



# Islamabad POST

Tuesday, August 03, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

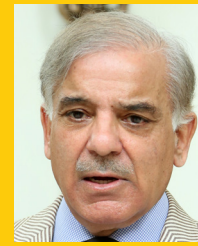
Price Rs. 20

**President Arif Alvi for joint efforts to tackle Islamophobia**

Detailed News On Page-08

**Shahbaz rejects 'fake reports' of resignation**

Detailed News On Page-08



**KPL has disturbed the Indian sleep**

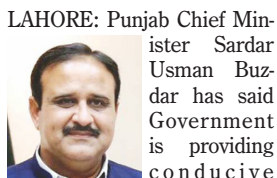
Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

**Govt to welcome Saudi investors**

ABID RAZA



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said Government is providing conducive atmosphere to foreign investors and they can fully benefit from the vast investment opportunities available in Punjab. Talking to Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf Bin Saeed Ahmed Al-Malki, who called on him in Islamabad on Monday, the Chief Minister the provincial government will provide every possible facility to the Saudi investors. The CM said people of Pakistan had a spiritual and warm attachment with Saudi Arabia and they consider it as their second home. He said the people of both countries were weaved in strong bonds of brotherhood and fraternity. It was satisfying that both the countries enjoy historically important relations and Saudi Arabia had always stood with Pakistan in every hour of trial, he stated. The Saudi cooperation in the development of Pakistan was praiseworthy, he said and reiterated that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Saudi Arabia. A conducive atmosphere was provided to foreign investors and Saudis could fully benefit from the vast investment opportunities in Punjab, the CM said.

**Vaccinating 70 percent population top priority**

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for National Health Services Dr Naushen Hamid on Monday said that the government has fixed the target to vaccinate more than 70% of eligible population by the end of the year 2021. She said that the government has already administered coronavirus vaccine to over 3 crore people. The government is "absolutely confident of being able to meet this target by December," she said while speaking to media. "There should be no doubt that vaccines will be available for all as we move forward quickly," she said, adding that around 2600 vaccination centers and 3000 mobile units are working round the clock at union council level.

## Govt imposes new curbs after Covid-19 surge

Markets to be closed at 8 pm in the selected cities; will remain closed two days in a week; indoor dining banned; weddings, gatherings also restricted



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: In the wake of rising numbers of COVID patients in the country, the government decided on Monday to reimpose certain restrictions in selected cities from August 03 to 31 in selected cities. "After approval of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) has decided to impose certain restrictions in Islamabad; Rawalpindi, Lahore, Multan, and Faisalabad in Punjab, Peshawar and Abbottabad in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Karachi and

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**Highest positivity rate since May**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases was recorded as 73,213 on Monday with 4,858 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 1,361 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. Forty (40) corona patients have died during past 24 hours, 38 of whom were under treatment in the hospitals and two of them perished in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). The National Covid positivity ratio during past 24 hours was recorded 8.61 percent. The Covid positivity ratio is the percentage of actual positive cases appearing in every 100 tests performed to identify infected individuals.

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## Bilawal condemns hike in petrol prices

Bilawal says that the incompetence of selected govt is causing obstacles in progress of the country

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari condemned the recent hike in petrol prices by the PTI government, and said that the puppet Prime Minister has once again neglected the plight of the poor. "The government is, in fact, slashing its expenditure by



abdication its responsibility to protect the most vulnerable, and its policy to raise revenue by unleashing 'petrol bombs' and ramping up indirect taxation on a country already reeling from three years of economic malice and incompetence."

In a statement issued from the Media Cell Bilawal House, the Chairman PPP rejected the petrol price hike and revealed that the prices have increased by Rs 10 per liter within a month.

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ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yezhan Kistafin met the Advisor to PM on Commerce & Investment Abdur Razak Dawood. The ambassador appreciated "Silk Route Reconnect" Policy of the Ministry. Matters relating to bilateral & transit trade were also discussed. – DNA



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi exchanging views with Manuel Duran Gimenez-Rico, Ambassador of Spain to Pakistan. – DNA

**Global virus death toll tops 4.2m**

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: The novel coronavirus has killed at least 4,227,765 people since the outbreak emerged in China in December 2019, according to a tally compiled by AFP. At least 198,247,050 cases of coronavirus have been registered. The vast majority have recovered, though some have continued to experience symptoms weeks or even months later. On Sunday, 7,236 new deaths and 455,312 new cases were recorded worldwide. The World Health Organisation estimates that the pandemic's overall toll could be two to three times higher than official records, due to the excess mortality that is directly and indirectly linked to Covid-19. A large number of the less severe or asymptomatic cases also remain undetected, despite intensified testing in many countries.

**Pfizer, Moderna raise vaccine prices in EU**

DNA

BRUSSELS: Pfizer and Moderna have increased the prices of their vaccines in their latest European Union supply contracts, the Financial Times newspaper reported. The new price for BioNTech-Pfizer's shot is 19.50 (\$23.15), compared with 15.50 (\$18.40) previously. The price of the Moderna shot is now 21.50, an increase of 2.50. The European Medicines Agency (EMA), the EU's medicines watchdog, said last Friday that the bloc was likely to get 40 million more Moderna vaccine doses by October. The European Commission said last week that the EU was on course to fully vaccinate at least 70% of its adult population by the end of the summer.

## Zero tolerance for corrupt practices

Imran Khan says that govt is fully committed to encourage and facilitate different sectors of economy

**PM Imran's life is in danger: Fawad**

DNA



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Expressing resolve to take Pakistan to its real destination, Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan said that the current government wanted to change corrupt system in Pakistan. Addressing a ceremony in Islamabad, Imran Khan said that government was fully committed to encourage and facilitate different

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry has said that the life of the Prime Minister is in danger because of which he has restricted his movement. The minister, in an interview with a private news channel on Monday, said that the premier does not care about security as he considers himself a common man. He said that there are some intellectuals in the country who speak against Pakistan all the time. Some members of the media are spreading propaganda against the Army. Chaudhry also lashed out at Maryam Nawaz and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. "Maryam and Bilawal should not call themselves party leaders as they got their post as part of their inheritance." While talking about Afghanistan, he said that the Taliban are not in Pakistan's control.

sectors of economy for the purpose of wealth creation to permanently overcome the financial challenges. The prime minister said that government was vigorously implementing its plans to promote

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## US expands eligibility criteria for refugees

Around 20,000 applications have already been received for its program to resettle interpreters who had worked alongside US forces, and their immediate family

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: The United States has decided to allow more refugees from Afghanistan to be allowed in, provided they meet its expanded eligibility criteria, the State Department said Monday. Around 20,000 applications have already been received for its program to resettle interpreters who had worked alongside US forces, and their immediate family. The decision comes amid a rapidly deteriorating security situation in the country. "In light of increased levels of Taliban violence, the US government is working to provide certain Afghans, including those who worked with the United States, the opportunity for refugee resettlement to the United States," the State Department said in a statement.

