



Islamabad POST

Friday, July 30, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

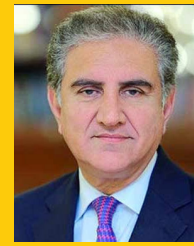
Price Rs. 20

Azerbaijan strongly supports Pakistan on Kashmir issue

Detailed News On Page-01

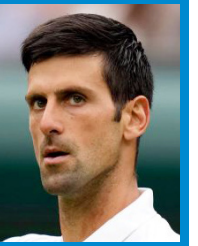
Qureshi meets top Bahraini leadership

Detailed News On Page-08



Olympics: Novak Djokovic into the Semi-Finals

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Fawad lauds PM's Afghan narrative

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry on Thursday said discourse by Prime Minister Imran Khan on Afghanistan, was a treat as he did change the narrative on Afghanistan single-handedly. In a tweet, he said PM's talk with Afghan media delegation, did elaborate the multiple aspects of Afghanistan policy. Fawad said that previous governments were always sheepish on this issue since they lacked the initiative to formulate a clear policy.

Bilawal tells PPP to be ready for elections

DNA

KARACHI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Thursday said general elections in the country "can take place at any time" and asked his party members to be prepared for such a situation. The PPP chairman, addressing an event in Karachi, said the Sindh government had competed against MQM-P and the federal government in recent years. "Only PPP can save Karachi," Bilawal said, adding that the party aims to resolve Karachi's issues, including water shortages and garbage disposal.

PP-38 by-election is a 'selection'

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) vice president Maryam Nawaz on Thursday termed PP-38 Sialkot by-election as 'selection'. In a post on social-networking website Twitter, the PML-N leader said that the reality will be exposed in next General Elections. The government which is getting bad wishes from the people will never receive support from them, she added. Maryam Nawaz further said PML-N has high hopes and that vote will get its respect.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan reviewing LDA apartments at balloting ceremony. – DNA

Aug 31 deadline for vaccination

This is not a punishment but acknowledgement to make you realize that you play an important role for this society and economy

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Thursday set August 31 as deadline for anti-COVID vaccination, following which only vaccinated staff and people would be allowed to enter both public, private sector offices, businesses and high risk sectors. "This is being done for you. This is not a punishment but acknowledgement to

Continued on Page 06

Sindh govt mulls complete lockdown

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Sindh government is mulling a complete lockdown in Karachi as the city's hospitals are "nearing saturation point", members from the provincial task force on coronavirus told media on Thursday. The task force's members said the final decision to impose a lockdown in the port city would be taken in a meeting today (Friday) at 11am, with Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah in the chair. Provincial government officials told media that medical experts within the task force have asked for a complete 14-day lockdown in the city. "Hospitals are nearing a saturation point with cases in Karachi rising rapidly"; the task force members said, adding that the Sindh government was consulting stakeholders on the imposition of a lockdown.

Azerbaijan felicitated on Karabakh victory

Asad Qais ar, Azerbaijan FM hold meeting; pledge to continue to cooperation in all fields

DNA

BAKU: Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan Asad Qaiser has felicitated the Azeri Foreign Minister on the liberation of the territories from Armenia. Pakistan strongly supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and advocates Azerbaijan's stance on the Karabakh issue, the Speaker said this during a meeting with the Azerbaijan Foreign Minister.



The Speaker emphasized the need for operationalizing direct flights between Azerbaijan and Pakistan for promoting people-to-people contacts between the two brotherly countries. He further underscored

the importance of relaxation of visa policies particularly for the students on the two sides. He proposed that the prominent educational institutions in

Continued on Page 06

Belgian envoy meets Army Chief

Ambassador lauded Pakistan efforts for peace in the region

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Philippe Bronchain, Belgian Ambassador to Pakistan called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ. During the meeting matters of mutual interest, regional security situation including latest situation in Afghanistan and enhanced bilateral & defence cooperation were discussed. COAS said that Pakistan earnestly looks forward to enhance mutually beneficial multi-domain relations with Belgium based on common interests. Visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's sincere efforts for bringing peace and stability in the region, especially the Afghan Peace Process. Both sides reiterated the commitment to enhance bilateral relationship at all tiers.

Beijing: 1st Covid case in 179 days

BEIJING: Beijing recorded its first Covid-19 case in nearly six months on Wednesday, as Chinese authorities scramble to prevent the spread of the Delta variant amid an outbreak linked to an airport in the populous eastern city of Nanjing. China recorded 49 new cases on Wednesday, including 24 local infections from three additional provinces, according to the National Health Commission (NHC), taking the total number of cases associated with the new cluster to at least 175.

'Pak Army supports govt decisions'

Prime Minister Imran Khan says Pakistan is not responsible for what the Taliban are doing

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Dispelling the impression that the government in Pakistan was controlled by the military, Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday said this was the impression that India had created about Pakistan. The Prime Minister said unfortunately there was a misconception in Afghanistan, which was based on Indian propaganda, that Pakistan was controlled by military institutions. Talking to the representatives of the Afghan journalists in Islamabad, he categorically stated, "Pakistan Army fully supports the government. The army has stood by each and every foreign policy step I have taken so far." The prime minister made it clear that what decisions he had taken in the domain of foreign policy so far were part of his party's (Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf) 25-year-old manifesto, and were not dictated by the military 'establishment'. He made it clear that everybody in Pakistan wanted peace in Afghanistan because peace in the war-torn country was a pre-requisite for our economic strategies to succeed. "If the civil war goes on between the Taliban and the Afghan government, it will certainly spill over into Pakistan. Already we have millions of refugees in Pakistan. And we cannot afford to host more refugees in our country." PM Imran said Pakistan was not responsible for what the Taliban were doing. "What the Taliban are doing has nothing to do with us.

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan calls for political settlement of Afghan conflict

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri has said that all energy should be focused at finding a political settlement of the conflict in Afghanistan. Responding to a question during his weekly news briefing in Islamabad Thursday, he said efforts need to be made to find an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement as there is no military solution to the Afghan conflict. The spokesperson said India has always played a role of spoiler in the Afghan peace process. He said Pakistan and China are committed to facilitate and support the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process. Answering a question, Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said Pakistan believes in maintaining close, cooperative and brotherly relations with Afghanistan and there is no plan to downgrade our diplomatic ties with Kabul.

Pakistan Army, PLA brothers in arms

A ceremony was held at GHQ in connection with the 94th founding day of the Chinese PLA



RAWALPINDI: Pakistani military top brass along with Chinese officials cutting cake to celebrate the event. – DNA

DEFENCE REPORTER

RAWALPINDI: Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa has said that Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) and Pakistan Army are brothers in arms and our ties are constantly strengthening to protect mutual interests. According to DG ISPR, a ceremony was held at GHQ in connection with the 94th founding day of the Chinese People's Liberation Army with Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa as the chief guest.

Ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rang, Defence Attache; Major General Chen Wenrong, officials from Chinese Embassy and officers from tri-services of Pakistan attended the event. Speaking on the occasion China's Defence Attache thanked COAS for hosting a reception on the eve of PLA's 94th Anniversary. Recalling Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping's view that Pakistan Armed Forces are the mainstay of Pak-China strategic relations,

Continued on Page 06

Inside...

SCCI, SEED, KP Govt to improve investment climate in KP – Page 02

Chief of South African NDF calls on Chief of Air Staff – Page 03

Govt to focus on Central Asia for exports promotion: TDAP – Page 04

Novak Djokovic reaches Olympics Semi-Finals – Page 05

India, GB, Dutch progress to men's quarter-finals – Page 06

India seeks to reform its military amid new security threats – Page 07

Pak wants to enhance trade, defence ties with S. Africa – Page 08

Pakistan gets 3m doses of Moderna vaccine

As President Biden has said, the United States is committed to bringing the same urgency to international vaccination efforts that we have demonstrated at home

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The United States was pleased to donate three million doses of the life-saving Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to the Government of Pakistan for distribution to the Pakistani people. These vaccines were delivered in partnership with the COVAX facility and UNICEF. This donation is part of the 80 million doses the United States is sharing with the world, delivering on our pledge to facilitate equitable global access to safe and effective vaccines, which are essential to ending the COVID-19 pandemic. As President Biden has said, the United States is committed to bringing the same urgency to international vaccination efforts that we have demonstrated at home, says a press statement issued by the US Embassy here Thursday. "We are here today because we share a common goal – supporting access to COVID-19 vaccines for the populations that need them the most," said U.S. Embassy Chargé d'affaires Angela P. Aggeler.



ISLAMABAD: US Embassy official hands over vaccines to Dr. Faisal Sultan. – DNA

Continued on Page 06

Canada provides medical supplies

STAFF REPORT

Islamabad: The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation, and Coordination, the National Disaster Management Authority, and the High Commission of Canada held a handover ceremony at the Prime Minister's Office on Thursday, for the donation of medical ventilators from Canada to Pakistan. In response to a request by the Government of Pakistan, Canada delivered 162 ventilators and related medical supplies via a Royal Canadian Air Force flight on June 27, 2021. The ventilators will be distributed based on the specific needs identified by the Government of Pakistan. "Canada values its partnership with Pakistan to promote strengthened health systems, and more recently in the ongoing fight against COVID-19. Today's contribution builds on this collaboration and will help ensure essential medical services are available to the most vulnerable, including women and girls, when and where they need them," said Wendy Gilmour,

Continued on Page 06

WhatsApp assisted Pegasus: PTA

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) officials have told lawmakers that as per PTA's assessment, WhatsApp assisted Israeli firm NSA in hacking phones through spyware Pegasus. Several major revelations regarding India's use of Israeli spyware against Prime Minister Imran Khan and others were made by the PTA during a meeting of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Defence, which met today at the Parliament House the chairmanship of Amjad Ali Khan. The PTA officials apprised the meeting that the Pakistan Cybersecurity Policy has been approved.

Briefs

PTF reviews security, uplift schemes

PESHAWAR: Provincial Task Force (PTF) on merged districts on Thursday was informed that 515 developmental projects have been reflected in the annual developmental program for sub-divisions of merged districts. Out of which, 375 developmental projects would be implemented through annual developmental program whereas remaining 140 developmental projects would be executed under accelerated implementation program of the merged areas. The meeting was convened to review the overall security, progress on development projects, administrative measures and matters related to merger in the tribal sub-divisions (Ex-Frontier Regions) including Hassan Khel, Darra Adam Khel, Bhatani, Jandola, Wazir and Darrazanda. The total estimated cost of these 515 projects was Rs. 59 billion. It was informed that special focus has been given to the key sectors of the areas adding that developmental projects costing to Rs. 2.97 billion have been reflected for Elementary & Secondary Education, Rs. 1.84 billion for Public Health Engineering, Rs. 2.43 billion for Agriculture sector, Rs. 1.11 billion for Irrigation, Rs. 8.80 billion for Road sector and projects amounting to Rs. 2.70 billion have been reflected for Sports and Tourism sectors. — APP

FBR announces last date for filing tax-turns

PESHAWAR: Chief Commissioner, Regional Tax Office (RTO) (FBR) Peshawar, Sardar Ali Khawaja Thursday said that this year tax-turns could be filed till September 30 and no extension would be given in that regard.

Addressing an online Khuli Kehchri here in Tax House, he said timely depositing of taxes was essential for economic stability of the country. He said that on the special directives of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the field offices of FBR were regularly holding online 'Khuli Kehchri' on monthly basis to resolve genuine problems of the trading community and tax payers. The Chief Commissioner said that the new experience and revolutionary steps of the federal government were bearing far-reaching results and most of the problems of tax-payers had been resolved at their door steps. To a question regarding tax exemption in Malakand Division, the Chief Commissioner said that all newly merged districts and Malakand division had been exempted of taxes till June 2023. However, he lamented that some company owners were selling their imported raw material to settled areas to take illegal benefit of the exemption, which would be legally prevented. — APP

DC directs to accelerate vaccination

QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Harnai Suhail Anwar Khan Hashmi on Thursday said the fourth wave of coronavirus of Delta variant was spreading rapidly which was extremely dangerous.

Talking to officers at his office, he said the provincial government was taking practical steps to protect people from coronavirus.

