World Cup winning team) and offers its sincerest condolence to Naveed's family and friends. — DNA



Free golf coaching by Pakistan concludes in Minsk

MINSK: The Embassy of Pakistan in collaboration with Minsk Golf Club successfully arranged free golf coaching classes by Pakistan's top PGA certified Coach Khalid Mahmood from 9-13 July 2021 at the Minsk Golf Club Academy. Around 75 golfers both from Belarus and Diplomatic Corps, both beginners as well as amateur golfers, benefitted from these master classes held over period of five days. The golfers found the coaching sessions highly useful and appreciated the Embassy for presenting this unique opportunity. Ambassador of Pakistan to Belarus Sajjad Haider Khan appreciated Golf Coach Khalid Mahmood for his time, dedication and devotion in projecting Pakistan and presented him a Souvenir at the conclusion ceremony. On this occasion, Director Commercial of Minsk Golf Club Vladimir also presented souvenir and appreciation certificate to the coach. Khalid Mahmood is a professional coach (golf pro) since 1984 with extensive experience in Pakistan, as well as in Southeast Asia, South Korea, China, England, Austria, Italy and the USA. Presently, he is a staff coach of one of the golf courses in Milan, Italy. The Embassy of Pakistan in Belarus is now working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for institutionalizing golf cooperation between Pakistan and Belarus. — DNA

Blame game will not serve region: Qureshi

FROM PAGE 01
Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Dushanbe. During the meeting, views were exchanged on the latest developments in Afghanistan and the way forward. In view of the withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan, the Foreign Minister urged the Afghan leaders to achieve a negotiated political settlement at the earliest, adding that such an outcome would bring peace, stability and prosperity in Afghanistan. He remarked that Afghan leaders should seize the historic opportunity and take advantage of international convergence on the final settlement of the Afghan conflict by working together in an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement. The Foreign Minister expressed concern on high level of violence, which has resulted in innumerable loss of lives. He emphasized immediate steps to decrease violence, leading to comprehensive ceasefire. Highlighting that negative statements could not cloud Pakistan's positive contribution to the Afghan peace process, and that blame game would not serve the region, the Foreign Minister urged his Afghan counterpart to address all concerns through established institutional mechanisms, including Afghanistan-Pakistan Action Plan for Peace and Solidarity (APAPS). He said that Pakistan looked forward to hosting review meeting of APAPS in Islamabad at the earliest.

FM Qureshi meets his Uzbek counterpart

FROM PAGE 01
counterpart of the rapidly transforming situation in Afghanistan and highlighted importance of consistent support to Afghan peace process as shared responsibility. He underlined that the region could not afford repeat of civil war, leading to instability and fresh influx of refugees. The Foreign Minister expressed the hope that Afghan leaders, recognising the importance of international support for the Afghan peace process, would achieve a negotiated political settlement. Foreign Minister Qureshi is in Dushanbe, at the invitation of Tajikistan, to lead Pakistan delegation at the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers meeting.

Ban on TLP to stay, cabinet decides

FROM PAGE 01
85 Pakistani prisoners on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha. He said a special plane would be dispatched to bring them back from Saudi Arabia. He said the government is also making strenuous efforts to bring Pakistani citizens detained in different countries on minor charges. He said a detailed briefing was given on Electronic Voting Machine, Internet-Voting, biometric. He said EVM is vital to ensure transparency in the next general election. To this effect, the cabinet was informed that unanimity of views has emerged on several issues and efforts are being made to sort out the remaining points. Regarding Covid situation in Pakistan, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said 20 million people have so far been vaccinated. He said over half million people were vaccinated yesterday alone, which is the highest number since the start of vaccination drive. Urging the people to observe Standard Operating Procedures to prevent spread of the pandemic and to get them vaccinated, the Minister said cases in Karachi and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa increased in last few days, while situation in Punjab is under control. Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said Asset Management Company is being established to manage the properties of the federal government. He said the Prime Minister expressed concerns on the depleting green areas in Islamabad due to unplanned expansion of residential societies.

