



Thursday, August 05, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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EU calls for US to lift COVID entry ban for European travelers

Detailed News On Page-08

Govt to make GB attractive for investment

Detailed News On Page-08



Hartwig Schafer praises Ehsaas' incredible role

Detailed News On Page-03



Briefs

Abdul Qayyum Niazi new AJK PM

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD:

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Abdul Qayyum Niazi on Wednesday has been elected as new Prime Minister (PM) of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). AJK Legislative Assembly has met on Wednesday under the supervision of Speaker Anwar-ul-Haq to elect the PM. During the session, the newly-elected members of the assembly used their voting right to finalize the premier.

No double narratives in PML-N

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD:

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday said that the government threw diversions to mislead the public through N and S league after the elections of Sialkot and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, the PML-N leader said that a self-made story is being told to the people. "Their narrative has been failed even putting the opposition leaders behind the bars. ATM mafia has been engaged in looting for three years," she added.

Asad for speeding up CPEC projects

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD:

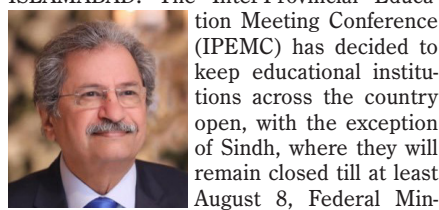
Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar vowed on Wednesday to speed up the pace of projects under the mega China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He was talking to Special Assistant to Prime Minister on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) affairs Khalid Mansoor who called him here. During the meeting they discussed priorities in second phase of the multi billion mega project.

Educational institutions to remain open

The IPEMC decided to reopen universities and colleges across the country with the exception of Sindh with no restrictions imposed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD:



The Inter-Provincial Education Meeting Conference (IPEMC) has decided to keep educational institutions across the country open, with the exception of Sindh, where they will remain closed till at least August 8, Federal Minister for Education Shafqat Mahmood said Wednesday. Mahmood said Sindh Education Minister Saeed Ghani had informed the IPEMC the province would review the coronavirus situation before August 8 and decide the next course of action for reopening schools and conducting examinations.

Shafqat's press conference comes after he had chaired a meeting of the IPEMC to review the latest coronavirus situation, closure, and opening of schools. On the other hand, Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have decided to reopen schools in a staggered manner, with 50% attendance.

The IPEMC decided to reopen universities and colleges with no restrictions imposed, however, the participants of the meeting expressed concerns over the coronavirus situation in higher education institutions, he said.

"The overall vaccination in education

Punjab: Vaccination must for school staff

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab School Education Department has made anti-coronavirus vaccination compulsory for the teachers, administration and other staff members of all the public and private schools registered under the department by August 22, 2021. Those who don't get inoculated by the said date will be barred from entering the premises of schools. Provincial Minister of Punjab for School Education Murad Raas on Wednesday shared a picture of the official notification issued by Punjab's School Education Department on his official Twitter account. "All Teachers, Administration and Staff of Public & Private Schools of Punjab to be Vaccinated by August 22nd, 2021. Any individual without a vaccination certificate after the stated date will NOT be allowed [on] the school premises. Please follow the issued SOPs," wrote Raas on Twitter.

[sector] has reached 83%, but the inoculations are lagging in higher education institutions which should be ramped up," the education minister said.

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KSA allows travellers vaccinated with Chinese vaccines

All travellers entering on previously-issued tourism visas will be required to pay an additional fee of SAR40 (\$10) to cover insurance for any Covid-19 related medical expenses

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD:

Saudi Arabia has said travellers who have received two doses of Sinopharm and Sinovac jabs can enter Kingdom after they have been administered an additional booster shot of the country's approved vaccines. The country's e-visa portal said the country has approved four vaccines – Oxford/AstraZeneca, Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson. "All visitors arriving in the country with a valid tourism visa must provide evidence of a full course of one of the four vaccines currently recognized: two doses of the Oxford/Astra Zeneca, Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccines or a single dose of the

vaccine produced by Johnson & Johnson," it said. Fully vaccinated tourists can enter the Kingdom without the need for an institutional quarantine period, provided that an official vaccination certificate is presented upon arrival, and proof of a PCR test with its negative result within 72 hours from the time of departure.

"The e-visa will be a one-year, multiple-entry visa, allowing tourists to spend up to 90 days in the country. It covers tourism-related activities and Umrah (excluding Hajj season) and excludes other activities such as studying," the e-portal said. Passengers from 49 countries, including the United States, Canada, Belgium, Austria, and Italy, can apply for an e-visa. The Ministry

of Tourism had said the Kingdom will open its doors to foreign tourists, and lift off the suspension of entry for tourist visa holders, starting August 1. "All travellers entering on previously-issued tourism visas will be required to pay an additional fee of SAR40 (\$10) at the airport of their arrival to cover insurance for any COVID-19 related medical expenses," the ministry said. "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had launched the tourist visa in September 2019 and at that time achieved remarkable numbers as 400,000 visas were issued within 6 months, before the suspension of travel and the closure of ports and borders following the pandemic of coronavirus," the ministry said.



ISLAMABAD: Parliamentarians from Sindh call on Prime Minister Imran Khan. –DNA

COAS stresses achieving professional excellence

Army Chief was visiting Baloch Regimental Centre Abbottabad on the occasion of the annual commanding officers' conference



NEHAL MIRAJ

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Wednesday appreciated Baloch regiment for displaying the highest standards in all professional pursuits, including their befitting participation in operations, a statement from the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) read.

According to the military's media wing, he made the remarks during a visit to

Baloch Regimental Centre Abbottabad on the occasion of the annual commanding officers' conference.

The COAS laid floral wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada on his arrival at the centre and later addressed the officers. Speaking on the occasion, COAS emphasised that commanders at all levels should stay focused on achieving professional excellence, while keeping themselves abreast with the latest developments, to overcome emerging challenges.

The army chief appreciated the Baloch regiment for displaying the highest standards in all professional pursuits, including their befitting participation in operations.

Earlier on his arrival at the centre, COAS was received

-pays tribute to police martyrs

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Wednesday paid tribute to the martyrs of Pakistan Police who rendered meritorious sacrifices while defending the motherland. Director General Inter Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Major General Babar Iftikhar in a tweet shared the message of the Army Chief on Police Martyrs Day. The COAS paid salute to martyrs of Pakistan Police on Police Martyrs Day. "Pakistan Police has made monumental sacrifices in the line of duty over the years, contributing immensely in bringing peace and stability to the country," the COAS said.

by the Colonel Commandant Baloch Regiment Lieutenant General Azhar Abbas, Inspector General Arms

Lieutenant General Majid Ehsan and Commandant Baloch Regimental Centre Brigadier Osman Ibne Riaz.

PM urges world to notice Indian crimes

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan while reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to the Kashmir cause, has called upon the international community, including the United Nations, human rights organizations and the global media, to hold India accountable for its crimes against the Kashmiri people. "We will continue to extend all possible assistance to

Continued on Page 06

Protests as low caste girl raped in India

Last year, the death of a 19-year-old woman in Uttar Pradesh had sparked outrage

NEWS DESK

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

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Global covid tally surpasses 200 mn

AGENCIES

NEW YORK: Coronavirus cases worldwide surpassed 200 million on Wednesday, according to a Reuters tally, as the more-infectious Delta variant threatens areas with low vaccination rates and strains healthcare systems. The global surge in cases is highlighting the widening gap in inoculation rates between wealthy and poor nations. Cases are rising in about one-third of the world's countries, many of which have not even given half their population a first dose. The WHO on Wednesday called for a moratorium on Covid-19 vaccine boosters until at least 10% of the population in every country was vaccinated. "We need an urgent reversal, from the majority of vaccines going to high-income countries, to the majority going to low-income countries," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

Nation observes Youm-e-Istehsal

ISLAMABAD: The nation is observing Youm-e-Istehsal on Thursday to express solidarity with the oppressed Kashmiri people on completion of two years of military siege of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K). It was on the 5th August 2019 that the special constitutional status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir was scrapped by the Modi government. A host of events have been arranged in order to denounce the Indian unilateral illegal actions against Kashmiri people as well as the atrocities being carried out by the Indian forces in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. – DNA

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Dist admin decides three cases under PoP Ordinance 2021 – Page 02

Pakistan, Korean experts mull co-op in Agri sector – Page 03

Construction work on PWD underpass in final stages – Page 04

How to forget the cruel 5th August – Page 05

Argentina beat India to face Netherlands in women's final – Page 06

Turkey slams US on planned resettlement of Afghans – Page 07

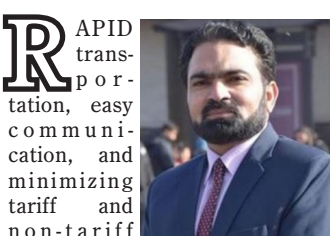
Pakistan slams India for not allowing journalists in IIOJ&K – Page 08

Regional connectivity: recipe for economic growth

Buying this very idea of mutual economic growth by improving upon transport and communication infrastructure for better regional connectivity among Central and South Asian regions, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev hosted a conference in Tashkent

OPINION

ABDUL RASHID SHAKIR



RAPID transportation, easy communication, and minimizing tariff and non-tariff trade barriers between countries and regions are key to economic growth and prosperity. These measures lead to inclusive growth of the entire region by enabling all countries to reap fruits of their shared development and economic growth. It is, no doubt, a win-win arrangement for all the stakeholders concerned. Banking on this win-win strategy for inclusive socio-economic

growth of the entire region including South East Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, Middle East, Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Chinese President, Xi Jinping, proposed One Belt One Road Initiative (OBOR) in 2013. By 2017, it was rebranded as Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). As of January 2021, 140 countries have joined the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with China. These partner countries include 40 in Sub Saharan Africa, 34 in Europe and Central Asia, 24 in East Asia and Pacific, 17 in Middle East and North Africa, 19 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 06 in the South East Asia. The objective of BRI Initiative is to connect Asia with Africa, Europe and rest of the world via land and maritime routes for improv-

ing regional integration, increasing trade and stimulating economic growth by promoting flow of goods, investment and people. The significance of regional connectivity can hardly be underestimated when we look at the forecast of a leading UK-based global economic consultant, 'Centre for Economic and Business Research (CEBR)', that found out in a 2019 survey that BRI would boost the world GDP by \$7.1 trillion per annum by 2040.

Buying this very idea of mutual economic growth by improving upon transport and communication infrastructure for better regional connectivity among Central and South Asian regions, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev hosted a conference in Tashkent on 15-16 July 2021 in which leaders from Central and South Asian countries including

Pakistan, Afghanistan and India were invited along with other major regional and international countries and organizations. More than 50 countries and 30 international organizations including the United States, China, Russia and the European Union attended the conference.

The conference titled, 'Central and South Asia 2021: Regional Connectivity, Challenges and Opportunities' had a manifest objective of capitalizing on historically close links between the two regions for developing mutually-beneficial strategic projects in trade, economy, transport, communication, culture and humanitarian cooperation. It tried to explore possible avenues of cooperation between all countries in the regions with respect to economy, security and culture for the betterment of their peoples. Uzbek

President, Mirziyoyev rightly said, 'Without tighter relationships and economic connectivity, we cannot turn this part of the world, and the Eurasian continent, into a stable and prosperous space'. UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres said in his remarks via video link, 'United Nations will support these efforts since connectivity is essential to trade, growth and sustainable development'. On the official invitation of Uzbek President, HE Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Prime Minister Imran Khan attended the event along with a high-level delegation of senior ministers and leading businessmen of the country in order to make maximum use of all possible options that could contribute to socio-economic uplift of people of Pakistan.

Briefs

Police arrest 2 accused, recover 61kg opium

PESHAWAR: The district police Wednesday arrested two accused and recovered 61kg opium and 48kg hashish from their possession in district Khyber, the spokesman said.

Acting on a tip off, the District Police Officer (DPO) Wasim Riaz directed police team to conduct search operation in Shalobar area of tehsil Bara. During the raids, the police arrested two accused identified as Sameen and Waris after recovering of 61kg opium and 48 kg hashish from their houses. A case against the arrested has been registered in Bara police station and further investigation was underway.