He said the process of corona vaccination was in full swing and people should support the vaccination process. He said the staff of the health department should fulfill their responsibilities with utmost honesty so that people could be protected from this pandemic. The Deputy Commissioner directed the DHO to start corona vaccination in the district as like polio campaign so that women could also be vaccinated. The corona vaccination should be completed effectively in rural areas for which Assistant Commissioners, Tehsildars and other staff would ensure all possible cooperation with them and also monitor the vaccination process. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chairs a meeting on small and medium enterprises. — DNA

SCCI, SEED, KP Govt to improve investment climate in KP

The roundtable brought essential business voices to the forefront of this discussion while connecting them to the leadership of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and policymakers for a constructive dialogue

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), Sustainable Energy and Economic Development (SEED) Programme, a non-profit organisation, in collaboration with provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa joined hand to improve the investment in climate change projects in the province. The agreement was reached during a roundtable conference organised jointly by SCCI and Sustainable Energy and Economic Development (SEED) Programme, at the local hotel on Thursday in Peshawar. Different stakeholders from the business, government and development community participated in the roundtable discussion.

The roundtable brought essential business voices to the forefront of this discussion while connecting them to the leadership of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and policymakers for a constructive dialogue. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, structured and inclusive public-private dialogues are needed to identify the bottlenecks, opportunities, and possible interventions to improve the business environment and promote women's entrepreneurship. Speakers highlighted that the private sector plays a vital role in promoting economic growth, reforming the business climate, and strengthening inclusive policymaking. They termed that dialogue is a key for enhancing business climate as a central driver of development, and this fact emphasizes the im-

portance of inclusive dialogue for building a policy environment conducive to sustainable development. Through KP Business Voice, SEED, in partnership with SCCI, is steering to strengthen Public-Private Dialogues between the KP business community and the KP government by articulating private sector problems, soliciting policy proposals and routing them to relevant government policymakers through different mechanisms like post/pre-budget assessment, business barometer survey and sector-specific roundtable and policy briefs. Sherbaz Bilour, President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) said: "Through such dialogues, the transparency, effectiveness, and responsiveness of taxation, regulation, public investment and other public

policies for the business community can be improved." SCCI chief said the chamber works as a bridge between public sector & private sector entities. He added that it also serves as an advisory, regulatory, consultative and supportive body for the government and business institutions. Rabail Riaz, President Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said, "We need to promote gender-sensitive investment climate in KP by integrating and mainstreaming gender analysis in the budget, policy and regulatory reviews on a strategic, systemic and sustainable basis; for the promotion of the women entrepreneurship." She added: "These dialogues can play a crucial role in supporting women's partici-

ipation in economic activities." Hasaan Khawar, SEED Team Leader, highlighted that "Dialogues like these provide an opportunity for KP businesses to articulate the issues and challenges faced by them, open and strengthen dialogue between the KP leadership and the business community, and create synergies between key stakeholders to achieve long-term sustainable growth in the province." SEED is a £15 million programme that aims to support the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to plan and finance the infrastructure and investment it needs for growth, jobs and prosperity. The expected outcome of the programme is that public and private investments are able to generate greater economic, social, and environmental returns.

FESCO Chief for replacing defective transformers

FAISALABAD: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) Engineer Bashir Ahmad has ordered FESCO line staff to ensure immediate replacement of all defective and out-of-order power supply transformers in the region.

Engineer Bashir Ahmad was appointed as new CEO FESCO after suspension of his predecessor Engineer Arshad Muneer over power outage during Eid days.

New FESCO Chief while addressing a review meeting at FESCO headquarters directed the FESCO Material Management section to provide transformers to the subdivision even during weekly off days so that defective transformers could be replaced as early as possible for providing uninterrupted power supply to the consumers.

He said that quality service is motto of the company. Therefore, all officials as well as officers including engineers and field staff should perform their duties actively as no negligence would be tolerated at any cost. He also directed the line staff to adopt safety measures strictly while working on live lines as FESCO employees are precious asset of the company. He also directed Admin Directorate to complete promotion board as early as possible so that eligible employees could be promoted in next grades without any delay. — APP

Preparations finalized to observe Yume-e-Shuhada

PESHAWAR: District Police Officer (DPO) Sohail Khalid on Wednesday said that all preparations had been finalized to observe Yume-e-Ghaziyan and Yume-e-Shuhada in a befitting manner to pay tribute to sacrifices of police personnel. In a video message, he said that Youm-e-Ghaziyan will be observed on August 1 and Yume-e-Shuhada on August 4 on the directives of Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said that Quran Khwani would be held in police line Kohat and police contingents led by officers would visit the graves of Shuhada to pay tribute. He said that police contingents would visit the houses of Shuhada to meet their families. DPO said that separate facilitation desk had been set up to facilitate families of 79 martyrs of Kohat Police to resolve their problems. He said police would look after welfare of families of martyrs. — APP

Ethics code to be implemented in Muharram

FAISALABAD: Special Representative to Prime Minister for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Affairs Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashraf has said that a code of ethics will be implemented strictly to maintain peace during the holy month of Muharram.

Chairing a meeting during his visit to Commissioner's Office on Thursday, he said that the government had formulated a 14-point code of ethics, named as 'Paigham-e-Pakistan Zabita-e-Akhlaq' for interfaith harmony and peace during the holy month.

He also appealed to ulema and religious leaders to play their role in maintaining peace and harmony during Muharram. In this connection, Muttahida Ulema Board would also hold meetings with religious leaders for complete implementation of the code of ethics, he added. Divisional Commissioner Saqib Mannan, Regional Police Officer (RPO) Riffat Mukhtar Raja, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Faisalabad Muhammad Ali, City Police Officer (CPO) Faisalabad Sohail Chaudhry and members of peace committees attended the meeting. Religious leaders in presence were: Syed Zia-Ullah Shah, Mufti Zia Madani, Maulana Rafiq Jami, Maulana Irfan Laghari, Allama Tahirul Hasan, Maulana Yousuf Anwar, Pir Faiz Rasool Rizvi, Maulana Riaz Kharal, Dr Ifthikhar Naqvi and Dr Mumtaz Hussain. — APP



GILGIT: German ambassador to Pakistan, Bernhard Schlagheck visits Gilgit Baltistan and observed the German-funded projects, like access to clean drinking water, several women-initiatives that play an important role in the development of villages. — DNA

29 criminals held, drugs seized

FAISALABAD: Police claimed on Thursday to have arrested 29 criminals and recovered drugs and illegal weapons from their possession in the district during last 24 hours. According to police, raiding teams nabbed 10 drug pushers and recovered 2.9 Kg hashish and 114 litres liquor from their possession. The police also held 14 gamblers with stake money of Rs 46,370. In a crackdown against illegal weapons, police arrested 5 persons and recovered 4 pistols, one rifle and a number of bullets. — APP

SACM inspects exam halls, hints stern action against cheaters

DNA

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister (SACM) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information and Higher Education, Kamran Bangash on Thursday paid surprise visits to various examination halls and inspected conduct of the examination and monitoring systems at the halls. Kamran Bangash following special instructions of the Chief Minister Mahmood

Khan visited Government High School No-2, Shaheed Usama Tahir, Nanakpura and Shaheed Asad Aziz Jugiwara High Schools and other examination halls of the city area and inspected arrangements and monitoring system of the examination. During his visits, Kamran Bangash checked process of the exam and inspected functioning of the CCTV cameras. He said his visit was part of the efforts of the provincial government to discourage

and eliminate the "booty mafia" from the examination process. Expressing his satisfaction over the smooth and cheating-free examination process the Special Assistant directed the local administration to impose section 144 on carrying pocket guides inside and in close vicinity of the examination halls. Issuing strict directives for vigil checks on shops of photo-state machines near the examination halls, Kamran Bangash said every possible means of

cheating in the exam must be discouraged and checked to arrest any possible source of cheating in the exams. Cheating and using other illegal means to get an unjust score in the exam were like slow poisoning for our young generation. He said students and staff found indulged in cheating in exams would strictly be dealt with and no leniency in this regard would be shown. The Special Assistant made it clear that the examination staff involved in providing

cheating material and other illegal means to the students would not be spared at any cost and made an example for others to take a lesson. Cheating in the exams, he said discourages the eligible and intelligent students and causes injustice in the society which was intolerable. Kamran Bangash also stressed upon the parents and relatives of students not to encourage the trend of cheating among their children as it would ruin their future.

KP govt to provide interest free loans to traders

DNA

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister on Industries and Commerce, Abdul Karim Khan has said that interest free loan up to one million rupees would be provided to traders that are affected by corona pandemic. He said this during his visit to Peshawar Chamber of Small Traders and Industries (PCSTI) here on Thursday. He said that loans would be provided to corona affected traders through Bank of Khyber and added that Rs. 10 billion has been earmarked for the scheme that is already included current in ADP. CM aide said modus operandi for the scheme would be finalized till August. He said that government has accepted all the proposals of traders and plot of two kanals would be given to all the chambers. He also urged business community to develop a linkage with universities for utilization of research work to promote trade activities.



PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to CM on Industries and Commerce Abdul Qarim Khan addressing during his visit to Peshawar Chamber of Small Traders and Industries. — DNA

He said that mining sector should be made collateral for acquiring loans from banks and maintained that value added tax would be imposed on companies who would not introduce mechanized mining. Abdul Karim said that offices of Pakistan Stone Development Company and Pakistan Hunting and Arms Development Company would also be established in Peshawar. He said that efforts are also underway to bring Central Excise Duty of Tobacco to KP. He said that government would also give loan ranging from five lakh to one million rupees to youth and added that 25 percent share would be given to women entrepreneurs. On the occasion, President PCSTI, Adnan Jalil inform CM aide about problems and issued confronted by traders' community. He said that SME sector is not given due importance despite its valuable contribution to national economy. He said that performance of SME sector should be properly highlighted and small chamber should be provided funds and offices.

Briefs

Vehicle token tax date extends

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Excise and Taxation (E&T) department, Islamabad Thursday extended deadline for submitting the vehicle token tax without penalty till September 30. According to an office order issued here, the last date for payment of token tax without penalty was extended to facilitate the vehicles' owners. The citizens could submit their token fee at the excise office or through online banking services, as well as Nadra E-Sahulat centres. The Pakistan Post was also authorized for collection of token tax of vehicles without any fine.

AIOU announces assignments schedule

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has announced assignments submission schedule for the programs offered in spring 2021 semester including B Ed, Associate Degree, BS and post graduate programs. According to the AIOU, this schedule is available online at varsity's website (www.aiou.edu.pk). As per schedule, the students of B.Ed and ADE programs are required to submit 1st and 2nd assignments on or before August 22 and October 10, 2021 respectively. On the other hand, submission deadline for 1st and 2nd assignment of BS programs is August 15 and October 03, 2021 respectively. Similarly, submission deadline for 1st and 2nd assignments of post graduate programs is August 29 and October 17 respectively.

If any student does not receive information about their concerned tutor (s) by the deadline of submission of first assignment, they are required to either access university website or contact their respective regional office to obtain this information. Assignments submitted after the deadline will not be entertained. Moreover, in order to participate in ongoing online workshops, the students are required to access their LMS accounts for the schedule of their respective courses. They can, also, access the given link on the university website (<http://www.aiou.edu.pk/workshops.asp>). University will send login information regarding username and password to the fresh students via SMS.

PAL announces plan for I-Day celebrations

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) has announced to organize 75 special literary events including seminars, conferences, dialogues, festivals and Mushairas from August 13 in connection with Pakistan Independence Day celebrations. Talking to APP, Chairman PAL Dr. Yousaf Khushk said literary events would continue throughout the year until August 14, 2022. He said that PAL has finalized all its preparations to celebrate Independence Day in befitting manner. He said that eminent scholars and writers will participate in the literary events. Chairman PAL said that this is first time in the history of the PAL that a series of Independence Day celebrations will continue throughout the year. The main theme of these events is the role of writers in Tehreek-e-Pakistan and their aim is to highlight the role of writers in Tehreek-e-Pakistan. He said that writers and scholars would pay a glowing tribute to the Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Allama Muhammad Iqbal and all other leaders for their great struggle and sacrifices for the independence of Pakistan. He said youth would be specially invited to these events so that they can know about the movement of Pakistan and Pakistan. - APP

Chief of South African NDF calls on Chief of Air Staff

The visiting dignitary lauded professionalism of PAF personnel and exceptional progress made by PAF over the years, especially through indigenization

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: General Rudzani Maphwanya, Chief of South African National Defense Forces called on Air Chief Marshal Zaher Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office today. The visiting dignitary lauded professionalism of PAF personnel and exceptional progress made by PAF over the years, especially through indigenization. The Air Chief highlighted the cordial relations between the two countries and reiterated his resolve to further augment the existing cooperation between the two Air Forces. Various matters of mutual interest and professional cooperation also came under discussion during the meeting.