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## Army jawan martyred in North Waziristan

NEHAL MIRAJ

RAWALPINDI: A soldier was martyred after terrorists opened fire on a military post in Gharim, North Waziristan, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said Monday. The troops had responded in a befitting manner, while sanitisation of the area was being carried out to eliminate any terrorists, the military's media wing said in a statement. During the exchange of fire, Naik Ghulam Mustafa, 37, resident of Muzaffarabad had embraced martyrdom, the military's media wing added. Namaz e Janaza of Naik Ghulam Mustafa Shaheed was offered at his native town Duna Chatter, Muzaffarabad. A large number of people from all walks of life and relatives of shaheed attended Namaz e Janaza. Shaheed was laid to rest with full military honour.

**19 Pakistanis to return from Saudi jails**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib has announced return of 19 more Pakistanis, imprisoned in Saudi Arabia, to home on early Tuesday. In a tweet, he said the credit for release of Pakistanis, languishing in Saudi Jails, went to Prime Minister Imran Khan, who made special efforts in that regard. He said those Pakistanis would arrive Lahore airport at 6 am on Tuesday, expressing hope that the returnees would spend a happy life with loved ones at home.

## Inside...

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Repute of NAB increased manifold: Chairman NAB – Page 04

Israel must stop acting like an apartheid state – Page 05

Britain join India, Argentina, Netherlands to reach semis – Page 06

Small chambers delegations apaise FPCCI of grievances – Page 07

President Alvi for joint efforts to counter Islamophobia – Page 08

## Ghani blames 'abrupt' US exit for instability

In response, the Taliban group released a statement to the media, calling Ghani's statements "nonsense" and saying "his time is over"

FOREIGN DESK

KABUL: Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani has blamed the country's deteriorating security on the United States deciding "abruptly" to withdraw its troops. Presenting his security plan before Parliament on Monday, Ghani said the situation in the war-torn nation will be "under control within six months", adding that the US has pledged its full support. "The reason for our current situation is that the decision was taken abruptly," he told Parliament, adding he had warned Washington the withdrawal would have "consequences". The president added that "protection of the people" is a duty he will maintain. After his address, both houses of

parliament released a joint statement, expressing their full support for Ghani's security plan. In their statement, the legislators declared their "firm" support to human and women's rights and freedom of speech and said they stand with the Afghan National Army, "who sacrifice their lives for the nation". In response, the Taliban group released a statement to the media, calling Ghani's statements "nonsense" and saying "his time is over". "He was trying to control his own bad [mental] state and mistakes," said the statement. "The nation has decided to prosecute the national traitors and bring them to justice. Declarations of war, making accusations and providing false information cannot prolong Ghani's life," it said. "His time is over, God will

ing." For months, the Taliban's rapid territorial gains during the final stages of the US military withdrawal have largely been in sparsely populated rural areas. But in recent weeks, it has brought increasing pressure on provincial capitals and seized key border crossings. The capture of any major urban centre would take their current offensive to another level and fuel concerns that the army is incapable of resisting the Taliban's advances. The government has repeatedly dismissed the group's steady gains over the summer as lacking strategic value but has largely failed to reverse their momentum on the battlefield. The Taliban has seized Afghan cities in the past but has managed to retain them only briefly.

**Pakistan has no favorites, FO clarifies**

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office (FO) on Monday clarified that Pakistan favoured no particular side in Afghanistan, and stressed that Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's recent comments on the Islamic State (IS) and Afghan Taliban were being "misconstrued". The foreign minister, during a press conference in Multan on Saturday, was questioned on reports of IS militants moving into Afghanistan, to which he said: "If they're moving in from Iraq or Syria then whose responsibility is it to check them? The Afghan government's." "Who has to keep a watch on them and monitor them? The Afghan rulers and govt have to. I hope they won't neglect their responsibility." He further said neither the Afghan government nor the Taliban, Afghanistan's neighbours or the international community wanted an IS resurgence. "There is a consensus of opinion on this. Now they have a responsibility and they should fulfil it," he added.





Briefs

Court rejects Nazir Chohan's bail plea

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A sessions court on Monday rejected the bail application of MPA Nazir Chohan. However, the court has reserved its judgment on the case. The prosecutor prayed for the dismissal of Mr Chohan's bail application. The additional sessions judge after hearing the arguments of all parties rejected Mr. Chohan's bail plea and reserved its judgment. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has filed a case against MPA Nazir Chohan on the complaint of Special Assistant to PM on Accountability and Interior Shahzad Akbar. The trials of Mr. Chohan could not be diminished, though the arrested MPA extended his apology to SAPM Akbar yesterday by recording a video message of apology. He also made direct contact with Mr. Akbar on the telephone and apologized for his statement. Mr. Chohan told Mr. Akbar that he sought his forgiveness for his statement in which he called him Qadiyani. He only not apologized to the SAPM but also to his family. But it was not clear whether Mr. Akbar has accepted his apology or not. On July 28, Punjab Assembly Speaker Pervaiz Elahi also issued production orders of Mr. Chohan. No decision has been taken so far whether he would be allowed to attend the Punjab Assembly session or not. Chohan was jailed on a 14-day judicial remand and shifted to Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC) on last Saturday, July 31, 2021, after receiving heart pain.

