



Islamabad POST

Friday, August 06, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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China calls for just resolution of Kashmir issue, says Zhao Lijian

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Ebrahim Raisi takes oath as Iran President

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Shahbaz Sharif must prove his honesty: Farrukh

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Briefs

CAS assures support to Kashmiris

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On completion of two years of illegitimate revocation of the special status of IIOJ&K, contriving demographic changes and continued military siege by India in gross violation of human rights, Air Chief Marshal Zaeer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force expressed his resolve to stand with brave and resilient people of IIOJ&K in their peaceful struggle against Indian oppression.

Time to reverse neglect of sports

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar announced initiating two sports projects under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) in "all federating units of the country", on Thursday. "Reviewed 2 new PSDP [Public Sector Development Programme] projects for sports under kamyab jawan program. A talent hunt scheme and a scheme to develop sports academies/high performance centers," Umar said on Twitter. "Both will be done thru HEC [Higher Education Commission] and in all Federating units of the country. Time to reverse the decades old neglect of sports," he added.

Murtaza Wahab new Karachi administrator

DNA

KARACHI: The Sindh Government on Thursday appointed adviser to the chief minister, Barrister Murtaza Wahab, as Karachi administrator with immediate effect. Meanwhile, the chief minister expanded his cabinet by inducting four new ministers. Governor Imran Ismail administered oath to the four ministers – Sajid Jochio, Gianchand Israni, Zia Abbas and Jam Khan Shoro – at a simple ceremony held at the Governor House.

Pakistan won't accept Taliban Kabul takeover

Moeed says Afghanistan's incumbent government wanted "to shift the entire blame of its failures" on Pakistan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON: Underscoring the need for a politically negotiated settlement of the Afghan conflict, National Security Adviser Dr Moeed Yusuf has clarified that Pakistan will not accept a "forceful takeover" of Kabul. After concluding week-long talks with the US administration, Moeed Yusuf, while addressing a press conference at the Pakistan Embassy in Washington DC late Wednesday, said, "We will not accept a forceful takeover." "We have made it absolutely clear that we are with the international community on where this goes. But the world also needs to be clear that the US invest in a political settlement." Harsh rhetoric of the Afghan government against Pakistan was making it impossible to maintain good relations between the neighbouring countries, he added. He further said, "We are beginning to see a very conscious, deliberate effort by the Afghan government to scapegoat Pakistan." Moeed said Afghanistan's incumbent government wanted "to shift the entire blame of its failures" on Pakistan.

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US should give Pakistan importance: FM

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The United States should give Pakistan the importance it deserves, believes Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. Though the US has sought help from Pakistan to halt the Taliban advance while US troops are pulling out of Afghanistan, US President Joe Biden has not spoken over the issue with Prime Minister Imran Khan so far. But Qureshi doesn't think Pakistan should worry over not receiving a phone call. If the US expresses disengagement with

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UK eases travel curbs for several countries

AGENCIES

LONDON: The UK added Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Slovakia, Latvia, Romania, and Norway to its green travel list on Thursday. People coming from countries on the list are not required to quarantine in the UK but do have to take a COVID-19 test before departure and two days after arrival. The UK has also moved the UAE, Qatar, India, and Bahrain out of the red list to the amber list,

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Pakistan to stay in the red list

NEWS DESK / DNA

LONDON: Pakistan has asked the British government to remove its name from England's "red" list, Pakistan High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Moazzam Ahmed Khan said Thursday, following the latest review by Britain of its travel curbs. The passengers on the red list require a costly 10-day hotel quarantine on arrival. Georgia, Mexico, and France's Indian Ocean territories of La Reunion, and

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ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the Youm-e-Istehsal rally, at Islamabad, on 05-08-2021. – DNA



ISLAMABAD: Hamad Obaid Alzaabi, the UAE Ambassador presenting the highest Military Medal of United Arab Emirates to Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi. – DNA

Russia to invite Pak, US, China, for Afghan conference

FOREIGN DESK

DOHA: India has not been invited to a crucial meeting being convened by Russia on the fast-evolving situation in Afghanistan that is expected to see the participation of Pakistan, China and the US, people familiar with the development told a news agency. As the Taliban continues its offensive in Afghanistan, Russia has stepped up efforts to reach out to all key stakeholders in the war-torn country to stop the violence and push the Afghan peace process.

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Hockey: Belgium gets gold

TOKYO: Belgium won their first Olympic men's hockey title, beating Australia 3-2 in a penalty shootout after the final finished in a 1-1 draw on Thursday. The sides were locked in a close fight through much of the match, with Belgium forward Florant van Aubel giving the Red Lions the lead two minutes into the second half. Australia equalised thanks to a goal by Tom Wickham, sending the match to the shootout, in which Belgian goalie Vincent Vanasch saved three attempts from the Kookaburras, including a retake from Jake Whetton following a video referral. But Vanasch saved Whetton's second try, winning Belgium the title.

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UAE's highest military award for Naval Chief

Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi is the first Naval Chief to receive this Medal

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi has been conferred with the highest Military Medal of the United Arab Emirates, during an impressive award ceremony held at UAE Embassy in Islamabad. The Medal was conferred to the Naval Chief by Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Supreme Commander of UAE Armed forces in recognition of his outstanding professional services and efforts to enhance bilateral relations and cooperation between

the two brotherly countries. Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi is the first Naval Chief to receive this Medal. UAE's ambassador in Pakistan Hamad Alzaabi presented the award to the naval chief on behalf of the Dy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. Pakistan and UAE enjoy close and cordial relations in defense sector. Both the brotherly countries' military leadership exchange visits regularly. In 2018, President Dr. Arif Alvi had conferred Hilali-Imtiaz (Military) upon Rear Admiral (PILOT) Saeed Bin Hamdan Bin Mohammed Al Nehyan Commander, UAE

Naval Forces in a special Investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi and senior officials were also present in the ceremony. During the visit, Rear Admiral (PILOT) Saeed Bin Hamdan Bin Mohammed Al Nehyan Commander, UAE Naval Forces also called on President Dr. Arif Alvi. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that Pakistan and UAE have long-standing strategic and close political relations. He added that both countries maintain similarities of views on all important regional and international issues.

Nawaz Sharif's request for visa extension denied

DNA

LONDON: Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's request for an extension in his visit visa has been turned down by British authorities, it emerged on Thursday. Nawaz's six-month visit visa had expired, after which he had put in a request with the UK Home Office to grant him an extension on health grounds. The immigration department, however, denied the request. Nawaz now has two options: to appeal the decision with the department, and in the



event it is turned down, he can approach British courts. The Sharif family confirmed the development, with Nawaz's son Hussain Nawaz saying the decision will be appealed.

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Highest positivity since 4th wave onset

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: National tally of COVID-19 on Thursday recorded countrywide positivity ratio during past 24 hours at 9.06 percent which is the highest ever since the fourth wave onset of the pandemic. Covid positivity ratio is the percentage of actual positive cases appearing in every 100 tests performed to identify infected individuals. The nerve center of the country on its official Twitter handle wrote the daily statistics of the disease indicators. There were a total of 62,462 tests carried out for detecting the contagious disease among the masses in the country. Some 5,661 people tested positive out of the total tests conducted across the country, the Forum wrote.

Kashmir will never be part of India: FO

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reiterated that Kashmir never was and never will be a part of India. In response to media queries regarding Indian External Affairs Minister's tweet on so-called New Jammu Kashmir, Foreign Office spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri reminded India that Jammu and Kashmir remains an internationally recognized dispute and one of the longest outstanding items on the UN Security Council's agenda. He said the Indian External Affairs Minister has made unsubstantiated and self-serving remarks about the situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. – DNA

Civil, military leadership reviews security situation

The Prime Minister appreciated efforts and sacrifices of Armed Forces, Police, Intelligence Agencies, Civil Armed Forces and other law enforcement organizations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday chaired a high level meeting to review law and order situation in the country and implementation status of National Action Plan 2014 that was formulated to ensure security in the length and breadth of the country. The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, Information Minister Ch. Fawad Ahmed, Law Minister Dr Farogh Naseem, Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar, Director General ISI Lt Gen Faiz Hamid, DG MO Maj Gen Nauman Zakria, DG ISPR Maj Gen Babar Iftikhar and senior civil and military officers. While reviewing law & order situation in the country especially in tri-border areas of Punjab and Balochistan, it was decided to establish Inter-Provincial Border Committee to address boundary issues using

Survey of Pakistan 2021. It was also decided to further strengthen civil and police administration in the area to improve security situation in the area. The meeting also approved, in principle, a 5-year comprehensive socio-economic development plan for the less-developed areas of Dera Ghazi Khan and Rajanpur to bring them at par with other parts of province especially in the area of infrastructure development, provision of water, health and education. Reviewing implementation status of National Action Plan 2014, the meeting expressed satisfaction over the achievements made so far and decided to update the Plan in order to make it more effective and cater to the needs of present times especially meeting the challenges related to espionage, subversion and cyber security. The Prime Minister appreciated continued efforts and sacrifices of Armed Forces, Police, Intelligence Agencies, Civil Armed Forces and other law enforcement organizations in meeting both internal and external challenges.

Pakistan observes Youm-e-Istehsal

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan observed Youm-e-Istehsal, on Thursday to express solidarity with the oppressed Kashmiri people on completion of two years of India's unilateral revocation of the special status and the subsequent military siege of Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. One minute silence was observed across the country at 0900 hours and traffic came to standstill for one minute and sirens were also played. Radio Pakistan and television channels played Pakistan and AJK national anthems immediately after one minute silence. Posters and billboards highlighting the plight of Kashmiri people have been displayed at the main roads of Islamabad and other provincial capitals. President Dr Arif Alvi in his message on the Youm-e-Istehsal said Pakistan stands solidly by Kashmiris in their just struggle for the right to self-determination and would continue to highlight the Kashmir dispute at the international level. "Our ultimate objective remains the peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute as per relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiris people," he said.

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Belgium claim first gold after shootout win over Australia – Page 06

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Resolution of Kashmir issue beneficial for Pak, India, China – Page 08

Briefs

FIC: 29 ventilators fully functional

FAISALABAD: As many as 29 ventilators were fully functional in Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology to facilitate the patients round the clock.

FIC spokesman said on Thursday, adding that few ventilators developed some small fault due to fluctuation in power supply on August 04 but technical staff of the hospital overcame the issue within 2-2.5 hours.

Contradicting a 'rumor-based' story which appeared in a section of press he said that there were 29 ventilators in FIC and all were in working condition. — APP

UNICEF officials call on minister education

PESHAWAR: The representatives of UNICEF Thursday called on Minister Education Shahram Khan Tarakai at his office and discussed various issues regarding education sector.

Aida Girma UNICEF County Representative, Dr Al. Dowelbit Program Officer UNICEF Peshawar and Syed Fawad Ali Shah Education Officer UNICEF, conducted a meeting with Minister Education and discussed the issues regarding early childhood education classrooms, scaling up innovative interventions during the COVID pandemic to reach out the most marginalized out of school children and adolescents in rural areas and low performing districts, technical issues and others.

UNICEF highly appreciated efforts of Elementary and Secondary Education Department under the leadership of Shahram Khan Tarakai on achieving key milestone in the education sector in KP. — APP

Man kills brother to avenge wife's murder

FAISALABAD: A man killed his younger brother to avenge murder of his wife in the area of Mamonkanjan police station.

Police spokesman said that Mustansar resident of Mamonkanjan had killed Amina Bibi, wife of his elder brother Mazhar, over a domestic dispute about eight years ago.

To avenge this murder, Mazhar overpowered his younger brother Mustansar two days ago and killed him. Later, the accused buried the body near brink of the canal. Family members reported missing of Mustansar to the area police which took Mazhar into custody over suspicion. During initial interrogation, the accused confessed to the offence and got body recovered from canal brink.

The police dispatched the body to mortuary for post-mortem and started investigation after registering a murder case. — APP

FPCCI, OCCI for increased economic cooperation

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry Thursday emphasized on enhancing bilateral trade and economic cooperation mainly in agriculture, textiles and food, foreign capital investment, chemicals, plastics, metals, minerals and electric equipment sectors through exchange of trade delegations, holding trade exhibitions, activation of bilateral business councils for exchange of information.

According to FPCCI statement here, during a meeting between representatives of FPCCI and OCCI at the Federation House, Convenor FPCCI International Forums, Amjad Rafi said Pakistan and the Sultanate of Oman were strategic allies and were friendly neighbors. He added that both brotherly countries had always enjoyed warm and cordial relations.

KP CM leads rally to condemn illegal annexation of IIOJK

Two years ago on August 5, 2019, the fascist Modi Government had scrapped special constitutional status of IIOJK and put the entire held valley into prison, depriving them from all civil, constitutional and legal rights besides human rights

DNA

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister, Mahmood Khan here on Thursday led a big protest rally in connection with Kashmir Exploitation Day to strongly condemn an illegal annexation of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and expressed solidarity with the oppressed Kashmiris of the held valley.

Provincial Ministers, Advisors, Special Assistants to the Chief Minister, Civil Servants, Government officials, human rights activists, members from civil society, elites of the City besides students and people in large number attended the Kashmir Exploitation Day's rally.

Prominent among those, who attended the Kashmir Black Day rally include Provincial Minister Taimur Salim Jhagra, Special Assistant



PESHAWAR: Chief Minister KP Mehmoood Khan, Provincial cabinet members and others participating in a rally to mark Youm-e-Istehsal (Kashmir Siege Day) on military siege in Indian Occupied Kashmir. — DNA

to Chief Minister for Special Education and Information, Kamran Bangash and others.

