



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, August 04, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Pleasantly surprised by diverse history of Pakistan: Swiss envoy

Detailed News On Page-01

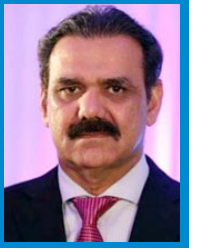
UK Chevening Scholarships seeks applicants

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Asim Bajwa resigns as CPEC Authority chief

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Briefs

US to work closely with Pakistan

DNA
WASHINGTON: The United States has appreciated Pakistan's efforts to advance the Afghan peace process and stability in South Asia, including by encouraging the Taliban to engage in substantive negotiations. At his regular press briefing in Washington, the US State Department spokesperson Ned Price said Pakistan has much to gain and will continue to have a critical role in supporting an outcome that not only the United States seeks, but many of their international partners also seek.

Indian KPL propaganda condemnable

STAFF REPORT
MUZAFFARABAD: The AJK President Sardar Masood Khan while strongly condemning the Indian government for mounting pressure and threatening the international players coming to Muzaffarabad to participate in the Kashmir Premier League and vicious propaganda against the KPL, has warned the rulers in Delhi to refrain from politicizing the sports activities. In an interview with the Pakistan national broadcasting channel on Tuesday, he said that with the slogan of "play with freedom", we have invited international players to play matches in Muzaffarabad under the KPL but India pressurizing the players not to go to AJK.

Qaim Ali Shah contracts covid-19

DNA
KARACHI: Former Sindh chief minister (CM) Syed Qaim Ali Shah has tested positive for the COVID-19. This was disclosed in a report submitted by Shah's lawyer in the Sindh High Court (SHC) during the hearing of his bail plea in a case related to illegal appointments. Sharjeel Memon, who is co-accused in the case, appeared before the court in today's hearing, while Syed Qaim Ali Shah did not show up.

Talks with MPs, not fugitives

Fawad Chaudhry says Maryam Nawaz did not want to see the system become powerful



ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry while taking a blunt government stance has said that we will not talk to the fugitives but to the leadership in Parliament. Briefing the media after the federal cabinet meeting, Fawad Chaudhry said that Mian Nawaz Sharif, Fazlur Rehman and Maryam Nawaz

are not part of the parliamentary system. Nawaz Sharif and Muttahida Bani ran away from the law adding that the accused have no right to lead the party. Fawad Chaudhry said that PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz did not want to see the system become powerful. If democracy is to survive, a system must be devised. He said that every party after losing the election alleges of rigging. If the

opposition does not agree on the voting machine, it should bring suggestions. "If you disagree with our proposals on electoral reform, bring your suggestions," he said. Minister said that we are working with the opposition on the Electric Voting Machine (EVM), which is also one of the electoral reforms adding that how will democracy move forward if everyone accuses of fraud in the elections. In his press conference, Fawad Chaudhry also slammed the Sindh government, saying it needed to improve its governance. Murad Ali Shah's government is lagging behind in every field, he added. He said that the process of Coronavirus vaccination in different cities of Pakistan is in full swing but even on this important issue, big cities like Karachi and Hyderabad are lagging behind.

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ISLAMABAD: Hur Taewoong, Vice Minister Department of Rural Development and Administration (DRDA) Republic of Korea calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan. – DNA

PM Imran for deepening Pak-Korea cooperation

The premier held discussions with delegations from Korea and the Arab Parliament

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Republic of Korea of the Department of Rural Development and Administration (DRDA) led by Hur Taewoong, Vice Minister of the Department called on Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday. Welcoming the visiting delegates, the Prime Minister appreciated the multidimensional and friendly ties existing between the two countries. He commended the

'Rule of law, justice shape societies'

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday said societies were shaped by the of law with prevalent moral values and ethics, whereas justice was the criterion which 'differentiated between a civilized society and a banana republic'. Addressing a book launching ceremony of analyst, writer and researcher Ikram Sehgal titled 'A personal chronicle of Pakistan', the prime minister said a society rose when governed by equal sets of law for the privileged and the poor classes. "The human society is shaped by rule of law," he said.

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WB reallocates \$150m for Pakistan

Finance Minister welcomes the WB Regional VP and acknowledged the significant contribution

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank has reallocated US\$ 150 million for Pakistan to procure COVID-19 vaccines, South Asia Regional Vice President (SARVP), World Bank Hartwig Schafer said on Tuesday. Talking to Minister for Finance at the Finance Division, the Vice President said "the WB is fully committed to providing assistance to the developing countries for the procurement of the Covid-19 vaccines and for the purpose, \$150 million have been re-allocated for Pakistan by the Bank". Pakistan's Country Director World Bank Najib Benhassine and Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Dr Waqar Masood were also present in the meeting. The Finance Minister welcomed the World Bank

Pakistan vaccinates 1 million in a day

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: As the fourth wave of COVID-19 worsens, Pakistan achieved on Monday the 1 million daily doses' mark, with Islamabad becoming the first city to get 50% of its eligible population vaccinated with at least one dose. Federal Minister for Planning Asad Umar took to Twitter to share details about the vaccination drive being ramped up to curb the COVID-19 spread. "Happy to report that the target we had set for 1 million vaccinations in a day was crossed yesterday with 10 lakh 72 thousand vaccinations," he tweeted. All federating entities, Umar said, contributed, with Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad all administering record numbers of vaccine doses. "Amazing performance by all involved," he wrote. Pakistan has administered 31,929,581 doses so far. Of this, 25,208,663 people have received one dose, while 6,720,918 people have gotten the second dose. According to data from Johns Hopkins University, Pakistan is at the 17th position of doses administered among the nations vaccinating their citizens. Special Assistant to PM on Health Dr Faisal Sultan, meanwhile, shared that the country has crossed

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Continued on Page 06

Powerful explosions in Kabul

Fighting rages in Helmand, other areas

NEWS DESK

KABUL: A powerful blast followed by sporadic gunfire hit Afghanistan's capital Kabul near the city's heavily fortified "Green Zone", an area home to government buildings and foreign embassies, police officials said. Tuesday's blast appeared to have been caused by a car bomb and the apparent target was the residence of a member of parliament, a senior security official said. Two gunmen were still in the area and clashing with Afghan security forces, the official said. The city's Emergency Hospital said in a tweet it had so far received six people wounded in the attack. Clashes between Afghan forces and the Taliban have intensified across the country with the insurgent group gaining control over check points, trading posts and infrastructure projects. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. No details were immediately available.

Asim Bajwa resigns as CPEC Authority chief

Khalid Mansoor will be replacing him as the special assistant to the prime minister on CPEC Affairs



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Lieutenant General (retired) Asim Saleem Bajwa on Tuesday resigned from his position as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority's chief, as he thanked the government and Prime Minister Imran Khan for their support. "I bow my head before Allah Almighty for giving me an opportunity to raise and steer the impor-

tant institution of CPEC Authority as one window for all CPEC projects, charting the future direction," he said in a tweet. Bajwa said he wished the best for Khalid Mansoor, who has replaced him as the special assistant to the prime minister on CPEC Affairs. He said Mansoor was fully equipped to take CPEC forward. "CPEC is a lifeline for Pakistan; it will

Continued on Page 06

CAA imposes new curbs

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on Tuesday imposed new restrictions for inbound flights as the fourth wave of COVID-19 hit the country and the government enforced curbs to stem the pandemic's spread. In the new travel advisory, the CAA said all inbound passengers of age six years and above will be required to possess a valid negative PCR test result conducted within 72 hours prior to commencement of travel to Pakistan. "All arriving passengers of age 6 years and above will be tested through rapid antigen testing upon arrival in Pakistan," the travel advisory said. Positive testing passengers between the age of six and 12 years will be home quarantined under the supervision of concerned authorities, it said. "Positive testing passengers above 12 years of age will be quarantined at a designated facility as per procedure already in vogue," the travel advisory said.

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Pleasantly surprised by diverse history of Pakistan

Trade relations between Pakistan and Switzerland are about 600 million USD per annum, which is not a lot considering the size of the Pakistani market. We could do more. It depends very much on the economic framework – political and economic stability, stable exchange rate etc. - and the level playing field for foreign companies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan Benedict de Cerjat in his recent media interview talked about his impressions about Pakistan and various touristic attractions of Pakistan. Besides, the ambassador also talked about trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. Ambassador Benedict de Cerjat hoped trade volume between the two countries will increase. Here is the text of his interview. **Tell us about your experience living in Pakistan so far, Did you like our people, our culture?** I have been pleasantly surprised by the extraordinarily diverse and impressive history of this land. I did not know, for example, that the Indus River Civilization was actually the very first one we can call a civilization. Since my arrival, I have been able – even under COVID restrictions – to visit several interesting places

along the Grand Trunk Road: Rawat Fort, Taxila, Swat, etc. Moreover, my Embassy teamed up with UNESCO, the European Union and the World Bank to publish this book by Salman Rashid "From Landi Kotal to Wagah", celebrating the Grand Trunk Road and those who left their mark on the history of Pakistan. **2. Pakistan and Switzerland have signed an agreement on the reciprocal promotion and protection of investments. Tell us more about this agreement?** The Bilateral Investment Treaty between Pakistan and Switzerland has been in force since 1996 and has been pivotal to the increasing attractiveness of Swiss companies to invest in Pakistan. The success of this treaty is evident from the fact that over the last ten years, Switzerland has been one of the top 5 foreign direct investors in the country with an investment of more than 1 billion USD in Pakistan. **3. How do you see the Pakistani**



Ambassador of Switzerland Benedict de Cerjat

community living in Switzerland? The Pakistani community in Switzerland is relatively low in numbers, around 3'000 individuals only. They reside throughout the country but predominantly in the German-speaking part of Switzerland- i.e. the cities of Zurich, Basel and Bern. Pakistani citizens are playing a constructive role in the social and economic fabric of our society. The majority of Pakistanis working in Switzerland are in upper management and at senior level positions in all major sectors such as in the banking, insurance, pharmaceutical, engineering, and educational fields in Switzerland. **4. How are the economic relationships between Switzerland and Pakistan?** Trade relations between Pakistan and Switzerland are about 600 million USD per annum, which is not a lot considering the size of the Pakistani market. We could do more. It depends very much on the economic framework – political and

economic stability, stable exchange rate etc. - and the level playing field for foreign companies. **5. Switzerland is known as the heaven on earth because of its landscape and mountainous beauty, have you visited our North side? Did you like our landscape and mountainous sites?** Yes, during my first year in your country, I have visited a few beautiful places in the Northern Areas of Pakistan. Since the Swat Valley is famously called "the Switzerland of Pakistan", I started my journey there and I was not disappointed. I have seen Barikot, Saidu Sharif, Islampur (a great place to buy pashmina shawls), Bahrain, Kalam, Ushu and Mahodand Lake. I went back in February with a group of European colleagues and we enjoyed some skiing in Malam Jabba. A very nice place! More recently, I was in Chitral and I loved it. The roads are bumpy but it was worth the effort. I was in Garam Chashma (close to the border with Afghanistan) and to the Kalash Valley.

Briefs

Hamdani assures APTMA of continues gas supply

LAHORE: Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) Managing Director Syed Ali Javaid Hamdani has assured All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) of taking immediate steps to ensure uninterrupted gas supply to export-oriented industry and to take action against delinquent officials resorting to disconnection of gas supply or issuing frivolous notices to the mills on different lame excuses and pretexts.

According to APTMA spokesman here Tuesday, the Managing Director was talking to an APTMA delegation led by its Central Chairman Adil Bashir. The delegation comprised Chairman North Abdul Rahim Nasir, Senior Vice Chairman Amir Sheikh, Vice Chairman Kamran Arshad and Executive Director Raza Baqir. MD SNGPL has also taken strong notice of intentional delay in the implementation of court orders by some regional offices of SNGPL and assured the delegation of immediate restoration of gas supply connection in compliance with the court orders. He took serious view of frivolous notices issued to mills and instructed his staff to look into the reasons behind the issuance of notices to APTMA member mills despite consuming less than the sanctioned load, the APTMA spokesman claimed. — APP

Minister inaugurates plantation drive

PESHAWAR: Senior Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Atif Khan on Tuesday inaugurated monsoon tree plantation campaign by planting a sapling at Bacha Khan Medical College Mardan. Deputy Commissioner Mardan, Habibullah Arif, member Provincial Assembly Zahir Shah Toro and officers of the forest department were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Atif Khan said that a target to plant 12,000 saplings on daily basis was set under clean and green campaign. He called on people to join the plantation drive by planting at least two trees so that the targets set at national level for tree plantation could easily be achieved.

The minister said that plantation target has been increased from one million to 10 million in Mardan. He said the provincial government has achieved the target of one billion tree project in the last five years, which was appreciated and recognised at international level. — APP

Rescue 1122 foils suicide attempt

DNA

PESHAWAR: Rescue 1122 Tuesday foiled a suicide attempt by a person who jumped into Kabul river to end his life near Kashti Pul area.

According to details, a person suddenly jumped into Kabul river at Kashti area and was about to be drowned.

In the meanwhile, the Rescue divers received emergency call from onlookers and forthwith reached to the site and saved the person from drowning.

Later, the person told the Rescue team that he wanted to commit suicide. However, the prompt response of Rescue divers saved him who was later shifted to a hospital for treatment.

13 milkmen arrested

District administration Peshawar Tuesday arrested 13 milkmen in a crackdown on adulteration in milk and discarded 2100 liters of adulterated milk.

