



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Japan to implement 7 Technical Cooperation Programs in Pakistan

Detailed News On Page-08

Zalmay stresses need for the negotiated peace

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Jaishankar's statement exposes India

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Briefs

Australian envoy extends greetings

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Australian ambassador Dr. Geoffrey Shaw has greeted Pakistani nation on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha. In his message, the Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Dr Geoffrey Shaw said: "I send my warm greetings to Muslims in Pakistan, Australia and all around the world who are celebrating Eid-ul-Adha. During the Eid-ul-Adha holiday, Muslims of all ages and backgrounds engage in acts of charity and help those in need. These values have never been more important as we continue to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether it is keeping each other and our communities safe or helping those who are more vulnerable, Muslims in both our countries continue to show us what it means to serve our community. Australia is one of the most successful and harmonious multicultural societies in the world. The Australian Muslim community plays an important role in strengthening our diverse social fabric. On behalf of my wife, Gaynor and my colleagues at the Australian High Commission, I wish all those celebrating, Eid and Hajj Mubarak!"

Pak wants peace in Afghanistan

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Special Representative to the Prime Minister on religious harmony, Middle East Affairs and Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Monday said that Pakistan wanted peace in Afghanistan for stability in the region. Addressing a press conference at Punjab Institute of Quran and Seerat Studies here, he said that Pakistan's stance on Afghanistan was clear and obvious as peace in Pakistan was linked with the peace in Afghanistan, adding that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would adopt a comprehensive policy over the affairs pertaining to Afghanistan. To a question, he said that in past, the Pakistan government had endorsed the Taliban's government in Afghanistan so if they would again come into power in Afghanistan, the FO would decide in this regard.

India behind hybrid warfare against Pak

NSA Moeed Yusuf made these remarks in a press conference along with Foreign Minister and IGP; no evidence to prove Afghan envoy's daughter's abduction

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: National Security Adviser Dr Moeed Yusuf said on Monday that Pakistan was currently a target of "hybrid warfare" and an entire network of information warfare was being used against the country. He made the remarks during a press briefing on the alleged abduction and release of the Afghan ambassador's daughter in Islamabad last week. Yusuf recalled that the EU DisinfoLab had exposed an India-based network of fake websites and media outlets doing propaganda against Pakistan. He said fake accounts and bots were being used to create a "narrative" against Pakistan, including regarding the incident involving the Afghan envoy's daughter. Ambassador Najibullah Alikhil's daughter, Silsila, was reportedly abducted on Friday from Islamabad's commercial area by unidentified persons who also allegedly subjected her to torture. Sharing slides on data gathered by the government, Yusuf said hashtags were being trended on a daily basis to create false impressions including that Pakistan "is doing something [wrong] in Afghanistan" and that the security situation in Pakistan was poor. "This is part of an orchestrated campaign of which various fronts have been opened against Pakistan," he said, adding that the same accounts that did "fake propaganda"

Pakistan calls envoy back for consultations

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The government has called back the Pakistani ambassador to Afghanistan for "consultations" regarding the alleged abduction and release of the Afghan envoy's daughter in Islamabad, the Foreign Office said on Monday. According to the FO, Pakistan's ambassador to Kabul Mansoor Ahmad Khan arrived in Islamabad on Sunday evening. He is scheduled to meet the foreign secretary at the FO to discuss the matter. Discussions will also be held on the progress on the now-postponed Afghan Peace Conference. The development comes as Afghanistan on Sunday called back its ambassador and senior diplomats from Pakistan over the alleged abduction of the Afghan envoy's daughter.

regarding Balochistan or Kashmir were also doing propaganda ever since the alleged abduction incident took place.

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Pak-China need to stay strong: COAS

The development came during the army chief's meeting with Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong



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

NEHAL MIRAZ

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa said Monday as China and Pakistan work for peace, they needed to stay strong to thwart designs of all inimical forces challenging their resolve. The development came during the army chief's meeting with Chinese Am-

bassador to Pakistan Nong Rong at the General Headquarters, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement. The army chief told the ambassador that both countries need to thwart the designs of those threatening their strategic cooperation. The army chief extended heartfelt sympathies and deepest condolences to the

government and the people of the Republic of China, particularly the bereaved families affected by the Dasu incident. The army chief said Pakistan Army greatly values its brotherly relations with its time-tested friend and also assured full support and security of Chinese citizens working in Pakistan.

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ISLAMABAD: US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, Zalmay Khalilzad calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan. - APP

Imran, Zalmay discuss Afghanistan situation

The Prime Minister highlighted Pakistan's constructive efforts for facilitating peace efforts

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: U.S. Special Envoy for Afghan Reconciliation Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. The exchange of views covered the prevailing situation in Afghanistan and the need for expediting the Afghan peace process. The Prime Minister highlighted Pakistan's constructive efforts for facilitating peace efforts for achieving an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement to end over four decades long conflict in Afghanistan.

Continued on Page 06

Pak urges Afghanistan to review envoy decision

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Monday urged the Afghanistan government to reconsider its decision of calling back its ambassador from Pakistan keeping in view Islamabad's serious efforts to solve the issue of the alleged abduction of envoy's daughter, media reported. FM Qureshi held a telephonic conversation with his Afghan counterpart Mohammad Hanef Atmar and assured him that the suspects involved in the incident occurred on 16th of July will be apprehended soon. Pakistan government will take



all possible steps to bring the suspects to justice at the earliest, he added. FM Qureshi said, "Ministry of Foreign Affairs is fully aware of the diplomatic norms."

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Covid-19 tally reports spike

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The national tally on Monday of total active COVID-19 cases was recorded as 48,850 with 2,452 more people testing positive for the deadly virus and 903 people recovering from the disease whereas 24 infected people were admitted in the hospitals in critical condition during the last 24 hours. Around 30 corona patients died during last 24 hours, 28 of whom were under treatment in the hospitals and two in their respective homes or quarantine facility, according to the latest updates issued by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC).

Turkey, Azerbaijan express grief



FOREIGN DESK

BAKU: "The news of a terrible bus accident in Punjab province deeply saddened us. May Allah have mercy on the victims of the accident and give those injured a speedy recovery. We express our condolences to the families of the victims and brotherly People of Pakistan"; Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov said on Twitter. Meanwhile, Turkish Foreign Minister

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Bus, truck collision kills 31

ZUBAIR AHMAD

RAJANPUR: As many as 33 passengers died and 59 sustained injuries after a bus collided head on with a trailer at Jhok Yar Shah area in Dera Ghazi Khan on early Monday. According to Rescue 1122, the bus, LES-06, was heading towards Rajanpur from Sialkot when it collided with a trailer, C/9537, leaving many passengers dead on the spot while the rest breathed their last at the hospital. Rescuers had to cut the body of the bus to retrieve the dead and the injured.

Pakistan to hold first e-sports event

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry on Monday announced that Pakistan has entered into the area of e-sports for the first time. Talking about the launch of e-gaming and competitions, Fawad Chaudhry revealed Pakistan's first-ever national e-sporting tournament on Twitter. E-sports were declared regular sports in Pakistan on January 13 after a memorandum signed between Pakistan Sports Board and Pakistan Science Foundation. The minister of Information and Broadcast had also teased new opportunities for e-gamers earlier this year. Staying true to his word, Fawad Chaudhry announced Free Fire League - the first national e-sports initiative in Pakistan. For this purpose, the Ministry of Information has signed a memorandum of understanding with Garena and Bigo who will sponsor the event.

US: First capitol rioter sentenced

WASHINGTON: A Florida man has become the first to be sentenced to prison for his part in the US Capitol riots on 6 January. Paul Allard Hodgkins, 38, pled guilty in June to one felony count of entering the Capitol to obstruct Congress. He was jailed for eight months. Prosecutors had asked for a term of 18 months, saying Hodgkins "contributed to the collective threat to democracy". The sentence is expected to set a benchmark for hundreds of upcoming cases from the Capitol riots. - DNA

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India spied on Pakistani PM using Israeli tech.

More than 1,000 phone numbers in India appeared on the surveillance list while hundreds were from Pakistan, including the one PM Imran once used

NEWS DESK

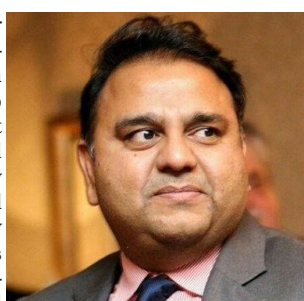
ISLAMABAD: India was among a number of countries using an Israeli company's spyware in attempted and successful hacks of smartphones belonging to journalists, government officials and human rights activists around the world. At least one number once used by Prime Minister Imran Khan was on the India list, according to an investigation by 17 media organisations published on Sunday. The extent of the spyware - Pegasus - use was reported by The Washington Post, the Guardian, Le Monde and other news outlets who collaborated on an investigation into a data leak.

According to The Post, more than 1,000 phone numbers in India appeared on the surveillance list while hundreds were from Pakistan, including the one PM Imran once used. However, The Post did not specify whether the surveillance attempt on PM Imran's number was successful. Indian investigative news website The Wire reported that 300 mobile phone numbers used in India - including those of government ministers, opposition politicians, journalists, scientists and rights activists - were on the list. The numbers included those of more than 40 Indian journalists from major publications

Continued on Page 06

Fawad 'deeply concerned'

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry on Monday expressed deep concern over reports that Indian government used an Israeli software to spy on journalists and political opponents. "Extremely concerned on news reports emerging from @guardian-news that Indian Govt used Israeli software to spy on Journalists, political opponents and politicians. Unethical policies of #ModiGovt have dangerously polarised India and the region... More details are emerging," he wrote on his official Twitter handle. A report in the Washington Post stated that India was one of the countries which have been listed as a client of the NSO Group and its Pegasus malware. - DNA



Reported spying unacceptable

BRUSSELS: The European Commission chief said that if true, reports about spyware being used on journalists went against EU values. Israeli firm NSO said it only sold its products to "vetted governments" in order to "save lives." European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen spoke out against reports that Israeli spyware was used to hack the smartphones of journalists, government officials. "What we could read so far, and this has to be verified, but if it is the case, it is completely unacceptable. Against any kind of rules we have in the European Union," von der Leyen said during a visit to Prague. "Freedom of media, free press is one of the core values of the EU. It is completely unacceptable if this [hacking] were to be the case," she added. - DNA



Briefs

772,282
people
vaccinated in
Faisalabad

FAISALABAD: As many as 772,282 people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in Faisalabad district. District Health Officer Dr Ataul Mun'im said on Monday that 598,889 citizens had been given the first dose, while 130,006 were administered the second dose of vaccine. He said that 27,115 health workers were also given the first dose while 16,272 received the second dose of vaccine. He said that sufficient stock of anti-coronavirus vaccine was available in the district. As of now, 59,885 first doses and 39,924 second doses were in the stock at Faisalabad. He said that 35 vaccination centres and 20 mobile vaccination camps had been operational in Faisalabad where registered persons were also getting anti-coronavirus vaccine doses. Timing of these vaccination centers are 8 am to 8 pm except for Sports Complex Samanabadcentre which would remain open round-the-clock.

25 held, drugs seized
Police arrested 25 alleged criminals and recovered drugs and illegal weapons from them in the district during the last 24 hours. According to police, raiding teams nabbed seven drug-pushers and recovered 2.4-kg hashish and 38-litre liquor from them. In crackdown on illegal weapons, police arrested 18 persons and recovered 16 pistols, one repeater, one gun and a number of bullets from them. - APP

Murtaza
urges people
to follow
SOPs

KARACHI: Spokesperson of Sindh Government and Advisor for Law, Environment & Coastal Development Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that due to growing number of Corona cases, situation was alarming in the province, so the people must follow the SOPs. He expressed these views while addressing a press conference in the committee room of Sindh Assembly Building here on Monday. When the situation is not under control and the SOPs are not being implemented, the government would be forced to make tough decisions, he informed. The situation is worrying and it is in the interest of the citizens to follow the SOPs, he added urging the people to wear mask.

Besides, people should also get vaccinated, he told, saying that if you do not follow SOPs, the situation may get worse. The criminal justice system was based on accusations but not on evidence. The names are mentioned in the FIR and the Police used to make arrests even if the allegation was false, he told. The arrest will only take place when evidence can be gathered, he said, elaborating that unless the investigating officer seeks permission from higher authorities, he will not be able to make arrests where crimes are being committed. This is a big decision made by the Sindh government and provincial government has made this decision on the basis of many court decisions, he reiterated. - APP

Tight security
during Eid-ul-
Azha days

FAISALABAD: The Police Department has made special arrangements to ensure tight security during three Eid-ul-Azha days, starting from Wednesday. A police spokesman said that 866 Eid congregations would be held in the city including 625 at mosques and imambargahs and 241 at open places. He said that more than 3,000 police personnel, along with five SPs, 13 DSPs, 17 Inspectors and 57 sub-inspectors would be deputed to ensure foolproof security in the district at the Eid congregations. He said that 10 teams of Elite Force and 10 teams of Quick Response Force would also remain on roads and perform patrolling to foil nefarious designs of the miscreants. Special police have also been deputed at 12 graveyards and 20 parks for Eid days. - APP

New opportunities after
Amazon includes Pakistan

Chaudhary Talat Mahmood Senior Vice President FCCI said that E-commerce has emerged as a big opportunity by replacing the traditional means of export due to the continuous prevalence of corona virus across the globe

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: "Amazon" Electronic Platform of USA has included Pakistan in its seller's list through which new opportunities have been opened particularly for the start-ups and youth with limited financial resources, said Chaudhary Talat Mahmood Senior Vice President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). He was addressing a certificate awarding ceremony among the 20-members first batch of students who have completed training for registration with Amazon and launching online businesses by E-Commerce experts. He said that E-commerce has emerged as a big opportunity by replacing the traditional means of export due to the continuous prevalence



of corona virus across the globe. He appreciated the efforts of the Government for opening new avenues of employment and businesses for the talented youth. He welcomed the completion of the first training course

and said that passed out students should preferably start their own businesses but they could also extend services to the existing exporters who intend to switch over to the online businesses. He termed reg-

istration with Amazon as a new and innovative step to expand businesses and earn precious foreign exchange for the country.