The rally started from Chief

Minister Secretariat and marched up to Khyber Road. They raised full-throated slogans to denounce an abolition of special status of

IIOJK by fascist Modi Government on August 5, 2019. The charged participants were holdings Pakistani and Azad Kashmir flags,

placards and banners with full throated slogans such as "Indian occupational forces go out of Kashmir, Kashmir banay ga Pakistan

and Kashmir's jugular vein of Pakistan." The rally was later dispersed peacefully at Chief Minister Secretariat. KP's people and Kashmiris observed Kashmir Exploitation Day to express solidarity with the oppressed Kashmiris on completion of two years military siege and scrapping of special status of IIOJK. Two years ago on August 5, 2019, the fascist Modi Government had scrapped special constitutional status of IIOJK and put the entire held valley into prison, depriving them from all civil, constitutional and legal rights besides human rights.

To denounce Indian Government's illegal and unilateral actions, people of KP expressed solidarity with oppressed Kashmiris and deplored the continued atrocities, human rights' abuses, extra judicial killings in fake encounters and state terrorism in the occupied territory.

KPK, WFP provide cash to adolescent girl students

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Elementary and Secondary Education Department (E&SED) of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province are working together to provide cash assistance to families of adolescent girls hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since September 2020, more than 16,000 adolescent girl students between grade 6 to 10 in 232 government girls' middle and high schools in all seven Newly Divided Districts and six subdivisions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"Educating every child especially girl is a key priority of

the provincial government. We are pleased to implement this pilot project with the support of the World Food Programme. Together, we hope this large-scale cash stipend programme can reach every enrolled adolescent girl to help them and their families meet their food and nutrition needs during this challenging time of COVID-19," said the Secretary Education, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Pakistan has the world's second-highest number of out-of-school children. Socio-cultural and economic factors, along with challenges such as limited availability of schools hamper the access and retention of adolescent girls in schools.



PESHAWAR: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) representative Ms. Rebekah Bell during project closure and handing over ceremony of agriculture machinery to Agriculture Department. — DNA

Commissioner for taking effective measures against Covid



FAISALABAD: Divisional Commissioner Saqib Manan chairs a meeting of Coordination Committee regarding anti-corona. — DNA

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: The meeting of Coordination Committee for anti-Corona measures was held under the joint chairmanship of Divisional Commissioner Saqib Manan and Brigadier Kashif Sarwar Alam.

RPO Raja Rifat Mukhtar, Additional Commissioner Coordination Imran Raza Abbasi, Director Health Services Dr. Kamran Rashid, Chief Engineer Irrigation Zafar Ahmad and MD WASA Jabbar Anwar Ch were also present. During the meeting, the Brig. Pak Army said that

due to comprehensive implementation of SOPs in markets, bazaars and public places during the current situation of Corona epidemic besides distribution of face masks and implementation of other anti-precautionary measures. He informed that vaccination process is underway and Faisalabad is 20% above from target set by Punjab Govt. and the positivity ratio is 3.5% now. The Divisional Commissioner said that precautionary measures against Corona virus should be kept in view and effective measures should be taken to protect the citizens from Corona by using all

available resources in this situation.

DC to achieve ant polio campaign targets

Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali has said that on the last day of anti-polio campaign, monitoring teams should go door to door to ensure that children were vaccinated against polio while door marking should also be checked so that the no child left behind for any reason. He said this while reviewing the targets of the ongoing anti-polio drive. The Deputy Commissioner apprised the concerned Assistant Commissioner on the identification of some issues during the campaign by the World Health Organization and asked them to rectify the issues and submitted the detailed report. He urged the health department officials to rectify the situation without delay and report that there should be no negligence in vaccinating the children. He said that the monitoring of the campaign was also underway and the negligence were not due to departmental action. CEO Dr. Mushtaq Sipra briefed the house about the targets of polio campaign.

GCWUF expresses solidarity with Kashmiris

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Government College Women University Faisalabad, under directions of Government of Punjab, observed 5th August as Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir to express solidarity with the oppressed Kashmiri people on completion of 3 years of the military siege of Indian forces in occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK & K). All administrative and teaching staff observed one-minute silence at 9 am today. The staff members gathered in front of admin block of the university holding Pakistani and Kashmiri flags and wearing black ribbons on their arms to protest the Indian annexation of Kashmir. Dr. Zilli-Huma

Nazli (Registrar), Mrs. Rizwana Tanveer Randhawa (Controller of Examination), Ms. Asma Aziz (Director Student Affairs), Muhammad Tariq Shahzad (IT Manager), Dr. Syeda Samina Tahira (Coordinator Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences), Dr. Asma Khalid (Director QEC), Muhammad Arshad (Senior Security Officer), Dr. Nasir Chattha (Incharge Horticulture Society), and heads of all teaching departments were present in the gathering. After observance of silence, Pakistani national anthem, and then Kashmiri anthem was played.

All participants resolved to continue peaceful protest to condemn Indian atrocities inflicted upon innocent Kashmiris at all levels.



Polish envoy stresses enhancing bilateral trade

The trade volume between Pakistan and Poland was quite negligible, and "we must make concerted and result-oriented efforts to give a quantum jump to the bilateral trade"

FAISALABAD: Polish Ambassador Piotr Opalinski said here on Thursday that untapped business cooperation potential between Pakistan and his country must be exploited through enhanced facilitation and linkages between the business communities of the two countries.

According to a press release, he was talking to a delegation of the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), which met him under the leadership of Chamber President Engineer Hafiz Ihtasham Javed. Others attending the meeting were Engineer Babar Shehzad, Rana Ikramullah

and Rashid Munir. The ambassador said that European Union (EU) was Pakistan's largest export

market, recipient of 34% of its exports. However, he noted, the trade volume between Pakistan and Poland

was quite negligible, and "we must make concerted and result-oriented efforts to give a quantum jump to

the bilateral trade". Hafiz Ihtasham said that 90% of Pakistani exports to Poland consisted of textiles,

and the countries must develop direct relations between the businesspeople of Poland and Faisalabad. He mentioned the phenomenal growth of the Information Technology sector in the country and said that with enhanced cooperation in the field, Pakistan could further increase its info-tech exports. He hoped that the Polish embassy would consider the proposal and arrange meetings with the IT experts of the two countries.

He also thanked the Polish ambassador for his cooperation and invited him to visit the FCCI. — APP



UAF holds protest rally on Youm-e-Istehsal

DNA

FAISALABAD: The University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) took out a rally and observed one minute silence to mark "Youm-e-Istehsal" on Thursday.

The events were arranged by the Senior Tutor Office in collaboration with the Public Relations and Publications Department UAF. The rally was led by UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan. Prof Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan slammed Indian brutality, oppression and terrorism in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir which is clear violation of international laws. He said that nation stands united in support to the Kashmiris in the struggle for their inalienable right to self-determination. Principal Officer Public Relations and Publications UAF Prof Dr Jalal Arif, Registrar Umar Saeed Qadri, Senior Tutor Abdul Naveed, Deputy Registrar PPR Qamar Bukhari and other notables also spoke.

New General Bus Stand to cost Rs 4b: DG PDA

PESHAWAR: Director General (DG) Peshawar Development Authority (PDA) Ammara Khan has said that the New General Bus Stand would be constructed outside the city at Sardar Ghari on G.T. Road.

She was briefing a meeting regarding mega projects in Peshawar here Thursday which was chaired by MPA and Focal Person for Mega Projects and Revival of the Glory of Peshawar, Asif Khan. Besides, Special Assistant to KP CM on Information, Kamran Bangash, Provincial Minister for Health, Taimur Saleem Jhagra. DG City District Government Peshawar, Khizer Hayat Khan and other concerned officials attended the meeting. Briefing the meeting, the DG PDA said that the construction of international standard New Bus Stand was the most important mega project that would be constructed on 400 kanal of land.

The project, she said will cost Rs.4 billion, adding that the construction work was expected to begin on October 1, 2021 and would complete by December 2023.

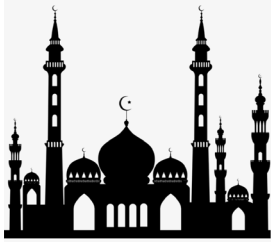
Speaking on the occasion, Asif Khan said that the present government had initiated mega projects in Peshawar to turn it into a provincial capital in real sense and stressed the need for their early completion. — APP

Yaum Istehsal Kashmir observed in Faisalabad

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Like other parts of the country, on Day of exploitation (Yaum Istehsal Kashmir) was also observed in Faisalabad district against the curfew / lockdown imposed by India for last two year in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. A siren was sounded at 9:00 am and minute of silence, traffic halted and national anthems of Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir were played at different spots. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali in his message said that two year has passed since the Indian-controlled lockdown / curfew in occupied Jammu and Kashmir but the determination and courage of Kashmiris remained intact even in the most difficult of circumstances. He said that the world was compelled to recognize the struggle of Kashmiris. He said that indifference to the inhumane atrocities against Kashmiris was a charge sheet against the international community. He said that Kashmiris did not shy away from the demand for self-determination. The Deputy Commissioner said that the Kashmir issue has now turned into a humanitarian crisis rather than a tragedy. He said that the Kashmir crisis was a lament of indifference of the international community. He said that the world is silent on Indian atrocities on Kashmiris but Pakistan stands with the Kashmiris with all its might and will continue to stand. He also offered prayer for the independence of Kashmir.

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	3:49 am
Zohr.....	12:15 pm
Asr.....	5:04 pm
Maghrib.....	7:05 pm
Isha.....	8:38 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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Wapda Islamabad.....9217579

Wapda Rawalpindi 111-309-309

Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation.....9209224

Potohar Town.....9209224

Rawal Town.....5773343

CPMC is a win-win co-op for people's livelihood: PMA

“Against the backdrop of Covid-19 sweeping the world, the importance and significance of CPMA has become increasingly prominent, it’s time to speak out for deeper medical cooperation between the two countries”, says CMA

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: “China-Pakistan Medical Corridor (CPMC) is a win-win cooperation for people’s livelihood, which is significantly important not only for Pakistan, but also for the Chinese medical industry. According to Gwadar Pro, the CPMC is jointly initiated by PMA and China Medical Association (CMA) to deepen bilateral medical cooperation and improve the health level of the Pakistani and Chinese people. “Since the mechanism was launched, a number of events have been held to improve bilateral medical level covering the fields of obstetrics and gynecology, anesthesiology, ophthalmology, osteology and so on.” This was stated by Ashraf Nizami, the chairman of international relations, Pakistan Medical Association (PMA). In a recent interview, a spokesperson of CMA and its spokesman said that: “Against the backdrop of COVID-19 sweeping the world, the importance and significance of CPMA has become increasingly prominent, it’s time to speak out for deeper medical cooperation between the two countries.” PMA expressed the same desire as CMA.



Nizami said: “CPMC, inspired by BRI and CPEC frames, is a historic event in the medical sector for the two countries. Once Pakistan and China have cooperation and solidarity in economic affairs, why don’t we extend them to cover the medical sector? We have to learn from each other in this field. Certainly, Pakistan is eager for all the expertise and the research that Chinese have got, so as we can improve national health level stably and efficiently. On the other hand, Chinese colleagues also saw unlimited potential in Pakistan’s medical industry, so they are taking a positive

attitude towards bilateral cooperation.” Regarding the reasons why Pakistan should strengthen communication with China in the medical industry, Prof. Nizami attributed it to three respects. He said: “The first and most important factor is that Pakistan and China are all-weather strategic partners and have a historical friendship basis. The deep friendship rooted in the people’s hearts of both countries has laid a foundation for medical cooperation which needs solid trust.” “The second reason is that China has made great progress in science and research in the

past two decades. Especially in the medical sector, China has surpassed Western countries in various fields, and walked in the forefront of the world,” he added. Nizami said: “In addition, the facilitative policies under BRI and CPEC have ensured the construction of CPMC to be convenient and affordable. As Chinese president Xi Jinping said, no one can make progress in isolation.” He emphasized again that CPMC is a win-win cooperation for people’s livelihood. He said: “China’s medical industry has been booming and reached great heights on a global scale. Pakistan with its 216 million people, developing medical industry, favorable policies and friendly people has provided a huge space for China to learn, invest and communicate. It is not only the Pakistanis who can benefit from CPMC, but also a great opportunity for our Chinese colleagues to get information, improve expertise, and share experiences mutually.” “Finally, I must say that CPMC, the medical cooperation between Pakistan and China, between PMA and CMA, is a very positive sign which will certainly reflect a very positive impact on the patients, medical professions, medical practitioners, and health sciences of the two countries.



ISLAMABAD: Mashood Atif Bhatti presenting bouquet to Federal Minister for Communication Murad Saeed on YOUM E SHUHADA police, during a ceremony held in Islamabad. – DNA

Pakistan will never abandon Kashmir's people

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PML-Q Punjab Deputy Secretary Information Khawaja Rameez Hassan said in a press release that Pakistan will never leave innocent Kashmiris alone. He said that Kashmiris have made innumerable sacrifices for independence. August 5 is a slap on the face of Hindutva democracy. The world is observing Kashmir Exploitation Day today. The UN has ignored the Kashmir issue to please India. He added that the Pakistani Foreign Ministry had also released its new political map last year in which the status of Kashmir was enough to explain its position to the world. The Modi government is facing disgrace all over the world, including its isolation in the region.