FPCCI discuss electricity issues in Gawadar, Makran



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Crises of Electricity & Covid-19 have collapsed the Business and industry in Gwadar, Makran, said Mir Naveed Jan Baloch President Gwadar Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Industry is in big crises and large number of labor have become jobless in Gwadar due to Electricity crises. Mian Anjum Nisar Ex-President FPCCI. Even now a days water and electricity are being a basic necessity but not available in Gwadar

industrial estate as well, Haji Qurban Ali head FPCCI and Mirza Abdul Rehman Coordinator FPCCI added this. Chinese and German Companies had MOU'S in Gwadar industrial estate but work have not been started till now, Senator Ismail Buledi. And due to increase number of unemployment crime rate can be increased, Senator Naseeb Ullah Bazai in CPEC important region, Gwadar. China Pakistan Economic Corridor, CPEC main project Gwadar & Makran have severe crises of electricity and Covid-19, due

to which unemployment and closer of industry crises have been occurred extremely in Gwadar now. Prime minister Imran Khan is serious to solve the problems and issues faced by investors and industrialists in Main CPEC Region Gwadar and Makran. But the bureaucracy is not serious to follow Prime Minister's vision in this regard. Technical delay is not affordable if we the business community of Pakistan is serious to run Pakistan on right direction at right time, and serious to resolve issues in Gwadar regarding CPEC.

VC NED calls on President IIUI

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Vice Chancellor of NED University of Engineering and Technology, Prof Sarosh Lodi on Thursday called on Dr. Hatha Homoud Alotabi, President, International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI). During the meeting in the new campus of IIUI, both the counterparts shared ideas of joint cooperation, vision of academia and industry linkage and academic excellence. Prof. Sarosh apprised of the history and role of NED in promotion of engineering and technology. He also briefed about the technology park project of the NED and told that they have gotten the best response from Saudi investors. He hailed IIUI for its decades-long services and also appreciated the hard work of the Faculty of Engg and Tech of IIUI. Dr. Hatha, after the introduction of the university shared that the university, through its Faculty of Engg and Tech, working on priority basis to bridge the gap between academia and industry.

Faisal urges citizens to strictly follow Covid-19 SOPs

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination Dr. Faisal Sultan on Thursday urged the citizens to strictly follow COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to prevent the disease in the wake of a sudden increase in the number of infections in the country. In a media briefing after a meeting of the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), Dr. Faisal said that this disease expansion had caused a burden on the country's health system as COVID-19 cases were jumping up for the past few weeks. He said that the number of confirmed Corona cases was increasing while the rising trend was also observed in a number of critical patients admitted in hospitals across the country. He added daily reported cases figure was also high in Karachi. He said that keeping in view the disease risk the government will take effective steps to protect its citizens. He said that this time is not of any complacency rather strict compliance of SOPs. Dr. Faisal said "COVID-19 is a deadly virus, but we can control it just as we controlled it by following the SOPs during the previous waves. We can save precious lives, including those of our near and dear ones by taking preventive measures." He said that the COVID-19 vaccine is very effective to protect citizens from medical complications from many virus variants. "Keeping in view the detection of new COVID-19 variants in Pakistan and raising questions about the effectiveness of vaccine process, I advise country people to go for vaccination against the virus to avoid facing more complications and hospitalization."

63,532 people get Covid jobs in 24 hours

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The tally of coronavirus vaccination Thursday reached 1,166,748 with inoculation of 63,532 more persons against the deadly virus during the last 24 hours. According to fresh data released by the District Health Authority, 36,590 health workers while 1,130,158 other people including senior citizens have received their dose so far. The report said that the district health authority had registered 178 new infections during the last 24 hours including 165 of Rawalpindi and 13 from outside the district while two people lost their battle of life.

It updated that patients reported during the last 24 hours included thirty-eight belonged to Rawal Town, thirty-nine from Potohar town, sixty-four from Rawalpindi Cantt, five from Gujjar Khan, sixteen from Taxila, seven from AJK, two from KPK, two from Islamabad, and one each from Jehlum, Chakwal, Murree, Kahutta and Kotli Sattian. "Presently 139 confirmed patients were admitted to various facilities of the city including 33 in Holy Family Hospital, 22 in Benazir Bhutto Hospital, 44 in Institute of Urology, 34 in Fauji Foundation Hospital and 2 each in Bilal hospital and Hearts International hospital" he added.



ISLAMABAD: Governor Balochistan Syed Zahoor Ahmed Agha along with Acting Speaker National Assembly Qasim Khan Suri planting a saplings of Mangolia Grandiflora at Parliament lawn. - APP

Govt should provide plots to women's chamber: Bakhtawari

Rawalpindi Women's Chamber President Neelam Khalid on the occasion said that women's chambers would be able to perform better only if they are present in proper building and in suitable environment and for this the building of the chamber can play a pivotal role

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General of United Business Group Pakistan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that the government should provide land for construction of buildings to all the chambers which do not have their own building so as to bring business and entrepreneurs in the country forward. The environment should be provided and women's chambers should be given priority in this regard. These views were expressed by him while meeting the delegation of Rawalpindi women Chamber which was headed by Chamber President Neelam Khalid and Senior Vice President Rakshanda Jabeen. Zafar Bakhtawari further said that in order to empower women in Pakistani society, it is necessary to make them economically



stable and co-operate in their business and better results can be achieved only when they are financially empowered. He appealed to Prime Minister Imran Khan to give plots to all women's chambers of the country on priority basis. And business community will provide assistance and support in the construction of chambers building. Rawalpindi Women's Chamber President Neelam Khalid on the occasion said that women's chambers would be able to perform better only if they are present in proper building and in suitable environment and for this the building of the chamber can play a pivotal role. "We are grateful to our group leader Hina Mansab Khan for setting up the chamber and providing us with proper forum and we have started our activities to make women financially empowered" she said.

CPO holds 'Khuli Kutchery' at CPO office

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Muhammad Ahsan Younas on Thursday held a 'Khuli Kutchery' here at CPO office and listened to the complaints of the people. Police officers concerned were also present whereas 46 citizens recorded their complaints and presented applications to the CPO. According to a police spokesman, the CPO is holding 'Khuli Kutchery' (open court) on daily basis to provide relief to the citizens. The police officers had also been warned of strict action on negligence and directed to address complaints of the citizens particularly marked by the CPO within shortest possible time frame, he added.

HDIP labs' up-gradation to complete in current FY

ISLAMABAD: Petroleum Division is likely to complete the up-gradation of testing laboratories of Hydrocarbon Development Institute of Pakistan (HDIP) during the current fiscal year, which would help ensure provision of quality fuel across the country. Under the project, the government in Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP 2021-22) has allocated an amount of Rs 143.446 million to upgrade petroleum testing facilities of HDIP at Islamabad, Lahore, Multan, Peshawar and Quetta, besides getting the ISO certification of Petroleum Testing Laboratory at Islamabad. According to an official document available with APP, the project scope included procurement of latest equipment for complete testing of indigenous and imported petroleum products at the HDIP facilities in line with the international standards and specifications. With completion of the project, the country's oil industry and general consumers would benefit from the upgraded testing facilities. "Moreover, this will have a positive impact on the environment as new equipment and other resources will help maintain the quality of POL products as per Euro standards." - APP

Workshop on water conservation on July 31

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A one-day online workshop would be organized by the Fisheries Department on July 31 to provide information about water conservation and water quality testing. The workshop will begin at 9:30 AM and continue until 1 PM. The interested persons can contact during office hours at 051-9255833, 0342-2228016 to get the workshop ID and password for the Zoom application. The workshop will be held at Fisheries Training Sub-Center, Rawal Town, Islamabad.

'NHA's road maintenance a priority'

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed has said that the government gave prime importance to timely completion of maintenance schemes of national highways throughout the country. Present government is determined to provide safe and sound travelling to road users on national highways and motorways in the country, said a press release issued here. He was addressing a high level meeting regarding maintenance of roads all over the country participated by Federal Secretary Communications Zafar Hassan, Chairman National Highway Authority Capt. (R) Muhammad Khuram Agha and Senior officers from Ministry of Communications and National Highway Authority (NHA). Murad Saeed said, in near future, about 70% of National Highway Authority network will be maintained and restored. - APP

Briefs

Police apprehend 47 drug suppliers

ISLAMABAD: The police have arrested 47 drug pushers during the last three days and recovered cache of narcotics from them.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, the Deputy Inspector General of Police (Operations) Islamabad Afzal Ahmad Kausar said that the police launched a massive operation against drug pushers and succeeded to apprehend 47 drug suppliers in last 72 hours.

He said that 8230 gram heroin, 19698 gram hashish and 519 gram ice was also recovered from their possession.

The DIG said that they were striving to break the network of drug suppliers. He also appealed to the parents to keep an eye on their children so that they did not fall prey to the menace. He also asked the media to be part of the awareness campaign against use of drugs. — APP

Aug 1st last date to apply in freelancing courses

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Under the Punjab government's e-Rozgaar program, free on-campus freelancing courses have been offered here while Aug 1st would be the last date to apply for admission in various fields. According to a district administration spokesman, the courses were being organized at Comsat Wah and Rawalpindi Women University in collaboration with Punjab Government's Youth Affairs and Sports Department and the Punjab Information Technology Board. The e-Rozgaar program is a freelancing training program through which a large number of students are earning millions of rupees. Admission to free courses is online. The students have been advised to visit www.erozgaar.pitb.gov.pk/apply. Admissions are offered in the fields of e-commerce, content marketing, advertising and creative designing.

5 gamblers arrested, cash stake recovered

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Pirwahai police have arrested five gamblers and recovered Rs 25,000 cash stake money, five mobile phones and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Naseerabad police acting on a tip-off conducted a raid and rounded up five gamblers namely Numan, Malik Imran, Buksh Elahi, Asim and Sagheer allegedly involved in betting while playing cards. Police recovered Rs 25,000 cash stake money, five mobile phones and other items from their possession. A case has been registered against all the accused while further investigation is underway.

Speedy trial in women cases stressed

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Planning Development and Special Initiative Kanwal Shuzab on Thursday condemned the barbaric killing of Noor Mukadam and stressed the need for provision of speedy trial against the culprit.

Talking to news channel, Kanwal Shuzab suggested reforms in prevailing justice system as long trails of the court cases caused for a delay in justice. She said that the country would never be able to come out of an economic crisis without judicial reforms.

Replying to a query, she said that PTI-led government under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, has put the country on right track as economy boosted with excellent pace. She said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has emerged as the most popular party among masses due to vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan. — APP

Govt to focus on Central Asia for exports promotion: TDAP

Sardar Yasir said that the supportive role of TDAP with trade bodies was very important to realize the untapped trade and exports potential of Pakistan

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The government has planned to focus on many new markets including Central Asian States, Afghanistan, Malaysia as these are potential markets for promoting Pakistan's trade and exports. This was stated by Shehzad Ahmed Khan, Director General, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, Islamabad during his visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry along with Muhammad Ishaq Shinwari, Director TDAP Islamabad. He also shared the annual business plan of TDAP to promote Pakistan's trade and exports through various initiatives including holding of single country exhibitions, trade fairs, product shows and seminars/conferences in collaboration with various regional trade bodies. Shehzad Ahmed Khan said



that trade bodies should also share their annual business plans with TDAP to explore the areas of mutual collaboration for trade development. He said that TDAP wanted to provide international exposure to potential exporters in

order to tap new markets for exports promotion. He also discussed the possibility of organizing a zoom meeting of Pakistani missions with ICCI and other trade bodies to identify new avenues of trade and exports enhancement. He further discussed

the potential areas of cooperation with ICCI to make collaborative efforts for promoting trade and exports from this region. Speaking at the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Indus-

try said that the supportive role of TDAP with trade bodies was very important to realize the untapped trade and exports potential of Pakistan. He said that trade bodies including ICCI were making great efforts to promote Pakistan's busi-

ness interests, however, efforts of trade bodies in collaboration with TDAP would yield far better results for economic growth of the country.

He said that ICCI has planned many initiatives including business delegations for Azerbaijan, Saudi Arabia and other countries besides holding a mega property expo in near future and stressed that TDAP should extend its full cooperation to make these initiatives highly successful for promoting business and economic interests of Pakistan.