Int'l students treasure internship at NUST

DNA

ISLAMABAD: NUST's signature Internship Programme for International Students (NIPIS '21) concluded at the university's main campus here, drawing upon the aim to promote global diversity, mutual growth through cultural exchange and opportunities for all. The program promises to deliver a sublime internship experience that not only advances the professional skills of participants from around the world but also reinforces their academic competence through its practical applications, and simultaneously gives them insights into the rich cultural heritage and natural beauty of Pakistan. As many as 33 foreign interns – 28 as part of NIPIS, while 5 others from the Association for the International Exchange of Students in Economics and Commerce (AIESEC) – partook in the program that entailed a 360° learning experience. However, due to the current pandemic and travel restrictions thereof, a total of 14 interns could manage to physically attend the internship on campus, while the rest benefited from the program through virtual means.

Rain likely at various parts of country

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) Monday forecast rain-wind/thunder shower in Kashmir, Potohar region, northeast Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan with chances of isolated heavy falls during the next 24 hours. Hot and humid weather is likely to prevail over most parts of the country during the next 24 hours. According to the synoptic situation, monsoon currents were still penetrating upper and central parts of the country and likely to continue during the next few days. A shallow westerly wave was also present over upper parts of the country. The highest maximum temperatures recorded were Dadu 44 C, Dalbandin 42, Shaheed Benazirabad, Nokundi, Turbat and Rohri 41C. – APP

# ICCI to take traders on board before installing POS devices

ICCI President emphasized that the government should take measures to facilitate the business community in promoting the business activities that would ultimately lead to fast recovery of the economy

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has proposed that the FBR should take traders and all market associations fully on board before setting up Point of Sale (POS) devices in the business premises that would help in broadening the tax base and improving the tax revenue of the country. He said that instead of POS system, the government should focus on a self-assessment scheme that would give them more confidence and they will

be more willing to pay tax at their own discretion. He said that in the prevailing circumstances, the self-assessment scheme would be very helpful and successful in improving the tax collection of the country. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Kahn said that the traders have been fully cooperating with the government in the corona vaccination drive and they should be engaged in talks for POS installation instead of sending FBR's monitoring teams to monitor their sale at business premises because it would not send a positive signal to the trading community. He said that previously the FBR



was providing the POS devices for installation at business premises and the same arrangement should be continued instead of

asking traders to arrange the devices at their own cost. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan further said that the traders were playing an important role in boosting the business and economic activities in the country and they should be treated with respect and regard. He said that the government should make all possible efforts to avoid taking any measures that may create a sense of harassment in the business community. He said that FBR should withdraw all monitoring teams from business premises and increase the use of technology to minimize the interface between the taxpayers

and the tax collectors that would give more confidence to the business community. ICCI President emphasized that the government should take measures to facilitate the business community in promoting the business activities that would ultimately lead to fast recovery of the economy. He appealed that all monitoring teams should be withdrawn from business premises and the matter of installation of POS devices should be taken forward by taking all the stakeholders on board so that with joint efforts, the tax revenue of the country could be improved.

CDA admin plantation campaign in full swing

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: In order to make the Federal Capital more green, beautiful and attractive the campaign is in full swing, the CDA environment department on the directions of the CDA management plants, trees in the monsoon throughout Islamabad. In this regard, the Department of Environment of has decorated the Argentine Park in Islamabad with beautiful and attractive colorful seasonal flowers which have become the center of attention of the citizens and every visitor. They are refreshing the eyes by showing a charming and charming scene and at the same time these colorful flowers are inviting every special and ordinary person. In addition, under the special direction of CDA management, the Department of Environment is busy decorating other parks, roads, intersections, green belts, slopes along drains of Islamabad with beautiful colorful seasonal flowers. Duties have also been distributed among the concerned staff with proper planning. In this regard, orders have been issued by the CDA administration to the Department of Environment to further expedite the work.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Usman Buzdar calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan. (News on Front Page). – DNA

## Zahir Jaffer moved to Adiala Jail for 14 days

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Zahir Jaffer, who is accused of murdering and beheading 27-year-old Noor Mukadam, will be moved to the Adiala Jail on a 14-day judicial remand. He will be presented again before a judicial magistrate on August 16. Jaffer was brought to the court under tight security on Monday after the completion of his physical remand. He was once again accompanied by more than 10 policemen and taken to the courtroom of West Judicial Magistrate Shaista Khan Kundi. The courtroom was full of policemen, journalists, and lawyers, making it claustrophobic during the case proceedings. Judge Kundi asked the police to

present the accused after which Zahir Jaffer walked towards the rostrum. She then requested him to take his mask off and he complied. The judge asked his name and if he wanted to say something. Zahir remained silent even after the judge's asked him repeatedly if he has something to say in his defense. During this time, the court interaction was held in English, which is quite uncommon in civil courts. After some time, Zahir remarked that his lawyer, Daniyal, will answer all questions on his behalf. The judge then asked who was representing Noor Mukadam's family in the case. Her father, Shaukat Mukadam, came to the forefront

and the judge asked who he was. "I am the father of this badqismat [unfortunate] woman," he said. After this, Investigation Officer Inspector Abdul Sattar told the court that the murder occurred 12 days ago. He said that the police have attained all information they wanted from the suspect and don't require his physical custody anymore. He asked for Zahir's judicial remand and the court approved it. Interacting with journalists outside the court, Shaukat Mukadam's lawyer Shah Khawar said that the investigation has been completed so far but it will continue will the suspect is in jail. When questioned if the family is satisfied with the investiga-

tion, he dodged the answer by saying that investigation is still ongoing. He even clarified that Zahir Jaffer's polygraph test has not been taken, adding that the police took his photographic test which is important for identifying the suspect. Duty Magistrate Shoaib Akhtar had been hearing the case but a new judge was assigned in the case because of court holidays. Noor Mukadam was slaughtered at a house in F-7/4 on July 20. The police arrested Zahir Jaffer, from the crime scene. The crime has since gained national attention as the latest example of horrifying violence against women in Pakistan.

## Press attaché at French Embassy gets prestigious award



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The press attaché at the French embassy in Islamabad, Syed Muhammad Aqeel Hussain, has been awarded one of the highest civil French accolades over his 33 years of service at the embassy. According to a statement, released by the Embassy of France on its Facebook page, Hussain was conferred the award for his dedication. "Congratulations to our Press Attaché for being awarded the award of French National Order of Merit. Thank you for your 33 years of dedication to this embassy. Grateful for your contribution to the promotion of the French language & culture and to the mutual understanding between France & Pakistan," the statement read. Hussain is already a recipient of two medals, including a medal of honour from the Ministry Foreign Affairs of France and another medal given for rendering 30 years of meritorious services. Hussain said that he wishes to dedicate the award to his native town of Mianwali.