CDA auctions 24 plots worth more than Rs 37.94b in 2 days

ISLAMABAD: CDA auctioned 24 commercial plots worth about Rs 37.94 billion in a two-day open auction in Islamabad. On the second and last day of the auction, 11 commercial plots were auctioned for Rs. 17 billion 595 lakh 36 thousand 580. The auction was overseen by an auction committee headed by a CDA member of finance acquired plots as per choice, Chairman CDA appreciated the effective steps taken by the auction committee, transparency and successful public auction. Among the commercial plots to be auctioned on the second and last day of the auction, Blue Area Plot No. 22 (seven thousand square yards) Commercial Plot Rs. 3 billion 35 crore rupees, petrol pump commercial plot on IGP Road (1791 square yards) 619 million 914 thousand 360 rupees, second commercial plot of Sector F-11 Markaz (1186000 square yards) 158 million 129 thousand 380 rupees, Sector I-11 Markaz (476,000 square yards) plot in sixty-three million four hundred sixty-five thousand eighty rupees, while Diplomatic Enclave Commercial Plot (423,000 per square yards) in one billion six hundred forty-four million nine hundred ninety-six thousand two hundred forty rupees was auctioned. It should be noted that on both the days of the auction, 24 commercial plots of different developed sectors of Islamabad were auctioned for Rs. 37.945 billion rupees. – DNA

Efforts underway to make Rawalpindi a tourism district: Tariq Mehmood

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI:Chairman, Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) Tariq Mehmood Murtaza on Thursday said, for provision of an alternative route to tourists from Rawalpindi to Murree and made new tourist spots, a tourism highway would be constructed which would pass through four Tehsils of the district. Addressing a press conference here on Thursday he said, RDA had started work to finalize a comprehensive plan to make Rawalpindi a tourism district. He said that all-out efforts would be made to promote tourism in the region. He informed that efforts were being

made to make Rawalpindi tourism district, focusing four Tehsils including Murree, Kahuta, KotliSattian and Rawalpindi. He informed that the government would provide facilities at 123 km long road from Chowk Pandori Kahuta to Murree Lower Topa to facilitate the tourists aimed at promoting tourism in the area. He said under new policy introduced to promote construction activities in the district, the building plans were being approved in 30 days, approval of change of land use in 45 days and approval of housing schemes in 75 days. He informed that during last financial year 1600 maps of residential buildings were approved which was a record in the history of RDA.

During last financial year 2020-21, RDA generated revenue amounting to Rs 559 million against a revenue target of Rs 295 million, he said adding, implementing the austerity measures as per the vision of the Prime Minister Imran Khan and the Chief Minister Punjab, Sardar Usman Buzdar, RDA saved Rs189 million from its non-development expenditures. He said the authority would complete process to appoint eleven officers, four Sub-Engineers and one Assistant through Punjab Public Service Commission (PPSC) as the Punjab government has firm belief on merit. To a question he said RDA was taking indiscriminate action against illegal housing schemes, adding, legal

notices were issued to 307 housing projects, 91 chalcans and 112 FIRs were also registered. RDA had sealed offices of 135 schemes while boundary walls and main gates of 61 illegal housing schemes were demolished besides removal of their billboards. On the occasion, he informed that as per the vision of the Prime Minister, the authority had also started digitization of different sections. One Window Operation Center equipped with modern facilities was set up in RDA to facilitate the citizens. Under which residential and commercial building plans were being received digitally and approval is given in a short period of 30 days.

World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report

New skills required in the new era

Learning new skills through online knowledge platform is an opportunity for freelancers and technology enthusiasts to capture global business prospects

DNA

ISLAMABAD: World Economic Forum in its Future of Jobs Report identifies new skillsets required in the post pandemic economic recovery for Pakistan. Digital Skills are the key to harness market appropriate opportunities. Developing and enhancing human skills and capabilities through education, learning and meaningful work are key drivers of economic success, of individual well-being and societal cohesion. The global shift to a future of work is defined by an ever-expanding cohort of new technologies, by new sectors and markets, by global economic systems that are more interconnected than in any other point in history, and by information that travels fast and spreads wide. Yet



the past decade of technological advancement has also brought about the looming possibility of mass job displacement, untenable skills

Emerging Skills for Pakistan Post Covid-19

- Emerging skills sets identified as being in high demand within their organization, ordered by frequency
1. Active learning and learning strategies
 2. Leadership and social influence
 3. Critical thinking and analysis
 4. Creativity, originality and initiative
 5. Analytical thinking and innovation
 6. Reasoning, problem-solving and decision
 7. Complex problem-solving
 8. Technology use, monitoring and control
 9. Troubleshooting and user experience
 10. Systems analysis and evaluation
 11. Attention to detail, thoroughness
 12. Resilience, stress tolerance and flexibility
 13. Coordination and time management
 14. Technology design and programming
 15. Quality control and safety awareness

shortages and a competing claim to the unique nature of human intelligence now challenged by artificial intelligence. The coming decade will require purposeful leadership to arrive at a future of work that fulfills human potential and creates

broadly shared prosperity. Extreme Commerce, Pakistan's foremost institution working to grow in the arena of E-commerce and digital skills, while creating a learning platform for the “Jobs of Tomorrow”, Extreme Commerce has created interactive learning tools for the new generation of Entrepreneurs and Freelancers. As Pakistan's foremost EdTech with a focus on e-commerce and digital skills, it aims to bring innovation and quality along with tech, altogether under the same roof and ultimately make Pakistan the hub for Tech practitioners. Pakistan has been ranked as the 4th fastest growing markets in the world for freelancers, Pakistan is among the top five countries in the world when it comes to freelancing and generates a significant calculated amount of \$0.5 billion en-

tirely from freelancing. Pakistan's e-commerce industry grew tremendously during the COVID-19 pandemic, which is amongst the fastest growth globally. The progressively evolving entrepreneurs in the e-commerce industry are breaking the barriers of feudal mindset. The Future of Jobs Report by the World Economic Forum also signifies that new knowledge capital around jobs on Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence and Deep Data Mining and Analysis are key to foster economic progress. Extreme Commerce pursues to be the fulcrum of opportunity and potential via providing extension in income streams by making sales on international and national E-commerce platforms like Amazon, eBay, Shopify, Fiverr, Upwork, etc. with an aim to infuse \$1 billion for each annum into the local economy.

PIA briefs NA body on its business plan

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) on Thursday briefed National Assembly's Standing Committee on Aviation Division on the progress regarding preparation of its business plan and challenges. The committee met here at the Chairmanship of Haji Imtiaz Ahmed Choudhary, MNA. The Federal Minister for Aviation, Ghulam Sarwar Khan, MNA, also participated in the meeting as its Ex-officio Member. Members/MNAs Malik Karamat Ali Khokhar, Tahir Iqbal, Ms. Asma Qadeer, Ms. SairaBano, Choudhary Faqir Ahmed, and Kamal ud Din also attended the meeting. The representatives from CAA also gave a detailed briefing on National Aviation Policy formulated in 2019 viz-a-viz the short comings in the previous policy of 2015. It was informed that the major Gulf airlines exploited the opportunity of open sky policy given in the National Aviation Policy of 2015 and gave a big blow to the flight operations of the domestic airlines. However, the said policy had been revised in 2019 to encourage growth and development of domestic airlines. The concept was appreciated by the Committee. It was told that the said airport had not been able to exploit its full potential as yet due to Covid-19 factor as well as the decision regarding its outsourcing or otherwise was still pending with the Government.

ICT kick start monsoon plantation drive

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Agriculture Directorate Thursday started monsoon plantation drive with an aim to cover all rural areas of the federal capital. More than 25,000 saplings, both of fruit and forest varieties, will be planted to check Soil erosion and for clean and green environment. Director General ICT Administration SyedaShafaq Hashmi initiated the drive by planting a tree at Tarlai Veterinary Hospital. The Directorate Agriculture was also distributing free-of-cost plants among the citizens to promote clean and green environment in the area. Awareness campaign has also been launched to sensitise the citizens regarding impending challenges of climate change and global warming and the importance of increasing forest cover in the country. Speaking on the occasion, ICT Director General SyedaShafaq Hashmi said that Pakistan's future hinged on planting more and more tree and that future economies would ill-afford the burden of climate change and global warming. Wide-spread forestation was tantamount to ensuring better future for our posterity, she concluded. The Department of Soil Conservation, working under the administration control of ICT, has chalked out a comprehensive plan for carrying out the monsoon plantation activity in all suburban areas of Islamabad.

Pak generates \$0.5b from freelancing

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has generated an amount of \$0.5 billion entirely from freelancing and has ranked as the 4th fastest growing markets in the world for freelancers. Pakistan is among the top five countries in the world when it comes to freelancing and generates a significant calculated amount of \$0.5 billion entirely from freelancing, said a press release issued here Thursday. New skills required in the 'New Era -World Economic Forum's' future of Jobs' report by World Economic Forum said. “We estimate that by 2025, our community will be 1 million strong, generating well over \$1 billion in inward remittance for Pakistan”, it said. – APP

Briefs

Exhibition
'Perpetual
Beings'
opens

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An exhibition in honor of the legendary artists of Pakistan titled "Perpetual Beings" started here on Thursday at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) in connection with celebrating the 74th Independence Day of Pakistan.

According to the announcement, PNCA's National Art Gallery displaying a collection of artworks by the master painters and miniaturists of the country.

PNCA has requested the visitors to maintain a social distancing protocol for a safer viewing experience.

The show would remain open daily from Thursday, August 5, excluding Fridays, Saturdays, and public holidays.

Plan
formulated to
ensure peace,
security

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi District Administration on the directives of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi, Amir Aqib Khan has formulated a comprehensive plan to ensure peace and security during Muharram ul Haram.

According to a district administration spokesman, all the preparations for Muharram ul Haram were being completed under a comprehensive plan finalized in collaboration with Rawalpindi district police and other departments concerned for peaceful passage of the holy month.

He said that all the departments concerned had been given their responsibilities. He said that DC while chairing a meeting held here to review the Muharram arrangements said that Muharram is a holy month for all the Muslims from a religious point of view besides it is also a challenge in terms of security for the law enforcement agencies. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Capt. (Retd) Qasim Ijaz, Assistant Commissioners from all tehsils and heads of the departments concerned.

The enemies of Pakistan try to destroy the peace and order of the country spreading hatred, DC said adding, the law and order situation is satisfactory in Rawalpindi district. The district administration and the police would ensure foolproof security arrangements on their part, with the help of the scholars. The people have also become conscious enough to recognize the enemies who wanted to achieve their nefarious designs by dividing the brothers into divisions, he added.

Projects under
Kamyab Jawan
reviewed

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar Thursday received a briefing on sports projects under the umbrella of Kamyab Jawan Program and directed to finalize the modalities and implementation of the two projects on fast track and asked to submit the status report within a month.

The Talent Hunt Youth Sports League and establishment of High-Performance Sports Academy Centers will be implemented through Higher Education Commission (HEC) in all the provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit Baltistan (GB). Director Sports HEC Javed Memon briefed the Minister on the roadmap for the activities outlined under the projects.

The minister was informed that under the Kamyab Jawan Sports League, sporting events on 12 different sports will be organized including Volleyball, Wrestling, weightlifting, Judo, Boxing, Badminton, Hockey, Football, etc. Competitions will be organized in 28 cities all over the country. Team Players aged 15-25 years selected at the area levels will compete at regional and National levels. — APP

India turning Kashmiris
into minority by false census

Kashmiris have been fighting against Indian atrocities for 70 years, the genocide of Kashmiris in the occupied valley has increased in the last two years: Mushaal Mullick



ZUBAIR AHMAD

RAWALPINDI: India is changing the geographical boundaries of occupied Kashmir. 1.2 million Indians have been settled in Occupied Kashmir since August 5, 2019. These views were expressed by Mushaal Hussein Mullick, Chairperson Peace and Culture Organization while addressing a protest rally, flag hoisting and photo exhibition on

Indian atrocities organized by Punjab Arts Council flanked by Naheed Manzoor and Director Waqar Ahmed.

She said that the Indian fascist government would turn Kashmiris into a minority in the valley by conducting a false census in occupied Kashmir. The genocide of Kashmiris in the occupied valley has increased in the last two years. Mushaal Hussein Mullick said that Hurriyat leadership Syed Ali Gilani, Mirwaiz Umar

Farooq, Yasin Malik and Asiya Andrabi were enduring the hardships of incarceration in Indian jails. Hurriyat leader Ashraf Sehrai was poisoned to death by Indian authorities in jail.

Mashaal Malik further said that India was depriving Kashmiris of their identity, political, religious and economic rights. She said that the Human Rights Commission, the International Court of Justice and the United Nations should take notice of the Indian

atrocities in occupied Kashmir.

The United Nations needs to pass a new resolution for a referendum in occupied Kashmir, while the Kashmiri people want a solution to the Kashmir issue in accordance with the UN resolution. Mushaal Mullick has appealed to the people of Pakistan to expose the ugly face of India to the whole world. Similarly, India has failed in occupied Kashmir before and will continue to fail in the future also.

Addressing on the occasion, Naheed Manzoor said that Kashmir is the lifeblood of Pakistan. Pakistan and Kashmir are inseparable from each other.

Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmad said that August 5, 2019 is the darkest day in the history of Kashmir. He said that every child of Pakistan is standing side by side with Kashmiri brothers. A large number of citizens participated in the rally and photo exhibition.