On the directives of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Peshawar, Khalid Mahmood, the Additional Assistant Commissioner (AAC), Habibullah along with Incharge of Milk Testing Laboratory, Dr. Jamal and Supervisor Naem-ul-Hassan conducted the analysis of the milk from various milk shops of Hayatabad Township through modern mobile laboratory.

FTC to be established to provide modern travelling facilities

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Transport Company would be established to provide quality, comfortable and modern travel facilities to the passengers in Faisalabad and to run modern air-conditioned buses on important routes in Faisalabad under the company. The proposals will be forwarded to the Punjab Government by the Punjab Transport Department and the district administration jointly. Secretary RTA Muhammad Sarwar and other officers were present. The Deputy Commissioner said that it was planned to run 100 Eco-friendly big and small air-conditioned buses in Faisalabad and the buses would be provided by the Punjab government. He said that bus shelters would be set up and passenger information system would also be set up in this regard. He said that digital screens would also be installed at the bus stop and passengers would have access to information about arrival of buses through trackers. The fare will be paid through prepaid card. The Deputy Commissioner said that the air-conditioned bus service for the citizens of Faisalabad will be



FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali held meeting with survey team of Punjab Transport Department. — DNA

a revolutionary project of its kind which will provide the best services to the passengers. The team of Punjab Transport Department said that steps would be taken by the Secretary Transport and the

district administration to run the modern buses expeditiously. DC administers polio drops

Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali administered polio drops

to children and monitored the performance of static teams at City Transport Terminal and Railway Station. CEO DHA Dr. Mushtaq Sipra and Incharge City Terminal Asim Ilyas were also present on

the occasion. Deputy Commissioner went inside the buses and checked the finger marking by the polio teams and confirmed from parents about vaccination of their children. He also checked the presence of polio teams at different points besides checked the record. He said that repeated anti polio campaign were being carried out to completely root out the chance of polio virus. He urged upon the parents to get their children vaccinated during the anti polio campaign for complete eradication of polio virus in the country. He directed the health department officers for effective monitoring of the campaign to achieve the 100% target. Deputy Commissioner directed that polio teams should be present on static points at passengers transport stands, busiest intersections, markets, hospitals, dispensaries, motorway, railway station, recreational places and other sites. He said that strict monitoring would be carried out to the campaign and no negligence would be tolerated during the campaign of anti polio in the entire district. CEO said that monitoring officers were supervise the campaign to check the performance of polio teams.

Corona vaccination camp set up at UAF

DNA

FAISALABAD: A three-day corona vaccination camp has been set up at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), in collaboration with the Punjab Healthcare Commission for the convenience of campus community.

The camp will remain operational from 10 a.m. to 04 p.m. in which university students, teachers and non-teaching staff will be vaccinated.

UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan, along with Institute of Microbiology UAF Director Prof Dr Sajjad-ur-Rehman, Public Relations and Publications UAF Principal Officer Prof Dr Jalal Arif and Amir Saeed visited the camp.

The VC directed the employees, who could not get vaccinated till date, to immediately get themselves registered for vaccine by sending their National Identity Card number on toll free number 1166 before visiting for vaccination.

NAB KP arrests alleged fraudster

PESHAWAR: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has arrested Sami Ullah s/o Obaid Ullah, the owner of SambroSons Enterprises Pvt Ltd in alleged cheating public at large case, said a press release issued here on Tuesday.

The national anti-graft agency had received complaints regarding alleged cheating in cars business. During the course of investigation it was discovered that accused Samiullah being the owner of SambroSons Enterprises (SMC-Private) Ltd along with other accused person(s) collected amount from the general public on the promise of supplying vehicles on installments basis after payment of some percentage of the total value by the affectees as down payment. But, after sometime, the office of the company was found closed and the owner of the company (Samiullah) fled along with the money collected from the affectees. The bureau has received claims amounting to millions of rupees against the accused. The accused will be produced before Accountability Court for obtaining custody. Claimants were asked to submit claims to the bureau. — APP

Dawat-e-Islami plants saplings in PPC

PESHAWAR: Dawat-e-Islami, a religious organization of Pakistan, on Tuesday planted saplings in Peshawar Press Club as parts of its ongoing campaign of planting 2.5 million plants in the country during the current monsoon season.

The plantation at PPC was organized by Media Department Lahore Region of Dawat-e-Islami, said a press release issued here.

President Peshawar Press Club, M. Riaz and General Secretary, Imran Bukhari were also present on the occasion. It merits a mention here that Dawat-e-Islami has set a target of planting 2.5 million plants in the country during the monsoon season. The campaign has been launched with the slogan of 'Sapling has to be planted and grown as Tree'.

The organization will make its members responsible for planting of saplings and taking care of it to grow as a tree. Speaking on the occasion, President PPC, M.Riaz said planting of tree is a Sunnah of our Holy Prophet (PBUH).

He said tree plantation is also need of the hour and therefore journalist community should also take part in this national responsibility with the objective of improving environment of the country.

Riaz said through planting tree we can save the future of our coming generation and increase in green cover is also essential for protection of environment and biodiversity. — APP

Publicly hang monsters raping & killing children

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Father of six-year-old Korangi girl Maham who suffered rape and then a horrifying murder late last month, wailed while talking to media ahead of his anti-terrorism court (ATC) court hearing on Tuesday that the accused used to sit and dine with them.

We did not know that among us lives a beast of a man, victim's bereaved father Abdul Khaliq lamented as the detained suspect turned out to be a neighbor who enjoyed good relations with the victim's family.

Khaliq said if they knew suspect Zakir, also a father of two and whose own daughter is just one-and-a-half-year older than the victim Maham her-

self, was such a monster, they would have kicked him out of the neighborhood.

I appeal to the law that such monsters be handed out public hanging sentences, the father said. He said that while the police have confirmed the DNA of Zakir matches the samples collected from the body, there's a possibility that more evidence turns up.

Earlier on Monday, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) East Saqib Ismail Memon noted the DNA sample of the prime suspect has matched in the 6-year-old's rape and murder case.

While addressing a press conference, DIG East Saqib Ismail Memon said that a probe team was immediately constituted after the suspected rape and murder of a minor girl named Maham.



FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali inspected implementation on anti-polio campaign at city terminal. — DNA

Bill passed to outlaw hiring of child domestic workers

DNA

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly has adopted a bill to ban forced child labour and it has also outlawed their work as domestic workers. The bill seeks a ban on the forced child labour and children under 14 years of age could not be hired as domestic workers in houses.

The bill also seeks hiring of domestic workers in homes through appointment letters. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Tuesday passed "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Home-Based Workers (Welfare and Protection) Bill, 2021 for the rights, responsibilities and difficulties faced by the domestic workers.

Provincial Labour Minister Shaukat Yousafzai moved the home-based workers' bill in the assembly. The bill prohibits employing children under 14 as domestic workers. It also bans forced child labour.

Besides this, the authorities would issue an appointment letter for the employment for domestic workers in which the worker's salary, mode of his/her payment of salary and nature of work will be specified.

After the implementation of this law, every household master would give appointment letters to his domestic workers. The maximum working hours will be 8 hours a day. If a domestic helper wants to work for more hours, he could do so and he should be paid overtime. In this case, however, the total hours must not exceed 60 hours a week.

According to this bill, a household master will give a notice a month before he dismisses the domestic worker and the domestic worker will also be required to inform the master one month before he quits his job and the domestic worker's monthly salary will be paid in full.

SF playing key role in welfare sector: Commissioner

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Sheikh Foundation (S.F) is playing a key role in the welfare sector and administration will help it to further expand its services for the mitigation of the poor and deserving segments of the society, said Divisional Commissioner Mr. Saqib Manan.

Addressing a quarterly meeting of the S.F as chief guest, he expressed satisfaction over the well organized and innovative modules to drag out its members from the abysmal poverty and make them earn their own respectable livelihood. He termed S.F as a role model for the other similar organizations and said that it has yielded positive results by focusing on free education, provision of health facilities in addition to extending necessary financial and legal assistance to the needy persons. "Small interest free loans are also being extended so that its recipients could become self-reliant instead of becoming a burden on the society", he added. The Divisional Commissioner also appreciated



the organization of free medical camps with regular periodicity in addition to arranging marriage ceremonies of the daughters belonging to poor families. Earlier Mian Muhammad Adrees President S.F explained in detail the overall performance of S.F and said that we are contemplating to introduce new welfare projects with a focus on construction and maintenance of graveyards around the urban areas of Faisalabad. He requested the Commissioner to allocate suitable pieces of state land for this purpose

for the larger benefit of the community. Underlining the issue of unemployment, he said that S.F will introduce a job portal for its members and their children. He hoped that it would provide an opportunity to its members to get jobs without any hassle. He said that the standing committees of S.F are regularly giving their positive and productive input to further improve the overall performance of S.F.

The meeting also approved a proposal to set up a dispensary in Dhuddiwala under the banner of S.F. He also

discussed various matters to jointly manage the schools and dispensaries established across the city by the S.F.

The meeting was also attended by Vice President Engineer Rizwan Ashraf, Mian Javed Iqbal, Mr. Abdul Qayyum Sheikh, S.M. Iqbal, Mian Shafi Rafi, Mr. Shahid Razaq Sikka, Mr. Atif Munir, Mr. Farooq Yousuf, Haji Idrees Sadhe Sheikh, Dr. Ejaz Nisar, Mr. Ahmad Suleman, Mr. Khalid Qaiser Gachha, Mr. Bilal Waheed, Mr. Yousuf Moti and Secretary Foundation Sheikh Saqib Naseem.

India must end terrorism against Kashmiris

"Kashmir is a jugular vein of Pakistan and Kashmir Exploitation Day will be observed on August 5 to mark 729-day lockdown in the IIOJK in gross violation of human rights and right to self-determination"

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar has urged the Indian government to end unabated terrorism against the hapless Kashmiri Muslims of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and give them right to self-determination for a durable peace in the region. Talking to Provincial Minister for Religious Affairs Syed Saeed Al Hassan Shah during a meeting at the Governor's House here on Tuesday, he said India must resolve the Kashmir issue as per the United Nations (UN) resolutions, adding that it could not dupe the

world on the rightful freedom struggle of Kashmiri people.

"Kashmir is a jugular vein of Pakistan and Kashmir Exploitation Day will be observed on August 5 to mark 729-day lockdown in the IIOJK in gross violation of human rights and right to self-determination", he said.

The Punjab Governor said that Prime Minister Imran Khan had been successful in raising Kashmir issue internationally, adding that the world community was well aware of the atrocities being committed by the ruthless Indian forces against



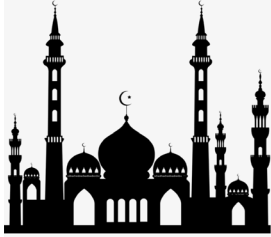
the Kashmiris. He said that 220 million Pakistanis stand with their Kashmiri brothers and sisters. On Afghanistan, he said that Pakistan was making

every possible effort in the Afghanistan peace process, adding that the Afghan government must fulfill its responsibility for the success of peace process as well as

peace in the region. He said those conspiring to destabilize Pakistan would not be allowed to succeed in their nefarious designs, urging the ulema to play their positive role in the maintenance of peace during the holy month of Muharram. Regarding maintaining peace in Muharram, he said scholars of all schools of thought must work together for inter-faith harmony during Muharram, adding that government agencies were fully mobilized to ensure law and order in the country during the holy month. Hailing Punjab govern-

ment's efforts towards inter-faith harmony and tolerance, he said efforts to promote religious harmony, eradicate sectarianism and curb hate speech on social media during Muharram were unprecedented. He warned that law would come into force and strict action would be taken against any violation of code of conduct under Paigham-i-Pakistan. Provincial Minister for Religious Affairs Syed Saeed Al Hassan Shah said all institutions including Ulema were united for the promotion of religious harmony in the province. — APP

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	4:02 am
Zohr.....	1:30 pm
Asr.....	5:15 pm
Maghrib.....	6:54 pm
Isha.....	8:45 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

Serena Hotel.....	111 133 133
Marriott.....	051-2826121
Monal.....	0334-5421812



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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Wapda Rawalpindi.....	111-309-309

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....	9209224
Potohar Town.....	9209224
Rawal Town.....	5773343

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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Joint Exhibition, RCCI ICEE expo 2021 ends on a high note

PM Khan welcomes the RCCI's proposal to convert the convention center an expo center

ZUBAIR AHMAD

RAWALPINDI: The three day exhibition on interior, construction, electrical and electronics (ICEE 2021) being organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) ended on a high note. The exhibition which was held at Pak-China Friendship Center Islamabad in collaboration with Naya Pakistan Housing Authority, more than 25 companies including marble, sanitary, tiles, cables, electronics and state-owned banks set up stalls.

A conference was also held on the occasion. In a detailed presentation, Deputy Chairman Naya Pakistan Housing Authority Major General (r) Aamer Aslam Khan briefed about the latest developments on the housing project under the authority. He said that so far more than 37,000 applications have been received for loans amounting 127 billion. So far, loan applications worth Rs 46 billion have been approved. He said that construction of low cost houses is an important task of the au-



thority and an effective strategy has been adopted to implement it. We are also in touch with the private sector to meet the growing demand for building materials such as cement, tiles, sanitary ware, plastic pipes and cables. Addressing the closing ceremony, Chamber President Nasir Mirza said that the

Expo Center was the hour of need for the promotion of exports and products. Instead of privatizing the convention center, convert it to an expo center, he suggested. Industrial zones should be set up along the Rawalpindi Ring Road to promote the industry which can be helpful in meeting high demands in the construction sector.

