



# Islamabad POST

Monday, August 09, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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**China acknowledges facilities provided to Chinese workers**

Detailed News On Page-08

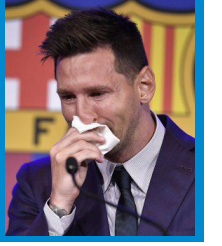
**Amb. Ali Alizada appointed Azeri envoy to Iran**

Detailed News On Page-01



**Tearful Lionel Messi confirms Barcelona exit**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

### PM inspects Pakistan-made EVM

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan inspected Pakistan-made electronic voting machines developed by Science and Technology Ministry and extended congratulations to Federal Science Minister Shibli Faraz and his team on completion of the task. In a tweet uploaded on Sunday, Imran Khan cast his 'sample vote' on the electronic voting machine (EVM) to be possible used in a future election in order to make them more credible and transparent.

### PPP only hope of Balochistan

DNA

QUETTA: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Sunday said that "the next government will be formed by the PPP," adding that it is the only party that can resolve the problems of the province. Addressing a rally in the provincial capital of Balochistan, he said with PPP in power, all the problems faced by the people of Balochistan will be resolved. Expressing confidence in his party, Bilawal said that the PPP will form the next government all over Pakistan, including Balochistan and that a PPP jiyala (devotee) will become the next Balochistan chief minister.

### Fatima nominated in ICC Player of the month

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's women wicket-keeper Fatima Sana has been nominated along with other players in the July nominees for the International Cricket Council (ICC) Player of the Month awards, instituted in January this year to recognise the best international performances across formats for male and female cricketers.

## Two more cities fall to Taliban

The Taliban claimed in a Twitter post that it had seized a large number of armored vehicles, vehicles, weapons and military equipment



NEWS DESK

KABUL: At least four provincial capitals have reportedly been captured by the Taliban during the past 72 hours as the Taliban intensify their offensive that was launched in May as foreign forces began the final stages of their withdrawal. The northern Afghan city of Sare-Pul has reportedly fallen to the Taliban, just hours after the Taliban claimed to have captured another provincial capital, Kunduz. "The Taliban have surrounded an army battalion on the outskirts of the city. All other parts of the city are under Taliban control," Mohammad Hussein Mujahidzada, a member of the Sare-Pul provincial council said on Sunday. On Friday the Taliban seized their first provincial capital, Zaranj in southwestern Nimroz, and followed it up a day later by taking Sheberghan in Jawzjan the following day. Fighting was also reported on the outskirts of Herat, in the west, and Lashkar Gah and Kandahar in the south.

AFGHAN government forces have largely abandoned the countryside to the militants, but

### China wants to host Afghan talks

DNA

BEIJING: China has expressed willingness to host intra-Afghan negotiations in due course to support and facilitate the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan. Speaking at UN Security Council, Charge d'affaires of China's permanent mission to the United Nations, Dai Bing said Afghanistan is at a historic juncture of war and peace after hasty withdrawal of U.S. and NATO forces from the country. Dai said efforts are needed to advance the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan. He also called on international community to carry forward Afghan peace process by preventing all-out war, advancing peace and reconciliation and fighting terrorism.

are now scrambling to defend a string of cities across the country. Of all the provincial capitals that the Taliban have captured since Friday, Kunduz - in the far north - is the most significant to fall. It has been a perennial target for the Taliban, who briefly overran the city in 2015 and again in

Continued on Page 06

## Pakistan bins India's baseless claims

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday categorically rejected the baseless allegations made by India that Pakistan wanted to infiltrate so-called "terrorists" via the Line of Control (LoC).

In response to reports in the Indian media, quoting "an unnamed" Indian security official making baseless allegations against Pakistan, the following is attributable to Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri, Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, "India's smear campaign against Pakistan is well-known and was fully exposed by the EU DisinfoLab's report." The Foreign Office Spokesperson said,

Continued on Page 06

### Afghan probing team completes Pak visit

The delegation was given a comprehensive briefing on all aspects of investigation in the reported incident

ISLAMABAD: A delegation from Afghanistan visited Islamabad in connection with the reported complaint of daughter of the Ambassador of Afghanistan to Pakistan of 16 July 2021. During the visit, the delegation met with the officials of law-enforcement agencies and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. According to a MOFA statement, the delegation was given a comprehensive briefing on all aspects of investigation conducted by the relevant Pakistani authorities in the reported incident. They were also taken to the Safe City Office, Islamabad, where they were shown several video footages from various locations of different timings in which the complainant was clearly identifiable moving around the places independently. An on-site visit of all the locations visited by the complainant was arranged for the delegation, followed by presentation of technical data (findings of mobile forensic/geo fencing) as well. - Saifullah



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan is inspecting Pakistan's first Electronic Voting Machine. Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry and Minister for Science and Technology Shibli Faraz are also present. - DNA

## Retired Lt. Col and eight others arrested on spying charges

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has arrested nine persons including a retired Lt. Col on spying charges. These persons were allegedly sharing secret and sensitive information with the foreign agents. The accused were produced before the court.