## PNCA's production course kicks off

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: PNCA's second online one-year certificate program in film production kicked off today. The course aims to innovate the approach of students and sharpen their skills as filmmakers. The program is focused on film production with a full understanding of filmmaking. The curriculum is a mix of intellectual understanding and practical experience of working in a professional environment. A group of eighteen students from all over the country have been selected for the course with a background in film making. The course entails two semesters and will conclude in April next year. PNCA's Film Division has engaged national and international faculty to give an in-depth understanding of filmmaking. Peter Bussian, a cinematographer from the USA will teach cinematography, Lisa Lucas from USA will teach scriptwriting and Andreas Schallenberg from Germany will teach post-production. Sarmad Khooat, an award-winning actor, Director, and Producer will be mentoring the students as a lead instructor in Direction Course as well as their final projects, and Aijaz Gul, will be teaching foundations of filmmaking to the students. Several known personalities of the film industry will also be engaged for guest lectures to better understand cinema and its relation to culture, history, technology, and aesthetics. An official from PNCA's film division said that "Earlier the first course was launched in October 2020, successfully completed in June this year. This initiative received high appreciation from all quarters, giving us the confidence to offer the course again".

## Punjab Arts Council organizes Jashan-e-Azadi Fankar rally

There is no substitute for freedom in the world, Waqar Ahmed

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The Independence Day celebrations at the Punjab Arts Council have been started with the Jashan-e-Azadi Fankar Rally here on Monday. Famous artists from Islamabad and Rawalpindi participated in the rally. Addressing the participants of the rally, Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said that there is no substitute for freedom in the world and only progress can be made in the world with liberation. He said that Pakistan would soon become a major economic power

in the world as per the vision of the present government. Waqar Ahmad further said that we should be grateful to Qaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama to whom we are celebrating independence today. He said that Allama Iqbal dreamed of an independent Islamic state in the subcontinent which was realized by Qaid-e-Azam in the shape of Pakistan. The rally started from Arts Council and ended at Murree Road. Participants of the rally held Pakistani flags in their hands and chanted slogans of "Long live Pakistan".



Man held for pushing off wife from rooftop

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A man allegedly involved in throwing his wife from the top roof of his house was arrested by the police here on Monday. According to the police spokesman, the accused Imran had pushed off his wife Reema from the roof of the house over a family dispute in the area of the Pirwadahi police station on July 31. Later, she was shifted to District Headquarter hospital where her treatment was underway, he added. The police arrested the accused with the latest technology and human intelligence.

SC restores service of forced retired teacher

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday accepted an appeal filed by a primary school teacher Humaira Bibi against compulsory retirement and restored her service. A two-member SC bench comprising Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed and Justice Sayeed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi heard the case regarding compulsory retirement of Chachha Primary School Mansehra female teacher Huamira Bibi. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Education Department had fired the female teacher. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Service Tribunal reversed decision to dismiss female teacher on compulsory retirement. The high court upheld the decision of the services tribunal while the apex court restored the service. During the course of proceedings, the court expressed concern over the non-construction of schools that collapsed in the 2005 earthquake. The court issued notice to the Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) on non-construction of schools despite passing 16 years. The court also issued notices to Secretary Education KPK, Secretary Elementary and Secondary Education, Director District Education Mansehra. The Chief Justice observed that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Education Department did not treat teachers well. He asked why schools not built after earthquake in Mansehra, how teachers would teach children? He said that billions of rupees were allocated for construction of schools after the earthquake and asked where were those funds used? Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi said that how could teachers teach if there was no basic school structure?

Senate for proper utilization of Radio buildings

ISLAMABAD: The Senate's Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting on Monday asked the management of Pakistan Television Corporation (PTV) and Radio Pakistan to provide plans for proper utilization of their respective buildings in the next meeting. The committee, which met with Senator Faisal Javed in the chair, rejected the presentation given by the PTV management in this regard. Faisal Javed said none of the committee's recommendations had been implemented as it had asked for proper utilization of the PTV's land and buildings, but instead information about the land value was provided. The committee also expressed its disappointment over the delayed provision of working papers and directed for meticulous compliance of instructions in future. It was informed that the total value of the buildings of PTV Headquarters and PTV News was Rs 2.57 billion. The committee chairman said both the organizations had huge buildings not only in the Federal Capital but also in other big cities, which were not properly being utilized. For proper utilization of their buildings by the government, they should better relocate to some other place, he suggested. – APP



## Provincial status

**A**FTER what seems to be decades' worth of tireless efforts, the provisional provincial status of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) has been finalised. The government is looking to make various amendments within the constitution to take practical steps to establish GB as the fifth province of Pakistan. As we rejoice in this development, we must also not lose sight of the work that lies ahead. The political framework of GB must be improved for it to qualify as a province and the government must not be lax in its approach to help the region achieve that. The Ministry of Law and Justice has reported the finalisation of the 26 Constitutional Amendment Bill that is going to give GB a provisional provincial status. This was after various drafts of the bill were circulated amongst top members of the government, especially those in GB, for consensus through the years. While this is an encouraging development, we must not forget the practical ramifications that come with the finalizing of such a bill. There must be an active effort to amend certain clauses of the constitution, starting with Article 1 that relates to provinces and territories, to create a framework within GB. This involves guaranteeing representation in the National Assembly (NA) and Senate, establishing a provincial assembly in the region, incorporating it into the legal structure of the country by extending the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and deciding upon the electoral system that will dominate—entailing the merger of the Election Commission of GB with the Election Commission of Pakistan. With the legal process out of the way, the government will no longer be absorbed in discussions, disagreements or coordination amongst all political factions of the country. Instead, it now has ample time to direct all its focus on taking the practical steps needed to turn GB into a full-fledged province. Unnecessary delays and complications would not be in the spirit of progress and would only paint the authorities to be insincere with their promises. Thus, all resources and manpower must be directed towards development in GB.

**Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily**  
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**Member APNS / ABC Certified**  
**Vol: 02 Issue: 76**  
**Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com**  
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## After the election

**T**HE PTI, which won an overwhelming majority in the recently held elections in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, claiming 26 out of the 45 seats up for contest in the territory is set to form the government in the area. The PPP with 11 seats and the PML-N with six seats finished nowhere close to the party at the top, with the ruling party in the centre traditionally winning the AJK polls. Following the victory, Prime Minister Imran Khan has interviewed the candidates who wish to take the position of Prime Minister of AJK and will make a decision on the matter. Before this, he will nominate the PTI candidates for the eight special seats and the speaker and deputy speaker in AJK. The eight special seats consist of five for women, one for technocrats, one for a religious scholar, and one for an overseas Pakistani. While Barrister Sultan Mahmud, who leads the PTI in the province, is obviously a strong candidate for the PM position, there are also new entrants to the race, with six persons now in the running for the slot of prime minister. The PTI has shown a stronghold over the country, and with the AJK also falling to it, it now forms the governments in most of the provinces and territories of the country, including Gilgit-Baltistan, AJK, Punjab, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid has also said the party will soon take hold of Sindh, making a clean sweep across the country and that this will be seen in the 2023 elections. It is not yet clear whether Imran Khan already has a favourite in mind, or whether he will go for some new person to take over the position. But whoever he chooses, it is clear that the PTI is now the chief party in AJK and from this place could go on to strengthen its hold over the rest of the country, with the PML-N badly divided, and as the PPP has said, the party led by Mian Shahbaz Sharif Sharif, unwilling to make any effort to discharge the government in Punjab.

# Israel must stop acting like an apartheid state

Ray Hanania



I think the majority of American Jews, and even a majority of Jews in Israel, know that Israel practices racism and discrimination when it comes to how it treats non-Jews and Palestinians in particular. The real problem is that only 25 percent of American Jews who are asked that question have the courage to be honest and embrace the truth. Like most Jews in Israel, many American Jews prefer to close their eyes to the brutality that Israel's government inflicts on people simply

**M**ANY people in Israel and supporters of the country continue to live in denial rather than accept the reality that it commits some of the worst war crimes in the world. The Jewish Democratic Council of America (JDCA) released the results of a poll of Jewish-American voters that gauged how they feel about former President Donald Trump and his successor Joe Biden. America's Jewish community is estimated at about 7 million people – or slightly more than the number of Jews who actually live in Israel (6.7 million) – so any survey of American Jews is significant. What you don't always hear is what the poll seemingly attempted to downplay when it was released. The press release accompanying the JDCA survey focused on the aspect that 76 percent of American Jews voted for Biden. But buried deep down in the survey and barely commented upon was the fact that a quarter of those surveyed believe that Israel is an apartheid state – a nation that imposes laws that discriminate against people based on their race, culture or religion. Among those aged under 40, that figure rises to 38 percent. While pro-Israel activists and journalists might be shocked by this revelation, almost everyone else is not. Israel is officially a "Jewish" state and it has specific laws, more than 65 of them, which discriminate against non-Jewish citizens and deny them equal rights. One columnist at the Jerusalem Post – for which I wrote opinion columns many years ago in an attempt to open the eyes of Israeli Jews by using humor – argued that the fact so many Jews believe Israel is an apartheid state is the result of Jew-

ish-American parents not teaching their children about Israel. However, having grown up in a community on Chicago's South Side that was probably more Jewish than Tel Aviv, I know that Jewish parents tend to embrace education, perhaps more so than other ethnic groups. The truth that many Israelis want to avoid is that their country is an apartheid state. So instead they try to come up with excuses to explain away that realization among Israel's only core people, the Jews, and especially those in America, who have a powerful role in influencing US policy toward Israel. If only 25 percent of American Jews think that Israel is an apartheid state, then there is something woefully wrong. American Jews are among the most educated people in America and if only 25 percent believe Israel is an apartheid state, you have to wonder about the remaining 75 percent being brainwashed against the truth. For Israeli Jews, who spend their entire lives in denial when it comes to Israel's disrespect for civil and human rights, the results of this poll reflect what they deem to be a "failure" on the part of American Jews to teach their children about Israel. I agree. American Jews are not teaching their children the truth about Israel: They are teaching them lies. If they were told the truth, the percentage of American Jews who recognize that Israel is an apartheid state would be far higher. I think the majority of American Jews, and even a majority of Jews in Israel, know that Israel practices racism and discrimination when it comes to how it treats non-Jews and Palestinians in particular. The real problem is that only 25 percent of Ameri-

can Jews who are asked that question have the courage to be honest and embrace the truth. Like most Jews in Israel, many American Jews prefer to close their eyes to the brutality that Israel's government inflicts on people simply because they are of a different race, ethnicity or religion. As I said, I grew up in a Jewish community in Chicago. In fact, I wrote a book about it called "Arabs of Chicagoland." At that time, in the 1960s, American Jews and American Arabs were very close despite the conflict in Palestine. We knew each other and I learned to respect the American Jewish community. American Jews played a significant role in speaking out against the country's racist anti-black segregation laws and policies. In the 1970s, they were at the forefront of the condemnation of South Africa's apartheid policies, eventually forcing the government there to collapse. At the same time, Israel's government embraced similar policies and used them to justify its growing oppression of Palestinian rights, especially after the 1967 occupation of Jerusalem and the West Bank. I believe that, deep down, most American Jews know that Israel practices a form of apartheid. They also fear what might happen if the Palestinians are not oppressed. Many would expect me to write this being an American of Palestinian origin, although they will ignore the fact that I am married to a Jew. Years ago, I learned from Jewish civil rights activists who stood up to anti-Semitism and racist hate that the truth is the only thing that will set a people free. If Israel wants to stop being perceived as an apartheid state, then it should simply stop acting like one.