Prime Minister Imran Khan who was chief guest of the closing ceremony of the Expo, lauded RCCI on the successful exhibition on the subject of construction. "I have visited the stalls and taken feedback on the spot," Khan said. He welcomes the RCCI's proposal to convert the convention center an expo center. The city of Rawalpindi has also been converted into concrete structure. More and more trees will have to be planted to eliminate pollution.

A master plan is being drawn up for each city and any construction in the future green areas will be prohibited, the PM added. Chairman NAPHA General (r) Anwar Ali Haider also spoke on the occasion and shared the progress and strategy of housing authority on Naya Pakistan Housing Project. The citizens have shown great interest in the exhibition. Minister for Railways Azam Khan Swati, Special Assistant Shahbaz Gill, Chairman Commerce Committee in the Senate Zeeshan Khanzada and Ambassador of Nepal Tapas Adikari also visited the exhibition and appreciated the quality of the products.

Action against violation of building bylaws

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Building Control Authority Department of the Capital Development Authority, with the help of the district administration and Islamabad Police, has taken stern action against illegal constructions, Forteen building are sealed in Sector E-11 and also issued notices to owners for violations of building by-laws. In addition, orders to strictly implement the master plan in Islamabad have been given by the CDA administration to the Building Control Authority Department and it has been emphasized that the construction of residential and commercial buildings in Islamabad should be carried out in all cases implement in according CDA rules and regulations 2005.

Exhibition of graphic art held at PAC

PTI government led by Imran Khan is carrying out digital revolution, Sheikh Rashid Shafiq



SHUJAAT HAMZA RAWALPINDI: Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Narcotics Control Sheikh Rashid Shafiq has said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government led by Prime Minister Imran Khan is carrying out a digital revolution in the country. He said this as a chief guest at the inaugural function

of Graphic Art Exhibition in connection with Independence Day celebrations organized by Punjab Arts Council here on Tuesday. In the exhibition, students of Arts Council's graphic designing class have presented the beauty, history, famous personalities, culture and daily life of Pakistan in the form of digital art. Guest of Honor Member National

Assembly and Parliamentary Secretary for Narcotics Control Sheikh Rashid Shafiq said that children have brought the positive face of Pakistan to the world with the help of digital art. "The current era is a journey of technology and we need to train our young generation in digital arts as well as traditional arts," he said. Naheed Manzoor said that the Arts Council has always encouraged new talent and provided them a platform. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said that digital art is slowly replacing the traditional art. The children of Arts Council have created wonderful works of art using their creativity, he added. The one-day exhibition was attended by a large number of people from various walks of life.

Police arrest accused after bail cancellation

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad police on Tuesday arrested an accused allegedly involved in molesting a Food Panda delivery boy at Islamic International University (IIU) after the Islamabad High Court (IHC) canceled his pre-arrest bail. IHC's Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri announced the decision on bail case of accused Ibrahim Khan after listening arguments from the lawyers of the two sides. Police arrested the accused from the court premises after the decision announced. It may be mentioned here that a student of Quid e Azam University was allegedly molested by the accused at IIU's hostel. The IIU administration expelled the accused Ibrahim Khan and Mehmood Ashraf after the incident surfaced while the Islamabad police had registered a case against them. - APP

Applications for UK Govt's Chevening Scholarships open

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Applications for the Chevening Scholarship to study in the UK has opened (August 3rd) until November 2nd, 2021. Applications should be submitted via www.chevening.org/apply Chevening Scholarships are awarded to individuals from all backgrounds who can demonstrate that they have the commitment and skills required to create positive change, and can show how a UK master's degree

will help them do that. The scholarship offers full financial support for scholars to study for any eligible master's degree at any UK university whilst also gaining access to a wide range of exclusive academic, professional, and cultural experiences. Since the programme was created in 1983, over 2,000 professionals from Pakistan have had the opportunity to develop in the UK through Chevening. The Head of Communication and Public Diplomacy

at the British High Commission, Fouzia Younis, said: "If you want to inspire others, learn new ideas and help shape the future then the Chevening Scheme is for you. Chevening provides opportunities for all. For the last two years, we have smashed our 50% target on gender with talented Pakistani women forming nearly 60% of our intakes; and I encourage even more applications from across Pakistan and minority groups. There are no limits on ambition"



ISLAMABAD: Director General FDE Dr Ikram Ali along with Principal Prof Shazia Wazir inaugurating college flag in a ceremony at Model College for Girls I-14/3. - APP

Promoting women entrepreneurs key priority, says Zartaj Gul

She said that the government has formed a policy to provide interest free loans to women and women would also be supported through Kamyab Jawan and Ehsaas Programs

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Promoting women entrepreneurs is the key priority of the government to reduce poverty and improve economic growth, therefore, the government is taking many initiatives to bring more women into the mainstream of the economy. This was stated by Ms. Zartaj Gul, Minister of State for Climate Change while inaugurating as Chief Guest an exhibition of women handicraft products organized by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) in collaboration with Handicrafts Association of Pakistan and the Centaurus at Centaurus Mall, Islamabad. Zartaj Gul said that the government has formed a policy to provide interest free loans

to women and women would also be supported through Kamyab Jawan and Ehsaas Programs so that they could play a more effective role in the economic development of the country and uplift the living standard of their families. She said that women are producing quality handicraft products that should be displayed at tourist spots to promote their business. She advised the women entrepreneurs to focus on innovation and skills development to achieve better growth of their businesses. She assured that she would play a role in the government for promoting the cause of women entrepreneurs to create more opportunities for their growth and progress. She took a round of the exhibition and appreciated the good quality of handmade

products of women entrepreneurs put on display. Speaking at the occasion, Mian Akram Farid, Chairman Founder Group said that the handicraft sector is the most neglected sector in Pakistan and stressed that the government should make conducive policies to harness the real potential of this sector for promoting trade and exports. He said that better focus on the handicraft sector would also help in realizing the PM's vision of tourism promotion. He appreciated the government's policy of interest free loans for women, however, said that the banks were not fully cooperating in providing interest free loans to women and emphasized that the government should address this issue. He further said that the small

industries and small businesses should be supported as their role is very important in accelerating the economic growth of the country. Fatma Azim, Senior Vice President, ICCI said that the purpose of organizing this exhibition in collaboration with partners is to promote the handicraft products of women. She said that this expo has provided women a good platform to show the potential of their products and improve their business prospects. She said that the government should cooperate in providing international exposure to the handicraft products of women that would improve exports and assured that the ICCI would continue to take more initiatives for creating new opportunities for women entrepreneurs.

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Tender No.	Items Description	NTDC Specification	Tendered Quantity	Date & Time of Opening	Date & Time of Submission
06/22	25 kVA Dist. Transformers	DDS-84:2020 (Amended to-date)	3000 No.	24.08.2021 at 1100 HRS	24.08.2021 at 1030 HRS
07/22	100 kVA Dist. Transformers		1000 No.		
08/22	200 kVA Dist. Transformers		1000 No.		
09/22	PVC 10mm ² /Core SID Cable	DDS-8:2007 (Amended to-date)	3000 km	24.08.2021 at 1130 HRS	24.08.2021 at 1100 HRS
10/22	PVC Cable 4/C 25mm ² (19.052)		90 km		
11/22	3/Phase TOD Whole Current Energy Meters	DDS-60:2007 (Amended to-date)	10000 No.	24.08.2021 at 1200 HRS	24.08.2021 at 1130 HRS
12/22	AAC Wasp Conductor	P-63:2007 (Amended to-date)	600 km	24.08.2021 at 1215 HRS	24.08.2021 at 1145 HRS
13/22	H.T Steel Structure 45' long	DDS-78:2008 (Amended to-date)	400 No.	25.08.2021 at 1100 HRS	25.08.2021 at 1030 HRS
14/22	H.T Steel Structure 58' long		300 No.		
15/22	11 kv Steel Cross Arms with braces	DDS-29:2008 (Amended to-date)	38000 No.	25.08.2021 at 1130 HRS	25.08.2021 at 1100 HRS
16/22	Single Pole Platform	DDS-48:2008 (Amended to-date)	4000 No.	25.08.2021 at 1145 HRS	25.08.2021 at 1115 HRS
17/22	Stay Rod Complete	DDS-29:2008 (Amended to-date)	17500 No.	25.08.2021 at 1200 HRS	25.08.2021 at 1130 HRS
18/22	Meter Security Box A-Type for C.T Ratio 100/5 Amp	P-0099:74 (Amended to-date)	420 No.	25.08.2021 at 1215 HRS	25.08.2021 at 1145 HRS
19/22	Steel Pins for Steel Cross Arms	DDS-12:83 (Amended to-date)	40000 No.	25.08.2021 at 1230 HRS	25.08.2021 at 1200 HRS
20/22	Double Arming Bolt - 20"	PD-56-B-76 (Amended to-date)	18000 No.	25.08.2021 at 1245 HRS	25.08.2021 at 1215 HRS

The tenders will be opened publicly in presence of bidders or their representatives who wish to attend on above mentioned date & time in the office of Director (Procurement) Dist: MEPCO Khanewal Road, Multan. The cost of each tender form is Rs. 2000/- (Non-refundable). Tender Form can be obtained personally from the office of Director (Procurement) MEPCO Khanewal Road, Multan against payment of tender fee as per procedure before the opening date during office hours on the production of, prequalification/registration, copy of prototype approval (mentioned above), sales tax registration certificate, supply record and other required documents/proof. No tender form will be issued on the opening date. The tender will be received half an hour before the above scheduled date and time and will be opened on the scheduled date and time.

Tender shall remain valid for 120 days after the opening date. Bid Security/Guarantee @ 02% of the quoted price/value in shape of Deposit-at-Call, Bank Draft, Pay Order & Bid Guarantee issued by any scheduled Bank of Pakistan valid for 150 days after the opening date of tender in favour of Chief Executive Officer MEPCO Multan must accompany with the financial Bid by the bidders, otherwise Bid will be rejected. The conditional tender will not be accepted. All rights are reserved. This advertisement is also available on MEPCO & PPR websites at www.mepco.com.pk & www.ppra.org.pk respectively.

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Briefs

Sub-national polio drive continues

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The sub-national immunization campaign continued on Tuesday to reach more than 23.6 million children in 68 districts of all four provinces and the federal capital.

According to an official of the National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC), approximately 179,000 frontline polio workers visiting house to house, observing strict standard operating procedures for COVID-19, to ensure children protection from the crippling polio virus.

In a statement, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services, Dr Faisal Sultan said, "Pakistan has made significant progress over the past months and with the declining polio cases it is important to continue with full force."

He said, "We need to ensure all eligible children are vaccinated during each campaign to build up their immunity. I urge all parents to welcome the polio teams and accept the polio drops." "The current gains of the programme are fragile and can easily be reversed, especially during high transmission season when the virus is especially active. This is the most critical time for the program," said Dr. Shahzad Baig, Coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) of the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme. He urged the frontline workers and all stakeholders to continue their hard work. "Immunization is a right of every child, and it is the safest way to ensure good health of children."

IHC adjourns missing person case

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday adjourned hearing till August 30, on a case pertaining to a missing person Imran Khan.

Chief Justice Athar Minallah heard the case filed by the mother of missing person Nasreen Begum.

The court had previously ordered the government to pay amount to the victim family monthly equal to the last salary of the missing citizen.

Deputy Attorney General Khawaja Intiaz requested the court to grant time for submission of orders implementation report.

He informed the court that the ministry of law and justice had filed an appeal to Supreme Court against the decision of this court dated July 26, 2021.

The hearing of the case then adjourned till August 30.

Meanwhile, the same court served notices to Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad and station house officer (SHO) Ramna police station in a case regarding recovery of a citizen Khubaib Riaz.

The petitioner's lawyer said his client left for his native city Khushab on July 21. After few hours his mobile was found powered off. The court adjourned the case till August 13.

Ex-chairman CDA's remand extends

ISLAMABAD: An Accountability Court (AC) on Tuesday granted National Accountability Bureau (NAB) further physical remand of former chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Farkhand Iqbal till August 12, in a case pertaining to illegal allotment of land to Park Lane Company. The accused was produced before AC-I Judge Muhammad Bashir after ending of his remand time. The NAB officials informed the court regarding progress in investigation and prayed for further accused remand. The court directed the NAB to produce the accused again before the court on August 12, and adjourned hearing of the case. Farkhand Iqbal was accused of allotment of 118 kanal land to park lane, the alleged front company of former president Asif Ali Zardari. — APP

Delegation of Korean RDA visits PARC headquarters

The delegation visited to inaugurate KOPIA Pakistan Centre and Aeroponic potato seed production system in Pakistan

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of KOPIA Korea led by Administrator KOPIA, Mr. HUR Taiwoong visited PARC headquarters today. They were warmly welcomed by Chairman PARC Dr. Muhammad Azeem Khan. The delegation visited to inaugurate KOPIA Pakistan Centre and Aeroponic potato seed production system in Pakistan.