According to reports, a spying network working for a foreign intelligence agency was traced and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) arrested nine suspects from the network, of whom two are seeking post-arrest bail from the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

The matter came to light when Justice Aamer Farooq of the IHC heard the case and adjourned the hearing until Aug 10. According to the court's documents, the accused were involved "in spying activities in the Ministry of Defence Production". In a similar case, the IHC had in June dismissed the post-arrest bail petition of a senior official working on the Chi-

nese desk at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who was "spying for Russian intelligence". Syed Qalbe-Abbas a BS-18 official of the Ministry of Planning and Development who was posted in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on deputation, was arrested on spying charges. The court had dismissed his bail petition because he was facing charges of leaking sensitive information and had been booked under sections 3 and 4 of

secret information and sharing it with the agent of a foreign intelligence agency. The accused who have been arrested so far are Safdar Rehman, Tafzeelur Rehman, Mohammad Waqar, Mohammad Ashfaq, Mohammad Tahir, Mujtaba Husain, Mohammad Ashraf, retired Lt Col Irfan Hameed Kiani and Ahmed Kiani. As per the court's documents, after getting a tip off from intelligence agencies, FIA arrested an ex-employee of the Directorate General of Defence Purchase, Ministry of Defence Production, who was planning a meeting with "a diplomat/foreign intelligence agent with the intent to communicate and

### Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan was recently briefed about such networks during his visit to the ISI headquarters

deliver secret information/documents prejudicial to the safety and interest of the country". It was revealed that the accused were in the business of selling information to a foreign spying agency. FIA also recovered cash and mobile phones from the accused. Initially an FIR was lodged against three persons, namely Safdar, Tafzeel and Ashfaq.

Continued on Page 06

### Ali Alizada appointed Azerbaijan envoy to Iran

BAKU: Ali Alizada has been appointed as Azerbaijan Ambassador to Iran. Ali Alizada recently concluded his five year term in Pakistan. During his tenure, relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan touched new horizons. In a message he said that he deeply honored to be appointed by

Continued on Page 06

## NOW IN PAKISTAN

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ITP starts crackdown against vehicles having tinted glasses - Page 03

CDA's Water Supply Department increases number of tube wells - Page 04

'Circling In': Deciphering Taliban's strategy - Page 05

Hardwork needed to put hockey back on track - Page 06

United Business Group to win next elections, vows leadership - Page 07

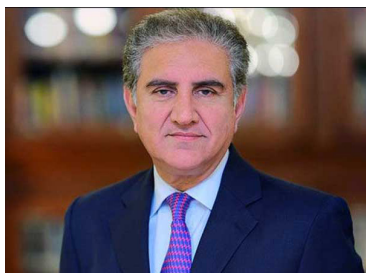
Serena hosts musical grand finale of Sarangi Season 5 - Page 08

## ASEAN fine example of open regionalism, says FM Qureshi

In line with its 'Vision East Asia' policy, Pakistan places high priority on strengthening and diversifying its engagement with ASEAN, inter alia through better connectivity

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said Pakistan and ASEAN enjoy excellent relations and hoped these relations shall further be strengthened in the days to come. The foreign minister expressed these views in his message on the ASEAN DAY. He further said, on behalf of the people and government of Pakistan, as well as on my own behalf, he was pleased to congratulate the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States on the 54th ASEAN Day. 8th august marks the historic day in 1967 when five South East Asian nations forged a common platform premised on the basic principles of cooperation, amity and non-interference.



Over the past 54 years, the ten-member ASEAN has emerged as a platform for advancement of long-term collective goals. It has transformed into a vibrant and integrated economic community. The minister added, ASEAN is a fine example of 'open regionalism' worthy of emulation. ASEAN's effective measures to combat COVID-19 are commendable. Pakistan's closeness

with ASEAN is exemplified by its accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South East Asia and robust engagement with ASEAN led regional mechanisms.

Pakistan established Sectoral Dialogue partnership with ASEAN in 1993 and became a member of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in 2004. The way ASEAN's far-sighted leadership has forged dialogue and cooperation across the region and beyond, while also retaining ASEAN's centrality, is truly remarkable.

In line with its 'Vision East Asia' policy, Pakistan places high priority on strengthening and diversifying its engagement with ASEAN, inter alia through better connectivity and people-to-people contacts, Minister Qureshi added.



## Briefs

**Active cases cross highest 82,000 mark**

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases was recorded 82,076, the highest during fourth wave of pandemic on Sunday with 4,455 more people testing positive for the deadly virus and 2,148 people recovering from the disease during the last 24 hours. Sixty-eight corona patients have died during past 24 hours, 64 of whom were under treatment in the hospitals and four of them perished in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). Most of the deaths occurred in Punjab followed by Sindh. Out of the total 68 deaths occurred, 27 of them were died under treatment on ventilators. There were 4,282 COVID infected patients under treatment in critical condition with seven of them admitted during past 24 hours in various COVID dedicated healthcare facilities of the country. The National COVID positivity ratio during past 24 hours was recorded 8.09 percent. The COVID positivity ratio was the percentage of actual positive cases appearing in every 100 tests performed to identify infected individuals.