2500 persons vaccinated at KTH
The paramedic staff on Wednesday administered vaccine against COVID-19 to as many as 2500 people in a single day persons were vaccinated against coronavirus during a single day at Khyber Teaching Hospital (KTH). Spokesman Sajjad Khan said that so far, about 85,000 people have been vaccinated against Covid-19 at hospital. New block has been allocated for corona vaccination and administer vaccines on merit basis. Separate counter has been allocated for women, he added. — APP

Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Police observed

LAHORE: Youm-e-Shuhada Police was observed with great reverence nationwide on Wednesday as well as Punjab and provincial metropolises to pay tribute to the great sacrifices of fallen heroes of Police Force who laid down their lives in the line of duty. High officials of Lahore Police including Commander Lahore Police Ghulam Mahmood Dogar, DIG Operations Lahore Sajid Kiani and others senior police officers laid wreaths of flowers on the Yaadgar e Shuhada at Mall Road and District Police Lines Qila Gujjar Singh. The CCPO along with other high officials offered Fateh and prayed for the departed souls of the martyred heroes, says a press release issued here on Wednesday. The CCPO Lahore visited the grave of Shaheed DIG Capt (R) Syed Ahmad Mubin at Cavalry graveyard. DIG Operations Sajid Kiani, CTO Lahore Muntazir Mehdi, SSPs of Operations and Investigation wings, all SPs and mother of Shaheed Syed Ahmad Mubin was also present on the occasion. Ghulam Mahmood Dogar visited monuments of martyrs at Mall Road and District Police Lines Qila Gujjar Singh to lay wreath of flowers at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada and offered Fateh for the departed souls. — APP

KP Govt launches economic zones

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has launched a number of economic zones to put the industrial sector of the province on track of sustainable development and to accelerate industrial activities. Four new economic zones had been launched including Rashakai Special Economic Zone, Jaloza Economic Zone, Nowshera Economic Zone (Extension) and D.I.Khan Economic Zone during the last financial year. This was disclosed during a meeting of Economic Zones Development & Management Company (KP EZDMC) held here with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan in the chair, said a news release issued here on Wednesday. Beside, Special Assistant to CM for Industries Abdul Karim, Secretary Industries Hamayun Khan, Principal Secretary to CM Amjad Ali Khan, Chief Executive Officer KP-EZDMC Javed Khattak and several other senior officials attended the meeting. Collectively around 0.3 million new employment opportunities are expected through these economic zones. — APP

Dist admin decides three cases under PoP Ordinance 2021

The Deputy Commissioner said that so far a total of 7 petitions have been received out of which 3 have been sentenced, one has been reconciled and three petitions are pending which would soon resolved

ISHAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: The district administration has decided three cases under the Protection of Parents Ordinance 2021. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali, while listening to the views of the parties in his office and decision have announced in favour of Muhammad Nazir Zafar of D-Type Colony, Muhammad Iqbal of Razaabad and Abdul Latif of Bilal Town Warispora Road and their sons were sentenced to 30 days imprisonment and fined Rs 50,000 each for evicting their father and occupying the house. According to details, Mohammad Nazir Zafar filed a petition against his sons Adnan Zafar and Sohail, Mohammad Iqbal against his sons Mohammad Irfan Iqbal and Mohammad Ahsan and Abdul Latif against his son Zahid Ali for evicting them from their homes and occupying the house including violence. The Deputy Commissioner, while delivering the verdict under the Protection of Parents Ordinance, punished and arrested their sons on the spot. The Deputy Commissioner said that it was a tragedy that some people misbehaved with their parents, tortured them and kicked



FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali listening the complainants under Parent Protection Act. — DNA

them out of the house but the government has issued Parental Protection Ordinance 2021 to protect the rights of the elderly under which summoned the petitioners to his office including the sons and after hearing their position from the parties gave them an opportunity to settle among themselves but the fathers were not ready to pardon their sons.

The Deputy Commissioner said that so far a total of 7 petitions have been received out of which 3 have been sentenced, one has been reconciled and three petitions are pending which would soon resolved. Meanwhile, Muhammad Nazir Zafar and Muhammad Iqbal thanked the Punjab government and the district administration and said

that the Protection of Parents Ordinance was an important step of the government due to which the petitioners were getting justice without any delay.

AC for achieving Anti-polio campaign target

Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali has said that during the catch-up days of anti-polio campaign, teams should go door to

door and complete the target of vaccinating the children left behind for any reason so that there would be no obstacle in achieving desired targets.

He said this while reviewing the anti polio campaign. ADC HQ Muhammad Khalid, AC City Syed Ayub Bukhari, CEO Health Dr. Mushtaq Sipra and other officers were also present on the occasion. The Deputy commissioner said that even in the last two days of the campaign, the duties should be carried out diligently and in case the children are not at home, they should inquire about them. He said that the guest children should also have 100 percent coverage even if they belong to any area. He urged the Assistant Commissioner Sadar and Secretary RTA to visit the General Bus Stand regularly and closely monitor the campaign and said that challans should be issued to the non-cooperating buses. He urged all the officers of the district administration to supervise the polio campaign and durable monitoring of the campaign was being carried out in which there would be no concession from the negligent staff. CEO briefed on the implementation of the campaign and the goals achieved.

Govt asked to appoint an administrator in Apex Chamber

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Wednesday expressed concern over the failure of FPCCI to hold Export Award and Achievement Awards function which are the main revenue-generating events for the Apex Chamber. FPCCI has failed to hold these important functions for the last two years limiting its income to rental earnings from the FPCCI Head Office, it said. Moreover the other sources of income that are annual subscription from trade bodies and sale of membership books are also not encouraging, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President PEW. The income from business councils has also gone to less than half making the FPCCI financial position very alarming, he added. He said that mismanagement and incompetence rules in the FPCCI due to interference of non-elected members of the Businessmen Panel that came to power by promising a positive change but made matters worse. Dr Murtaza Mughal said that unnecessary expenses have further aggravated the financial health of FPCCI. Without realizing the financial position the needless expenses have not been controlled rather they have gone to their peak. Substantial funds of millions of rupees were released on account of unnecessary renovation, decoration, and purchase of new furniture for the rooms of office bearers' room while solar panel system was installed at Head office violating rules and regulations.

Police arrest 2 accused, recover 61kg opium

PESHAWAR: The district police Wednesday arrested two accused and recovered 61kg opium and 48kg hashish from their possession in district Khyber, the spokesman said. Acting on a tip off, the District Police Officer (DPO) Wasim Riaz directed police team to conduct search operation in Shalobar area of tehsil Bara. During the raids, the police arrested two accused identified as Sameen and Waris after recovering of 61kg opium and 48 kg hashish from their houses. A case against the arrested has been registered in Bara police station and further investigation was underway. — APP

Refunds of Rs 42.4m disbursed by LTO

DNA

FAISALABAD: The refunds of Rs 42.4 million have been disbursed by the LTO during the last month in line with the FBR vision to facilitate the export industry. This was said Chief Commissioner Large Taxpayers Office (LTO) Multan Nabila Faraan Baig while addressing members of the Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA) here on Wednesday. She said that despite less workforce, the LTO Multan was trying to resolve the tax matters of taxpayers on more strategic basis. She informed that companies having annual turnover of Rs 1 billion or more, within the territorial jurisdiction of Multan and nearby areas, were transferred to the Large Taxpayer Office (LTO) Multan. She added that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) was resolving the problems of exporters, manufacturers and the business community at their doorstep. Responding to a question, she said that necessary arrangements were being made for processing of deferred and u/s 66 claims of sales tax of exporters. Earlier, PTEA Chairman Muhammad Ahmad welcomed the chief commissioner LTO and lauded the government's effective measures to cope with the adverse impacts of COVID-19 pandemic; especially disbursement of outstanding refunds which has significantly helped in easing off the liquidity crisis and supported the export industry in prevailing situation.

GCWUF runs tree plantation drive

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: GCWUF is actively engaged in protecting environment and planting trees under Prime minister's vision of clean and green Pakistan. This season's most remarkable plantation activity has been initiated under kind directions of Worthy Vice Chancellor GCWUF, Prof. Dr. Robina Farooq. Department of Botany in collaboration with In-charge Horticulture, GC Women University Faisalabad conducted in-campus plantation drive in new campus of GCWUF on Tuesday, 3rd August 2021. Madam Vice Chancellor

initiated the activity by planting Neem and Amaltas in the premises of new campus. She appreciated the efforts of Plantation Committee, Department of Botany and Incharge Horticulture for this noble cause. Faculty members and students showed great enthusiasm in this activity. Almost 250 students participated in the activity and planted more than 400 trees. As per plan of plantation at new campus proposed by plantation committee and approved by the competent authority, all teaching departments are going to plant shady as well as fruit trees during the month of August.



PESHAWAR: German Ambassador Bernhard Schlagheck addressing during meeting with members of Khyber Chamber during his visit. — DNA

‘Tareen used me’, Nazir Chuhan quits Tareen group

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek Insaf (PTI) leader and member of Punjab Assembly Nazir Chauhan has announced separation from Jahangir Tareen group. Talking to media along with Provincial Minister for Prisons Fayyaz ul Hassan Chauhan, he claimed that Tareen used him. He said that I accepted him as a leader but he does not deserve this adding that I went to court with him on every hearing but when I had a problem he did not even call me. Earlier Sessions Court on Wednesday granted bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Member of Provincial



Assembly (MPA) Nazir Chauhan after Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Shahzad Akbar pardoned him. Additional Sessions Judge took up the bail plea of PTI MPA Nazir. During the proceedings, Haroon Ilyas, representative of Shahzad Akbar appeared before the court and presented the power of attorney in the court.

SME sector is the backbone of national economy: FCCI

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: The SME sector is the backbone of the national economy and the government must extend liberal facilitation to this sector to grow and help it to contribute its dynamic role in enhancing national exports, said Engineer Hafiz Ihtsham Javed, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). He was addressing a joint meeting of the FCCI standing committees on Social Security, Employees Old Age Benefits Institutions (EOBI)/ labor laws, Sizing, WAPDA, WASA and Power Looms. He said that it is very en-

couraging that the government and business community are on the same page and making collaborative efforts to attain economic sovereignty. He appreciated the positive economic indicators and said that the government should enhance the loan limit up to 1.5 million for the SME sector. "It will encourage the SME sector to play its due role without any problem of financial crunch", he said. President FCCI said that industrialists and traders are patriotic Pakistanis and are willing to pay their taxes. However, he lamented that FBR instead of expanding the tax net, adding additional burden on the existing tax payers. He said that



FCCI was ready to collaborate with the tax officials to convince businessmen to enter into the tax regime as it will not only stabilize the national economy but also facilitate the public at large. He said that if a list of potential taxpayers is shared with FCCI, we would try our optimum best to convince them to pay their due taxes without any harassment by

the tax officials. He said that the government should also concentrate on "Ease of Doing Business" and trimming cost of production so that our businessmen could compete in international markets. In this connection, he suggested issuance of business cards which could help genuine businessmen to use it as guarantee. About the recently enhanced minimum wages of workers, he said that industrialists are fully convinced to pay this salary to their workers but some miscreants are trying to harass the factory owners for their own ulterior motives. He said that this situation must be handled tactfully by the concerned government department.

OIC announced three mega trade events in Pakistan

Pakistan has to utilize the opportunities and facilities available on the platform of OIC, and has to focus on problems face by Pakistan while communicating OIC 57 Islamic countries

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: OIC Pakistan desk is keen to organize food festivals, trade fares, and other business events. Permanent Representative and Ambassador in Pakistan on OIC Mr. Rizwan Saeed Sheikh said in statement here in FPCCI. He said that now it is the era of technology and the world is now a global village. Let's work together to bring Pakistan products in OIC market and to focus on strengthen bilateral trade relations between OIC Countries. OIC & FPCCI mutually agreed to work on it. OIC Ambassador Mr. Rizwan Saeed Sheikh meet with Business Community delegates in meeting here in FPCCI Islamabad office. Pakistan has potential for enhancement of trade and to work for export sector in near future. OIC Ambassador visit FPCCI Islamabad office yesterday and had meeting with leading Business Community of Pakistan there, FPCCI Capital Office Head Haji Qurban Ali, and Coordinator FPCCI Mirza Abdul Rehman host the meeting held the said meeting. Former Vice President FPCCI Sajjad Sarwar, President Naqid Bahaud Deen Cui M Haider Raza Naqvi, Vice President Muhammad Zahid Patiala, Chairman FPCCI standing committee Mr. Abid Khan were also present in the meeting. Pakistan has to utilize the opportunities and facilities available on the platform of OIC, and has to focus on problems face by Pakistan while communicating OIC 57 Islamic



countries. We are always available to resolve the problems highlight from Pakistan side faced by Business community while communicating OIC countries. Pakistan is basically agricultural country, and has to be rich contribution of Halal food industry, but unfortunately have no share we have in it. Iran, Malaysia, Arab emirates, Oman and others are very keenly and positively using OIC platform. Whereas Pakistan is concerned, we need to active and use our energies for interaction with OIC countries, as until and unless we have trade enhancement our brotherly relationships will not be that much strong as it has to be,

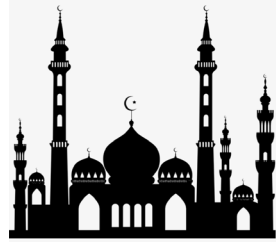
OIC Representative added here.