While presenting the development and functions of PARC to Korean delegation, Dr. Muhammad Azeem Khan briefed that, "Since its inception PARC through its various research divisions, is working for the research and development of Pakistan agriculture. It is gaining momentum in the areas of livestock and seed multiplication development with international assistance and linkages. He particularly mentioned the technical support of United States through USAID and USDA. He added "we are raising the capaci-

ty of existing plant genetic resources for food and agriculture conservation and acquired a large number of various crop accessions from ICARDA. Recently we



have acquired and cultivated Kiwi germplasm from Nepal which proved to be a quality production in mountainous regions of GB. We have 4 million hectares land

suitable for olive cultivation and till now olive has been cultivated on 40 thousand acres area. In his concluding comment Dr. Khan expressed deep

gratitude to Korean government for technological and financial support and lauded their assistance in providing chilli dehydration unit and Aeroponic

potato seed production, while emphasizing the importance of further cooperation in farm machinery, livestock and crop diversification sectors.

potato seed production, while emphasizing the importance of further cooperation in farm machinery, livestock and crop diversification sectors.



QUETTA: First Lady, Samina Arif Alvi, in a group photo with members of Girls guide and students. — DNA

Pakistan termed a victim of proxy terrorism

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "Pakistan is a victim of proxy terrorism, not extremist militancy," said senior journalist and author Mr. Imtiaz Gul. Therefore, he urged greater vigilance and surveillance of the border regions of Afghanistan with Pakistan, which had experienced their fair share of militant violence in the past. He was speaking at a webinar on the future of peace in Afghanistan organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) here on Tuesday. Gul stressed that internal Afghan conflicts had the potential to impact the entire region. He was of the opinion that Afghan stakeholders could not defeat each other militarily in the short run and, thus, needed to sit across the table to sort out their differences. This, he argued, would save the people of Afghanistan from unnecessary bloodshed and misery. He further stated that the US military involvement in Afghanistan

had come to an end and that there was no possibility of further military intervention by the US or NATO forces in the country. Dr. Naheed Goraya, Associate Professor at Centre for South Asian Studies (CSAS), underlined that peace could only be achieved through understanding and not war. She added that any forced settlement could lead to a protracted situation of conflict in Afghanistan. She also mentioned that Afghan society had changed in the past two decades since the Taliban held sway, which could affect the outcome of the peace talks as well as the future of Afghanistan. Further elaborating, Goraya said that attainment of peace would be a long process and would require political will of all stakeholders. "Pakistan can help as a facilitator but cannot impose anything on the Afghans," she said. President IRS, Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz, stated that the situation in Afghanistan impacted the entire region, especially Pakistan.

Punjab's MOHE Raja Yassir vows to green the Province

SHAHEEN HANIF

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Minister for Higher Education (MOHE) Raja Yassir Humayun Sarfraz has said that the Punjab government was utilizing all available resources and channels to bridge the gap between the population of humans and forests. "We shall leave no public and private vacant land in the province sans forestation", he added. He said this while planting a sapling in the vicinity of Kot Sarfraz on Tuesday arranged by the Range Forest Office (Extension) Chakwal. Sher Afzal Raja Range Forest Officer (Extension) Chakwal and other officials of the department were also present on the occasion. Raja Yassir Humayun Sarfraz said that the 10 Billion Tree Tsunami Movement of Prime Minister Imran Khan was getting popularity and admiration from all over the world which showed that our government was doing very well. He said the "Up-Scaling of Green Pakistan Program" launched by



the Punjab Forest Department was a big supplemental move in this direction. The Minister vowed to leave no stone unturned for the success of the 10 Billion Tree Tsunami Movement. "Due to a big gap between human population and forests, the world is facing the serious challenges of environmental pollution and global warming", he added. He said that our government rose to the occasion in this direction and took its responsibilities seriously to lessen the gravity of this challenge. "The Chief Minister Punjab sardar Usman

Buzdar has directed the Punjab Forest Department to involve all farmer communities in tree plantation campaigns and extend its expertise to them for bringing all vacant and barren lands under cultivation", he mentioned. For this purpose, he said, the government shall provide all kinds of financial and technical support to the farmer. District Range Forest Officer (Extension) Chakwal Sher Afzal Raja made the minister aware of the details of the tree plantation campaign and told that hundreds of acres of barren land of farmers had

been turned into dense potential forests. "The Punjab Forest Department is bearing all the expenses for the resettlement of all the barren lands in the division with trees", he added. He said that this scheme was a part of the success of Prime Minister Imran Khan's Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Movement and Forest Department employees had been working on it day and night. The Minister praised the efforts of the department and advised the officials to continue their efforts till the productive results are achieved.

MPC disposes of 5797 cases

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Missing Persons Commission (MPC) has disposed of 5797 cases upto July 31, 2021 as per monthly progress report released by Secretary (ColoED) on cases of alleged enforced disappearances for the month of July 31, 2021. A total number of 8063 cases were received by the Missing Persons Commission upto June 2021. During July 2021, 37 more cases were received by the commission and total numbers of cases reached to 8100. The Missing Persons Commission disposed of 30 cases in July 2021 and thus total disposal of Missing Persons upto July 31, 2021 is 5797 and balance as on May 31, 2021 is 2303. The Missing Persons Commission has conducted 255 hearings during the month of July 2021, 176 hearings in Islamabad and 79 hearings in Karachi.

SOPs being observed during anti-polio drive

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The five-day anti-polio campaign which had been kicked off in the entire district on Monday to cover more than 719,000 children below five years of age was in full swing despite a steady rise in COVID-19 cases.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Health Authority Dr Faiza Kanwal informed APP that 2964 polio teams, 240 health centres, 307 fixed centres, allied hospitals, and tehsil headquarter hospitals were participating in the drive.

The CEO said that standard operating procedures (SOPs) regarding COVID-19 were being followed to ensure the safety of polio teams during the drive. She said polio drops were also being administered at 129 transit points to ensure that all children coming from outside districts be immunized. Kanwal said that staff deployed for the campaign have been instructed that no negligence in this regard would be tolerated. "The parents should cooperate with special teams so that the set target could be achieved," she added.

IHC extends interim bail of B4U's owner

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday extended the interim bail of owner of the B4U Company Saif ur Rehman in a case pertaining to looting the public money on the name of investment.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Aamer Farooq heard the case filed by accused Saif ur Rehman.

The court extended the pre-arrest bail of the accused and sought final arguments from respondents on next date of hearing.

The court also sought fine orders from the Security Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) regarding the matter. Deputy Prosecutor General NAB Sardar Muzafar Abbasi informed the court that his department had issued arrest warrants against the accused and prayed the court to dismiss the bail petition of accused.

IPEMC to review in institutions

ISLAMABAD: The Inter Provincial Education Ministers Conference (IPEMC) has been called on tomorrow (Wednesday) keeping in view the rising trend in coronavirus cases.

According to sources, the IPEMC meeting will be chaired by the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Shaqat Mahmood. The Forum will exchange views regarding implementation of Standards Operating Procedures (SOPs) in the educational institutions, the sources added. They said that different options would also come under observation to implement COVID-19 SOPs in the education sector. — APP

President of Arab League lauds Pak leadership

The delegation discussed the importance of bilateral cooperation and institutional linkages, for the protection of the rights and unity of Muslim Ummah

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Special Assistant to Prime Minister, Moulana Tahir Ashrafi, called on the visiting Arab Parliament delegation, headed by President of the Arab Parliament, Mr. Adel Abdulrahman, here at Islamabad, on Tuesday. Moulana Tahir Ashrafi welcomed the Arab Delegation to Pakistan. President of the Arab Parliament, Mr. Adel Abdulrahman al-asoomi, praised the hospitality of Pakistan and said that rich cultural values make it an attractive country. The President lauded the strong decision making of the Pakistani leadership and effective measures during challenging times such as the Covid-19. Adel also acknowledged Pakistan's stance on Palestine and Kashmir issues. While mentioning Pakistan's proactive role on Afghanistan issue, the leader of the delegation observed that all stakeholders should come forward and play role for lasting



peace in the region, all the stakeholders should come forward to resolve the Afghan crisis. Adel Abdulrahman al-asoomi, said that we acknowledge Chairman Senate,

Muhammad Sadiq Sajhrani's proposal to introduce Inter-parliamentary coordination to understand the issues and find solutions to the problems.

Moulana Tahir Ashrafi said that Pakistan believes in peace and prosperity for collective good of the Ummah. Pakistan will always be a partner in peace, not conflict. Pakistan believes that disputes and differences can be sorted out through dialogue and that war is not an option, Ashrafi asserted. The Arab Parliament President said that we share a common vision of peace, prosperity and development for the region and the world at large. The delegation discussed the importance of bilateral cooperation and institutional linkages, for the protection of the rights and unity of Muslim Ummah.

Moulana Tahir Ashrafi thanked the Arab Parliament delegation for visiting Pakistan and expressed the hope for enhancing future coordination and support with zeal and commitment.

Consumer welfare

THE Ministry of Industries and Production (MoIP) fixed the retail price of sugar at Rs.89.50 per kilogram after consulting the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) and the Lahore High Court (LHC). Claiming that this rate goes against court orders issued earlier by the Peshawar High Court (PHC) and the criteria set by the LHC itself, the industry has decided to reject and oppose this price entirely. Asking for a higher rate to be set, the sugar industry looks to be focused more on increasing its profit margin rather than working towards consumer welfare, which is expected from any private firm or conglomerate.

According to the reports of a meeting between all stakeholders held on July 27, an average cost formula to determine a fixed price was applied to the data provided by 32 sugar mills. The average cost was calculated to be Rs.72.16 per kilogram for sugar. Adding a 10 percent for inflation, and a 13 percent profit, the federal government ended up with a fair final price of Rs.89.50. Arguing that if the contentions of the industry were accepted, the price of sugar would come out to be Rs.105.76 per kilogram. This is not only incorrect but, if accepted, will put an absurd financial burden onto the general public.

We must also remember that the memory of the recent sugar crisis where the industry was accused of creating artificial shortages to manipulate prices is still very fresh. Show cause notices were ordered by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to bring to light the injustice being done to the people for years. To argue for a higher profit margin of 15 percent, as opposed to accepting the marginally reduced 13 percent mark-up, is reminiscent of the same standard where the industry is willing to profit at the expense of the people. The government has enough grounds to apply pressure and force the industry to comply, especially after its duty to fix the wrongs it had done to the people.

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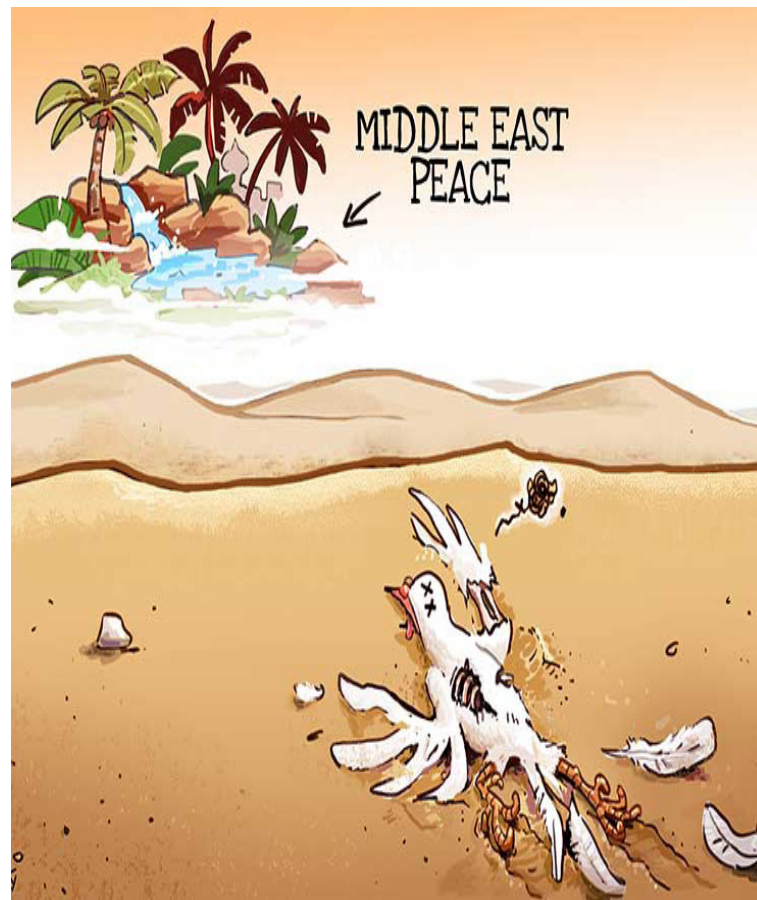
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Procedures to follow during the pandemic

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

IT seems the pandemic is here to stay. One after the other a new wave and variant of the virus are reported to be affecting the population. During such times of distress, the best strategy is to keep ourselves safe and protected. We must, under all circumstances, follow standard operating procedures and social distancing measures.

Masks must be worn at all times whenever we are outside and sanitizers must be used after every half an hour or forty-five minutes. We must avoid touching others and must use our stationery, items, etc. We should not eat outside or order food. Reliance must be to cook food at home.

Those going to the office must take food from home as well. Parents must monitor their children and keep them safe and indoors as much as possible. When going out in public we must avoid touching anything. The recent variant, Delta, and the newest one, Epsilon, have been termed as more lethal than the previous variants.