### Three terrorists killed in encounter

LAHORE: Three alleged terrorists, belonged to banned TTP/JuA organizations, were killed in a shootout with Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab in Ferozwa near here on Sunday. According to CTD spokesman, a team of CTD conducted an intelligence based operation in a rented house of Gulshan Babar Abadi, Ferozwa where an exchange of fire between terrorists and the team occurred. During the shootout, three terrorists identified as Ehsanullah, Naimatullah and Abdul Salam received bullet injuries and died on the spot. All the outlaws belonged to Afghanistan. The alleged terrorists were plotting attacks on law enforcement agencies, sensitive installations and important personalities. The CTD team recovered a suicide vest, three hand grenades, two Kalashnikovs, two pistols, other ammunition and three Afghan tazkira cards from their possession. A case has been registered. — APP

### Power shutdown notice

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has issued power shutdown schedule for Monday due to necessary repair, maintenance and expansion of electricity lines. According to the schedule, power supply from Lyallpur Galleria and Chak No.208-RB Road feeders linked with 132-KV Steam Power grid station and Akbar feeder originating from 132-KV University grid station will remain suspended from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. while Mochiwala Road, Kathoor, Painsara Road, Dawakhari, Hamza Board, Jhang Road, Malari, Scarp, Toba Road and Maqbool Pur feeders linked with 132-KV Gojra grid station will observe shutdown from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Monday (August 09). Similarly, electricity supply from VAC-1, Garments City, Sadaqat Textile, Gohar Textile, Global, Tricon, Chawla, Bhamni Wala, Sumaira Fabrics and Ahmad Jamal feeders linked with 132-KV Value Additional City (VAC) grid station and all feeders linked with 132-KV MTM and JK Tech grid stations will remain suspended from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. whereas Muneera, Bhowana, Khanuana, Anayat Ali Shah, Jame Abad, Mangohana, Taja Beerwala, Bukharan and new Ahmad Nagar feeders originating from 132-KV Bhowana grid station and all feeders linked with 132-KV Chinot Power Plant grid station will observe load shedding from 5 a.m. to 8 a.m. on August 09, 2021. — APP

# Faisalabad: Commissioner reviews Master Plan 2021-41

DA Chairman Chaudhry Lateef Nazar said the government had focused on master plan which was prerequisite for accelerating the pace of development and prosperity

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Divisional Commissioner Saqib Mannan said that Master Plan Faisalabad 2021-2041 should be comprehensive and flawless from all aspects so that maximum relief could be provided to the general public. During a meeting, the commissioner reviewed the location of lands and revenue records within the scope of proposed master plan and said that no stone should be left unturned in making the proposed Faisalabad Master Plan comprehensive in all respect. He directed the Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA) to get all necessary information from Metropolitan Corporation and other relevant departments and make it a part of the master plan. Stressing on intensification of departmental efforts, he said the master plan had great importance for orderly and sustainable development which would provide a solid

## Coordination committee discusses Muharram plan

FAISALABAD: The meeting of the District Coordination Committee was held in the Committee Room of the DC Office under the chairmanship of District Convenor/ Chairman Standing Committee Finance MNA Faizullah Kamooka. The meeting was attended by the Parliamentarians Ch. Asim Nazeer, Malik Umar Farooq, Adil Pervaiz Gujjar, Firdous Rai and other members of DCC Dr. Nisar Jutt, Khalid Rafi, Sajjad Haider Cheema, Major Abdul Rehman Rana, Shair Afghan Cheema, Nadeem Aftab Sindhu and Shahid Khalil Noor were present. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali and CPO Sohail Ch. gave a detailed briefing on administrative and security measures of up coming Muharram. They said meetings of Peace and Interfaith Harmony besides intelligence committees were held before time to rectify the confronted issues. They give detailed of Processions and Majalas and establishment of control rooms while informed the trouble points and said that all arrangements would be implemented with Check list. Deputy Commissioner gave briefing on Price Control Mechanism and said that 25 FIRs have registered against profiteers from July 1st and 2.1 million fine was imposed to 1384 profiteers in 1535 inspections. He told that 99.9% complaints have been resolved that received on Qeemat Punjab APP and only three are in process. He informed the situation of Corona Virus and said that 952 people died due to corona since and fourth wave has started and now precaution would be needed much more. — Bureau Report

foundation for future planning in socio-economic, agricultural, industrial and urban development. FDA Chairman Chaudhry Lateef Nazar said the government had focused on master plan which was prerequisite for accelerating the pace of development and prosperity. He said the proposed master plan would be introduced in next few days and its final approval would be obtained from the government. Earlier, FDA Director General Dr. Faisal Azeem briefed the meeting and said that 20-year Faisalabad Master Plan 2021-2041 was in the final stages of preparation and modern technology as well as all administrative and departmental resources were being utilized for its solid foundation. Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Fazal-e-Rabbi Cheema, Director Development Dr. Naveed, Director Town Planning Mehr Ayub, Municipal Planning Officer Mian Farooq, experts of Osmani & Co. and others were also present in the meeting.

## Masood highlights grave IIOJK humanitarian crisis

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: The AJK President, Sardar Masood Khan addressed a series of international webinars hosted by Pakistani diplomatic missions abroad on the grave humanitarian crisis unfolding in Illegally Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Speaking as a keynote speaker at the webinar organized by the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington D.C., the President told the participants of the webinar that in the past two years, nearly 4 million Hindus from India have been illegally settled in the occupied territory. Kashmiris' land and livelihoods are being robbed and grabbed by the occupiers and young men are being gunned down every day. He said thousands of young prisoners are being tortured in concentration camps. The leadership of the freedom movement is behind bars. He said that the people of America owe their existence to a heroic War of Independence. Their founding fathers had highlighted in their Declaration of Independence that "... all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness". He said in the 18th century, the American people secured the blessings of liberty; today Kashmiris are seeking liberty. That's not a crime. He appealed to the American people to step forward to save Kashmiris from the scourge of war and genocide, from creeping colonization, and from impending annihilation.