Mr. Rizwan Saeed Sheikh said, Food Festival in Lahore, Trade Fair in Karachi, and Trade Ambassadors meeting in Islamabad is in our plan to be held near future. And we need cooperation and coordination of private sector to take further steps. And in these three fairs and trade meeting as well, large number of business community we are expecting here in Pakistan, local and OIC Platform as well. We have trade research institutes interlink with OIC desk, and I wish that Pakistan will also avail this opportunity as well.

Haji Qurban Ali Head FPCCI Capital Office

Islamabad, Mirza Abdul Rehman Coordinator FPCCI Islamabad office said that FPCCI facilitation desk is always available to provide any services need by OIC Pakistan desk, and ready to work together with OIC permanent Representative/ Ambassador and his team, and we wish you good luck for goals and targets to be achieved with mutual understanding. Business Community always stands with OIC. We are thankful to you for your time and attention, for interaction with business community of Pakistan. Office bearer of FPCCI added here. We value your words and emotions for Pakistan and it's development they added. Mr. Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, permanent ambassador of OIC said that, OIC has to include Pakistan name as Vice President seat in OIC as well. And lots of Islamic countries stand with India as they have lobbied to finish OIC headquarter from Pakistan as well, but not successes till now. And I am hopeful that with cooperation of Pakistani Business Community with Me as OIC Ambassador, we will overcome these type of problems, permanently. When after being facing international hurdles Iran is so much influential and working on ground with OIC, what is the problem with our country Pakistan, why and where we are facing hurdles to compete in such manners, I am hopeful that with mutual understanding FPCCI and OIC (my office) will overcome these problems. And in near future Pakistan have bright future in OIC, he added.

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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Emergency

Rescue (Police).....	15
Bomb Disposal.....	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.....	1122 & Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police.....	9266044
Motorway Police.....	9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....	9222596
Rawalpindi.....	9270601-20



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ISLAMABAD: Members of Korean delegation posing for a group picture during a seminar held at Islamabad Serena Hotel. – DNA

Pakistan, Korean experts mull co-op in Agri sector

The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Suh Sangpyo says Pakistan has unlimited potential with its young population and vast farmland



MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister Office and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea jointly inaugurated the Symposium on "Agricultural Technical Coop-

eration between Pakistan and Korea" on August 3, 2021 at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. This symposium is co-organized by the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and Rural Development Administration (RDA) of the Republic of Korea. The

symposium was attended by the SAPM on Food Security, Minister for National Food Security and Research, the RDA delegation from Korea and dignitaries from KOPIA, PARC and NARC. The symposium explored the ongoing and future cooperation between

Pakistan and Korea including the potato seed multiplication, and production and R&D of Chilli and Fodder Crops. RDA and PARC agreed to strengthen agricultural technical cooperation through the KOPIA-Pakistan Center. On the occasion, Mr. Hur Tae-

woong shared that KOPIA-Pakistan Center and the PARC will jointly develop locally-customized technologies to contribute to increasing farmer's income and developing Pakistan's agro-industry. He mentioned that the two governments are opening a new chapter in agricultural technology cooperation. Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam appreciated the Korean RDA projects and reiterated the support of the incumbent government for sustainable Agricultural development. He apprised the delegation on the Pakistan's agricultural industry and provided a positive outlook for future collaborations. The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Suh Sangpyo commented that Pakistan has unlimited potential with its young population and vast farmland. Pakistan's agriculture is expected go beyond domestic food self-sufficiency and contribute to the global food problem. He hoped that the symposium would lay a cornerstone in strengthening bilateral relations.

CASS webinar on illegal Indian actions in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD: The Indian August 5, 2019 actions in the IIOJK were a strategic miscalculation, which has opened up the door to "all options on the table." This was stated by General Zubair Mehmood Hayat (Retd), former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and the Guest of Honor at a webinar organized by the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS) on the topic of "Post-August 5, 2019 illegal Indian Actions: Dynamics, Implications and Options" on August 04, 2021. General Hayat further stated that these illegal Indian actions have made Kashmir pivotal to the global power competition and has solidified Kashmir's position as a nuclear flash point. Air Marshal Masood Akhtar (Retd), former Deputy Chief of the Staff (Training), Pakistan Air Force stressed the need to make Kashmir an issue of vital national interest, a model of economic well-being, considering according to its provisional provincial status

and regard Kashmiris as stakeholders in the negotiations. In his concluding address, Air Marshal Farhat Hussain Khan (Retd), Deputy President, Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS) and former Vice Chief of the Air Staff paid rich tributes to the courage and strong will of the Kashmiris in keeping their hopes and resolve high, in their just and resolute struggle for independence from Indian occupation, despite growing human rights violations and atrocities by the Indian government and forces. Air Marshal Farhat Hussain Khan also emphasized the fact that Indian oppression and tyranny against Kashmiris in particular and minorities in general, as part of RSS driven BJP agenda, proves that India is no longer a secular state. He also stated that the illegal Indian actions have badly damaged the Kashmiri economy and added to their misery and sufferings. – DNA

ACDC organizes meeting with ACDIS

ISLAMABAD: The Arms Control & Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI) organized an in-house meeting with the Arms Control and Disarmament (ACDIS) Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Pakistan on August 4, 2021, at the ISSI. The delegation was headed by Mr. Mohammad Kamran Akhtar, Director General, ACDIS. Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director-General ISSI, led the ACDC team. Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC, moderated the meeting. – DNA

Hartwig Schafer congratulates Ehsaas on its incredible role

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Hartwig Schafer, South Asia Regional Vice President (SARVP) visited Ehsaas offices, this morning. Senator Dr. Sania Nishtar, SAPM together with Ehsaas team welcomed the World Bank's South Asia Regional Vice President and his delegation. She briefed them on the deep-rooted

reforms embedded in the design and roll out of Ehsaas programmes, policies, reforms and initiatives. Hartwig Schafer congratulated Ehsaas for leading an incredible role not just amid COVID-19 pandemic but also in building back better post-COVID. The meeting aimed to discuss the Bank's ongoing engagements with the government of Pakistan's Ehsaas. "Many lessons

can be learnt by developed and developing countries from the social protection and poverty alleviation experience of Ehsaas", commented Schafer. Schafer assured full assistance of the World Bank to antipoverty efforts undertaken under Ehsaas. He also praised the Ehsaas 50% plus benefits policy for women and girls which aims to create a conducive socio-

cultural and economic environment to ensure women and girls can participate in all spheres of public and private life. Hartwig Schafer was leading a delegation consisting of high-ranking officials from the World Bank- Najy Benhassine, Country Director; Gailius J. Draugelis, Operations Manager; and Amjad Zafar, Senior Social Protection Specialist.



Mansoor as Chairman CPEC vital for growth

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a press release, PML-Q Punjab Deputy Secretary Information Khawaja Rameez Hassan said that a stable CPEC authority is the guarantor of a bright future. He said that the appointment of Khalid Mansoor as Special Assistant on CPEC is good move. He added Khalid Mansoor holds a prominent experience in the energy sector and hopes to play a key role in modernizing the CPEC Authority.

IHC grants time for comments in IHC case


DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday granted more time to lawyers for filing their comments in IHC building attack case. President Islamabad High Court Bar Association (IHCBA) Zahid Mehmood Raja argued that the lawyers had submitted answers in certain patron adopted by a colleague Naseer Kayani. The court asked the lawyers to continue their practice as there was no need to worry. "Go and continue their practice", the judge commented. The court instructed the lawyers to adopt the same patron which was adopted by Naseer Kayani Advocate in their answers.

Accused remanded in police custody

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A judicial magistrate in Islamabad Wednesday granted the police a two day physical remand of an accused allegedly involved in molesting a student of Qaid e Azam University in hostel of International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI). Accused Ibrahim Khan was produced before the court of judicial magistrate Mian Azhar Nadeem and requested for his physical remand to conduct investigation. The accused has been arrested by the police from Islamabad High Court premises after cancellation of his pre-arrest bail in such case.



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Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman
Mobile: 0300 8553342

Briefs

RWMC to observe 'Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir'

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) will observe 'Youm-e-Istehsal' on Thursday to express solidarity with the oppressed Kashmiri people on completion of two years of the military siege of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

According to a release issued here, a walk would be held to denounce the Indian unilateral illegal actions against the Kashmiri people as well as the atrocities being carried out by the Indian forces in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Manager operations Muhammad Husnain said the participants of the walk will wear black bands and carry the flags of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir.

He said one-minute silence at 9:01 am would also be observed while traffic would be halted for one minute on the direction of Federal and provincial governments. Husnain said that COVID-19 SOPs would also be followed during the walk.

COVID-19 claims 4 lives, 264 new infections

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: As many as 264 more COVID-19 positive cases were reported during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 29,190 in the district while four people lost their battle of life against the deadly virus.

As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here Wednesday, the total infected cases included 29,806 from Rawalpindi and 2293 from other districts.

The report said among the new cases, 107 were reported from Rawal Town, 58 from Potohar town, 40 from Rawalpindi Cantt, 15 from Gujar Khan, 27 from Taxila, five from Murree, three each from Islamabad, Kahutta, AJK and one each from Abbottabad, Attock and Haripur.

"Presently 187 confirmed patients were admitted to various city facilities, counting 36 in Holy Family Hospital, 31 in Benazir Bhutto Hospital, 63 in Institute of Urology, 46 in Fauji Foundation Hospital, three each in Begum Akhtar Memorial trust and District Headquarters Hospital, two each in Hearts International and Attock hospital while one person was admitted in Bilal hospital," the health authority report said.

Cultural incubation center launches

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (NIFTH) in collaboration with Echo Records here on Wednesday launched country's first Cultural Incubation Center called "Merge Incubation Center" (MIC).

It aimed at bringing start-ups working in the cultural and creative industry along with performing arts to help them develop business models for economic empowerment.

Talking to APP, Executive Director Lok Virsa Talha Ali said its vision to help youth and technology serve heritage and culture for economic development of the creative industry.

He said it was fully equipped with state of the art infrastructure that includes audio, video recording studios, concert halls and amphitheaters, NIFTH, LokVirsa is an ideal set-up for incubation of creative minds.

The roadmap to achieving a value chain of creative infrastructure will include incubation of start-ups, investment opportunities, content development, tech-development, e-commerce and much more, he added.

With an objective to connect the youth of Pakistan to the cultural heritage through performing arts, cultural literacy and economic empowerment. — APP

Construction work on PWD underpass in final stages

It is to be noted that the staff of the concerned department of CDA is working in two shifts. 80% work of the project is almost completed

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority administration has widened the ongoing PWD underpass and adjacent roads on the Islamabad Express Highway to reduce traffic congestion and save precious time of citizens.

In addition, on the special directions of the CDA administration, the concerned department has further expedited the work. After the completion of the project, the traffic pressure on the Islamabad Express Highway has been reduced and the citizens will not face any problem like traffic jam in future.

It is to be noted that the staff of the concerned department of CDA is working in two shifts. 80% work of the project is almost completed.

In addition, the PWD underpass project is expected to be open to traffic by August 30.

Moreover at the special directions of the CDA management, roads and areas where traffic congestion is high citizens are facing problems like traffic jams are also being identified. These problems are being addressed on priority basis to avoid wastage of time of citizens.



Experts denounced BJP's agenda in post-August 5 IIOJK



ISLAMABAD: Tactics to change demographics of the occupied valley which have been a linchpin of the BJP's Hindu-supremacist agenda in post-August 5 Indian Occupied Kashmir were denounced by speakers at the 15th meeting of Institute of Policy Studies-Working Group on Kashmir (IPS-WGK).

