



Islamabad POST

Saturday, August 07, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

Azerbaijan and Iran agree to enhance parliamentary ties

Detailed News On Page-07

Korea to revise its visa policy for Pakistan

Detailed News On Page-08



Aghayev claims first silver for Azerbaijan

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Fake govt mentally defeated

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz said that the fake government has been mentally defeated by Nawaz Sharif. The PML-N vice president took to twitter on Friday and said, "The chaos among the government officials from top to bottom on visa issue shows that Nawaz Sharif is completely on their nerves." "This fake government has been mentally defeated by Nawaz Sharif. They know that by the grace of Allah, my father is not only the present but also the future of Pakistan," she maintained. Maryam Nawaz said that they are clearly seeing their written defeat on the wall in the form of Nawaz Sharif today but other will read later. She maintained that no one can replace others by defaming his character.

Firdous resigns as SACM

DNA

LAHORE: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Punjab on Information and Broadcasting Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan has tendered her resignation from the post. According to media, Dr Awan directly sent her resignation letter to CM Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar, who has duly accepted the resignation. "Chief Minister has been pleased to accept the enclosed resignation tendered by Ms Firdous Ashiq Awan from the office of Special Assistant to Chief Minister on Information. Further necessary action may be taken accordingly," a statement issued by CM Punjab's Office read. Dr Awan said that she had submitted her resignation to Prime Minister Imran Khan for the first time during the by-election in Sialkot because she wanted to contest freely in the election.

Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday. - Editor

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Temple attack: CJP directs to arrest culprits

"Think, how would Muslims have reacted if a mosque was attacked," the Chief Justice remarked

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed Friday reprimanded the Punjab police chief for failing to take action to safeguard the Hindu temple from a mob in Rahim Yar Khan, directing him to arrest all culprits involved in the incident. Chief Justice Gulzar had taken suo moto notice of the attack on the temple in village Bhong, after meeting with Ramesh Kumar, MNA and Patron-in-Chief Pakistan Hindu Council. Over a dozen men, armed with sticks, had vandalised Hindu temple in Rahim Yar Khan, shouting slogans and desecrating idols in the place of worship. The video clip of the incident went viral on social media, drawing sharp criticism from rights activists in Pakistan. Justice Gulzar had shown concern over the tragic incident and summoned the chief secretary Punjab and IGP Punjab to appear at the apex court and submit a report on the incident. During the hearing, the CJP expressed displeasure over the incident and reprimanded the officials, saying the attack has done serious damage to Pakistan's reputation around the globe. He said the police acted as a silent spectator while the mob vandalised the temple. "What were the police and administration doing?" the CJP asked. To this, IGP Inam Ghani said the assistant commissioner and ASP were present at the scene, and that the administration's priority was to provide security to the 70 Hindu families near the temple. "Terrorism clauses have been added in the FIR," he said. "If the deputy commissioner and the DPO cannot perform their duties, they should be fired," CJP Gulzar stressed.

Continued on Page 06

Fawad calls for exemplary punishment

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Friday called for awarding exemplary punishment to those involved in Ganesha Mandir incident in Rahim Yar Khan. In a media talk, the minister strongly condemning the temple incident said that Pakistan was not India and no fascist ideology could rule here. No one was allowed to hurt sentiments of the Hindu community, he remarked. He said it was duty of all Pakistanis to respect and sanctify the two colours in the national flag in which white colour represented minorities. The prime minister and the chief justice of Pakistan have taken personal notices of the matter. Fawad Hussain said that the prime minister, the political and military leadership and the courts wanted to ensure protection of the minorities' rights as envisaged in the Constitution. "We must stand up against those who target our Pakistani brothers on the basis of race, colour or creed," he said.



PESHAWAR: SAPM for climate change Malik Amin Aslam briefing Prime Minister Imran Khan about Monsoon Plantation Drive. - DNA

PM appreciates role of forces in development

Prime Minister Imran Khan was visiting Peshawar Corps HQ along with the Army Chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited Peshawar Corps Headquarters on Friday. The prime minister, who was accompanied by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor and Chief Minister, upon arrival laid a wreath at the Martyrs' Monument. He was briefed in detail about the prevalent security

- urges masses to plant trees

PESHAWAR: Prime Minister Imran Khan has directed the concerned quarters to create awareness among people about the tree plantation campaign. Planting a sapling in Peshawar on Friday, he stressed a thorough campaign for tree plantation. On this occasion, Special Assistant on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam briefed the Prime Minister about the tree plantation campaign. Prime Minister Imran Khan launched the countrywide monsoon plantation drive last week.

Continued on Page 06

Govt allowed Nawaz to go to London: Shehbaz

Shehbaz says that politics on the life of 3-time prime minister is an inhumane attitude

KHAYAM ABBASI

LAHORE: Leader of Opposition in National Assembly and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that it was government's decision to allow former prime minister and party supremo Nawaz Sharif to go to London. In a statement issued on Friday, the PML-N president said that the government's statements based on political hatred were against the dignity of Pakistan, adding that statements contrary to the facts for political gain are regrettable. Shehbaz Sharif said that the politics on the life of three-time prime minister is an insensitive and inhumane attitude, adding the government's attitude of defaming an individual just for the sake of politics is bringing Pakistan into disrepute.

Continued on Page 06

'PML-N leaders lost sleep on visa denial'

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Friday said the United Kingdom's (UK) refusal to extend the visa of Nawaz Sharif on medical grounds had lost sleep of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leadership. The red flag was now in the air for Nawaz Sharif in the country where he had bought palatial Avenfield Apartments from the looted national wealth, which he had laundered from Pakistan, he said while addressing a news conference. Farrukh Habib said Nawaz Sharif, who was a declared fugitive and absconder, had been living in the United Kingdom with an expired Pakistani passport. His sentence had been upheld by the court in Pakistan by turning down his appeals in the corruption cases. "You (Nawaz) have eaten enough pizzas and watched polo matches in London, besides having many cups of coffees and visits to Hides Park. Now, it is time for you to return home," the minister said. He advises Nawaz to better relinquish his obstinacy and come back to the country for serving the jail term, given by the court to him in the corruption cases. - APP

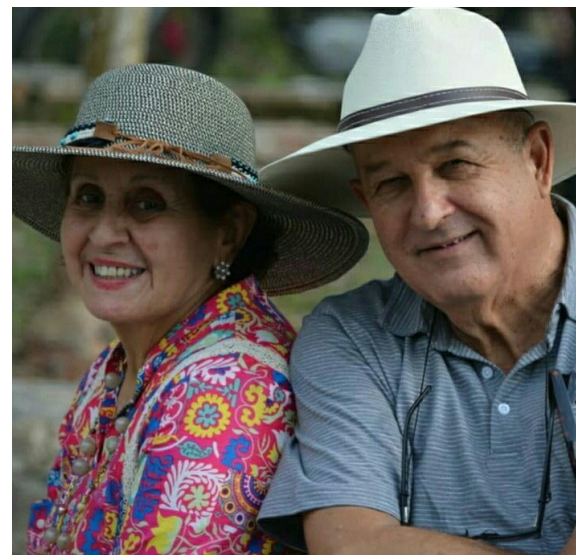


Saudi Arabia provides dates

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) received a contribution of 116 metric tons of dates from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to help its food and nutrition assistance for vulnerable families in Pakistan. A healthy and nutritious snack commonly used for the breaking of the fast, the Saudi dates were initially planned to be distributed ahead of the Holy month of Ramadan in April and May. However, their arrival was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. WFP is distributing the palm dates to more than 10,000 families in close collaboration with the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "Saudi dates are not only delicious but also rich in minerals and vitamins. They will provide much needed nutrition to all members of the family," said WFP Pakistan Representative and Country Director Chris Kaye.

Former Cuban ambassador to Pakistan dies



Amb. Zenen memorable picture with his wife

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Former Ambassador of Cuba to Pakistan Zenen Bueño had died. Ambassador Zenen stayed in Pakistan for over four years. He contributed a lot towards bilateral relations during his tenure. Both ambassador Zenen and his wife spent good days in Pakistan. They made many friends because of their benign nature and friendly posture. The diplomatic community has learnt the news of his death with shock and prayed that Almighty God may rest his soul in peace.

PAF trainer aircraft crashes

DNA

ATTOCK: A training aircraft of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) was crashed near Attock on Friday. According to a spokesperson of Pakistan Air Force Friday, both the pilots were safe as they ejected the aircraft timely. There was also no loss or damage on the ground as the plane crashed far from the populated area. The aircraft was on a routine training mission. The Air Headquarters has formed a high-level board to investigate the reasons behind the crash of the aircraft. No loss of life or property has been reported so far on ground. A Board of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate the cause of the accident.

US daily cases hit six month high

MONITORING DESK

NEW YORK: Daily new coronavirus infections in the United States have jumped to the highest number in six months. More than 100,000 new cases have been reported across the country. The rise comes amid surges caused largely by the highly contagious delta variant, particularly in Florida and other states with lower vaccination rates than the rest of the US. The country's top infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci announced that efforts were underway to give citizens with weakened immune systems booster shots of COVID-19 vaccines as soon as possible. This means the US will join Chile, Germany, France and Israel in offering booster shots, a move opposed by the WHO until more people across the world can receive at least a first dose.

Taliban captures Afghan provincial capital

Local sources said the insurgents had captured Zaranj, in Nimroz province, on Friday afternoon, in what would be a major blow to government forces

AGENCIES

KABUL: A city in southwestern Afghanistan has become the country's first provincial capital to fall to the Taliban in recent years, officials told the BBC. Local sources said the insurgents had captured Zaranj, in Nimroz province, on Friday afternoon, in what would be a major blow to government forces. It comes as the insurgents continue to make rapid advances in the country, as foreign troops withdraw. They have taken swathes of countryside and are now targeting key cities. Other provincial capitals under pressure include Herat in the west and Lashkar Gah in the south. Zaranj is a major trading hub near

the border with Iran. After capturing surrounding districts, the militants had been making a sustained attempt to capture the city. Two official sources told the BBC that the city had been taken. One said fighting was still happening around the National Directorate of Security office. An unnamed spokesperson for Nimroz's police told Reuters news agency that the Taliban had been able to capture the city because of a lack of reinforcements from the government. The Taliban claimed victory in a post shared on Twitter. "This is the beginning and see how other provinces fall in our hands very soon," a commander for the group told Reuters. Some reports said a deal had been

reached with the Taliban, allowing officials to flee to Iran with their families. The government has not yet officially commented on the city's reported fall. Pictures posted on social media showed civilians looting items from government buildings. The capture of Zaranj would add to the momentum of the Taliban, who have been launching a major offensive across the country in recent months as US forces withdraw after 20 years of military operations. Earlier on Friday, the director of Afghanistan's media and information centre was assassinated by Taliban militants in the capital, Kabul. The Taliban said Dawa Khan Menapal had been "punished for his deeds".

Taliban close Spin Boldak border crossing

WEB DESK

KANDAHAR: The Taliban closed a key border crossing with Pakistan on Friday, saying no one would be allowed through until Islamabad dropped or relaxed its visa requirements for Afghans. The Taliban, wresting control of Afghanistan in the wake of a withdrawal of US and other foreign troops, last month captured the southeast Chaman-Spin Boldak border crossing from Afghan forces. Pakistan initially closed its side of the crossing, landlocked Afghanistan's second busiest entry point and main commercial artery to the sea, before reopening it last week. In a statement on Friday, the Taliban statement called on Pakistan to scrap all visa requirements for Afghans. "(The crossing) will remain closed for all types of commuting, including transit and trade, for both sides, and pedestrians, until the Pakistani side leaves the gate open, morning to evening, for Afghans holding [Pakistani issued] migration cards or [Afghan] ID cards," the Taliban's governor said.

Briefs

Tree plantation drive inaugurated

FAISALABAD: Director Agriculture (Extension) Chaudhary Abdul Hameed has inaugurated tree plantation drive in Agriculture department by planting a sapling here.

Earlier, a seminar was also arranged at Agri Complex to create awareness about tree plantation.

Speaking on the occasion, director agriculture said that trees were imperative to arrest environmental pollution and provide healthy atmosphere to next generations. Therefore, the PTI government under dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan had rightly started tsunami tree plantation across the country under the banner of Green Pakistan programme, he added.

He appealed people to participate in tree plantation drive at maximum extent so that we could materialize the dream of green Pakistan. A large number of farmers participated in the seminar. Divisional Forest Officer (Extension) Muhammad Ali Butt, Deputy Director Agriculture (Extension) Chaudhary Khalid Mehmood and Assistant Director Agriculture (Extension) Dr Khalid Iqbal were also present. — APP

9 gamblers arrested, cash taken into possession

PESHAWAR: Nowshera Cantonment Police Friday arrested 9 gamblers and took a cash amount of Rs.90,000, put at stake, into possession.

Police have received a tip regarding gambling carried out through lottery conducted raid on a hotel and arrested 9 accused that were busy in gambling. The arrested accuse included Naseeb, Naem, Shabir, Shahid, Raj Wali, Shahid, and Faisal Mohammad.

The police also took into possession a cash amount of Rs.90,000 put at stake by the gamblers. After registering a case, the accused have been shifted to Police Station Cantt.

11 Kanal land recovered
The district administration in a joint anti-encroachment drive along with officials of Provincial Housing Authority (PHA) on Friday recovered 11 Kanal land adjacent to Superior Science College. The anti-encroachment team led by Additional Assistant Commissioner, Muhammad Azhar Khan and PHA Land Collector, Hamid Giglani also demolished illegal structures built on the government land. Police was also present on the occasion to avoid any untoward incident. — APP

214 nomination papers approved

PESHAWAR: The process of submitting nomination papers for upcoming cantonment board elections continued on Friday in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as a total of 249 candidates from 11 cantonments of the province submitted their nomination papers. As per the office of Returning Officer here out of 249, the nomination papers of 214 candidates have been approved after scrutiny process by the Returning Officer while 35 nomination papers were rejected.