PESHAWAR: Ambassador of Germany Bernhard Schlagheck visits historical sites during his recent visit to Peshawar. — DNA

## Haleem Adil demands PM to remove IG Sindh

Law and order situation in the entire province was deteriorating day by day and it was evident from a report of CPLC

DNA

KARACHI: The leader of the opposition in Sindh Assembly, Haleem Adil Sheikh, on Sunday, said that federal government's measures aimed at rooting out criminal elements from Sindh would provide relief to masses. Speaking at a press conference here at the Insaaf House, Haleem Adil Sheikh said that federal institutions were ready to play their part for reigning in robbers, dacoits, drug pushers and smugglers and other outlaws who had made life of common men insecure and miserable in Sindh. Sheikh raised questions over performance of Sindh police and its provincial chief and demanded the federal government to take immediate measures for cleansing the Police force from corrupt elements as Inspector General of Police Sindh has totally failed to dispose of his professional responsibilities for maintaining



law and order in the province and he was only following the illegal orders of CM Sindh and PPP leadership. Law and order situation in the entire province was deteriorating day by day and it was evident from a report of Citizen Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) that showed that in the first seven months of current year 284 people had lost their lives in Karachi while resisting robberies, he observed. The report further mentioned that 30,000 motorcycles and 1200 cars and other vehicles and 15000 mobile phones were snatched or stolen during January to July this year only in the provincial

capital, he noted adding that robber gangs were in large in northern parts of Sindh. The situation has worsened to the extent that dacoits assault the motorway after openly challenging the police and innocent people have to suffer due to inefficiency of Sindh CM and IGP, Haleem Sheikh contended and revealed that one of the outlaws who were seen dancing on an assaulted APC of police was personal guard of a provincial minister. On the other hand, drugs were being recovered from vehicles and residence of police officers but no action was initiated by high ups against them, he stated alleging that officers of Police and district management were enslaved by Sindh government which did not tolerate honest officers because they turn down above the law orders of PPP leadership. They were either declined postings or transferred out of the province, he added naming various police officials.

## No deal for Sharif family: Ali Muhammad

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan Sunday made it clear that no deal or relaxation for PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif while ruling party of PTI is using every legal process to bring convicted Nawaz Sharif back to the country. Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will have to come back and face the law, he said while speaking to a private news channel. If Nawaz Sharif is innocent,

why he is running away from the laws and the courts, he questioned? He should come back to the country and answer the allegations against him, Ali Muhammad said, adding, Nawaz Sharif is habitual for deals as he did in Pervez Musharraf time but he should keep in mind PTI-led government would never compromise it and would act according to the laws. Ali said Prime Minister Imran Khan have no personal grudge against Nawaz and

his daughter Maryam, adding, Sharif family had been befouling the courts and the nation about Nawaz Sharif's medical condition and now they had been exposed doing the same in the UK as well. He claimed that PML-N had become the 'Conspiracy League' and was speaking against the state institutions, adding, former premier Nawaz Sharif held secret meetings with Indian leadership instead of meeting with hurriyet leaders which is regretful. — APP

## Number of vaccinated people at 1,289,596

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: As many as 1,289,596 people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in the district. District Health Officer (DHO) Dr Ataul Mun'im said on Sunday that 1,026,824 citizens were injected first dose while 216,032 were administered second dose of vaccine. He further said that 28,286 health workers were also given first dose while 18,454 received the second dose of vaccine. He said that sufficient stock of coronavirus vaccine was available in the district, adding 51,125 first doses and 34,084 second doses were available in stock. He said that 37 vaccination centres and 20 mobile vaccination camps were operational in district, where registered people also getting coronavirus vaccine doses. People can get vaccinated themselves from vaccination centres set up in Allied Hospital, District Headquarters Hospital, Government General Hospital G.M Abad, Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology, Government General Hospital Samanabad, Children Hospital, Sports Complex Samanabad, Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Jaranwala, Samundri, Tandlianwala, Chak Jhumra, Sports Complex Chak Jhumra, Sports Complex Jaranwala, Government General Hospital Chak 224-RB and New Building RHC Khurrianwala.



FAISALABAD: State Minister for Information & Broadcasting Farrukh Habib is talking to media persons during tree plantation ceremony in Nazimabad City. — DNA

F. No. 1-4/90 AQD  
Government of Pakistan  
Ministry of National Food Security & Research  
Animal Quarantine Department

### SITUATIONS VACANT

Applications are invited from the suitable, energetic and self-motivated candidates for the appointment to the following temporary vacancies (likely to become permanent) in Animal Quarantine Department, Karachi and its sub-ordinate offices. Candidate possessing the requisite qualification, age, experience and domicile of the respective province are eligible to apply.