Mr. Asadullah of E-commerce said that he had started his business from

his drawing room through E-commerce immediately after his arrival from abroad in 2015. He said that at that time the share of online business was quite negligible. He said that he started business with limited financial

resources but now his turnover is around 3.5 million which is expected to jump to five million up to June 2021. He said that it is an opportunity for Pakistan to expand its exports as we could sell our T-shirt of Rs.400 at a hefty price of Rs.3 thousand. Responding to a question he said that "Amazon" has not yet established its warehouse in Pakistan. Rana Muhammad Sikandar Azam, Ms. Nighat Shahid, Sheikh Abrar and other participants also took part in the question answer session while Chaudhary Talat Mahmood distributed certificates among the successful students. Later Mr. Asadullah presented shields to Chaudhary Talat Mahmood and Ayub Aslam Manj. Later Vice President Ayub Aslam Manj offered a vote of thanks.

PCAA installs two
monitors to check
air pollution

PESHAWAR: Peshawar Clean Air Alliance (PCAA), a recently launched project by a group of civil society activists to find ways and measures to tackle toxic emission that pose direct threat to health and contribute to climate change, has installed two monitors in the provincial metropolis for checking of air pollution in the city. The two monitors are donated by a PCAA member, Sophia Hasnain, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Linked Things Karachi. The air monitors are installed at Hayatabad Industrial Estate, on the periphery of Peshawar and other at busy city area in the office of Peshawar Chamber of Small Traders on Grand Truck road.

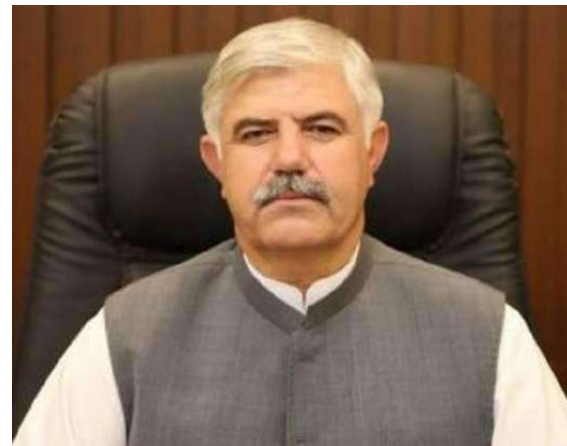
The installed monitors are providing air quality reading round the clock and anyone can check it by visiting the link (<https://data.linked-things.com/#/airquality/peshawar>). The objective of installing air monitors in Peshawar is to get exact data about level of air pollution in the city which is among the top most polluted cities of the country, shared Dr. AdilZareef, Spokesman of PCAA. Talking to APP here on Monday, Dr. AdilZareef said PCAA's vision is to increase the total number of clean air days in Peshawar to over 100 a year by 2025 - primarily by cutting levels of air pollution at source, while simultaneously encouraging behavioral changes within us.

"This is the beginning of a long drawn process that will eventually encompass all major cities of Pakistan for a comprehensive Clean Air Act policy document," Adil said. He said founder of PCAA, RafayAlam, a known environmental lawyer and activist in Pakistan, personally visited Peshawar for installation of air monitors which has now started working and providing data. Peshawar city, he continued, is one of the largest cities in Pakistan with an estimated population of approximately 1.9 million in 2017. In 2018, the Pakistan Air Quality Initiative found Peshawar to be the fifth most polluted city in the country, with over 183 unhealthy air quality days. - DNA

KP CM directs progress
on tourism sector roads

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has directed the quarters concerned to ensure progress on new and ongoing tourism roads projects within stipulated timelines and said that timely completion of those projects was of vital importance for the promotion of tourism activities in the province. He issued these directives while chairing a meeting regarding construction of access roads to tourism sites, here the other day in Chief Minister's House, said an official handout issued here on Monday. Besides Provincial Minister IshtiaqUmar, Principal Secretary to CM Amjad Ali Khan and concerned administrative secretaries and other authorities concerned also attended the meeting.



The meeting was briefed in detail about tourism roads projects reflected in current Annual Development Program (ADP). The meeting was told that work on various projects of roads with billions of rupees was underway in different regions of the province especially in Malakand and Hazara region to facilitate the tourists.

Moreover, construction of an approach road to historic tourist site of southern region, Sheikh Badin was also reflected in current ADP having an estimated cost Rs. 3 billion. The meeting was further told that under the Integrated Development Project, work on two different schemes was also in progress which included improvement and rehabilitation of 24-KM Abbotabad to Thandiayani and 23-KM Mankiyal to Bada Sarai roads, the estimated cost of these schemes is Rs.2584 million and Rs. 3480 million respectively. The chief minister on the occasion, directed the authorities concerned to float the tenders of the matured schemes so that physical work on those schemes could be initiated well in time adding that e-bidding and e-tendering be adopted for the purpose.

It was informed that construction of 11 different tourism roads in Malakand division was in progress with revised estimated cost Rs.4812 million. Similarly, in order to improve accessibility to tourism sites in Hazara division work on six different roads was also underway which would cost Rs. 4655 million.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain witnessing the MoU Signing Ceremony between Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Garena and BIGO Pakistan for E-Gaming event in Pakistan. Secretary MOIB, Shahera Shahid and South Asia Regional Head BIGO, John Zhang are signing MoU. - DNA

'Indian lobbying against
Pakistan in FATF
despicable': Sarwar

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohamad Sarwar said that the Indian Foreign Minister's confession regarding lobbying to keep Pakistan on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is despicable and nefarious act. Talking to a party delegation from the AJK at the Governor's House here on Monday, he said Pakistan has for long maintained that India has been involved in the negative diplomacy on the platform of the global financial watchdog, adding that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government has ably dealt with the negative propaganda. "Prime Minister Imran Khan, as true ambassador of Kashmir, has exposed NarendraModi's terrorism before the world and he will continue to do so", he said. Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohamad Sarwar said the political parties that have

repeatedly come to power in Azad Kashmir have not even provided basic services like health and education to the people there.

He said opposition parties' plan to mislead public in the Azad Kashmir elections will fail and PTI will win the elections in Azad Kashmir and form government there. Sarwar said people of Azad Kashmir are now with PTI and it will not only emerge victorious in the elections of Azad Kashmir but also the next president and prime minister of Azad Kashmir will be from PTI. He said the opposition should reconsider its policies instead of criticizing the government, adding that the people had rejected the opposition, that is why it vent its anger against the government. "The day is not far away when people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) will win freedom from the Indian occupation", he added.

LCB Secy
visits cattle
markets

PESHAWAR: Local Council Board (LCB) Secretary Saleem Khan Monday visited the cattle markets of Town-I and Town-II wherein he reviewed the implementation of Coronavirus related standard operating procedures (SOPs), cleanliness and other arrangements. The secretary paid surprise visits to cattle markets of Ring Road in Town-I and Kala Mandi (G.T. Road) Town-II, said a press release issued here. During visits, the officers of TMAs briefed him in detail regarding arrangements in cattle markets. The secretary was told that Coronavirus related SOPs were being implemented in letter and spirit and no one is allowed to enter into the cattle markets without wearing face-mask. Similarly, TMAs have provided masks and sanitizers to merchants, besides establishing water tanks and provision of soaps for hand washing in markets. Disinfection spray is also being conducted on daily basis in cattle markets.

The secretary expressed satisfaction over arrangements in cattle markets and directed strict adherence to coronavirus preventive SOPs.

He requested the people to follow preventive measures to protect themselves from the pandemic. - APP

Security plan
finalized
for Eid

PESHAWAR: The Capital City police on Monday cancelled Eid holidays of all police officials as part of a special security plan and deployed 4500 officers and officials in the provincial metropolis to ensure peace on the eve of Eid-ul-Azha.

According to the security plan Rider squad and police patrolling have been strengthened in the city while police officials in simple dress along with bomb disposal squad, ladies police and sniffer dogs would perform duties at and around Eidghas, mosques, Imambargahs. Similarly, 1,000 traffic officials would perform duty under a special traffic plan for the city to ensure smooth flow of traffic.

Two children killed

Two children were killed and three injured when the wall of a house fell on them due to rain in Kanda Sirajhel village of Karak district on Monday.

Those killed have been identified as eight-year-old Emaan and his ten-year-old sister Sundas who took shelter under the cover of wall from torrential rain when a part of wall collapsed on them while the rest of the injured children were yet to be identified.

Local people retrieved injured and dead children from debris and shifted them to tehsil headquarters hospital Takhtnasrati. - APP

DC holds
meeting with
sugar dealers

DNA

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali held a meeting with sugar dealers to ensure sale of sugar at fixed price.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Fazal Rabi Cheema, Assistant Commissioner Syed AyubBukhari and other officials besides sugar dealers.

Deputy Commissioner asked the dealers to ensure sale of sugar at fixed price and action would be taken against those selling expensive sugar without any discrimination.

He said that the ex-mill price of sugar was Rs 83.24 per kg and Rs 88.24 per kg in the open market. He said that hoarding and profiteering would not be tolerated under any circumstances and action would be taken against such elements under the Price Control Act.

He said that sugar dealers to submit stock to Assistant Commissioner on a daily basis and all documents should be completed for purchase of sugar directly from mills.

FWMC chalks out cleanliness plan for Eid days

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: On the directions of CM Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar, comprehensive strategy has been evolved for cleanliness operations during Eid-ul-Azha in the four districts of Faisalabad Division in order to prompt lifting and disposal of sacrificial wastes. This was informed by Divisional Commissioner Saqib Manan during the media briefing here on Monday at his office committee room. Additional Commissioner Coordination Imran Raza Abbasi, CEO Faisalabad Waste Management Company Kashif Raza Awan, Senior Manager Operation Col. Enad Gill and others officers were also present on the occasion. The Divisional Commissioner told that the Faisalabad Waste Management Company, Metropolitan Corporation and Municipal Committees in Faisalabad division had been mobilized for Eid cleanliness operations and citizens would be provided pollution free environment during the Eid days by successful implementation of the cleanliness plan. He said that strict monitoring

system would be placed for regular supervision of cleanliness operations and citizens would see practical positive change with regard to disposal of the sacrificial animal wastes without any delay.

The Commissioner said the special control room would work at divisional level to supervise the cleanliness operation in Faisalabad division and public complaints in this regard would be redressed immediately. He cleared that no lethargy or carelessness would be tolerated relating to

the cleanliness operation and action would be taken against the defaulters, however, the staff showing best performance would be rewarded for their encouragement and recognition of their best services.

He appealed to citizens to follow the corona SOPs and vaccinated themselves because the corona is still not end so be careful. Giving details about the EidulAzha cleanliness operation, CEO FWMC Kashif Raza Awan informed that the leaves of all staffs and management had been cancelled to make

the cleanliness operation is success. He said that more than 4000 waste workers would perform duties during the Eid Cleanliness operation while machinery would be utilized for collecting and disposal of animal waste.

He informed that three tranches had been arranged outside the city to dump the of-fals and other waste of the sacrificial animal waste. Adding he said that 40 awareness camps would be set up at the different localities of the city for information of the public and bio degradable bags would be distributed among the citizens at these awareness camps. He maintained that helpline would work with increasing the 12 telephone lines for receiving the public complaints and their prompt disposal. He said that special health care could be done for the sanitary workers and they would be provided face masks, gloves and sanitizer lotion.

He vowed that the FWMC was very much committed for quality cleanliness during the EidulAzha, whereas, special cleanliness would be made at the sites of Eid congregations and city would be washed after the EidulAzha for the elimination of bad smell due to sacrificial animal.



Briefs

ICT police for fool proof security on Eid-ul-Azha

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police have been directed to ensure comprehensive security arrangements in the capital on eve of Eid-ul-Azha and ensure implementation on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to contain the spread of coronavirus. Police source said that IGP Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman asked DIG (Operations) Afzal Ahmed Kausar to devise elaborate security plan and monitor all arrangements himself in this regard. He asked to ensure implementation on SOPs issued by the government for business activities at markets, shopping centers, public places and cattle markets. He further asked SSP (Traffic) to deploy policemen at various places to ensure smooth flow of traffic. All police officials have been directed to remain on high alert and fully prepared to avert any untoward situation during Eid days. He asked to ensure social distancing and use of masks at religious gatherings on Eid day and also at cattle markets. He asked all Police officials to assign security duties in this connection at Masjid and Imambargahs. The squad of Bomb Disposal would conduct checking of various areas and parking will not be allowed near worship places or congregation. Police officials were asked to ensure implementation on SOPs issued by the government for business activities in markets during ongoing COVID-19 phase. The IGP said that special deployment should be made at Faisal Mosque on Eid day.

Met dept. forecast a rainy Eid day in country

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: As per the weather report, a rainy spell is expected to hit the country during Eid days. The spell will start on Sunday night and continue till Thursday. The low-lying areas in Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Lahore, Kasur, Faisalabad, Peshawar and Nowshera are feared to be submerged during rains. While the heavy sleet might cause landslides in Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan and upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The meteorological office also issued a warning of a dust storm which might cause damage in the upper parts of the country. It also cautioned the local population residing near the river banks as the inflow of water in the rivers might be increased. It also issued a travel warning asking passengers and tourists to take care as transport and communication means will be affected during the heavy rainy spell ahead.