It said appeals against the rejection of nomination papers could be filed up till August 7 adding decision on such appeals would be announced on August 10th.

NWTH, RMCTH sign agreement
Northwest Teaching Hospital (NWTH) and Rukhsana Mother and Childcare Trust Hospital (RMCTH) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU). The MoU was signed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) NWGH Dr Zia Ur Rehman and Amjad Arbab, said a press release issued here on Friday.

Under the arrangement, NWTH will provide standardized care to the RMCTH referral patients 'of obstetrics and gynaecology and paediatric. NWTH will also provide referral laboratory and ultrasound support and will arrange free medical camps at RMCTH. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser in a meeting with President of Niger's National Assembly Seyni Oumarou. Both sides discussed ways to promote trade & business opportunities and parliamentary exchanges. Speaker appreciates Niger's support on IIOJK stance. — DNA

RTO deletes more than 500 retailers from integration list

Notices are being issued to the remaining retailers for immediate compliance of the integration of Point of Sales (POS)

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: The Regional Tax Office (RTO) Faisalabad has deleted 500-600 retailers from a list received from the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) because of their non-eligibility for integration with the FBR main portal.

However, notices are being issued to the remaining retailers for immediate compliance of the integration of Point of Sales (POS). Addressing the business community at the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue Mahmood Hussain Jafari

said that maximum relief was being given to law abiding citizens.

About integration of the POS, he said that shop-owners with an area of 1,000 square feet or more were eligible for this category. Similarly, shopkeepers selling/importing national and international brands also qualified for this category, adding that any shop with an annual electricity bill of Rs12 lakh or more also qualified for this category.

"If any person thinks that he is not falling under these categories, he may file for revision and his name will be deleted from the list within 24 hours," he said. About integration, he said that it offered lucrative benefits and retailers must avail this opportunity. He

said that a new SRO had been issued allowing hundred per cent input adjustments in case of integration, however, retailers failing to get integration by July would be entitled for only 40% input adjustment.

He said that it would also facilitate them in filing returns and no question will be asked about its details.

He said that E-Kitchenery were also being arranged regularly to redress genuine grievances of the taxpayers. About broadening the tax base, he said that for the first time tax return form had been uploaded on the FBR website on July 01, and people could easily file their returns up to September 30.

Earlier, Engineer Hafiz Ihtasham Javed, the President FCCI, welcomed the chief commissioner and said that FCCI and FBR enjoyed close liaison being taxpayers and tax collectors.

Former vice president Engineer Ahmed Hassan, Jamil Fakhri, Mian Abdul Wahed, Tanveer Riaz, Naseer Vohra, Sohail Butt, Aslam Bhalli, Zafar Sindhu, Haji Talib Hussain Rana, Sikandar Azam and Shahid Razzaq Sikka participated in the question-answer session.

Later on, Senior Vice President Chaudhry Talat Mahmood presented the FCCI shield to Chief Commissioner Mahmood Hussain Jafari.

Land computerization records completes in 24 districts of KP

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Board of Revenue and Estate Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has completed computerization of land records in 30 tehsils of 19 districts to improve service delivery and resolve the overall dispersed nature of land records.

A senior official of the Revenue Department said that computerization of land records that was started in 2014 was very difficult, complicated and technical process and only six com-

puterized centers were setup across the province during first seven years.

He said that on the special directives of Chief Minister Mahmood Khan and hard work of the revenue department officials, these computerized facilitation centers had been extended to 24 tehsils where 100% land computerization record was completed and it was being extended to 30 more tehsils.

He said that complete land record was available only in 19 districts out of 35 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, adding land record of

merged districts, Malakand divisions, and Kohistan was not available at all.

He informed that Project Management Unit (PMU), Computerization of Land Records was preparing "Mobile Van" for providing services to public on their doorsteps, besides setting up 24 service delivery centers across the province to provide all land documents to people under one roof.

Revenue Department has completed land computerization record of 1100 Mozas out of total 3500 villages in 19 districts where

land records was available to ensure transparency and corruption free system with no role of Patwari to exploit people seeking land record.

He said that computerization of land records in 1200 Mozas was in final stages and efforts were being made to issue In-iqal and fard and other documents within three days time at facilitation centers.

He said that GIS laboratory and IT labs had been setup in the Revenue academy Hayatabad where 120 newly inducted Patwaris

including 12 female Patwaris were being given six months training.

The main objective of induction of 12 female Patwaris was to resolve inheritance and land related issues of women who were traditional denied rights in prosperity, he said.

He said that accountability process had been introduced in the Revenue Department and disciplinary action taken against 110 Patwaris out of which 12 were dismissed from service and 12 demoted and inquiries against others were still continuing.

CM discusses partnership with WB

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah through a video link meeting with World Bank South Asia Regional VP Mr Hartwig and Country Director Mr Najy Benhassine discussed next partnership framework 2022-2026 in different sectors.

The meeting was attended by Minister Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro, Chief Secretary Mumtaz Shah, Administrator KMC Murtaza Wahab, Parliamentary Secretary on Health Qasim Soomro, Chairperson P&D Shireen Narejo, PSCM Sajid Jamal Abro, Secretary colleges Khalid Hyder Shah, Secretary health Jamz Katim and Secretary Irrigation Sohail Qureshi. — APP



FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali listening the applicant under Parent Protection Ordinance. — DNA

Center for Genome Editing at UAF inaugurated

The center was set up with the total funding of Rs 1,799 million out of which Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research provided worth Rs 1,298.63 million and UAF worth Rs 500.960 million

FAISALABAD: Punjab Agriculture Minister Syed Hussain Jahania Gardezi inaugurated 'Center for Genome Editing for Nutrition and Health' established at University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) here on Friday. The center was set up with the total funding of Rs 1,799 million out of which Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research provided worth Rs 1,298.63 million and UAF worth Rs 500.960 million.

Speaking on the occasion the minister said the government had allocated Rs31.49 billion for agriculture under the development budget for financial year 2021-22 with 100 percent increase from the last year in order to uplift the sector, ensure food security and alleviate poverty.

Jahania Gardezi said that at the inception of Pakistan, the country's

population was 35 million which had reached 220 million. He lauded the agricultural scientists to ensure food security who worked day and night to come up with new varieties and technology to boost up the agricultural per acre productivity. He said that we have to adopt modern technology to address the agricultural problems to ensure food security. He said that the Genome center will help a breakthrough in the agriculture sector. He said that compatibility in the technology at par with the modern world was essential to fight different challenges. He said that the government was determined to address the problems of the population which belongs to rural areas. He said that Pakistan was counted in the top 10 countries of agricultural production. Punjab Agriculture Minister Syed

Hussain Jahania Gardezi said that the government was ensuring pro agriculture policies. He said that amid the challenges of climate change, the government was actively working on Green and Clean Pakistan. UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan lauded the measures being taken on the part of the government to uplift the sector which is the backbone of our economy. He said that the UAF had developed 14 agrological zones of the province that will provide tangible results. He said that the UAF multi authored books were accessed to 8.6 people so far as a step toward creating awareness about technology enhancement. He also said that the UAF was determined to emerge as one of leading institutions in the Prime Minister Clean and Green Pakistan campaign and every employee

and the student should plant at least five samplings in their surroundings to curb the gigantic climate changes which were playing havoc with the lives, agriculture and development of the country. He said that immediate steps should be taken to fight the devastating impact of climate change. PCSIR Chairman Syed Hussain Abidi said that the government was paying special attention to promote the research culture and ensure betterment in the agriculture sector. He urged the agricultural scientists to work with dedication for the development of the agriculture sector. MNS University of Agriculture Multan Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asif Ali called for creating awareness among the farming community about the latest trends. He said that with the improved learning ecology, we can bring change. — APP

DC reviews PCP complaints progress

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: As many as record 46262 public complaints have been disposed off on the Pakistan Citizen Portal by various departments in the district while steps are being taken to expedite the remaining new received 1243 applications. This was informed to Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali while chairing a meeting to review progress of disposed off the complaints on Pakistan Citizen Portal. Additional Deputy Commissioner Headquarters Muhammad Khalid, officers and focal persons of various district departments were also present. The meeting was informed that a total of 48108 applications based problem issues have been received on Pakistan Citizen Portal including 1243 new applications and feedback was also taken from individuals on resolving the issues and satisfactory level is more than 44.3 percent. The Deputy Commissioner directed all departments to expedite the solution of complaints and the feedback of the concerned complainant should also be sought by calling the Citizen. He directed that immediate redressal of grievances related to his department and complainants should be satisfied with the departmental action. He said that regular meetings would be held to review the performance in resolving the grievances received so all the departments should realize their responsibilities seriously.

Funeral prayer of martyred policeman offered

PESHAWAR: A funeral prayer of martyred police constable, Kaleem Ullah was held Friday in police lines Shah Kas, Khyber tribal district with public honor. The funeral prayer besides other policemen was attended by Capital City Police Officer (CCPO), Ahsan Abbas, District Police Officer, Khyber Waseem Riaz, Sector Commander Shaikat Rana, Deputy Commissioner Khyber Arshad Mansoor, and large number of area people. A special police contingent presented salute and laid wreath on the martyr's coffin, and offered fateha for the departed soul. Later the body was buried in his ancestral graveyard at Jamrud. It is to mention here that the deceased Kaleem Ullah was on his way to home after duty when unknown assailants opened fire on him at Taidee Bazaar, Jamrud on Thursday evening. As a result he received critical injuries and was rushed to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. Meanwhile, CCPO in a statement said that blood of Kaleem Ullah would never go in vain and assured the arrest of killers. — APP

Students cheat everywhere, not just in Sindh

KARACHI: Students everywhere cheat on their exams, it's not just Sindh, former provincial education minister Saeed Ghani said Friday. Paper leaks and cheating on exams were normal even when I was back in school and college, he said during a Sindh Assembly session.

Ghani pointed out that exams this year took place smoothly except for few complaints. "Some centres were changed at the last moment because of which the question papers reached the centres late."

Last month, physics and mathematics solved examination papers of matric students leaked on social media minutes after the assessments started. Following this, the Sindh government imposed Section 144 outside examination centres across the province.

Only candidates and staff with "valid admit cards" were allowed to enter the centres. Exams for students of classes nine and 10 began on July 5. — DNA

IESCO (ایسکو) اسلام آباد ایکٹرگ سپلائی کمپنی (ایسکو)

IESCO TENDER NOTICE

IESCO seeks to invite sealed tenders from the firms / manufacturers who are pre-qualified/registered with the Chief Engineer (Purchase & Disposal) / Standard & Specification, NTDC Lahore or with WAPDA/PEPCO/any DISCO for the year 2021-22 for supply of following material on free delivery basis to IESCO Regional Stores Rawalpindi / Islamabad / Rajjar & Wah:

| Tender No. | Item Description | WAPDA Specification (amended to date) | Unit | Qty |
|------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------|-----|
| 83 | Clip on KW Meter | PD-67-70 | No. | 30 |
| 84 | Clip on Volt Amp. Meter | PD-67-70 | No. | 44 |
| 85 | Disconnecting Stick | DDS-43-2008 | No. | 986 |
| 86 | Grip Pulling Conductor 12.5-15mm | P-76 | No. | 42 |
| | Grip Pulling Conductor 4-20mm | | No. | 105 |
| 87 | Grounding Set | DD-PD-21-2008 | No. | 307 |
| 88 | High Voltage Detector | PD-96 | No. | 104 |
| 89 | Hook Type Digital Ammeter | As per WAPDA Specification / Sample | No. | 146 |
| 90 | HT Fault Locator | | No. | 06 |

Date of Opening: Tender will be received on 24.08.2021 upto 10:30am and will be opened at 11:00am on the same date.

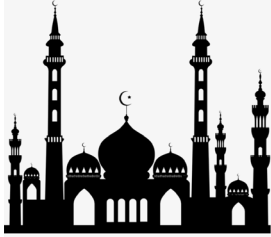
The tenders will be opened in the presence of participants or their authorized representatives (bearing authority letters) who attend O/O Chief Engineer (Material Management) IESCO Head Office G-7/4 Street No. 40, Islamabad. Material shall conform to relevant WAPDA/NTDC Specifications (amended to date).

Terms & Conditions: 1. Tenders will be opened on "Single Stage Single Envelope basis".
2. The price should be firm and final on FCS basis and without involving any foreign exchange.
3. Tender must be accompanied with Bank Guarantee @ 2% in favour of Chief Executive Officer IESCO Islamabad of the offered quantity valid for 150 days (one hundred and fifty days) in the form of Bank Guarantee/Call Deposit issued by any schedule Bank of Pakistan (having rating A+ or above).
4. Tender forms including terms and conditions can be obtained from the office of Material Management IESCO Islamabad against non-refundable amount of Rs.2000/- on any working day during office hours till a day earlier from the date of opening of tenders.
5. The bid should be for full quantity of tender and bid for less quantity of tender will not be accepted.
6. No tender will be issued on the date of opening of tenders.
7. IESCO reserves its rights to cancel/reject the conditional bid.

Chief Engineer (MM)
IESCO, Head Office, G-7/4, Islamabad.