S. No.	Name of the Post and Pay Scale	No. of Posts	Place of Posting	Quota Allocation	Age Limit	Required Qualification/ Experience
1.	Stenotypist (BPS-14)	02	Anywhere in Pakistan	Merit (01) Punjab (01)	18-25 Years	i. Intermediate ii. Minimum speed of 60/40 w.p.m in shorthand/typing respectively iii. Computer literate preferable
2.	Upper Division Clerk (BPS-11)	03	Anywhere in Pakistan	Merit (01) Punjab (02)	18-25 Years	i. Intermediate ii. 03 weeks basic IT Training Course (including MS Office from NITB is mandatory before Completion of probation period)
3.	Lower Division Clerk (BPS-09)	01	Anywhere in Pakistan	Sindh (Rural)	18-25 Years	i. Matric ii. Minimum Typing speed 30 w.p.m iii. 03 weeks basic IT Training Course (including MS Office from NITB is mandatory before Completion of probation period)
4.	Driver (BPS-04)	01	Anywhere in Pakistan	Sindh (Urban)	18-25 Years	i. Primary Pass ii. Valid driving license holder iii. Well versed with traffic rules
5.	Naib Qasid (BPS-01)	04	Karachi (01) Sialkot (01) Multan (01) Peshawar (01)	Local	18-25 Years	Primary pass
6.	Sweeper (BPS-01)	05	Quetta (01) Sialkot (01) Multan (01) Peshawar (01) Islamabad (01)	Local	18-25 Years	Primary pass

- The positions will be filled strictly on merit basis in a transparent manner and in accordance with the recruitment policy of Establishment Division's vide O.M.No.F.53/1/2008-SP dated 22.10.2014 amended to date and mechanism dated 16.01.2015 amended to date.
- General concession of relaxation of upper age limit up to five years shall be available to all the candidates as per the provisions of the Establishment Division's O.M.No.F.9/2/91-R-5, dated 28.11.2000 and O.M.No.F.9/2/91-R.3.24.06.2010. The minimum and maximum age of eligibility shall be calculated from the closing date of applications.
- Government servants should apply through proper channel and advance copies will not be accepted. NOC from the parent department shall have to be produced at the time of interview, failing which applicant will not be allowed for interview.
- Only eligible and short-listed candidates will be provisionally allowed to appear for test/interview and have to bring original testimonials including CNIC, domicile, educational documents etc (valid driving license for the post of driver). In case of any false or dubious information candidature of the applicant will be cancelled.
- Duly filled form in all respects along with attested photo copies of CNIC, 02 passport size photographs in blue background, educational transcripts, experience certificates, domicile and other supporting documents shall reach to the Director, Animal Quarantine Department, House No. 69/4,5-D, Nursery, PECHS Block-6 Shakra-e-Faisal, Karachi Phone No: 021-34552679 within 15 days of publication of this advertisement through courier service/Registered Post.
- In case the candidate intends to apply for more than one post, separate application must be submitted for each post to be applied.
- The appointment of the successful candidates will be terminated alongside initiating legal proceedings in case of any information/documents furnished by the applicant is found incorrect at any time during the recruitment process or after entry into Govt. service.
- Incomplete applications as well as applications received after due date will not be entertained.
- Applicants must keep visiting AQD website [www.aqd.gov.pk](http://www.aqd.gov.pk) from time to time for the schedule of the test/interview.
- No TA/DA will be admissible for appearing for the test/interview or for initial joining to the place of appointment.
- Competent Authority reserves the right to fill any number of above-mentioned vacancies.

Name of the post applied for \_\_\_\_\_ BPS \_\_\_\_\_ Name (in Block Letters) \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth (dd/mm/yy) \_\_\_\_\_ CNIC No. \_\_\_\_\_

Domicile District \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Highest Qualification (Degree/Certificate) \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Experience (in Years) Govt./Private \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_ Designation \_\_\_\_\_

Contact No. \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Address \_\_\_\_\_

Two recent photographs

Declaration: I certify that all information, provided by me, in this Application Form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, I have informed my Head Office/Department that I am applying for this post (for Government Servants only).

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of the applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Sd/-  
(Dr. Muhammad Ahmad)  
Director  
Animal Quarantine Department  
House No. 69/4,5-D Nursery, PECHS Block-6 Shakra-e-Faisal, Karachi Telephone No. 021-34552679



## SERVICES



### Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	03:52 am
Zohr.....	12:15 pm
Asr.....	05:03 pm
Maghrib.....	07:02 pm
Isha.....	08:34 pm



### Hotels & Restaurants

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



### Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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### Emergency

Rescue (Police).....	15
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& Rescue Services.....	4451122
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RGH.....	9290301-7
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TMA.....	5770886
Cantonment Board.....	9270151-3



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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
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ISLAMABAD: Singer Shehzad Roy performs during a function held at Islamabad Serena Hotel. First Lady Samina Alvi and CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani are also seen in the picture. – DNA

## Theatre Wallay for an evening theater

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Theater Wallay would organize an evening of improvisational theater and interactive workshop with the audience on Friday. According to the announcement, the event was part of family movie night. Theater Wallay is a non-commercial group of artists with a passion for theater and literature. An official of Theater Wallay Muhammad Irfan said that a new series of family movie nights were started to entertain film enthusiasts. He said that COVID-19 pandemic SOPs would be strictly observed during the event.