PSX gains 38 points to close at 47,873 points

ISLAMABAD: The KSE100 index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 38.93 points, with a positive change of 0.08 percent, closing at 47,873.26 points against 47,834.33 points on the last working day. A total of 320,978,957 shares were traded during the day compared to the trade of 348,576,046 shares the previous day whereas the price of shares stood at Rs11.897 billion against Rs14.590 billion the previous day. As many as 416 companies' transacted shares in the stock market, 226 of them recorded gain and 174 sustained losses whereas the share price of 16 companies remained unchanged. The three top traded companies were Byco Petroleum with a volume of 24,344,000 shares and price per share of Rs10.64, Dandot (R) with a volume of 23,196,500 and price per share of Rs 0.28 and Sui North Gas with volume of 18,526,302 and price per share of Rs 49.058. - APP

UBG lauds Pakistan Army efforts for boosting economy

SM Munir said that Pakistan's exports have started increasing and it would be a good sign for the development and prosperity of the country. He further said that he will use his all capabilities and efforts to solve the problems of the business Community



ISLAMABAD: SM Munir, Zubair Tufail, Zafar Bakhtawari, Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Abdul Rauf Alam, Ghazanfar Bilour, Kazakhstan ambassador Yerzhan Kistafin, Sohail Altaf, Amir Ata Bajwa, Noor Ahmed Khan, Sheikh Nadeem, Malik Sohail Hussain and Khalid Chaudhry, are cutting cake at UBG Dinner hosted by Zafar Bakhtawari Secretary General UBG in Islamabad. - DNA

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: SM Munir, Patron-in Chief United Business Group, has said that Pakistan's Army is playing a great role in protecting the geographical borders of the country. In addition, in the current economic conditions PM Imran Khan and General Qamar Javed Bajwa are striving hard to boost the economy of the country. He said that the improvement of the economic condition of Pakistan has

begun to emerge significantly and in the next few years Pakistan will emerge as a strong economic and political power of the region. He expressed these views yesterday at dinner in his honor hosted by Zafar Bakhtawari Secretary General UBG. Zubair Tufail, President, UBG in his address thanked SM Munir and the leadership of UBG for trusting him, Zafar Bakhtawari and Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig as the new office bearer of UBG. He hopes to fulfill the expectations

of UBG. He said that the Secretariat of United Business Group which is established in Islamabad would not be dedicated only for UBG members but also serve the business community across the country. It will play an effective role in resolving the problems with ministries, FBR and other department of the Government. He thanked the overseas Pakistani for sending 30 billion dollars in remittances last year and admired their contribution for Pakistan economy.

UBG Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari in his address said that Islamabad is important place for the country's economic, diplomatic and trade development and UBG's office in Islamabad will play a vital role in country's economic development and prosperity. Mian Akram Farid, Chairman, Founder Group (ICC) said in his address that the construction package given by the present government has resulted in economic growth of up to 4% and if extended for

another two years the economic growth could reach 6%. Former FPCCI President Ghazanfar Balour said in his address that during PM current visit to Uzbekistan, KP Chamber of Commerce has signed special agreement with the Uzbek government, which will help to boost trade and economic ties between the two countries. In his address, Gen (ret) Abdul Qayyum said that the industrial development is of utmost important for the elimination of

unemployment, increase in production and revenue for the development of the country. Finally the Group Leaders of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce Sohail Altaf, Group Leader of Sargodha Chamber of Commerce Amir Ata Bajwa, Group Leader of Vehari Chamber of Commerce Zahid Iqbal Chaudhry, Former Vice President of FPCCI Hanif Gohar and Former Vice President of ICCI Ahsan Bakhtawari and Malik Sohail Sohail also addressed at the occasion.

COMSATS University hosts Marcel Grossmann Meeting

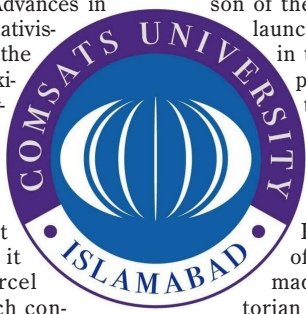
It is relevant to note that the First Grossmann Meeting was directed by Prof. Remo Ruffini at ICTP in 1975

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Every three years, the International Centre for Relativistic Astrophysics Network (ICRANet) holds the Marcel Grossmann Meetings on Advances in General Relativity and Relativistic Astrophysics. This year, the meeting was hosted in Pakistan by COMSATS University Islamabad. It is relevant to note that the First Grossmann Meeting was directed by Prof. Remo Ruffini at ICTP in 1975. In 2021, it was the Sixteenth Marcel Grossmann Meeting which continued for a week.

Due to COVID-19 this year it is being held online with 1,200 participants from all over the World, stretching from New Zealand and Australia to Europe, America, Japan and China. The inaugural day was started by the Director of ICRANet, Prof. Remo Ruffini, who discovered the first black hole in Pescara, Italy, with talks from speakers based in Russia, England, America, France, and a public lecture from Germany. The next

session had two public lectures and was hosted by the COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Islamabad, Pakistan titled Ulugh Beg's Universe. It was dedicated to the medieval Muslim Astronomer, Ulugh Beg of Samarkand, Uzbekistan, grandson of the conqueror, Timur Lane and launched a series of conferences in the field of Relativistic Astrophysics, to be held in the Central Asian region, including Turkey, Iran and Pakistan. The session consisted of two public lectures by Prof. Asghar Qadir, a Relativist from Pakistan, on the Development of Relativity, and Prof. Muhammad Bagheri, an Iranian historian of Astronomy who talked of Ulugh Beg's Scientific School in Samarkand. The convening of meeting is ongoing attempt for Pakistan to join ICRANet, with the ICRANet seat for Pakistan being hosted by CUI under the name "The Abdus Salam Centre for Relativistic Astrophysics", which will be used by Pakistani relativist community developed over the past 50 years, with the help of The Abdus Salam International Centre for Relativistic Astrophysics (AS-ICTP). Meeting ended with vote of thanks by the Chair.



MoHR received 56,572 complaints

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Human Rights has received around 56,572 calls, emails, Inbound, Outbound visits, applications and fax through helpline 1099 and through its application. The helpline was created for the purpose to deal with issues regarding child abuse and child abduction. According to an official of MOHR, the basic aim of the application was to initiate a quick response after receiving a complaint. He said that it has connected the DPOs to the system and the complaint directly reaches the concerned DPO. According to data, the total services provided included 2,537 and 349 complaints for legal advice and Instant Referrals to Relevant Department through Calls and 706 complaints have been received through letters while around 41 complaints had been received from visitors, applications, Fax and emails.

CDA all set to launch citizen feedback survey

CDA has initiated a citizen feedback survey which will become downloadable from its social media accounts and website

ISLAMABAD: In an effort to transform Islamabad and improve services delivery several initiatives have been launched in context of reform and citizen feedback, for next three months focus of CDA is on agenda of reform in service delivery. The management has already initiated several infrastructure projects. Meanwhile green campaign is in full swing. Now qualitative aspect of service delivery is in the focus. CDA has initiated a citizen feedback survey which will become downloadable from its social media accounts and website. This form will help make assessment of expectation and views of public. The management is also set to launch CDA helpline from August 2021 and towards end of August the most ambitious let's fix Islamabad snap and solve app. Will be launched. However, in phase one will be this citizen survey; that gets public opinion on aspects such as condition of roads, condition of parks, condition of sanitation services etc. CDA will also employ volunteers to physically check survey and become extension of CDA in public. Without citizen feedback proper planning and effective intervention is not possible said the CDA spokesperson. - DNA



ITP for special duties against one wheelers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The cops of Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) will perform special duties on Eid day to maintain traffic discipline in the city especially to check stunts of one-wheelers and for religious congregations and at public places. A special traffic plan has been chalked out by SSP (Traffic) Syed Kar Hussain following directions of IGP Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman. Traffic cops will perform their duties at religious congregations and public places to ensure smooth flow of traffic there. SSP (Traffic) has also constituted special teams to check one-wheeling and driving motorbikes without silencers by youngsters on the boulevards of the city. He said special vigilance would be maintained against vehicles having non-pattern number plates, tinted glasses as well non-registered vehicles so as to avoid any untoward incident. ITP would ensure action as per law against the violators. Syed Kar Hussain has congratulated the citizens on the occasion of Eid and appealed them to cooperate with Police by following traffic rules so that an exemplary traffic system could be maintained in the city.

COVID-19 claims 2 lives with 74 new infections

RAWALPINDI: As many as 74 more COVID-19 positive cases were reported during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 27,942 in the district while two lost their battle of life against the deadly virus. As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here Monday, the total infected cases included 25,787 from Rawalpindi and 2155 from other districts. The report said among the new cases, seventeen reported from Rawal town, sixteen from Potohar town, twenty-nine from Rawalpindi Cantt, three from Kahutta, three from Attock, two from AJK, and one from Chakwal, Kohat, Murree and Kalar Syeda. "Presently 111 confirmed patients were admitted to various city facilities, counting 30 in Holy Family Hospital, 18 in Benazir Bhutto Hospital, 38 in Institute of Urology, 23 in Fauji Foundation Hospital and 2 in Bilal hospital," the health authority report said. District Health Authority updated that so far 26,220 patients were discharged after recovery while 1728 were quarantined including 1123 at home and 605 in isolation centers. District Health Authority updated that so far 101,9370 people including 34,035 health workers and 985,335 senior citizens have jabbbed themselves against the lethal coronavirus (COVID-19) across the district since the vaccination administering drive launched on March 10. - APP

10 healthcare workers contract covid-19

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: As many as 16,842 healthcare workers have got infected while battling the COVID-19 pandemic in Pakistan. According to sources at the Ministry of National Health, 10 more health workers including seven doctors diagnosed coronavirus positive in last 24 hours. So far 10,074 doctors, 2,398 nurses and 4,370 other staff of hospitals have contracted the coronavirus, sources said. While battling the deadly outbreak of COVID-19 in the country 164 healthcare workers have lost their lives, the sources said. Overall 16,258 healthcare workers have recovered from the pandemic. Most of the medical workers infected by the virus and deceased belong to Sindh. As per the province-wise breakup, in Sindh, 5,931 health workers were infected by coronavirus while 57 died in the disease.

Sale of sacrificial animals in full swing

The authorities have also been directed to ensure effective monitoring for charging the prescribed entry fee for all kinds of sacrificial animals so that the people could buy the sacrificial animals of their choice without any hassle at municipal cattle markets

KHAYYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Sale of sacrificial animals is in full swing in 10 temporary markets of the district and several other points ahead of only two days to Eid ul Azha. The owners of the sacrificial animal have decorated their animals with colourful ornaments to attract the people. Mushtaq a vendor said, this time prices were higher than last year because of high rates of feed, vaccination and transportation. According to a market survey, vendors are leaving a narrow bargaining margin for the buyers. They are

acting as a cartel by keeping the prices of low weight goats at Rs 35,000 to Rs 45,000. For a pair of goats they demand Rs 65,000 to Rs 85,000. The animal sellers are charging higher prices for goats keeping in view the rising red meat prices in the current year. A seller said they inject medicine to protect their animals from malaria and fever since the disease kills more of their animals than the Congo virus. Meanwhile, the authorities concerned of district government and cantonments, have been directed to ensure that there would be no illegal sale/



purchase of sacrificial animals in other parts of the city and cantonment areas except the approved sites, which were auctioned for temporary municipal cattle markets. The authorities have also been directed to ensure effective monitoring for charging the prescribed entry fee for all kinds of sacrificial animals so that the people could buy the sacrificial animals of their choice without any hassle at the temporary municipal cattle markets.

The administration had set up 10 cattle markets in Rawalpindi district including three at Bhatta Chowk, Adiala Road and Chakri Road in Rawalpindi city areas. Municipal Corporation Rawalpindi (MCR) and Cantonment Board authorities had imposed a ban on the entry of sacrificial animals in the city and cantonment areas. Under the ban, the sale and purchase of the animals had been restricted on the occasion of Eid ul Azha. The decision was taken to maintain cleanliness and avoid waste pollution in the city, said a MCR spokesman. The adminis-

tration on the directives of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Aamir Aqil Khan, had set up 10 approved cattle markets for Eid-ul-Azha. In Rawalpindi, cattle markets of sacrificial animals were set up at Bhatta Chowk near Koh-e-Noor Mills Rawalpindi Cantt, Punjab Cooperative Housing Society Adiala Road and Chakri Road near AHaram City. Gujran Khan Cattle market was set up near Domeli Bridge while the sale point of sacrificial animals of Murree Tehsil is near Lower Bazar Murree. Kalar Syedan Mandi was set up at Mangle bypass, he added.

Briefs

AIOU gives fee concession to disabled

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is providing special admission fee concession to the disabled across Pakistan to facilitate them to get admission in any of the programs offered in autumn 2021 semester. All interested candidates are advised to contact their respective regional offices for further details.

According to the Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum, it is the primary responsibility of this prestigious national institution to play its key role towards the progress and development of our country and nation. Besides, AIOU is committed to provide quality educational services to the poor, underprivileged and marginalized segments of the society.

Moreover, AIOU has framed a comprehensive policy to provide financial assistance to the poor and deserving yet brilliant students. Therefore, they must contact their respective regional offices to avail this facility.

It is pertinent to mention here that AIOU is already providing free matriculation education to the regions with low rate of literacy including Baluchistan, former tribal areas and Gilgit Baltistan to enhance it.

Prof Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum has directed all regional directors and coordinators to create massive awareness about this policy so that maximum number of Pakistanis can avail this golden opportunity. Matriculation education for these poverty-stricken areas will be totally free of cost including admission fee and all other related expenses.

Natives leaving Capital city deserted for Eid

ISLAMABAD: With only a single day left in the religious festival of Eid-ul-Azha, majority of the natives have left for their hometown to celebrate the occasion with their loved ones leaving the capital city deserted, like every year.

Majority of the people residing in capital for job purposes belong to the far flung areas of the country and move to their native towns for celebrating this important festival with their relatives.

Due to the only three days Eid-ul-Azha officially announced holidays, the natives took the leave of Monday before the festival and Friday after the festival to combine these with the weekends and Eid holidays so that they can spend maximum time with their families.

"I left for my hometown in Bahawalpur during the weekend availing the leave for Monday and Friday too to spend quality time with my parents who were anxiously waiting for me to arrive", FarhatJabeen, a government employee said.

"It is difficult to travel to my hometown frequently so visiting there only for three days including traveling time does not seem logical, therefore, I have decided to spend the whole week with them", she said. - APP

SECP asks companies for vaccination of employees

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) asked to companies to ensure their employees and their families' vaccination.

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has advised over 146,000 companies registered with it, to ensure that their employees/workers, including their families, get vaccinated as soon as possible to support the national campaign to prevent COVID-19, said a press release issued by SECP here on Monday.

In this regard, SECP has issued a Circular to all public listed companies, public unlisted and private companies, associations, trade bodies, chambers, non-bank microfinance companies, modarabas, insurance companies, NBFIs, brokers, intermediaries.