We must take care of our diet and consume fruits, vegetables, soups, and juices to keep ourselves healthy. Our immunity increases by taking proper food, drinking water, sleeping for eight hours, avoiding junk food and cold drinks, and having a positive outlook. The government has ordered us to pursue SOPs for our safety. Moreover, getting vaccinated must be a top priority for all. There have been cases reported where elders (over 70 years) did not opt to be vaccinated thinking they are safe at home but they contract the virus and end up facing health issues that prove to be lethal. It must be our responsibility to keep ourselves safe and to protect others too. We should be aware that this virus has affected us collectively. We need to fight against it at a collective level. Following SOPs and all measures must be our priority.

Cryptocurrency – Digital currency of 21st century

Huma Arshad



The risks involved in dealing with cryptocurrency are diverse but limited to those only who participate in this business. Like any new step you take in life, there is always a risk involved. Cryptocurrency also has its pros and cons. So, like any other business before dealing in crypto either investing in it or simply holding it, you must gauge and understand the risk. The major risk involved in cryptocurrency is its volatility, instability, or unpredictability.

CRYPTOCURRENCY is a virtual or digital currency in the form of coins or tokens. Cryptocurrency is comprised of two words – 'crypto' means data encryption and 'currency' means a medium of exchange. This digital form of currency is a medium of exchange used in the digital world, uses encryption that ensures the security of transactions. Cryptocurrency's transactions are different than the traditional banking system. In traditional banking, money is regulated by regulatory agencies like state banks and other banks owned by the government. While in the case of cryptocurrencies, no state can control them. Cryptocurrency is on the brink to launch a revolution, one that could reinvent traditional financial and social structure while bringing the world's billions of unbanked individuals into a new global economy. (The age of cryptocurrency; 2015 by Paul Vigna and Michael,)

Use of blockchain technology in crypto transactions
Cryptocurrency works by using blockchain technology. Due to using blockchain technology, the transaction data is on all computers not only on a single server but on all computers connected to one network. Blockchain technology is a decentralized technology that spreads across different computers and that manages and records transactions. Through blockchain technology whenever a new transaction appears, it is replicated on all computers, which ensures that it can not be changed without the approval of all network partakers. Blockchain technology is widely used in keeping records and is prominently used in research, education, management, and medicines. There is a false misconception that blockchain is not open to the general public. The truth is many companies create their private blockchain to be used among their employees, while the majority of the blockchain behind famous cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin is approachable and accessible by the public.

Different types of cryptocurrencies
The encrypted coins and tokens come under cryptocurrency. Nowadays there are different cryptocurrencies other



er than Bitcoin but those have very little value and very



little potential in the market. The most popular in the list are Bitcoin, Ethereum, XRP, Cardano, Stellar, USD Coin, Chainlink, Uniswap, Polkadot, Bitcoin Cash, etc. If we talk about Binance we came to know that it is a cryptocurrency exchange that gives a medium or platform for the trading purpose of different cryptocurrencies.

Among all of the Bitcoin is the most valued one. It was created to be used as a digital payment method. Successful currencies have six attributes including scarcity, divisibility, utility, transportability, durability, and counterfeit ability. When it comes to Bitcoin, it holds all these characteristics. After Bitcoin, the most famous is Ethereum, which is the cryptocurrency of the Ethereum network, which is an open-source blockchain on which developers can build dapps (Dapps are a growing movement of applications that use Ethereum to disrupt business models or invent new models.)

Benefits of cryptocurrency
"Bitcoin is exciting me because it shows how cheap transaction can be." Bill Gates. Dealing in cryptocurrency is one to one affair based on peer to peer networking structure which does not require a middle man. This leads to less confusion over who should pay what to whom, and greater accountability, in that both the parties know each other directly. One of the main advantages of cryptocurrency is, this type of transaction guards the privacy of your financial history and safe you from the identity theft that is greater in the conventional system where your details can be revealed at any point in the transaction chain. We all know that in traditional banking system transaction fee takes a chunk of our assets. In crypto transactions, you do not have to face any problem like that. There may be some external fee involved if you engage the services of third-party management services to maintain your cryptocurrency wallet. Unlike a normal wallet, crypto wallets technically do not store your cryptocurrency. Your holding is live on the blockchain but you can access it by using the private key. This private key proves your ownership of your digital money and allows you to make your transactions.

Although still not recognized as legal tender by different governments, cryptocurrencies due to their digital and virtual nature are not subject to the exchange rates, interest rates, transaction charges, or other embargoes imposed by any specific country. So it is an easier medium of international trade from one country to another country. We should not forget that still there are millions of people who have no access or limited access to payment systems like banks. Cryptocurrency is here to facilitate maximum people by spreading digital commerce in the world so that people with only their mobile phones in their hands can do the payment as it is a fact that more people have access to mobile phones than banks.

Beware of Crypto risks

The risks involved in dealing with cryptocurrency are diverse but limited to those only who participate in this business. Like any new step you take in life, there is always a risk involved. Cryptocurrency also has its pros and cons. So, like any other business before dealing in crypto either investing in it or simply holding it, you must gauge and understand the risk. The major risk involved in cryptocurrency is its volatility, instability, or unpredictability. For example, in 2017, the price of Bitcoin skyrocketed above 1,000% and then came crashing down. Afterward, the cryptocurrency hype has calmed down, the price fluctuation has become more predictable. The risks in crypto dealing can be categorized into four major areas: technical risk to the one who is participating, the economic risk to the person who is involved in the transaction, systematic risks to the cryptocurrency ecosystem, and societal risks of acceptance and societal trend. For example, many financial experts are worried that Bitcoin is a bubble that could pop. If the high-value cryptocurrencies did crash, it would have devastating and long-term effects on all other cryptocurrencies which are of low value. Regulatory intervention is another obstacle as some governments have embraced digital currencies, while others are still rigid and have pushed regulations. Apart from all these risk factors in the end we have to remember this quote by Marko Halilovic, "Take the risk or lose the chance."



Extreme weather requires an extreme response

Chris Doyle



The alarming issue for those paying attention is that the top-level climate change modeling appears to have underestimated the impact. The scale of the modeling challenge is daunting, not least due to the variables in the global climate, such as the El Nino phenomenon and the weakening of the jet stream across the Atlantic. Predicting wind patterns or even changes in wave heights is extremely challenging

AS Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan toured the scenes of devastation caused by wildfires in Marmaris, he gently lobbed boxes of tea from his bus door to those affected. No doubt he meant well, but this encapsulated the global political reaction to extreme weather events and climate change. The leaders know the problem is at the catastrophic end of the spectrum, but are still engaged in wishful thinking, tossing out random pledges whenever the need arises. Tracking all the extreme weather events around the globe, one has to wonder whether this term will have to be changed. At what stage do extreme weather events become lethal but normal weather events? Is moderate weather going to become a rarity? Some extreme events will have major impacts on human life, others less so, but they are all part of a pattern. Let us look at the tally of the last few weeks alone. Floods are not just restricted to countries such as Bangladesh, where they are occurring right now. Images are still fresh from the huge floods in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, while London endured flash flooding at the end of July. Towns on the wonderful Lake Como in northern Italy suffered major mudslides and flooding. Italy has also suffered a huge increase in major hailstorms, with the latest in Bologna producing blocks of ice the size of tennis balls. China has also suffered biblical-style floods, with eight months' worth of rain falling on Zhengzhou in one day. Also in July, a reported 150 people died in flash flooding in northeastern Afghanistan. The monsoon rains in western India also killed more than 100 people. Flooding is increasing because warmer air can carry more water. Scientists also predict that, in some areas, although flooding and huge rainstorms may increase, overall precipitation may decrease – it will just be more sudden. Meanwhile, wildfires are becoming roaring

monsters. The largest current fire in the US, in Oregon, has lasted since July 6. The far east of Russia has suffered more than 200 fires. Turkish firefighters have their hands full, with dozens of wildfires that have so far killed at least eight people. The inhabitants of Catania are used to having to be wary of Mount Etna erupting, but Sicilian firefighters are currently struggling to contain numerous fires threatening the city. None of this is mere happenstance. Heat records are being broken with more frequency than Olympic records. And it is not that they are just hotter, but they are also lasting longer. The Middle East may be used to extreme temperatures to an extent, but western Canada saw the mercury topping 49.6 degrees Celsius this summer. This did not just break the record, it smashed it by 5 C. The town where this was recorded was subsequently almost wiped out by wildfires. New highs have also been set in Turkey, Finland and Estonia, among others. The US has just recorded its hottest June in more than a century, while 95 percent of the west of the country is suffering from drought. Can a single individual example of extreme weather be definitively attributed to climate change? No, of course not. However, the frequency and patterns of such events clearly can, and on this the scientific community is increasingly both united and alarmed. The alarming issue for those paying attention is that the top-level climate change modeling appears to have underestimated the impact. The scale of the modeling challenge is daunting, not least due to the variables in the global climate, such as the El Nino phenomenon and the weakening of the jet stream across the Atlantic. Predicting wind patterns or even changes in wave heights is extremely challenging. But you cannot understand floods or wildfires in isolation. They are often what are now termed "compound events." Every aspect of the climate and what is

affecting it has to be understood and there are often not the historical records to produce credible data. If the scientists are seen to press the panic button too soon, they lose credibility. When they underestimate the issue, they get the blame.

One has to wonder what it is that more world leaders and public opinion formers need to see before they start to consider not just action, but drastic action. Extreme events require extreme remedies. These need to be backed by research, effort and investment. Political will and courage needs to be overflowing and focused.

One way to convince politicians, big business and the public worldwide is to demonstrate the financial costs. This is what makes the world go round. For example, the floods in Henan in China are estimated to have caused \$14 billion of damage. Insurers have largely been in the advance guard of doom-mongers on this issue, but other business sectors will join in the demand for extreme action. Farmers lose out due to major hailstorms that ruin crops, especially delicate fruit. The changing duration and timing of the seasons also affect crop production. Increasing temperatures lead to soil drying out and even desertification.

Countries have to start preparing. This is not going to go away. Wildfires will need to be contained and people will have to adapt their way of life to extreme heat. We should be more hesitant in building on flood plains. One district of Hamburg is being developed on raised plinths, with the ground floors of all buildings capable of being sealed. Such methods may have to be adopted elsewhere. We have to ditch the lazy thinking that these are weird and bizarre events that happen elsewhere because, as the scientists have been telling us, such disasters can and will happen anywhere. Perhaps we should see these events as disaster warnings from the planet. We must act now.

– Courtesy: Arab News

Briefs



Medal Count

Pos.	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	32	21	16	69
2	USA	24	28	23	73
3	Japan	19	6	13	36
4	Australia	14	4	15	33
5	Russia	13	21	18	52

Photo exhibition on Youm-e-Istehsal Kashmir

DNA

LONDON: On the occasion of 'Youm-e-Istehsal Kashmir', the Pakistan High Commission London is organizing a Photo Exhibition to highlight egregious human rights abuses of the Kashmiris in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The exhibition will be held in the Marquee Area of the High Commission on 05 August 2021 at 11:30 am. High Commissioner Moazzam Ahmad Khan invites the Pakistani community and friends of Kashmir to visit the exhibition and express solidarity with Kashmiris living under illegal Indian occupation.

Talks with MPs, not fugitives

FROM PAGE 01

Fawad said that Sindh government should look into its own affairs and improve governance. The federal government has the power to draw the attention of the provinces to governance. Talking about the returning Pakistani prisoners from Saudi Arabia, the Federal Minister said that it was part of Prime Minister Imran Khan's effort. Minister said that hundreds of repatriated prisoners were locked behind the bars for petty crimes. Embassy staff suspended for mistreatment of prisoners and laborers. It is the duty of a diplomat to consider Pakistanis abroad as his family, he added. He said that the federal cabinet has rejected the increase in the salaries of ministers, only the salaries of civil servants will be increased. Fawad Chaudhry said that the Prime Minister will write a letter to the Leader of the Opposition for the appointment of members of the Election Commission, it was not necessary to meet the Leader of the Opposition in this regard.

Asim Bajwa resigns as CPEC...

FROM PAGE 01

transform us into a progressive and fully developed country." Lt Gen (ret'd) Bajwa was appointed as CPEC Authority chairman back in November 2019, and subsequently, in April 2020 PM Imran Khan appointed him as his special assistant on information and broadcasting. However, on October 12, PM Imran Khan had relieved Lt Gen (ret'd) Bajwa of his additional portfolio of SAPM on information and broadcasting.

Pakistan vaccinates 1 million in a day

FROM PAGE 01

the 30 million (cumulative) doses mark. He said that the last 10 million doses took 16 days, which is eight times faster than what it took to administer the first 10 million. The federal capital has become the first Pakistani city with a population of one million or more to get 50% of its eligible population vaccinated with at least one dose. Pakistan reported 67 new coronavirus deaths, raising the nationwide tally to 23,529 on Tuesday. About 3,582 new coronavirus cases have been recorded in the last 24 hours, according to the data issued by NCOC on its official web portal. The coronavirus positivity rate in Pakistan stood at 7.19% with 75,373 active cases across the country.