The agenda of the meeting organized by IPS was to discuss Indian attempts to change the demography of Kashmir during the last two years. Among the speakers were Syed Abrar Hussain, former ambassador and vice chairman IPS, Iftekhar Gillani, a senior Kashmiri journalist, Farzana Yaqoob, former AJ&K minister and General Secretary IPS-WGK, Ambassador (retired) Tajammul Altaf, senior research associate at IPS, Advocate Nasir Qadri, International Law Expert from Legal Forum for Oppressed

Voices of Kashmir (LFOVK), and Naufil Shahrukh, GM Operations at IPS. The session was chaired by IPS Chairman Khalid Rahman.

Nasir Qadri opined that Urdu is no more the only official language of the valley as the government has added Hindi, Dogri, English and Kashmiri as other official languages.

The session was told that the Indian government is bringing officers from outside the valley amid very thin representation of Kashmiri Muslims in the bureaucracy to run the government machinery. Moreover, a panel headed by a top police officer will review cases of government employees in the IOK who could be sacked under a law in the Indian Constitution. — DNA

CDA sells 13 commercial plots worth over Rs 20b in auction

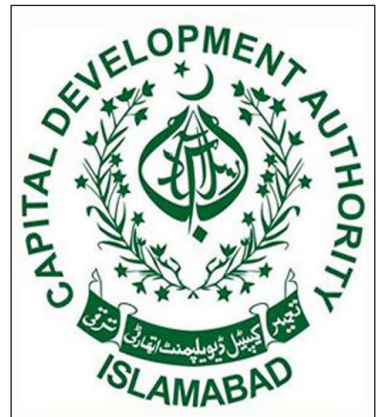
Plots for hospitals, petrol pumps, hotels, apartments and shopping centers will also be auctioned offer for investors

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) received an outstanding response on the first day of the auction of commercial plots. On the first day of the auction, a large number of investors participated and saw full competition, in which 13 commercial plots sold in twenty billion three hundred fifty-two million seven hundred thirty-five thousand six hundred fifty rupees, the auction is being held at the Jinnah Convention Center in Islamabad in connection with the two-day general auction of commercial plots, which will end on August 5.

According to the details, the four commercial plots of Islamabad Sector I-8 Markaz plot number 1-A one billion nine hundred and ninety one lakh eight thousand rupees, Plot No. 28 in one billion five hundred and forty seven million six hundred and fifty seven thousand rupees, Plot No. 53-B in six hundred fifty-one million one hundred four thousand six hundred rupees, Plot No. 53-C eight hundred and eighty million eight hundred and eighty thousand and eight hundred rupees, two commercial plots of

G-10 markaz 21-F one hundred twenty-two million seven hundred seventy-six thousand five hundred fifty rupees, plot number 21-G one hundred forty-seven million two hundred twenty thousand seven hundred fifty rupees, while a plot of Sector F-11 Markaz 33- A one hundred fifteen



million rupees, two commercial plots of Sector I-12 Markaz, plot number 1-P in six hundred and two million six hundred and sixty two thousand nine hundred rupees, plot number 4-D five hundred and sixty five million three hundred and twenty nine thousand eight hundred rupees and Blue

Area four commercial plot number 5 two billion five hundred forty-two million rupees, plot no.10 in four billion seven hundred forty-nine million nine hundred ninety-five thousand two hundred fifty rupees, plot number 15 sold in two billion eight hundred sixty million and Plot number 16 was sold in two billion six hundred ten million.

Apart from commercial plots in Islamabad Development Sector D-12, G-10, Blue Area, Sector I-8, F-8, F-11 and other sectors, plots for hospitals, petrol pumps, hotels, apartments and shopping centers will also be auctioned offer for investors. The auction is being supervised by an auction committee headed by Capital Development Authority Member Finance other members of the committee include Member Estate, Member Planning and Design, DFA-II, DG Law, Director Public Relations, Director Urban Planning, Director Regional Planning, Director Estate Management-II and the Director Finance.

Bids received will be submitted to the Capital Development Authority Board after a thorough scrutiny, which is the forum for approving or rejecting bids.

2-day Women Artisan Bazaar concludes

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A two-day Women Artisan Bazaar concluded here on Wednesday which aimed at promoting women entrepreneurship and showcasing talent-based artisans of skillful women.

Organizer Ayesha Raza while talking to APP said that such kind of event highlighted the skillful women entrepreneurs so that they could portray their artistic work in front of the public.

She said Bazaar had allowed people to buy different variety of traditional artisans made by the women of different provinces, adding that she said the handmade handbags attracted a large number of people due to their colourful embellishment.

She said 30 stalls were set-up in the Bazaar to attract the buyers.

She said traditionally and culturally, women were considered as responsible for looking after the household matters. Therefore, their attempts at working were not looked upon favorably.

She said there was a lack of family cooperation and encouragement from society as a whole women were predominantly kept away from the decision making process in a family as the patriarchal norms dictate that only men were allowed to take all the important decisions which effect their confidence when they start business as role conflict problems arise as women were burdened with the dual work of their business and their household. As a result, there were time constraints and performance was affected. The exhibition was co-organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Centaurus Mall and Handicraft Association of Islamabad.

Quake jolts Islamabad and adjoining areas

ISLAMABAD: A 5.3 magnitude earthquake on Wednesday jolted various parts of country including Islamabad, Peshawar and its adjoining areas.

According to reports the tremors of earthquake were felt in Islamabad, Peshawar, Bunir, Malakand, Kohat Mansehra and its other adjoining areas, Private TV channel reported.

According to the National Seismic Monitoring Centre, the epicenter of the earthquake was the Hindukush Region with a depth of 159 kilometers. The administration said that no loss of life or property had been reported so far. — APP

Chairman JKSM calls for shutdown today

ISLAMABAD: JK Salvation Movement chairman Altaf Ahmad Bhat on Wednesday appealed people of occupied Jammu Kashmir to observe a shutdown on Aug. 5, saying this is the day when occupiers snatched our basic and fundamental rights.

In a statement released here Altaf Ahmad Bhat said that India has no right to change status of Jammu Kashmir as its political future is yet to be decided.

In a statement, Altaf Ahmad Bhat said the day should be observed in every nook and corner of besieged state and people need to resist as the step was taken to alter demography and Muslim identity of disputed state. — DNA

Senate body adjourned due to absence of Secy PA

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges on Wednesday expressed severe reservation over the absence of Secretary Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (PA). The committee took strong notice of the situation and unanimously decided that a motion for breach of Privilege of the committee may be moved by the Chairman Committee on behalf of its members against the Secretary Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for deliberate absence and with malafide intent obstructing the proceedings of the Committee. The committee meeting held here under the chairmanship of Senator Muhammad Tahir Bizinjo, for consideration of the proposed amendment in Rule 9 and insertion of the Fourth Schedule in the Rules of Procedure and conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012 introduced by Senator Mian Raza Rabbani during the sitting of the Senate held on July 12, 2021.

On the occasion, Secretary Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs nor any other officials of the Ministry attended the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned without taking up its agenda as no one from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs on behalf of the Government was present. The meeting was attended by Senators Mian Raza Rabbani, Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui, Manzoor Ahmed Khan Kakar, Shaheen Khalid Butt and Liaquat Khan Taraki.



ISLAMABAD: Representative of Islamabad NOVA franchise Bilal Bin Ishtiaq pose for a group photo with famous Film and TV Artists during launching ceremony of Celebrity Premier League (CPL). — DNA

Kashmir exploitation day

By MUHAMMAD AKHTER

AUGUST 5, marks the two-year anniversary of the Indian lockdown in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan tries to expose the oppression of the Kashmiri people to the world, not just on specific days but throughout the years.

On the one hand, COVID-19 and Lockdown destroyed economies around the world and wiped out people's businesses. And On the other hand In Kashmir, where Lockdown and forced siege have been already underway, the situation was exacerbated by epidemically infectious disease. Despite of pandemic India has not stopped targeting unarmed civilians, not only in occupied Kashmir, but also illegally occupied forces

continued to commit gross human rights violations.

Today, on August 5, the entire Pakistani nation speaks with one voice against this exploitation of Kashmiris and this voice will be heard all over the world as the hearts of Kashmiri and Pakistani people beat together. Whenever India tried to stage a new story of oppression in Kashmir, there was intense outrage from the Pakistani people. Despite this, Pakistan is keeping its senses and wants a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue. Pakistan also knows how to protect regional security. While, the whole world is aware of the extremist Hindutva thinking of the RSS and Indian Prime Minister Modi.

International bodies must note that, to counter this thinking, it has become even more important

today to expose India, because this thinking has become a threat not only to Indian or Kashmiri Muslims but also to the peace and security of the entire region.

The genocide of unarmed Kashmiris in Indian illegally occupied forces continues on a daily basis. Young people are its main target and they are subjected to inhumane torture in Indian secret torture cells. We indebted those fearless young people who give their lives, but are not ready to bow before the Indian occupied forces to defend their soil.

On August 5, 2019, there was a conspiracy by India to divide Jammu and Kashmir into three parts. Indian government attempted to erase the identity of Kashmiris, but failed miserably. India thought that by doing that, it would subjugate the Kashmiris

in terms of psychologically and legally, but no Muslim in the valley accepted this division.

India, the enemy of Muslims, has not only been inhumanely treating the Muslims, men, women and children of Occupied Kashmir since 1947, but it has also not missed any opportunity of aggression on the line of control. The world community needs to understand that, "Kashmir Dispute" is a central point of eternal enmity between India and Pakistan.

Article one of the UN Charter states the purpose of its formation. "To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace by peaceful means", According to the true spirit of UN charter.

On Contradictory to that, Kash-

mir issue is the oldest case on the table of the UN that await final resolution. The Security Council should bound Indian government to end the atrocities and ask to lift military siege, communications and restrictions in illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The United Nations should repeal the Indian act of new domicile rules introduced with the intention of changing the demographic structure of Kashmir. The United Nations should void the Indian unilateral and illegal move of August 5, 2019. A Commission of Inquiry should be set up to investigate human rights violations by Indian Occupied forces in IIOJK. Because the peaceful resolution of conflicts and the protection of human rights and dignity is the primary responsibility of the United Nations.

Age of information

AS is the case around the world, the new age of digital information appears to have arrived in Pakistan as well. According to the latest survey carried out by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics on lifestyle and households, 12 percent of Pakistani households now possess a digital device in the form of a tablet, a laptop or a computer. Ninety-three percent of households possess a mobile phone and in some cases a smartphone. The rate is considerably higher in urban areas compared to rural ones, a finding which is not surprising, with 17 percent of urban households possessing a digital device compared to nine percent of rural ones.

While access to information is obviously immensely useful and needs to be encouraged, we also need to educate people about the use of devices of various kinds, especially when they are in the hands of children under the age of 18. Beyond this basic point, the digital divide is also obvious. We need to take digital devices to more remote places in our country so that those living in remote areas and neglected regions also gain the same benefits and the same experiences.

Digital devices can be a superb learning tool for people of all age groups. There needs to be some education on how best to use them for this purpose and to avoid abuse of any kind. Also, although the number of people with access to digital devices has grown, this is still a low figure compared to other countries, including those in Asia. We need to promote digital devices, along with messages about responsible use, so that the maximum possible benefits can be derived, and people can learn more about the world without falling victim to the conspiracy theories and fake news that so often dominates the digital world and social media.

But the devices are essential for purposes of communication, with WhatsApp calls now taking over from regular calls on mobile phones, and for other purposes such as staying in touch with family. The digital age is clearly here. From this point on, we need to push it forward along with awareness and education in households across the country so that people have access to devices, no matter where they live and what they do.

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Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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



Widening deficit

PAKISTAN kicked off the new financial year with a trade deficit worth \$3.058 billion, an estimated 81.4 percent. Through restricting imports and adopting export-growth oriented policies, the government has recovered some ground. However, as the economy normalises slowly, there has been a change in spending as most of our finances now go towards importing expensive commodities and luxury goods. Only in moderation will this be acceptable. The government must adopt a holistic approach that only targets necessary imports and focuses on expanding our export potential.

Currently, our imports are valued at \$5.405 billion compared to exports worth \$2.347 billion. This entails that we are funnelling out twice the amount of money than we are bringing in. This is a phenomenon that we have been experiencing since December 2020 as essentials like petroleum, machinery, raw materials, chemical, fertilisers, antibiotics and vaccines have jacked up our import bill exponentially. An additional pricy cost—\$1.8 billion last month alone—comes from the import of digital products like mobile phones and laptops particularly. The threat of undoing all the progress we made to mitigate the damage done to our economic standing is very real, especially if the government does not enact policies that bridge the trade deficit.