SECP asks
companies to
file UOBs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has asked companies to submit information of their ultimate beneficial owners (UBOs) through filing of Form 45, required under Section 123A of the Companies Act, 2017.

The SECP will not impose any penalty on filing of overdue UBO Forms 45, if filed before August 13, 2021. The Companies (General Provision & Forms) Regulations, 2018, specify the procedure for companies to obtain, maintain and update information about their ultimate beneficial owners.

To ensure standards of transparency in the ownership and control structure of corporate entities, the government had introduced amendments to the Companies Act 2017, requiring every company to obtain information of its UBOs and file a declaration to this effect with SECP on the prescribed format i.e. Form 45. To facilitate companies, SECP also introduced an online mechanism for submission of Form 45 and issued detailed guidelines including FAQs. A video tutorial, explaining the process of online filing of Form 45, can also be accessed at <https://www.secp.gov.pk/video-tutorial-of-filing-of-form-45-with-secp-ubo-declaration/>.

Rwp covid
positivity
ratio above
20 per cent

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The COVID positivity ratio in two districts of Pakistan remained above 20 percent in last 24 hours amid surge in cases.

Twenty-two districts of the country are important to assess the coronavirus situation in the country, according to sources at the Ministry of National Health. The sources shared that two districts in the country have reported over 20 percent COVID positivity ratio in last 24 hours including Rawalpindi and Karachi, while in seven other districts positive cases rate remained above 10 percent.

The highest test positivity ratio in country recorded in Rawalpindi with 23.93 percent, while in Karachi positivity rate remained 20.59 percent. Test positivity ratio in Skardu remained 19.42 percent, in Hyderabad 16.67 pct and 16.59 percent in Peshawar. In Gilgit positive tests remained 9.26 pct, Muzaffarabad 9.85 percent, Mirpur 14.29, federal capital city Islamabad 10.55, Bahawalpur 11.4 pct, Mardan 8.86 pct, Lahore 7.51 pct and Abbottabad 7.65 pct and Diamir 6.42 percent, sources said.

The test positivity ratio in Swabi remained 5.88 pct, Faisalabad 4.27 pct and Quetta 4.37 percent, according to the sources. Moreover, test positivity ratio in Swat remained 2.12 percent, Gujranwala 2.60 percent, Gujrat 1.82 and Charsadda 1.85 percent, the sources added.

IRSA releases
339,800
cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Thursday released 339800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 430687 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1532.00 feet, which was 140.00 feet higher than its dead level 1392 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 276700 and 196500 cusecs respectively.

The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1196.05 feet, which was 146.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1050 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 44787 and 10,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 225764, 319954 and 202170 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 52700 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 80500 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. — APP



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi chairing a meeting of the Sub-Committee on emerging technologies in I-Voting, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. — DNA

Court rejects bail
petitions of accused
in Noor case

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A lower court of Islamabad on Thursday rejected the post arrest bail petitions of Zahir Jaffar's parents in Noor Mukadam murder case. Additional District and Session Judge Muhammad Sohail announced the reserved verdict on the bail petitions filed by Zakir Jaffar and Asmat Adam.

The court observed that the accused contacted rehabilitation center instead of informing the police about the tragic incident. The parents not only assisted the accused but also tried to hide the proofs, the court observed. The court further said that there was sufficient evidence on record which showed petitioners' connection with the crime. There were serious allegations against Zakir Jaffar and Asmat Jaffar for assisting their son Zahir Jaffar in the crime and hence they couldn't be given bail, the order said. The court said that the act of accused Zakir Jaffar facilitated the main accused Zahir Jaffar in murdering Noor Mukadam. According to the record Zahir Jaffar brutally tortured, murdered and beheaded the victim. The phone contact between accused and his father was proved with detailed record. The court said that there was no such record which proved any old enmity between the two families. Hence the accused were not entitled for bail relief, the order said.

46 per cent
reduction in
accidents on
NH&M

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The road safety initiatives of the government are bearing to improve as Pakistan has witnessed a 46 percent reduction in accidents on National Highways and Motorways during the last two years. Approximately 1.3 million people die across the world each year in a road accident while nearly 25,000 people die each year in Pakistan in road crashes. According to National Highway and Motorway Police, they have prepared plans and set targets to bring further improvement in their working and reduce road accidents through road safety campaigns. Moreover, Motorway police have also found lost valuables including cash and gold ornaments and handed them over to their owners while 275 children were also reunited with their families during the period mentioned.

CDA cracks down on
illegal constructions

It should be noted that the CDA has been engaged in operations against the land mafia

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: On the instructions of the CDA administration, the staff of the enforcement department carried out several operations with the help of the district administration and Islamabad police. These operations were started illegal constructions were demolished in Jaba Tili area according to reports, illegal constructions were going on government lands in Jaba Tili suburb of Islamabad on which the staff of CDA Enforcement Department took immediate action. Demolished 9 illegal rooms built for the construction of new houses with the help of heavy machinery Later, in Tarlai Kalan, an attempt was made to occupy vacant government land between the drain adjacent to Farmhouse No. 46, which was thwarted. The illegal



DPC was also demolished with the help of heavy machinery. In addition, operations were also carried out against roadside fruit stalls in Sector G-9 of Islamabad, as a result of which several fruit stalls were removed while a truckload of trespassers was also confiscated.

Similarly, 1 shop in Mohalla Chhajjar area of Bari Imam, 1 shop along the wall of Quaid-e-Azam University, 4 huts, 1 room, 1 wall, 1 concrete wall in Mohalla Bhatti and 3 new rooms in Mohalla Dhaki were constructed the DPC was also demolished.

In addition, 2 illegal rooms built on government land in Sector G-7/2 were also demolished.

It should be noted that the CDA administration has been engaged in operations against the land mafia for the last several months as a result of which billions of rupees of government lands have been relinquished.

Parliamentary proceedings cannot be challenged

Justice Aamer Farooq inquired the counsel that in case of any clash between the members of parliament, either they could register the first information report (FIR) against each other

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Any decision associated with parliamentary proceedings could not be challenged before the courts, Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani's lawyer Barrister Ali Zafar, arguing in Senate elections case in Islamabad High Court (IHC), said on Thursday.

He pleaded that the powers of parliament, its officers, committees and members could not be challenged under the law. He said only a single party had challenged the decision of presiding officer as parliamentary or any of its committee's decision could only be discussed in the house.

Justice Aamer Farooq inquired the counsel that in case of any clash between the members of parliament, either they could register the first information report (FIR) against each other's.

To this, Barrister Ali Zafar said an FIR could only be registered if anyone was killed in the fight. Quoting another country's precedence of a quarrel in parliament, he said the par-



liament served a contempt notice to lawyers who challenged the parliamentary violence in the court. He said English courts also treated the parliamentary proceedings as their inner subject. The courts could not interfere directly or indirectly in the affairs of parliament, he contended.

The lawyer said Pakistan's parliament had the same privilege as the British parliament kept. Justice Farooq said tra-

ditions were also followed in several matters in Britain.

Barrister Zafar said the basic affairs here were similar to the British parliament. His arguments were based on three points including freedom of expression, sovereignty and powers of parliament and its members, he said adding the institution could not be strengthened without these basic points.

He said the house had freedom of ex-

pression under Article 66(1) and it had powers to make rules for regulating its procedure and the conduct of its business under Article 67.

He said neither the parliamentary matter could be challenged in any court under Article 68 of the Constitution nor the court could raise question on the parliamentary proceedings under Article 69. The Senate chairman's lawyer said Article 66 also mentioned the privilege of parliamentary members. The 66(1) stated that the speech or vote of any member also could not be challenged in courts. The Constitution had drawn a clear line regarding the powers of parliament and courts, he said.

The court instructed the lawyer to conclude his arguments on the next hearing and adjourned the case till August 10. A two-judge bench comprising Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri heard the case.

It may be mentioned here that Pakistan Peoples Party's Senator Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani had challenged the rejection of his seven votes by the presiding officer in elections for the Senate chairman.

Mixed signals

PAKISTAN'S NSA Dr Moeed Yusuf has rightly questioned the American leadership's confusing attitude towards Pakistan. In an interview with the Financial Times, Dr Yusuf tried to make sense of the fact that President Biden is yet to speak with PM Imran Khan, even though the US itself has claimed that Pakistan is instrumental when it comes to facilitating peace in Afghanistan. The attitude of the US leadership raises serious questions about how it perceives the bilateral relationship vis-vis Islamabad, and also the situation in the region at large. The response from the US leadership on several occasions has been that a phone call has not taken place yet due to "technical reasons". Whatever those reasons may be, Dr Yusuf didn't mince his words as he stated that Pakistan has other options. These mixed signals are baffling to say the least. Earlier this week, the US State Department assured Islamabad that Washington recognises Pakistan's vital role in restoring peace in Afghanistan and that it will continue communicating closely with its Pakistani partners. The fact however is that actions speak louder than words. It is quite evident that the US plans playing the 'do more' card going forward as the situation deteriorates in Afghanistan. Pakistan on the other hand lacks the means to respond adequately by having high level meetings with the US administration. Such an arrangement will not work for Islamabad. The US' reasoning that a conversation will take place "when the time is right" is only a further indication of the indifference that exists in the corridors of DC. Pakistan however is not waiting around for the US, and its leadership has made that crystal clear. Pakistan has made a sincere effort when it comes to assisting the US in Afghanistan and in broadening bilateral relations beyond traditional security issues. However, the US would be foolish to take Pakistan for granted.



Resisting taxes

THE Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has clamped down on top-tier retailers for not only failing to meet their Point of Sales (POS) targets but also hiding their profits to evade taxes. Suddenly, it seems as though the largest perceived and promoted revenue stream for the state is failing to live up to expectations. Undoubtedly, instances of evasion should be punished especially considering half of the burden of taxes is pawned off to the end consumer by most retailers. Promises of expanding revenue collection through expanding the tax base was a promise that Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin made to the IMF, along with the government itself. The Rs5.829 trillion target was set on the back of achieving 500,000 POS and integrating them with the FBR. As it stands today, we have only managed to incorporate a mere 11,000 POS that only contributed Rs14 billion in taxes—ironically less by Rs15 million when compared to last year. The situation definitely looks bleak. The FBR's decision to deny 60 percent of all refund claims filed by top retailers that have resisted abiding the law was a step that needed to be taken earlier. Already, retailers pawn off the burden of paying sales taxes to the end consumer anyway. This results in rapid inflation that cripples the masses due to problems of unaffordability. In the end, we find that they are guilty of evading taxes completely, by failing to pay direct taxes on profits, and avoiding them in the same breath by transferring the responsibility onto the customer. It is high time that this profit-hungry practice is corrected. The authorities must reiterate the duty for such businesses to abide by taxation laws. If notions of corporate responsibilities are not appealing enough, then retailers must look at the potential benefits that the taxation system stands to offer. If more POS are tied to the FBR, and greater taxes are paid, then higher refund claims can also be made without the fear of them being rejected. The misconception that the tax system is only out to get businesses must be corrected so that our revenue targets can be achieved.

Kazakhstan's Akims Elections: An expert opinion

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan



Ultimately, democracy has prevailed and common people's greater understanding, national responsibility and maturity of politics having positivity, productivity and participatory orientations have ousted baseless propaganda of the West about so called political fragility and democratic immaturity of Kazakhstan

ON July 25 2021, direct elections of Akims, the head of local executive bodies were held throughout Kazakhstan which vividly reflected Kazakhstan's government strong commitment towards further politicization and democratization. Akim governs villages, townships and rural districts in Kazakhstan thus constitutes important government functionary in the country. It was indeed a huge step towards further strengthening of democratic norms and traditions at the grassroots level in Kazakhstan. Kazakh President H.E. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev proposed an initiative to hold elections for the rural akims on September 1, 2020. It was a key initiative as part of the presidential commitment of political and democratic reforms in the country. It seems that direct elections of rural akims has completely transformed the political orientation, utility, importance and of course composition of the rural politics. It has actually introduced new stage of political modernization in the country. Being visionary leader of Kazakhstan believing in political equality, fair play, democratic transformation and staunch supporter of protection of human rights President Tokayev signed legislative acts providing amendments to the legislation on the introduction of direct elections of akims on May 25. On