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Namaz Timings

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| Zohr..... | 12:14 pm |
| Asr..... | 5:04 pm |
| Maghrib..... | 7:04 pm |
| Isha..... | 8:37 pm |



Hotels & Restaurants

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Serena Hotel..... | 111 133 133 |
| Marriott..... | 051-2826211 |
| Monal..... | 0334-5421812 |



Airlines

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Turkish Airlines..... | 8494949 |
|-----------------------|---------|



Emergency

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



Enquiry

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| Edhi Ambulance..... | 115 |
| PIA Flight Info..... | 114 |
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| Railway Inquiry..... | 117 |
| Railway Exchange..... | 9270831-5 |
| WASA Rawalpindi..... | 5555489 |
| CAA..... | 9281092 |



Hospitals

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|--------------------------|------------|
| CMH..... | 5611111 |
| MH..... | 5611116 |
| Cantt Hospital..... | 9270907-11 |
| DHQ..... | 5556311-4 |
| RGH..... | 9290301-7 |
| Holy Family..... | 9290322-7 |
| PIMS..... | 9261170-79 |
| Polyclinic..... | 9218300-09 |
| Shifa International..... | 4603666 |



Departments

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| CDA..... | 9221334-43 |
| CDA..... | 9208301-04 |
| Met Office..... | 9250360-6 |
| RDA..... | 5555864 |
| TMA..... | 5770886 |
| Cantonment Board..... | 9270151-3 |



Complaints

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Water Tanker Service E-7, F-10 & F-11..... | 9204654 |
| G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8..... | 9203883 |
| G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8..... | 9266316 |
| Wapda Islamabad..... | 9217579 |
| Wapda Rawalpindi..... | 111-309-309 |

Islamabad Metropolitan

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Corporation..... | 9209224 |
| Potohar Town..... | 9209224 |
| Rawal Town..... | 5773343 |

Wasa Water Tank

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Rawalpindi..... | 0331-5022125 |
|-----------------|--------------|

ITP launches operation against illegal parking in G 8 Markaz

We will not allow any kind of illegal parking to put people in trouble, says SSP ITP

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) started an operation against illegal parking in G-8 Markaz on Friday. The operation was led by SSP Traffic Police Syed Karrar Hussain and his team. Traffic police removed the illegally parked vehicles from road sides. Talking to the Islamabad Post, SSP Karrar said, our mission is to bring awareness in society about illegal parking and the dangers of

it. Moreover, he said, we are committed to provide education about safe driving, seat belt benefits, and harms of wrong way driving. During the operation, car showroom owners gathered around SSP and requested to give them a chance because of no other place to park cars. SSP added by saying we will not allow any kind of illegal parking to put people in trouble. Operation against illegal parking is going swiftly and ITP removed almost every illegally parked cars on the road.



COMSTECH organizes lecture on drug discovery for leishmaniasis



KHAYAM ABBAS

ISLAMABAD: Lecture on protozoan drug discovery: Old drugs, new targets and mining for novelty delivered online by Professor Paul W. Denny, Professor in Biosciences Department, University of Durham, United Kingdom. This was a second lecture of COMSTECH-NTD Network joint lecture series. Prof. Paul said that it is very important initiative to engage with COMSTECH, it is

very important to reach out beyond the consortium to other countries and individuals who are interested in and suffering burden of neglected tropical diseases, which we are trying to mitigate. He said, our primary aim is to identify new molecular targets which are essential for the parasite and can be exploited for drug therapy by March 2022. He mentioned that the neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a major health and economic burden in member states of Organisa-

tion of Islamic Cooperation. He informed that the control and elimination of NTDs requires both a scaled-up and integrated global mass treatment programmes, along with new tools and technologies to tackle these diseases. COMSTECH, in collaboration with NTD Network - Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases, has launched a virtual lecture series for researchers across the Muslim world. This programme offers opportunities to enhance knowledge, skills and con-

nections of researchers, to help grow our shared global capacity to tackle these rapidly growing NTDs. The NTD Network, funded by UKRI's Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), is a consortium of academic researchers from South America, Asia, and the UK, seeking new therapeutic solutions to Leishmaniasis and Chagas diseases. Both COMSTECH and NTD Network aim to promote global scientific cooperation and build research capacity to find new and better therapeutic solutions for NTDs. This webinar was open to academics, scientists and the general public from all OIC member states. More than 190 people joined this lecture online.

CDA plantation drive is in full swing

ISLAMABAD: To maintain and further beautify the capital city, Capital Development Authority (CDA) under the aegis of Prime Minister's scheme of Clean Green Pakistan (CGP) is continuing plantation at high pace. Clean Green Pakistan (CGP) is a flagship five-year campaign of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan. Under this campaign, the government aims to implement activities first in Islamabad and then trigger similar actions at the provincial level. Talking to media here on Friday, Deputy Director Environment Wing Akram Ranjha said that previously the CDA used to grow small plants but under the directions of Premier Khan, it is now growing big trees as well. Furthermore, he said that a large number of plantation is being carried out during this season while the case is otherwise when they look at past's plantation drives. The CDA's Environment Directorate is mowing wild grass and herbs from across the city during ongoing monsoon to make the city clean and beautiful, said Horticulture Supervisor M. Tahir Usman. He is currently working at Sector H-11 Graveyard of Islamabad. He further said that the beauty of the city is being increased by cutting down the weeds and overgrown grass whereas for plantation during this season, the management of the Environment Directorate has accelerated the pace of work. With a view of making Islamabad more attractive, digging of pits along the green belts on the sides of drains, highways and intersections are in full swing so that more plants can be planted in this season, he said. Sharing details with the news man, Usman said that in IJP's Phase-1 opposite to I-10/4, 60 Cipium plants were planted in green belt from Khyber Chowk to CDA Chowk and 30 plants of Arjan were planted opposite to PTCL Colony near Social Security Hospital and watered by the tankers. - DNA

CVC mandatory for Kidmat Marakaz, CTP HQ visitors

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) Friday made the corona vaccination certificate (CVC) mandatory for the Kidmat Marakaz and City Traffic Police, headquarters visitors. According to Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Rai Mazhar Iqbal, no one would be allowed to enter the Kidmat Marakaz and CTP headquarters without the CVC. He said the step had been taken to contain spread of coronavirus and for the protection of the citizens. The citizens having vaccination certificate would be allowed to visit the CTP offices to get any kind of service, he said adding the restriction imposed to protect the lives of the citizens. The CTP was making all-out efforts to ensure safety of the citizens' lives, Rai Mazhar Iqbal added. It was duty of the police to protect every citizen without any discrimination for which all resources were being utilized, he said adding masks and social distancing were being maintained and the standard operating procedures announced by the government to contain spread of coronavirus were being implemented. Earlier, the citizens who were coming to obtain driving licenses were being allowed to enter the traffic headquarters and service centers while wearing masks, he added. He further said anti-corona spray was being carried out regularly at the traffic headquarters to protect the citizens from the coronavirus. He also appealed to the citizens to follow the instructions given by the traffic police otherwise, strict action would be taken against the violators. - DNA

Man held for posing as a police official

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Police on Friday arrested a fake police officer who was posing himself as a police officer. According to the police spokesman, the Station House Officer (SHO) Murree stopped a man Ehtesham Azam who was in police uniform and asked him to show his identification but he failed to provide his identity as a police official. The Police arrested the accused on the spot and recovered a 9mm pistol from his possession. A case has been registered against the accused and further investigation is underway.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib and Special Adviser to the Prime Minister on Youth Affairs Usman Dar addressing a press conference at PID Media Center. - APP

CPEC's M-14 entered its final phase of completion

Farmers will get access to the main market of the country," said Shafiullah Khan, a farmer from the Gandhi area of Lakki Marwat

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The Hakla-Dera Ismail Khan Motorway (M-14), a project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has entered its final phase of completion, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Thursday. M-14 is a 293 km long mega project under the Western Alignment of CPEC, connecting the southern parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province with the rest of the country that will lead to social and economic prosperity in the area. In addition to connectivity, M-14 will play a major role in boosting agricultural development in southern KP, which has remained underdeveloped for a long time. "The Motorway will help bring an agricultural revolution in the southern parts of KP. Farmers will get access to the main market of the country," said Shafiullah Khan, a farmer from the Gandhi area of Lakki Marwat. "M-14 has brought Mianwali

(Punjab) and Lakki Marwat very close. Farmers of both areas could benefit from each other's experience," Mr. Khan said and added that farmers mainly look at each other and "grow what others grow". Some agricultural products from southern KP have already established themselves in the main Pakistani markets and even abroad. For example, dates grown in the Dhakki area of D.I. Khan are known worldwide for their large size and aroma.

However, with the connectivity via M-14, some other local agricultural products are expected to reach major markets of the country. These quality products are grown on a small scale. If the growers start getting handsome financial returns, it will increase commercialization. "Even in the recent past no one could have imagined that these remote and inaccessible areas could be integrated. It has happened and now it's time to reap the maxi-

imum benefits from this connectivity project under CPEC," Jehanad Khan Marwat, an elder of Lakki Marwat, told Gwadar Pro. Some farmers from D.I. Khan and Lakki Marwat have got an access to their date farms along M-14. Passing through the motorway, once can see date-palms in the sandy soil between, Yarik, Abdul Khel and Chashma interchanges. The soil of Lakki Marwat is conducive for chickpea crops. Mostly, the people grow chickpea - locally known as chana - for domestic consumption; however, chickpeas could become one of the major cash crops for the locals. "We buy chana from local farmers and then sell it in Punjab, as we don't have any processing facilities here," Abdur Rahman, a trader from Shahbaz Khail, Lakki Marwat said. According to Mr. Rehman, M-14 will provide them easy and short access to Punjab and will cut transportation costs. However, the real revolution will come when they can set up processing units in their own areas.



IIUI allows LLB applicants for LAT test

DNA

ISLAMABAD: International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) has provisionally allowed those applicants seeking admission in LLB (Hons) Shariah & Law in the Fall Semester 2021, who have applied for the upcoming LAT (Law Admission Test) scheduled to be held on August 8. According to IIUI, the decision has been taken keeping in view the overwhelming response from the candidates in LLB Shariah & Law program. The university administration has vowed that fair chance shall be provided to all the fresh candidates seeking admission in the said discipline.

The admission office also told that the information regarding date & time of admission tests/interviews will be updated on IIUI website (<https://admission.iiu.edu.pk>) soon and all candidates are advised to keep visiting the website and university official facebook page (@iiu.isbpk) for updates.

Police held 8 for possessing illegal weapons

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police in a crackdown against illegal weapons and drug peddlers rounded up eight persons from different areas and recovered 3200 grams charras, a 9MM and five 30 bore pistols from their possession, said a police spokesman on Friday. He said that Saddar Wah Police conducted a raid and arrested drug peddler namely Bashir Khan and recovered nearly three kg charras while Gujjar Khan Police rounded up Nadeem Ahmed for having 200 grams charras. R.A.Bazar, Chontra and Bani police held Muhammad Murtaza, Naem Shoukat, Ashraf, Chand Shahzad, Nadeem Abbas and Umar Shahzad and recovered a 9MM pistol, five 30 bore pistols and ammunition from their possession. Cases have been registered against all the accused while further investigations were underway, he said and added that police would continue their raids against lawbreakers and the outlaws would be sent behind bars. - APP

10 booked for violating marriage act, corona SOPs

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Wah Cantt Police raided at a wedding ceremony and arrested 10 persons including seven transgender and bridegroom for making aerial firing, hosting dance party and violating Corona Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). According to police spokesman, SHO Wah Cantt police and his team raided at a wedding ceremony on violation of Marriage and Sound System Acts and other violations regarding aerial firing, corona SOPs and hosting dance party with transgender dancers. Police arrested 10 persons including seven transgender dancers namely Nadir alias Zoya, Sajjad alias Kiran, Shahryar alias Bulbul, Nasir alias Nina, Reema, Atif alias Orain and Shakir alias Buntty and bridegroom namely Danish Mehmood, Umar Bashir and Saeed, he added.

3 brothers arrested for killing sister

RAWALPINDI: The Saddar Berooni Police on Friday arrested three brothers on charges of honour killing of their sister. A police spokesman on Friday said the team of Saddar Berooni Police under the supervision of Assistant Superintendent of Police Saddar carried out investigations, which led to the arrest of accused. It transpired that Baber Shah had killed his sister Nasreen, while Ibrar Shah and Sadagat Shah had conspired with the murderer, he added. The police also recovered the stick used by the accused during the murder. - APP

Briefs

3 arrested for carrying fireworks

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district Police in two different raids managed to arrest three persons for carrying fireworks items, a police spokesman said on Friday.

He informed that in line with special directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Muhammad Ahsan Younas, Bani Police team led by Station House Officer (SHO) managed to net Mudassar Ali and Shoukat Hussain, two for carrying fireworks items.

In another raid, Gunjmandi police held Shahrukh Ali and recovered fireworks items from his possession. Separate cases have been registered against the accused, he added. Superintendent Police (SP) Rawal said no one would be allowed to violate the law and violators would be treated with iron hands.

34 disabled students get electric wheel chairs

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: As many as 34 electric wheel chairs were distributed among the male and female students with disabilities of Allama Iqbal Open University and other universities in a ceremony held here Friday at AIOU. The Wheel Chairs were distributed under the initiative of the "Prime Minister's Electric Wheelchair Scheme" in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC).

Apart from Allama Iqbal Open University, students of other universities were also present on the occasion. Dr. Shaista Sohail, Executive Director, Higher Education Commission was the chief guest of the ceremony.

Dean Faculty of Education, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Dean Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Prof. Dr. Mohi-ud-Din Hashmi, Registrar Raja Umar Younis, Director Student Affairs, Rana Tariq Javed, faculty members and officers of the University were also present. Ms. Ayesha Ikram, DG HRD, HEC and other representatives of the Higher Education Commission also attended the event.

Addressing the function, Dr. Shaista Sohail said that the government is striving to give a special and full role to the special people in society. She said that Prime Minister Imran Khan has a feeling and passion for special students and he is trying to ensure that no special person is deprived of higher education.