It is at this point that the government has to make smart decisions and prioritise certain sectors over the others. While we cannot afford to limit the imports of commodities like petroleum, or even imports within the digital sector. This is necessary particularly because the government will then give the digital sector a chance to grow, evolve and cater to the domestic market without being wiped out by international competition. Thus cutting down on luxury items—but clearly establishing what this term means to us—must be the focus going forward. The government must continue to cherry pick its imports, keeping in mind their respective degrees of necessity. In the end, as exports continue to grow, the probability of bridging the trade deficit will become much higher.

How to forget the cruel 5th August

Ali Sukhanver



Foreign affairs defence and communications remained the preserve of the central government. This article allowed the people of the valley to make their own rules relating to permanent residency, ownership of property and fundamental rights. The article 370 also barred Indians alien to the state from purchasing property or settling there. Most of the Kashmiris are of the opinion that the BJP ultimately wants to change the demographic character of the Muslim-majority region by allowing non-Kashmiris to buy land there

ABROGATION of the articles 370 and 35-A, in Indian illegally Occupied Kashmir has altogether changed the demography of the Jammu Kashmir Valley. The helpless people of the Jammu Kashmir valley, who were already in trouble at the hands of the Indian troops, now are in a state of more pain and more agony. They are deprived of their liberty as well as of their identity. The article 370 allowed the state of Jammu Kashmir a certain amount of autonomy - its own constitution, a separate flag and freedom to make laws. Foreign affairs defence and communications remained the preserve of the central government. This article allowed the people of the valley to make their own rules relating to permanent residency, ownership of property and fundamental rights. The article 370 also barred Indians alien to the state from purchasing property or settling there. Most of the Kashmiris are of the opinion that the BJP ultimately wants to change the demographic character of the Muslim-majority region by allowing non-Kashmiris to buy land there. BBC said in an analysis, “Kashmir will no longer have a separate constitution but will have to abide by the Indian constitution much like any other state. All Indian laws will be automatically applicable to Kashmiris, and people from outside the state will be able to buy property there.” The government on the other hand has an altogether different point of view that this step has been taken in benefit of the people of the valley and it will bring a lot of development to the region. When the Article 35A was in practice, it allowed the legislature of Indian-administered Kashmir to define the state's permanent residents. It was applied to all of Illegally Indian-Occupied Kashmir, including Jammu and Ladakh, says a report. All identified resi-

dents were issued a permanent resident certificate, which entitled them to special benefits related to employment, scholarships and other privileges.

But the biggest advantage for permanent residents was that only they had the right to buy and own property in the state. Both these laws were formulated somewhere in May 1954 and it was decided that all those who were living in the state that time and those who have lived in the state for 10 years anytime since, would be ranked as permanent residents. In short this special status of Jammu and Kashmir had been a continuous pain in the neck of BJP since long. The BJP leadership was all time planning to snatch away that special status from the distressed people of Kashmir; so ultimately the ‘leadership’ did it. Situation after revocation of these articles is so horrible that no one from the outside world even can guess the severity.

NDTV's correspondent Nazir Masoodi said in a report expressing his feelings of fear and uncertainty a night before revocation of these articles. “It was the most tense and uncertain night of our life. Troops were in every nook and cranny to impose a tough curfew. Before midnight, a complete communication blockade was enforced. Mobile phones, the internet and even landlines were snapped. All the security measures were in place to quell any public revolt.

A massive troop buildup, contingency orders, the evacuation of non-locals, tourists and Amaranth pilgrims - for us locals, these were ominous signs. The worst fear was that the centre would do away with Article 35A which defined special privileges for permanent residents of J&K in the areas of jobs and land rights. No one had thought that it may well be the end of J&K state, its Constitution and Article 370. Next year in 2020, the same correspondent once again said, “One year on, there is no fear of losing anything - because

there is nothing left to lose. The burden of special status is gone. August 5 last year re-defined everything for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Article 370, which enshrined the relationship between J&K state and the union of India for last 70 years, is gone.”

Last year on 4th August, a year after the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A, an article of Kaiser Andrabi was published in the Diplomat. The writer said, “All modes of communication were cut off, and the region is still without high-speed internet a year later, causing many difficulties for average Kashmiris. About 7,000 people were arrested before and after August 5, 2019, including nearly the entire mainstream political leadership. Before August 5, 2019, Kashmir was a nominally autonomous region.

After August 5, it has become virtually a settler colony in the making. Kashmir thus became an annexed territory where all existing structures, the majority of them Indian-made, were dissolved so they could fit into the vision of India held by the ruling BJP, whose founding fathers were never comfortable with the unique constitutional status of the only Muslim-majority state.”

Abrogation of the Articles 370 and 35-A would severely disfigure the whole of social and economic fiber in the Illegally Occupied Valley of Kashmir which has ever been the worst victim to the Indian atrocities. Reports say that since 1989, over 100,000 Kashmiris have been killed by Indian forces. More than 7,200 people have been murdered in the custody of the Indian Army.

More than 11,000 women have been raped by Indian occupation forces. This brutality of the Indian troops has orphaned more than 110,000 children and widowed more than 23,000 women. Now after brutally successful demographic change, situation of law and order would get worse and worse with the passage of time.

Abuse of social media platforms

Arij Ghaznavi



In 2018, #MeToo has been a supporting movement for women to speak against the sexual harassments they have faced. This movement has helped numerous women get justice and with that many harassers were brought to the light. While all of this generated a positive effect, there were some cases where this movement was used to defame people and extort them for money

IN today's era social media is one the most powerful tools and one that is accessible by everyone. It enables people to speak their mind and share their stories. It has also become the biggest platform where people gain majority of data and information. However, we have to use this power responsibly, at times the information spread across social media platforms is fake or all the facts are not covered in that information. This is why social media is not considered to be an authentic source of news. People manipulate information for their own personal gains and this results in a negative effect created throughout the society.

Pakistan is a high context culture which means that we Pakistanis are influenced by our emotions and the decisions we make are based on those emotions. When fake news is spread across the social media, people start reposting it without making sure that if it is authentic or not. Social media is being used to spread fake allegations on influencers and other people in order to defame them. Where social media has acted as a beacon of hope for people to voice their concern similarly it has been used in negative ways as well.

In 2018, #MeToo has been a supporting movement for women to speak against the sexual harassments they have faced. This movement has helped numerous women get justice and with that many harassers were brought to the light. While all of this generated a positive effect, there were some cases where this movement was used to defame people and extort them for money. In April 2018, at the height of the global #MeToo movement, Meeha Shafi had accused Zafar on social media

of sexual harassment of a physical nature on multiple occasions. In September 2020, Shafi and eight other women were charged by police for criminal defamation after Zafar filed a suit against them. Leena Ghani, a makeup artist and women's rights activist, was one of the nine served the legal notice.

In August 2020, Zafar was awarded the Pride of Performance, the highest civilian award, by the Pakistani government. He said he was deeply honored and “forever indebted to my fans and supporters” for receiving the award. This shows that how social media is used to spread fake allegations and this is only one case there are several more where hashtags of movements are used in the wrong way.

The spread of fake news does not only mean that it is aimed to defame any individual, it can be used to spread chaos and distress in the society. In the recent pandemic the usage of social media has surged. As a result of this high amounts of traffic on social media and huge amount of data are available on the internet, which has made it extremely difficult to check the authenticity of new on social media platforms.

Twitter is considered to be one of the most authentic social media platforms that spread information, during the pandemic the platform has attempted to reduce the widespread of fake news, like the ones related to Covid-19 policies. However, it is inevitable to target all the fake news and at times the authentic one gets removed.

In the month of January 2020, even the President of Pakistan, Dr Arif Alvi, also wrote an article in the newspaper regarding the threat that fake news poses to Pakistan, in which

he stated “Television news is married, some may dare to call it ‘a marriage made in hell’, to the concept of ‘breaking news’. There is a race in the market of ‘who-gets-what’ first. We do realize that such a ‘first’, the more shocking the better, provides a competitive edge”. He further added “my serious concern is that we should not be ‘breaking’ people to create breaking news.”

This is not all; individuals are hacking social media profiles, and through the verified accounts spread misinformation. In a report, BBC stated that there was a security breach of twitter where 130 accounts of highly influential individuals were hacked and posts were made through these accounts. These included accounts of public figures, such as Kim Kardashian West and former vice-president Joe Biden, and those of corporations Apple and Uber. If information comes from verified accounts people are more likely to believe which is why onus lies with the social media platforms to ensure that such breaches are prevented.

As a result of all this Pakistan has ensured a strict watch on cybercrimes and FIA the legal entity that oversees such cases, takes quick and strict actions against such cases. Where this has empowered many people to come out with their stories it has also made sure that in case of spreading of fake news strict legal action needs to be taken.

Regardless of all this we as Pakistanis need to become more responsible and also need to think rationally, giving opinions on something that they are themselves unclear about is wrong and it is our moral responsibility to make sure that we know the complete story before speaking on it.

Briefs

Medal Count						
Pos.	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total	
1	China	32	22	16	70	
2	USA	25	31	23	79	
3	Japan	21	7	12	40	
4	GB	15	18	15	48	
5	Australia	15	4	17	36	

Regional connectivity: recipe for economic growth

FROM PAGE 01

The Government of Pakistan's 'Vision Central Asia' has a very clear policy of harnessing full potential of any opportunity of access to Central Asian markets and making Pakistan transit trade hub in the region by joining a project aimed at socio-economic uplift of its people. Prime Minister Imran Khan is vigorously pursuing regional connectivity initiatives, whether it be under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) or this recently Uzbekistan's proposed Central and South Asia connectivity plan to gain access to the Central Asian markets in return for Central Asia's access to Pakistani ports at Gwadar, Bin Qasim and Karachi for trade of goods and export of energy. Pakistan is especially interested in the proposed rail link between Termez in Southern Uzbekistan, Mazar-I-Sharif and Kabul in Afghanistan, and Peshawar in Pakistan. Prime Minister Imran Khan remarked, 'with large populations and rich natural resources, Central and South Asia can create a giant market of products and services'.

On this occasion, agreements and MoUs worth \$500 million were signed between Pakistani and Uzbekistan in the fields of business, trade, visas, culture, tourism and cross-border movement of goods. On the sidelines of the Conference on 16 July 2021, Prime Minister Imran Khan held two separate delegation-level meetings with Afghan President, Muhammad Ashraf Ghani, and EU HC representative and Vice President of EU, Josep Borrell Fontelles, to discuss various bilateral issues.

All the officers concerned and their staff at Ministry of Foreign Affairs Islamabad and Embassy of Pakistan, Tashkent, Uzbekistan played an outstanding role in seamless coordination for smooth and successful conduct of events on the two-day conference which would definitely usher in a new era of mutual cooperation for socio-economic uplift of the two countries.

The writer is the PRO to Prime Minister of Pakistan. He can be reached at arshakir.pmo@gmail.com

Protests as low caste girl raped in India

FROM PAGE 01

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. Terrorism of casteists in India at peak level like Delhi cantt 's 9 years old girl rape and murder incident, Hathras rape and murder case and also cremated forcefully by criminals#JusticeForDelhiCanttGirl #RapistShould_BePunished. She had gone to the crematorium, which is located near the family's home in southwest Delhi, to fetch water on Sunday. The four men allegedly called her mother to the crematorium and told her the girl had been electrocuted. Her mother was told that if she reported the incident to the police, doctors conducting an autopsy would remove her organs and sell them, Deputy Commissioner of Police for southwest Delhi, Ingat Pratap Singh, told the Hindustan Times. The child's body was then cremated, Singh added. Last year, the death of a 19-year-old woman from her injuries after being allegedly raped by four upper-caste men in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh sparked outrage across the country and triggered days of protests.