Fatma Azim, Senior Vice President and Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI also shared many useful ideas in the meeting for promoting Pakistan's trade and exports with potential markets. Both sides agreed to maintain close liaison for collaborative initiatives in order to explore new markets for promotion of Pakistan's economic interests.

Pak on right track to become great country

ISLAMABAD: PML-Q Punjab Deputy Secretary Information Khawaja Rameez in a press release said that the state is on the right track. He said that Pakistan has emerged as an important country in the region due to civil military establishment being on same page and excellent diplomacy. He further added during the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, Pakistan facing a very sensitive situation regarding internal and external challenges. — DNA



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Shibli Faraz in a group photo during the inaugural ceremony of Capacity Building Program for senior HEC employees. — APP

CFW opens under Ehsaas Rehriabaan Initiative in Islamabad

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Ehsaas Rehriabaan initiative is being set up in Islamabad under the specific direction of the Prime Minister. Senator Dr. Sania Nishtar, SAPM made a visit to Ehsaas Rehriabaan site in G-11 Markaz, Islamabad today. She interacted with street vendors and officials of microfinance banks and reviewed the ongoing street vending interventions under the initiative. "With the successful launch of the Ehsaas Rehriabaan project in G-11

and G-10 commercial areas of Islamabad, government is aiming for the methodical and phased scale-up of the initiative", stated Dr. Sania. At present, street vendors in G-11 and G-10 areas are getting regularized through the acquisition of pre-approved design carts either on their own account or through microfinance loans. Later on, the initiative will be expanded to the entire capital. To-date, over 50 street vendors of G-11 have switched to modular and ecofriendly carts under Ehsaas. Remaining 28 vendors, who

cannot afford cart purchase, are now being linked with microfinance banks for availing cart financing facility. Representatives of three micro finance banks, namely U. Microfinance Bank, Apna Microfinance Bank and Mobilink Microfinance Bank were also present at the site. They briefed Dr. Sania about various microfinancing facilities available for vendors under Ehsaas Rehriabaan initiative. The microfinance structure of cart financing for street vendors was also presented. "Ehsaas recognizes cart financing as

a potential tool for addressing financial needs of the vendors. This cart financing window will enable street vendors to purchase modular and ecofriendly carts", added Dr. Sania. Cart loans have already been disbursed to several vendors operating in G-10 areas, where 130 vendors are operating. More carts will be financed by microfinance banks on easy terms and conditions. The timely and hassle-free financing opportunities for street vending under Ehsaas Rehriabaan initiative will ensure sustainable street vending operations. Further, Dr. Sania said that this street vendors' initiative under the Ehsaas umbrella is a pioneering experience in Pakistan, whereby a multi-partite engagement of federal and local governments along with think tank and microfinance institutions are collectively structuring a sustainable intervention for enhancing street livelihoods. In this regard, a formal collaborative partnership is established between Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division (PASSD), Capital Development Authority (CDA), Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI), ICT Administration and Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE).



Quick response of NHMP, prevented train accident



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: As per details, a Mazda Truck bearing Registration No. JY-9132 turned over Railway Track due to slippery road near Mandra. On receipt of information, NHMP Officers IP/SPO Raja Ishrat Mukhtar and IP/SPO Shakeel Ahmed immediately reached at the spot. The NHMP Officers took immediate measure by contacting Railway Authorities, Station Manager Jawad Intiaz and requested him to stop the Trains coming on this Track. The Railway Police was also called and the message was also conveyed to Base-5 Mandra. On receipt of this information, the Chief Patrol Officer and Admin Officer Beat-05 also reached the spot. Meanwhile Tegzam Express going

to Karachi from Rawalpindi was stopped safely due to in time action and information by NHMP Officers. NHMP Officers immediately arranged Crane and removed the Mazda Truck from the Railway Track. Sense of responsibility of NHMP Officers and their quick response prevented from a certain accident and saved precious lives and property of the people. The Deputy Inspector General of Police, NHMP N-5 North, Mr. Muhammad Wisal Fakhar Sultan applauded the performance and sense of responsibility of NHMP Officers and awarded them Commendation Certificates and Cash Reward. The DIG N-5 North reiterated that NHMP Officers will continue to serve the Nation with same spirit and enthusiasm.

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police in their crackdown against illegal weapons rounded up six people from different areas and recovered five 30 bore pistols and a carbine from their possession, said a police spokesman on Thursday.

He informed that Bani, Sadiqabad, R.A.Bazar, Wah Cantt, Chontra and Kalar Syedan police on the directives of Rawalpindi City Police Officer (CPO), Muhammad Ahsan Younas launched a crackdown and arrested six people namely Jameel Shoukat, Samraiz Akhtar, Waqas Javed, Shahzad Gul, Ghazanfar and Kamran and recovered five 30 bore pistols and a carbine from their possession.

Separate cases have been registered against all the accused while further investigations are underway, he said and informed that police would continue their raids against lawbreakers and they would be sent behind bars.

NHMP working to make journey safe on roads

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) through effective enforcement and provision of assistance to road users, was ensuring the safety of commuters on Motorway.

Inspector General NHMP Dr. Syed Kaleem Imam said this while addressing an online Open Court (E-Khuli Kachehri), said a press release. He appealed the commuters to maintain safe following distance between vehicles to avoid accidents, avoid overtaking where prohibited. He said never ride motorcycle without helmet, rider and pillion rider must wear safety helmets.

"Make sure you have a first aid box and fire extinguishers in your vehicle, fasten your seat belt before driving, and don't use mobile while driving" he added. He said that the standard of road safety in the country which is also acknowledged worldwide.

"Courteous dealing with commuters, help to the distressed road users and steps taken for safety of road users are those qualities of Motorway Police which has earned great respect and good name for the department and it should be our top priority," he said.

PTCL signs contract with Whale Cloud Technology

This major transformation marks a significant step towards PTCL's efforts to deliver enhanced user experience to its valued customers

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) has signed a strategic contract with Whale Cloud Technology for the transformation of its mission critical charging and Billing platform. Nadeem Khan, Acting CEO & Group CFO, PTCL & Ufone and Chen XiaoWei, President South Asia, Whale Cloud Technology, signed the contract during a ceremony held at PTCL HQ, Islamabad. Jafar Khalid, Group CTIO (Development), PTCL & Ufone, Saad M Waraich, Group CTIO (Operations), PTCL & Ufone, Ayaz Ahmed, Vice President, Whale Cloud Technology, Pakistan, also attended the ceremony, along with senior management from both companies.

This major transformation marks a significant step towards PTCL's efforts to deliver enhanced user experience to its valued customers. The initiative would also serve as a key enabler for offer-

ing the much-needed flexibility to fixed broadband consumers and corporate customers, by extending enhanced billing and invoicing options of their choice. Speaking on the occasion, Na-

deem Khan, Acting CEO & Group CFO, PTCL & Ufone, said, "PTCL with its focus on offering customer-centric solutions is investing in the upgrade of its billing solution, to provide state-of-the-art services

to its customers. We are glad to partner with Whale Cloud Technology on this strategic initiative, which is one of the leading suppliers in Business Support Systems domain in key markets globally." On the occasion, Chen XiaoWei, President South Asia, Whale Cloud Technology, said, "We are greatly honored for the confidence that PTCL has bestowed upon us, by selecting Whale Cloud Technology for this transformation journey. This would positively impact the customer value chain and we shall endeavor to exceed PTCL's expectation in serving their customers better." PTCL remains at the forefront to take such initiatives that will pave the way for latest Cloud-based solutions, hence facilitating efficient delivery of new and innovative services across different customer segments.



Long road ahead

WITH recent unprecedented gains in Pakistan's fight against polio, there is cause for cautious optimism. A report in this newspaper highlighted that Pakistan has not reported a single case of the wild poliovirus in the past six months, whereas there has been a substantial decline in positive environment samples as well as the geographic distribution of the virus. So far, only one WPV type 1 case has been reported in the country this year – in Balochistan – as opposed to 84 cases in 2020 and 147 a year before. Similarly, cases of the circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 stand at eight this year whereas the figure was 135 in 2020 and 22 in 2019. This is a much-welcome development, especially since routine immunisation campaigns were shelved for several months last year following the coronavirus outbreak, in line with recommendations of global health agencies. Nevertheless, we are back on track. Yet, despite the promising signs, several pressing challenges remain. The country has witnessed drops in cases earlier, only to see a resurgence later. In the year's first polio vaccination drive in January, a police official guarding a vaccination team in Karak – an area that recorded 15 of the 22 cases in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2020 – was killed by unidentified attackers, whereas two policemen were killed in similar circumstances in Mardan district of the province last month. The state must prioritise going after the perpetrators of these attacks so that healthcare workers can reach every corner of the country without fear. With the rest of the world having eliminated the wild poliovirus – Nigeria was the last country to do so in 2020 after accounting for around half of global cases a decade ago – it is now found only in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Sustained national immunisation drives and effective virus surveillance in the neighbouring countries, along with substantial improvements in provision of clean drinking water and sanitation services, are essential if the region is to be free of polio. Until then, the whole world is at risk and hence must continue assisting the two countries' polio eradication efforts.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 02 Issue: 73

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



Against VIP culture

THE reduction of security protocols and VIP culture is a cause close to the Prime Minister's heart. Even before PTI came to power in 2018, Imran Khan rallied against VIP culture and motorcades, making the often-lavish use of luxury vehicles and hundreds of guards by Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari a target of criticism. This passion has not fizzled out after coming to power—a few weeks ago, Prime Minister Imran Khan announced that he would no longer be going to any private function with protocol and security in order “to save taxpayer money and avoid inconvenience to the public”. He has asked that a threat assessment committee be formed to decide the extent of security provided. He has started to put that into practice himself by paying surprise visits around Islamabad without any security or protocol. The Prime Minister's enthusiasm for simplicity and austerity must be appreciated, yet it must also be accepted that this is a complicated issue. The terrorist threat in Pakistan is real, especially in light of the situation in Afghanistan, leaders cannot afford to be lax in their necessary security. Security expenses of judges are high, and for good reason, considering the nature of the job comes with threats. It is also true that the savings are nominal in the greater scheme of things, compared to the bloated non-development portion of the budget. However, the Prime Minister is also right in that more than the actual amount of money being saved, it is the message that VIP culture and excessive security protocols send. It is a colonial relic meant to perpetuate the superiority of the foreign governors over the natives, a legacy that is not relevant in Pakistan. It is also true that motorcades cause traffic, nuisance and noise pollution—leading to disruptions of the whole workday. The idea, of limiting security, is not a bad or impractical one, but the risk assessment committee must go about the task extremely carefully; Pakistan cannot afford a rise in terrorist attacks.