A week-long exhibition 'Onrushing 5' opens

ISLAMABAD: A week long exhibition titled 'Onrushing 5' started here on Friday at Art Gallery 6 aiming to promote the artists' work, a group show of 44 artists who participated in Arjumand Painting Award (APA) 2021. Curator Gallery 6 Dr. Faisal Arjumand told APP that an increasing number of artists have participated in the past APAs award for 2021, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said that work of emerging artists who contributed with outstanding abilities and distinguished talent in paintings was being displaying in the exhibition.

He said the artists included Adnan Khan, Ahsan Javaid, Ahsan Memon, Aleya Abbas, Fahima Bashir, Faiza Toufique, Fakhra Asif Fawad Jafri, Ali Gillani, Feroza, Amra Khan, Hafsa Sarfaraz, Aqib Ehsan, Karim Khan, Asghar Ali, Komal Jabeen, Asiya Ali, Manisha Jiani, Aun Raza, Mansab Dar, Awais Naqvi, Mariam Arshad, Mariya Sheikh, Sana Ullah, Merab Rehmat, Sannia Bilal, Naseeb Khan, Sarah Mir, Nashrah Raza, Shakir Adnan, Nazrul Islam, Syeda Sara Haider, Qirat Soomro, Umma Larabi, Rabia Sabeen, Urhamish Ansari, Rahmah Zada, Wajid Dahrkwal, Rida Nadeem, Wajihah Batool, Sana Dar, Zainab Aziz, Sanan Iqbal and Zehra Fatima. — APP

PRCS calls for interventions to address critical blood shortage

Abrar ul Haq urges donors to rise to challenge and play their role in saving precious lives amid COVID19 pandemic

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Chairman Abrar ul Haq on Friday appealed to the people to come forward and donate blood to help save lives amid serious shortage of blood due to ongoing Covid-19.

In a statement issued to media, the PRCS chairman said pandemic affected millions of people worldwide and caused disruptions at the global level including in healthcare provision. He said thousands of people have lost lives to Covid-19 across country,

however even more lives are at risk due to blood shortage, especially those suffering from leukemia, thalassemia, hemophilia, anemia or those undergoing critical surgeries or injured in road accidents.

Abrar ul Haq said the PRCS Regional Blood Donor Centre (RBDC) housed at the National Headquarters in Islamabad would usually collect 500-1000 donations in any given month, which have now fallen to around few dozen units only. He said around 90% of PRCS blood supply has been threatened by cancellation of community blood drives due to Covid-19 pandemic.



ic. He said educational institutions and industrial units have been the major source of blood collection and their closure in days of pandemic severely im-

pacted the blood donations. He said majority of blood donors fear that they might contract coronavirus during the blood transfusion process, calling for a serious intervention through a robust awareness campaign to ward off people's concerns. "The COVID virus cannot be transmitted through the blood donation process or blood transfusion as respiratory viruses are not transmitted by donation or transfusion", he added.

Abrar ul Haq said the PRCS has always been in the frontlines for arranging and donating blood and its components for the deserving patients. He said PRCS volunteers are

working selflessly round the clock to ensure availability of blood for the patients and also contributing in the blood campaign through their own blood donations. "PRCS has implemented all necessary safety measure needed during the pandemic and we would like urge everybody to continue donating blood", he added. He said donating blood is not only a great deed but it also helps donors to stay healthy, energetic and rejuvenated all the year round. He urged the people to fulfil their human, national, moral and religious obligation and come out to save precious lives through blood donations in these testing times.

Pakistan nears 80,000 active cases mark

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Coronavirus cases continued to surge across Pakistan on Friday as well, with the country's active number of cases shooting to 79,992.

The National Command and Operation Centre (NCO) stated that over the past 24 hours, 4,745 people had tested positive for the infection out of a total of 57,981 people who were tested for the infection. This brings Pakistan's coronavirus positivity ratio to 8.18%.

Sixty-seven people passed away from the disease on Thursday, taking the total number of deaths to 23,702.

PHA plants thousands of saplings on highways

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: On the special directives of Advisor to Chief Minister Punjab, Asif Mehmood, Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi has planted thousands of saplings on various highways and greenbelts of Rawalpindi city under monsoon tree plantation campaign. According to a PHA spokesman, thousands of saplings were planted under monsoon tree plantation campaign and the citizens and students of schools and colleges were also motivated and involved in the ongoing plantation campaign.

She informed that PHA was taking all possible steps to make the monsoon plantation campaign a success. Advisor also participated in the campaign by planting saplings at various highways and greenbelts of Rawalpindi, she added.

Director General (DG) PHA Rawalpindi Zabeer Ahmed Jappa said that PHA Rawalpindi, as per the vision of the Prime Minister, Imran Khan and Chief Minister Punjab, Sardar Usman Buzdar was taking all possible steps to provide a pollution free and healthy environment to the citizens.



RAWALPINDI: A vendor displaying national flags to attract the customers at his roadside setup as the nation starts preparation to celebrate Independence Day in befitting manners. — APP

257 corona cases reported in Rawalpindi district

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Syed Gulzar Husain Shah Friday said no negligence would be tolerated in following the standard operating procedures (SOPs) aimed to effectively control the fourth deadly wave of coronavirus pandemic. Talking to media, he said the delta variant was more transmissible and badly affected the human's respiratory system. The commissioner asked the residents to get themselves vaccinated at the earliest to avoid the further spread of this deadly disease.

Meanwhile, according to the data shared by the District Corona Management Centre, around 257 people had become victims of the COVID-19 virus during the last 24 hours in the district with 58 belonged to Rawal Town, 58 from Potohar Town, 65 from Rawalpindi Cantt, 20 from Gujjar Khan, 10 from Kahutta, 17 from Kotli Sattian, 13 from Taxila, six from Murree, three each from Kallar Syeda and Chakwal, two from the Azad Jammu and Kashmir and one each from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad.

Presently 179 coronavirus confirmed patients were admitted to various facilities of the city including twenty-eight were admitted in the Holy Family Hospital, twenty-six in Benazir Bhutto Hospital, 66 in Institute of Urology, 44 in Fauji Foundation Hospital, four each in District Headquarters Hospital and Begum Akhtar Memorial Trust, two each in Bilal and Hearts International hospital and three in Attock hospital. — Shaheen Hanif

President Alvi to launch digitalization of state media

The project is part of the National Digital Information Platform (NDIP) keeping in view the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan for a Digital Pakistan

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi will launch digitalization of the state media organizations; including the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), Pakistan Television, Radio Pakistan and Digital Media Wing (DMW) at a ceremony to be held here at the Pakistan-China Center on Saturday.

The Digital Transformation of State Media (DTSM) project, initiated by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting also includes Directorate of Electronic Media and Publication

(DEMP) as well as the advertisements of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The digitalization of the news and other services would provide a much improved user experience, boost speed of news distribution and reach. The digitalization of the Information Ministry got a boost on the personal initiatives of Federal Minister for Information Chaudhry Fawad Hussain.

The project is part of the National Digital Information Platform (NDIP) keeping in view the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan for a Digital Pakistan.



The event would also see award of ISO 9001:2015 and 27001:2013 certifications to the Associated Press of Pakistan, to improve the quality standards of management and bring these at par with international level. Under the certification, the

APP would transform from conventional to a dynamic digitalized mass media service, and aims at setting new trends and lead as a key source of digitally accessible news and factual public information.

Under the digitalization, the APP plans to expand its reach by providing customized news feed and digital content for its subscribers and the public. The APP would also acquire latest computers, video editing and transmission equipment and servers for efficient news distribution and maintaining of its digital archives.

Construction work on Rawal Chowk flyover in full swing

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority administration has decided to reduce the traffic congestion at Rawal Dam Chowk and save the citizens from problems like traffic jams at Rawal Dam flyover, underpass, construction work on the Margalla Town Underpass and the width of the adjoining roads is in full swing.

According to the details the superstructure work of Rawal Dam Chowk Over

project has been completed. 24 Piles, 18 Garders and Pile work also been completed. Carpeting of slip road from Park Road to Faizabad has also been completed, base of slip road from Faizabad to Sareena has been completed and excavation of Margalla Town underpass has also been started. Traffic flow is ensured during the work.

In addition, on the special directions of the CDA administration, the concerned department has further expedited the work.

It may be mentioned that the staff of the concerned department of CDA is performing their duties at different shifts and timings in Rawal Dam Chowk Flyover Underpass, Margalla Town Underpass and roadside width at different times while 70% construction work of the project is almost completed.

In addition, the construction work of Rawal Dam Flyover Underpass, Margalla Town Underpass and widening of adjacent roads started in October 2020. Due to day and night work

of the relevant staff, Rawal Dam flyover will be opened for traffic in December this year, the project will be completed ahead of schedule before deadline.

At the special direction of the CDA administration, the roads and areas where the citizens face problems like traffic jams due to high traffic pressure are also being identified.

These problems are being addressed on priority basis so that the citizens to save valuable time and don't face problems like traffic jam in future.

Action against fake chambers demanded

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Friday demanded action against fake chambers of commerce and associations made with an aim to gain undue advantages and sell votes to the highest bidder in the FPCCI elections.

Presently there are 92 chambers of commerce and 130 trade associations while many are in the pipeline. Almost forty percent exists only on paper but they have hijacked FPCCI and made

the annual elections a game for millionaires and billionaires, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that now mediocre trade leaders could not think about contesting FPCCI elections as they lack resources to fulfil the demands of such bodies that are promoting family politics and blackmail.

Prime Minister Imran Khan should form a high-powered committee headed by concerned federal ministers to stop corruption in the name of trade associations, he demanded. — DNA

IT ministry to organize first digital summit

The purpose of this summit is to showcase the progress that has been made so far in digitizing different sectors of Pakistan using innovative and emerging tools and technologies offered by Google

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT) will organize a digital summit on August 9, at Aiwan-e-Sadar to focus on innovative technologies, transforming the public sector. The purpose of this summit is to showcase the progress that has been made so far in digitizing different sectors of Pakistan using innovative and emerging tools and technologies offered by Google, said a news release on Friday.

Tech Valley, a strategic partner on digital transformation with the Ministry of IT is working on bridging the gap between the government and the tech giants. The global pandemic made digital imperative to the delivery of public services, with many large-scale digital innovations rolled out at unprecedented speed—laying the foundation for future digital government.

As Pakistan is digitally transforming in every industry at a fast pace, introducing the right cloud platform at the right time is essential for public & private organizations of all sizes to



grow, innovate and succeed. The President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi, is expected to grace the event and share his thoughts on how emerging technologies

will be deciding the future of tomorrow's government.

Federal Minister including Azam Khan Swati, Shafiq Mehmood and Amin ul Haq will participate in the event to share their vision of digitally enabled Pakistan contributing toward the economic growth and knowledge economy.

Umar Farooq, Co-founder and CEO of Tech Valley will share his experience of creating synergies between the public and private sector for a collaborative transformation drive that Tech Valley is leading nationwide. Moreover, representatives from

Google will explain how Cloud's innovation, intelligence and global reach make Google Cloud an ideal collaborator on a public sector's growth journey.

The discussion will revolve around the key learnings, implementing path and success stories of governments and organizations around the world that adopted cloud and cutting-edge technologies powered by Google.

This summit will expedite the collaborative efforts between Google and Government of Pakistan towards the digital transformation of the public sector nationwide.

Two bills introduced in NA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As many as two bills including the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2021 and the Civil Unmanned Aircraft System Bill, 2021 were introduced in the National Assembly on Friday.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad introduced a bill to further amend the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2002 [The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2021] (Amendment in section 8) while Minister for Aviation Division Ghulam Sarwar Khan introduced a bill to provide for establishment of Civil Unmanned Aircraft System Authority for Pakistan [The Civil Unmanned Aircraft System Bill, 2021] in the House.

Meanwhile, Parliamentary Secretary for Federal Education, Professional Training, National Heritage and Culture Wajihah Qamar moved a motion in the House under sub-rule (7) of Rule 154 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007 read with Article 70 (3) of the Constitution, that the University of Islamabad Bill, 2020 as passed by the Senate with amendments but not passed by the National Assembly with such amendments, be referred to the joint sitting for consideration and passage.

Bike lifter arrested

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested a bike lifter and recovered two stolen motorcycles and other items from his possession. According to a police spokesman, a team under the supervision of SHO, Wah Cantt Police Station managed to net an accused namely Muhammad Tariq who was a bike lifter and allegedly involved in several cases registered in different police stations. Police recovered two stolen motorcycles and other items from his possession. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway, he added. — APP

Muharram conduct

IT is positive to see the Council of Islamic Ideology in the news for the right reasons. Its decision to issue a code of conduct at the outset of Muharram in the bid to avoid any sectarianism is a productive direction to divert its energy towards. The Council has often been in the news for all the wrong reasons in the past, and questions have been posed as to its purpose. Given how we have seen incidents of violence in this month in the past, it was important for the authoritative body to dissuade members of the public from any repeat incidents. Weighing in on a sensitive issue such as this and looking to bring more harmony amongst sects is the sort of intervention that CII should be making.

One of the major recommendations is for clerics to use social media very carefully. Alongside this, there needs to be more positivity in interactions between managements of mosques, seminaries etc. Most importantly however, the Council has advised mosques to be careful about who they provide a platform to speak on loudspeakers. No one known for propagating hate speech or a divisive narrative should be given the space to voice their views to a large audience—it gets much worse when such individuals are using the authoritative platform of a mosque.

Now that the CII has made this positive incursion towards promoting greater interfaith harmony, it could go a step further and also denounce acts of violence and marginalisation of minority groups. Yesterday's terrible incident of a temple being attacked after a Hindu boy allegedly desecrated a local seminary is just the sort of thing that the CII should step in for. The Council can denounce acts of mob violence and allow for individuals to take the law in their own hands, particularly since there are almost always reports of the majority group in the area looking to settle old disputes through cases of such nature. A federal Council on Islamic Ideology must first look to prioritise on being an enlightened and authoritative voice on issues that can help unite the country further. And this first step will hopefully lead to more focus on this aspect.