## Exhibition 'Perpetual Beings' starts

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An exhibition in honor of the legendary artists of Pakistan titled "Perpetual Beings" attracted a large number of people. The exhibition displaying at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) in connection with celebrating the 74th Independence Day of Pakistan. According to the announcement, PNCA's National Art Gallery displaying a collection of artworks by the master painters and miniaturists of the country. PNCA has requested the visitors to maintain a social distancing protocol for a safer viewing experience. The show would remain open daily from Thursday, August 5, excluding Fridays, Saturdays, and public holidays.

## NHA for afforestation campaign

ISLAMABAD: National Highway Authority (NHA) has continued an afforestation campaign by planting trees along Motorways and National Highways across the country under Clean and Green Pakistan. As per vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan and on the directive of Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed, the NHA would continue afforestation campaign along its network, said a press release. To this effect, the Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar planted a tree on the invitation of the NHA Rawalpindi Maintenance Unit, in Punjab North Region. Similarly, State Minister and Adviser to the Prime Minister for Political Affairs Malik Muhammad Amir Dogar also inaugurated plantation campaign at Motorway Chowk on N-5. Simultaneously, a "Plant for Pakistan" event was organized at National Highway Authority West Zone Balochistan in which Governor of Balochistan Syed Zahoar Ahmad Agha was guest of honour. – APP

## Pak-Economy bouncing back under PM leadership

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Revenue Dr Waqar Masood on Sunday said that Pakistan's stable economy is bouncing back hard under the hard working leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan and expanding even faster than before the Covid-19 pandemic. "The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has collected record taxes in the fiscal year at a healthy growth rate of 18 to 19%, which is better than expectations, he said while speaking to news channel. Dr. Waqar said economy activity in Pakistan to continue the robust pace and was strengthening day by day and the world's confidence in the country's economy was increasing as well. The ruling government has introduced people friendly landmark initiatives and overall turnout of economy has improved, he added and said that edible oil import and other food witnessed a substantial rise during the period under review in quantity, value and per value terms.

# ITP starts crackdown against vehicles having tinted glasses

The SSP Traffic has appealed to avoid using tinted glasses and follow traffic rules to ensure safe road environment in the city

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) on Sunday has accelerated its crackdown against those vehicles having tinted glasses, fancy number plates and hampering smooth flow of traffic due to wrong parking. Following the directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Qazi Jamil ul Rehman, the ITP force has accelerated efforts to take action against those vehicles having tinted glasses and different violations. Senior Superintendent of Police

(Traffic) Syed Karar Hussain himself is supervising these efforts while special squads have been constituted to check violations of traffic rules. A total of 19 grand operations were conducted in the last month in various areas including G-8 Markaz, G-9 Markaz, G-11 Markaz, F-10 Markaz, F-11 Markaz, I-8 Markaz, Bahria Town, Blue Area, Jinnah Super, F-6 (Super Market), Aabpara and Bhara Kau Market. SSP Traffic Syed Karar Hussain overall monitored these operations and owners of car show rooms were strictly warned to avoid parking on footpaths and



roads. A total of 329 fine tickets were issued over wrong parking while 25 vehicles were impounded at various police stations. As many as 763 vehicles were

finned for having tinted glasses, 894 for having fancy number plates and 821 for violations of miscellaneous nature. The SSP Traffic has appealed to avoid using tinted glasses and follow traffic rules to ensure safe road environment in the city. He has also ordered to check every violation and issue violation ticket to every violator. "The elimination of VIP culture and equal application of law are our main objectives which would be achieved at every cost," he maintained. He also directed his staff to continue education campaign and inculcate traffic sense among the

road users along with the enforcement of law. He stressed the need to bridge the gap between police and public through polite attitude and by demonstrating sense of responsibility. The SSP Traffic said that this campaign will remain continue in the coming days to curb this violation effectively. He said that it is our top priority to ensure convenience for road users by maintaining traffic discipline and every possible effort would be made for the purpose. He has also appealed the citizens to cooperate in this regard and demonstrate attitude like responsible citizens.

# PR reports 739 incidents of various categories in 5 years

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways (PR) during its thriving and challenging business of cheaper transportation service has reported a total of 739 incidents of different categories in last five years over the system, recording some 207 casualties in the aftermath. The PR administration after occurrence of accidents nominated inquiry committees of different levels keeping in view the gravity

of the incident to ascertain the cause and responsibility of disaster, an official source of the Ministry of Railways told APP. He said the officers and staff held responsible by committees were proceeded against for appropriate disciplinary actions under E&D rules 2020. "Pakistan Railways is taking initiatives to upgrade ML-1 at its own without further delay. A number of projects to improve the signaling and communication system and upgradation of rolling stock are also in the pipe line," he added.

Furthermore, a number of steps have been taken to protect Pakistan Railways track with trenches and rail fencing to discourage trespassing and to minimize the number of accidents on account of negligence of road users, it added. Different steps, he said was being taken to improve safety of train operation including special attention was given to the training of locomotive crew, guards, station masters and other staff engaged with train operations. Seminars and workshops were also being arranged

along with regular inspections in accordance with prescribed standards, he added. While elaborating the capacity building measures, the official underlined that special bulletins, instructions were issued on monthly basis to sensitize the staff about safety issues. "Warning signs in local languages have already been erected along with vulnerable unmanned level crossings have been upgraded. Enhancement of punishments to road users, trespassing the Railway track in an unauthorized manner is also being compiled," he concluded.