President for enhanced bilateral ties with Iraq

The president urged the ambassador-designate to work towards facilitating the Pakistani diaspora and the pilgrims visiting Iraq

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday stressed the need for strengthening relations with Iraq in areas of trade, defence co-operation and culture.

Talking to the country's ambassador-designate to Iraq Ahmed Amjad Ali here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the president said immense potential existed in exploring bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Iraq in diverse fields.

Highlighting Pakistan's increased focus on promoting regional connectivity, the president said that Pakistan's policy had shifted from geopolitics to geoeconomics as the country was earnest efforts to



increase trade and economic relations with regional countries.

The president urged the ambassador-designate to work towards facilitating the Pakistani diaspora and the pilgrims visiting Iraq.

He emphasized on enhancing the air and sea links between the two countries to promote their people-to-people relations.

He also asked the envoy-designate to work on promoting high-level exchanges between the two countries.

The president congratulated the envoy on his appointment as Pakistan's ambassador to Iraq and expressed the hope that he would play his role to further promote bilateral ties between the two countries.

WASA to remain on high alert during Eid holidays

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Rawalpindi would remain on high alert during Eidul Azha holidays. According to WASA Managing Director Raja Shoukat Mehmood, the agency had finalised a comprehensive plan to deal with any emergency situation during Eidul Azha holidays.

He said the leaves of the operational staff on the special directives of Vice Chairman WASA, Haroon Kamal Hashmi, had been cancelled.

He said all the staff would be on duty during Eid holidays to facilitate the citizens and to meet with any

kind of emergency. "The directors and deputy directors of the departments concerned would monitor the performance of the staff," he added.

The staff would also keep an eye on NullahLeh during Eidul Azha and make all out efforts to ensure that sewerage system was not choked and work effectively to eliminate the chances of overflowing into streets, he added.

Shaukat Mehmood said that the city had been divided in four zones where complaint cells had also been set up to provide water to the residents without any hurdle.

He said staff would be present in the cells round the clock in two shifts.

MD said that the civic body and its staff were committed to provide facilities to the consumers and said that water bowsters would be used for addressing water shortage complaints during the Eid holidays.

He said all the activities of staff would be monitored by him and the deputy managing director, adding that WASA would continue uninterrupted supply of water from all the tube-wells to the consumers during Eid holidays.

He said he would conduct surprise visits to all the offices of the civic body and strict action would be taken against the staff found absent or involved in any kind of negligence.

Meanwhile, a WASA spokesman said that all the complaint offices of WASA including LiaquatBagh (051-5555489), Shamasabad (051-48451430), Commercial Market (051-5387065), Khayaban-e-Sir Syed (051-4834733) and Gulzare-Quaid (051-5955962) would remain operational during Eid holidays.

Likewise, all the staffers of water sections of WASA would be on duty to facilitate the consumers while authorities concerned had also finalised arrangements for overhauling of machinery, training of staff, cleaning of sewerage lines and setting up of flood response units, he said.

River Jhelum likely to become furious: FFC

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said medium flood is expected in rivers Indus and Kabul including their tributaries/nullahs while medium to high flood in tributaries (local nullahs) of River Ravi during the next 24 to 48 hours.

However, very high to exceptionally high flood is expected in River Jhelum (upstream Mangla) and its tributaries (local nullahs), besides, high to very high flood in river Chenab and its tributaries (local nullahs) during this time span. According to daily FFC report on Monday, at present all main rivers i.e Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej are flowing with normal discharges and there is no riverine flood situation in the country.

Combined live storage of Tarbela, Chashma and Mangla reservoir has risen to 4.436 MAF (i.e. 32.82% of the existing combined live storage capacity of 13.516 MAF).

Well-marked seasonal low from the Arabian Sea presently prevails over North-eastern Balochistan with its trough extending northwards resulting into penetration of strong moist currents into upper parts of the country up to 7000 feet. Further trough (lowest point) of strong Westerly Wave yesterday over North-eastern parts of Afghanistan is presently existing over Northern parts of Pakistan.

Fairly widespread thunderstorm/rain with heavy falls at scattered places, very heavy falls at isolated places and extremely heavy falls at one or two places of Punjab (Rawalpindi, Sargodha, Gujranwala and Lahore Divisions) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including upper catchments of rivers Indus, Kabul, Jhelum and Chenab have been predicted by FFC, Lahore for the ensuing 24 hours.

Scattered thunderstorm/ rain of Moderate Intensity with isolated Heavy Falls may also occur over Faisalabad, Sahiwal, Multan, Bahawalpur and Dera Ghazi Khan Divisions of Punjab Province and upper catchments of rivers Ravi and Sutlej during the same period.

Fairly widespread thunderstorm/rain with heavy falls at scattered places, while very heavy falls at isolated places and extremely heavy falls at one or two places are expected over Northern and North-eastern Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and upper catchments of rivers Indus, Kabul, Jhelum and Chenab during next 24-48 hours. Scattered thunderstorm/ rain may also occur over the upper catchments of Rivers Ravi, Sutlej and Beas during the same period.

CTP to take action against transporters for overcharging

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi is taking strict action against the transporters, overcharging the passengers said City Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Rai Mazhar Iqbal. He said the Traffic Wardens had been directed to take action in accordance with the law against the transporters fleecing the passengers.

He warned the transporters against overcharging public transport fares from people going to hometowns to celebrate Eid ul Azha with their families. The Traffic Officers had been

directed to check overcharging and overloading of passengers in buses and vans especially before Eid ul Azha, he said. The checking was being carried out randomly at different places in seven tehsils of the district. Strict action was being taken on the spot and excess fares were being returned to the passengers, he added. He said, the transporters had been directed to display the fare charts at prominent places at the bus and van stands.

He said that special squads had been deployed to conduct raids to check

overcharging and overloading to facilitate the commuters moving to their native towns to celebrate the festive occasion with their families. The CTO informed that the DSPs, sector in-charges and wardens had been directed to perform their role effectively to check violation of the rules in public transport. A special cell had also been established to receive public complaints and people could lodge their complaints against overcharging by transporters through helpline 1915 and 051-9272839, he added. - DNA

SAPM on Health calls on Chairman Senate

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Dr. Faisal Sultan, called on Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, at the Parliament House here on Monday.

They discussed health sector in Balochistan, especially the situation of Corona pandemic, said a news release.

Dr. Faisal Sultan briefed Chairman Senate on the deteriorating situation of the Corona virus in the region, saying "All agencies should work together to ensure implementation of SOPs", said Chairman Senate.

Testing facilities in remote areas should be further improved, he added. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic Erik Beishembiev presenting a merit certificate to Shahid Qureshi (Raju) for his outstanding work in the field of photojournalism. - DNA

Speakers highlight Indian atrocities in Kashmir

There were two basic conditions that were to be fulfilled to qualify for ascension. These were geographical continuity and religious majority, both of which were fulfilled in the case of Kashmir when they decided to join Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Institute of Conflict resolution (IICR) organized an online conference titled "Kashmir: A Saga of Suffering". The conference was aimed at highlighting the overall significance of the historic day of Accession of Kashmir to Pakistan and how the Pakistani government can play a bigger role. The eminent speakers in this conference were the President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Masood Khan, Kashmir expert Dr. Waleed Rasool, Director LFOVK, Mr. Syed Nasir Qadri, Parliamentary Member Kashmir Committee and MNA Ms. Naureen Farooq Ibrahim, Professor Dr. Hamit and finally the Executive Director IICR, Ms. Sabah Aslam. The session was moderated by Ms. Namira Shahid. The President of Azad Jammu and

Kashmir, Sardar Masood Khan, started by talking about the significance of 19th July and the conspiracies revolving around it. The biggest of this was the under the table dealings of the Indian and British leadership about the fate of Kashmir even though at the forefront, the decision was given to the people. He also talked about the choice that was given to all princely states about giving their preference of the state that they wanted to join. There were two basic conditions that were to be fulfilled to qualify for ascension. These were geographical continuity and religious majority, both of which were fulfilled in the case of Kashmir when they decided to join Pakistan.

Narrating the event, he added that against this backdrop, all the forces and political parties gathered at Sardar Mohammad Ibrahim Khan and decided unanimously that the entire population of Kashmir

would become part of Pakistan. This was historically significant since this constituted the will of the people of Kashmir. Adding more he said that within the Kashmir political landscape, there were two parts led by Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and Ghulam Abbas. Out of these, initially, both supported the Muslims. But over time the latter inclined himself with Delhi. However, a combined front was given to the government in India that the people of Kashmir wanted to join Pakistan. This is even more significant since this was a referendum and decision even before Pakistan was given independence.

Moving on talking about the topic in specific, he narrated how the Indian military moved into Kashmir in October and established forceful control over the land which is enforce till today. For the past 74 years, the Indian government has

imparted every sort of tyranny upon the people of Kashmir, such as genocide and ethnic cleansing, said President AJK Sardar Masood. The next speaker on the panel was Dr. Waleed Rasool. Talking about the document that was agreed upon by the leadership of Kashmir that decided to join with Pakistan. He stated that Kashmir is senior to Pakistan since it decided 25 days prior to Pakistani independence that it will ascend as its province. He stated that the events of 13th July, where 22 Kashmiri were killed by the Indian forces, was a key factor of the decisions that were taken by the Kashmiri leadership on 19th July regarding the ascension. The decision was made by the elected representatives hence was the choice of the people. It was only the Hindu Maharaja that was opposed to this decision.

Building upon his context of leadership, he warned that we

should be careful of the type of leadership that is given power. There are two types of leaders that are present in Indian Occupied Kashmir—Pakistan leaning and Indian leaning. IOK has no natural geographical connection with India and artificial channels created to access it by the Indian government. Even at the time of partition, there was a presence of a strong geographical connection with Pakistani infrastructure.

Moreover, he explained that from a trade perspective, it makes sense that Kashmir joins with Pakistan since it is landlocked. And being surrounded by three countries, Kashmir has no geographical connection with China, is being killed by the Indians, leaving the only logical connection to join Pakistan. Moreover, he believed a solution to the Kashmir dispute was already present and need only be implemented.

NIH wins award on epidemiology

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Health (NIH), Pakistan has been conferred with the 'Directors Award' for their contribution in the field of epidemiology and public health emergency response. According to NIH, the award was given to Pakistan during the Field Epidemiology Training Program, Epidemic Intelligence Service (FETP/EIS) International Conference of 2021 at Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) USA. The Directors Award for Excellence was considered as the highest achievement award for those countries that have significant contributions toward successful responses to public health emergencies.

The award was also to recognize excellence in epidemiological research and contributions that address public health issues by applying epidemiological principles and methods. He said that it is a matter of immense pride that among 82 FETPs across the globe, Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP), NIH has been recognized as the best program.

Prof. Aamer Ikram, Executive Director, NIH, and Director FELTP Pakistan, appreciated the FELTP team members for their tremendous performance, especially during the COVID-19 situation. This award stamped the relentless effort and contribution made by the program for outbreak investigation and response, he added. Since the emergence of COVID-19 FELTP trained epidemiologists have done remarkable work across the country.

IRSA releases 278,600 cusecs water

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 278,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 397,300 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1464.58 feet, which was 80.58 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 221,000 and 135,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1168.30 feet, which was 130.30 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 42,900 and 10,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 182,800, 163,800 and 37,400 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 46,800 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 52,600 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala.

Sacrificial animals bring delight for children

ISLAMABAD: As the religious festival of Eid-ul-Azha is knocking the doors, the children seems to be more excited to spend good time with their sacrificial animals through feeding, painting and decorating them.

Majority of the children can be seen in the streets of capital city while roaming around with their decorated sacrificial animals. Although, majority of the people prefer to purchase their sacrificial animals at the last moments before the festival and only few buy their animals a week before to get an opportunity to spend maximum time with them. Children who got their animals have decorated and painted them beautifully while others are anxiously waiting for the arrival of their animals to do the same. "I have been asking my parents to take us to the market and buy our sacrificial animal at least two days before the festival so that we can spend more time with them", Ali Murtaza, a 9-year child said.

"I am happy that the weather has turned pleasant and now I can take my animals for grazing around streets with the sacrificial animal and take some memorable pictures", he said. Asima Anwar, a young girl said, "We all the friends have planned to upload selfies with our decorated and painted sacrificial animals on social media to double the joy of this festival". - APP

AJK elections

FOLLOWING a week full of election campaigning, the first phase of the AJK elections commenced on Sunday with major political parties vying for the lion's share in AJK's future power arrangement that will emerge after the July 25 elections. An excess of 3.2 million will elect a 53-member assembly for a duration of five years – out of the 53 seats, 45 are general, while eight are reserved for women, technocrats and religious scholars. Even though several political parties are partaking in the elections, reports suggest that the real contest will play out between the PTI and the PML-N. Going by historical precedent, polls in AJK tend to favour the ruling party at the centre, however, this time around opposition parties are hopeful that the recent setbacks faced by the PTI in by-elections will work to their advantage. At the same time, some political sources claim that differences between opposition and internal fissures within the PML-N could ultimately push the PTI across the line.

The margin of victory is not expected to be very large, and chances are high that the independents will have a key role to play as they did during the elections in GB. Independents will become even more influential in the final outcome if no party is able to secure a simple majority to form a government. Some constituencies are being keenly observed where key leaders are trying their luck. The incumbent PM Raja Farooq Haider (PML-N) is eyeing two seats from Muzaffarabad where he is being challenged by candidates of the PTI, PPP, MC, JI and others.

Statements from the AJK Election Commission have been encouraging as they appear confident that the code of conduct will be observed, and that security arrangements are in place to ensure that no disturbances arise on polling day. While heated political exchanges are routine in such instances, senior party leaders must be wary of engaging in hyperbolic rhetoric and overly politicising the elections. Unlike HIOJK, a smooth and civil process must be ensured to further put in contrast how different the on-ground situation is.