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US SPEED



Perplexing 'advice'

PEMRA'S latest 'advice' to news channels, restricting the use of videos from social media while reporting on natural disasters is a lesson in absurdity, even given the electronic media regulator's past recommendations. In a directive issued on July 31, the authority expressed 'grave concern' over the reporting of natural disasters through the use of videos circulating on social media instead of news channels' own footage and termed such recent coverage of the torrential rains in the capital as 'hoax reporting', whatever that means. Per Pemra, the 'fact' was that roads had been cleared once the rains had stopped and thus the 'unnecessary hype' by TV channels caused 'fear and trauma' among viewers. The regular has said that viewers assert that channels are obliged to broadcast 'authentic' news with official versions of the relevant authorities. The fact is that the ban on using footage from social media runs contrary to established news customs across the world now, wherein the broadcast of such videos falls under the ambit of citizen journalism and its employment a common practice so long as it is verified and sourced since a limited number of reporters cannot be expected to be everywhere and reach remote areas on time.

Unfortunately, the impression that such regulation has become a tool at the disposal of sitting governments to squeeze news organisations has only gained more traction in recent years. Pemra must make every effort to dispel these perceptions of partisanship and ensure it doesn't end up at loggerheads with the news media – a position it found itself in earlier this year when the Association of Electronic Media Editors and News Directors vowed to resist its decision to refrain from sources-based reporting of cabinet meetings. Similarly, the authority's directives in 2019 restricting talk show hosts to being 'moderators' without expressing opinions and ordering them not to appear as guests in other shows led to a severe backlash by journalists as well as a show-cause notice by the Islamabad High Court after which the decision was subsequently reversed. There is little doubt that Pemra finds itself faced with a rather unenviable task, something that should have ideally been left to the media themselves. That means taking to task those who do not follow the basic tenets of journalism without punishing journalism which lives up to its mission of comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable.

Why Turkey wants to secure Kabul airport

Abdul Basit / Zahid Shahab Ahmed

Turkey has over 500 troops in Afghanistan, but these troops do not participate in combat – their activities are limited to providing security to the military section of the Kabul airport and training Afghan security forces. Due to its non-combatant role in Afghanistan, Turkey has better relations with the Taliban than any other NATO country and has recently been tasked with facilitating the peace talks between Kabul and the Taliban. Though the Taliban has already warned Turkey not to keep its troops in Afghanistan beyond Sept 2021, Ankara is pressuring the fighter group to drop its objections to these plans through its allies, Pakistan and Qatar

LAST month, Turkey offered to assume the responsibility of running and protecting Kabul's strategic Hamid Karzai Airport – landlocked Afghanistan's main gateway to the world – after American and NATO troops complete their withdrawal from the war-battered country. As an agreement between the Taliban and the Afghan government continues to prove elusive, and the security situation in Afghanistan deteriorates rapidly, there is a need to explore Turkey's motivations for making the offer.

Turkey, the only Muslim-majority country in NATO, has long been diplomatically and politically influential in Afghanistan. It not only has deep-rooted historical, cultural, religious and ethnic ties with Afghanistan but also with Pakistan – the Taliban's principal backer. In the past, it organised several summits between the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan in an effort to improve dialogue between the neighbouring nations.

While playing an active role in the multifaceted efforts to end Afghanistan's decades-old conflict, Turkey maintained close ties with various competing ethnic and political factions in the country, including the Taliban.

Turkey has over 500 troops in Afghanistan, but these troops do not participate in combat – their activities are limited to providing security to the military section of the Kabul airport and training Afghan security forces. Due to its non-combatant role in Afghanistan, Turkey has better relations with the Taliban than any other NATO country and has recently been tasked with facilitating the peace talks between Kabul and the Taliban. Though the Taliban has already warned Turkey not to keep its troops in Afghanistan beyond September 2021, Ankara is pressuring the fighter group to drop its objections to these plans through its allies, Pakistan and Qatar. Turkey has also decided to directly talk to the Taliban on this matter. As a result of all this, Turkey is in a prime

position to provide security to Afghanistan's main airport in the post-US era. And Ankara has a lot to gain from taking on this crucial responsibility and thus remaining a key player in Afghanistan after the US withdrawal.

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan makes no secret of his desire to increase Turkey's clout in the Muslim world. Under his rule, Turkey significantly increased its influence in Muslim South Asia through media and educational projects. Turkish dramas, such as Resurrection: Ertugrul, became blockbuster hits in both Pakistan and Afghanistan, helping turn public opinion in favour of Turkey.

Moreover, in recent years, Ankara made various foreign policy moves aimed at sidelining Saudi Arabia and positioning Turkey as the new leader of the Sunni Muslim world. It actively participated in regional conflicts, such as the Syrian war, against Saudi Arabia and its allies, and has been vocal in its criticism of Riyadh on various issues, from the Qatar blockade to the assassination of Jamal Khashoggi. Turkish efforts to maintain a continued presence in post-US Afghanistan by becoming the gatekeeper of the Kabul airport are in part an extension of these geopolitical ambitions. By insisting on assuming a major role in post-US Afghanistan, Erdogan wants not only to challenge Saudi Arabia's leadership of the Sunni-Muslim world but also demonstrate Turkey's soft power capabilities to the wider international community. Maintaining an active role in Afghanistan after the US withdrawal would also help Turkey achieve its ambitions of increasing its importance within NATO and repairing its strained relationship with the US.

In July 2019, Ankara acquired S-400 missiles from Russia, which were originally built to target NATO hardware. The purchase strained Turkey's relations with other NATO members, who considered the move a threat to their security. The US eventually imposed sanctions on Turkey to express its displeasure. US sup-

port for Kurdish forces in Syria, and Turkey's operations against these groups, as well as the US' refusal to hand over the preacher Turkey holds responsible for the 2016 coup attempt against Erdogan, also strained the relationship between Ankara and Washington. By volunteering to provide security to the Kabul airport and thus ensuring that NATO maintains a presence in the country after the US's exit, Turkey is hoping to ameliorate its relations with Washington.

By projecting itself as an important player in Afghanistan, Turkey is also hoping to enhance its position and prestige in NATO. Lately, Turkey has come under scrutiny from its NATO allies for its interventionist policies in Libya, Iraq and Syria. In retrospect, Turkey's presence in Afghanistan after the NATO troops' withdrawal in 2014 has helped it increase its importance in the alliance through NATO's Resolute Support training mission. Thus, Turkey is likely hoping to achieve similar results by remaining in the country after the completion of the US's withdrawal.

Moreover, the Kabul airport will continue to have strategic importance for NATO countries that want to maintain a diplomatic presence there in the coming months and years. Ensuring the security of the airport will undoubtedly help Turkey gain prestige in the eyes of these countries. Turkey and the US are still negotiating, and no final decision has been made as to who will be tasked with securing the Kabul airport after the US withdrawal. Washington seems interested in Turkey's offer, but so far did not agree to meet Turkey's conditions, including financial, logistical and diplomatic support. Meanwhile, the Taliban is rapidly gaining territory, and Iran and Russia have already hosted the delegations of the Taliban and the Afghan government in an effort to revive the stalled peace talks. If Turkey really wants this role, then time is of the essence.

– Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Israel-Iran naval showdown could get out of hand

Osama Al-Sharif



The clandestine maritime attacks, from both sides, had been tolerated until last Thursday's incident, when an Israeli commercial tanker was hit by drones off the coast of Oman, killing two crew members, one Briton and one Romanian. Israel was quick to point the finger at Iran and called on the international community to take action

SINCE 2019, Israel and Iran have been engaged in a clandestine maritime showdown that has left commercial tankers belonging to the two countries damaged but not crippled. Iran had resorted to this tactic in retaliation to alleged Israeli strikes, including cyberattacks, on its nuclear facilities, electric power stations and, more seriously, the assassination of a top Iranian nuclear scientist last November.

Israel is also blamed for almost weekly airstrikes on Iranian military targets in Syria, including weapons depots. Pro-Iran militias in Iraq have also been targeted by Israel, according to various intelligence sources. This week, outgoing Iranian President Hassan Rouhani admitted that Israel was behind the theft of Iran's nuclear archives in 2019. Former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad also revealed earlier this year that Israeli spy agents had infiltrated Iranian intelligence agencies.

The clandestine maritime attacks, from both sides, had been tolerated until last Thursday's incident, when an Israeli commercial tanker was hit by drones off the coast of Oman, killing two crew members, one Briton and one Romanian. Israel was quick to point the finger at Iran and called on the international community to take action. Its diplomatic effort got a reluctant US and an angry UK to condemn the attack. Tehran flatly rejected the accusations and refused to accept the blame.

The exaggerated Israeli response may have something to do with it wanting to deflect attention from the scandal involving the Israeli cyber firm NSO Group, which sold mobile phone hacking software – known as Project Pegasus – to foreign governments that used it

to spy on politicians, activists and journalists, among others. Top Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, have promised to retaliate and an Israeli response to the attack will surely come soon. The US and its European allies will want this recent incident to go away sooner rather than later. Their efforts to salvage the Iran nuclear deal have hit many snags and, with Rouhani now replaced by hard-liner Ebrahim Raisi, all eyes are on Tehran's next move. Just before the attack on the Israeli ship, Washington had sent a positive signal to the new Iranian leader that it hoped for a normal relationship with Iran.

The timing of this latest shadow naval war could not be worse for all parties concerned. The new Iranian leader will have his hands full trying to subdue nationwide anti-regime protests, which are getting out of control. Acute water shortages in a number of provinces have added to people's anger over their worsening living conditions. Israel is recovering from an inconclusive war with Hamas in Gaza and the new coalition government is walking on thin ice. For the US and the Europeans, the Middle East is currently too volatile to handle: Lebanon is on the brink of collapse, the Yemen war rages on, Libya remains unstable, and now Tunisia is going through a constitutional crisis.

The Israeli response to last week's naval attack, which its leaders have promised is coming, could make things worse for all parties. The US is trying to gauge the fallout of its withdrawal from Afghanistan, with the Taliban capturing more territory and besieging major cities, while the Europeans worry about increased tensions between Washing-

ton on the one hand and China and Russia on the other. A deliberate Israeli attack on Iran would almost certainly complicate the delicate Vienna-hosted nuclear deal talks, which are currently suspended.

But Tel Aviv is pushing its allies for an international response to the alleged Iranian attack. As much as the US, UK and others are standing by Israel's side, any actual move to deter Iran at this stage may backfire. Raisi's reaction would likely be more aggressive than his predecessor and the Iranian response could target American troops in Iraq at a sensitive time for Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi, who has recently returned from Washington, having got President Joe Biden to commit to a vague US pullout from the country.

It all depends on the severity of the Israeli retaliation. If Israel chooses to launch a cyber-attack on vital Iranian nuclear facilities, then Tehran will have to respond. An Israeli strike on an Iranian tanker on the high seas would intensify the maritime war that has been going on for years. A more serious Iranian response could affect maritime navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. In all cases, it will be a major test for Bennett and Raisi alike.

It is almost certain that the US will put some pressure on Israel not to provoke an international crisis. There is no doubt that Iran wants to conclude an agreement in Vienna that would lift sanctions and give its economy a much-needed lifeline. But Israel is against giving Iran a reprieve and the coming few days will show how determined it is to derail any new deal.

– Courtesy: Arab News

Briefs



| Pos. | Country | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|------|-----------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1 | China | 38 | 26 | 17 | 79 |
| 2 | USA | 31 | 36 | 31 | 98 |
| 3 | Japan | 24 | 11 | 16 | 51 |
| 4 | GB | 18 | 20 | 20 | 58 |
| 5 | Australia | 17 | 6 | 21 | 44 |

Temple attack: CJP directs to arrest...

FROM PAGE 01
IG Inam Ghani informed the court that no arrests have been made so far in connection with the case, when Justice Qazi Amin asked as to what action had the police taken. Additional Attorney General Sohail Mehmood said that Prime Minister Imran Khan had taken notice of the matter. At this, CJP Gulzar said the court would focus on the legal perspective of the case. "Three days have passed, but no one has been arrested," said the chief justice, disappointed. Justice Amin said police has failed to perform its duty. "Had there been professional officers in the force, the issue would have been solved by now," the top judge observed, adding that one should ponder over how the incident has impacted Pakistani Hindus. "Think, how would Muslims have reacted if a mosque was attacked," he remarked. He also inquired about an 8-year-old Hindu boy who was arrested by the police. The Punjab police chief informed the bench that the boy was presented before a magistrate first.

Govt allowed Nawaz to ...

FROM PAGE 01
He went on to say that the decision allow former PM Nawaz Sharif to go to London was taken by Imran Niazi government. The opposition leader said elder Sharif cannot be treated in Pakistan and this decision was also taken by the board formed by the government. "The former PM's treatment and stay in London will be as per the advice of doctors," he said and added Sharif will return to Pakistan when the doctors would allow him. Shehbaz further said an appeal has been filed keeping in view the legal requirements and until a decision is made on the appeal, Nawaz Sharif can legally stay in London. On Thursday, the PML-N president telephoned his brother and party supremo after UK home office rejected Nawaz Sharif's visa extension application. Shehbaz Sharif and Nawaz Sharif discussed the decision of the British Home Office. Nawaz apprised about the legal action on the decision of the British authorities. During the telephonic conversation, Nawaz Sharif said that his lawyers had filed an appeal against the decision of the Home Office. The appeal stated medical reasons and treatment for further stay in the UK.