# Country's first cultural incubation center launched at Lok Virsa

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (NIFTH) in collaboration with Echo Records has launched country's first Cultural Incubation Center called "Merge Incubation Center" (MIC). It aimed at bringing start-ups working in the cultural and creative industry along with performing arts to help them develop business models for economic empowerment. Talking to APP, the Executive Director Lok Virsa Talha Ali said its vision to help youth and technology serve heritage and culture for economic development of the creative industry. He said it was fully equipped with state of the art infrastructure that includes audio, video recording studios, concert halls and amphitheatres, NIFTH, Lok-Virsa is an ideal set-up for incubation of creative minds. The roadmap to achieving a value chain of creative infrastructure will include incubation of start-ups, investment opportunities, content development, tech-development, e-commerce and much more, he added. With an objective to connect the youth of Pakistan to the cultural heritage through performing arts, cultural literacy and economic empowerment, NIFTH has partnered with Echo Records which an end-to-end platform is covering the entire value chain of creative industry, to carry out its mandate. He said incubators were specially designed programs to help young startups innovate and grow they usually provide work spaces, mentorship, education and access to investors for start-ups or sole entrepreneurs. Adding he said these resources allow companies and ideas to take shape while operating at a lower cost during the early stages of business incubation, incubators require an application process to join and usually require a commitment for a specific amount of time. – APP



# CDA's Building Control Authority dept. receives 38m revenue

ISLAMABAD: The Building Control Authority Department of the Capital Development Authority has received 38 million 362 thousand and 612 rupees in July 2021 this year. According to the details, the authority Department released residential buildings in July inspection in which 716,387 as two commercial buildings in addition 29,274,925 rupees received for issuing NOC to 33 commercial buildings. In the matter of 990,360 rupees was received from clear that in the month of July 2021 CDA's building control authority department received 38 million 362 thousand and 612 rupees for issuing certificates and NOC's to different owners and developers. – DNA

# Art workshop to start at Hunerkada

ISLAMABAD: Hunerkada College of Visual and Performing Arts would organize a month-long miniature art workshop from Monday. The registration was underway for the workshop, said an announcement issued here. The classes will be held four days a week from Monday to Thursday 2 pm to 5 pm. – DNA

# NH&MP formulates mechanism for claims of RTAs

The DIG said that National Highway & Motorway Police was determined to safeguard the lives and property of the commuters and all-out efforts were being made in this regard

SHUJAAT HAMZA

RAWALPINDI: The Deputy Inspector-General of Police (DIG), NH&MP, N-5 North Zone, Wisal Fakhar Sultan has said that on the special directions of the IG, National Highway & Motorway Police (NH&MP), a payment mechanism had been formulated for grant of compensation claims to the families of the deceased and permanently disabled persons of road traffic accidents (RTAs) that took place on the National Highways. The compensation payment would be ensured through respective Regional Transport Authorities (RTAs). He informed that this practice

would not only become a turning point towards the provision of road accident claims to the affected persons but also persuade the transporters and owners of Transport Vehicles to pay special attention to the safety and facilitation of road users and commuters at their end. The DIG said that National Highway & Motorway Police was determined to safeguard the lives and property of the commuters and all-out efforts were being made in this regard. He informed that NH&MP, N-5 North Zone had kicked off a special campaign regarding online checking of route permits, fitness certificates of Public Service Vehicles (PSVs) and transport vehicles



in collaboration with concerned Regional Transport Authorities (RTAs) and personnel from Vehicle Inspection and Certification System (VICS), Punjab. In order to ensure safety of the road users through eradication

of mechanically unfit Transport Vehicles from National Highways, on the special directions of the Inspector General, NH&MP, Syed Kaleem Imam, a special campaign regarding online checking of Route Permits, Fitness Certificates of PSVs, Transport Vehicles had been initiated in collaboration with RTAs concerned and personnel from VICS, Punjab, he added. The relevant documents of all PSVs, Transport Vehicles plying in the jurisdiction of N-5, North Zone from Peshwar to Lahore (G.T. Road) were being checked under the campaign at specified checking points and stern enforcement including heavy fines were being imposed against the rules violators.

Wisal Fakhar Sultan said that the number of road crashes due to unfit Transport Vehicles were increasing day by day and this special campaign was initiated to decrease the ratio of road crashes through effective utilization of online database facilities provided by the RTAs concerned and VICS, Punjab. He further said that the drivers of all PSVs, Transport Vehicles must ensure pasting of valid Fitness Certificates on the windscreens of their vehicles on regular basis as this would ease up the checking process during this campaign. He expressed the optimism that the positive results of this special campaign would be observed in near future.



## Briefs

PNCA  
online film  
certificate  
course starts

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) second online one-year certificate program in film production kicked off here Sunday.

The course aims to innovate the approach of students and sharpen their skills as filmmakers, said a press release issued here.

The program is focused on film production with a full understanding of film making. The curriculum is a mix of intellectual understanding and practical experience of working in a professional environment. A group of eighteen students from all over the country have been selected for the course with background in film making. The course entails two semesters and will conclude in April next year. PNCA's Film Division has engaged national and international faculty to give an in-depth understanding of film making. Peter Bussian, a cinematographer from the USA will teach cinematography, Lisa Lucas from USA will teach scriptwriting and Andreas Schallenberg from Germany will teach post-production.