Australia sink Germany to set up Belgium showdown

"Luckily I was so close to the goal because it (the ball) went pretty high," Brand said. "We've beaten two top teams, Holland and Germany, so I think we're on a bit of a roll"

SPORTS DESK

TOKYO: Australia set up a showdown with world champions Belgium in the men's hockey final at the Tokyo Olympics after handing 2016 Olympic bronze medallists Germany a 3-1 defeat on Tuesday. Young forward Tim Brand opened the scoring for Australia with a seventh-minute goal when he pushed in a powerful shot from team mate Flynn Ogilvie that crossed the striking circle. "Luckily I was so close to the goal because it (the ball) went pretty high," Brand said. "We've beaten two top teams, Holland and Germany, so I think we're on a bit of a roll." Germany equalised off a penalty corner by flicker Lukas Windfeder, but were not able to keep the Kookaburras at bay, with Blake Gowers giving them the lead shortly before halftime. After the teams returned, Germany could not capitalise on their circle penetrations. Lachlan Sharp sealed the German team's fate with a late-game goal, marking a painful end to their Tokyo campaign. "The Aussies were more effective in both



circles," Germany captain Tobias Hauke said. "If you lose the game in this style... it's really hard, that is why there are tears." Australia and Belgium play their gold medal match on Thursday, while India and Germany will battle for bronze. Belgium's Red Lions beat India 5-2 earlier on Tuesday.

last claimed the top prize at the 1980 Moscow Games, went ahead through goals from Harmanpreet Singh and striker Mandeep Singh. But Belgium always believed they could make the final said Alexander Hendrickx, who is top scorer at the Tokyo tournament. "In the end, the opportunities that we created were enough to win the game," said Hendrickx, who made the equaliser off a penalty corner halfway through the second quarter. With 11 minutes left, Hendrickx again lived up to his reputation as a superb drag-flicker by scoring off a penalty corner to put Belgium 3-2 ahead. Hendrickx, who played with a bandage around his head to protect a wound on his forehead, completed his hat-trick by scoring a penalty stroke and veteran John-John Dohmen added another goal in the final minute. The outcome was heartbreaking for India, experienced defender Rupinder Pal Singh said. "We were here to win a gold medal. That was our aim, but we lost today," said Singh. "The great thing is we have a chance to finish third in the next game so we will focus on that."

Uzbek Djuraev wins gold

DNA

TOKYO: It was a tense duel for gold in the final moments of the men's 109 kg weightlifting competition, but with an Olympic record clean and jerk lift of 237 kg, Uzbekistan's Akbar Djuraev powered his way to the top spot. Combined with his snatch of 193 kg, Djuraev also surpassed the combined Olympic standard with a total of 430 kg to claim a second Games record. But the 21-year-old's golden victory in his Olympic debut didn't come easy. After being the first of the two to set a new Olympic record in the competition with a godlike snatch of 195 kg, Armenian "Hercules" Simon Martirosyan, 24, had two attempts left in the clean and jerk after Djuraev finished.

'Rule of law, justice shape societies'

FROM PAGE 01

Contrary to it, the past ruling elite in Pakistan had plundered the country, he added. He said (in apparent reference to former rulers Nawaz Sharif and Asif Zardari) two corrupt families did the grave injustice with the country as they made the corruption acceptable to the society. The prime minister, terming his constant struggle against corruption and injustices as 'Jihad', said they were creating awareness among the masses about 'the biggest cancer'. He said in the developed countries, the society fought the evils on its own and the corrupt elements were ostracized. Imran Khan said he came to politics to fight and wage struggle against social evils. Quoting Molana Romi, the prime minister said a society's downfall started when its morality was collapsed, followed by financial and economic downfall. Referring to his cricket experience, he said there were two types of players in game, the one who played for himself and the other who thought of the whole team. The former always earned esteem and respect.

WB reallocates \$150m for Pakistan

FROM PAGE 01

Regional Vice President and acknowledged the significant contribution of the World Bank in the socio-economic development of the country since 1950s. He welcomed World Bank Group's proposed US\$12 billion initiative to help developing countries procure COVID-19 vaccines to treat up to 1 billion people. The Finance Minister appreciated the pivotal role currently being played by the World Bank in strengthening governance and service delivery in Pakistan through institutional reforms being undertaken with the support of development partners. The Vice President thanked the Finance Minister for a warm welcome and said that World Bank greatly values its partnership with Pakistan and supports the reform agenda undertaken by the present government. He also acknowledged the efforts made by Pakistan for effective management of the Covid-19 crisis. The Vice President also praised Pakistan's commitment for cleaner and greener environment and said that the reform momentum had to be sustained in the country. During the meeting there was a review of the progress on World Bank's two ongoing programs "Resilient Institutions for Sustainable Economy (RISE-II)" and "Program for Affordable and Clean Energy (PACE)" as these programs hold a central position in the Government's social and economic reform paradigm.

Bill Gates, Melinda French officially divorced

FOREIGN DESK

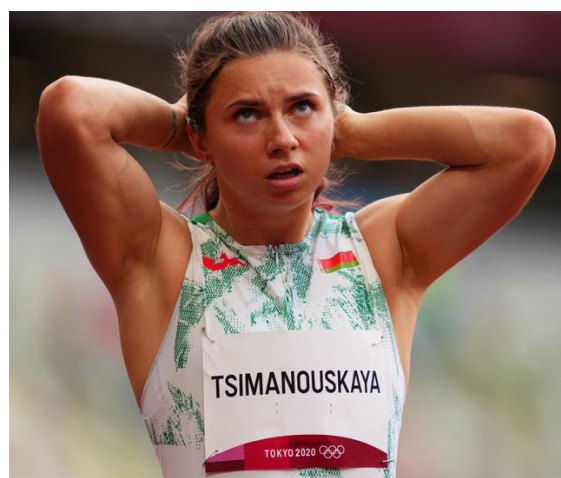
NEW YORK: The divorce between Bill Gates and Melinda French Gates, cofounders of one of the world's largest private charitable foundations, was finalised on Monday, a court document showed. The couple filed for divorce on May 3, after 27 years of marriage, but pledged to continue their philanthropic work together. They said at the time they had reached an agreement on how to divide their marital assets. No details of that agreement were disclosed in the final divorce order filed on Monday in King County Superior Court in Seattle, United States, Reuters news agency reported. The court did not issue money, property or spousal support judgments in the divorce. It said the couple must comply with the terms of the separation contract, which was not filed in King County Superior Court. The Seattle-based Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has become one of the most powerful and influential forces in global public health, spending more than \$50bn over the past two decades to bring a business approach to combating poverty and disease. The Gateses have backed a widely praised programme in malaria and polio eradication, child nutrition and vaccines. The foundation last year committed some \$1.75bn to COVID-19 relief. Bill, the billionaire co-founder of Microsoft, and Melinda, an author and businesswoman, had announced their decision to separate in early May in an identical statement posted on their individual Twitter accounts.



'Punishment' awaited at home: Belarusian athlete Krystsina

AGENCIES

TOKYO: Belarusian Olympian Krystsina Tsimanouskaya is alleging that officials from her country "made it clear" she would face punishment upon returning home from the Tokyo Games after she criticised her team's management. The 24-year-old sprinter refused to fly home from Tokyo on Sunday, alleging that her team had hustled her to the Japanese capital's Haneda airport and was trying to force her on board a flight destined for Minsk via Istanbul against her wishes. "They made it clear that upon return home I would definitely face some form of punishment," she told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "There were also thinly disguised hints that more would await me." Tsimanouskaya sought the protection of Japanese police after refusing to fly home and on Monday headed to Poland's embassy in the Japanese capital. Poland granted her a humanitarian visa and she plans to fly to Warsaw later in the week, where she expects to be reunited with her husband. The Polish embassy in Tokyo, the Japanese government and International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Japan says Belarus athlete safe

TOKYO: Japan said on Tuesday that it is keeping a Belarusian Olympian who took refuge in the Polish embassy "safe" as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced a formal investigation into the incident and the United States condemned Belarus's attempts to send her home as intolerable "transnational repression". Krystsina Tsimanouskaya, 24, sought police protection on Sunday during a Tokyo airport standoff to avoid returning to Belarus, where she believes her life would be in danger. The sprinter, who said she was taken to the airport against her will because she had criticised her team's coaching staff, has now been granted a humanitarian visa by Poland. Her supporters say she will fly to Warsaw on Wednesday and that her husband, Arseni Zhdanovich will join her there. In the meantime, Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said on Tuesday: "We, in cooperation with relevant parties, are trying to keep her safe." "She is now in a safe situation," he added. - Agencies

Soccer: Spain to face Brazil in Olympics final

SPORTS DESK

TOKYO: Spain will play reigning champions Brazil in the Olympic men's football final after Marco Asensio's superb extra-time winner Tuesday secured a 1-0 victory over host nation Japan in Saitama. The Real Madrid winger came off the bench as a substitute and curled in a terrific strike in the 115th minute, sending Spain through to a first Olympic final since they finished runners-up at the 2000 Games in Sydney. Japan will take on Mexico in Friday's bronze medal match. Mexico lost 4-1 on penalties to Brazil in Kashima following 120 goalless minutes. Having needed a last-gasp equaliser against Ivory Coast in the previous round before prevailing 5-2 after extra time, Spain created the better chances over the 90 minutes against Japan without making a breakthrough. Japan goalkeeper Kosei Tani produced a key save to deny Rafa Mir in the first half, while VAR intervened to overturn a penalty awarded to Spain after a tackle by



irre's penalty in a shootout before Johan Vasquez smacked the post with Mexico's second attempt. Dani Alves, Gabriel Martinelli, Bruno Guimaraes and Reinier all scored for Brazil, who will be appearing in a fifth Olympic final in Yokohama. "It's very special to be able to take part in an Olympic Games and to get to the final. It's a really happy moment for me," said veteran Brazil captain Alves, who at 38 is one of three over-age players in the squad. "Since the very start we set ourselves the aim of seeking going, and I think we are deservedly in the final." Mexico, who beat Brazil to win gold at London 2012, had scored 14 goals in four matches in this year's tournament - including six in their quarter-final victory over South Korea. Their best period against a disciplined Brazil came at the end of the first half as Luis Romo forced an excellent save from Santos, with Uriel Antuna's goal-bound effort then blocked by Diego Carlos. Brazil saw a penalty decision overturned by VAR after Jose Esquivel appeared to foul Douglas Luiz in the box. Everton forward Richarlison, the competition's top scorer with five goals, nearly won the game for Brazil just before the end of normal time but his glancing header bounced back off the post. Brazil won the 2016 final against Germany on penalties and are attempting to join Britain, Uruguay, Hungary and Argentina by defending their Olympic crown. Spain won the 1992 Games on home soil in Barcelona.

Briefs

Azerbaijan foils drug smuggling from Iran

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan's State Border Service has foiled the smuggling of over 14 kg of drugs from the neighboring Iran, the service reported on its website on August 3.

The incident occurred in Horadiz border detachment's border post in Fuzuli region's Bala-Bahmanli village on August 1.

As a result of search and operational measures, two suspects with packages were detained while trying to escape with a vehicle. The detainees, Moscow resident Valiyev Huseyn and Hajigabul resident Mamiyev Teymur sought to smuggle 14.5 kg of drugs (8,200 grams of marijuana, 4,200 grams of heroin, and 2,100 grams of methamphetamine) as well as 690 methadone-40 psychotropic pill-like substances into Azerbaijan.

Criminal proceedings have been launched into the incidents, the Border service reported.

The Horadiz border detachment operates on the border with Iran on the territory of Azerbaijan's liberated Fuzuli region. After liberating its lands from Armenia's occupation in the 44-day war with Armenia in 2020, Azerbaijan restored control over the 132-km section of the Azerbaijan-Iran border.

Germany reaches target of 1m e-vehicles

WEB DESK

BERLIN: Germany has reached its government target of having 1 million electric vehicles on the roads, local media reported on Tuesday.

"With one million electric cars on German roads, we have reached a decisive milestone," German newspaper chain Redaktionsnetzwerk Deutschland quoted Peter Altmaier, federal minister for economic affairs and energy, as saying. "Our transport is being irreversibly converted to renewable energies."

According to Altmaier's ministry, the target was reached after 57,000 new registrations were made in July, slightly behind the original schedule of the end of 2020.

A decisive factor in the latest development was the introduction of a so-called innovation bonus as an increased subsidy for the purchase of electric vehicles. The premium was introduced a year ago and payments were recently extended until 2025, the ministry said.

Uzbekistan may receive over \$750m from IMF

DNA

TASHKENT: Uzbekistan can receive funds in the amount of over US\$750 million from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The IMF approved the allocation of US\$650 billion for the restoration of the world economy. According to the IMF, the funds in the amount of US\$275 billion will go to emerging markets and developing countries.

"This is a historic decision – the largest SDR allocation in the history of the IMF and a shot in the arm for the global economy at a time of unprecedented crisis. The SDR allocation will benefit all members, address the long-term global need for reserves, build confidence, and foster the resilience and stability of the global economy. It will particularly help our most vulnerable countries struggling to cope with the impact of the COVID-19 crisis," IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said.

The general allocation of SDRs will become effective on August 23, 2021. The newly created SDRs will be credited to IMF member countries in proportion to their existing quotas in the Fund.

Uzbekistan's quota is 0.116%. This means that Uzbekistan can receive US\$754 million.

UN urges warring parties in Afghanistan to protect civilians

FOREIGN DESK

NEW YORK: The United Nations has called on Afghanistan's warring parties to do more to protect civilians, warning that the impact of "indiscriminate" gunfire and air raids will be "catastrophic".

The Taliban ground offensive and Afghan forces' air raids are causing the most harm, the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) noted in a series of tweets on Tuesday.

"Taliban ground offensive & ANA air strikes causing most harm," the UNAMA posted, referring to the Afghan National Army.