Man City sign Grealish from Aston Villa

SPORTS DESK
MANCHESTER: Manchester City have signed England midfielder Jack Grealish on a six-year contract after paying the 100-million pound (\$139.27 million) release clause. Aston Villa announced on Thursday, making him the most expensive player in Premier League history. Grealish's move to Premier League champions City breaks the previous record held by France midfielder Paul Pogba, who rejoined Manchester United from Juventus in 2016 for a reported fee of 89.3 million pounds. Grealish started his career at Villa's academy before making his senior debut in 2014. The playmaker, who was given the captain's armband in March 2019, played more than 200 games for the West Midlands club, scoring 32 goals. The 25-year-old had four years left on his Villa contract after signing a new deal in September last year.

Netherlands win record fourth Olympic gold medal

Britain earned the bronze medal with a hard-fought 4-3 win over India in hot conditions earlier on Friday. Britain, who had won gold at the 2016 Rio Olympics, took a two-goal lead in the second quarter through Elena Rayer and Sarah Robertson

SPORTS DESK

TOKYO: The Netherlands won their fourth Olympic women's hockey title by beating Argentina 3-1 in the final at the Tokyo Games on Friday. The Netherlands effectively settled the match in the second quarter, scoring three times off penalty corners, with one goal from Margot van Geffen and two from Caia van Maasakker. Argentina replied with moments left to play in the first half when Agustina Gorzelany also scored off a penalty corner. Las Leonas kept fighting after the halftime break but were unable to score again, settling for the silver medal. "It's amazing," Netherlands captain Eva de Goede said. "I just can't believe that we actually did it. We worked so hard for it." The win gave De Goede and team mate Lidewij Welten their third Olympic gold in women's hockey, after they also earned the top prize at the 2008 and 2012 Games.



The only other women's hockey player to win Olympic gold three times is Australia's Rechelle Hawkes - in 1988, 1996 and 2000. "It's the cherry on the pie. It's really incredible," Welten said. "We've both had an incredible career and still going so that's amazing." The two sides also played each other in the final at the 2012 London Olympics, when the Netherlands took home the gold.

BRITAIN'S BRONZE
Britain earned the bronze medal with a hard-fought 4-3 win over India in hot conditions earlier on Friday. Britain, who had won gold at the 2016 Rio Olympics, took a two-goal lead in the second quarter through Elena Rayer and Sarah Robertson. India, who have never won an Olympic medal in women's hockey, pulled level after drag-flick specialist Gurjit Kaur scored twice off penalty corners. Britain then conceded another goal that gave India a 3-2 lead going into the break, but they kept fighting to turn the tables in the final leg of their Tokyo campaign. Hollie Pearne-Webb equalised in the 35th minute, before Grace Balsdon scored Britain's winning goal from a penalty corner in the last quarter. "Really pleased that we could come here and get it across the line," Pearne-Webb told reporters. India's loss meant the women's team could not match the feat of the men's team, who won the country's first Olympic hockey medal in 41 years, prevailing in a nine-goal thriller against Germany in the bronze medal match.

HUM, BOL, Samaa wins in RISJA Independence Cup



AFZAL JAVED
ISLAMABAD: Unbeatable Hum TV along with Samaa and BolTV have emerged victorious in the ongoing RISJA Inter-Media Azadi Cricket Cup organized by the Rawalpindi Islamabad Sports Journalists Association at National Cricket Ground Islamabad. favourite Hum TV gets third consecutive win in the pool round match of the tournament sponsored by Park View and Nass Gas by thrashing Express TV by 8 wickets to reach the

semifinal round. Express TV, batting first only managed 89 runs with the fall of all wickets in the 14th over as Umer Khan only notable scorer who made 23 runs while Hum TV captain Summer Abbas took 4-10 and Muhammad Kashif took 2-7 respectively. In reply Hum TV chased the score in the 11th over with help of Sameer Butt (31) and M. Kamran (34) while Omeran Asghar and Rizwan Galzai took one wicket each. In the second match Samaa TV defeated ARY by 4 wickets. Batting first, ARY managed to score only 49

runs as no player from ARY could cross the double figure. Anwar Mir and Wahab Kamran from Samaa TV took three wickets each respectively. In reply, Samaa TV achieved the target in the eighth over at a loss of six wickets. Anwar Mir scored 17 and Hasnain scored 13 runs for Samaa TV. Mubashir took three wickets for ARY. In the third match, Bol TV defeated RISJA XI by two wickets after a tough contest. Batting first, RISJA XI scored 88 runs for the loss of seven wickets with the support of senior anchor

Hamid Mir (25) and Saqib Abbasi (18) in the stipulated 15 overs. Irfan Shakeel and Asad Abbas took two wickets each for Bol TV. In reply, Bol TV achieved the target in the last over at a loss of 8 wickets. Irfan Shakeel remained unbeaten with 20 runs. Afzal Javed and Gabriel de Souza of RISJA XI took three three wickets each giving 10 and 13 runs respectively. Parliamentary Secretary Finance Zain Qureshi along with Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Ali Nawaz Awan distributed prizes among the players.

Turkey revises quarantine rules for Pakistanis

DNA

ANKARA: The Turkish Government has revised quarantine rules for travellers arriving from Pakistan. At the request of this Embassy and keeping in view the hardships faced by Pakistani students who will be joining their academic institutions in Turkey after summer break, they will be allowed to undergo the mandatory quarantine of 10 days at the designated dormitories instead of private hotels. This rule is effective from today till 1 September 2021. Students will be quarantined at the Higher Education Credit and Hostels Institution (KYK)'s Muhtesem Süleyman Dormitory in Istanbul and Tahsin Banguoglu KYK Dormitory in Ankara. A valid student identification document showing that they study higher education in Turkey would be required. Pakistani students studying at universities based in provinces other than Istanbul or Ankara, will only be able to travel to the provinces where their registered universities are based after the end of the quarantine period in KYK dormitories in Istanbul or Ankara. Those coming from Pakistan who have valid residence and work permit will be exempted from hotel quarantine and will spend their mandatory quarantine period in their residence. However, such persons will only be allowed to go to their residence by private vehicle and cannot use domestic flights or public transportation. Other than current students and holders of Turkish residence or work permit, those coming from Pakistan for visit or tourism purposes, will be quarantined at the designated private hotels as per previous practice. The Embassy of Pakistan in Ankara conveys deep appreciation and gratitude to the relevant authorities who amended quarantine rules on our request. The Pakistan Missions in Turkey are available to assist our nationals to the best of our abilities.

PM Imran appreciates role...

FROM PAGE 01
the efficacy of Pakistan's comprehensive Border Management Regime and the pragmatic measures being taken to ensure effective border control and internal security. He lauded the security forces for providing enabling environment for completion of socio-economic development projects in the Newly Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which were vital for enduring stability and sustainable progress of the area. The prime minister also appreciated the formation for its dedicated assistance to civil administration during COVID, locust, anti polio campaigns and tree plantation drive. A day earlier, Prime Minister Imran Khan 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 country. 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.

- urges masses to plant trees

FROM PAGE 01
The prime minister had planted a sapling at the capital's Fatima Jinnah Park in Sector F-9 as a gesture to encourage the masses to fully participate in the tree-plantation campaign. The nationwide activity is taking place in the monsoon season as part of the 'Ten Billion Tree Tsunami' under the auspices of the Ministry of Climate Change and the Capital Development Authority (CDA). The CDA will plant nearly half a million trees across Islamabad over the next few weeks.

Anderson becomes 3rd highest wicket-taker

DNA

NOTTINGHAM: James Anderson has surpassed India's Anil Kumble (619) to become the third-highest wicket-taker in Test cricket. The 39-year-old Anderson achieved this milestone after dismissing KL Rahul on Day three of the first England-India Test at Trent Bridge. With 621 wickets, the England paceman is only behind Muttiah Muralitharan (800) and Shane Warner (708) on the list of highest wicket-takers in the longest format of the game. He finished with figures of 4/54 in the first innings, taking wickets of Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli, Rahul and Shardul Thakur. Before the start of first Test, he had expressed the desire to play in his 40s. "I still love turning up every day at training, putting in the hard yards and being in the dressing room with the lads trying to forge a win for England. That's all I've really ever bothered about and what I'll keep trying to do." It must be noted Anderson has been playing Test cricket since 2003.

Plan for live telecast of Nadeem's final Olympic

LAHORE: The Sports Board Punjab (SBP), on the direction of Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Rai Taimoor Khan Bhatti, has made arrangements for live telecast of Pakistan athlete Arshad Nadeem's final javelin throw in Tokyo Olympic match on big screen on Saturday. Arshad Nadeem's final Olympic javelin throw match would be shown on big screen at Nishtar Park Sports Complex Gymnasium Hall at 4pm. Arshad Nadeem has qualified for the final of the men's javelin event with a throw of 85.16 metres at Tokyo Olympic Games. Arshad, 24, finished above Germany's Julian Weber and Czech's Jakub Vadlejch to win his group and a place in the medal round. - APP

Azerbaijan claims first silver medal

TOKYO: Azerbaijani team has claimed its first silver in the Tokyo 2020. The karateka Rafael Aghayev (75 kg) enriched the country's medal hall after losing to Italy's Luigi Busa in the final. Rafael Aghayev has managed to achieve all of the highest sporting victories in karate; he is multiple European multiple World Champion. For outstanding sports achievements, he has repeatedly received awards from the leadership of the National Olympic Committee, the Youth and Sports Ministry of Azerbaijan Republic. The President of the World Karate Federation, Antonio Espinosa, called him "Diamond of the Karate World." Earlier, judoka Irina Kindzerska (78 kg), boxer Alfonso Dominguez (81 kg) and Greco-Roman wrestler Rafiq Huseynov (77 kg) secured bronze medals for Azerbaijan. Moreover, freestyle wrestler Haji Aliyev (65 kg) has qualified for the final, while Maria Stadnik (50 kg) and Sharif Sharifov (97 kg) will for bronze medals on August 7. Some 44 athletes are representing the country at the Summer Olympics being held from July 23 to August 8. - DNA



MUZAFFARABAD: A group photo of President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Masood Khan with Shehryar Khan Afridi, Chairman Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir and Wasim Akram, Vice President Kashmir Premier League (KPL) at Muzaffarabad Cricket Stadium. - DNA

Soccer-Canada take women's gold in Olympics

DNA

TOKYO: Canada triumphed with their first gold medal in women's football by beating Sweden 3-2 on penalties after Friday's final ended 1-1 following regular and extra time. Julia Grosso kept her cool with the decisive penalty in sudden death to give Canada top spot on the podium after bronze medals at London and Rio. The Swedish team, who had enjoyed far greater pressure throughout the 120 minutes and were one kick away from victory in the shootout, collapsed on the ground, with several members of the squad breaking into tears. The Canadian players whooped in delight and embraced after another resilient defensive display following their upset of the

gold medal favourites the United States in the semi-finals. That win over the Americans had come via a penalty from Jessie Fleming and the tireless 23-year-old midfielder again proved a key figure. Stina Blackstenius had put Sweden

ahead in the 34th minute, steering home a slightly scuffed shot after Kosovare Asllani squared the ball. But Fleming brought Canada level in the 67th minute after the referee went to the pitchside monitor and ruled that Swedish

defender Amanda Ilestedt had brought down Canada striker Christine Sinclair. Sweden dominated for the remainder of normal time and the 30 minutes of extra time but failed to turn the pressure into efforts on goal.

There were goalmouth scrambles and Sweden substitute Lina Hurtig twice went close with headers but Canada never stopped making blocks and winning challenges as they scrapped to take the game into the shootout. Sweden were positioned to win the best-of-five contest but Caroline Seger shot over the bar with the chance to make it 3-1 with her team's fifth kick. Deane Rose then blasted the best kick of the contest into the top corner to make it 2-2 on penalties and force sudden death. Canada keeper Stephanie Labbe dived low to her left to keep out Jonna Andersson's effort and Grosso settled the affair with a well-struck shot that went in despite Hedvig Lindahl getting a hand to it. The United States won the bronze medal on Thursday with victory over Australia.



Briefs

Uzbek President meets with Turkmen counterpart

NEWS DESK

TASHKENT: President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev met with the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. The President of Uzbekistan emphasized the high level of organization of the Consultative Meeting of Central Asian Leaders, taking place in Avaza National Tourist Zone of Turkmenistan, which will undoubtedly become the next important stage in strengthening regional cooperation. The Presidents of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan discussed the current issues of the bilateral agenda, interaction at regional and international platforms. The Heads of state noted with satisfaction that despite the difficult period of the pandemic, Uzbekistan - Turkmenistan friendship, good-neighbourliness and strategic partnership demonstrate dynamic development. The main attention was paid to the issues of enhancing trade and economic ties. The progress of implementing the previously reached agreements was considered at the meeting. The importance of promoting new projects, enhancing contacts between neighboring regions and businesspeople of the two countries to continue the positive dynamics of cooperation was emphasized.

Greece battles wildfires near Athens

AGENCIES

ATHENS: Greece carried out mass evacuations overnight in the northern suburbs of Athens and on the nearby island of Evia as wind whipped up huge wildfires, APA reports citing BBC. Thousands had to leave their homes near Athens and 600 left Evia by boat. Acrid smoke hangs over the Greek capital. Gale-force winds are forecast to fan the many blazes. Firefighters from France, Switzerland, Sweden, Cyprus and Romania are assisting Greece. Wildfires are also raging in North Macedonia and southwestern Turkey. North Macedonia has declared a state of emergency, and there are several blazes in neighbouring Albania and Bulgaria. The fires began spreading in the region in late July. A fire that flared up in the north Athens suburb of Varybobi gained strength on Thursday and spread to adjacent areas, near Mount Parnitha, the Kathimerini newspaper reported. Further east, residents of Vothonas and Marathon were told to head to the coast on Friday as wildfires spread along several fronts.