Argentina beat India to face Netherlands in women's final

The Netherlands took the lead in the first half when Laurien Leurink outsmarted her opponent and her pass reached 21-year-old forward Felice Albers who shot the ball through the legs of British goalie Madeleine Hinch

DNA

TOKYO: Argentina's players hugged each other and cried after reaching the women's hockey final at the Tokyo Olympics with a 2-1 win over India on Wednesday. Argentina will face the Netherlands in Friday's final, while India will battle Britain for bronze. "We're very happy. We were looking for this with the team," Argentina veteran Delfina Merino said. Argentina suffered an early setback, conceding a second-minute goal when India's Gurjit Kaur flicked the ball into the goal off a penalty corner. Las Leonasequalised halfway through the first half when captain Maria Noel Barrionuevo also scored off a penalty corner. The 37-year-old, Argentina's oldest player, settled the match six minutes into the second half. India head coach Sjoerd Marijne conceded that Argentina had created the best opportunities in the match. "I can't be angry at the girls (India's players) because we don't play these matches a lot. It's a whole new



experience," Marijne said. In the other semi-final, the Netherlands notched up a convincing 5-1 victory over 2016 Rio Olympic champions Britain to reach the Olympic finals for a fifth straight time. The Netherlands took the lead in the

first half when Laurien Leurink outsmarted her opponent and her pass reached 21-year-old forward Felice Albers who shot the ball through the legs of British goalie Madeleine Hinch. The Netherlands, who won silver in Rio

after taking home the top prize at the 2008 and 2012 Olympics, doubled the score less than a minute later through a powerful shot by Marloes Keetels. "We trained for five years on being able to score many goals... I think that's paying off now," said Keetels, who also played a key role in the first goal by getting the ball to Leurink with a long pass. The Netherlands had already scored 21 goals before starting the semi-finals while conceding only two. After the halftime break, the Netherlands extended their lead to 4-0 with goals by Maria Verschoor and Albers. Britain had beaten the Dutch in a penalty shootout in the Rio final but, here, the gap between the two sides was too large for the British to overcome, though they got a goal back when Giselle Ansley flicked in a penalty corner before Frederique Matla made it 5-1 for the Netherlands. Friday's match will give Argentina a chance to take revenge against the Dutch for their defeat in the final of the 2012 Olympics, when the Netherlands won 2-0.

Amb. Sajjad meets Chairman BUCE

The setup is fashioned as a virtual platform for commodity trade wherein the buyers and sellers across the continents are facilitated through secure business transactions

DNA

MINSK: Pakistan ambassador to Belarus Sajjad Haider Khan met with the Chairman of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE), Mr. Alexander Osmolovsky. The meeting was also attended by the head of the organization's Foreign Relations Department, Mr. Alexander Bashily. The Chairman briefed in detail regarding evolution, organizational structure, operations, and expanding international outreach of BUCE. Established in 2004 and the only mercantile exchange in Belarus, BUCE has flourished to enlist 26000 companies from 66 countries as its partners. Boasting of being the Eastern Europe's largest spot exchange, it clocked in 400,000 transactions with an annual turnover of USD 2.5 billion. The setup is fashioned as a virtual platform for commodity trade wherein the buyers and sellers across the continents are facilitated through secure business transactions. The two sides exchanged views on ways and means to promoting participation of Pakistani business community for expanding trade between the two countries. BUCE agreed to hold series of virtual briefing sessions for the Pakistani business community.



MINSK: Ambassador Sajjad Haider Khan met with the Chairman of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE), Mr. Alexander Osmolovsky. The meeting was also attended by the head of the organization's Foreign Relations Department, Mr. Alexander Bashily. – DNA

Farrukh Habib slams Modi for politicizing sports events

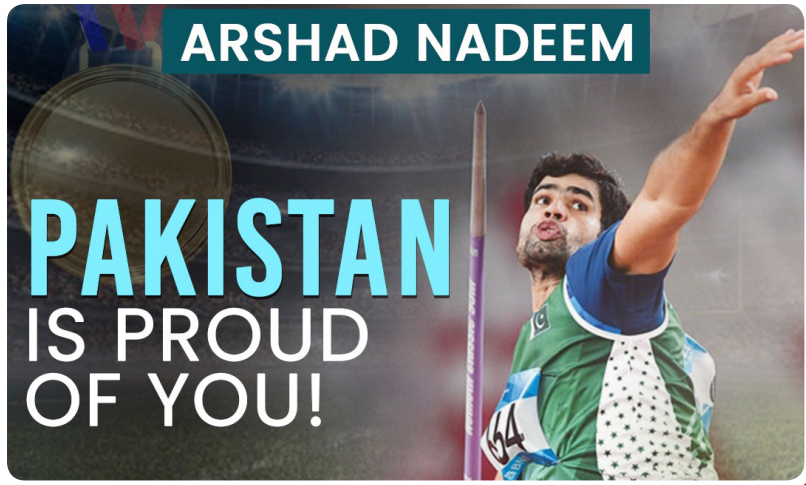


ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Wednesday slammed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for politicizing sports event in a bid to gain political mileage. "What type of a person Modi is if he gets frightened from a sports event in Kashmir, and [asking] the Indian cricket board to threaten those international players with permanent closure of Indian cricket's doors [on them] who takes part in the Kashmir Premier League (KPL)," he said while addressing logo revealing ceremony of Muzaffarabad Tiger. He said the KPL had become successful even before its inauguration due to such repressive acts of Modi who was desperate to impose his extremist policies on the game of cricket. His remarks came in the backdrop of revelations made by some international players that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has been forcibly stopping them to participate in the KPL, which would kick off on August 6. Farrukh said the KPL would not only bring international cricket to Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), but also give an opportunity to its youth to improve their cricketing skills. He said Modi's tyrannical mindset was not only limited to cricket, but also went on journalism as India had lately refused to allow foreign journalists, who supposed to attend August 5 session of AJK's Legislative Assembly, to visit Pakistan. The minister said such 'autocratic steps' of Modi had fully exposed the so-called world's largest democracy. – DNA

Pakistanis back Arshad to end 29-year Olympic medal drought

Javelin thrower qualifies for final

TOKYO: Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem has made history on Wednesday morning as he qualified for the final of the Javelin throw competition at Tokyo Olympics 2020. The 24-year-old Arshad is the first-ever Pakistani athlete to qualify for the final of any track and field event in the Olympics. Arshad Nadeem made it to the final of men's javelin throw with a throw of 85.16m, well beyond the qualification mark of 83.50m. His first attempt was 78.50m. This was overall third-best throw in the contest after India's Neeraj Chopra (86.65m) and Germany's Johannes Vetter (85.64m). This is also Arshad's third-best throw in a competition. Earlier this year, Arshad threw the javelin to a distance of 86.39m for his personal best and a national record during the Imam Reza championship in Iran. Earlier in 2019, he threw 86.29 at South Asian Games in Nepal. He topped the Group B with a throw of 85.16m, Vadlejh Jakub of Czech Republic was second while Weber Julian of Germany grabbed third position to qualify for the final. The final of the men's javelin throw competition at the Tokyo Olympics is scheduled for August 7. – DNA



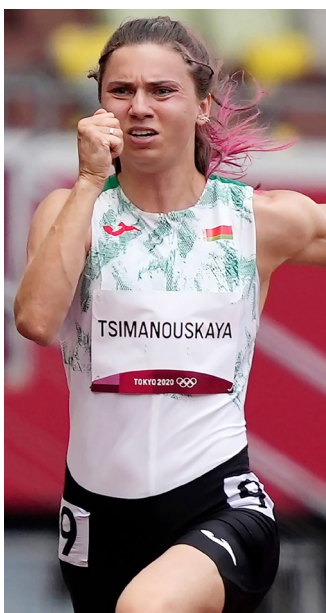
Belarusian Olympian Krystsina flies out of Tokyo

The 24-year-old sprinter, who last week claimed she feared for her safety, was granted a humanitarian visa by Poland after the standoff

AGENCIES

TOKYO: Krystsina Tsimanouskaya, the Belarusian Olympian athlete who refused her team's orders to travel home early from the Games days ago, left Tokyo on Wednesday for Europe. The 24-year-old sprinter, who last week claimed she feared for her safety, was granted a humanitarian visa by Poland after the standoff. After spending two nights in Poland's embassy, she walked onto a plane at Tokyo's Narita airport on Wednesday wearing jeans, a blue blouse and sunglasses with "I RUN CLEAN" written on them. Before leaving Japan, Tsimanouskaya said she hoped she could continue her career but that safety was her immediate priority. She had been expected leave the

Japanese capital on a flight to Warsaw, but a Polish government source told Reuters she switched routes last minute due to security concerns after news of the plan became public and reporters booked seats on the Poland-bound flight. She instead flew to Vienna, from where she is expected to travel to Warsaw. Concern was particularly high because of an incident in May, when a Ryanair flight was diverted to land in Belarus and a dissident journalist was subsequently arrested, the Polish source said. Poland's deputy foreign minister Marcin Przydzic said Tsimanouskaya was still in the care of the country's diplomatic services. She is set to be reunited in Poland with her husband, who fled Belarus amid this week's developments and now reportedly plans



to seek refuge in Europe as well. Austria's interior ministry told Reuters on Wednesday that police officers would take care of Tsimanouskaya's personal safety upon her arrival, and the athlete would be accommodated and cared for in a separate transit area until her onward flight. "Should an asylum application be filed, it will be handled within the framework of existing legislation," the interior ministry said in an emailed statement. Tsimanouskaya's experience at the Tokyo Games became an international issue on Sunday, when she accused Belarusian team officials of hustling her to the airport and trying to put her on a plane to Belarus against her wishes because she had publicly criticised them. The team officials made it clear she would face "punishment" back

home, she said on Tuesday. Tsimanouskaya refused to board the flight and sought the protection of Japanese police. She later made for the Polish embassy in Tokyo as reports abounded that she was seeking asylum in Europe. Her case has focused attention on political discord in Belarus, where authorities have cracked down on dissent following a wave of protests following the disputed August 2020 election the opposition claims was rigged to keep longtime President Alexander Lukashenko in power. Belarusian authorities characterised the anti-government protesters, thousands of whom were arrested, as criminals or violent revolutionaries backed by the West. In a separate development that has raised further concerns among the Belarusian opposition.

Educational institutions to remain open

FROM PAGE 01

For this, the education ministers have been urged to make special efforts to get university students – as they are above 18-years of age – and teachers vaccinated, Mehmood said. In this regard, it is crucial that transport personnel get vaccinated and a deadline of August 31 has already been set for them, the education minister said. Mehmood said all the examinations would continue according to schedule, while there will be changes in Sindh's timetable. "The exams of classes 9, 10, 11, and 12 will take place in accordance with their date sheet." Shedding light on an important decision, he said the IP-EMC had decided to conduct examinations of only elective subjects, and the marks obtained in them would be proportionally allocated for compulsory subjects. "The IP-EMC has decided the students would be given an additional 5% marks in exams as according to a research, the students get better marks in compulsory subjects," he said. "The next education-related meeting will take place on August 25, along with the National Command and Operations Centre. Till then, these decisions will remain in place," Mehmood said. For now, I request students to not pay heed to news on social media as there are a lot of rumours there, he said, adding authentic news would be announced by the education ministry. "Every decision we take is in the best interest of students." All the provincial education ministers, relevant senior officials, and Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan attend the meeting. The participants had discussed the start of the new academic session, reopening of schools in light of the current COVID-19 situation, and vaccination of schoolteachers and other staff members. Actions for inclusive and responsive education, funding, coordination, and reporting also came under discussion.

PM urges world to notice Indian crimes

FROM PAGE 01

Kashmiris till the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination and a just resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people," he said in his message on Youm-e-Istehsal. The prime minister said, "Today marks two years since India's illegal and unilateral actions of August 5, 2019 in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK)." These actions, he said, were followed by unprecedented military siege, and restrictions on fundamental rights and freedoms of the Kashmiri people to perpetuate Indian occupation in the occupied territory. "Yet, India has failed to break the will of Kashmiri people," he added. Imran Khan pointed out that the Kashmiris faced unabated extra-judicial killings, custodial tortures and deaths, arbitrary detentions, burning and looting of houses to inflict collective punishment, and other worst forms of human rights abuses. "India's illegal and unilateral actions of August 5, 2019 and subsequent measures particularly pertaining to domicile rules and the land ownership laws are aimed at changing the demographic structure of IIOJK and converting the Kashmiris into a minority in their own land," he added. The prime minister further said that those measures were in blatant violation of international law, including the UN Charter, the United Nations Security Council resolutions, and the 4th Geneva Convention. "Pakistan, the Kashmiris, and the international community forcefully rejected these steps," he added. Imran Khan said the criticism and censure of India's illegal actions in the IIOJK by a number of international organizations, including the UN, OHCHR and European Parliament, international media, various human rights experts and human rights organizations was well documented.