June 5, new norms of electoral legislation were implemented. In this connection, certain befitting, positive, productive and participatory amendments have been announced to make local elections in the country more relevant, attractive and comprehensive. The Kazakh President also signed the amendments to the decree "On approval of the Model regulations of the maslikhat (local executive body)" on June 25th. Certain checks and balances and separation of power mechanism were decreed and according to these amendments, the local executive bodies can consider a vote of no confidence on akims based on: a double non-approval of the reports submitted by the governors to the maslikhats and an initiation of the local community regarding dismissal of the governor of a town, a village, or a rural district. On July 25 2021 the direct elections of more than 700 rural akims (governors) were held nationwide throughout Kazakhstan. It was completely fair, free and transparent and up to any international standard. The turnover was more than 78 percent which showed people's commitments towards further politicization and democratization in the country. In this context, the registration of candidates for rural akims, "heads of local administrations" was completed on July 14 with 2,297 registered candidates in total, out of which 1,419 (61.8 percent) are self-nominated individuals which showed people's keen interest in the political and democratic structural reforms of its government. Majority of the candidates were independent which was mitigated Western baseless propaganda about engineered political loyalty or rule of one political party in the country. Direct elections of akims have created additional opportunities for active citizens to realize their own potential. It shows that the presidential political reforms have generated a lot of interest in society. According to Kazakhstan's election commission reports (July 26, 2021) 878 candidates (38.2 percent) were representing different political parties of the country, including the six largest parties. It showed wide political spectrum and diversified democratic acceptability in Kazakhstan's society which has backbone of its vibrant national political system. Each region of Kazakhstan has a different number of registered candidates due to its size and quantity of villages and rural districts. Almaty region has 71 rural districts with 242 registered candidates. Akmol region has 303 candidates for the position of rural akims. Karaganda region has 268 registered candidates with 226 (84 percent) of the candidates are men and 42 (16 percent) are women. All individuals have higher education with predominant expertise in law and economics. The average age is a little over 40. North Kazakhstan, Zhambyl and Kostanay regions have 71, 122 and 147 candidates respectively. Kostanay region also boasts the statistics of every fifth candidate for rural akims being a woman, while Mangystau region has one of the youngest candidates who is 25 years old. The new electoral system was aimed at "boosting" the political participation of the 40 percent of the total Kazakh population living in rural areas, facilitating a transparent decision-making process and fostering more rigorous competition among the political parties. Interestingly, before the amendments, rural akims were appointed by akims of a higher level. Thus direct election of akims is a "paradigm shift" in the "political canvas" of Kazakhstan which has "multiplier" socio-economic benefits. Kazakhstan has "pioneered" the concept of holding direct elections in rural areas which is "commendable". It has further "amalgamated" concepts of modern democracy which is based on "devolution of powers" and "decentralization" of decisions making by "empowering" local people to choose their own political representatives. It is indeed the start of new political culture in the country wherein the Center and regions (rural areas, townships and districts)

have new "social contract", "political bindings" having unique "administrative arrangement" and equation with the 40 percent rural population in the country. Under Kazakhstan's current political system, the president appoints the governors of the country's 14 provinces. Provincial governors in turn name the mayors of major districts. Then, those mayors appoint the heads of smaller rural districts from candidates chosen by local representative bodies dominated by the ruling Nur-Otan party. Under the new system introduced by Toqayev in September 2020, any citizen 25 or older can participate in the local elections for any political slot/position but those who have been convicted of corruption are not eligible. Rural mayors are not allowed to hold office for more than two four-year terms. The mayors of 45 larger districts will also be chosen in a direct vote that is expected to take place by the end of the year. I consider the akim elections held on July 2021, 25 as an important step to further strengthen the connection between the central and regions in Kazakhstan. I term it main democratic development in Kazakhstan and evaluate as an important initiative to build a new political system and people's democratic culture in the country. It has started a new era in the country. It shows the people's desire to participate in the decision making process and has further strengthened the spirits of checks & balances, doctrines of separation of power and consequently has institutionalized concept of "listening state" in which no one is above the law and social justice is embodied right to everyone. In this regard, active participation of people in rural areas has reaffirmed Kazakhstan's historical roots and holy wisdom in the decision making process, especially in the elections since centuries. It verifies the Kazakh government's confidence in itself, the people and its splendid history. Kazakhstan's national policy has been implemented to achieve optimal utility and trust between the state and its people. The successful elections of akims have now established unshakable social peace and stability. Right from the beginning, President Tokayev has announced and implemented effective political structural reforms to improve the welfare of his people which have now created new jobs, social security networks, eradicate poverty and stabilize macro-economy. Thus successful akim elections have now broadened the society's management system in the country. It is holistic, harmonious and people's centric system which resolves their problems at their doorsteps. Hopefully, the introduction of direct elections of rural akims

will facilitate further encourage the massive participation of common people living in remote areas and thus will enhance the accountability of local government bodies towards the needs and issues of the population. It seems that Kazakhstan continues to make significant strides at the democratization and reform process on the 30th anniversary of its independence. In this regard, akim elections", held on July 25, 2021 has emerged as an important step to strengthen center-periphery relations in Kazakhstan. It vividly reflects the superiority and sincerity of holistic policies and wisdom and experience of the Founding Head of State Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev and the President Mr. Kasim Jomart Tokayev, Kazakhstan's future people's friendly policies towards creditable processes of politicization and democratization. To conclude I must uphold that direct akim elections has now opened new norms and traditions in Kazakhstan which are friendly in nature, competent in command, authorize in devolution of powers, centric to decentralization and last but not least having consolidation of rich history with harmonious political maturity and centuries old traditions with modernity. It has now revolutionized the concept of "Listening State" by written new Scheme of Arrangements" in terms of national politics, civil liberties, provision of basic human rights domain, economic self-reliance, formation of integrative mechanism of self-governance and last but not least, slowly but surely moving towards liberal democracy and fair-play in country's politics. It has manifold people's political maturity and further strengthened validity, relevance, importance, utility and significance of its dynamic political system. It is the first time since independence that villagers making 40 percent of Kazakhstan's population have been empowered to directly choose local leadership. A direct election of akims held on July 25 2021 is a right step towards right direction on right time to stimulate sense of rights, duties and responsibilities among the general masses. Massive participation of women, young people and educated youth with 78.54 percent turn-out all speak holistic nature of Kazakhstan political system and blessings of indigenous democratic norms which always "prefer people over corporate propositions, values humanity over humility of egos, development over discretions, prosperity over prosecutions, national dignity over degradation of power politics and last but not least, fair, free and transparency in elections over western biased dissemination of propaganda about its unique model of good governance which is based on "Listening State".



Welcoming the dead – Awa Odori

Prof Dr. Nusrat Majeed



The Buddhist monk was able to save his mother and this act would become tradition with people leaving food offerings like fruits and vegetables, along with some pretty flowers for their ancestors in front of their home Buddhist alter [butsudan]

JAPAN offers the most striking contrast between tradition and modernity. It is such a unique country with its own cultural flair and festivals. It's all amazing and fascinating. It hosts stunning annual festivals, some of which have been celebrated for centuries. Festivals also known as MATSURI are steeped in tradition offering visitors a glimpse of Japanese culture that cannot be found in museums. There are still deeply important community gatherings and this is what makes it worth seeing. These celebrations are tied to culture, history and religion. Each festival is unique and distinguishes itself from others through its history, rituals and dances. By joining these festivals you can not only immerse yourself into that kind of atmosphere that Japanese streets take on during a festival, but also live from the inside of an ancient and rampant tradition that is still part of Japanese people's daily life. In summer there is one such festival, the AWA ODORI, also known as Bon festival. Awa is the former name for Tokushima prefecture and Odori means dance. It is one of the largest celebrations and takes place from 12th to 15th Of August. It is a Japanese-Buddhist celebration where the spirits of deceased ancestors are said to visit living relatives for a few days of the year. Tokushima city's Awa Odori is the most famous of many dance festivals held across Japan during the obon season because of its size, exuberance and anarchy. It has been celebrated for more than 500 years as an annual event that commemorates ancestors. This three day festival is known to have Buddhist roots. According to the story, one of the Buddha's

disciples used his special power to see the spirit of his deceased mother. To his dismay, he learned she was in the Realm of hungry ghosts. Buddha tells the disciple to make food offerings to Buddhist monks which relieves the spirits of their sufferings. The Buddhist monk was able to save his mother and this act would become tradition with people leaving food offerings like fruits and vegetables, along with some pretty flowers for their ancestors in front of their home Buddhist alter [butsudan]. Chochin, a kind of round paper lantern are lit inside the houses and also hung outside the house or brought to the ancestors' gravesite to help guide family spirits back to earth. It has now become a family event, where all family members reunite to celebrate those who have passed away. Between August 12 to 15 spectators and dancers come to Tokushima in thousands for the dance. It was my good luck to be in Tokushima university for my cardiology training during this time if the year. Everyone from the dean of the university to nurses and paramedics very enthusiastically participate getting special dresses made for each department. Our department had cotton kimonos with ECG tracings and a tiny heart. It was fun. Groups of choreographed dancers and musicians dance through the streets accompanied by Taiko drums, flute and kane bell. Performers wear traditional dance costumes and chant and sing as they parade through the streets. They dance to the pounding rhythms and hypnotic melodies at this summer

matsuri to greet their dear ones (the spirits of deceased relatives) who are visiting them for a short while. Although some events happen during the day time, the main spectacle takes place between 18.00 and 22.30 when the group of dancers perform in the blocked off streets of downtown Tokushima. Women wear cotton robes (yukata), while men wear happi [shorter yukata over shorts or pants]. In the evening Tokushima's city center shuts down and is turned into large dancing stage. Typical festival flourish, such as food and game stalls, as well as more dancing, takes place outside the stage area. These festivals are often a representation of Japanese art and folklore, accompanied by drinks, festivities and fantastic food making them one of the most direct connections with traditional Japan.



Briefs

Medal Count					
Pos.	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	34	24	16	74
2	USA	29	35	27	91
3	Japan	22	10	14	46
4	Australia	17	5	19	41
5	GB	16	18	17	51

Pakistan observes Youm-e-Istehsal

FROM PAGE 01

Prime Minister Imran Khan in his message on Youm-e-Istehsal said: "India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 and subsequent measures particularly pertaining to domicile rules and the land ownership laws are aimed at changing the demographic structure of IIOJ&K and converting the Kashmiris into a minority in their own land." He reaffirmed Pakistan's abiding commitment to the Kashmir cause and said we will continue to extend all possible assistance to Kashmiris till the realisation 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 called upon the international community, including the United Nations, human rights organisations and the global media, to hold India accountable for its crimes against the Kashmiri people. Chief of Army Staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, in a statement on the occasion of Youm-e-Istehsal said resolution of Kashmir dispute as per the UN resolutions and aspirations of Kashmiri people is imperative for enduring peace and stability in the region. He said continuation of inhuman military siege, machinations to bring demographic changes and gross violations of human rights and international laws are perpetuating humanitarian and security crises in IIOJK that imperils regional security.

Nawaz Sharif's request for visa...

FROM PAGE 01

Meanwhile, Minister for Interior Sheikh Rasheed said that Nawaz's passport had expired on February 16 and that he is "no longer a citizen of Pakistan". He said after the expiry, Nawaz had not applied for a renewal. "If Nawaz Sharif wishes to come to Pakistan, he can obtain a passport within 24 hours," he said. He said the embassy can only issue a passport for his return to Pakistan. Rasheed said that Pakistan has been trying to bring Nawaz back for a while but is unable to do so. "Only Nawaz knows whether or not he wishes to come back," he remarked.

UK arrests 11 over racist abuse

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Police in the United Kingdom have arrested 11 people in connection with the online racial abuse of three Black English football players following the team's performance in the Euro 2020 final last month. All but one are men and range in age from 18 to 63 years old, police said. Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka were targeted on social media after the national team's penalty shoot-out defeat to Italy on July 11. English football's governing body, England manager Gareth Southgate and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson condemned the abuse at the time, along with other high profile figures, while a campaign grew for social media companies to step up their efforts against online hate on their platforms. The UK Football Policing Unit (UKFPU), which is conducting a hate crime investigation into the incidents, said in a statement on Thursday that it had received more than 600 reports of racist comments being sent to England's Black players after the match.

Belgium claim first gold after shootout win over Australia

India took the bronze earlier on Thursday after a thrilling 5-4 victory over Germany, giving the country its first Olympic medal in the sport since the 1980 Moscow Games. India forward Simranjeet Singh scored twice, including the winner

DNA

TOKYO: Belgium won their first Olympic men's hockey title, beating Australia 3-2 in a penalty shoot-out after the final finished in a 1-1 draw on Thursday. The sides were locked in a close fight through much of the match, with Belgium forward Florent van Aubel giving the Red Lions the lead two minutes into the second half. Australia equalised thanks to a goal by Tom Wickham, sending the match to the shootout, in which Belgian goalie Vincent Vanasch saved three attempts from the Kookaburras, including a retake from Jake Whetton following a video referral. But Vanasch saved Whetton's second try, winning Belgium the title. "We were really focused and then I did the job at the end," Vanasch told reporters. "I'm really happy. I think all of the Belgian people are



proud today of the Belgium national team." Australia, who won the silver medal, claimed their last Olympic title in 2004. "It's a tough way to lose the gold medal," Australia's goalie Andrew Charter said. "We didn't want to

go to shootouts. We had the lion's share (of the game) at the end. If you let it go to shootouts it can be a bit of a coin toss sometimes." India took the bronze earlier on Thursday after a thrilling 5-4 victory over Germany, giving the

country its first Olympic medal in the sport since the 1980 Moscow Games. India forward Simranjeet Singh scored twice, including the winner. "It's a dream come true," Simranjeet said. "We've made 1.3 billion

Indians proud by finishing on the podium." The high-scoring match was not easy for eight-time Olympic champions India. Germany took an early lead through a second-minute goal by Timur Oruz, and posed a threat to India in the first quarter.

After Simranjeet equalised with a backhand shot, Germany kept their cool, scoring twice to take a 3-1 lead in the second quarter. But India pulled level late in that quarter thanks to goals by Hardik Singh and Harmanpreet Singh, making it 3-3 at halftime.

India took a 5-3 lead after Rupinder Pal Singh notched in a penalty stroke and Simranjeet scored the winner not long into the second half. Germany got one goal back and tried to force the equaliser, even taking out their goalkeeper to bring in an extra outfield player but they could not beat India goalie Sreejesh Parattu Ravendran who made nine saves in the match.