Haiti requests U.N. commission

WEB DESK

PORT AU PRINCE: Haiti's government has requested help from the United Nations to conduct an international investigation into the killing last month of President Jovenel Moise, the country's embassy in the Dominican Republic said on Thursday, media reports quoting Reuters. Haiti requested the aid in a letter dated Aug. 3 addressed to U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the embassy in the neighboring country said in a statement. Specifically, Haiti called for an "international commission of inquiry" to be formed, along with a special court to prosecute the suspects. The letter, signed by foreign minister Claude Joseph, said that Haiti considered the attack on Moise in his residence an international crime due to the alleged role of foreigners in planning, financing and carrying it out. Haitian authorities have detained former Colombian soldiers allegedly hired by a Miami-based security firm on suspicion of carrying out the assassination of Moise.

Central Asian leaders worried by turmoil in Afghanistan

Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev also emphasized that stability in Central Asia hinges on the situation in Afghanistan. "The security and stable development depend on a political settlement in Afghanistan

DNA

ASHGABAT: Leaders of five ex-Soviet Central Asian nations on Friday voiced concern about instability spilling from Afghanistan and discussed ways to coordinate their response to potential security threats. The leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan met in Turkmenbashi on the Caspian Sea to talk about the regional challenges. "A quick settlement of the situation in Afghanistan is a key factor for preserving and strengthening security and stability in Central Asia," the five leaders said in a statement after the talks. Turkmenistan's President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted that the talks give a boost to regional cooperation. The five presidents talked about expanding trade and economic ties between the countries of the region and spoke for establishing a permanent regional security dialogue. The fighting between the Taliban and Afghanistan's government forces has escalated recently as U.S. and NATO troops complete their pullout from the war-torn country. The Taliban currently control more than half of Afghanistan's 421 districts and district centers after pressing their offensive at unexpected speed and are aiming to seize provincial capitals.



"The withdrawal of U.S. and allied troops from Afghanistan has sharply exacerbated the military and political situation in the country," Tajikistan's President Emomali Rakhmon said during Friday's summit. "Regrettably, the Taliban has taken control of the entire length of the border with our country," Rakhmon said that more than 2,000 Afghan army soldiers have fled to Tajikistan

facing the Taliban offensive. "It's quite surprising that they retreated and abandoned their positions without offering any resistance to the Taliban," he added. The Tajik president voiced concern about the concentration of "terrorist groups" in Afghanistan along the border with Tajikistan that number more than 3,000 militants from the ex-Soviet states and China. "These are extremists who

are well-trained in sabotage, terrorism and propaganda activities and have far-reaching plans concerning our region," Rakhmon said, noting that Tajikistan has moved to strengthen the protection of its border with Afghanistan. Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev also emphasized that stability in Central Asia hinges on the situation in Afghanistan. "The security and stable development depend on a

political settlement in Afghanistan," Mirziyoyev said. Russia, which has a security pact with Central Asian nations and military bases in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, has vowed to provide military assistance to fend off any potential threats coming from Afghanistan. On Friday, Russian and Uzbek troops wrapped up joint war games involving 1,500 troops and 200 military vehicles who practiced action

to destroy militants. The maneuvers featured Russian Tu-22M3 long-range bombers hitting mock targets representing militant camps at the Termez firing range in Uzbekistan. Another military exercise by Russian, Tajik and Uzbek troops that began Thursday in Tajikistan near the border with Afghanistan involves 2,500 troops and 500 military vehicles.

Azerbaijan stands with Turkey: President Aliyev

Erdogan thanked for this additional support and noted that this support was a clear manifestation of Azerbaijani-Turkish brotherhood and friendship

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan have discussed the deadly wildfires in Turkey and the situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, Azertag reported on 6 August. In a telephone conversation that took place at Aliyev's initiative on August 6, the Azerbaijani leader once again expressed his condolences to Erdogan over the deaths of people as a result of heavy forest fires in various parts of fraternal Turkey. Aliyev said that Azerbaijan stood by Turkey in extinguishing the fires and preventing their consequences, and expressed solidarity. Erdogan thanked for the condolences and for Azerbaijan's support to Turkey in extinguishing the forest fires from the first days. He stressed that firefighters from Azerbaijan participated in the firefighting operations with high professionalism and love.



Aliyev noted that an additional 40 fire engines had already departed from Azerbaijan and would reach the fire zone on August 7 and added that the number of fire engines and equipment serving the area would reach 93. The head of state noted that one helicopter, one amphibious firefighting aircraft and 510 firefighters, including 150 additional personnel, were operating in the fire zone. The Azerbaijani president suggested sending an additional 200 specially trained firefighters, thus increasing the number of firefighters from Azerbaijan to 710 people. Erdogan thanked for this additional support and noted that this support was a clear manifestation of Azerbaijani-Turkish brotherhood and

friendship. During the conversation, President Aliyev briefed Erdogan on the provocations committed by Armenia on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and stressed that the Azerbaijani army was giving an adequate response to Armenian provocations. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that Turkey always stood by brotherly Azerbaijan. During the conversation, the heads of state exchanged views on regional processes in the post-conflict period. It should be noted that under President Ilham Aliyev's instructions, Azerbaijani firefighters and rescuer teams have been actively involved in extinguishing fires that broke out in Turkey's Mugla, Marmaris, Denizli and other regions.

Pak mango festivals held in China

FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: Pakistani mango festivals were held in Shanghai and Suzhou by Hongqiao Import Commodities Exhibition and Trading Center (HQICET). According to Gwadar Pro, Hussain Haider, consul general of Pakistan in Shanghai attended the event. "Pakistan grows high-quality mangoes, which are exported to more than 100 countries. With unique soil quality, temperature, and a long history of growing mangoes special in taste and aroma," said Hussain Haider. In his speech for the events, he introduced the latest development of the mango industry. "Mango is an important part of Pakistani culture. One of the most famous varieties is the Chaunsa mango. It has strong fragrance, high sweetness, fine fiber, thinner skin and smaller size compared with other mango varieties. The 500-kilograms Chaunsa mangoes provided at the mango festivals come from Multan, Pakistan. "Yesterday the mangoes arrived at Pudong Airport. After nuclear acid tests, the mangoes were delivered to us, said staff from HQICET.

Hezbollah retaliates to Israeli air raids

BEIRUT: The Lebanese group, Hezbollah, has said it fired rockets at open ground near Israeli positions in response to Israeli air raids on southern Lebanon, drawing retaliatory Israeli strikes. In a statement on Friday, Hezbollah said it had fired "dozens" of rockets in the disputed Shebaa Farms area after Israeli fighters early on Thursday launched rare air raids on neighbouring Lebanon following a second day of rocket fire across the border. The Iranian-backed and heavily armed Shia group also said the Israeli air attacks had hit open ground in Lebanon. Later on Friday, the Israeli military said it had struck "the rocket launch sites in Lebanon". Israel said it did not wish to escalate to a full war, though it was ready for one. "More than 10 rockets were fired from Lebanon into Israeli territory. Most of the rockets were intercepted by the ... aerial defence system while the rest of them landed in open areas adjacent to Har Dov," the disputed Shebaa Farms border district, the air force said on Twitter. Israel's Army Radio also reported that the military fired shells and artillery towards parts of southern Lebanon under the control of Hezbollah. Air raid sirens sounded in the Upper Galilee in northern Israel, and in the Golan Heights, part of the territory Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war. It was the third day of cross-border hostilities that threaten a period of calm prevailing since 2006, when Israel and Hezbollah fought a one-month war. Zeina Khodr, reporting from Lebanon, said that the situation was precarious after the marked escalation along the border but noted that both sides were "very careful in avoiding casualties". "[They are] trading carefully because any wrong move here could lead to all-out war," said Khodr. "These are two longtime enemies who are now sending messages to each other," said Khodr. "But many in Lebanon will also tell you that this escalation in undoubtedly linked to what is going on in the region, because Lebanon is entangled, with Hezbollah of course being an ally of Iran." - Foreign Desk

China appoints new commander in Xinjiang

AGENCIES

BEIJING: China has appointed a new military commander in restive Xinjiang where authorities have locked up more than a million members of Muslim minorities in what they call a bid to curb terrorism and radicalism. Lt. Gen. Wang Haijiang will oversee a massive military presence in the sprawling northwestern region that borders on several unstable Central Asian states, along with Pakistan and Afghanistan, from which U.S. troops are withdrawing. Like Xinjiang's hardline Communist Party chief Chen Quanguo, Wang previously served in Tibet, which also hosts large numbers of troops to suppress anti-government sentiment among the native Tibetan population and guard the disputed border with India, where the two nations had a deadly clash last year. Wang's unannounced appointment was revealed on the Xinjiang Military District's social media feed showing him presiding at a retirement ceremony for senior officers on Wednesday. Wang saw combat during a border war with Vietnam in the early 1980s and served in an elite People's Liberation Army unit, according to state media reports. The U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan is a particular concern for Beijing, which fears a resurgence of militant Islam along its border.

Azerbaijan, Iraq mull co-op in ICT

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan's Transport, Communications and High Technologies Rashad Nabiyev and Iraq's Communications Minister Arkan Shahab Ahmed al-Shabani have discussed bilateral cooperation in the ICT field. During the meeting, the parties discussed economic relations between the two countries, and cooperation in different spheres like the economy, trade, science, technology, among others. The sides noted that digital transformation and innovative development are among the priority issues on the agenda of the Azerbaijani government. Furthermore, the Azerbaijani minister expressed his gratitude to Iraq for supporting Azerbaijan's position in the international arena, in particular, within the Islamic Cooperation Organization, resolutions demanding to stop Armenia's military aggression against Azerbaijan, the liberation of the Armenian-occupied territories and the return of IDPs to their lands.

Qalibaf urges normalizing Iran-Belarus relations

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf called for normalizing financial relations between Iran and Belarus aiming to use capacities in industrial, technical services, transportation, agricultural and petrochemical fields. Speaking in a meeting with the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Belarus Vladimir Andreichenko, Qalibaf stressed developing parliamentary relations between the two countries. He noted that Iran-Belarus relations in economic, trade, industrial, agricultural, scientific, educational and financial exchanges field are of importance. Elsewhere in his remarks, Qalibaf slammed West's cruel sanctions against Iran and Belarus. He added that more interactions between Tehran and Minsk will defeat enemies. Meanwhile, Andreichenko said grounds have been prepared for increasing the level of interaction between Iran and Belarus. He underlined boosting interaction between Iranian and Belarusian lawmakers. Iran's various potentials and its important role in the region and the world caused developing interactions in different fields, he noted. He expressed Belarus government's and parliament's readiness for promoting all-out relations with Iran in economic, technical, industrial and agricultural fields.

Baku, Tehran vow to enhance parliamentary ties

DNA

TEHRAN: As we reported earlier, Chair of the Milli Majlis Sahiba Gafarova is in Iran on an official visit for the swearing-in ceremony of the newly-elected Iranian President Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi. As part of the visit, Sahiba Gafarova met with Chair of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf on 6 August, Press and Public Relations Department of the Milli Majlis told media. The speaker of the Iranian parliament welcomed the chair of the Milli Majlis as well as the Azerbaijani delegation and said that he was glad to see the representatives of the friendly neighbouring state in Tehran. Iran and Azerbaijan are bound together with solid common geographic, historical, cultural and religious values; Azerbaijan is well-loved in Iran and they in Iran follow developments unfolding in Azerbaijan closely, Mr Ghalibaf told Mrs Gafarova. Thinking for the sincere welcome, Chair of the Milli Majlis Sahiba Gafarova expressed satisfaction with the amiable and good-natured relations with Iran. She underlined the great significance of the two states' leaders' reciprocal visits for the establishment of the high-standard bilateral connexions. As for the documents signed during those visits, they constitute the legal frameworks for our interaction. It is good



to know that Azerbaijan was able to impose full control of its borders with Iran upon de-occupation of the Azerbaijani lands, Mrs Gafarova remarked. The chair of the Milli Majlis said as she was talking about the inter-parliamentary relations what substantial contribution the two parliaments made to the progress of the mutual relations. Our MPs exchange visits periodically while the friendship groups active in both legislatures are bringing us, according to Mrs Gafarova. Madame Chair also pointed out in the course of the conversation that

the Highland Garabagh Conflict was history already and that Azerbaijan had initiated a large-scale restoration and rebuilding work in its lands delivered from Armenian occupation. Mrs Gafarova told Mr Ghalibaf of Armenia having destroyed our mosques, cultural legacy and all the buildings in the first place and having annihilated totally all kinds of infrastructure in our territories during their occupation. The enemy had even gone quite as far as desecrating our sanctuaries and mosques, Mrs Gafarova emphasised. The conflict is over; still, a num-

ber of problems beg to be solved yet. One of them is posed by Armenia's refusal to give up maps of the minefields planted in our lands that had been occupied for thirty years until they were liberated in the course of the Patriotic War. In addition, Armenia is trying to hamper our displaced people's return to their native parts and is also resorting to provocations in the border delimitation question. It will be thirty years since the day of the Khojali Genocide next year - to be precise, on 26 February 2022, the speaker of the Milli Majlis said then.

Speaker meets with President Raisi

DNA

TEHRAN: Chair of the Milli Majlis Sahiba Gafarova, currently in Iran for the swearing-in ceremony of the Iranian president, met with President of Iran Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi on 6 August, the press and public relations department of the Milli Majlis told media. President Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi welcomed the chair of the Milli Majlis of the Azerbaijan Republic and her delegation and thanked them for having participated in his swearing-in. Mr Raisi also congratulated the state and people of Azerbaijan on their victory in the Patriotic War and wished the Azerbaijani nation prosperity and bright days. Sahiba Gafarova passed on to the Iranian president the greetings and congratulations of President Ilham Aliyev, adding that Azerbaijan had always paid special attention to furthering its relations with Iran, a friend and a neighbour, and was determined to deepen them further. Our political, economic, cultural and humanitarian co-operation serves the common interests of the two nations.