"Deep concerns about indiscriminate shooting & damage to/occupation of health facilities & civilian homes."

Since the start of the withdraw-

al of international forces from Afghanistan in May, the Taliban has intensified its attacks, making significant territorial gains, especially in rural areas of Afghanistan.

Thousands of people have been displaced, while the United States and the United Kingdom have accused the Taliban of committing "war crimes" and "massacring civilians".

Several provincial capitals have been encircled by the Taliban and heavy fighting has been going on for days now in the capitals of Helmand and Kandahar provinces in the south, as well as in the city of Herat – capital of the eponymous province – in the west.

Reporting from Kabul, Al Jazeera's James Bays said Lashkar Gah, capital of Helmand province, is witnessing its heaviest fighting in recent days and that Taliban fighters are



died in the past three days and 156 others wounded in Lashkar Gah. Officials said the Taliban has seized nearly a dozen local radio and TV stations in the city, leaving only one pro-Taliban channel broadcasting Islamic programming.

"Fighting was intense this morning," said Sefatullah, director of Sukon radio in Lashkar Gah. "We stopped broadcasting two days ago because the Taliban captured the building of our station."

The loss of Lashkar Gah would be a significant strategic and psychological blow for the government, which has pledged to defend cities at all costs after losing much of the countryside to the Taliban over the summer.

In Herat, also under siege, hundreds of residents chanted "Allah-u-Akbar" (Allah is the greatest) from their rooftops after govern-

ment forces repulsed the latest Taliban assault.

Afghan officials in Herat said government forces had managed to push back Taliban fighters from several areas of the city, including near the airport, which is vital for resupplies.

"Afghan security forces plus resistance forces launched a big operation in west of the city," said Jallani Farhad, spokesman for Herat's governor.

A hospital source in Herat told the DPA news agency it had received 24 bodies and nearly 200 wounded people in the past six days. Among the victims were members of the security forces.

Another source from the Kandahar Health Department said 28 deaths and 191 injured people were recorded in the province in the past 10 days.

President of Uzbekistan to visit Turkmenistan

DNA

TASHKENT: President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev will visit Turkmenistan at the end of the week. This was announced by the press secretary of the President Sherzod Asadov.

On 6 August 2021, the head of Uzbekistan will take part in a consultative meeting of the heads of state of Central Asia.

According to Asadov, the summit will take place in Avaza, located on the shores of the Caspian Sea.

The presidents of the Central Asian countries will discuss a wide range of issues related to the development of regional cooperation.



ISLAMABAD: Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan, Kuninori Matsuda calls on Secretary Board of Investment, Fareena Mazhar. – DNA

US accuses Myanmar generals of 'stalling'

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: The United States has accused Myanmar's military generals of playing for time after coup leader Min Aung Hlaing extended the deadline for new elections, with Secretary of State Antony Blinken urging the Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) to step up efforts to resolve the political turmoil triggered by the power grab.

Blinken is participating virtually this week in talks with foreign ministers from ASEAN, whose 10 members

include Myanmar.

At a special summit in April, the group agreed to a five-point plan to address the deteriorating situation in Myanmar, including an end to violence and the appointment of a special envoy to lead diplomatic initiatives.

But the crackdown has continued and on Sunday, in a speech to mark six months since the coup, Min Aung Hlaing said a state of emergency imposed after the coup would remain in force until August 2023, with new elections to take place more than a year later than initially promised.

Azerbaijan diffuses over 1,200 munitions

FOREIGN DESK

BAKU: Over 1,200 mines and unexploded ordnance were found and diffused in Azerbaijan's liberated territories in July, Azerbaijan's National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) reported on August 2.

ANAMA found and defused 545 anti-personnel and 85 anti-tank mines, as well as 625 unexploded munitions in Tartar, Aghdam, Fuzuli, Shusha, Gubadli, Jabrayil and Zangilan during this period.

Overall, 677 hectares area was cleared of mines and unexploded ordnance in this period.

Armenia has deliberately and constantly planted mines on Azerbaijani territories, in violation of the 1949 Geneva Convention, thereby being a major threat to regional peace, security and cooperation.

Over 140 Azerbaijanis have been killed or injured in the explosion of mines planted by Armenians in Azerbaijan's formerly occupied regions since the end of the war in autumn 2020 that saw Azerbaijan liberate most of its territories in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Azerbaijan has warned its citizens against traveling to formerly occupied territories without permission, citing land mine threats.

On June 12, Azerbaijan handed over 15 Armenian prisoners in exchange for a map detailing the location of 97,000 mines in formerly-occupied Agdam.

On July 3, Armenia submitted to the Azerbaijani side maps of about 92,000 anti-tank and anti-personnel mines planted during the occupation in Fuzuli and Zangilan regions in exchange of 15 ex-convicts of Armenian origin.

Belarus activist found dead in Kyiv

KYIV: A Belarusian activist has been found dead in a park near his home in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, a day after he was reported missing, police said.

Vitaly Shishov, who led a Kyiv-based organisation that helps Belarusians fleeing persecution, had been reported missing by his partner on Monday after not returning home from a run. He could not be reached on his mobile phone. "Belarusian citizen Vitaly Shishov, who disappeared yesterday in Kyiv, was found hanged today in one of Kyiv's parks, not far from his place of residence," Ukrainian police statement said in a statement on Tuesday.

Police said they had launched a criminal case for suspected murder but would investigate all possibilities, including murder disguised as a suicide. Ukraine, Poland and Lithuania have become havens for Belarusians during a crackdown by President Alexander Lukashenko following a disputed election last year. Belarusian authorities have characterised anti-government protesters as criminals or violent revolutionaries backed by the West and described the actions of law enforcement agencies as adequate and necessary. Shishov led the Belarusian House in Ukraine (BDU) group, which helps Belarusians find accommodation, jobs and legal advice, according to its website. – Foreign Desk

Azerbaijan, China mull transportation cooperation

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan's Transport, Communications and High Technologies Minister Rashad Nabiyeov and Chinese Ambassador Guo Min have discussed ways of improving the regulatory framework in the field of transport.

During the meeting held last week, the parties discussed increasing the attractiveness of transport corridors through Azerbaijan and improving the efficiency of the China-Europe freight express on the transit route.

High on the agenda of the

meeting was cooperation in the field of postal organizations within the framework of international organizations.

Furthermore, Azerbaijan's interest in studying the experience of Chinese companies in the field of artificial intelligence and other big data technologies, and establishing cooperation with the meeting.

The ambassador emphasized China's readiness to expand cooperation with Azerbaijan both in transport and ICT, as well as to support the strengthening of Azerbaijan's transit capacity on the China-Europe

route.

It's noteworthy that the trade turnover between Azerbaijan and China amounted to \$1.8 billion in 2020. In addition, the trade turnover between the two countries amounted to \$822.2 million in January-June 2021, making China Azerbaijan's fourth largest trade partner during the reported period.

Azerbaijan has participated in a number of international exhibitions such as the China Food and Drinks Fair, TAOWINE Hotel Show exhibition and 31st International Trade and Economic Exhibition held in China

this year.

Azerbaijan has a trade mission in China, three trade houses, three wine houses, three trade branches in trade networks and measures are continuously taken to develop cooperation. In addition, there are companies with Chinese capital operating in Azerbaijan and successful investment cooperation is underway.

Meanwhile, negotiations are underway with China on a number of industrial projects. In addition, Azerbaijan was one of the first countries to support China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative.

Belarus opposition leader Tsikhanouskaya meets UK PM

AGENCIES

LONDON: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson says the UK is "on the side" of the pro-democracy Belarusian opposition leader.

Johnson welcomed Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya to Downing Street on Tuesday as international pressure continues to mount on the Minsk regime.

Tsikhanouskaya said she was sure there will be further help from the British Government for the people of Belarus.

The autocratic government of Alexander Lukashenko has faced added scrutiny in recent days following the treatment of Olympic sprinter Krystsina Tsimanouskaya, and the death of activist Vitaly Shishov in Ukraine on Tuesday.

Tsikhanouskaya said she



understood she could "disappear at any moment", but added if this happened, the "movement" she had started "will continue without me".

At the Downing Street meeting, Johnson said: "We are very much on your side, very much in support of what you are doing. We are committed to support-

ing human rights and civil society in Belarus."

He added: "We strongly support you, strongly support Belarus, the Belarusian people and I think we were among the first to put in sanctions after the hijacking of Roman Protasevich, the flight that was diverted."

Outside Number 10, Tsikha-

nouskaya was asked by reporters if she thought concrete help would be offered by the UK Government following the meeting with Johnson.

"I am sure," she replied.

The Belarusian opposition leader also said it was too early to comment on the death of Belarusian activist Shishov in Ukraine.

The leader of the Kiev-based Belarusian House in Ukraine was found hanged in one of the city's parks not far from his home, police said in a statement.

A murder probe has been launched, with police believing that the death was made to look like suicide.

Tsikhanouskaya added: I understand you know, I can disappear at any moment. I understand this, but I should do what I am doing.

Shavkat signs law on compulsory vaccination

DNA

TASHKENT: President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev signed the law "On amendments and additions to some legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan aimed at ensuring the sanitary and epidemiological well-being of the population."

The law was passed by the Legislative Chamber on 27 July 2021 and approved by the Senate on 31 July 2021.

The Law "On the Sanitary and Epidemiological Welfare of the Population" provides that the Chief State Sanitary Doctor of the Republic of Uzbekistan may introduce preventive vaccinations as part of sanitary and hygienic measures and anti-epidemic measures.

At the same time, the Law "On the Protection of Citizens' Health" establishes that a citizen or his legal representative has the right to refuse medical intervention or demand its termination (except for the provision of medical care to persons suffering from diseases that pose a danger to others, without their consent).

However, this law does not contain a provision that in the event of a threat of the spread of infectious diseases, preventive vaccination of the population can be introduced. Also, the current legislation does not envisage restrictive measures against persons who refuse to carry out preventive vaccinations in the event of a threat of the spread of infectious diseases.

Death toll in China's Henan floods triples to 302

FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: The death toll from last month's devastating floods in central China has risen to 302 with dozens of people still missing, according to officials, tripling the number of fatalities reported last week.

Zhengzhou, the state capital of Henan province, was hardest hit with 292 people dead and 47 missing, the local government said at a news briefing on Monday.

Three people remain missing in other areas of the province.

Zhengzhou, home to 12 million people, saw a year's worth of rain in just three days and residents found themselves trapped in underground train carriages, car parks and road tunnels by the swiftly rising waters.

Mayor Hou Hong told reporters that 39 bodies had been recovered from underground car parks and other areas in basements.

Some 14 people died on Line 5 of the city's subterranean train network where images and videos shared on social media showed people standing neck-deep in water as their carriage was inundated.

Some 617.1 millimetres (24.3 inches) of rain fell on Zhengzhou over three days from July 17, nearly equivalent to the city's annual average of 640.8mm (25.2 inches).

Raisi promises to lift sanctions, improve public trust

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iran's incoming President Ebrahim Raisi has promised to take action to lift harsh sanctions imposed by the United States and bridge the gap with dissatisfied Iranians but said he will not tie the country's future to the West.

After being officially endorsed on Tuesday by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as Iran's eighth president, the 60-year-old signalled that he will continue talks to restore the country's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers from which the US unilaterally withdrew three years ago.

"We will certainly be after lifting cruel sanctions, but we will certainly not make the people's livelihoods and the economy conditioned, and won't tie it to the will of foreigners," he said during his speech at the televised ceremony in the capital, Tehran, which was also attended by other top officials and military commanders.

A sixth round of negotiations with deal signatories in the Austrian capital ended in June, after which Iran signalled that



talks can only continue after Raisi assumes office this week.

Enrique Mora, the European Union's top representative in the Vienna talks, is expected to attend Raisi's inauguration on Thursday, a move heavily criticised by Iran's regional rival, Israel.

While there are expectations a day may be

set to resume the talks following Raisi's swearing-in, rhetoric by Iran and the US over the past week has suggested the two countries' demands are at odds and both may need to make major compromises for the talks to lead to an agreement.

Raisi will also take power days after the US, the United Kingdom and Israel accused

Iran of targeting an oil tanker linked to an Israeli businessman with a drone, killing two crew members, including a British and a Romanian national.

Iran has rejected the allegations, saying it would "respond decisively" if other countries decide to attack its interests.

In his speech on Tuesday, Raisi said the people of Iran wish for a change in the status quo, and that he will enact that change based on revolutionary tenets outlined by the supreme leader.

"The people have called for a government that would make up for their damaged trust, return that trust and bridge the gap between the people and the government," he said, while also pledging to fight corruption.

His speech also inevitably focused on the country's beleaguered economy, which is dealing with a skyrocketing inflation rate of more than 40 percent, high unemployment and a huge budget deficit, among other issues.

Raisi told Iranians his administration has immediate plans to fix the major economic issues. He had previously promised to slash inflation, build four million homes in four years and create a million jobs per year.

Briefs

NATO gives supplies to Afghanistan

BRUSSELS: NATO is donating millions of dollars' worth of military equipment to Afghanistan, it said on Tuesday, as its forces leave the beleaguered country under the shadow of a resurgent Taliban.

"As we withdraw our forces from the country, we will continue to support Afghanistan, including with equipment to help the Afghan forces better provide for their own security," NATO spokesman Dylan White said in a statement.