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Climate issues

THE floods in Europe, which have killed at least 126 people, most of them in Germany, have already demonstrated – if we still needed proof – that climate change is already here and will stay with us for the future unless we take urgent action. The flooding has also affected other countries including Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg. In Germany, entire villages have been submerged, leading Chancellor Angela Merkel to say that she will fight for urgent action to bring an end to the problem, with global temperatures having risen by 1.5 degrees since the dawn of the industrial age. Industrial production and the release of greenhouse gases are the primary contributors to the changing climate we all face, creating disruptions in agricultural cycles, and in many other natural occurrences. The crisis in Europe is just one manifestation of this. The key question is: what to do? This is something that world leaders need to think about. At the global level, we need rapid afforestation of as many places as possible in each country, in the hope that we can prevent further damage from ozone layer depletion and pollution.

At the same time, experts suggest that people too must be encouraged to act within their homes and in their communities to try and manage the damage that is occurring and prevent our planet from falling apart. Within homes, people can recycle garbage to prevent waste from being turned into dangerous fumes, as is still the case in Pakistan and many third world countries, as well as many homes in the West. In addition, clothes should be washed in cold water to avoid the use of energy when it is not essential, and experts suggest that simply buying locally at the right time of the year and using the vegetables, fruits and other products available at that time could push down transportation costs and the fuel used for this purpose by a considerable degree. The world is, after all, a collective place where there must be collective thinking and individual action to prevent the kind of havoc we are seeing everywhere on the globe, so that there is some possibility that climate change can be curtailed before it destroys us all.

Uzbekistan begins third renaissance

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan



Pakistan supports the building of a corridor connecting Central and South Asia, helping countries in the region transform from “land-locked” to “land-connected” nations

AFTER the successful international conference titled “Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity, Challenges and Opportunities” the Republic of Uzbekistan has now started its “third renaissance”. Moreover, Uzbekistan's regional “connect policy” is also inching towards greater socio-economic dividends. The Republic of Uzbekistan under the visionary leadership of H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev has already started its journey of immense socio-economic prosperity, economic sustainability, political stability, regional connectivity, reconciliation, innovation, qualitative education, human capital and last but not least, “commercial diplomacy” towards its third renaissance.

Uzbekistan's third renaissance “comprises” of greater regional connectivity, commercial diplomacy, trans-regional mega projects, continuation of structural reforms, diversification of macro-economy, “pragmatic & friendly foreign policy module” and last but not least, “holistic model of connectivity based on “shared prosperity. Its third renaissance has now been getting “momentum” and new “heights” since the start of presidency of Shavkat Mirziyoyev 2017. Its 1st & 2nd renaissance was the total “sum” of superior human knowledge, wisdom, science & arts, spirits of survival, prosperity, infrastructural development, strategic expansion, statesmanship, good governance, logistic connectivity, trade & commerce, sharing & caring and last but not

least, friendship, peace and harmony and this international conference would gear-up Uzbekistan's third renaissance.

During Pak-Uzbek Business Forum, the Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Abdulla Aripov mentioned the strong ties between Pakistan and Uzbekistan in multiple areas of cooperation. He welcomed PM Imran Khan on his official visit to Uzbekistan, which he said would usher in a new area of cooperation and joint ventures between the two brotherly countries. While speaking to media Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said Pakistan and Uzbekistan had vast potential to explore the opportunities of bilateral trade and investment for their mutual interest.

He shared that the Pak-Uzbek Business Forum was attended by around 130 representatives of leading companies and business houses from Pakistan. During this forum various agreements worth of \$500 million were signed which hopefully would further strengthening the pace and scope of bilateral trade. Information Minister Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said two important objectives of the prime minister's visit were to ensure travel facilities among Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan and to deliberate upon ways to ensure peace in Afghanistan. He said Pakistan desired an effective trade linkage up to Uzbekistan and other Central Asian states. He emphasized that an effective transportation infrastructure should be developed as soon as possible for loading goods loaded from Pakistan's Karachi and Gwadar seaports to reach Uzbekistan's Tashkent.

During the Pak-Uzbek Business Forum, both sides vowed to expand multifaceted bilateral cooperation to all areas of mutual interest and stressed the need for resolution of the Afghanistan conflict through internal political process imperative for peace and progress of the whole region.

Prime Minister Imran Khan while addressing the business forum, expressed the hope that Pakistan's connectivity (through rail, road and aviation) with Uzbekistan in trade and bilateral spheres would open up new avenues of prosperity in the region. He assured the businessmen and traders of Uzbekistan that Pakistan would extend them every possible facility in promotion of trade. He said the railway project between Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan would prove to be a revolution of development, adding that peace and security in the neighbourhood was essential to exploit the region's potential.

A joint declaration was issued at the conclusion of the business forum. Prime Minister Khan and Uzbek President Mirziyoyev agreed to strengthen their multifaceted ties in political, trade and economic, energy, communication, science and technology, education and cultural spheres, and fighting Covid-19. Both leaders announced the establishment of a strategic partnership for mutual benefit of the two countries. They agreed on the regular exchange of parliamentary delegations to deepen bilateral ties. The Uzbek side confirmed the invitation to Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani to pay a visit to Uzbekistan.

Both leaders expressed readiness to maintain a regular dialogue and build constructive cooperation in the field of security and defence and to expand cooperation between law enforcement agencies of the two countries, particularly in the fight against terrorism and drug trafficking. The two leaders welcomed the signing of the agreement on transit

trade as an important tool for expanding bilateral trade. They reiterated their support for the Termez-Mazari-Sharif-Kabul-Peshawar railway project as an important initiative to create a rail link from Central Asia to the Arabian Sea through Afghanistan and Pakistani seaports of Karachi, Gwadar and Bin Qasim. The two leaders also recognised immense potential of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor for the benefit of the entire Central Asian region and beyond entailing greater connectivity and trade linkages through a network of transport, fibre optic cable, energy pipelines, and investment opportunities in its SEZs.

The two leaders welcomed resumption of direct regular flights between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

Pakistan and Uzbekistan agreed to finalise bilateral Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) within three months to further boost bilateral trade volume. At the 6th meeting of the Uzbek-Pakistani Inter-governmental Commission on Trade-Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation (IGC) held in Tashkent, both sides agreed to form joint working groups on agriculture, information technology, education and mineral sectors to boost cooperation, said a news release issued here. They both agreed that trans-Afghan corridor which connected Uzbekistan and Pakistan would play an important role in enhancing bilateral trade between the two countries. The parties agreed to deepen partnership in the field of industrial cooperation, including by organising joint ventures in the field of textile industry, assembly of agricultural machinery, processing and packaging of fruit and vegetable products.

It was settled to deepen cooperation in energy and mineral sector, agriculture, transportation and communication, labor, education, tourism, science and technology, technology parks, housing and communal services, intercity collaborations, standards, meteorology, culture and youth affairs.

They recognised the importance of closer collaboration for post-Covid recovery to sustainably recover through technology, innovation and economic partnership, aiming at increased economic diversification, sustainable growth, building supply chain resilience, and robust regulatory environments. It was also agreed to develop banking links to create favourable conditions for the further development of bilateral trade. Meanwhile, two countries agreed to organise Uzbek-Pakistani specialised exhibitions (Made in Uzbekistan/Made in Pakistan) in Tashkent and Islamabad to promote a wide range of export goods and to facilitate attraction of leading companies in pharmaceuticals, textile, and leather, production of construction materials and agriculture industries and transport and logistics services of both countries.

Moreover, the total volume of investments over the past 4 years has increased by more than 2.1 times, including foreign investments by 2.7 times. The share of investment of GDP in 2019 exceeded 38 percent for the first time, which created a solid foundation for ensuring economic growth in the coming years. The GDP of Uzbekistan in 2019 increased by 5.6 percent. Despite the complex and complicated economic conditions and ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the World Bank has predicted the country's GDP growth in 2021 by 4.8 percent, which is one of the best indicators among developing countries. Furthermore, Uzbekistan's

foreign trade turnover is growing much faster than GDP and in 2019 increased by 26.2 percent, amounting to \$42.2 billion. While in just 9 months of 2020, despite the pandemic, the country's foreign trade reached \$27.5 billion.

Being prominent regional expert of Uzbekistan & CIS I submit that all the regional should promote “openness” and “inclusiveness” and uphold the spirit of partnership. All countries should start their journeys from “structural” reforms to structured “engagements”. All sides should support concept of greater connectivity which helps them to go forward together. Geopolitical games should be discouraged and spirits of disintegration should also be discarded. The principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits should be institutionalized to create a bright future of integrated development with all countries.

Central Asia and South Asia should pursue both hardware and software development in promoting infrastructure connectivity. In this case, Pakistan is ready to work with all regional countries to align their infrastructure development strategies, push forward “hard connectivity” and “soft connectivity” in parallel, and strive to build an all-dimensional, multi-faceted and sustainable connectivity network with the extended CPEC contributions through seaports of Gwadar.

Pakistan supports the building of a corridor connecting Central and South Asia, helping countries in the region transform from “land-locked” to “land-connected” nations, and jointly building a major international transport route connecting Europe with Asia and linking the north with the south in which BRI and CPEC would play very important role. Regional countries should adhere to the principle of mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, and increase financing services because zero-sum game has no substance. Pakistan calls on the World Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the Silk Road Fund to invest in connectivity projects, broaden diverse financing channels, and widely attract investment from private and social sectors, so that these projects will receive stable, transparent and high-quality financial support.

Regional countries should stick to the principle of common security and overcome obstacles in the cooperation. Main stakeholders should honor their commitments, fulfill their obligations, and strive to prevent the deterioration of the security situation in Afghanistan.

The conference was hosted by Uzbekistan. Leaders of countries including Afghanistan and Pakistan, foreign ministers of countries including China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, India, Bangladesh, the Maldives, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, the United Nations Secretary-General, and the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy attended the conference in person or via video link.

Uzbekistan's President H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev has rightly upheld that Uzbekistan is on the “threshold” of a new era the “Third Renaissance” and international conference titled “Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity, Challenges and Opportunities” has now opened new window of opportunity for achieving dreams of greater regional connectivity, immense socio-economic integration and energy & food cooperation.

Wajeeha Bilal



The energy sector is important for development in solving Pakistan's problems, but corrupt contribution, weak governance, and poor budgetary control of the sector are major obstacles. Unlike India or China, Pakistan is a small contributor to the greenhouse effect

OVER the years, the tools of warfare may have changed but the trade remains the same. Swords, guns, gauntlets, and grenades have increasingly been replaced by economics. The tip of the economic spear has lately been oil and the influence over its pricing. The drastic rise and fall of global prices because of fast paced changes in supply and demand often result in a shift in the balance of power among the cartels. Whether it is the natural series of events or man created that lead to the sky-rocketing prices, the political oil controllers depend on the public market and consumers who can do much to change the outcome but are not able to do much in this case. To counter the blow of energy politics, a robust and inclusive energy policy consistent with the needs of today is required at a global scale.

The strategic importance of power and fossil fuels makes energy the leading factor in geopolitics and international diplomacy. Although there have been significant developments in countering that component with alternative and renewable energy supplies, the influence of oil has still managed to withstand the test of time. Albeit focusing on alternative and renewable energy helps countries move past the geopolitical component of the fossil fuel industry, the technology's reach has still not met its grasp and the overwhelming majority of global energy systems are still linked or dependent on fossil fuels. South Asia is one such example of a market caught in the crosshairs. Despite a move towards energy transition, the demand still outpaces the pace of alternative fuels. Currently, with its rapidly growing energy sector, the region is poised to play an expanding role as a global energy market and constitute a component of geopolitics where Pakistan, a significant developing country grapples with daily challenges in meeting the rising energy demands and climate change issues.

The energy sector is a pivotal realm at present, where the United States, China, and the OPEC+ are the dominating power players. The United States' long-standing failure to bring peace in Afghanistan and its hasty withdrawal will leave Pakistan's neighborhood vulnerable to external vectors. China in the meantime is expanding its control and has made Pakistan center of its OBOR and CPEC initiatives,

with main contribution in infrastructure projects. China, India & Pakistan constitute a fast developing region that is availing energy resources to provide for the growing energy and financial demands with much room for diplomatic cooperation and regional development.

Presently, the demand of energy in Pakistan is greater than supply and the energy weave is based on expensive fuels. To resolve its energy problems, Pakistan is in dire need of implementation of various supply and demand side plans, through an allied energy policy and a proper operative system. Pakistan should be able to make use of low-cost domestic energy resources with major usage of renewable energy. As a large developing country, Pakistan is facing many problems, especially related to overcoming poverty and improving the health, education, and employment opportunities for low-income groups. Pakistan has pursued high-cost, short-term fixes while obtaining billions in infrastructure loans, mostly from China, for coal and nuclear plants that could cause financial adversity in the energy sector. The country's energy problems are profound and deep rooted that have more to do with the inefficient government and its failure than with the supply of resources.

The energy sector is important for development in solving Pakistan's problems, but corrupt contribution, weak governance, and poor budgetary control of the sector are major obstacles. Unlike India or China, Pakistan is a small contributor to the greenhouse effect, but it could escalate in the future owing to the poor investment and its choice of fuel. Rising energy demands from increasing urbanization, incomes, and population have placed pressure on domestic resources and eventually Pakistan has increased its reliance on fossil fuel imports, though according to the US Geological Survey, it has petroleum resources of 164 million barrels of oil and 24.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres, in his closing remarks at the UN Climate Conference in 2019, called for countries to stop building coal plants after 2020. It might be overly ambitious for developing countries like Pakistan, but it would be more appropriate and helpful for its future to focus future projects on renewable energy by improving its policies for the energy sector. Pakistan is

currently focusing on energy projects under its new renewable energy policy to enhance the exploration of domestic energy resources and engage foreign investment to uplift its economy. It is focusing on promoting oil and gas exploration opportunities aiming to attract investment from Saudi Arabia, the UAE and other Gulf countries, to provide viable energy supply, lower its energy imports and boost its economy. In a meeting with the UAE Ambassador Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Energy Minister Omar Ayub Khan analyzed the development on the current petroleum projects and discussed ways to promote the Pak-UAE cooperation in the energy sector. “The collaboration in the energy sector would provide a fresh impetus to economic ties between the two brotherly countries” the UAE envoy said.