Briefs

CAA allows airlines own covid-19 counters

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has taken notice of passengers' influx at the airports and decided to provide the facility of Covid-19 Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) to the airlines. Following the incident of Covid tests for Dubai-bound passengers, the aviation authority decided to provide RAT facility to the airlines in order to avoid the crowd at the airports. DG CAA allowed the airlines to establish their own counters for conducting Covid tests at the airports. DG CAA Khaqan Murtaza said that the facility of Covid tests could also be given in the domestic departure lounge to the passengers. He said that the authority was reviewing the legality of action as the airlines have suddenly changed their policy which created difficulties for the passengers. Earlier in the day, a foreign airline has denied boarding passes to over 70 passengers who were set to fly to Dubai-bound flight because they did not have rapid antigen test results. More than 70 passengers were denied entry into their flight EK601, as they were not given their boarding passes at the Jinnah International Airport. Separately from Islamabad, more than 300 flight passengers have been barred entry from their flight of the same foreign airline and for a similar reason.

Over 1 mn people being vaccinated daily

QUETTA: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan Friday said the process of vaccination was in full swing as more than one million people were being vaccinated against COVID-19 every day. Talking to media persons, he said it was a positive sign for controlling the virus in the country. Dr Faisal was accompanied by Balochistan Parliamentary Secretary for Health Dr Rubaba Khan Buledi who also highlighted the federal government's support during anti-COVID and polio vaccinations in the province. He said Pakistan was undergoing the fourth lethal wave of coronavirus as the current Indian delta variant spread faster than the previous ones. He said the vaccinated persons data was being fed in the system in real time adding sometimes a manual list also was made to feed later. He said the rate of complainants was very low as 99 percent people had received certificates of complete vaccination on time. He said a complaint portal had also been set up where only a few thousand grievances had been received and most of them had been resolved timely. - APP

NSA Moeed concludes US visit

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Security Adviser (NSA) to the Prime Minister, Moeed Yusuf has proclaimed the conclusion of his visit to the United States (US), calling it a "constructive visit." The NSA also gave an insight into his current engagements and said that he is still in contact with his US counterpart Jake Sullivan since their negotiations began in Geneva. Besides that, Yusuf said think tanks, media, and Pakistani immigrants in the US are in the loop regarding the negotiations. According to Yusuf, the bilateral relationship between the two countries is "heading in the right way" and this time, both sides are interested in bringing positive outcomes.

Afghanistan seeks Pakistan's help in 'dismantling' Taliban

The Afghan ambassador addressed an open meeting of the United Nations Security Council on the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: Pakistan should help Afghanistan in dismantling the Taliban for peace to prosper in the war-torn country, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations Ghulam M Isaccai said Friday. The Afghan ambassador's comments came during an open meeting of the United Nations Security Council on the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan. The discussion was requested by the Afghan government, as well as Norway and Estonia. The Security Council last met on Afghanistan in June, but the situation in the conflict-ridden country has rapidly worsened since then. Peace talks between the Afghan government and Taliban negotiators started last year in

the Qatari capital of Doha, but have not made any substantive progress. Isaccai, who represented Foreign Minister Haneef Atmar in the meeting, said the Taliban had launched brutal attacks which had caused further instability in the country. "It is our job to stop it." In recent days, the Taliban and their affiliated groups have launched more than 5,000 attacks in 31 of the 34 provinces, Isaccai said, slamming the group for going against the Doha peace deal. The ambassador said the group had gone against the peace deal by not cutting off ties with international terrorist organisations. "And their ties cannot be broken off," he alleged. "Those who indulge and participate with them also reap the benefits," he said, adding the Taliban were linked to 20 foreign terrorist organisations. The Taliban are in contact with Al-Qaeda, Daesh, and Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan's

militant organisations, the Afghan representative told the UNSC meeting. "We request Pakistan to dismantle Taliban infrastructure and pipelines," Isaccai said, noting that Taliban attacks are intensifying with every passing day. Afghanistan's UN Isaccai urged the Security Council to act to "prevent a catastrophic situation." "We're alarmed by reports and incidents of gross human rights violation by the Taliban and their foreign terrorist associates in almost half of our country and we are extremely concerned about the safety and security of people in cities under Taliban attacks," he said. Meanwhile, UN special envoy for Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, told the Security Council the war in Afghanistan had entered a "new, deadlier, and more destructive phase" with more than 1,000 civilians killed in the past month during a Taliban offensive.

"A party that was genuinely committed to a negotiated settlement would not risk so many civilian casualties, because it would understand that the process of reconciliation will be more challenging the more blood is shed," Lyons said via video link from Kabul. "The Security Council must issue an unambiguous statement that attacks against cities must stop now," Deborah Lyons told the 15-member council. "This is now a different kind of war, reminiscent of Syria, recently, or Sarajevo, in the not-so-distant past," Lyons said. Deputy US Ambassador to the United Nations Richard Mills urged the Taliban to halt their offensive, pursue a political settlement and protect Afghanistan's infrastructure and people. "The Taliban must hear from the international community that we will not accept a military takeover of Afghanistan or a return of the Taliban's Islamic Emirate," he said.



ISLAMABAD: Member of the British Parliament Lord Qurban Hussain along with Chairman Jammu Kashmir Self-Determination Movement International (JKSDMI) Raja Najabat Hussain calls on Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. - DNA

Qureshi, British MP discuss Kashmir issue

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Member of the British Parliament Lord Qurban Hussain along with Chairman Jammu Kashmir Self-Determination Movement International (JKSDMI) Raja Najabat Hussain called on Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Friday and discussed matters of mutual interest. The meeting discussed diplomatic efforts of the members of the British Parliament and international forums in highlighting the human rights violations in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The Foreign Minister lauded Lord Qurban on raising the issue of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir in the British Parliament and for speaking out against the atrocities perpetrated against the oppressed Kashmiris. He congratulated Raja Najabat Hussain on holding a successful webinar on the situation in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Qureshi said the Kashmiris around the world had categorically rejected the unilateral and unconstitutional measures

taken by the Indian government in occupied Kashmir on August 5, 2019. He mentioned that all minorities in India were insecure due to India's Hindutva policies and said that the nefarious conspiracies to alter the demography of Kashmir had been exposed. He said protests were held on Thursday all over Pakistan in solidarity with Kashmiri brothers and against India's unilateral measures. Qureshi said Pakistan wants peaceful relations with all countries of the region, including India. Peace in the region, he said, could not be established without resolving Kashmir issue in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions and aspirations of Kashmiri people. He called upon India to withdraw its unilateral measures taken in occupied Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019. Referring to a recent letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council, the Foreign Minister said that Pakistan would continue to provide political, moral and diplomatic support to Kashmiris.

ADB grants \$500 million to Pakistan for vaccines

The signing took place just within three hours on fast-track basis after approval of the ADB Board earlier in the day

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Economic Affairs Omar Ayub Khan Friday witnessed a signing ceremony of financing agreement worth US\$500 million, granted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for 'COVID-19 Vaccine Support Project under the Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility'. The financing agreement was signed by Economic Affairs Division (EAD) Additional Secretary Zulfiqar Haider and ADB Acting Country Director Cleo Kawaki. The signing took place just within three hours on fast-track basis after approval of the ADB Board earlier in the day, said an EAD press release. Omar said securing US\$500 million from the ADB had shown the government's strong commitment to immunize the people. He appreciated the ADB management and board of directors for extending timely support to Pakistan at this difficult time when



the country was facing increasing health-related and socioeconomic challenges amid COVID-19 pandemic. The minister reiterated that the government was committed to ensure timely procurement of vaccine with uninterrupted supply chain to meet the target of inoculating people. He expressed that Pakistan's efforts to curtail the COVID-19 pandemic through smart lock-down approach and addressing the socioeconomic challenges through fiscal stimulus package under the Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision of lives and livelihoods

were being highly appreciated by the global community. Under this financing facility, the ADB would provide US\$500 million for procurement of COVID-19 vaccine on highly concessional rates with 25-year repayment period including 5-year grace period. The ADB's assistance would also help to strengthen the capacity of Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination and Federal Expanded Programme on Immunization to effectively implement the COVID-19 vaccination programme. Both institutions would

receive support in project management and coordination, procurement and supply chain management, gender mainstreaming, monitoring and evaluation, performance and information systems audits, and hospital waste management. The bank would disburse up to US\$150 million as retroactive financing for already procured vaccines while remaining US\$ 350 million was expected to be utilized in coming months for procurement of new vaccines. During the board meeting, ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa said vaccines would help to reduce the spread and mortality of COVID-19; restore confidence among citizens; and boost economic recovery. ADB Director General (CWRD) Eugene Zhukov expressed that the project was part of ADB's holistic support to Pakistan's response to Covid-19 crisis to mitigate the adverse health, social and economic impact of the pandemic and strengthen the country's immunization system.

Pakistan-Korea joint trade ventures discussed

The Korean Envoy thanked the convener and the members of the Pak-South Korea Friendship Group. It asserted that Chairman Senator Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has always extended his support in resolving issues' pertaining to Korea's trade and business activities

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Sang-Pyo, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Pakistan, paid a courtesy call on the convener, Senator Zeeshan Khanzada, and members of the Pak-South Korea Parliamentary Friendship Group in the Parliament House. Senator Khanzada, also the Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Commerce welcomed the Korean Ambassador on behalf of the members of the Pak-South Korea Parliamentary Friendship Group and thanked the Ambassador for making this visit possible on such short notice. The Korean Envoy thanked the convener and the members of the Pak-South Korea Friendship Group. It asserted that Chairman Senator Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has always extended his support in resolving issues' pertaining to Korea's trade and business activities. Senator Samina Mumtaz while welcoming the Ambassador of Korea said that Pak-South Korea



Parliamentary Friendship Group Forum will enhance economic development. During the meeting, both parties agreed that better joint business ventures between the two countries could significantly help to broaden bilateral cooperation in all areas. Chairman Commerce Committee Senator Zeeshan Khanzada invited the Korean Companies to do Joint Business Ventures with Pakistan. Senator Sana Jamali added that the business communities of both countries could take advantage of the

available opportunities and promote mutual trade and investment. The Pak-South Korea Parliamentary Friendship Group also put forward their suggestions on business-to-business meetings, exchange of high-level trade delegations and bilateral exhibitions at the Parliamentary level, which would provide excellent and profitable business opportunities to foreign investors and traders. While speaking on the skilled and unskilled workers employment opportunities in Korea,

the Visiting dignitary noted that 10,000 Pakistani laborers were working in Korea before the Covid-19. "Unfortunately, as per standard operating procedures, no new workers can enter Korea after the Covid-19", he added. The Korean Ambassador underlined that Korean Industry needs more skilled workers from Pakistan and shall revise their visa policies to enhance the bilateral relations between the two countries. Pakistan will become a transit

hub in future, underscored senator Zeeshan Khanzada while discussing the potential in the area of tourism between the two countries. The members of the Pak-South Korea Parliamentary Friendship Group also discussed Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision of tourism for boosting the country's revenue and creating employment opportunities. The meeting was attended by Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Senator Samina Mumtaz and Senator Sana Jamali.

OIC for improving HR situation in IIOJK

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: OIC Human Rights Commission has called for improving the human rights situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The call was made at a meeting between Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs Ali Amin Khan Gandapur and a delegation of OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission here on Friday. The commission emphasized for resolution of the Kashmir dispute as per the UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. The Minister apprised the OIC Human Rights Commission delegation of the grave human rights situation in IIOJK. He also briefed them about the legal and human rights aspects of the dispute as well as peace and security in the region. He informed the delegation that India has barred international human rights organizations and media from entering into the IIOJK. Appreciating the role of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Gandapur underscored the need for unity of Muslim Ummah to face challenges like Kashmir and Palestine. The delegation of OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission has been on a visit to Pakistan and Azad Kashmir from 4th to 9th of this month.

CNN fires unvaccinated employees

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: US news network CNN has sacked three employees for going into an office without having been vaccinated against Covid, US media say. It is one of the first examples of a US firm firing staff for breaching a company vaccination mandate. It is legal in the US for firms to require employees to be vaccinated. Many large firms - including Facebook and Google - say they will require employees to be vaccinated when offices fully reopen in the months ahead. CNN chief Jeff Zucker mentioned the dismissal in a company memo sent on Thursday and seen by several US media outlets. Vaccination is mandatory for anyone reporting in the field, working with any other employees or going into an office, he is quoted as saying in the memo.

64,000 more doses of Pfizer vaccine arrive

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: As many as 64,000 more doses of Pfizer vaccine reached Pakistan on Friday. The American vaccine arrived in Islamabad on board a foreign airline's flight, the sources said. Pakistan has signed an agreement with Pfizer Inc for procurement of 13 million doses of the vaccine. 100,000 doses of the vaccine had arrived in Islamabad last month. The American vaccine would be administered to people with chronic diseases and weak immunity. People traveling abroad will also get the Pfizer shot. It is worth mentioning that the Government of Pakistan aims to vaccinate as many as 80 million citizens against the coronavirus by December-end. The arrival of more doses of Covid-19 vaccines will help the country ramp up vaccination. Earlier today, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) decided to offer a Covid-9 vaccine to students under 18 years of age, who intend to travel abroad to pursue higher studies. In a statement, the NCOC said vaccination is open to all citizens above 18 years of age. However, it added, students aged 16-18 years, who need to travel abroad for studies at universities requiring mandatory vaccination, will be administered Moderna vaccine.