Briefs

UN ready to assist Azerbaijan in Covid fight

FOREIGN DESK

BAKU: The UN is ready to support Azerbaijan in the post-conflict recovery following last year's war with Armenia and in Azerbaijan's fight against COVID-19, the newly-appointed UN Resident Coordinator Vladanka Andreeva said during the meeting with Foreign Minister Ceyhan Bayramov on August 2.

Vladanka Andreeva expressed confidence that Azerbaijan's high-level cooperation with the UN, which has existed for almost 30 years, would continue. Noting that her initial impressions of the country are very good, the Resident Coordinator said that joint efforts will continue and attention will be paid to achieving concrete results of existing cooperation, the ministry's press service reported.

Bayramov congratulated the new Resident Coordinator on her appointment and wished her success in her work.

Bayramov informed the UN official about the measures taken by Azerbaijan to fight the pandemic, its role in the global initiatives and cooperation with the World Health Organization in the related sphere.

Dalit girl allegedly raped, killed in India

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: A nine-year-old girl belonging to India's marginalised Dalit community has been gang-raped, murdered and forcibly cremated in capital New Delhi, her family alleges.

The gruesome incident sparked a fourth day of protests in the city on Wednesday, in the latest case of sexual violence targeting the former "untouchable" community, which falls at the bottom of India's complex caste hierarchy.

The girl's family alleges a Hindu priest working at a local crematorium and his associates raped her and then cremated her body without their approval on Sunday.

The family, along with other Dalits and activists, is camping on a road in New Delhi's Nangal neighbourhood, demanding justice. The police say they have arrested four accused and opened an investigation into the incident.

The girl, who cannot be identified as per Indian law, had gone to get drinking water from a water cooler at the crematorium, her mother told Al Jazeera on Wednesday.

"Her father had gone to the market to buy vegetables. An hour passed but she did not return and I got anxious. So I rushed to the crematorium where the priest told me: 'Your daughter is dead,'" she said.

Sudan takes 1st step towards joining ICC

AGENCIES

KHARTOUM: The Sudanese cabinet has voted to ratify the founding treaty of the International Criminal Court (ICC), a move bringing closer the possibility of former longtime President Omar al-Bashir facing trial for genocide.

Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok said in a statement on Twitter the draft bill to join the Rome Statute of The Hague-based court was passed "unanimously".

Following the military's overthrow of al-Bashir in 2019, in the wake of mass protests against his rule, Sudan has been led by a transitional civilian-military administration that has pledged to bring justice to victims of crimes committed under the former president.

Sudan is yet to appoint a legislative body, but the decision still needs the approval of the sovereign council, a joint military-civilian body that is the country's highest authority and is tasked with leading it to free and fair multiparty elections.

Hamdok said there would be a joint meeting between the ruling council and the cabinet to "to pass it into law". The cabinet did not offer a time frame for ratification.



MASHHAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani along with his delegation visiting the shrine of Imam Raza in Mashhad, Iran. — DNA

Turkey slams US on planned resettlement of Afghans

"No one should expect the Turkish nation to bear the burden of the migration crises experienced as a result of the decisions of third countries in our region"

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: The Turkish government has criticised a US plan to use third countries such as Turkey to resettle thousands of Afghans who risk being targeted by Taliban fighters over their Washington links, saying the move would cause a "great migration crisis" in the region.

Weeks before the US is set to complete the withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan after 20 years of war, its Department of State on Monday announced a new programme under which certain categories of Afghans will have a chance to resettle as refugees in the US. The scheme covers interpreters and translators who worked with US forces, Afghans in-

involved with US-funded projects and those employed by US-based NGOs or media organisations.

Afghans in the programme would have to make their own way to a third country, where they will wait 12 to 14 months for their application to be processed. A senior Department of State official said Washington had been in discussion with neighbouring countries on potential outflows, adding it was important that Pakistan's borders with Afghanistan remain open, while others might travel to Turkey via Iran.

But the Turkish foreign ministry on Tuesday rejected the reference to Turkey as a migration route for Afghans, adding that the country, already hosting more than four million refugees, would not "undertake a new migration crisis on

behalf of a third country".

"As Turkey, we do not accept the irresponsible decision taken by the United States without consulting our country. If the United States wants to take these people to its country, it is possible to transfer them directly to their country by planes," the ministry said in a statement.

"No one should expect the Turkish nation to bear the burden of the migration crises experienced as a result of the decisions of third countries in our region," it added.

Hundreds of Afghans have crossed into Turkey in recent weeks amid rising violence in Afghanistan, raising concerns of a fresh influx of refugees. Ties between Ankara and Washington have been strained in recent years

over a host of issues, including the former's move to purchase Russian defence equipment and policy differences in the Middle East.

Ankara has offered to guard and operate Hamid Karzai International Airport in the capital Kabul after the US and NATO withdrawal from Afghanistan, in a move that could create an area for co-operation between the NATO allies.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said Turkish officials were holding high-level talks over the issue with Afghan counterparts.

The issue is also likely to feature in talks between Ankara and Brussels about updating a 2016 deal under which Turkey received aid for hosting people seeking refuge in the European Union. Meanwhile, Turkey has been reinforcing border se-

curity in anticipation of a potential increase in irregular migrant inflow, Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu said on Twitter on Wednesday.

His statement came in response to Kemal Kilicdaroglu, leader of the main opposition Republican People's Party, who recently claimed that the government is unable to control the migrant flow to Turkey, particularly from the Turkish-Iranian border.

Soylu outlined measures taken by the government, including building a 152km (94.5-mile) long wall on the border with work under way for another 85km (53 miles).

He said Turkey's 740km (460-mile) eastern border will be monitored by unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) from the sky, electro-optic towers and thermal night cameras on the ground.

Israeli artillery shells Lebanon

FOREIGN DESK

BEIRUT: The Israeli army says it has fired artillery shells into Lebanon after rocket fire was launched from Lebanon into Israel amid rising tensions in the region.

"Three rockets were fired from Lebanon into Israeli territory," the army said in a statement on Wednesday, adding that one had fallen short of the border.

"In response ... artillery forces fired into Lebanese territory."

Israeli broadcaster Channel 12 reported that one rocket exploded in an open area and another was intercepted by Israel's defence system, known as the Iron Dome.

Witnesses in Lebanon also reported that several rockets were fired at Israel.

Israeli medics distributed images of a brush fire and said they treated four people suffering "stress symptoms". It was not immediately clear whether Lebanon had any casualties.

Sirens warning of a rocket attack sounded in several Israeli communities, including the town of Kiryat Shmona, near the Lebanese border. The Israeli military said it had imposed no restrictions on civilians in northern areas.

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said he and defence minister Benny Gantz had been "briefed" on developments and were overseeing the response.

Pak export to China up 70.3pc

BEIJING: Pakistan's export to China crossed \$1.735 billion in January-to-June in the first half of 2021, shows the official data from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

China Economic Net reported that exports from Pakistan to China increased by 70.3% during the first half of the current fiscal year (2020-2021), according to GACC figures.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, bilateral trade has increased significantly. Pakistan's exports stood at \$1.735 billion in the first half of FY21, up 70.3 percent from \$1.019 billion in the same period of the previous year.

Last month Pakistani Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood announced via Twitter that Pakistan's export to China registered an increase of 34% in FY2020-21.

"I'm pleased to share that our exports have done quite well in our major markets. During FY2021, our exports to China increased by 34% to \$2.33 billion as compared with \$1.74 billion in the previous FY, increasing \$586 million," tweeted Dawood.

This half fiscal year China's export to Pakistan also increased 48 percent amounting to \$10.87 billion as compared with the previous year which was \$7.35 billion. — APP

Tunisia's president fires envoy to US

AGENCIES

TUNIS: President Kais Saied has fired Tunisia's ambassador to the United States and the governor of a key province, the latest dismissals since he provoked a political crisis last month when he assumed all executive power.

In a series of shock moves on July 25, Saied fired the prime minister and suspended parliament for 30 days. He also began ruling by decree, went on to dismiss several officials and announced a crackdown against corruption. On Tuesday, state media announced the sacking of Ambassador Nejmeddine Lakkhal, without citing an explanation for the move.

The governor of the eastern Sfax province was also dismissed.

It came a day after the economy ministry got a new acting minister on Monday, following the dismissal of Ali Kooli, as did the communications technology ministry.

Local polls say there is large support for Saied's controversial actions, which were denounced as a "coup" by the country's main political parties — an allegation the president denied.

Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan mull cooperation in customs field



DNA

BAKU: Head of Azerbaijan's State Customs Committee Academy and Cynological Center Gulu Novruzov and Uzbek Ambassador Bahrom Ashrafkhanov have discussed cooperation in the customs field between the two countries during the meeting held on August 3.

Novruzov noted that set up in 2014, the Academy currently trains specialists in five specialties and

pays special attention to strengthening international cooperation, the use of modern approaches in education, the latest innovations, exchange of experience and students as well as taking important steps to establish business relations with world-renowned universities.

Moreover, speaking about the relations with Uzbek customs authorities and customs education institutions, Novruzov stressed the importance of strengthening these ties.

In turn, Ambassador Ashrafkhanov stated that customs authorities contribute to strengthening of the mutual cooperation.

He recalled that during the meeting with Azerbaijan's State Customs Committee Chairman Colonel General Safar Mehtiyev, fruitful discussions were held to further develop the existing relations between the two countries.

Touching upon reforms in Azerbaijan's customs system, the ambassador stated that Azerbaijani

customs are equipped with modern equipment and work efficiently.

Additionally, emphasizing the importance of studying and applying the experience of the Azerbaijan Customs Service and the Customs Academy, he stressed the importance of mutual exchange of experience, joint activities, and trainings.

The ambassador also familiarized himself with the activities of the State Customs Committee's Cynological Center. Set up in 2003, the center has received the status of a regional center of the World Customs Organization in 2015.

It should be noted that the volume of trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan increased by 13 percent to \$80 million last year despite COVID-19. Presently, 195 Azerbaijani enterprises are represented in Uzbekistan, 69 of which have joint capital and 126 of them have 100 percent Azerbaijani capital.

The trade turnover between the two countries amounted to \$47.6 million in the first half of 2021.

Dr. Mahmood qualifies for trip to Kazakhstan

DNA

NUR SULTAN: Sixth International Contest "Kazakhstan Through the Eyes of Foreign Media" dedicated to the 30th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan and Kazakhstan's Chief Editors Club have selected five winners of the sixth international contest Kazakhstan through the Eyes of Foreign Media dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The panel received 60 applications from 36 countries from authors who published relevant materials over the past twelve months.

The works of the contest participants covered a wide range of topics related to Kazakhstan, including economy, politics, international relations, culture, tourism, healthcare, sports, nuclear disarmament, renewable



energy, etc.

Dr. Mahmood Ul Hassan Khan, Member Board of Experts, CGSS, covering the ongoing political and economic reforms in Kazakhstan and the intellectual heritage of Abai Kunanbauly published in the Islamabad Post and DNA News has been recognized as the best among the works submitted from the Greater ME and Africa.

He has been awarded with a trip to Kazakhstan, in which he will be able to visit the cities of Nur-Sultan, Almaty, and Turkestan, the Burabay area, and admire natural and cultural sights of Kazakhstan. He will also be meeting with prominent journalists, diplomats, and other public figures.

India sabotaging peace in Pakistan: President Alvi

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday, while lauding the immense sacrifices of civilians and Armed Forces of Pakistan in the war on terror, cautioned that next few months could be tense in the context of security situation due to emerging situation on the western borders of the country.

The president was addressing a ceremony held here to commemorate the unmatched sacrifices of Islamabad Capital Territory Police on Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Police. The president said India was sabotaging peace in Pakistan as it never tolerated the latter to move on the path of progress and prosperity. India had also been involved in the Lahore terrorist blast, he added.

He said Pakistan had proved to the world that it was a peace-loving country, and stood for peace and stability of the region. The president said the security forces of Pakistan and the nation had rendered unmatched sacrifices in the war on terror. About 70,000 precious lives had



been lost in that war.

"Hats off to the civilians and armed forces of Pakistan, who had been successful in defeating the menace. No country in the world succeeded in this way, even

a super power could not control it after spending a whopping amount of about 2\$trillion in Afghanistan," he added.