Pakistan's Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin has also stated in a press conference, that an understanding had been reached with Saudi Arabia for revival of its oil facility on deferred payments. He informed that Pakistan has also availed the defer oil payment facility from Saudi Arabia and Petroleum Levy would increase in next fiscal year. However, the government is expecting that oil prices in international market would decline after lifting the ban on Iran. The government will have the chance to consume the levy by retaining the impact of decline in international oil price. Pakistan's future could shape and elevate from successful investment by international financial institutions, in solar and wind projects along with its large hydro development projects, at the same time funding and enhancing its projects and future policies. It is crucial to improve the conditions and function of its present policies keeping with the dramatic climate change and global warming. However, the biggest hindrance towards the implementation of any measure comes from incompetent leadership. A long draft of hopeful policies can have no effect unless there is a clean ambition to implement them with honesty by the leaders, who desire to serve the interests of their country. Fundamental reforms and policies can always follow an efficient governance.

– Wajeeha is the author of “The Conscious Ego”, “The Beautiful Present”

Briefs

India behind hybrid warfare against Pak

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According to Yusuf, some of these accounts were operated from inside Pakistan, while the rest were controlled from Afghanistan, India and the West. As an example, the NSA showed a tweet by a verified Indian Twitter account that contained a false picture of the Afghan envoy's daughter showing her in an injured state. He said the "spoilers" were trying to create rifts between Pakistan and Afghanistan, adding that this narrative reflected that Pakistan was being made a "scapegoat" in Afghanistan. "Blaming us for the failures of someone else in Afghanistan will not be acceptable to us," he stressed. He said the government monitored the coordinated activity being carried out through bots and reported the same, but new accounts kept emerging. Pakistan assured the Government of Afghanistan that the probe into the Afghan ambassador's daughter's incident will be transparent and nothing will be concealed. The statement was made by Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi during a press conference. FM Qureshi said that he spoke to his Afghan counterpart this morning and discussed the steps that the Government of Pakistan has so far taken to investigate the matter.

India spied on Pakistani PM using...

FROM PAGE 01

such as the Hindustan Times, The Hindu and the Indian Express, as well as two founding editors of The Wire, it said. Reacting to the revelations, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry said he was "extremely concerned" by the reports. "Unethical policies of Modi government have dangerously polarised India and the region," he tweeted. Federal Human Rights Minister Shireen Mazari also addressed the development and said "part two" of the report on how the Indian government had spied on its own ministers was expected today. The Indian government denied in 2019 that it had used the malware to spy on its citizens after WhatsApp filed a lawsuit in the United States against NSO, the Israeli company producing the spyware, accusing it of using the messaging platform to conduct cyber espionage. Israel's NSO Group and its Pegasus malware have been in the headlines since at least 2016, when researchers accused it of helping spy on a dissident in the United Arab Emirates. Sunday's revelations raise privacy and rights concerns, and reveal the far-reaching extent to which the private Israeli company's software may be being misused by its clients internationally. The leak was of a list of more than 50,000 smartphone numbers believed to have been identified as people of interest by clients of NSO since 2016, the media outlets said.

Imran, Zalmay discuss...

FROM PAGE 01

He said that the escalation of conflict and instability in Afghanistan was not in Pakistan's interest as it would lead to serious challenges for Pakistan in areas of security and influx of refugees adding that durable peace in Afghanistan would open avenues for regional economic connectivity. The Prime Minister recalled that he has consistently emphasized that there is no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan. He added that imposition of a government by force will not lead to the resolution of the conflict and that only a negotiated settlement will bring lasting peace and stability to Afghanistan. Reaffirming Pakistan's consistent support to a peaceful, stable and united Afghanistan, the Prime Minister underlined that a secure and safe Western border was in Pakistan's own best interest and Pakistan would like to remain closely engaged with the U.S. and other relevant countries for peace efforts. He emphasized the need for all Afghan sides to show flexibility and engage meaningfully with each other.



NORTH NICOSIA: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan arrived in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) to pay an official visit on the occasion of the 47th anniversary of Cyprus Peace Operation. President Erdogan was welcomed with an official ceremony by President Ersin Tatar of the TRNC at Ercan Airport. – DNA

Taliban should end Afghanistan 'occupation'

Taliban's approach is not how Muslims should deal with one another, Turkish President Erdogan says, adding, Ankara is planning talks with the group on running Kabul airport after US troops withdraw

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said that the Afghan Taliban should "end the occupation of their brothers' soil". Speaking to reporters in Istanbul ahead of a visit to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), Erdogan said the Taliban's approach was not the way one Muslim should deal with another. "In our view, the Taliban's approach right now is not how a Muslim behaves to another Muslim," he said, urging the insurgent group to stop its occupation. "The Taliban need to end the occupation of their brothers' soil and show the world that peace is prevailing in Afghanistan right away," he said. Ankara, which has offered to run and guard the Kabul airport

after NATO withdraws, has been in talks with the United States on financial, political and logistical support for the deployment. Erdogan also said that Turkey was planning talks with the Taliban over the group's refusal to let Ankara run Kabul airport after US troops withdraw from Afghanistan. "God willing, we will see what kind of talks we will have with the Taliban and see where these talks take us," he said. Erdogan and US President Joe Biden discussed the issue in their first face-to-face meeting on the margins of a NATO summit in June. Turkey maintains hundreds of troops in Afghanistan, but a Turkish official has said that they were "not combat forces". Last week, the Taliban called Turkey's offer "reprehensible". "We consider the stay of foreign forces in our homeland by any country

under whatever pretext as occupation," the group said.

On TRNC Erdogan also touched upon the issue of Cyprus. He reiterated his call to all parties who desire a just, lasting and sustainable future in Cyprus to seize the historic opportunity. Turkish Cypriots have been fighting for equality and justice on the island for more than half a century, Erdogan told the news conference. The Turkish Cypriot side has once again shown to the world who is in favour of solution and who is profiting from the deadlock, Erdogan said. He said that any new negotiation process on Cyprus can only be held between two equal and sovereign states. The Turkish president has embarked on a two-day official visit to TRNC. During his visit, Erdogan will address a special session

of the Turkish Cypriot Parliament and attend celebrations of July 20 Peace and Freedom Day, marking the 47th anniversary of Turkey's 1974 Peace Operation, which protected the island's Turkish Cypriot community from Greek Cypriot violence. He will also meet with Turkish Cypriot President Ersin Tatar to exchange views on the latest developments in the Eastern Mediterranean and bilateral relations. Erdogan will also attend a mass inauguration ceremony of some completed projects. Every year the TRNC celebrates July 20 as its Peace and Freedom Day to mark the peace operation. Cyprus has been mired in a decades-long dispute between Greek and Turkish Cypriots, despite a series of diplomatic efforts by the UN to achieve a

comprehensive settlement. In the early 1960s, ethnic attacks forced Turkish Cypriots to withdraw into enclaves for their safety. In 1974, a Greek Cypriot coup aiming for the island to be annexed by Greece led to Turkey's military intervention as a guarantor power to protect Turkish Cypriots from persecution and violence. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) was founded in 1983. The island has seen an on-and-off peace process in recent years, including a failed 2017 initiative in Switzerland under the auspices of guarantor countries Turkey, Greece, and the UK. The Greek Cypriot administration entered the European Union in 2004, the same year that Greek Cypriots thwarted the UN's Annan plan to end the decades-long dispute.



TOKYO: Table tennis players (bottom) of China's Hong Kong attend a training session ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. – DNA

Khalil, Mahnoor to hold national flag at Tokyo Olympics

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Shooter Mohammad Khalil Akhtar and badminton player Mahoor Shahzad will hold the national flag at the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics. Both players will take part in the march past hold-

ing green crescent flags. POA President Lt. Gen (retd) Arif Hassan approved names of Khalil and Mahoor. It must be noted that 10 athletes from Pakistan will participate in the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo. The list of Pakistani participants in the Olympics includes Arshad Nadeem (Javelin Throw), Arshad Parveen (200m sprint), Mahoor Shahzad (Badminton), Shah Hussain Shah (Judo - 100kg category), Ghulam Mustafa Bashir, Mohammad Khalil Akhtar, Gulfan Joseph (Shooting), Bisma Khan, Syed Muhammad Haseeb Tariq (Swimming) and Talha Talib (Weightlifting - 67kg category).

All COVID curbs lifted in England

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: The British government has lifted all pandemic restrictions in England - including rules on mask wearing and social distancing - despite scientists' warnings that the move will further drive an already surging pandemic and risk creating new variants. The curbs were lifted at midnight (23:00 GMT) on Sunday as laws mandating face masks and working from home were scrapped. The lifting of the rules means nightclubs were also able to reopen for the first time since the UK first went into lockdown in March last year. Other indoor venues such as theatres and cinemas will also be able to operate at full capacity. Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who is in isolation after health minister Sajid Javid tested positive for COVID-19, urged people to remain cautious. His government is hoping that the UK's rollout of coronavirus vaccines will help protect the country even as infections surge to levels last seen in January. "If we don't do it now we've got to ask ourselves, when will we ever do it?" Johnson said in a video message filmed on Sunday. "This is the right moment but we've got to do it cautiously. We've got to remember that this virus is sadly still out there." If the vaccines continue to prove effective in reducing severe illness and deaths even with infections at record levels, Johnson's decision could inform other highly vaccinated countries' approaches about lifting coronavirus restrictions. But the strategy comes with risks - most notably that a variant capable of resisting vaccines could emerge, or that the caseload could overwhelm the health system and bring the country to a halt. Leading international scientists on Friday described what some have called England's "Freedom Day" as a threat to the whole world, and 1,200 scientists gave their backing to a letter to the prominent British medical journal, The Lancet, criticising the Conservative government's decision. "I can't think of any realistic good scenario to come out of this strategy, I'm afraid," Julian Tang, a clinical virologist at the University of Leicester, told the Associated Press news agency. "I think it's really a degree of how bad it's going to be."

AGENCIES

LONDON: The UK and EU have accused China of carrying out a major cyber-attack earlier this year. The attack targeted Microsoft Exchange servers, affecting over a quarter of a million servers around the world. The EU was the first to put out a statement saying the attack came from "the territory of China", while the UK said Chinese state-backed actors were responsible. The US is expected to follow suit. The countries have also said the Chinese Ministry of State Security was responsible for other espionage activity. The US and UK have frequently

called out cyber-campaigns from nation-states, but to be joined by the EU in calling out Beijing signals the gravity with which this case has been taken. Western intelligence officials say the behaviour by China was markedly more serious than anything they have seen before. In the UK, the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) issued tailored advice to over 70 affected organisations to deal with the attack. The hackers exploited a vulnerability which allowed web shells to be placed on systems which could act as back doors, allowing further exploitation. This was then exploited by other hacking groups, leaving systems vulnerable to criminals

and ransomware attacks as well as espionage. "The cyber-attack on Microsoft Exchange Servers by Chinese state-backed groups was a reckless but familiar pattern of behaviour," Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said. "The Chinese government must end this systematic cyber-sabotage and can expect to be held to account if it does not." The UK Foreign Office said the attack was highly likely to enable large-scale espionage, including acquiring personally identifiable information and intellectual property. It said the Chinese government had "ignored repeated calls to end its reckless campaign, instead allowing its state-backed actors to

increase the scale of their attacks and act recklessly when caught". Microsoft announced details of the hack back in March and said a group called Hafnium, linked to China, was responsible. China denied those accusations. The EU statement came in a declaration by the high representative for foreign affairs and security policy. "The compromise and exploitation of the Microsoft Exchange servers undermined the security and integrity of thousands of computers and networks worldwide, including in the [EU] member states and EU institutions. It allowed access to a significant number of hackers that have continued to exploit the compromise to date. "This irresponsible and harmful

behaviour resulted in security risks and significant economic loss for our government institutions and private companies, and has shown significant spill-over and systemic effects for our security, economy and society at large." The EU statement also said it had seen other Chinese behaviour that caused concern. "We have also detected malicious cyber activities with significant effects that targeted government institutions and political organisations in the EU and member states, as well as key European industries." It, like the UK, linked these activities to two groups also based in China (known as APT 40 and APT 31) which are accused of espionage and intellectual property theft.

Pak-China need to stay strong: COAS

FROM PAGE 01

"Both agreed on the need for continuous engagement and coordination for peace and stability in the region," the military's media wing added. On July 14, a bus carrying workers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Upper Kohistan plunged into a ravine "after a mechanical failure resulting in leakage of gas that caused a blast", a statement from the Foreign Office said. According to the statement, Chinese workers and accompanying Pakistani staff "were proceeding to their workplace for an ongoing project". The accident resulted in the death of 12 people, including nine Chinese nationals. Following the development, Spokesperson Ministry of Foreign Affairs Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri had said work on the Dasu hydropower project would resume soon as both Pakistan and China remain committed to the timely completion of the project as well as others being undertaken with Chinese cooperation.

Turkey, Azerbaijan express...

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Mevlut Cavusoglu also extended condolences over the loss of lives in a road accident in Pakistan. "Learned with deep sorrow that many Pakistani brothers and sisters passed away in a bus accident in Punjab (northeastern province of Pakistan)," Cavusoglu wrote on Twitter. "I wish Allah's mercy to those who lost their lives, a speedy recovery to the injured and condolences to the brotherly people of Pakistan"; he said.

Pak urges Afghanistan to review...

FROM PAGE 01

The foreign minister apprised his Afghan counterpart that the security of the Afghan embassy and consulate in Pakistan has been beefed up and hoped that the Afghan government will reconsider its decision of calling back its ambassador and other senior diplomatic staff from Pakistan. During the telephonic conversation, the Afghan foreign minister thanked Prime Minister Imran Khan for his personal interest in the investigation into the incident.

MMA fighter dies in road accident

DNA

TASHKENT: A well-known Uzbek fighter of mixed martial arts (MMA), vice-president of the MMA Association of Uzbekistan Murad Hanturaev died in an accident. This was reported by the press service of the Department of Internal Affairs of the Tashkent region. The accident happened on 19 July in Bostanlyk district of Tashkent region. The athlete lost control of his personal BMW X5, which flew off the track at high speed. As a result of the accident, Hanturaev died on the spot. He was 34 years old. As noted by the employees of the Central Internal Affairs Directorate of the capital region, the driver of the BMW X5 signaled the Lacetti, who was driving in front, to make way for him.