At least 64 dead as fire rips through Iraq Covid ward

Iraqi President Barham Salih said that the incident that unfolded in Al-Hussein hospital was the result of rampant corruption and mismanagement. He added that the families of those killed needed an investigation and accountability, and called for a review of the country's institutions

FOREIGN DESK

BAGHDAD: At least 64 people have been killed in a fire at the coronavirus isolation ward of a hospital in Iraq, the second such deadly blaze in a COVID-19 unit in three months, state news agency INA said on Tuesday. More than 100 were also injured in the fire that broke out at the al-Hussein Teaching Hospital in the southern city of Nasiriya late on Monday, health officials said. The blaze was brought under control by civil defence teams. A medical source with the health directorate told AFP news agency the "main reason behind the fire... was the explosion of oxygen tanks". Haydar al-Zamil, the local health authority's spokesperson, said earlier on Tuesday that 52 bodies

had been retrieved while 22 people had been hurt after the fire had "ripped through the COVID isolation ward". "The victims died of burns and the search is continuing," he added, noting that there were fears people could still be trapped inside the building. The new ward, opened just three months ago, contained 70 beds. The DhiQar health directorate said that among those killed were two medical staff members, and the hospital's security guard. Health sources told Reuters news agency the death toll could rise as many patients were still missing. Health officials at Nasiriya said search operations at the hospital were continuing, but that thick smoke was making it difficult to enter some of the burned-out wards. Footage shared online showed

thick clouds of smoke billowing from the hospital buildings. "Many people have taken to the streets in Nasiriya and in front of the hospital," said Abdelwahed, who said that the manager of the hospital had resigned. Iraqi President Barham Salih said that the incident that unfolded in Al-Hussein hospital was the result of rampant corruption and mismanagement. He added that the families of those killed needed an investigation and accountability, and called for a review of the country's institutions. Angry relatives clashed with police, setting fire to two police vehicles, a Reuters witness said. "Corrupt officials must be held accountable for the fire and killing innocent patients. Where is my father's body," said one young man as he searched among

charred bodies wrapped in blankets in the hospital's courtyard. Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi also declared a state of emergency in the governorate of DhiQar, where Nasiriya is located, Abdelwahed reported. In a tweet, al-Kadhimi said that his office was holding an emergency meeting to discuss "the causes and repercussions" of the incident. He ordered the suspension and arrest of the health director in DhiQar, as well as the director of the hospital and the city's director of civil defence. Meanwhile, the governor of DhiQar announced the formation of a higher committee to investigate the circumstances of the accident, and has asked for a report to be submitted within 48 hours. Earlier on Monday, a minor fire

broke out at the health ministry's headquarters in Baghdad, but it was quickly contained and no fatalities were recorded. The blaze at the Nasiriya hospital is the second such tragedy this year. In April, a fire at a Baghdad COVID-19 hospital sparked by the explosion of badly stored oxygen cylinders killed 82 people and injured 110 others. Many of the victims were on respirators being treated for COVID-19 and were burned or suffocated in the resulting inferno that spread rapidly through the hospital, where dozens of relatives were visiting patients in the intensive care unit. The then-health minister, Hassan al-Tamimi, resigned. Iraq has recorded more than 1.4 million coronavirus cases and at least 17,000 deaths.

Briefs

FDA flags 'small' risk with J&J jab

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: United States regulators have added a new warning to Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine about links to a rare and potentially dangerous neurological reaction. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced the new warning on Monday, flagging reports of Guillain-Barre syndrome, an immune system disorder that can cause muscle weakness and occasionally paralysis. Health officials described the side effect as a "small possible risk" for those getting the shot. The new warning will be included in pamphlets given to people getting the Johnson & Johnson shot. They should seek medical attention if they experience any symptoms, which include tingling sensations, trouble walking and double vision, the regulators said. The action comes after the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reviewed reports of about 100 people developing the syndrome after receiving the one-dose vaccine. Almost all of them were hospitalized and one person died, the FDA said.

Pro-EU party in Moldova wins

AGENCIES

CHISINAU: Moldova's main pro-European party has won a resounding victory in parliamentary polls, results showed, strengthening the hand of President Maia Sandu as the former World Bank economist pushes to reform her ex-Soviet country. Sunday's snap election - called by Sandu in April to shore up her position against pro-Russia forces - saw her centre-right Action and Solidarity (PAS) party take 52.80 percent of the vote. PAS will get 63 seats in the 101-seat parliament for four-year terms, the Central Election Commission said on Monday, with all votes counted. A coalition of socialists and communists, led by former Kremlin-backed president Igor Dodon, came second with 27.17 percent. After early results showed her party leading late on Sunday, Sandu hailed what she called a vote for change in a country beset by poverty and corruption. "I hope that today will be the end of a difficult era for Moldova. I hope that today will be an end to the rule of thieves over Moldova," she said in a statement. Her rival Dodon expressed disappointment at the result, saying in a statement: "We obviously wanted a higher overall percentage."