– *Courtesy: Arab News*

# Human Rights violation: A case study of India

Muhammad Akhter



The world has adopted a double standard on human rights violations in India, even the United States does not take a proper stance on Indian aggression. Everyone in India except Hindus is being persecuted and this issue is not over, but new records of persecution and violence are being set in illegally Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir

**H**UMAN rights violations in India pose a threat not only to the future and the lives of millions of people in India, but also to the world due to the implementation of Hindutva policies by the BJP, the RSS (RashtriyaSwayamsevakSangh) and Indian Prime Minister NarendraModi. Peace is in danger the present regime of India is working on Hindutva under a regular plan. Citizens of every religion except Hindus are in a state of unconscious fear. The situation has deteriorated to such an extent that despite being "Dear one", India is facing a strong reaction from the United States. Recent days, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has warned New Delhi not to "officially support human rights abuses". The Indian government is discriminating against the Muslim population. The United States has described the situation as "worrying". Antony Blinken has called on India to follow democratic practices while trying to teach tolerance. The world has adopted a double standard on human rights violations in India, even the United States does not take a proper stance on Indian aggression. Everyone in India except Hindus is being persecuted and this issue is not over, but new records of persecution and violence are being set in illegally Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir. India is becoming a major terrorist financing country, but no FATF calls it anything. The lives of Kashmiris have been made difficult, efforts are being made to suppress them through oppression of children, rape of women and violence against elders but the world is silent.

There are millions of people in India who belong to religions other than Hinduism. These are the people whose elders believed in the promises of leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru after partition and decided to stay in India only after partition. On the grounds that India would be a secular state, not a Hindu republic, and that every citizen would be treated with equal care. But the opposite happened when the BJP came to power. And increasing with each passing day. In this regard, it should be noted that the Followers of the RSS are working to create a fanatical generation that despises everyone except Hindus. They are spreading their philosophy. When RSS, BJP, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Shiv Sena and Bajrang Dal activists martyred the Babri Masjid on December 6, 1992, religious divisions intensified. BJP's Lal Krishna Advani led the attack on the mosque. The Indian judiciary in its judgment handed over the land of Babri Masjid to the Hindus to make Ram Hind a Ram temple in its place. And no one was punished for martyring the mosque. The SanghParivar (Collection of Hindu nationalist organizations) intensified its hate campaign and targeted the Muslim population. In the 2014, Lok Sabha elections, SanghParivar activists mobilized voters on the basis of Hinduism and spread hatred against minorities. The campaign resulted in the success of the BJP and the appointment of NarendraModi as the Prime Minister of the country. Since, NarendraModi came to power in 2014, the expansionist ambitions and Hindutva thinking have not diminished but intensified. Even critics are called enemies of the country. Just eating beef

is being persecuted. Oppressed people living below the poverty line are being blackmailed. It is pertinent to mention here that, the names of Islamic figures and Muslim-era cities, squares, markets and institutions are being replaced by Hindu names. The historical background is witnessed, How the SanghParivar works to eradicate from the history books of the Muslim era. Modi's election slogan 'Shining India' has gone into the background. Now, it has become 'Hindi, Hindu, and India, where only Hindus matter. Giraraj Singh, the BJP candidate from Bihar in the 2014 elections, said that those who did not vote for the BJP should go to Pakistan, which is enough to show a mirror to the claimants of a secular state. Many BJP leaders are taking steps against Muslims. They repeatedly advise Indian Muslims to go to Pakistan. BJP leaders blame Muslims in every issue. He urges Hindus to vote for the BJP if they want to eliminate Muslims. In this way, the world's largest democracy is being run. The world community has to understand, the first target of the fascist Modi regime is Muslims. It is not that they like people belonging to other religions. It is not like that at all. In fact, they want to eliminate Muslims first. They will target them under the new planning policy. International institutions should have to take notice in this regards. Don't all these measures count as human rights violations? At the end, let the world remember that India is a very large country in terms of population and not only Muslims live there.

– *The Writer is a Freelance Columnist. He can be reached on twitter at @MAkhter\_*



## Briefs

Medal Count					
Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	24	14	13	51
2	USA	20	23	16	59
3	Japan	17	5	9	31
4	Australia	14	3	14	31
5	ROC	12	19	13	44

## Govt imposes new curbs after Covid surge

FROM PAGE 01  
Hyderabad in Sindh, Muzafarabad and Mirpur in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit and Skardu in Gilgit Baltistan,” Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar said after a meeting with the Prime Minister here. Special Assistant to Prime Minister on National Health Services Dr Faisal Sultan was also present in the press conference. Asad Umar said the Sindh government had already imposed smart lock down in Karachi and Hyderabad till August 08, while from the 9th August the federal government’s decisions would apply in these cities. He said the markets which were allowed to remain open till 10 pm would now again be closed at 8 pm in the selected cities. Similarly, he said the markets would now also be closed two days in a week instead of one day. “The off days will be decided by the respected provinces.” Furthermore, Umar said the government had allowed indoor dining for the vaccinated people only, however very weak compliance was seen in the restaurants. “It was also not possible for the administration to check each and every restaurant in this regard.” Therefore, he said the government has decided to allow outdoor dining only till 10 pm. However take away service would remain open till 12 in the night, he said. With respect to offices, the minister pointed out that 50% attendance would be allowed in all public and private offices while the remaining 50% employees would work from home.

## Highest positivity rate since..

FROM PAGE 01  
The maximum ventilators were occupied in four major cities including Islamabad 33%, Lahore 21%, Peshawar 26% and Skardu 25%. Since the pandemic broke out, a total of 1,039,695 cases were detected that also included the perished, recovered and under treatment COVID-19 patients so far, including AJK 24,891, Balochistan 30,502, GB 8,212, ICT 88,093, KP 144,848, Punjab 357,735 and Sindh 385,414. About 23,462 deaths were recorded in country since the eruption of the contagion. Around 6,021 people perished in Sindh, 19 of them died in the hospitals and one out of the hospital on Sunday. 11,067 people died in Punjab died with eight deaths occurred in past 24 hours. Seven individuals died in the hospitals and one out of the hospital.

## Bilawal condemns hike in...

FROM PAGE 01  
He said that the increase in prices of petrol products would further escalate inflation, adding that Pakistan could not afford more inflation. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the incompetence and failures of the selected government are causing obstacles in the progress of the country. “The selected Prime Minister is unable to run the country – he knows nothing but lies and political victimisation,” stated Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Addressing the selected Prime Minister, he said, “Khan Sahib, have mercy on the people and reverse the increase in petrol prices.” Chairman PPP also condemned the increase in taxes and pointed out that the previous PPP governments had kept petrol prices stable even in the most challenging circumstances.