Anderson wins hall of fame open title

WEB DESK

NEW YORK: Kevin Anderson captured his seventh career ATP title on Sunday, defeating 20-year-old American Jensen Brooksby 7-6 (10/8), 6-4 to win the Hall of Fame Open. The 35-year-old South African won his first crown on grass at the Newport, Rhode Island, event and his first on any surface since 2019 at Pune, India. World number 113 Anderson, a wildcard entrant after losing to eventual winner Novak Djokovic in the second round at Wimbledon, is expected to jump to 74th in the rankings with the title.

Briefs

Zuma
corruption
trial resumes

AGENCIES

JOHANNESBURG: The long-running corruption trial of South Africa's former President Jacob Zuma, whose imprisonment on a separate charge sparked days of deadly unrests and looting across the country, has resumed. Zuma appeared virtually in the Pietermaritzburg High Court on Monday, where he faces 16 charges of fraud, corruption and racketeering related to the 1999 purchase of fighter jets, patrol boats and military gear from five European arms firms when he was deputy president. The 79-year-old is accused of taking bribes from one of the firms, French defence giant Thales, which has been charged with corruption and money laundering. The trial began in May but has faced several postponements and delays as Zuma's legal team sought to have charges dropped. On Monday, the former president's legal team petitioned for the trial to again be delayed, arguing a defendant has a right to appear in court in person. Zuma had previously physically appeared in court during the opening of the trial to proclaim his innocence. On June 29, the former president was found guilty of contempt of South Africa's top court for disobeying a Constitutional Court order to testify before a judicial panel conducting a separate probe of corruption during his presidency. His imprisonment a week later sparked widespread violent protests, looting and arson in his home province of KwaZulu-Natal as well as Gauteng province that has left commercial areas ransacked and at least 200 people dead.

China
launches
new sensing
satellites

FOREIGN DESK

XICHANG: China successfully launched a new remote-sensing satellite group from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province at 8:19 a.m. Monday (Beijing Time). The satellites were sent into orbit by a Long March-2C carrier rocket. This is the 10th group belonging to the Yaogan-30 family, and will survey the electromagnetic environment and verify relevant technologies by adopting multi-satellite network mode. Also aboard was Tianqi-15, a satellite belonging to the Tianqi constellation, which will serve the Internet of Things data collection. The Long March-2C carrier rocket, developed by the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, measures 43 meters in length and has a takeoff mass of 242 tonnes. The rocket is capable of sending two tonnes of payloads to the solar synchronous orbit at an altitude of 500 km. Monday's launch was the 380th mission of the Long March rocket series that also marked the conclusion of the launch of the Yaogan-30 family. The Long March-2C has sent all 10 groups of Yaogan-30 satellites into orbit with high accuracy since September 2017, with a 100 percent launch success rate.

France may
reintroduce
curfew as
cases spike

AGENCIES

PARIS: French authorities do not rule out the reimposition of some restrictions in separate regions, including a curfew, due to the worsening epidemiological situation as coronavirus cases are surging. Clément Beaune, Minister of State for European Affairs, said on BFM TV channel. Report informs citing TASS that Beaune said country's President Emmanuel Macron noted during his televised address on July 12 that the prefects of the French regions will have the right to introduce quarantine restrictions. "Measures must comply with the severity of the situation," Clément Beaune said.

Azerbaijan holds first 'Week of Diplomacy' on foreign policy

The meetings were held with Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Elnur Mammadov, Ambassador of Pakistan to Azerbaijan Bilal Hayee and Consul General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles NasimiAghayev on the fourth day of the project

DNA

BAKU: The first week of the "Week of Diplomacy" project entitled "44-day second Karabakh War and the post-war foreign policy of Azerbaijan", organized by the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry and ADA University, was held on July 12-17, Trend reports. The event, which was held with the participation of representatives of volunteer organizations and movements operating in Azerbaijan, is scheduled to continue next week. The meetings are planned to be held with high-level guests to inform the participants within two weeks about Azerbaijan's foreign policy during the Karabakh War, as well as the historic victory of the glorious Azerbaijani troops headed by the victorious supreme commander. Vice-rector of ADA University FarizSmailzade made a welcoming speech at the official opening ceremony, which took place on July 12 as part of the first day of the project. During the opening ceremony, Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of the Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration HikmatHajiyev delivered a speech as the main guest. A lecture by Azerbaijani Deputy Foreign Minister KhalafKhalafov and a speech by the Turkish ambassador to Azerbaijan, Cahit

Bagci were heard on the second day of the project - July 13.

Moreover, a visit was organized to the Military History Museum under the Azerbaijani Ministry of Defense. During the visit, the participants of the diplomatic week reviewed the exhibits of different periods of the history of the Azerbaijani troops, listened to the speeches of officials of the Ministry of Defense and participants in the Karabakh War and also watched a short film created by the Ministry of Defense dedicated to the historical victory in the Karabakh War.

The participants met with the Azerbaijani Minister of Culture AnarKarimov on the third day of the project - July 14. An online meeting with the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to UNESCO Elman Abdullayev was held on this day.

The meetings were held with Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan ElnurMammadov, Ambassador of Pakistan to Azerbaijan Bilal Hayee and Consul General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles NasimiAghayev on the fourth day of the project - July 15.

The speeches made by the executive director of the Baku Media Center OrmanAliyev and scriptwriter and editor of the Baku Media Center Muslim Hasanov were heard on the fifth day of the project - July 16. Then the guests watched the "Ebediezami-



yyet" film, which was prepared by the Baku Media Center through the support of the HeydarAliyev Foundation and produced by ArzuAliyeva. A meeting was

held with Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of the Department of Economic Issues and Innovative Development Policy ShahmarMovsumov and

Azerbaijani ambassador to Croatia FakhreddinGurbanov on the sixth day of the project - July 17. During the meetings held during the week, the guests of the

"Week of Diplomacy" answered numerous questions of the volunteers. The project participants had a picnic on the weekend in the Park of ADA University.

Uzbekistan starts
FAO's activities in
Europe and C. Asia

FOREIGN DESK

TASHKENT: FAO hosted a virtual meeting to address pertinent food and agriculture issues of Europe and Central Asia, against a background of the new FAO Strategic Framework, and the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. The 39 FAO Member Nations were joined by the European Union, civil society, farmers' organizations, and the private sector. The main aim of this consultation was to facilitate an exchange on the region's priorities for the period 2022-2025 in preparation for the European Regional Conference next year. It featured country case studies on key priorities and technical topics such as digitalization, "One Health", and nature-based solutions. Uzbekistan was represented by NuriddinKushnazarov, Deputy Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the FAO, IFAD and WFP. Speaking at the event, he noted that in support with the FAO, the EU and other international financing institutions Uzbekistan implements Agriculture Development Strategy for the period of 2020-2030.

FURSAT: development of
youth entrepreneurship

NEWS DESK

TASHKENT: The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade held a press conference with representatives of domestic media, media workers and bloggers. During the event, the meeting participants discussed the format of further multilateral cooperation and noted the importance of further increasing the openness of the department to the public and the media. The leadership of the department noted the important role of the media as a link between

the state, business and the population, and also voiced their readiness for mutually beneficial and effective interaction with the media in order to establish a direct dialogue with domestic entrepreneurs and exporters and increase the efficiency of the support provided to them. Also within the framework of the event, the state media project FURSAT was presented. The presentation was attended by the First Deputy Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade A. Voitov, Director of the Agency for Youth Affairs A. Sadullaev, as well as pro-

ject coordinators from the MIVT. During his speech, A. Voitov noted that the main goal of the project is to support young boys and girls in the implementation of their own business ideas. The main goal is to create youth industrial and entrepreneurial zones (IPPZ), to attract young people to launch their own business projects. MPPZ are designed to become a platform for the development of youth entrepreneurship - on their territory there is the necessary infrastructure and conditions have been created for launching projects. The project is intended for

people from 18 to 30 years old who have an idea for their own business, but lack the experience and start-up capital to start it. In addition, the new project "FURSAT" will provide practical assistance to young entrepreneurs in conducting marketing research, searching for sales markets, preparing business plans, the necessary documents for obtaining licenses and permits, loans. The initiative is also designed to improve the efficiency of using the economic potential of the regions and stimulate the introduction of innovations in various industries.

Bangladesh
lifts COVID
lockdown
for Eid

FOREIGN DESK

DHAKA: Waiting among hundreds of fellow travellers to catch a ferry out of Bangladesh's capital, unemployed construction worker Mohammed Nijam knew he was risking catching the coronavirus but he felt it was even riskier to stay in Dhaka with another lockdown looming. "I have to pay rent every month even though I have no work," he said, adding that his landlord had been bothering him for money even as he was struggling just to feed himself. "I would rather go to my village home and lead life as God lets me."

Nijam is among the tens of millions of Bangladeshis shopping and travelling this week during a controversial eight-day pause in the country's strict coronavirus lockdown that the government is allowing for the Islamic festival of Eid al-Adha.

The suspension has been panned by health experts who warn it could exacerbate an ongoing surge driven by the highly contagious Delta variant, which was first detected in neighbouring India. "Already there is a scarcity of beds, ICUs, while our health-care providers are exhausted," said Be-Nazir Ahmed, a public health expert and former chief of the government's Health Directorate. "So if the situation worsens and more patients come to hospitals, it will be near-impossible to deal with the crisis."

Tokyo court
jails US
citizens

WEB DESK

TOKYO: A court in Tokyo on Monday sentenced two US citizens to prison for helping former Nissan chairman Carlos Ghosn escape Japan where he faced criminal charges of financial misconduct. Michael Taylor, a US military veteran, was sentenced to two years in prison, while his son, Peter, was given a term of one year and eight months. Both had pleaded guilty to smuggling Ghosn out of the country hidden in a box.

"This case enabled Ghosn, a defendant of serious crime, to escape overseas," Hideo Nirei, the chief judge, said while explaining the judgement. "One year and a half has passed, but there is no prospect of the trial being held." The two men apologised for their actions last month and said they regretted what they had done. Ghosn, once one of the most prominent men in the global car industry, was facing charges of understating his compensation and enriching himself at his employers' expense when he was smuggled out of the country at the end of 2019.



BAKU: Pakistan ambassador to Azerbaijan Bilal Hayee hosted Pakistani students at the Pakistan embassy to discuss issues related to studies. - DNA

Azerbaijan
supports increase
in oil production

NEWS DESK

BAKU: Azerbaijan has supported the decision to increase daily crude oil output by 400,000 barrels per month in August-December 2021, and to extend the Declaration of Cooperation until the end of 2022, with partial adjustments to the base level of oil production from May next year, at the 19th Ministerial Meeting of OPEC and non-OPEC countries. The new Declaration of Cooperation envisages increasing of daily crude oil production volume in Azerbaijan every month from August to the end of the year and reducing the obligations related to cuts accordingly. Moreover, from May 2022 to the end of the year, the calculation of Azerbaijan's oil production obligations will be continued on the basis of the existing base. In other words, the 718,000-barrel daily crude oil production in October 2018 in Azerbaijan will remain at the base level for determining the output level next year. Participating at the meeting, Azerbaijan's Energy Minister ParvizShahbazov expressed Azerbaijan's support for OPEC + new decision to contribute to the process of balancing the global oil market. It should be noted that the new agreement provides for a reduction of the existing 5.8 million barrels cuts in OPEC + countries by 2 million barrels by the end of 2021. Additionally, it was decided to hold the next Ministerial Meeting of OPEC and non-OPEC countries on September 1, 2021.

Ready4Trade C. Asia recaps progress in Uzbekistan

The Ready4Trade project supports a vigorous integration of Uzbekistan into international multilateral trade to expand its economic potential for open, transparent and equal trade with neighbouring countries and economies beyond

DNA

TASHKENT: The Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan, the European Union and the International Trade Centre are joining forces to promote sustainable and inclusive economic development in Uzbekistan. The Ready4Trade project supports a vigorous integration of Uzbekistan into international multilateral trade to expand its economic potential for open, transparent and equal trade with neighbouring countries and economies beyond. The project intends to lift unnecessary trade barriers to intra-regional and international trade, develop the e-commerce sector, alleviate the negative impact and economic turmoil caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on Uzbekistan, and support inclusive business opportunities for all.

During a high-level online event on 8 July 2021, stakeholders reviewed initial achievements and planned the next steps of the Ready4Trade project. Keynote speakers included H.E. Mr. BakhtiyorRakhimov, Deputy Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan, H.E. Ms. Charlotte Adriaen, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Uzbekistan and Mr. Ashish Shah, Director of the Division of Country Programmes of the International Trade Centre. H.E. Ms. Charlotte Adriaen, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Uzbekistan stated that "the future of the Central Asian region and Uzbekistan will greatly improve with the economic integration of the region and the intensification of trade, which respects values, norms and standards promoted by the European Union. This regional project is a

first step in the right direction." Director of the Division of Country Programmes, ITC Mr. Ashish Shah said, "The project has managed to attain significant achievements, despite all the limitations caused by the pandemic. Ready4Trade is supporting Uzbekistan in establishing a National Trade Facilitation Portal and helping the Government to address procedural and regulatory obstacles to trade through the development of a training curriculum on cross-border management and by providing on-the-job coaching to small businesses. Ready4Trade also works towards women's economic empowerment in collaboration with the State Customs Committee and State Statistics Committee, as well as the Business Women Association of Uzbekistan. The project also supports Uzbekistan in developing its e-commerce strategy based

on a multi-stakeholder participatory process and carrying out an in-depth assessment of the national e-commerce ecosystem." Uzbek representatives satisfactorily noted that the Ready4Trade project was coming along well within the framework of the ongoing larger reforms aimed at improving trade procedures in Uzbekistan. The participants of the high-level meeting discussed:

- Results achieved in Uzbekistan during the first year of project implementation
- Future activities to ensure that the project moves forward in the right direction which is best fitted to the context of Uzbekistan

The Ready4Trade project is working closely with multiple key government stakeholders, business associations, and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Uzbekistan in two focus areas: trade facilitation and

e-commerce. The project organizes capacity-building activities in the form of e-labs, workshops, trainings and coaching sessions to equip the various organizations with the necessary knowledge to overcome digitization challenges. Trade-facilitation measures should have numerous positive effects on the Uzbek economy by boosting the speed and efficiency of cross-border trade procedures while reducing costs. Ready4Trade supports policymakers in enacting measures to enhance the transparency of cross-border regulatory requirements, remove regulatory and procedural barriers to trade and simplify existing procedures for cross-border trade. These measures will also strengthen the capacity of businesses to comply with trade formalities and standards, as well as enhance women's skills to engage in international trade.