Gaza: Another war may be coming soon

Adnan Abu Amer



Israel and the US have pushed for an end to the Qatari cash grant and suggested replacing it with purchase vouchers of the same cash value. This proposal was categorically rejected by Hamas, as it realises that many of Gaza's residents survive on these cash handouts and that losing them will likely lead to an explosive situation in the strip. There also seems to be a deadlock on another issue: the exchange of prisoners. Although for a while there has been talk that such a deal is imminent

AS soon as the 11-day Israeli war on Gaza ended in May, preparation began in Israel and in the strip for a new confrontation. It was clear from the start that the ceasefire brokered by Egypt was fragile and may not last long. The temporary truce was concluded under pressure from the United States but it did not settle the most triggering issues between the two parties. As a result, conflict between Israel and Hamas could be easily reignited in the near future. From the Palestinian perspective, the sponsors of the ceasefire have done nothing to stop the Israeli aggression in Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Mosque, which provoked Palestinian anger and ultimately led to Hamas launching rocket fire on May 10. Forced expulsions and house demolitions of Palestinian homes in occupied Jerusalem have continued, and so have Israeli settler break-ins under Israeli security protection into the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, where the mosque is located. Despite international pressure on the Israeli government to stop these raids on Islam's third holiest site, it has continued to enable them. One of the main reasons for that is its own fragility. The new Israeli government is an unstable coalition of disparate political forces which is now subjected to fierce political attacks by former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu after his ouster from power. Facing accusations of being “left-wing”, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett is intent on proving his right-wing credentials and would not risk angering the Israeli settler community or the Israeli far right by stopping the raids on Al-Aqsa. The same is true for the forced expulsions of Palestinians from their homes in occupied Jerusalem. Ethnically cleansing the city of its Palestinian population and making it Jewish-only has been a top priority for the Israeli far right for decades. Bennett likely fears that putting a stop to these crimes would destabilise his coalition. This continuous violence against Palestinians and the violation of Al-Aqsa's sanctity could well trigger another conflict if left unaddressed. From the Israeli perspective, Hamas emerging as the victorious side from the 11-day war was hard to swallow. Hamas's rockets fired at Israel were welcomed by Palestinians across historic Palestine, not just Gaza, and increased support for the movement. This caused much frustration within

the ranks of the Israeli army and it is likely that its leadership will push for an opportunity to even the score and polish its tarnished image. Meanwhile, to counter Hamas's growing popularity, Israel has intensified its siege of Gaza, closing crossings to the strip, limiting the entry of aid and the export and import of foodstuffs, and decreasing the supply of electricity. As a result, the humanitarian situation in Gaza has deteriorated significantly. As Palestinians in the strip face ever-worsening conditions, they are increasingly putting pressure on Hamas to provide for their needs. Hamas, however, does not have an answer to these legitimate humanitarian demands. Finding itself in this difficult position, Hamas might try to export its internal crisis to Israel through another round of hostilities. One of the important economic issues that Hamas seems unlikely to compromise on is the monthly financial grant which has been provided by Qatar since October 2018, after the movement, and Israel reached an understanding under the sponsorship of Qatar, Egypt, and the United Nations. As part of this deal, Doha sends \$30m per month distributed over many economic sectors in Gaza, including the transfer of \$100 at the beginning of each month to tens of thousands of Palestinian families. The cash given to Gaza residents helps to revive the economy of the strip and mitigate the effect of the Israeli siege. Israel and the US have pushed for an end to the Qatari cash grant and suggested replacing it with purchase vouchers of the same cash value. This proposal was categorically rejected by Hamas, as it realises that many of Gaza's residents survive on these cash handouts and that losing them will likely lead to an explosive situation in the strip. There also seems to be a deadlock on another issue: the exchange of prisoners. Although for a while there has been talk that such a deal is imminent, there are serious disagreements that have led to the failure of the indirect negotiations. This is another problem that could potentially reignite hostilities between the two sides. For its part, Hamas has expressed its desire to exploit any military confrontation with Israel to increase the number of Israeli soldiers it has captured to gain more leverage and be able to exchange them for more Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. While the forces pushing for a new conflict are considerable, there are a few factors that have so far prevented

the breakout of another war in Gaza. First, the same reason that keeps the new Israeli government's hands tied on the raids on Al-Aqsa and the forced expulsions of Palestinian Jerusalemites from their homes – its fragility – also prevents it from launching another assault on Gaza. If it were to do so, one of its coalition partners – the Palestinian Raam Party – would likely withdraw its support. Others might also abandon ship if Hamas's retaliation is successful, especially if it manages to strike the Israeli interior. For this reason – at least for now – the new government would rather engage in indirect talks with Hamas, raise its negotiating demands, and engage in brinkmanship without necessarily falling into direct confrontation. Second, Hamas is aware that both its fighters and Gaza civilians might not be able to pull through another Israeli campaign of massive destruction. As soon as it emerged from the last war, its armed wing began restoring its military capabilities, but it was apparent that its fighters needed “a break”. Given the difficult humanitarian situation in the strip, its residents are also severely exhausted from warfare. The awareness of “conflict exhaustion” among Palestinians in Gaza was evident in Hamas's response to the march organised by settlers through occupied Jerusalem after the new Israeli government took power. Rather than launching a military response to the march as it happened last Ramadan, Hamas contented itself with denouncing it. Third, the US does not want to see any confrontations in the Palestinian territories. In May, it sent its envoys to the region to pressure all parties into committing to the ceasefire so there are no fresh hostilities while it tries to finalise a nuclear deal with Iran. The US wants calm in the region also because it needs to devote itself to its confrontations with China and Russia. Although so far these factors are precluding another conflict between Israel and Hamas, the situation is quite unstable and unpredictable. At any point, the calculus of each actor can change and the benefits of another war could be perceived as greater than a commitment to the present ceasefire. A more lasting truce will not be established until the major outstanding issues between Israel and Hamas are resolved.

— Courtesy: Al Jazeera

World needs new plan to help us live with Covid-19

Sara Al-Mulla



It cannot be emphasized enough how important personal social responsibility will be in curbing infection rates in the near future. As governments lift restrictions, it will remain vital to sustain public health awareness campaigns on the significance of good personal hygiene, wearing protective gear, and quarantining when unwell

IN January, the international science journal Nature surveyed more than 100 immunologists, infectious disease experts and virologists on whether the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) could be eradicated. About 90 percent responded that it could remain endemic, which means that it will continue to circulate in different communities for many years. In recent months, governments have been devising bold roadmaps for living with the virus once it becomes endemic. Theoretically, this can be achieved once the majority of the global population has built up immunity against the virus, either through vaccination or infection and recovery. Lately, we have been hearing numerous governmental announcements about easing restrictions and reverting to a semblance of normality. For example, in the past few weeks, Singapore's ministerial taskforce on COVID-19 shared a new vision for living with the virus, entailing easing restrictions on the one hand, while keeping some precautionary measures on the other. This critical milestone will be achieved sometime next month, when two-thirds of the population will be fully vaccinated and with the rollout of rapid test kits that produce results in two minutes. The UK and France have also made similar announcements recently. With the largest vaccination campaign in history underway, many more governments will soon start easing restrictions. Research finds that approved vaccines are effective at reducing transmission and mortality rates. Experts are also discussing yearly booster shots to strengthen immunity against the virus. Currently, 26.6 percent of the global population has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. However, only 1.1 percent of people in low-income countries have received their first dose thus far, mainly due to a shortage of supply. This limitation will surely slow the pace of the global recovery from the pandemic. As such, many international efforts are underway to secure vaccine supplies to low-income countries, such as those pledged by the UAE, Australia and Europe. Countries will remain cautious and put in place

plans to prevent COVID-19 transmission. Detailed guidance will be published by sector to direct stakeholders on sanitation requirements, self-isolation rules according to different scenarios, maintaining physical distancing between groups attending indoor recreation and leisure activities, and guidance on hosting large-scale events. A recent innovation in this regard is the emergence of digital health passes, which enable people to share their vaccination status or COVID-19 test results before entering crowded venues. Recently, the French government announced that, from next month, people over the age of 12 will need to show a special COVID-19 health pass before entering cinemas, museums, sports matches, restaurants, cafes, shopping centers, theatre, theme parks, hospitals, or long-distance trains. With summer in full swing, many countries are dropping pandemic restrictions to boost domestic and international tourism. For example, they have signed bilateral travel agreements with other countries that they deem to pose low risks to their populations. Requirements are easy to meet, such as proof of vaccination, a negative PCR test result or a report indicating recovery from COVID-19. These requirements will probably remain for the near future to mitigate transmissions caused by foreign travelers. Countries will also need to upgrade their healthcare infrastructure and hire medical workers to accommodate periodic surges in cases. We have come a long way in terms of discovering a range of effective treatments that have successfully reduced hospitalization and death rates. Going forward, investments in COVID-19 treatments will be a critical part of many governments' response plans. For example, the US administration last month launched the Antiviral Program for Pandemics, which consists of a \$3 billion investment aimed at developing and manufacturing the next generation of antiviral treatments against viruses with pandemic potential, including the current COVID-19 virus. Such discoveries will certainly alleviate the virulence of

the virus and its impact on public health. Since the onset of the pandemic, we have witnessed an acceleration in the digital transformation across public services and business operations. Going forward, it will be vital for governments and private sector organizations to invest in innovative digital technologies that will enable them to deliver their services to the masses. For example, thanks to pre-emptive investment in cutting-edge data analytics, many policymakers were able to devise effective response plans to mitigate transmission in coronavirus hotspots. Also, countries that set up online learning technologies are able to effortlessly migrate students to distance learning if emergencies arise. Telehealth services will be vital for medical workers to provide patients with the necessary consultations, diagnoses, mental health services, follow-up appointments, and care strategies in the case of life-threatening medical issues. Additionally, employees could capitalize on the many creative digital technologies that facilitate their remote work, such as collaboration tools and virtual meeting organizers. The pandemic has also inspired a shift toward e-commerce and online shopping. Many enterprises will find it instrumental to invest in digital technologies to sustain and grow their businesses. In fact, many governments, including Singapore's, have introduced grants for enterprises to adopt game-changing digital solutions. It cannot be emphasized enough how important personal social responsibility will be in curbing infection rates in the near future. As governments lift restrictions, it will remain vital to sustain public health awareness campaigns on the significance of good personal hygiene, wearing protective gear, and quarantining when unwell. Countries are encouraged to harness their creativity to imagine a post-pandemic world that can return us to a semblance of normality. This seems very much possible thanks to advances in technology, science and the social sciences.

— Courtesy: Arab News

Briefs



Medal Count

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	15	7	9	31
2	Japan	15	4	6	25
3	USA	14	14	10	38
4	ROC	8	11	9	28
5	Australia	2	10	20	20

'Pak Army supports govt decisions'

FROM PAGE 01

We just want peace in Afghanistan," he said, and asked, "How Pakistan could ensure Afghan refugees living here do not cross over into their country and fight alongside the Taliban when there is a cross-border movement every day." He said Pakistan did have an interest in the landlocked country in the past. "Because then we had the policy of strategic depth because we were wary of India. But now we believe Afghans have themselves to decide their future. We don't have any 'favorites' in Afghanistan," the prime minister said emphatically. Criticising the American policy in Afghanistan, PM Imran said that the country ought to have held negotiations with the Taliban when they had their troops stationed in Afghanistan. "Now how can they (the Americans) talk to them from the position of strength when only few thousands of their soldiers are left in Afghanistan?" he questioned.

The prime minister said that first India had denied the right of self-determination to the Kashmiris by not implementing the UN resolutions, and the last nail it hammered into the coffin was on August 5, 2019 it robbed Kashmir of the special status it had granted to it under Article-370 of its constitution.

Pakistan Army, PLA brothers...

FROM PAGE 01

the Defence Attaché said China and Pakistan are iron brothers, all-weather friends and strategic partners. No matter how the world situation changes, we will always stand together in safeguarding our national sovereignty, territorial integrity and maintaining regional peace and stability. The Chief of Army Staff General Bajwa felicitated PLA's leadership and lauded PLA's role in China's defence, security and nation building. Highlighting various facets of the deep rooted ties between the two states, militaries and the people, COAS said Pakistan China relationship is unique and robust that has proven its resilience in the face of challenges. In the evolving security milieu, Pakistan China partnership is becoming increasingly important for regional peace and stability. COAS said our past and present testifies that we never given in to challenges, COAS concluded.

Pakistan gets 3m...

FROM PAGE 01

"The arrival of these three million doses is in addition to the 2.5 million doses the United States donated earlier this month to the people of Pakistan. These vaccines, which come from our own domestic vaccine supply, are a clear demonstration of President Biden's promise - and our promises kept - to stand with the people of Pakistan in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic." The United States has delivered more than \$50 million in COVID-19 assistance through our partnership with the Government of Pakistan. Since the start of the pandemic, the United States has worked together with Pakistan to improve infection prevention and control, enhance patient care, expand laboratory testing, disease monitoring, and case tracking in all districts, and support frontline healthcare workers. Earlier this month, the U.S. government provided 2.5 million doses of the Moderna vaccine to the Pakistani people, for a total of 5.5 million doses from the United States' own vaccine supply.

India, GB, Dutch progress to men's quarter-finals

"We rode the pressure in the first half and the Dutch are a great side," said Ward. "They played some good hockey but in the end our fitness came through"

SPORTS DESK

TOKYO: India reached the quarter-finals of the men's Olympic hockey tournament on Thursday thanks to an inspired 3-1 win over Rio gold medallists Argentina, while the Netherlands and Britain also progressed. Tokyo 2020 Olympics - Hockey - Men's Pool A - India v Argentina - Oi Hockey Stadium, Tokyo, Japan - July 29, 2021. Matias Rey of Argentina in action against Varun Kumar of India. REUTERS/BernadettSzabo

Argentina's women's team secured a spot in the knockout stages, after sending hosts Japan out of the tournament, while the Spanish team's win over China meant they also took a big step to progressing to the next round. In the men's tournament, India

fought back after conceding an early goal to their South American opponents, pulling level in the second half and then scoring another two late on. "Feeling great after the win, but there's a lot of things to improve," said defender Rupinder Pal Singh. "The important games are coming in a few days."