Iran confirms prisoner exchange with US

TEHRAN: Iran confirmed Tuesday ongoing "negotiations" with the United States over a potential prisoner swap, after a US official said Washington is working to release its detained citizens. The US envoy for Iran, Robert Malley, said on Saturday that President Joe Biden insists on the release of all Americans and will not accept a "partial deal". Malley called the release of Americans detained in the Islamic republic a "priority" and said that negotiations with Iran have "made some progress," NBC News reported. Asked about Malley's remarks, Iran's government spokesman Ali Rabiee confirmed the talks and said Tehran calls for the release of all Iranian prisoners, not just those held in the US. Iran "is ready to swap all political prisoners in exchange for freeing all Iranian prisoners across the world," he told reporters at a televised press conference. They include those "who have been detained upon US orders" or at Washington's request, he added, saying that "the negotiations on this issue are ongoing". Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatebadeh said Monday that Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif had "put forth a plan to swap all Iranian and American prisoners", state news agency IRNA reported. - APP

RCCI organizes Balochistan business opportunity moot

BUREAU REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) organized a three day business conference on investment opportunities in Balochistan in collaboration with Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade (BBOIT) at a local hotel in Quetta. Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal who was the chief guest of the conference in his address said that the top priority of the government is to provide a conducive environment for investors. The federal government is cooperating and taking steps to bring investments specially FDIs to the province. He said that if there is no investment then who will be taxed. Overseas investors always approach local businessmen and take feedback prior to investing in any sector. It is important to have a business friendly environment at the local level so that investors



from abroad also come to Pakistan, he added. While lauding RCCI's efforts for holding a business conference in Balochistan to promote trade activities, CM Balochistan said that Pakistan is a country with a population of 220 million people which is

itself a big market. Pakistan is a country rich in minerals. Steps are being taken to provide better infrastructure for markets at the borders and to provide facilities like customs and WeBOC there. The Rawalpindi Chamber should become our ambassador and join hands with us to promote trade activities in the

province. In his welcome address, RCCI President Nasir Mirza said that the aim of the conference was to promote emerging investment opportunities in Balochistan, promotion of trade activities and improve networking. RCCI believes that CPEC is a game changer for the entire region,

especially for Pakistan, and it will pave the way for enhancing ties with Central Asian countries. The conference aims to strengthen ties and increase networking with local businesses and chambers of commerce in Balochistan, he added. Group Leader Sohail Altaf

said that for the promotion of investment and industry, it was necessary to make communication links better, faster and easier. The scope of the Prime Minister's Naya Pakistan Housing Scheme should be extended to Gwadar. Direct flights to Gwadar can double the impact of FDIs in Balochistan, he suggested. A special desk will be set up in the Rawalpindi Chamber to highlight trade opportunities in Balochistan. Chairman Conference Qazi Khalid Farooq said that the conference would open new avenues of trade information and increase mutual contacts. The conference was attended by ministers, secretary Industries, Chairman Board of Investment Saeed Ahmed Sarpara, former president of Rawalpindi Chamber Zahid Latif Khan, senior vice president Osman Ashraf, vice president Shahraz Malik, members of the executive committee and members of the chamber and industrialists.

Josep Borrell to participate CSACConf 2021

WEB DESK

TASHKENT: High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission Josep Borrell Fontelles will pay a visit to Tashkent on 15-17th July to attend the Conference on Central Asia and South East Asia Connectivity. This was announced during the Foreign Affairs Council on 12 July, 2021. With his visit, Josep Borrell Fontelles intends to foster the implementation of the EU Central Asian Strategy adopted in 2019 and of the 2018 EU Connectivity Strategy. On 12 July, the Council approved conclusions on "A Globally Connected Europe", which highlight the need for the EU to pursue a geostrategic and global approach to connectivity.