Briefs

Met dept. forecast a rainy Eid day

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As per the weather report, a rainy spell is expected to hit the country during Eid days. The spell will start on Sunday night and continue till Thursday. The low-lying areas in Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Lahore, Kasur, Faisalabad, Peshawar and Nowshera are feared to be submerged during rains. While the heavy sleet might cause landslides in Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan and upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The meteorological office also issued a warning of a dust storm which might cause damage in the upper parts of the country. It also cautioned the local population residing near the river banks as the inflow of water in the rivers might be increased. It also issued a travel warning asking passengers and tourists to take care as transport and communication means will be affected during the heavy rainy spell ahead.

There is thunderstorm/dust storm and rain forecast in Kashmir, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum, Gujrat, Mandi Bahaudin, Sialkot, Narawal, Gujranwala, Hafizabad, Lahore, Sheikhupura, Kasur, Okara, Faisalabad, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Sargodha, Mianwali, Khushab, Dir, Swat, Buner, Kohistan, Shangla, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Mardan, Swabi, Charsadda, Nowshera, Peshawar, Waziristan, Kurram, Bannu, Kohat, Lukky Marwat, Tank, Karak, Dera Ismail Khan and Gilgit-Baltistan (Ghazar, Astawar, Diamir, Skardu, Gilgit, Hunza Nagar, Ganchi and Khurming).

Covid-19 situation in Karachi alarming

SHAHEEN HANIF

KARACHI: Adviser to the Sindh Chief Minister Murtaza Wahab on Monday warned that the Covid-19 situation in Karachi had become very "dangerous, alarming and concerning" ahead of the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha holiday. Addressing a press conference in Karachi, the adviser noted that the city's positivity rate had increased to 23.12 per cent in the last 24 hours when it was 8.5-9pc 10 days ago. He said Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs) weren't followed by people after the Sindh government relaxed restrictions which led to the positivity increase. "Now Eid-ul-Azha is coming [...] and it's a very dangerous, alarming and concerning situation [in Karachi]," he added. He called upon the public to follow SOPs for "your own benefit" and get vaccinated. "The government doesn't want that there is strictness and we impose restrictions again because when we do then sometimes the PTI says something and sometimes the MQM does [but] no one thinks about doctors, health workers and hospitals," he said Wahab said that people were falling ill in large numbers, turning towards hospitals and getting hospitalised, adding that "the situation is again developing to a dangerous extent."

Moonis Elahi takes oath as federal minister

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chaudhry Moonis Elahi took oath as a federal minister on Monday, days after news emerged that the PML-Q leader would be given a position in the federal cabinet. President Arif Alvi administered the oath to Elahi at the President House in Islamabad. Elahi, according to sources, had been named as the next minister for water resources. Sources had told media the decision was made in the backdrop of a promise by the PTI-led government to their allies, which include the PML-Q, that they will be given charge of a federal ministry.

Japan to implement seven new TCPs in Pak

The Ambassador hoped that these projects would contribute towards the bright future of Pakistan and further strengthening of Japan-Pakistan relations

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan has decided to implement 7 new Japanese technical cooperation programs in Pakistan to cater the social needs and assist capacity building for growing industries at the federal and provincial level. Including these 7 programs, the Japanese Government will implement a total of 25 technical cooperation programs in Pakistan in fiscal year 2021.

The new Japanese technical cooperation programs, starting in fiscal year 2021, include the projects and dispatch of experts for improvement in health, education, agriculture, gender and information technology sectors and would be implemented by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) over the period of around three years. The programs cover areas such as (1) strengthening care for mothers, newborn and child health in KP, (2) dispatching Education Pol-



Adviser to Sindh, (3) strengthening of community engagement and educational practices for better retention in Sindh, (4) providing technical support for livestock genetic improvement in Sindh, (5) coaching



trout farming technology in KP, (6) promoting survivor-centered approach in gender-based violence in Punjab and (7) dispatching Technical Advisor for ICT industry development in Pakistan.

For the effective implementation of these programs, JICA, besides dispatching of Japanese experts for capacity building of counterpart organizations, would conduct online trainings to share Japanese expertise and experience under the restrictions on overseas travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic. MATSUDA Kuninori, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, citing his optimism on the new Japanese technical cooperation programs, stated that these programs with their successful implementation would greatly benefit the Government and the people of Pakistan at the federal and provincial level. "Capacity building in health, education, agriculture, gender and ICT sectors are some of the priority areas for Japanese assistance in Pakistan", said the Ambassador. The Ambassador hoped that these projects would contribute towards the bright future of Pakistan and further strengthening of Japan-Pakistan relations.

Jaishankar's statement on FATF exposes India: Pakistan

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office (FO) on Monday slammed Indian minister's statement, admitting that it played role in keeping Pakistan on the grey list of Financial Action Task Force (FATF). "Indian statement not only exposes its true colors but also vindicates Pakistan's longstanding stance on India's negative role in FATF," said FO Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri after Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar admitted that Pakistan is on the FATF grey list because of the "ef-

forts of Narendra Modi's government." The spokesperson reminded that Islamabad has always been highlighting India's role to the international community in the politicisation of the FATF and undermining its processes. It added that the recent statement by the Indian foreign minister was "just a further corroboration of its continued efforts to use an important technical forum for its narrow political designs against Pakistan". "While Pakistan has been sincerely and constructively engaged with FATF during the implementation of the action plan, India has left no stone unturned

in casting doubts on Pakistan's progress through disgraceful means," said the FO spokesperson. The statement said that Islamabad has been "exposing India's duplicitous role to the international community in the past" and vowed that it will also bring the "recent confession by India" to the FATF's notice. "Pakistan is also considering approaching FATF president for an appropriate action in this matter. Following the recent confession by Indian Government, India's credentials for assessing Pakistan in FATF as co-chair of the Joint Group or for that matter any other country are subject to ques-

tions, which we urge FATF to look into," said Chaudhri. The FO spokesperson reiterated that Pakistan's progress in AML/CFT domain has been "demonstrated through concrete, tangible and verifiable actions" which was also "openly acknowledged" by FATF. "We are resolved to sustain this momentum and trajectory with the support and cooperation of our international partners. India's delusions of putting pressure on Pakistan have always remained unfulfilled and would never see the light of day," said Chaudhri. He also reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the AML/CFT systems.

'Decision to bring puppet PM has been made'

KAHUTA: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz has said that she has come to warn Kashmiris that it has been decided to bring a puppet Prime Minister by rigging the elections. Addressing a rally in Forward Kahuta in connection with election campaign in Azad Kashmir, Maryam Nawaz lashed out at Prime Minister Imran Khan, calling him a fake lawyer of Kashmir, criticising that due to his successful foreign policy China has stopped working on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). She told Kashmiris that Nawaz Sharif will fight their case and will not hand over Kashmir to Modi like referring to the nuclear tests conducted by Pakistan government during the former prime minister she said that Nawaz Sharif conducted 6 to 5 blasts of the enemy. Maryam Nawaz said that Nawaz Sharif, who was fighting the case of Burhan Wani, was called a traitor. She said those who show more patriotism in Pakistan are called bigger traitors. Maryam Nawaz said that despite the fact that former prime minister and PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif was sitting in London, still he had such an influence that his party was winning by-elections one after another throughout the country. She said Nawaz sacrificed even his government for people's rule in the country. She asked people not to sit at their homes on July 25, but to come out of their homes in large numbers and head straight to polling stations to vote for the PML-N candidates. - DNA



Kazakh envoy stresses need for student exchange programs



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan

to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Yezhan Kistafin visited National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad, where he met with Rector Mr. Muhammad Jaffar.

The Rector spoke about the cooperation of the University with the Kazakh side and the established good relations with the Embassy. Nonetheless, the sides stressed the existing significant potential for the development and strengthening of partnership between NUML and Kazakh universities, including in terms of student exchange, as well as interaction of teaching staff. During the meeting, the discussion was over possible projects for cooperation between the University and the Embassy of Kazakhstan on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and Pakistan.

Pakistan welcomes Intra-Afghan talks in Doha

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan welcomes the ongoing engagement between the two Afghan sides in Doha. The joint statement issued at the conclusion of the two-day talks in Doha, is a positive development. A statement from foreign office read "Pakistan believes that there is no military solution to the Afghan conflict and that a negotiated political settlement through Afghan-owned and Afghan-led Process is the only way forward". It further added that Pakistan hopes that the Afghan sides would continue their engagement in future in a meaningful manner. This will help in reduction of violence, weaken the hands of spoilers and pave the way for establishment of lasting peace in Afghanistan. - DNA

People urged to follow Prophet's (PBUH) teachings

DNA

ARAFAT: Sheikh Bandar Bin Abdulaziz Balila in the Hajj sermon urged people to follow Prophet's (PBUH) teachings regarding pandemics, saying that the Prophet (PBUH) had asked people to not go to an area where there's a plague. "The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said that people should not go out of the area where the plague has spread and people from other areas should not go there," said Sheikh Bandar as the pilgrims performed Hajj under coronavirus restric-

tions. In the sermon, Sheikh Bandar urged Muslims to establish equality, eliminate enmity and hatred amongst each other. He also asked everyone to forgive one another for the sake of Allah. The imam of the Grand Mosque said that Hajj is the fifth pillar of Islam and urged those who can take the holy sojourn to complete it. Thousands of face-masked pilgrims performing Islam's annual hajj pilgrimage gathered on Mount Arafat on Monday to atone for their sins, expressing hopes for peace and an end to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2m more doses of Sinopharm to reach Pakistan

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Two million more doses of China's Sinopharm vaccine are set to reach Pakistan. They said two consignments of the vaccine will arrive in Islamabad abroad Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flights. One consignment will be flown in today while the other tomorrow. The Government of Pakistan purchased the two million doses of China's Sinopharm vaccine from China, the sources said. Over 11.2 million doses of various vaccines have reached Pakistan in July, they said, adding a total of 15 million doses are to arrive in the country this month. It is worth mentioning that two million Sinopharm vaccines doses have been flown in this month. In addition, 5.5 million doses of Sinovac have also been brought to the country. On July 17, Pakistan received 1.24 million more doses of AstraZeneca vaccine under the Covax programme. Pakistan had received the first batch of the British vaccine on May 8, the sources in the National Health Ministry said, adding the country had thus far been provided three consignments of Covid vaccines under the Covax programme.

Saudis wanting to travel need two Covid jabs

RIYADH: Any Saudi citizen wishing to travel abroad will be required to have had two doses of coronavirus vaccine from next month, tightening existing measures, the interior ministry said on Monday. "The second dose of the vaccine against Covid will be a condition of all overseas travel for all citizens from August 9, 2021," the ministry wrote in a statement published by the official SPA news agency. Children under 12, those with approved health insurance, patients recovered from coronavirus within the last six months and former Covid patients having received one dose of vaccine will be exempt. Officials said in May that vaccines would be mandatory from August to access public and private spaces, including public transport. At that time only a single dose was required for travel abroad. In addition, only vaccinated employees will be able to return to their places of work, whether in the public or private sector. - APP

Rainwater pour down from ceilings at airport

ISLAMABAD: The rainwater poured down from the ceilings above several counters, including immigration, and caused computers and other equipment to malfunction. Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) staff stood by helplessly as parts of the ceiling came crashing down due to the weight of water. However, officials said that airport operations were not suspended and work continued as usual. They added that repair work was underway and would be completed soon. The officials expressed the hope that such incidents would not happen again. This is not the first time that the gleaming Islamabad airport has been damaged by rain. A major portion of the false ceiling at the airport's international departure and concourse hall collapsed during a downpour in August 2020. - APP

Iraq market blast kills at least 10

DNA

BAGHDAD: At least 10 people were killed and several others wounded Monday in a bomb blast in a busy market in the Iraqi capital Baghdad, a security official told AFP. "A terror attack using a locally-made IED (improvised explosive device) in Woheilat Market in Sadr City, in east Baghdad, left several victims dead and others injured," Iraq's interior ministry said in a statement.

'Bulgaria wants to enhance ties with Pakistan'

Parliamentary diplomacy is substantial means of bringing nations closer together. Peace and stability are crucial for the development and prosperity of the region: Sanjrani underscored

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: There are opportunities for cooperation in the economic and trade sectors. Bulgarian investors can benefit from Pakistan's investor-friendly policies, says Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani in his meeting with Bulgarian Envoy, Irena Gancheva, who called on him at Parliament House. During the call-on, matters of mutual interest, bilateral relations, and regional situations were discussed in detail. Views were also exchanged on regional and international issues. "Pakistan and Bulgaria have traditionally enjoyed friendly and cooperative relations. Our Country adores and values its friendly relations with the Republic of Bulgaria", Sadiq Sanjrani maintained. Sanjrani underlined that both countries share the commonality of views on regional and international issues. Paki-

stan and Bulgaria are partners in counter-terrorism, he further added. The Chairman also comprehended Bulgaria's supportive role for Pakistan's greater access to European Union (EU) market. "The two countries need to further cement

ties at the parliamentary level. Exchanges of high-level delegations between the two countries will further bolster friendly relations", Sanjrani stressed. During the meeting, the Chairman of the Upper House also called for boost-

ing the untapped areas for enhancing the cooperation between the two friendly countries, i.e. Agriculture, Information Technology (IT) and economics. While hailing the economic potential of Gwadar, the Chairman underscored that Bulgarian investors should also benefit from investments in Gwadar. Furthermore, trade cooperation needs to be further enhanced, he said. "Parliamentary diplomacy is substantial means of bringing nations closer together. Peace and stability are crucial for the development and prosperity of the region. Pakistan will continue to support and remain the partner of peace efforts in the region", he underlined. The Bulgarian Ambassador stressed the importance of bilateral cooperation with Pakistan. Pakistan is an important country for Bulgaria. She added, Bulgaria wants to strengthen its relations with Pakistan; further, H.E Irena Gancheva maintained.