In the other group, the Netherlands led Britain 2-0 when the game went into the final quarter but gave up their lead after their opponents stepped up the pressure. Britain levelled with two goals by Sam Ward, including a penalty corner with four minutes to go. The result still gave both teams a ticket to the quarter-finals. "We rode the pressure in the first half and the Dutch are a great side," said Ward. "They played some good hockey but in



the end our fitness came through." South Africa pulled off a 4-3 surprise win over 2016 Olympic bronze

medal winners Germany despite being down a goal at halftime.

South Africa levelled in the second half before sealing the win when a pass from 19-year-old rookie Mustapha Cassiem deflected off the stick of an opponent behind the German goalkeeper. "I was just bursting into tears. It's an emotional one and this one's definitely for the people back home," said Cassiem. South Africa are unlikely to progress to the knockout stages due to a negative goal difference but they avoided being sent home by the Germans, who need one more point to advance.

World champions Belgium sent Canada packing with a 9-1 victory to stay perfect in Pool B. In the women's event, Argentina's Las Leonas joined Australia - who had already

qualified - in the knockout stages by beating Japan 2-1. Spain, whose coach has been quarantined here due to a positive COVID-19 test, got closer to making it to the next round thanks to a 2-0 victory over China.

The Netherlands, who were also already sure of making the quarter-finals, claimed a 1-0 win over Britain in which British goalkeeper Madeleine Hinch played an outstanding role with a dozen saves. Dutch coach Alyson Annan said her team must improve penalty corners, while praising their success in defending outside the striking corner.

"We've still got 20-30% improvement in our game. The pool games are used for that, to get that improvement," Annan said. Australia beat rivals New Zealand 1-0.

Sunisa Lee wins all around gold for US



SPORTS DESK

TOKYO: US gymnast Sunisa Lee rallied to take the women's all-around title at Tokyo Olympics on Thursday. The 18-year-old won gold in 57.433 points, trailed by Brazil's Rebeca Andrade in 57.298 points. The Russian Olympic Committee (ROC)'s Angelina Melnikova settled for bronze in 57.199 points. China's Tang Xijing and Lu Yufei finished seventh and 18th respectively. Thanks to an excellent performance on the uneven bars, Lee was able to narrow her gap with Andrade and placed second in rotation two by a close margin of 0.066 points to the Brazilian gymnast. Though she was unstable on the balance beam, Lee led the competition after rotation three, trailing by Andrade at 0.101 points. Her score of 13.700 in the floor exercise held off a strong challenge from Andrade, as the latter scored 13.666 points but needed 13.802 for a gold. "It feels crazy, it is so surreal. It's a dream come true. I don't even know what to say. It hasn't even sunk in," Lee said after the final. "The past two years with COVID have been crazy. There was one point I wanted to quit. To be here and to be an Olympic gold medallist is just crazy." Andrade took the lead after the vault, but lost her edge in the uneven bars and the balance beam. In the last rotation, she stepped out of bounds in the floor exercise twice, leading to a 0.4 penalty which denied her the chance for a gold. "I don't have any words to describe how I am feeling, nor the feeling of having the Olympic silver medal around my neck. I gave 110 percent, I gave all of me," said Andrade. "It's been a tough road (since Rio 2016) with many bumps along the way. But I kept on focusing on my goal."

Novak Djokovic thrashes Kei to reach men's semi

SPORTS DESK

TOKYO: Novak Djokovic remains on course for a 'Golden Slam' after ruthlessly ending the dreams of home hope Kei Nishikori to cruise into the Olympic semi-finals. The world number one, bidding to become the first man to win all four Grand Slam titles and an Olympic gold in the same year, breezed through 6-2 6-0. He will face Germany's Alexander Zverev in the semi-finals on Friday.

Switzerland's Belinda Bencic and the Czech Republic's Marketa Vondrousova will meet in Saturday's women's final.

Bencic outlasted Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina 7-6 (7-2) 4-6 6-3 in a match lasting almost three hours in the searing Tokyo heat, saving five set points in a 73-minute opening set that she won on a tie-break. The Swiss later returned to the court to become the fifth player to reach finals in both singles and doubles at a Games since tennis was reintroduced to the Olympics in 1988, as she and Viktorija Golubic beat Brazilian pair Laura Pigossi and Luisa Stefani 7-5 6-3. Vondrousova, ranked 42nd in the world, enjoyed a far more serene passage as she fol-



lowed up her upset of Naomi Osaka by shocking world number six Elina Svitolina 6-3 6-1 in little over an hour. Thursday's matches began at 15:00 local time (07:00 BST), four hours later than on previous days, after organisers agreed to push start times back following complaints from players about the hot conditions. There were few concerns about the heat for Djokovic as he took just an hour and 10 minutes to dispatch Japan's 2016 bronze med-

alist Nishikori, who cut an increasingly forlorn figure as his hopes of winning a medal for the host nation were obliterated.

Victory equalled another record for the Serb, who drew level with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal at 20 Grand Slam titles at Wimbledon last month, as he matched the Swiss' 13 singles match Olympic wins. Djokovic, however, has never reached an Olympic final, and standing in his way is 24-year-old Zverev, who pro-

duced a display almost as impressive as the top seed to see off France's Jeremy Chardy 6-4 6-1. "Playing after five [pm] is completely different. Obviously, there is a little bit of a breeze," said Djokovic, 34. "It's still very, very humid - you sweat a lot but you don't have the heat, you don't have the sun that, in combination with the humidity, is just brutal."

However, world number two Daniil Medvedev, one of the players who had voiced concerns about the heat, was again unhappy after his 6-2 7-6 (7-5) quarter-final defeat by Pablo Carreno Busta. Medvedev left the court to change his clothes after the opening set, as he did during Wednesday's third-round win over Fabio Fognini.

"I changed everything I had on. I wanted to change my skin because I was sweating like I never did before. It was terrible," said the Russian Olympic Committee player. "I was wet like hell. I couldn't toss the ball well, once I tossed the ball and got water in my eyes. It was not easy to play." Medvedev's compatriot Karen Khachanov, who beat France's Ugo Humbert 7-6 (7-4) 4-6 6-3, will meet Spain's Carreno Busta in Friday's other semi-final at the Ariake Tennis Park.

Canada provides medical supplies

FROM PAGE 01

the High Commissioner of Canada to Pakistan. A statement from Canada High Commission said, "Canada is proud to continue to work with the Government of Pakistan and partners towards a coordinated response to COVID-19 and to build on its longstanding partnership to improve health systems and service delivery in Pakistan. Today's contribution is part of Canada's continued support to Pakistan's COVID-19 response since the beginning of the pandemic, which, up to this point, includes about \$16 million to support strengthening surveillance, lab testing, health worker training and other essential activities, as well as Canada's broader support to countries, including Pakistan, through global health partnerships. Canada's support for COVID-19 response has been targeted to those most in need, particularly women and girls who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic." At the global level, Canada is providing \$545 million to the COVAX Facility for vaccine procurement, distribution, and delivery in 92 countries, including Pakistan, and is supporting UNICEF to provide additional medical supplies to Pakistan, in part through a \$230 million contribution to the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, announced in December 2020. Additionally, Canada recently announced new support through the World Health Organization (WHO) to help strengthen and improve the resilience of primary and essential health care service delivery in ten countries, including Pakistan.

Azerbaijan felicitated on Karabakh victory

FROM PAGE 01

the two countries should collaborate with each other for joint research, joint degree programmes as well as students and faculty exchanges. The Azeri Foreign Minister thanked the Speaker for the meeting and lauded the proposals. He assured that the suggestions will be taken up with the concerned quarters. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan further said that Azerbaijan strongly supported Pakistan on its just and legitimate stance over the issue of Jammu & Kashmir and reaffirmed that Azerbaijan will continue to extend its support at all international fora with regard to the said issue.

Aug 31 deadline for vaccination

FROM PAGE 01

make you realize that you play an important role for this society and economy. And we, on priority basis want that your health is not compromised so that your livelihood continues and economy also continues." Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar said while addressing a press conference here. The federal minister was flanked by Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan. Asad Umar, who is also Chairman of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), said that NCOC had already made decision earlier that unvaccinated people would be barred from traveling in domestic flights from August 1st likewise teachers and staff would also not be allowed to enter educational institutions unvaccinated from this date. He said that we cannot take risk of children, adding that around 80 per cent of teachers have already been vaccinated. The minister said ban would be extended from August 31st on other sectors and places where risk of coronavirus spread is high due to excessive assembling of people, including transport sector, markets and public-dealing offices.

"These are all facilities were people visit in bulk and have to get in touch with people there and are exposed to the virus," he said. The minister said the drivers, who provide pick and drop facility to school-children would be required to vaccinate themselves while those travelling on public transport should also follow the deadline.

Judoka Shah Hussain knocked out of Tokyo Olympics

SPORTS DESK

TOKYO: Pakistan's judoka Shah Hussain Shah was knocked out of 2020 Tokyo Olympics on Thursday by Egyptian Ramadan Darwish in the -100kg event. Shah Hussain, son of legendary boxer Hussain Shah, could only survive three minutes and nine seconds before Darwish performed an ippon on Hussain to win round-



of 32 match. A full throw a con- testant throws his opponent with "considerable force and speed" so the opponent lands "largely on his back." An ippon is enough to win a match in one move. Earlier, badminton player Mahoor Shahzad, swimmer Haseeb Tariq didn't showcase satisfactory performance while weightlifter Talha Talib bagged fifth position in 67 kg competition.



MANAMA: MANAMA: Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with Bahraini Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa. - DNA

Nuclear talks with Iran 'cannot go on indefinitely'

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's government has repeatedly called on Washington to make the first move in lifting sanctions before it would return to compliance with the agreement

AGENCIES

KUWAIT CITY: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said talks over a return to the Iran nuclear deal "cannot go on indefinitely" but that Washington is "fully prepared" to continue negotiations. The US has been involved in indirect talks with Iran, with other parties to the 2015 agreement - the UK, France, Germany, the European Union, Russia, and China - serving as intermediaries, in Vienna since April. The so-called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) gave Iran some relief from international sanctions in exchange for limits on its nuclear programme. The

deal was torpedoed in 2018 by then US President Donald Trump, who unilaterally withdrew from the agreement and imposed punishing sanctions.

"We're committed to diplomacy, but this process cannot go on indefinitely," Blinken said during a visit to Kuwait on Thursday.

"We look to see what Iran is ready to do or not ready to do and remain fully prepared to return to Vienna to continue negotiations. "The ball remains in Iran's court," Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's government has repeatedly called on Washington to make the first move in lifting sanctions before it would return to compliance with the agreement. However, a deal appears to be in-



creasingly unlikely until after Rouhani hands over to President-elect Ebrahim Raisi early next month. Raisi is an ultraconservative but has expressed support for the nuclear talks, arguing Iran needs an end to US sanctions.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday that experience has shown "trusting the West does not work", referring to the US withdrawal from the deal and its fallout.

Raisi has said his government will support talks that "guarantee national interests", but will not allow negotiations for the sake of negotiations. One of the major criticisms of the 2015 deal raised by Trump was its failure to address Iran's ballistic missile programme or its alleged interference in regional affairs. But Tehran has always rejected bringing non-nuclear issues into the agreement. Khamenei also criticised the US for refusing to "guarantee that (it) will not violate the agreement in

the future" by pulling out unilaterally, as Trump did.

Iran's chief negotiator Abbas Araghchi said this month that the talks must "await our new administration" as Tehran is "in a transition period". A sixth round of talks concluded on June 20 and dates for the next round have yet to be fixed. Rouhani, in office since 2013 and preparing to leave after the maximum two consecutive terms, had repeatedly promised to secure relief from sanctions before the end of his term. But earlier this month, he expressed hope that his successor can clinch a deal to lift sanctions, insisting that from his administration's side, "the work was ready" to be done.

Briefs

Pak, Turkey delegations visit Shusha city, Fuzuli

DNA

SHUSHA: Delegations led by the Speaker of Milli Majlis Sahiba Gafarova, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Mustafa Sentop and Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan Asad Qaiser have kicked off their official visit to Azerbaijan's city of Shusha.