The president opined out that no nation could force its decision on the other nation. He said he always felt immensely proud over the spirit of the nation and the families of martyrs, who were even ready to offer more sacrifices for the country when the occasion arose.

The police were the front force acting as a bulwark against the criminals, he said and stressed upon utilization of modern technological gadgets to counter the sophisticated crimes.

He expressed his satisfaction over the efforts made to increase capabilities of the ICT Police with the use of latest technology. The president also emphasized upon provision of the best medical treatment and education to the children of martyred police personnel. He also appreciated the ICT Police authorities for regularization of the services of about 210 children of the Shuhada (martyrs).

The ceremony was attended largely by the families of ICT Police Shuhada, civil and military officials, media, diplomatic

corps and personnel of police force.

The president further said that the martyred security personnel had been the greatest benefactors of the nation.

He said Pakistan was moving on the way to development, and cited the prudent decisions taken by the present government under the guidance of Prime Minister Imran Khan, especially during the Covid pandemic.

He said human compassion was given priority with roll out of Rs 200 billion under the Ehsaas Programme to support the weaker and deserving segments of society. The president said the nation took the unanimous decision during the pandemic and once a nation took collective decisions, no one could defeat it.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Interior Shaikh Rashid Ahmad said Pakistan was facing a hybrid war launched by India. He expressed the confidence that security forces of Pakistan and the whole nation were alive to foil the evil designs.

Inspector General of Police ICT, Qazi Jameel ur Rehman highlighted the steps taken for the welfare of bereaved families of police Shuhada.

Briefs

We stand
with Noor's
family: Zahir
Jaffer's father

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A local court on Wednesday held its hearing on the post-arrest bail petition of the parents of Zahir Jaffer, the main suspect in the murder of former diplomat Shaukat Mukadam's daughter Noor Mukadam.

During the course of the hearing, Zakir Jaffer, the suspect's father, said, "We are not with our son, we stand with the victim's family."

Zakir Jaffer and Asmat Adam's counsel, Rizwan Abbasi, apprised the court that his clients were included in the case on the basis of the suspect's statement before an investigation officer.

His clients were unaware of the incident, he said, adding that neither did they hide or provide wrong information to the authorities.

Meanwhile, the public prosecutor told the court that the suspect was in contact with his mother but she did not tell the police about it.

Abbasi then replied that telephonic contact between a son and mother is not a crime. The public prosecutor said that the pistol recovered from the suspect was issued under the name of Zakir Jaffer.

He maintained that the suspect had made telephone calls to his father and mother at around 3 pm on July 20. It was the time when Noor Mukadam was with Zahir Jaffer, the lawyer said, adding that later she had been killed.

WHO calls for
moratorium
on vaccine
booster shots

AGENCIES

GENEVA: The WHO on Wednesday called for a moratorium on Covid-19 vaccine booster shots until at least the end of September to address the drastic inequity in dose distribution between rich and poor nations. World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus called on the countries and companies controlling the supply of doses to change gear and ensure more vaccines to less wealthy states.

"I understand the concern of all governments to protect their people from the Delta variant. But we cannot accept countries that have already used most of the global supply of vaccines using even more of it, while the world's most vulnerable people remain unprotected," Tedros told a press conference.

"We need an urgent reversal, from the majority of vaccines going to high-income countries, to the majority going to low-income countries." More than 4.25 billion doses of Covid-19 vaccines have now been administered globally, according to an AFP count.

Over 150
houses gutted
in Greece fire

AFP

ATHENS: At least 150 houses were destroyed by a violent blaze that surrounded a monastery and a dozen villages on the Greek island of Evia on Wednesday, just one of some 40 fires raging in the heatwave-hit country. Firefighters were also battling a blaze near Athens, while flames threatened Olympia, the birthplace of the Olympic Games where the mayor pleaded for back-up.

On Evia, huge flames leapt up from the forest, visible from afar in what firefighters said was a difficult blaze to control on an island of rolling hills with little visibility.

Three monks from Saint David Monastery had refused to leave, firefighters said, adding that everyone else had been evacuated from the villages nearby.

"The flames are 30 to 40 metres (100 to 130 feet) high and surrounding the monastery. We're suffocating due to the smoke," one of the monks told the ANA news agency by phone.

Police told AFP they would force the monks to evacuate if their life was in danger.

Pakistan slams India for not
allowing journalists in IIOJK

Federal Minister for Human Rights Shireen Mazari wondered whether the foreign journalists will expose the Modi regime for its attempt to gag independent media

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has called out India for refusing to allow five foreign journalists from travelling to Azad Kashmir, to cover an Azad Kashmir Assembly session.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi pointed out how the Indian government's decision was indicative that the incumbent "dictatorial regime" in India was shrinking space for independent journalism.

"The denial of permission by India to 5 international journalists to travel to Pakistan, in which a visit to the Azad Kashmir Assembly was scheduled, is another damning in-

dication of shrinking space for free speech and independent journalism under a dictatorial regime," he tweeted.

Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry also slammed New Delhi for refusing permission to the international journalists to visit Azad Kashmir.

The minister urged India to allow journalists to visit Indian occupied Kashmir and report on the disputed territory.

"India has refused to allow five foreign journalists permission to visit Pak, they were supposed to attend 5th August session of Azad Kashmir Assembly, so much of #FreedomofExpression we want India to allow independent Journalists to visit IOK and let

them report facts," he tweeted.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar said that while Pakistan had nothing to hide from the world in Azad Kashmir, India, on the other hand, wanted exactly that.

"The difference is simple @fawadchaudhry. We want the world to see what is happening in azad kashmir and they want to hide what is happening in indian occupied kashmir. The difference between right and wrong cannot get more stark than this," he wrote.

Federal Minister for Human Rights Shireen Mazari wondered whether the foreign journalists will expose the Modi regime for its attempt to gag independent media.

"Why did we expect otherwise from the fascist Modi regime? Question is whether these foreign journo will now report on this refusal and expose the growing myth of Indian democracy under fascist Modi?" she asked.

It is pertinent to mention that the nation is observing Youm-e-Istehsal on Thursday to express solidarity with the oppressed Kashmiri people on completion of two years of military siege of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

It was on the 5th August 2019 that the special constitutional status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir was scrapped by the Modi government.

EU calls
for US to lift
COVID entry
ban

FOREIGN DESK

BRUSSELS: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Wednesday called for the United States to allow arrivals of travelers from Europe.

Since June, the EU has recommended the bloc's 27 countries allow the entry of travelers from the US. But a ban remains in place on travelers arriving in the US from Europe.

"We insist comparable rules be applied to arrivals in both directions," von der Leyen told German media RND in comments published Wednesday. "We must solve this problem as soon as possible and we are in contact with our American friends," she added. "It must not drag on for weeks."

Von der Leyen noted that the epidemiological situation in the US and EU countries was "very similar."

The EU has pulled ahead of the US in its vaccine rollout, according to data collected by AFP news agency. The bloc has administered first doses to 59.3% of its population, compared to 57.8% in the US.

PML-N trying
to befool
Kashmiris:
Farrukh

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Wednesday said the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) could not befool the Kashmiris by accusing Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaf of 'rigging' in the general elections of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

"If PML-N have any evidence of alleged 'rigging' in AJK polls, it should present it on the relevant forms instead of foul cry," he said in a news release while giving reaction to the presser of PML-N spokesperson Maryam Aurangzeb.

After a humiliating defeat in the AJK elections, he said both the PML-N vice president Maryam Safdar and his uncle Shehbaz Sharif parted ways due to differences in narrative. Farrukh said it was very strange that where the PML-N won the elections were transparent and where it faced defeat, there was rigging.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi addressing a press conference along with foreign office spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhry. – DNA

India doomed to fail in
distorting Kashmir's identity

He said today's India was contradictory to the spirit of secularism and democracy as envisioned by its own leader Mahatama Gandhi

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Wednesday said India was doomed to fail in its attempt to amend the historic identity of Jammu and Kashmir, as the voices of oppressed Kashmiris were growing stronger with time.

Talking to media persons, the foreign minister said India would have to rescind its illegal acts of August 5, 2019 where it had deprived the Kashmiris of their special status.

Qureshi said besides Occupied Kashmir, the voices from within India had started

emerging against their government for pursuing the policies of violence in the Valley. He said today's India was contradictory to the spirit of secularism and democracy as envisioned by its own leader Mahatama Gandhi.

He paid sacrifices to the Kashmiris for their relentless struggle and undeterred commitment towards realizing the goal of self-determination. Qureshi said India was shying away from implementing the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council as it knew that Kashmiris would not support the op-

pressive government.

He said India's refusal to allow the visit of international media persons to Occupied Kashmir was in violation of the norms of democracy. Qureshi mentioned that the people at both sides of the Line of Control were united against India's persistent violation of human rights in Occupied Kashmir.

However, he said, a prudent segment in India dismissed the policies of its government that were based on hatred and radicalism. He stressed that the Kashmir dispute was a main hin-

drance in normalizing Pakistan's ties with India.

The foreign minister said the United Nation conducted discussions on the issue of Kashmir thrice in a year as result of Pakistan's efforts of highlighting the matter at international level. He expressed confidence that Kashmiris with their resolve would attain their goal of right to self-determination and would not succumb to the pressure of India.

On August 5, he said, people across Pakistan would express solidarity with their Kashmir brethren. – APP

Japan to offer
70 training
programmes

ZUBAIR AHMAD

Islamabad: The Government of Japan has decided to offer 70 training programmes, which are held in Japan or implemented online for Pakistani nationals every year, as a part of development co-operation for the further development of Pakistan. The programmes widely cover various sectors from social needs such as education, health, water resources, environment and human development, to industrial needs such as agriculture, energy, transportation and ICT. Governance, disaster risk reduction and gender are also covered. The number and condition of participants and terms are set according to the target of each course. The programmes for Pakistan have been implemented since 1957 and approximately 6,000 Pakistani people participated during long history.

The programmes are implemented by JICA (Japan

International Cooperation Agency), thanks to the support by Japanese ministries, municipalities, universities and relevant organizations. Under the restriction on overseas travel by the COVID-19 pandemic, JICA is utilising alternative methods such as online communications so that opportunities to participate in the training will not be lost. H.E. Mr. MATSUDA Kuninori, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, citing his optimism on the training programmes in Japan, stated that these exceptionally wide variety training programmes can be achieved as a result of a long succession of more than 60 years track record. "I would like all participants to make maximum use of this opportunity, even in challenging times", said the Ambassador.

The Ambassador hoped that these participants who will broaden their knowledge in Japan could contribute towards the bright future of Pakistan and further strengthening of Japan-Pakistan relations.

PTI govt will make GB
attractive for foreign investment

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhary Fawad Hussain says steps are being taken to establish a PTV station in Gilgit Baltistan.

Talking to Governor Gilgit-Baltistan Raja Jalal Hussain Maqpoon in Islamabad on Wednesday, he said government is fully focusing to make Gilgit Baltistan attractive for foreign investors to invest in developmental projects.

He said services of mobile network and digital cable companies will be improved in the area. He emphasized on augmenting interest of the youth in digital media as it contains ample opportunities for them.



They also discussed issues of mutual interest including development projects in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Governor Gilgit-Baltistan agreed with Federal Information Minister's proposal to attract youth to digital media.

Minister invites Argentina
companies to Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Leopold Francisco Sahores, Ambassador of Argentina in Pakistan called upon the Federal Minister of National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam in Islamabad today.

Federal Minister for National Food and Security Syed Fakhar Imam welcomed the Ambassador of Argentina in Pakistan Mr. Leopold Francisco Sahores. Fakhar Imam discussed agricultural trade between the two countries. He said that Pakistan has immense agricultural capacity which can allow Pakistan to increase



ISLAMABAD: Leopold Francisco Sahores, Ambassador of Argentina in Pakistan called upon the Federal Minister of National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam. – DNA

its exports. He hoped that Argentinean private companies would invest in Pakistan and bring value

added technologies to the agriculture of Pakistan.

Federal Minister said that we will initially set up a trial of low-cost grain storage technology from Argentina and eventually its outreach will be multiplied. He continued that the two countries should increase bilateral trade in agriculture.

H.E. Leopold Francisco Sahores Ambassador of Argentina in Pakistan said that the agricultural bilateral trade between the two countries has immense potential. He said exchange of agricultural technologies can enhance the productivity of agriculture in Pakistan and thus should be a primary area of focus.

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