USA win bronze against Australia

SPORTS DESK

TOKYO: Megan Rapinoe and Carli Lloyd have led the United States to the bronze medal at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 with a 4-3 win over Australia at Ibaraki Kashima Stadium. It was a nervy and tense finish to the match for both Australia and the USA as the Matildas tried to find the goal that would take it to extra time. The United States wanted to hold onto their bronze medal, with their last-ditch defending proving to be enough to clinch a spot on the podium. "Obviously it started really tough for us," USA coach Vlatko Andonovski said of their opening loss to Sweden. "To finish the tournament with the game we did, I'm proud of the team, I'm proud of the players."

"We sat in a room together [earlier this week] and we talked about a lot of things, watched a lot of videos and we all agreed we were going to get out of this together. All of us together had to pull to come out and win a medal."

Rapinoe opened the scoring after whipping the ball into the goal from a corner. Australia soon found a reply through the ever-reliable Sam Kerr after a Caitlin Foord pass found the Australian captain to level the scores at 1-1.

The goal from Kerr also saw her become the Matildas all-time leading goal scorer. But the Rapinoe show wasn't over just quite yet as the winger latched onto the ball after a defensive error to volley it home for the USA to re-take the lead. As the game began to settle into a rhythm after a rush of goals, the United States showed just why they're World Cup champions with a masterclass goal through Lloyd to give her side a comfortable 3-1 lead heading into halftime. The USA picked up where they left off after the break, with Lloyd taking advantage of another defensive lapse from Australia to score her second of the day and her 10th Olympic goal overall. Foord was able to bring the scores back to 4-2 with a header before Kerr almost levelled with her shot hitting the post.



RAWALPINDI: Azan Ali Khan winner of Second Commissioner Cup U15 Rawalpindi receiving Cash Prize from Sheikh Rashid Hafeez and Muhammad Naeem Secy RDSRA. – DNA

Forest fire in Greece threatens Olympics birthplace

ATHENS: A forest fire in Greece has threatened the archaeological site at the birthplace of the modern Olympics amid the protracted European heatwave. Firefighters waged "an all-night battle" overnight on Wednesday to protect the site from fire in the southern Peloponnese region near ancient Olympia, said Citizens Protection Minister Michalis Chrisochoidis. "We will continue the battle all day in order to contain all the fronts and extinguish the fire. The conditions are difficult," Chrisochoidis said on Thursday. The site is where the Olympics were held every four years from 776 BC for more than a millennium. Regional Governor Nektarios Farnakis told state television it had been "saved for the time being", but warned the danger was "not over". He hoped the fire would be brought under control with helicopters and firefighting planes. In 2007, the same area was ravaged by wildfires that killed dozens of people but spared Olympia's ruined sports venues and temples. The fire department said 174 firefighters, nine ground teams, 52 vehicles, two water-dropping planes and four helicopters were tackling the fire, which broke out on Wednesday. Described as Greece's worst heatwave since 1987, the extreme weather phenomenon has baked the country for more than a week and is forecast to last until at least Sunday. It has sent temperatures spiralling to 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) and created tinder-dry conditions in shrub-land and forests. – DNA



Belarus Olympic sprinter 'happy' to be in Poland

AGENCIES

WARSAW: In a dramatic series of events, Krystsina Tsimanouskaya arrived in Poland after she said Belarus team officials tried to force her to leave the Tokyo Olympics. Belarusian sprinter Krystsina Tsimanouskaya said she was "happy" to be in Poland on Thursday, after claiming Belarus team officials tried to force her to fly home from the Tokyo Olympics. In her first press conference since landing in Poland a day prior, the athlete told reporters and officials that she was relieved to be "in safety." Tsimanouskaya sparked concern after she sought protection with Tokyo 2020 officials on Sunday, saying Belarus team officials had tried to force her to leave the Games and return home. Tsimanouskaya revealed on Thursday the dramatic sequence of events that led her to fly home once she had reached the safety of Poland. The athlete told reporters that her team official had told her to say she

was injured so she would have to return home, but she had refused. The sprinters social media criticism of the way the team was being managed led to her being singled out as mentally ill on state television. At that point, her grandmother told her not to return. Several countries in the European Union offered help, with Poland granting Tsimanouskaya a humanitarian visa. The 24-year-old thanked those who had backed her during the tense diplomatic standoff. "It was the whole world, and these people make me much stronger," she said. She also said she stood by her fellow Belarusian's right to express themselves. "I want to tell all Belarusians not to be afraid and if they're under pressure, speak out," Tsimanouskaya said. Despite her ordeal, Krystsina Tsimanouskaya does not want to give up on her running career. Speaking more of her disagreement with the Belarusian officials, she said she was scheduled to run a race at the Olympics she had never

competed in. It was this that led to her falling out with Belarusian team officials and her consequent social media outburst. She said she will now speak to Polish officials about her athletic future on Friday. The sprinter expressed hopes of returning to the Olympics and even her country at some point, but only when it is safe to do so. Several activists have fled to Poland and other neighboring countries following a crackdown on dissent led by President Alexander Lukashenko's government. Lukashenko previously headed the country's National Olympic Committee for almost a quarter of a century before his son took over the role earlier this year. Tsimanouskaya will soon be joined by her husband, Arseni Zdanevich, who left Belarus this week after Poland granted him a visa. "Being forced to leave the Olympic area is one of the numerous examples of repressions used by the regime against Belarusians," said Pavel Latushka, former Belarusian government minister told DW on Wednesday.

NZ confirms Pakistan's tour after 18 years



DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board announced New Zealand will play three ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League ODIs and five Twenty20 Internationals on their first tour to Pakistan in 18 years. Rawalpindi's Pindi Cricket Stadium will be the venue of the 17, 19 and 21 September ODIs, while the iconic Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore will stage the five T20Is from 25 September to 3 October. While the Rawalpindi ODIs will count towards the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 qualification, third position on the ICC T20I Team Rankings will be up for grabs in Lahore. The ICC World Test Championship

winners will return to Pakistan next year to play Test matches. New Zealand will be the first side to visit Pakistan in what will be a bumper 2021-22 season for the local cricket fans and supporters. Following New Zealand's tour, England's men and women sides will play white-ball matches in Pakistan before West Indies are expected to arrive in Karachi in December for three ODIs and three T20Is. Australia is scheduled to undertake a full tour in February/March 2022. PCB Chief Executive Wasim Khan: "Series against a top-ranked side like New Zealand will be a perfect start to a mouth-watering and highly-exciting home season of red and white-ball cricket. The 2019 World Cup finalists, who are also the World Test champions and ranked third in T20Is, will draw tremendous attraction and interest from the local fans, and will reinforce Pakistan's status as a safe and secure country."

"I am pleased New Zealand Cricket has accepted our offer to play two additional Twenty20 Internationals. These will not only provide extra games to both the countries as part of their ICC Men's T20 World Cup preparations, but will also allow New Zealand players to spend extra days in Pakistan, familiarise with our culture and enjoy our hospitality. "With leading cricket playing countries resuming their tours to Pakistan in 2019, I remain confident and optimistic that the 2021-22 season starting with the series against New Zealand will prove to be a catalyst in rejuvenating our talented youngsters while attracting new fans to the game that has the most passionate following in the country." NZC Chief Executive David White: "We're very much looking forward to returning to Pakistan for the start of their home international season. "New Zealand was the first coun-

try outside India to tour Pakistan and we share a close relationship with the PCB. "It's great that, after such a difficult time for Pakistan, international cricket is again being played in the country." In the Super League, Pakistan have 40 points from nine ODIs, while New Zealand have won all three ODIs and are presently sitting pretty on 30 points. The seven top-ranked sides and World Cup hosts India will progress directly for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 to take place in India in October/November 2023. New Zealand last toured Pakistan in November 2003 when they played five ODIs. A year before, their last Test appearance in Pakistan was at the Gaddafi Stadium in May 2002, which is remembered for Inzamam-ul-Haq's 329 and Shoaib Akhtar's six for 11 in the first innings that set the platform for an innings and 324-run victory.

Since the 2003 ODI series, Pakistan have thrice hosted New Zealand for ODIs in the United Arab Emirates with the Black Caps winning the 2019-10 and 2014-15 series)2-1 and 3-2, respectively and drawing the 2018-19 series 1-1. However, Pakistan won the 2009-10 and 2018-19 T20I series by 2-0 and 3-0, respectively, while the 2014-15 series was tied at 1-1. New Zealand drew the 2014-15 Test series 1-1 and won the 2018-19 series by 2-1.

Series schedule

11 Sep – Arrival in Islamabad
12-14 Sep – Room isolation
15-16 Sep – Training/practice/intra-squad match
17 Sep – 1st ODI, Rawalpindi
19 Sep – 2nd ODI, Rawalpindi
21 Sep – 3rd ODI, Rawalpindi
25 Sep – 1st T20I, Lahore
26 Sep – 2nd T20I, Lahore
29 Sep – 3rd T20I, Lahore
1 Oct – 4th T20I, Lahore
3 Oct – 5th T20I, Lahore

Pakistan won't accept Taliban...

FROM PAGE 01

He urged the Afghan government and the Taliban to "compromise and reach a peace settlement" as the fighters made rapid gains amid a US troop withdrawal. "There will have to be some compromise given the ground reality. But the violence will have to stop," he added. He dismissed talk of Islamabad exerting leverage over the Taliban. "Whatever limited leverage we had, we used," he said, pointing to Pakistan encouraging the Taliban to enter talks with the Afghan government in Doha. "Now with the US troop withdrawal, that leverage has logically gone down further," he added.

US should give Pak...

FROM PAGE 01

Pakistan, it puts them at a disadvantage too, Qureshi told a private news channel. He said an impression was being given of tensions in Pakistan-US relations. The foreign minister was confident that Pakistan and the US want the same things. "America wants stability in Afghanistan, we want the same. The US is saying there is no military solution to Afghanistan, we are saying the same thing. They are saying a solution should be found through comprehensive talks, we are also saying the same thing," Qureshi explained. "Let the Taliban and Afghan rulers sit together and decide their future," he said, adding that Pakistan is trying its best to persuade the Taliban. He said that what Pakistan is doing is for its security and survival and for peace and stability.

Russia to invite Pak, US, China...

FROM PAGE 01

The "extended Troika" meeting is scheduled to be held in Qatar on August 11. Talks under the format had earlier taken place on March 18 and April 30. Russia has also been holding the "Moscow Format" of talks to bring peace and creating conditions for the process of national reconciliation in Afghanistan. Last month, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in Tashkent that Russia will continue to work with India and other countries which can influence the situation in Afghanistan. Following the comments, there was speculation that India may be included in the upcoming "extended Trioka" meeting.

UK eases travel curbs for several..

FROM PAGE 01

meaning that people coming from these countries will not have to quarantine if their test results are negative and they have been fully vaccinated with a vaccine approved by the UK. Fully vaccinated people and those under the age of 18 coming to the UK from France will also no longer need to quarantine. Mexico and Georgia, along with the French overseas territories of Mayotte and La Reunion, have been added to the red list, making it necessary for travelers coming from there to quarantine in government-run facilities. All the changes will come into effect starting this coming Sunday.

Pakistan to stay in the red list

FROM PAGE 01

Mayotte have also been moved onto the red list. Moreover, passengers from red list countries need to take a COVID-19 test before they enter England – children aged 10 and under do not need to take it. Khan said the coronavirus situation is better in Pakistan, except for Karachi, "and our government has done tremendous work in its COVID-19 response." "Pakistan's coronavirus response has been acknowledged globally," he said. The Economist, in a report, had ranked Pakistan at number three out of 50 countries who performed well in controlling the COVID-19 spread.

Briefs

Israeli jets launch air raids on S. Lebanon

AGENCIES

ANKARA: Israeli fighter jets have launched air raids on neighbouring Lebanon following a second day of rocket fire from across the border.

"Earlier today [Thursday], rockets were fired from Lebanon into Israeli territory," the Israeli air force tweeted. "In response ... fighter jets struck the launch sites and infrastructure used for terror in Lebanon from which the rockets were launched. "An additional target in the area from which rockets have been launched in the past was struck as well." Speaking to Israel's YNet TV, Defence Minister Benny Gantz said: "This was an attack meant to send a message ... Clearly we could do much more, and we hope we won't arrive at that." Gantz said he believed a Palestinian faction had launched the rockets. Small Palestinian factions in Lebanon have fired sporadically on Israel in the past. Israeli aircraft routinely target Palestinian armed groups in Gaza and suspected Hezbollah or Iranian targets in Syria but it was the first time since 2014 that they had hit targets in Lebanon, the air force confirmed. Previous acknowledged military actions mostly involved artillery shelling.

Belarus to close its border

WEB DESK

Minsk: The president of Belarus has ordered the country's security forces to tighten control over the border with Lithuania, which had begun turning away migrants attempting to cross from Belarus earlier this week.

Lithuania, a European Union member state, has faced a surge of mostly Iraqi migrants trying to enter the country irregularly in the past few months. The surge is emerging as another source of tension between Belarus and its European neighbours to the west. It says the flow has been a retaliatory tactic by Belarus' President Alexander Lukashenko after the EU sanctioned his country for diverting a plane flying to Lithuania to force it to land in the Belarusian capital Minsk in order to arrest a dissident on board. On Tuesday, Lithuania said it reserved the right to use force to stop such irregular immigration and turned away 180 people attempting to enter the country. Lukashenko on Thursday ordered defence and security agencies to "close every metre of the border" so migrants turned away by Lithuania could not get back into Belarus.

Azeri, Turkish FM's hold phone call

FOREIGN DESK

BAKU: Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov discussed the deadly wildfires in Turkey with his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu during a telephone conversation, the ministry's press service reported on August 5.