Ancient graves discovered in Guba

WEB DESK

BAKU: Ancient graves have been discovered in Guba's Giriz village. The graves were found in the area dug for the auxiliary building during the construction of the school. The archeological discoveries are dating back to the 16th-17th centuries. More information will be available after research. The construction of the school was stopped and the relevant government agencies were informed about the fact. Guba has always been a favorite place of local and foreign tourists. The city enjoys favorable geographic location, mild climate, fruitful soil and natural resource. One of Guba's most visited natural features is its unique waterfall in Piranovsha, where the flowing water creates graceful natural sculptures. Guba is also known for its hydrogen sulfide sources, located near the Khashichay. Here, in the narrow gorge, hot water with healing properties flows from the rocks.



DUSHANBE: On the sidelines of SCO council of foreign ministers meeting in Dushanbe, Foreign minister of Pakistan Shah Mahmood Quraishi met with Foreign minister of Kazakhstan Mukhtar Tileuberdi. - DNA

Azerbaijan, EU praise joint social projects

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan and the European Union have discussed joint social projects and cooperation in the field of social reforms and improvement of the social protection system. During the meeting held between Minister of Labor and Social Protection of Population Sahil Babayev and the outgoing head of the EU delegation to Azerbaijan Kestutis Jankauskas on July 12, the minister underlined that Azerbaijan and the EU have a long history of active cooperation in many areas, including social projects. Babayev stressed that Azerbaijan attaches special importance to a close partnership with the EU and to the joint social projects such as TACIS and Twinning and the cooperation with the European

Training Foundation. Moreover, the minister noted that in line with the presidential instructions, large-scale reforms have been carried out in the field of labor, employment and social protection in Azerbaijan, adding that the EU was involved in the implementation of these reforms. He thanked Jankauskas for his contribution to the successful development of relations between Azerbaijan and the EU. In turn, Jankauskas expressed gratification with the development of cooperation in the social sphere. It should be noted that the European Union invested over \$21.5 billion in Azerbaijan's economy from 2012 to 2021. Azerbaijan's trade turnover with the EU amounted to \$9.3 billion last year, which is 38 percent of the country's foreign trade.

FPCCI, KCCI, PYMA join hands for resolving budget anomalies

NAZIR SIAL

KARACHI: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) and Pakistan Yarn Merchants Association (PYMA) have decided to make for joint efforts to eliminate budget anomalies in the federal budget 2021-22, and condemned the self-imposed decisions of the Senate Budget Anomalies Committee, and expressed serious concerns. They have also asked for a new meeting to review the budget anomalies. For the first time, FPCCI, KCCI and PYMA officials attended the meeting at Pakistan Yarn Merchants Association. Nasser Hyatt Maggo, President, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), Hanif Lakhany, Vice President FPCCI & Senior Vice Chairman Pakistan Yarn Merchants Association (PYMA), M. Shariq Vohra, President Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Saqib Goodluck, SVP KCCI, Shamsul Islam, VP KCCI, Farhan Ashrafi, Convener FPCCI Yarn Standing Committee & Vice Chairman PYMA, Athar Chawla, VP FPCCI, M. Usman, Khurshid Shaikh, Aslam Moten, Anwer Aziz, Adnan Riaz, Khurram Bharara, Junaid Teli, Sohail Nisar, Altaf Haroon, Jawed Khanani, Abdul Samad Gaba, Anis Mandavia, Waheed

Umer, Nauman Ilyas, Abdullah Naeem, Shahbuddin Padela and Behroze Kapadia also attended the meeting. Expressing strong reservations over the Senate Budget Anomalies committee, Nasser Hyatt Maggo said that the self-imposed decisions of the committee were not acceptable to the business community as the committee made decisions on budget anomalies without taking the members into confidence and without convening a meeting. Which is totally unfair so we will all struggle together. He also said that a letter has been sent by FPCCI to Prime Minister Imran Khan. In which the Prime Minister has been apprised of the concerns of the business community. Shariq Vohra, President, President KCCI, while agreeing with the yarn and textile anomalies in the federal budget 2021-22, said that Karachi Chamber is with the traders in this struggle, and we request the government to address the issues facing the yarn sector on a priority basis. KCCI will extend all possible cooperation to the yarn traders. Saqib Goodluck, SVP KCCI, Shamsul Islam, VP KCCI said that BMG Chairman Zubair Motiwala had full support in preparing the budget proposals and PYMA suggestions were also included in the budget proposals. Hanif Lakhany, VP FPCCI, SVC PYMA, Farhan Ashrafi

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