## Britain join India, Argentina, Netherlands to reach semis

Argentina’s women team have never won an Olympic hockey gold medal, but clinched silver at the 2012 London Games and the 2000 Sydney Games, the latter being where they earned the nickname Las Leonas, or lionesses

## SPORTS DESK

TOKYO: Britain beat Spain in a penalty shootout to secure the last semi-final spot in the women’s Olympic hockey tournament on Monday, joining India, Argentina and the Netherlands in the last four. After a tense 2-2 draw in regular time, Britain won the game by scoring two shootout goals, while Spain missed four times thanks to a superb performance by Britain’s veteran goalie Madeleine Hinch. In the semi-finals, Britain will play the Netherlands, who defeated New Zealand 3-0 thanks to goals by Lidewij Welten, Frederique Matla and Lauren Stam. India pulled off a stunning 1-0 victory over Australia, and will face Argentina in the semi-finals on Wednesday after the South Americans got past the quarter-finals for the first time since 2012 with a 3-0 win over Germany. Gurjit Kaur scored India’s winning goal from a first-half penalty corner, beating Australia goal-



ie Rachael Lynch who had kept a clean sheet in the previous four matches. Australia were unable to equalise in the second half despite ramping up the pressure and winning a number of penalty corners. “It’s a dream come true,” India goalkeeper Savita said, struggling for words. Savita, who goes by one name, pulled the team through some of the hardest moments of the match with nine saves. Argentina’s women team have never won an Olympic hockey gold medal, but clinched silver at the 2012 London Games and the

2000 Sydney Games, the latter being where they earned the nickname Las Leonas, or lionesses. Las Leonas were elated after beating Germany, with some players crying as they celebrated around goalie Belen Succi, who was on the team that was knocked

out of the quarter-finals in 2016 by the Netherlands. “We have to keep fighting,” Argentina’s Maria Victoria Granatto said. “We are going to play one of the most important games of our lives.” Argentina stepped up the pace against their opponents from the start, with

their skilful and fast attackers posing a threat to the Germans who won bronze at the 2016 Olympics. Their effort paid dividends shortly before halftime when a hard pass from Rocio Sanchez Moccia crossed in front of the goal to reach Agustina Albertarrio, who deflected the ball with her stick behind the German goalie. The game had barely restarted when Maria Victoria Granatto doubled the lead off a penalty corner just before halftime. After the break, the Germans were unable to break down their opponent’s defence. Argentina sealed the win in the 52th minute when Valentina Raposo Ruiz scored the third goal through another penalty corner. “The first goal was the knockout for us because then they get their chests up and they get better and better,” said veteran Franzisca Hauke, who was playing her last match for Germany. “I’m really disappointed and sad that it’s the end of my journey,” a tearful Hauke added.

## Zero tolerance for corrupt practices

FROM PAGE 01  
construction industry and incentivized the export sector because when economy moved on, the revenues were generated leading to jobs creation and revenue generation. Sharing his vision for Naya Pakistan, the prime minister said their first priority was to pull the people from poverty as 25 per cent of the total population of the country was living under the poverty line whereas another chunk of 25 per cent was living on the margins of this line. PM Khan regretted that there was a time when the Asian tigers looked towards Pakistan in terms of progress and development as it was considered ‘as model for development’. “A country like Malaysia followed the model of Pakistan. But then the country went hurtling down from the path of unprecedented development,” he said. Underling the need to become self reliant, the premier noted that Pakistan was blessed with huge potential and its various entities performed outstandingly in the past. He also said when a system became corrupt, it ultimately putrefy the society. “It is called a system of corruption,” he observed. The prime minister said those countries had become bankrupt where ruling and elite classes revelled in corruption without having rule of law. “In those societies a small fragment of society became richer, pushing the poor segments into further poverty,” he said.

## US expands eligibility criteria for refugees

FROM PAGE 01  
Employees and former employees of US-based news organizations are eligible to apply for asylum, as are those of aid and development agencies that are based in the United States, along with other relief groups that receive their funding from the US. Other potentials include employees and former employees of the US government and the NATO mission in Afghanistan who do not qualify for a dedicated program. This means that thousands more Afghans and their immediate families will be permanently resettled in the US as refugees, although its unclear how many exactly that will be. A US official said that it will be “the responsibility of refugee program applicants to get themselves out of Afghanistan”, ruling out a mass aerial evacuation.

## Baku to host Azerbaijan Futsal C’ship

DNA  
BAKU: Azerbaijan Futsal Federation is getting ready for the Azerbaijan championship to be held in September. The championship will bring together eight futsal clubs, including “Araz-Nakhchivan”, SC “Neftchi”, EKOL, “Record Club”, “Alliance” (Lankaran), “Baku Fire”, “Hile” and the youth team (U-19). The top four clubs will play in the playoffs. Preparations for the new season in the country’s top league have already started. Notably, futsal is a ball sport played on a hard court, smaller than a football pitch, and mainly indoors. It has similarities to five-a-side football. The game is played between two teams of five players each, one of whom is the goalkeeper. Unlike some other forms of indoor football, the game is played on a hard court surface delimited by lines; walls or boards are not used. Azerbaijan had never qualified for the FIFA Futsal World Cup until 2016. However, national futsal players participated in the last five editions of the European Championship. Now futsal team successfully represents Azerbaijan at multiple international futsal competitions such as the FIFA Futsal World Cup and the European Championships. In March, the futsal team won another victory in UEFA European Futsal Championship qualifying round.