The ministers exchanged views on the latest situation with forest fires in Turkey, operations to extinguish and prevent their spread, as well as the participation of Azerbaijani fire-fighters in these operations, the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry said.

During the conversation, Cavusoglu thanked Azerbaijan for helping Turkey in extinguishing forest fires.

In turn, Bayramov reminded that Azerbaijan has always stood by brotherly nation and is ready to provide any assistance to Turkey in these difficult times.

On August 4, Cavusoglu said at a press conference that 40 fire engines with a staff of 150 people and 1 plane with a staff of 10 people would arrive in Turkey from Azerbaijan on Thursday. Meantime, Turkish Anadolu agency reported that a new group of Azerbaijani fire-fighters, sent to extinguish forest fires, had already arrived in Turkey.

Azerbaijan demonstrates clear position on Kashmir issue

The ambassador thanked Azerbaijan for supporting Pakistan in the Kashmir issue, and also added that "Azerbaijan has provided unshakable support. President Ilham Aliyev has clearly and plainly demonstrated his position on this issue"

DNA

BAKU: As in Pakistan, representatives of different religions live peacefully in Azerbaijan, Pakistani Ambassador to Azerbaijan Bilal Hayee said at an event dedicated to the second anniversary of the abolition of the status of Jammu and Kashmir, Report informs.

The ambassador thanked Azerbaijan for supporting Pakistan in the Kashmir issue, and also added that "Azerbaijan has provided unshakable support. President Ilham Aliyev has clearly and plainly demonstrated his position on this issue." Bilal Hayee noted that, unlike other countries, Azerbaijan does not apply double standards. He also said that representatives of the Organization of



Islamic Cooperation (OIC) will soon visit Azad Kashmir (Free Kashmir). The ambassador said that "Pakistan would also like to organize a visit to Jammu and Kash-

mir, but the Indian side does not allow independent journalists, representatives of international organizations, and foreign observers there."



Bilal Hayee said that recently the Kashmir issue had been brought up for discussion by international organizations three times. "The European Parliament

has held hearings on the situation in Kashmir and is demanding the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions. In the occupied provinces, it is necessary to

hold a referendum so that the people living there vote in which state they want to live. Pakistan will accept the results of the referendum in Jammu and Kashmir."

Biden admin approves 1st arms sale to Taiwan

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: The Biden administration on Wednesday gave the nod for its first potential arms sale to Taiwan, a deal worth up to \$750 million that is likely to further stoke tensions with China.

The US Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) said the sale of 40 155mm M109A6 Paladin Medium Self-Propelled Howitzer System and related equipment has been approved.

"This sale serves US national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's [Taiwan] continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability," read a DSCA statement.

"The sale will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, economic and progress in the region."

During former President Donald Trump's tenure, Washington signed defense deals worth \$18 billion with Taiwan.

The US sold weapons worth over \$4 billion to Taiwan last year, further straining its already tense relations with Beijing, which views the deals as violations of the "One China Policy."

Beijing claims the island nation of Taiwan as a "breakaway province," while Taipei insists it has been independent since 1949.

Azerbaijani positions come under Armenian fire

DNA

BAKU: Baku today reported that its army positions came under fire from Armenian units in the country's four regions on the night leading to August 5.

The Azerbaijani Defence Ministry reported that the units of the Armenian Armed forces fired at Azerbaijani Army positions in the direction of the Heydarabad settlement of the Sadarad region (in Nakhchivan exclave), Novoivanovka and Galakend settlements of the Gadabay region, Istisu and Yellija settlements of the Kalbajar region, the Tazakend settlement of the Dashkasan region on August 4, starting from 14:50 to 00:00 (GMT+4).

Small arms were used during the attack by Armenian units stationed in the Arazdeyen settlement of the Vedi region, Yukhari Shorzhaz, Azizli, Shishgaya, and Garaiman settlements of the Basarkechar region, the Ardanish settlement of the Chambarak region, the ministry said.

There are no losses or wounded among the military personnel of the Azerbaijani Army.

Russia, Uzbekistan hold military drills

FOREIGN DESK

TASHKENT: Practicing sabotage actions behind the lines of a conditional enemy at the Termez mountain range by servicemen of special forces units of Russia and Uzbekistan took place.

In the course of practical operations, the reconnaissance groups of the Special Forces carried out a landing from the Mi-171 and N-215 transport-combat helicopters using a parachute-free method, using launching devices. Landing with the use of elements of mountain equipment was carried out from a height of 25 meters to unprepared sites.

After landing, the special forces conducted reconnaissance of the area, found and destroyed the camp of conditional illegal armed groups.

Also, the reconnaissance groups worked out the issues of removing the sentry, conducting observation, making a march of many kilometers to the assembly point.

About 1,500 servicemen of the armed forces of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Uzbekistan are taking part in the joint Russian-Uzbek exercise at the Termez training ground.

Youm-e-Istehsal event held in Dhaka

NEWS DESK

DHAKA: Kashmir Youm-e-Istehsal event in Dhaka reaffirmed support to the oppressed people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

The High Commission for Pakistan in Dhaka organized a virtual event today to observe "Youm-e-Istehsal" to express solidarity with the oppressed people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Pakistan community members as well as media representatives attended the event.

Messages of Hon. President Dr. Arif Alvi, Hon. Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan and Hon. Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood

Qureshi were read out on the occasion.

In their messages, the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan reiterated call on the international community to hold India accountable for its illegal actions and crimes against the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) while renewing Pakistan's commitment to just struggle of the occupied Kashmiri people for their right to self-determination.

The Foreign Minister in his message expressed solidarity with the people of IIOJK and reaffirmed Pakistan's abiding commitment to the Kashmir cause and its steadfast support to the people of Kashmir until the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination.

Kashmir Youm-e-Istehsal event in held in Ankara

DNA

ANKARA: The Embassy of Pakistan Ankara organized an event to observe "Youm-e-Istehsal" as a show of solidarity with the oppressed people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), held today in Ankara. Representatives of civil society, media, think-tanks, and Kashmiris living in Ankara attended the event.

Messages of the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out by Deputy Head of Mission Arshad Jan Pathan. Showing solidarity with the oppressed Kashmiris, Pakistani leadership in their messages urged the international community to

hold India accountable for gross human rights violations in the IIOJK and hold a plebiscite to settle the dispute which is key to peace and stability in South Asia. Both the President and the Prime Minister said that the Indian atrocities in IIOJK are a manifestation of rising Hindu Fascism that wants to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory through new domicile rules and new land ownership laws. The people of IIOJK are being subjected to collective punishment by the Indian Occupation Forces, which have turned the territory into the largest militarized zone in the world. Pakistani leadership reaffirmed continuation of its steadfast support to



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.

Turkish Parliamentarian Ms. Asuman Erdogan, who is also Chairperson of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly Group in the Turkish Parliament,

reiterated Turkey's support for the oppressed Kashmiris. Condemning the human rights violations and oppression of the Indian occupation forces in Kashmir, Ms Erdogan said that Turkey would remain steadfast in its support for the genuine cause of the Kashmiris.

Ambassador Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi in his speech thanked the Turkish nation and the leadership for their unwavering support for the oppressed Kashmiris in IIOJK. He urged the international community to come forward and play their role in resolving this dispute as per the wishes of the Kashmiris through a plebiscite as enshrined in the UN Security Council Resolutions.

India paving the way for an apartheid in IIOJK

The ambassador also drew similarities between Indian illegal actions in Kashmir and Israel's attempts to disenfranchise Palestinians and depopulate Jerusalem of its indigenous population

DNA

JAKARTA: The Embassy of Pakistan, in connection with Youm-e-Istehsal, held a webinar titled: 'Jammu and Kashmir Dispute and Its Implication on the Peace & Security in South Asia and Beyond on 5 August 2021'. The webinar was organized in collaboration with the reputed universities and organizations from various parts of Indonesia. The Speakers included:

- 1- H.E Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, Ambassador of Pakistan to Indonesia, Timor Leste & ASEAN.
- 2- Drs. Nur Munir, Head of Islamic and Middle Eastern Research Centre, University of Indonesia.
- 3- Prof. Dr. Yusny Saby, Leading Academic.
- 4- Dr. Zahir Khan, Chairman Kashmir Solidarity Forum
- 5- Prof. Darni M Daud, Syahkuala University Aceh
- 6- Ms. Khairunnissa Simbolon - Lecturer in International Relations Department, Universitas Lampung
- 7- Ms. Astiwi Inayah - Lecturer in International Relations Department, Universitas Lampung

Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, in his keynote address, gave a brief overview of the history of the



Kashmir dispute. He mentioned about the illegal action taken by India especially in the wake of 5 August 2019 in an attempt to deprive the Kashmiris of their right to self-determination, which has been rejected by Kashmiris as well as Pakistan. Revoking Article 370 and 35A of the constitution meant that India is officially declaring the UNSC resolutions, calling for a free and fair referendum in Jammu and Kashmir, as null and void which is a slap on the face of the UN and its members.

He stated that by allowing non-Kashmiri Hindus (not Christians or Muslims) to acquire property and settle in the state, India has started

implementing a systemic program to transform the Muslim-majority in the state to a minority. This law paves the way for a demographic apartheid in IIOJK and is in direct contravention of international law, especially Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The ambassador also drew similarities between Indian illegal actions in Kashmir and Israel's attempts to disenfranchise Palestinians and depopulate Jerusalem of its indigenous population. Not only Pakistan but also a growing number of the international community, including the United Nations, Genocide Watch, Amnesty International, OIC etc. have condemned these illegal ac-

tions. The Genocide Watch issued a genocide alert for IIOJK. The UNSC has held three hearings since 05 August 2019 on the issue. These consultations have reaffirmed the Council's role in the dispute, repudiating the Indian position that their actions in IIOJK were an "internal affair".

The ambassador mentioned that Pakistan continues to stand with our brothers and sisters in Kashmir and we will extend all political, moral, and diplomatic support to them until the final resolution of Kashmir dispute according to the aspirations of the people to be expressed through a free and fair plebiscite under the auspices of the UN.

Professor Darni M. Daud mentioned that Kashmir's paradise had been converted into hell by Indian occupation forces. He stated that both Pakistan and India had fought three wars over Kashmir. The dispute has become a nuclear flashpoint and can engulf the wider region leading towards World War III. He, therefore, urged all stakeholders to work towards an amicable solution to the dispute.

Professor Nur Munir, in his remarks, highlighted Islamic teachings of confronting oppression and injustice and stated that Indonesia's foreign policy was based on

the principles of rule-based international order and social justice. He dwelt upon the principles of Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the universal tenets of freedom, justice and peace in the world. He also mentioned about the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' report in Human Rights Council (HRC) in February 2021 and India's Citizenship Amendment Act which was discriminatory against the minorities and Kashmiris.

Professor Yusni Sabi stated that Indonesia's founding principles of Pancasila rejected injustice and oppression and Indonesians support Kashmiris' rights to self-determination.

Dr. Zahir Khan stated that India was a terrorist state and the international community must take cognizance of its illegal actions against the innocent Kashmiris. Ms. Khairunnissa Simbolon, and Mr. Astiwi Inayah discussed the human rights tragedy going on in Jammu & Kashmir, and possible solutions of the dispute.

The Webinar was attended by more than 275 academics, scholars, intellectuals, researchers, members of political and religious organizations, and students.

Briefs

PML-N rejects
new inquiry
against
Shehbaz

DNA

ISLAMABAD: While condemning the initiation of a new inquiry against Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) President Shehbaz Sharif, PML-N Spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb termed the move a wicked NAB-Niazi nexus.

Addressing to the media persons on Thursday, Ms Aurangzeb said that the government's decision to open a new probe against Shehbaz Sharif was an uncouth attempt on part of Prime Minister Imran Khan Niazi and NAB to harass the PML-N president.

She was of the view that Niazi-NAB nexus had been exposed to the people and in the courts during the last three years. Imran's fabricated narrative of money laundering and so-called accountability has been destroyed but the fire of jealousy is still burning, she added.

Ms Aurangzeb asked the NAB-Niazi nexus if they couldn't see the flour, sugar, electricity, gas, and LNG scandals. She took the NAB executive board to task for condoning Rawalpindi Ring Road and drug scams.

Karachi
suffers
vaccine
shortages

DNA

KARACHI: With thousands of people thronging vaccination centres across the city, a shortage of the Sinopharm, Sinovac, and AstraZeneca vaccines is being witnessed, Sindh Health Department officials said Thursday.

The health department officials said vaccine reserves have been exhausted at Expo Centre, Dow Ojha Hospital, and Sindh Government Children Hospital, while supplies to inoculation centres at New Karachi, Liaquatabad, and Lyari have been suspended.

The officials said the first dose of Sinopharm, Sinovac, and AstraZeneca vaccines are not being administered, while a sparse number of jabs were available for those seeking a second dose.

The majority of the people are being administered the Moderna vaccine, they said. The health department officials said people had started visiting nearby and drive-through vaccination centres after the government had increased the number of inoculation centres. It will take at least a week for more vaccine doses to arrive in the province, they said. Vaccination centres have been overrun after the government announced penalties for the unvaccinated, including blocked mobile SIMs and barred access to offices, restaurants, shopping malls, and transport.

Turkey and
Greece reel
from raging
wildfires

NEWS DESK

ANKARA: Turkish coast-guards evacuated hundreds of villagers away from a smouldering power plant Thursday and Greek firefighters battled a major blaze near an ancient Olympic site as a historic heatwave wreaked havoc across Europe's southeast.