During the visit, the delegation members will visit historical, religious monuments and other sites located in the city.

The visitors will familiarize themselves with the traces of Armenian vandalism, as well as restoration works carried out in the city of Shusha, the cradle of Azerbaijani culture.

The delegations also visit to Fuzuli city. Representatives were informed about destructions committed by Armenia in Fuzuli, as well as reconstruction and restoration works carried out by Azerbaijan.

Pakistan may reduce soybean import by 76%

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China's maize-soybean strip intercropping technology completed harvest at 12 demonstration sites in irrigated areas of Punjab and Sindh recently, and the production of maize and soybeans reached 7,603 kg and 1,052 kg per hectare respectively in the intercropped fields.

According to China Economic Net (CEN), more specifically, at the 10 sites in Punjab, intercropped maize and soybeans achieved 8,018 kg and 842 kg per hectare with the strip intercropping technology. In Bahawalpur, the research team obtained the highest intercropped maize yield which is 9,885 kg per hectare, and in Vehari the highest soybean yield of 1,176 kg per hectare was achieved.

At the two sites in Sindh, intercropped maize and soybeans achieved 5,527 kg and 2,099 kg per hectare. Compared with the production of solely cropped maize and soybeans at these 12 sites which are 8,719 kg and 2,228 kg per hectare respectively, the intercropping technology definitely creates much more economic benefits.

"Our intercropping technology gave 24% and 51% extra net income separately of maize and soybeans to farmers," Muhammad Ali Raza, post-doc of Sichuan Agricultural University who is promoting this advanced Chinese agricultural technology in Pakistan, told CEN.

Uzbekistan to expand Russian partnership

DNA

TASHKENT: The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan continues to actively cooperate with the Treasury of the Russian Federation in improving the system of state regulation of auditing activities. Every year new prospects are achieved, contributing to the expansion of the Uzbek-Russian partnership in the development of the audit services market.

On 26 and 27 July 2021, a meeting was held with a Russian delegation consisting of Deputy Head of the Treasury of Russia Alexander Mikhailik and Head of the Audit Supervision Department Lyudmila Muromtseva, as well as Chairman of the Board of the SRO of Auditors Association "Sodruzhestvo" Igor Kozyrev and his deputy Nadezhda Kobozeva.

Deputy Minister of Finance Dilshod Sultanov, specialists of the Department of methodology of accounting and audit, Chairman of the Board of the Chamber of Auditors of Uzbekistan Nematulla Karimov, Chairman of the National Association of Accountants and Auditors of Uzbekistan Minovar Tulakhodjaeva took part in the open meeting.



SHUSHA: Speakers of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Turkish Grand National Assembly, and the Pakistani National Assembly Sahiba Gafarova, Mustafa Sentop, and Asad Qaiser during their visit to Shusha, the newly liberated area of Azerbaijan. – DNA

India seeks to reform its military amid new security threats

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: The top brass of the Indian military met last week to discuss massive reforms, which are aimed at integrating the capabilities of the army, the navy and the air force. In a plan backed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, the current 17 single-service units will come under five "theater commands" in a bid to establish a unified approach to deal with future conflicts. However, reports of discord between the service chiefs emerged as they squabbled over the structure and ambit of the unified commands.

Earlier this month, Chief of Defense Staff General Bipin Rawat and head of the air force, Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria, reportedly exchanged harsh words over the proposed reforms. On July 2, Rawat, who is tasked with creating "theater commands" said that the Indian air force remains a "supporting arm" of the armed forces. There are reports that the air force does not agree to the unified command reform.

The timing of the proposed reform is crucial, as the Indian military faces challenges from multiple fronts, including border tensions with China and Pakistan. "Reforms are long overdue. The Indian military is operating under old structures and old ideas that won't be effective should a new conflict emerge," Arzan Tarapore, a South Asia research scholar at Stanford University, told DW.

Amit Cowshish, a former financial advisor to the Ministry of Defense, said security threats to India are continuously morphing into new forms. "The boundary dispute with China has acquired a new dimension as was seen in Ladakh last year. China is also increasing its forays into the Indian Ocean and has been making overtures to India's neighbors," Cowshish told DW.

The Indian military also faces challenges from growing advancements in technology, says Vivek Chadha, a retired colonel and a research fellow at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for

Defense Studies and Analyses. According to Chadha, drones are now considered low-cost options. "Similarly, the kind of investment one needs to do to carry out a cyberattack is minuscule as compared to conventional weapons systems," he added. Tarapore said "drones are just the tip of the iceberg."

"Far more salient and long-lasting threats in decades to come are going to be the huge advancements in information technology, as it relates to war. Everything that can be affected by, improved by artificial intelligence and machine learning," Tarapore told DW.

In the years to come, the Indian military could also be called to assume a variety of new missions in South Asia. "India acting as a net security provider in the region, basically non-combat roles for the military, including humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and maintaining conventional deterrence across the region," Tarapore said.

He added that although India already undertakes similar functions, there is going to be an increasing demand from the region and

from partners like the US and Australia to carry out more such missions. India could also be expected to play a key role in counter-coercion. "India has previously designed its military to defend its land increasingly for a variety of reasons. That is going to recede in frequency as a threat and what's going to increase in frequency is the risk of coercion both against India and against third parties in the region," Tarapore said. A potential civil war in neighboring Afghanistan could also have repercussions for India's security, particularly in the Kashmir region. "Regardless of whether Pakistan is able to work out some equation with the Taliban, it will have a spin-off effect in India. India is very unlikely to come close to the Taliban," Cowshish said.

"There may be some kind of a truce, but I don't think India can subscribe to the kind of ideology that the Taliban have. At some point of time, the Taliban could directly or indirectly start spreading their tentacles in Kashmir," Cowshish added.



BAKU: Pakistan embassy Baku arranged meeting of Pakistani parliamentarians with members of Pakistan Azerbaijan Business Chamber. Founding members of the Chamber briefed the delegation on prospects of enhancing economic engagement between the two countries. – DNA

Qatar's emir approves electoral law

FOREIGN DESK

DOHA: Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani has approved an electoral law for the country's first legislative polls, due to be held in October, his office said.

The vote will be for 30 members, of the 45-seat Shura Council. The remaining one-third of the council will continue to be appointed by the emir.

Appointed and elected members will have the same rights and duties, including "approving the general policy of the government and budget", as well as exercising control over the executive authority, according to a statement on Thursday by Qatar's Government Communication Office (GCO).

Photography book on Karakoram launched at Pakistan HC London

DNA

LONDON: A photography book entitled "The Karakoram - Ice Mountains of Pakistan" by acclaimed landscape photographer Colin Prior was launched at the Pakistan HC London on 28 July 2021. The book is a descriptive and visual compilation of Prior's several visits to Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan region to photograph the mountains and capture their beauty.

In his remarks on the occasion, HC Moazzam Ahmad Khan congratulated Colin Prior on publishing a masterpiece that brought to greater light the unique natural beauty of northern areas of Pakistan. He appreciated the efforts that went into produc-



LONDON: Amb. (R) Leena Salim Moazzam, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK, Moazzam Ahmad Khan, Photographer Colin Prior and Shaikh Fawaz bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, ambassador of Bahrain to the UK at the book launch ceremony at Pakistan High Commission London. – DNA

ing the book, which, he said, couldn't have been possible without tremendous compassion for nature. Mentioning

positive reviews of Pakistan as a tourism destination by leading travel publications and organisations, he said

that Pakistan tourism was poised to grow exponentially. Colin Prior made an illustrated presentation and shared

personal experiences and recollections of his travels to the region. He said: "Having made six, month long expeditions to the Karakoram Mountains, I am delighted, finally, to see the project published in my latest book, The Karakoram - Ice Mountains of Pakistan."

"My hope is that this book will raise awareness of The Karakoram Mountains, in the Gilgit-Baltistan region of Pakistan, as the finest mountain range in the world and showcase, what I believe, to be the world's most spectacular gallery of shape and form." In addition to the HC, Bestway Group, Rangoonwala Foundation, UBL, HBL and PIA partly sponsored the publishing of the book by Merrell Publishers.

Pakistan delegation visits Baku embassy

BAKU: Ambassador Bilal Hayee briefed the delegation about bilateral relations between the two countries, and consular services provided by the Embassy to the Pakistani community in Azerbaijan and Georgia.

The delegation comprised of Parliament Members including Ms. Munaza Hassan, Chaudhry Salik Husain, Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Syed Mustafa Mehmed, Syed Hussain Tariq, Ms. Naz Baloch and senior officials of the National Assembly. – DNA

Baku sentences 13 more Armenian

DNA

BAKU: Baku Grave Crimes Court on July 29 sentenced 13 members of an Armenian subversive group to six years in prison each. After serving their sentence, they will be deported from Azerbaijan.

The defendants stood trial for committing terrorist-subversive and other criminal actions against Azerbaijani servicemen and civilians after the signing of the November peace deal that ended the hostilities last year.

The 13 men illegally crossed the Azerbaijani border on November 26-27 and took up combat positions in the forest and other areas in the northwestern part of the Hadrut settlement of Khojavand district. They were detained in anti-terrorist operation by the State Security Service on December 13. Apart from terror-related charges, the group members were also charged for illegal weapon acquisition, border violation.

The members of the group are Yeghish Astanyan, Karen Aramyan, Tigran Avakyan, Grigor Gevorgyan, Hovsep Manukyan, Gevorg Martirosyan, Robert Gevorgyan, Vagarshag Avetisyan, Volodya Hakobyan, Andranik Sukiasyan, Andranik Manukyan, Grigor Saghatlyan, and Eduard Giragusyan.

New military unit opened in Khojaly region

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan has opened a new military unit in part of the Khojaly region liberated from the Armenian occupation in last year's war.

"An opening of the overhauled artillery military unit supplied with modern equipment was held in the territory of the Khojaly region to organize combat duty and troops' service at a high level, as well as to provide living conditions for military personnel," the Defence Ministry's press service reported on July 29. The military unit's office premises are equipped with air conditioners, furniture, modern sanitary facilities, bedding, kitchen equipment, and generators.

The Army Corps Commander, Major General Mais Barkhudarov conveyed the Defense Minister's congratulations on the occasion of the commissioning of the new military unit to the military personnel and wished them success.

The ministry reminded that work is underway in the units of the Azerbaijan Army stationed in the liberated territories in line with President Ilham Aliyev's decree, adding that the building of new military units in other liberated territories is proceeding as planned.

Earlier, Azerbaijan opened military units in Zangilan and Aghdam regions liberated from Armenia's occupation in 2020.

India's Kerala state orders lockdown

WEB DESK

NEW DELHI: India's southern state of Kerala has announced a two-day lockdown as federal authorities plan to send experts to fight the spread of infections in the country's leading COVID-19 hotspot.

India's daily cases have fallen after a devastating second wave that overwhelmed the healthcare system, and vaccination efforts are gaining steam.

But experts have warned the authorities against reopening cities too quickly. Kerala, with an active case-load of about 154,000, accounts for 37.1 percent of India's total active cases. Its case positivity rate, indicating the pace of spread in infections, is now the country's highest.

"Special intensified stringent restrictions are being implemented in the areas where the test positivity rate is high," the state's department of disaster management said in a statement announcing a "complete lockdown" from Sunday.

Uzbekistan plan to start new system for children

DNA

TASHKENT: President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev chaired a video conference on expanding state support for children with disabilities, orphans and children left without parental care, as well as improving the system of social benefits.

In our country, there are several types of institutions for the upbringing and support of children in need of social protection. So, 560 children are brought up in 13 Children's Homes, 1,823 children - in 16 Mehribonlik homes and 4 children's towns, 21 thousand boys and girls - in 86 special boarding schools. In addition, 79 thousand children are being brought up under guardianship, guardianship and family patronage.

The meeting analyzed the state of affairs in matters of upbringing and education, providing housing and work for graduates of these institutions.

It was noted that over the past ten years, 51 percent were provided with housing, 64 percent of graduates of Mehribonlik houses and children's townships were employed.



Poor quality of education in these institutions is indicated.

The head of state emphasized the need to bring up children in Mehribonlik homes in conditions close to family conditions, as educated, highly spiritual and patriotic individuals. For this purpose, it is planned to introduce a new system. Thus, the National Guard of the Republic of Uzbekistan will be

responsible for raising children in 16 Mehribonlik homes and 4 children's townships. For this, the position of the corresponding deputy, commander will be introduced and a separate department will be created. New methods will be developed for raising children in Mehribonlik homes, teaching them information technologies, foreign languages, professions and entrepreneurship,

organizing sports. Boys and girls over 14 years old will be trained in the most demanded professions.

The Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education and the Ministry of Tourism and Sports were instructed to assign universities and sports schools to each Mehribonlik house and children's town. They organize scientific and sports circles, the teachers attracted to them will receive salary increments. In addition, the houses of Mehribonlik, which are in serious condition, will be assigned to the Presidential Administration, the Cabinet of Ministers and regional khokimiyats.

Today, 17 percent of the inmates of Mehribonlik homes are orphans, 83 percent are children abandoned by their parents or close relatives. It was noted that most of the children could be returned to their families if financial assistance was provided to them. 79 thousand children are registered with the guardianship and guardianship authorities, 35 thousand of them are adopted. However, only one employee is assigned to work with them in each district and city department of public education.

Briefs

Floods kill 150 people in Nuristan province

WEB DESK

KABUL: At least 100 homes destroyed in Taliban-controlled area, say government officials with limited access, after flash floods wash away homes, burying villagers in mud and water. At least 150 people have died in flooding in Afghanistan's mountainous north-eastern Nuristan province, Taliban said, as villagers searched desperately for survivors in the insurgent-controlled area. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid offered little information on Thursday about the deaths a day earlier. Getting reliable information on the disaster was difficult, according to Afghan officials, as Kamdesh district in the mountainous area had fallen under the control of Taliban and had poor telecommunications. The spokesperson for the provincial governor, Mohammad Sayed Mohmand, said water had inundated the village of Terdesh, destroying at least 100 homes. Mohmand said dozens of families fled the flooding to the neighbouring Kunar region.

79 die, 109 injured due to heavy rains: NDMA

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Thursday issued a report containing detail of losses due to heavy rains in different parts of the country during current month. According to the report, as many as 79 people, including 15 children and 12 women lost their lives in different incidents whereas around 109 people sustained injuries due to heavy rains in the current monsoon season across the country. The report said that deaths due to monsoon rains took place across the country with 28 total deaths in Punjab. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) the maximum of 22 deaths were reported in various roof collapse and landslide incidents due to monsoon rains. Among deceased, 11 were males, 1 female and 10 children. In Balochistan 16 deaths were reported which includes 13 males and 3 females. In Gilgit Baltistan (GB) 4 people were died with 2 males, 2 female and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) bore the loss of 5 lives with 3 males and 2 females. The injured were mostly left in Punjab with a total of 62 males only, KP 33 injured having 19 males, 3 females and 11 children, Balochistan had 10 injured people, whereas in AJK 4 injured mainly 1 males, 2 female and a child were reported.

Infected passengers escape quarantine

DNA

KARACHI: In a shocking incident, at least 23 passengers who were kept in isolation after testing positive for COVID-19 Delta variant had fled the quarantine centre due to lack of security, it emerged on Thursday. According to details, the Sindh health department was facing difficulties at a quarantine centre established in Karachi for passengers coming from abroad. A passenger who tested positive for COVID-19 at Karachi airport ran away from the government-run quarantine facility due to a lack of security, an official of the Sindh health department told media News. As per sources in the health department, the passenger reached Karachi from Iraq via private airlines and had tested positive for the COVID-19. She was kept in a quarantine facility in Korangi but ran away yesterday.

Pak wants to enhance trade, defence ties with S. Africa

Pakistan attaches great importance to its ties with South Africa under its "Look Africa" policy and wants to increase the frequency of exchanges at military and political levels to further cement bilateral ties

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi said Pakistan and South Africa enjoy excellent cooperation in the field of defence which needs to be further expanded for the mutual benefit of the two countries. He expressed these views while talking to the visiting Chief of South African National Defence Force, General Rudzani Maphwanaya, who called on him in Islamabad on Thursday. He said Pakistan wants to further enhance trade, investment and defence relations with South Africa. He said Pakistan attaches great importance to its ties with South Africa under its "Look Africa" policy and wants to increase the frequency of exchanges at military and political levels to further cement bilateral ties. The President highlighted Pakistan's strategy of "Smart



ISLAMABAD: The Chief of South African National Defence Force, General Rudzani Maphwanaya, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. - DNA

Lockdowns" that successfully contained the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. He also shed light on the human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir

being committed by the Indian Security Forces against the innocent Kashmiris. He said that India is involved in the ethnic cleansing of Muslims by martyring innocent Kashmiri Muslims and issuing domiciles to non-Kashmiris to change the demography of the IIOJK. He also called upon the international community to play its role in implementing the United Nation Security Council resolutions to grant the people of IIOJK their right to self-determination. The visiting Chief of South African National Defence Force said the Armed Forces of the two countries have good working relations which need to be further improved for the mutual benefit of the two sides. The President expressed the hope that the visit of the Chief of South African National Defence Force would help in further strengthening the ties between Pakistan and South Africa.

COVID-19 infects 4497 more people

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The national tally on Thursday of total active COVID-19 cases recorded 59761 with 4,497 more people tested positive for the deadly virus during the last 24 hours. 76 coronavirus patients have died during past 24 hours, of whom 70 were under treatment in hospital and six out of the hospital in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCO). During the last 24 hours most of the deaths had occurred in Sindh followed by the Punjab. Out of the total 76 deaths occurred during last 24 hours, 37 of the deceased had died on ventilators during their treatment. The maximum ventilators were occupied in four major areas including Karachi 17 percent, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) 42 percent, Peshawar 19 percent and Lahore 20 percent. The maximum Oxygen beds (alternate oxygen providing facility other than ventilator administered as per medical requirement of COVID patient) was also occupied in four major areas of Muzafarabad 28 percent, Gilgit 36 percent, Islamabad 31 percent and Karachi 54 percent. Around 301 ventilators were occupied elsewhere in the country while no COVID affected person was on ventilator in Balochistan. Some 59,707 tests were conducted across the country on Wednesday, including 20,438 in Sindh, 17,667 in Punjab, 11,686 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), 4,622 in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), 3393 in Balochistan, 813 in GB, and 1088 in AJK.

Punjab schools to reopen on August 2

DNA

LAHORE: Following a meeting between the federal and provincial education ministers, the recommendation to extend summer vacations for schools in Punjab has been rejected by the government. Taking to Twitter, Punjab Education Minister Murad Raas announced the decision that schools will reopen from August 2 in the province. Murad Raas announced that all schools will be operating at 50% capacity on any given day. Schools have been advised to follow all safety regulations and strictly comply with COVID-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs). During the meeting of the education ministers, it was discussed how students have already suffered a lot, therefore, it was decided that the government should make no more compromises when it comes to education. Provinces have made the decisions based on the number of coronavirus cases. It was also advised to open schools at a later date for districts where COVID-19 positivity ratios are higher.

Punjab bars entry of non-jabbed citizens in offices

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab authorities on Thursday have decided to bar entry of non-vaccinated citizens in government offices. According to details, the coronavirus vaccination certificate has been made mandatory to enter any government office. Earlier, National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) had directed field offices that the non-vaccinated citizens should not be entertained till the time they provide vaccination certificate. The decision came after Pakistan reported 76 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 1,020,324. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 23,209.

Intra-party polls: ECP issues show cause notice to PM

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan has issued a show cause notice to Prime Minister Imran Khan for not conducting the intra-party elections of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). The ECP sent a show cause notice to Imran Khan as a Chairman of his party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). The election commission sought a reply from the PTI Chairman within 14 days. "Why don't the commission take back the PTI's party symbol for not hold-

ing the intra-party election," ECP notice reads. As per the requirement, PTI had to submit the details of the intra-party election in the ECP by June 13th. All political parties are required to hold intra-party elections as per the ECP requirement mentioned in the relevant Act. Earlier, the ECP has sought a report from the scrutiny committee on the PTI's request that it should also be given access to the bank account details submitted by two major opposition parties - PML-N and PPP - in connection with an investigation into their alleged foreign funding.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain talking to Governor Balochistan Syed Zahoor Agha who called on him. - DNA

France slams England quarantine rule

PARIS: France said on Thursday it failed to understand why it was exempt from a new rule allowing fully vaccinated European Union citizens to enter England without having to quarantine. From next week, travellers fully jabbed with a vaccine approved by the US Food and Drug Administration or the European Medicines Agency will be able to travel from any country on the British government's "amber" traffic light list without having to self-isolate at home for 10 days, the UK government said Wednesday. Arrivals from France are the only exception. "This decision is discriminatory towards French people," said French European Affairs Minister Clement Beane. "It is excessive and makes no sense in terms of health policy," he told the LCI TV channel, adding that "it has no foundation in science". The UK singled out France due to the government's concern over the "persistent presence" of the Beta variant, which is believed to be more resistant to vaccines. But Beane said the Beta strain accounted for fewer than five percent of Covid cases in France, and mostly occurred in overseas territories from where relatively few people travelled to the UK. Beane also said he regretted that travellers from the EU could still not enter the United States, even though American tourists can easily come to EU countries so long as they are vaccinated or have a negative Covid test. - Agencies

'Pakistan committed to 'peaceful' Afghanistan'

Pakistan had been providing shelter to a large number of Afghan refugees who were now doing businesses in Pakistan. "Even today Pakistan is accommodating around 3mn refugees from Afghanistan"

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Thursday called upon Afghan media to highlight Pakistan's strong commitment and determination to 'peaceful' Afghanistan on other side of the Durand Line. Addressing the second session of Pak-Afghan Youth Forum Media Conclave, he said history could not be ignored as people of erstwhile FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa enjoyed decades old family ties with Afghan people. He said Pakistan had been providing shelter to a large number of Afghan refugees who were now doing businesses in Pakistan. "Even today Pakistan is accommodating around three million refugees from Afghanistan."



Apart from medical treatment which Pakistan had been providing to scores of Afghan people every day, he also mentioned trade ties between the two countries. Farrukh said, he himself knew many businessmen from Afghanistan who used to come to Faisalabad to buy goods from its markets. The history of two countries showed

that as to how much support Pakistan had extended to Afghanistan in its socioeconomic development, he said, adding that it would not change in future. He said Pakistan had also been playing critical role in the Afghan peace process to ensure stability and an inclusive government in Afghanistan after withdrawal of the US forces from there. Pakistan would continue to do its utmost for the purpose, he said. Farrukh said Prime Minister Imran Khan and the current government in Pakistan had strong belief and commitment to fully support the Afghan government backed by its people. He said the PM had said time and again that there was no military solution to Afghan imbroglio. It was a time-tested solution so there was a need for dialogue to resolve it once and all.

Qureshi stresses need to enhance Pak-Bahrain ties

DNA

MANAMA: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi called on His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in Manama on Thursday. The Foreign Minister conveyed the warm regards of the President and the Prime Minister to His Majesty, as well as best wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of Bahrain. His Majesty reciprocated the sentiments. Foreign Minister Qureshi said that Pakistan attached importance to its close relations with the Kingdom of Bahrain and remained committed to expand this relationship in all spheres of bilateral cooperation. The Foreign Minister expressed deep gratitude to the Kingdom of Bahrain for hosting a large number of Pakistani citizens. The Foreign Minister expressed gratitude for inviting Prime Minister Imran Khan as Guest of Honour at the National Day of Bahrain in December 2019 and



MANAMA: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi called on King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain and conveyed to him best wishes from the President of Pakistan Arif Alvi. - DNA

decorating him with Bahrain's prestigious award "King Hamad Order of the Renaissance". Thanking His Majesty for the generous gift of King Hamad Nursing University and Associated Medical Sciences Hospital in Islamabad, Foreign Minister Qureshi said that the facility

would be a symbol of enduring friendship between the two countries. He said that the project reflects the special and deep relations between the countries. His Majesty the King expressed appreciation for the contribution made by the Pakistani expatriate community towards Bahrain's progress and economic development. His Majesty underlined that Bahrain valued its historic relationship with Pakistan and desired to further augmenting the bilateral relationship for mutual benefit. The Foreign Minister extended the invitation, on behalf of the President and Prime Minister, to His Majesty to visit Pakistan at the earliest convenience. Pakistan and Bahrain enjoy traditionally close and fraternal ties, rooted deep in common faith and shared values. Bilateral relations with Bahrain have been following an upward trajectory since Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain in December 2019, on the invitation of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.