## Soccer-Canada stun US to set up final with Sweden

## WEB DESK

TOKYO: Canada stunned world champions the United States on Monday, handing them a shock 1-0 defeat in the semi-finals of the women’s Olympic football tournament to set up a clash with Sweden in Friday’s showpiece match. The Swedes beat Australia 1-0 thanks to a 46th-minute goal from Fridolina Rolfö to return to the final after their silver medal in Rio five years ago. Canada celebrated their first win over the U.S. in over 20 years after Jessie Fleming’s 75th minute penalty settled the contest. The crucial moment, in a game which had produced little incident, came when U.S. defender Tierna Davidson challenged Deanne Rose on the edge of the penalty area. After a video review, a spot kick was awarded. Canada’s veteran striker Christian Sinclair initially had the ball in her hands, but Fleming took the responsibility and kept her cool to slot home. The U.S. pre-Games favourite for the gold medal, went close to an equaliser when Carli Lloyd struck the bar with a header but Canada held on for a famous victory - and their first appearance



in an Olympic final. The Americans have won the gold medal four times and have not lost to Canada for over 20 years. It is only the fourth time the Canadians have beaten their neighbours in 62 meetings. “It has been a long time coming to beat those guys,” said Fleming. “We want to come away with gold now but it is really special for us to put our flag on the map,” she said. The game was a dull affair until a triple substitution saw Megan Rapinoe, Lloyd and Christen Press brought on - a change which brought new life to

the American attack. The first effort on goal finally arrived in the 65th minute with a curling shot from Lloyd which was tipped over by Stephanie Labbe, and moments later the Canada keeper did well to keep out a glancing header from Julie Ertz. But just as the Americans were piling on the pressure, a Canada break led to the penalty award and the end of the road for Vlatko Andonovski’s side. “It sucks. Obviously you never want to lose, you never want to lose in a world championship, you never want to lose to Canada, ob-

viously, and you never want to lose playing the way we did,” said Rapinoe. Sweden, who lost to Germany in the Rio final, fired an early warning with a Rolfö shot rattling the crossbar. Australia, seeking a first Olympic final, thought they had gone ahead just before the break with a Sam Kerr effort but the goal was ruled out for a foul. It was the Swedes who took the lead when Matilda’s keeper Teagan Micah could only push a looping, deflected shot from Filippa Angeldal against the bar and Rolfö hooked in the loose ball.

## Volleyball-United States beat Italy in full-set battle

TOKYO: The United States defeated Italy in on Monday to finish on top in Pool B of the women’s volleyball preliminaries, overcoming the absence of injured ace spiker Jordyn Thompson, who sat out the match watched as setter Jordyn Poulter the third set and was taken off the number-one team eventually pre-21-25 25-16 25-27 25-16 15-12, and opposite Andrea Drews led the way with double figures. “We stayed together as a team after the game. “We had great trust in each other,” he said, adding that Thompson was recovering and there was some hope she might come back during the tournament. Drews has high ambitions for her first Olympics. “Of course, our ultimate goal is to get gold,” the 27-year-old said. “We have never done that before and we are working really hard and diligently to do that.” Report ad. The Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) team was crushed by Turkey, dropping to fourth in Pool B, while Turkey finished third. Turkey fended off the ROC in full sets, driven by 16 blocks. “We wanted to win this game so much before the final (knockout) run,” Turkey’s captain Eda Erdem said, adding that their determination powered their win. Earlier, world champions Serbia overwhelmed South Korea in quick straight sets 25-18 25-27 25-15, with 10 blocks and 13 serve aces. - DNA



a see-saw five-set battle at the Ariake Arena in Tokyo. The United States women’s volleyball preliminaries, overcoming the absence of injured ace spiker Jordyn Thompson and another injury. Thompson, who sat out the match watched as setter Jordyn Poulter the third set and was taken off the number-one team eventually pre-21-25 25-16 25-27 25-16 15-12, and opposite Andrea Drews led the way with double figures. “We stayed together as a team after the game. “We had great trust in each other,” he said, adding that Thompson was recovering and there was some hope she might come back during the tournament. Drews has high ambitions for her first Olympics. “Of course, our ultimate goal is to get gold,” the 27-year-old said. “We have never done that before and we are working really hard and diligently to do that.” Report ad. The Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) team was crushed by Turkey, dropping to fourth in Pool B, while Turkey finished third. Turkey fended off the ROC in full sets, driven by 16 blocks. “We wanted to win this game so much before the final (knockout) run,” Turkey’s captain Eda Erdem said, adding that their determination powered their win. Earlier, world champions Serbia overwhelmed South Korea in quick straight sets 25-18 25-27 25-15, with 10 blocks and 13 serve aces. - DNA

## Tokyo Olympics cases rising as 17 more reported

TOKYO: A further 17 people linked to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics contracted the coronavirus, raising the total to 276, organizers said Monday. Tokyo 2020 contractors, Games-concerned personnel, a media member, and a volunteer were among Monday’s positive cases. There were no athlete catching the coronavirus in the past 24 hours. The infected people were put into quarantine. Meanwhile, Tokyo – the host city of the Olympics – reported 2,195 daily coronavirus cases on Monday, according to local health authorities. The capital is witnessing surge in infections amid the ongoing games, which will run through Aug. 8. Tokyo reported over 3,000 virus cases for five consecutive days until Sunday. The 2020 Olympics had hoped to welcome spectators after being postponed last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic but ended up holding competitions in empty venues because of the newly resurgent virus. - DNA

## KPL will expose Modi coercive thoughts in cricket

Farrukh Habib said that the govt wants to promote sports in the country and it is a priority to bring out the national talent for the promotion of sports, adding that the PM is taking steps to promote sports in the country

## AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib said that India is afraid of the Kashmir Premier League (KPL) and Modi wants to dominate cricket with coercive thinking but KPL will expose him. He was speaking as chief guest during the prize distribution ceremony of first RISJA Inter-Media Independence Cricket Cup at National cricket ground organized by Rawalpindi-Islamabad Sports Journalists Association (RISJA) with the collaboration of Park View and NasGas. Farrukh Habib said that the government wants to promote sports in the country and it is a priority to bring out the national



ISLAMABAD: State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib presenting man of the man to player during on going RISJA Inter-Media Independence Cricket Cup at National Cricket Ground Islamabad. - DNA

talent for the promotion of sports, adding that the Prime Minister is taking steps to promote sports in the country. He said that Kashmir Premier League has disturbed the Indian sleep as they are afraid of KPL and threatening the foreign players to not to stop the players from participating. Modi wants to dominate cricket with coercive thinking but he will expose. Earlier Geo TV won their first match against Samaa TV by 28 runs. Batting first Geo scored 106 runs for the loss of 7 wickets in the stipulated 15 overs. Qaiser Butt (18), Khalid Chaudhry (29), Hassam (29) notable scorers. In reply, Samaa TV were bowled out for 78 in the 11th over. Maqsood Ahmed (20) scored from Samaa while Arfa Feroze was declared man of the match with taking five wickets from the winning side.