The two regional rivals have been united this week in their fight against disasters that top officials and experts link to increasingly frequent and intense weather events caused by climate change. Eight people have died and dozens have been hospitalised across the southern coasts of Turkey since the wildfires erupted last week. The blazes in Greece this week briefly cut off the main road leading to Athens and saw worrying fires break out in Olympia – the birthplace of the Olympic Games that is usually crowded with tourists – and on the eastern island of Evia.

Resolution of Kashmir issue
beneficial for Pak, India, China

“We will be able to connect ourselves with Central Asia, and from Central Asia we will be able to connect with the European Union,” says Chaudhry Fawad

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain has said the resolution of Kashmir issue would pave the way for Pakistan, India and China to emerge as a major economic hub of the world. “We will be able to connect ourselves with Central Asia, and from Central Asia we will be able to connect with the European Union,” he said in an interview with a private news channel.

Just imagine the magnitude of opportunities the entire region had been missing due to irresponsible, illegal and oppressive Indian policies, he remarked.

Fawad said what India did on August 5, 2019, no government in any other country with sane mind, would have done. Unfortunately, there was a government in India which had no sense of international responsibility. “They are not right people, they are extremists. RSS philosophy is very close to Nazism,” he said.

Prime Minister Imran Khan, he said, had, more than once in his speeches, referred to the ideologies of Nazis and RSS being pursued by the present Indian government. “They are very close to Hitler in their demeanour, attitude and actions,” he said, adding after Hitler, who in the

PM Imran, OIC delegation
discuss IIOJK situation

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Thursday describing the situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Palestine as a “huge injustice of history” said it was important for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and world to take steps to correct it. The prime minister expressed these views while talking to a delegation of the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC), which led by its Chair Dr Saeed Al-Ghufli called on him. He expressed grave concern about the egregious violations of human rights in IIOJK, which have assumed alarming proportions during the last two years. The prime minister shared his deep anguish over the hardships and suffering being endured by the people of the occupied territory, especially since 5 August 2019 when Indians took illegal and unilateral measures in IIOJK. He added that the people of IIOJK, demanding their inalienable right to self-determination promised to them under numerous UN Security Council resolutions, were being brazenly brutalized, extra-judicially killed, injured, maimed, tortured and arbitrarily detained. The indiscriminate use of pellet guns had resulted in the mass blinding of Kashmiri youth. However, despite using every single tool of oppression, India had failed to break the will of the Kashmiri people, he added. Dilating upon the Indian regime's “Hindutva” ideology, the prime minister emphasised that Kashmiri Muslims were being targeted in order to suppress their demand for freedom from Indian occupation and repression. He underscored that Muslims in IIOJK were being denied their fundamental right to self-determination as well as freedom of religion or belief. – DNA

Second World War annexed Austria to Germany, it was the first time an attempt was made to annex a nation (Kashmiris). The minister said the whole world was stunned by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's action of August 5, 2019, and the magnitude of reaction within and outside India reflected the implications of

Modi's bid of forced annexation of Kashmir. “Obviously this is not possible. They may try to convince the political parties in India but they should forget about the outside world. Even political parties within India are not convinced. Indian National Congress is on record opposing this action.

The Kashmiri leadership, which had been siding with India, is now up in arms.”

To a question, he said frankly speaking, economic interests did matter, but India was paying a heavy price for the illegal occupation. If today the Kashmir dispute were resolved, India and Pakistan would become normal neighbours, he added.

Prime Minister Imran Khan, he said, not once but at least seven times had elaborated his vision about ties with India.

“Imran Khan is one of the few Pakistani leaders, who knows India like back of his hand,” he said, adding he (PM) had friends in India and enjoyed celebrity status there.

“Once I went to India, they said if Imran addresses a rally in Delhi it will be bigger than his rallies in Pakistan. He is very popular in India as well.”

Fawad said Imran had the vision that if both the countries came to terms on Kashmir, then Pakistan, India and China would be at the centre of two biggest markets of the world.

He said what Indian Prime Minister Modi was doing and his way of thinking was very close to Hitler. Modi believed that there was no international law, he believed in extremist ideology of Hindutva, and he was trying to impose it on a very large country like India without realizing the consequences, not realizing how the people would react to that, was very close to what Hitler tried to do in Europe.

World must rouse
from its slumber
on Kashmir issue

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that India's controversial, unilateral and illegal decision to revoke Occupied Jammu and Kashmir's special status was a desperate attempt to suppress the Kashmiris' movement for independence.

On the occasion of the Youm-e-Istehsal (Kashmir Siege Day) being observed on August 5 to protest against the illegal merger of Occupied Kashmir into Indian territory, the PPP Chairman said that

the Modi-regime's actions weren't only

an attack on the occupied valley and its peaceful people, but also a blatant attack on the legitimacy and writ of International law, the will of the global population as expressed in the UN Resolutions, and on the principles and philosophy of co-existence, democratic values, and humanity.

“The siege of Occupied Kashmir by occupying Indian forces will always be remembered as a dark chapter in human history”, he said.



ISLAMABAD: Suh Sangpyo, Korean Ambassador to Pakistan calls on Senator Syed Shibli Faraz, Federal Minister for Science and Technology. – DNA

Farrukh asks
Shehbaz to face
accountability

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Thursday asked Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif to face accountability at NAB to prove his honesty. “All the institutions in Pakistan are independent and working in accordance with the Constitution. If Shehbaz Sharif is honest then why is he afraid of presenting himself before the NAB,” Farrukh said in a statement

while reacting to PML-N Spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb's remarks.

He said, Sharif family, during the tenure of PML-N government, set new records of pressurizing the state institutions, laundering their dirty money and committing corrupt practices. Their outcry was only meant to protect the money which they accumulated during their stint through a record corruption, he added. The more corruption one did during the PML-N tenure, the more rewarding official position he used to get, Farrukh said.

China calls for proper, peaceful
resolution of Kashmir issue

BEIJING: China on Thursday reiterated its consistent and clear position on Kashmir issue and called for its proper and peaceful settlement under the United Nations (UN) Charter, United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and bilateral agreements.

“China's position on the Kashmir issue is consistent and clear. The Kashmir issue is an issue left over from history between India and Pakistan and should be properly resolved peacefully in accordance with the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements,”

a Chinese foreign ministry's spokesperson Zhao Lijian said in response to a question regarding completion of two years of India's illegal act of August 5, 2019.

On August 5, 2019, in violation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir and of international law, India took unilateral measures in a bid to change demography of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and tried to obliterate the distinct identity of Kashmiri people. The spokesperson said that as a common neighbour of India and Pakistan, China sincerely hoped that In-

dia would live in harmony, peacefully resolve dispute between the two countries through mutual dialogue, and work together to maintain peace and stability in South Asia.

The remarks of the Chinese spokesperson came at a time when entire Pakistan nation is observing 'Youm-e-Istehsal' to protest the completion of two years of India's illegal act of August 5, 2019.

Last month, in the joint press release of the Third Session of the Foreign Minister's Strategic Dialogue of China and Pakistan held in Chengdu, capital city of

Sichuan Province of China, the Pakistani side briefed the Chinese side on the deteriorating situation in Jammu and Kashmir, including its concerns, position and current urgent issue.

The Chinese side reiterated that the Kashmir issue is a dispute left over from history between India and Pakistan, which is an objective fact, and that the dispute should be resolved peacefully and properly through the UN Charter, relevant Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements. China opposes any unilateral actions that complicate the situation. – APP

Pak, Iran to enhance trade through more routes

The two leaders discussed in detail the integration of Pakistan-Iran relations, regional development, economic cooperation and parliamentary ties

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Long-standing religious, cultural and social ties between Pakistan and Iran need to be made the basis for economic cooperation and trade promotion. This was reiterated by Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjirani during his meeting with the newly elected President of Iran, Dr. Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi. Chairman Senate is representing Pakistan at the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected President of Iran. The Chairman of the Senate accompanied by a Parliamentary Delegation called on the President of Iran, said a message received here. Chairman conveyed a message of good wishes from the President of Pakistan, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the Parliament of Pakistan and the people of Pakistan to Dr. Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi, on his election as President of Iran and assured all possible cooperation for further development of bilateral relations.

Chairman Senate said that the long standing cultural, religious and social ties between the two countries paved the way for further integration of trade relations in the future. Unfortunately, trade relations and



economic cooperation between the two countries are far below the potential. Parliamentary diplomacy can play a key role in developing these ties on a solid basis. Friendship groups in the Parliaments of the two countries can formulate strategies to develop parliamentary relations and increase trade volume. The two leaders discussed in detail the integration of Pakistan-Iran relations, regional development, economic cooperation and parliamentary ties. On the occasion, the Chairman Senate hoped that under the leadership of Dr. Sayyid

Ebrahim Raisi, the long-standing, religious and cultural and trade relations between Pakistan and Iran would be further integrated. The two leaders also agreed to make joint efforts to address the growing challenges of Islamophobia. Chairman Senate also stressed the need to increase the exchange of Parliamentary Delegations between the two countries and said that further steps should be taken to promote economic ties and trade between the two countries. Talking to the newly elected President of Iran, the Chairman Senate

said that development in the border areas of Iran adjacent to Balochistan would further enhance people to people contacts and trade cooperation between the two countries.

The two leaders also discussed issues facing the Muslim Ummah, especially the Kashmir and Palestine. Chairman Senate said that the international community must play a proactive role in supporting the right of Kashmiris to self-determination and preventing Indian atrocities in Indian occupied Kashmir.

He thanked the Iranian leadership for its continued support for Kashmiris' right to self-determination. The Chairman Senate, while talking to the newly elected President of Iran, stressed the need to open more trade routes and establish border markets in the border areas of Balochistan to boost trade between the two countries. He requested Iran to ensure uninterrupted power supply from Balochistan to the border areas of Gwadar, Turbat, Panjgur and Makran Division. The newly elected Iranian President said that obstacles towards promotion of regional trade would be removed and the problems faced by uninterrupted supply of electricity to the areas of Baluchistan would be resolved immediately.

Raisi takes
oath as Iran
President

AGENCIES

TEHRAN: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi took the oath of office before parliament in the presence of the Judiciary chief and members of the Expediency Council and foreign guests in Tehran on Thursday.

The swearing-in of the president in Iran is based on Article 121 of the constitution. According to the constitution, in the swearing-in ceremony, the Judiciary chief and members of the Expediency Council should be present in the parliament.

Iranian Parliament (Majlis) Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf delivered a speech before the oath-taking ceremony on Thursday. Pakistan's Chairman Senate, Afghanistan's President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, Iraqi President Barham Salih, Venezuelan vice president, Bangladesh's foreign minister, deputy foreign minister of South Korea, Ghana's deputy foreign minister arrived in Tehran to take part in the ceremony.

Australia
expands
lockdowns

NEWS DESK

SYDNEY: Almost two-thirds of Australia's 25 million people were in lockdown Thursday, as the country's faltering bid to bring a virulent Delta outbreak to heel prompted a new wave of restrictions.

The country's two largest cities received a double blow in their efforts to retain “Covid Zero” status, with authorities reporting a record number of new coronavirus infections in Sydney and imposing a sixth lockdown for virus-weary Melbourne.

In total, about 60 percent of the population – in cities from Brisbane to Ballarat – are now being told to stay at home.

Until now, Australia has dodged the worst ravages of the pandemic through a strategy of closing borders, lockdowns, mandatory travel quarantine, and aggressive testing and tracing.

But those tools appear blunted in the face of the highly transmissible Delta variant that is now threatening one of the world's last havens from Covid.

Since a Sydney driver was infected with Delta by an international flight crew in mid-June, the area has reported 4,319 cases and clusters have popped up across the country.

After six weeks of lockdown in Sydney, the number of new infections in New South Wales state grew to 262 Thursday, the largest daily tally since the pandemic began.

Health officials said almost all the new cases were in Sydney, but a handful of infections in other districts prompted state premier Gladys Berejiklian to widen stay-at-home restrictions to neighbouring areas.

CJP takes
notice of
attack on
temple

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Gulzar Ahmed on Thursday took notice of the attack on a Hindu temple by a charged mob in Bhong village of Punjab's Rahim Yar Khan district, a statement said.

The top judge took cognizance of the incident after MNA Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, who is the patron-in-chief of the Pakistan Hindu Council called on Chief Justice Ahmed at the Supreme Court in Islamabad to discuss the issue of the temple attack.

The chief justice “showed grave concern over the tragic incident”, according to a press release issued by the Supreme Court.

He fixed the matter before the court on August 6 (today) at Islamabad, and directed the Punjab chief secretary and inspector general of police to appear for the hearing along with a report. Dr Vankwani has also been summoned, the statement added.

US plans
to allow
vaccinated
travelers

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: The United States is planning to make it mandatory for all foreign travelers to be vaccinated against COVID-19, domestic media reported on Thursday. Under the current travel restrictions in the US, international travelers have been severely curtailed to control the spread of the delta variant.

Multiple US media outlets cited anonymous White House sources for the reports. The Biden administration reportedly wants to reopen to visitors from abroad in a “safe and sustainable manner,” but no time frame was given.

Currently, non-US residents who have been to China, the EU, UK, Ireland, Brazil, South Africa and India in the previous 14 days are prohibited from entering. The Biden administration has faced pressure to lift some restrictions from other nations as well as those separated from their loved ones.