So far this year, NATO said, it has given supplies worth \$72 million (62 million euros) to the Afghan government to help in its fight against the Taliban, which has seized many rural regions since US-led forces started pulling out in May.

The equipment includes specialist bomb-defusing devices, body armour, combat simulators, firefighting trucks and medical supplies that will go to "treat wounded soldiers on the battlefield," the alliance said. The announcement came as the 200,000 residents of Lashkar Gah, the main city in Afghanistan's southern Helmand province, were being urged to evacuate under a withering Taliban offensive.

At least 40 civilians have been killed there since the weekend, according to the United Nations. — APP

Pakistan reports 67 new covid-19 deaths

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan reported 67 new coronavirus deaths, raising the nationwide tally to 23,529 on Tuesday.

About 3,582 new coronavirus cases have been recorded in the last 24 hours, according to the data issued by National Command and Operation Centre (NCO) on its official web portal.

The coronavirus positivity rate in Pakistan stood at 7.19% with 75,373 active cases across the country. The NCO data reveals that at least 49,798 coronavirus tests were conducted across the country in the last 24 hours, out of which 3,582 came back positive.

Meanwhile, 682,290 people have recovered from the virus in the country so far. In addition to this, 1,355 patients have recovered from the virus in the last 24 hours, bringing the total number of recoveries to 944,375, while the total number of cases has reached 1,043,277.

28 Pakistanis released from Saudi prisons

LAHORE: The 28-Pakistanis, released from the Saudi Arabian prisons after a royal decree, Tuesday reached Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport via chartered flight of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

The 28 Pakistanis, who were imprisoned in various Saudi jails, have been released by the royal decree of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman after Prime Minister Imran Khan asked the Crown Prince for clemency during the former's Pakistan visit in 2019.

The Pakistanis were received by Senator Ijaz Ahmed, on behalf of Prime Minister Imran Khan, and the Pakistanis raised the slogans 'Long Live Prime Minister Imran Khan' as soon as they set their foot on Pakistani soil. A large number of PTI workers, family and friends of the released Pakistanis had gathered at the airport to welcome the freed-Pakistanis and handed them Pakistan flags. Talking to the media men, Senator Ijaz Chaudhry said it was a moment of immense pleasure for the PTI government that 28 Pakistanis imprisoned in various Saudi Arabian jails have returned to their homes, adding that another 62 Pakistani prisoners had already reached the country before Eid ul Azha. — APP

Gwadar to become trade hub by connecting Pak with CA

DNA

QUETTA: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said Gwadar in near future would become an important trade hub by connecting Balochistan with Central Asia and result in economic development of the region.

Talking to parliamentarians here at the Governor House, the president said regional connectivity would result in economic activity and ensure win-win prosperity for all countries.

President Alvi said in view of the progress on projects under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), there was a need to train youth on modern professional lines.

In Balochistan, he said, immense potential existed for promotion of diverse sec-



velopment including agriculture, fisheries and livestock. He called for the need to take steps in the right direction to achieve the goals of progress and de-

velopment of the province. The president stressed utilization of resources for the benefit of people, which he said, would also improve their living standards.

The meeting, attended by Governor Balochistan Syed Zahoor Ahmed Agha and Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan, focused on overall security situation,

ongoing development projects, border trade and establishment of border markets, land digitalization management and new labour laws in the province.

Other areas, particularly promotion of tourism in Balochistan and the economic and political situation also came under discussion.

Pentagon locked down after reported shooting

WASHINGTON: The Pentagon was on lockdown Tuesday after reports of a shooting at a subway station just outside the secure US military headquarters. Employees in the US Defense Department headquarters in the Arlington suburb of Washington were ordered to shelter in place amid reports of several gunshots and possible injuries in the station, the entrance of which is just a few dozen yards (meters) from the building's main doors.

"The Pentagon currently is on lock down due to an incident at the Pentagon Transit Center. We are asking the public to please avoid the area," the Pentagon's security force said in a tweeted statement. There was no immediate report of injuries. — APP

PTI wins speaker, dy speaker posts in AJK Assembly

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: The last session of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Legislative Assembly under the chair of outgoing speaker Shah Ghulam Qadir was convened on Tuesday, during which the new speaker, deputy speaker and 49 newly elected members took oath of their respective offices.

Speaker Shah Ghulam Qadir administered the oath to the newly appointed members after notification of their election was read out by the Assembly secretary, Chaudhry Basharat



Hussain. Three newly elected members were not present to take the oath, namely PPP members Chaudhry Yasen who has been elected on two seats, PPP member Chaudhry Javed Budhanvi,

who is said to be sick due to COVID-19, and Muslim Conference leader Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan. After the oath taking, the speaker adjourned the session till 2pm for the filing of nomination papers for the

election of Assembly Speaker and Deputy Speaker. PTI nominated former speaker Chaudhry Anwarul Haq for the office of speaker and Chaudhry Riaz Gujar for the office of deputy speaker while opposition parties nominated PPP's Faisal Mumtaz Rathore for the office of speaker and PML-N member elected on reserved seats, Nasaran Abasi, for the office of Deputy Speaker.

PTI candidate Anwarul Haq won the election for speaker with 32 votes, whereas PTI candidate Chaudhry Riaz Gujar won the election for deputy speaker, also with 32 votes.

UAE lifts ban on transit flights from Pakistan, others

DUBAI: The National Emergency and Crisis Management Authority (NCEMA) said on Tuesday the United Arab Emirates will lift a ban on transit passenger traffic from India, Pakistan, Nigeria, and other countries from August 5. The UAE, a major international travel hub, has banned passengers from many South Asian and African countries for several months due to the coronavirus pandemic.

NCEMA said on Twitter that passengers travelling from countries where flights had been suspended would be able to transit through its airports from Thursday as long as they present negative PCR tests taken 72 hours prior to departure. Final destination approval would also have to be provided, the authority said, adding that UAE departure airports would arrange separate lounges for transiting passengers. The transit ban had also included Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Uganda.

NCEMA said that a ban on entry to the UAE for passengers from these countries would also be lifted for those with valid residencies and who are certified by Emirati authorities as fully vaccinated.

However, they would need to apply for online entry permits prior to travelling and would need to present a negative PCR test taken 48 hours prior to departure. — DNA

Launching ceremony of Type-054 Class Frigate

ISLAMABAD: The launching ceremony of third ship of Type-054 Class Frigate constructed for Pakistan Navy, was held at Hudong Zhonghua Shipyard Shanghai, China.

Type-054 Frigates would be one of the most technologically advanced surface platforms of Pakistan Navy Fleet, fitted with latest surface, subsurface and anti-air weapon systems, said a Pakistan Navy news release received here.

The ships will be fitted with a range of electronic warfare, air and surface surveillance and acoustic sensors integrated through state of the art Combat Management System enhancing PN Fleet's war fighting capabilities and will strengthen Pakistan Maritime defence and deterrence capabilities. Induction of these frigates will contribute in maintaining peace, stability and power equilibrium in the Indian Ocean Region.

Pakistan Navy has contracted construction of Type 054 AP Frigates from China under a contract signed in 2017.

The first -in-class Frigate was launched in August 2020, followed by Second Frigate Launching in January 2021 at Chinese Hudong Zhonghua Shipyard in Shanghai. Successful launching of 3rd Ship of the series is a testimony of deep rooted defence and diplomatic Sino-Pak relations. — APP

Protests as low-caste girl raped, killed in India

NEW DELHI: The alleged rape and murder of a nine-year-old, low-caste girl sparked a third day of protests in India's capital on Tuesday, in the latest case to spotlight the country's high levels of sexual violence.

Hundreds of demonstrators have taken to the streets in New Delhi, holding banners reading "give justice to the little girl" and demanding the death penalty for the four men accused of the crime. The 200 million-strong lowest caste Dalit community has long faced discrimination and abuse in India, with attacks increasing since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted Tuesday that the alleged attack was "barbaric" and "shameful".

"There is a need to improve the law and order situation in Delhi," he wrote, adding that he would meet with the girl's family on Wednesday.

Opposition Congress leader Rahul Gandhi tweeted Tuesday that "a Dalit's daughter is also the daughter of the country". The girl's family told local media she was cremated without their consent and feared she was assaulted by a priest and three crematorium workers.

She had gone to the crematorium, which is located near the family's home in southwest Delhi, to fetch water on Sunday. — APP

OGRA withdraws LNG price hike

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) on Tuesday withdrew the notification of an increase in the prices of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) issued on Monday.

With the withdrawal of the LNG price hike notification by Ogra, the prices of CNG also came down on Aug 1 position. Earlier, the increase in the LNG gas rate resulted in the upward trend in the Compressed Natural

Gas (CNG) prices as the gas rates were increased by Rs5 per kg in Punjab and Rs8 per kg in Sindh Tuesday. Last week, the government has bought expensive LNG from the spot market at \$15 per mmBtu for September 2021 to avoid power blackouts. It is the highest price since the country began the LNG imports in 2015. The costly LNG started showing its adverse impact on the prices of CNG as Punjab hiked the commodity price by Rs5 per litre and Sindh by Rs8 per kilo.

Deadly wildfire races toward Turkish power plant

The nation of 84m has been transfixed in horror as the most destructive wildfires in generations erase pristine forests

AGENCIES

MARMARIS: A roaring blaze raced toward a Turkish thermal power plant Tuesday and farmers herded panicked cattle toward the sea as wildfires that have killed eight people raged on for a seventh day.

The nation of 84 million has been transfixed in horror as the most destructive wildfires in generations erase pristine forests and rich

farmland across swaths of Turkey's Mediterranean and Aegean coasts.

Frightened tourists have been forced to scamper onto boats for safety and dozens of villages have been evacuated as wild winds and soaring heat spread the flames.

An AFP team in the Aegean city of Marmaris saw farmers pulling their screaming animals out of burning barns and pulling them to the relative safety of the beach.

Officials in neighbouring Greece have blamed two smaller fires on the island of Rhodes and the Peloponnese peninsula on a record heatwave they link to climate change.

Temperature in excess of 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) across the south of Turkey also set off a record surge in electricity use that caused power outages Monday in cities such as Ankara and Istanbul.

Turkey's energy ministry blamed the outages on drought-like conditions that have emptied dams responsible for hydropower production and a "record level" in electricity use in the heat.

But the mayor of the Aegean coast city of Milas said he was more worried about what might happen should an uncontrolled fire raising massive plumes of smoke over the region engulf the local thermal power plant.



ISLAMABAD: Korean delegation headed by Hur Taewoong, Administrator Rural Development Administration (RDA) made a courtesy call on Federal Minister of National Food and Security Syed Fakhar Alam. Korean ambassador Suh Sangpyo is also present. — DNA

EU ahead of US in vaccination drive

FOREIGN DESK

PARIS: Half of the population of the European Union has been fully vaccinated against Covid-19, according to an AFP tally Tuesday, putting it ahead of the United States in the inoculation drive.

Nearly 224 million people across the 27 member states have been covered, with Spain leading the pack of larger countries with 58.3 percent of its population vaccinated, followed by Italy (54.4 percent), France (52.9) and Germany (52.2). The figures mean Europe has now nosed ahead of the US in the vaccine drive.

Some 49.7 percent of the US population are fully vaccinated, but take-up is slowing particularly in the conservative states of the South and Midwest.

The country reached President Joe Biden's goal of administering at least one dose to 70 percent of adults Monday — almost a month late — as the newest wave of infections pushed hospitalisations to levels seen last summer.

The US has also fallen behind its northern neighbour Canada, which started its immunisation campaign later but has now fully vaccinated 59 percent of its people.

Pakistan slams India's hypocrisy in UNSC

"It is highly hypocritical of a country that has systematically done away with any semblance of moderation, efforts for dialogue and abiding by international law, to project itself as the voice of these three," FO spokesperson said

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Tuesday said it was highly hypocritical of India to do away with the key priorities spelled out during the presidency of the United Nations Security Council. The statement of Foreign Office Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri came in response to media queries on the Indian External Affairs Minister's tweet regarding India's priorities during the presidency of the UNSC.

He mentioned that the Indian External Affairs Minister had spelled out three key priorities for India during its presidency of the United Nations Security Council for the month of August: voice of moderation; advocate of dialogue; proponent of international law. "It is highly hypocritical of a country that has systematically done away with any semblance of moderation, efforts for dialogue and abiding by international law, to project itself as the voice of these three," he said.

The FO Spokesperson said the extremist 'Hindutva' ideology had permeated all the state institutions of India, and RSS-BJP regime's record was replete with instances of gross and systematic violations of the rights of minorities, in particular Muslims. "Before preaching moderation to the world, India must set its own house in order," he said. He said as for dialogue, India had consistently scuttled any efforts for a constructive and meaningful dialogue in its own neighbourhood. On assuming office, he said,

Prime Minister Imran Khan clearly underlined that if India took one step for peace, Pakistan would take two.

"However, rather than engaging in dialogue, India vitiated the environment through its illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019," he said.

The Spokesperson said it was India, which had to create the enabling environment for a meaningful dialogue that promoted peace and precluded the occurrences leading to conflict in the region.

"As for international law, India remains in clear violation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions for more than seven decades," he said.

He said the series of Indian illegal and unilateral actions since 5 August 2019 were also in blatant violation of international law, including the UN Charter, UNSC resolutions and the fourth Geneva Convention.

"India would be well-advised to abide by these principles before projecting itself as their champion," he added.