Jubilant  
youth busy  
in decorating  
vehicles

ISLAMABAD: Preparations for the Independence Day is gaining momentum in the city as a great rush of people has been seen to purchase national flags, bunting and other paraphernalia for celebrations on August 14, 2021 Saturday.

While national songs kept playing in moving vehicles that are becoming main attraction for main roads of the city. Many vehicles including, cars, cabs, bicycles, motorbikes, buses and trucks on all roads of cities could be seen decorated with green and white colour where several families have covered rooftops of their cars and hind screens with the national flags.

According to vehicle decorating shops, as patriotism naturally runs in the blood of every Pakistani, many citizens are keenly busy in decorating their favourite rides with Green & white colour and running it on roads ahead of Independence day to attract people. — APP

Police make  
another  
arrest in  
Noor case

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In an important development in the murder case of former Pakistan envoy's daughter Noor Muqaddam, the police in Islamabad on Saturday arrested an employee of Therapy Works, Amjad.

Zahir Jaffar, the main suspect in the case, had injured Amjad, who and his colleagues were the first to reach the scene after Noor's murder, by repeatedly attacking him with a knife.

Amjad has only recently undergone surgery. The sources further disclosed that police were also interrogating the Therapy Works owner and five other employees.

Pak witnesses  
record  
exports worth  
over \$25b

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The country has witnessed record exports worth over 25 billion dollars under Pakistan Tehriki-Insaaf government during the last fiscal year.

According to official sources, under PTI government, textile sector exported products worth 15.4 billion dollars as compared to 13.5 billion dollars export in 2018. During the PTI government in the last financial year, IT exports stood at 2.21 billion dollars as against 1.06 billion in the financial year 2018 and remittances during the same period reached 29.4 billion dollars as against 19.6 billion dollars in PML-N government.

CDA's Water Supply Department  
increases number of tube wells

In this regard, water is being supplied to the citizens of Islamabad under a comprehensive plan and strategy

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority Water Supply Department has further improved the water supply system in Islamabad with the increase the number of tube wells.

It is to be noted that CDA Water Supply Department has 170 tube wells in various sectors in their proper condition to supply water to the city of Islamabad, in which 5 new tube wells have been added and 9 tube wells have been repaired. It is expected that four to five more tube wells in different sectors will be added to the system next month.

In this regard, water is being supplied to the citizens of Islamabad under a comprehensive plan and strategy

In addition, on the special directions of the CDA administration, the concerned staff of the water supply department is performing their duties efficiently at different times so that the citizens do not face water difficulties.

In addition, the supply of water to the citizens in Sector I-8, I-9 and adjoining sub-se-

CDA staff immediately  
mobilized after rains in  
different areas of Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: After the rains in the Federal Capital, the CDA staff immediately moved to immediately remove the water collected on the roads and clear the drains from fallen trees to maintain smooth flow of water. On the special directions of the CDA administration, the process of removing fallen trees from roads and drains was started and the flow of water in all the drains restored so that the citizens would not face any flood situation.

In addition, in order to maintain the flow of traffic, the removal of fallen trees and signboards on the roads was expedited so that the citizens would not face any problem like traffic jam. In addition, in the light of the orders of the CDA administration, all the concerned departments have been alerted and the emergency centers in the city have been activated so that the monsoon rains do not cause flooding. — DNA

ment Authority used to receive more than 400 complaints a day, but now the system is improving, the number of complaints has been reduced to 150 per day. In addition, the number of tankers and staff has been reduced from 25 to 10 to ensure full water supply in the city and to address the grievances of the citizens. Who are on standby

24 hours a day.

Staff of Water Supply Department is repairing old, dilapidated and damaged water supply lines in some sectors of Islamabad which are repairable and restoring water supply and also eliminating all small and big complaints of water leakage. Similarly, new and modern pipelines for water supply are being laid underground

In addition, the CDA administration has urged the citizens to refrain from reckless use of water so that more water can be used by the citizens as well as to prevent the citizens from getting deeply bored the CDA administration has done this to the citizens. In this regard, if a citizen receives a complaint of deep boring, the administration will also take strict legal action against that person.

The CDA administration is also launching a survey of all private and government houses and commercial buildings in Islamabad in connection with water supply issues so that water pressure and connections can be rechecked everywhere to find out where the water problem is. The relevant department has also formed special teams.



ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi giving certificate to Managing Director APP Mobashir Hasan. — APP

ICT Police to  
pay tributes to  
martyred cops

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police hosted a ceremony to pay tributes to martyred personnel of the force and especially invited their family members ensuring to stand with them in any challenging time.

The ceremony was held at Police Line Headquarters Islamabad and was attended among others by IGP Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman, DIG (HQ) Kamran Adil, SSP Headquarters, AIG (Operations) and family members of martyred personnel. The IGP Qazi Jamil ur Rehman distributed gifts among family members of martyred personnel and said that we were indebted to martyrs who laid down their lives for security of the country. He said that this ceremony was being held to pay tributes to them as sacrifices of brave custodian of law would be always re-

membered. "We are proud of police martyrs who have written golden chapter with their blood and ensured protection to the lives and property of the citizens", he maintained.

The IGP vowed that that Police force would continue efforts to serve the people while all issues of families of martyred personnel would be resolved. The doors of his office are always open for the families of martyred personnel, he said adding that Islamabad police force would not leave them alone in any challenging time. He said that jobs of 286 children or family members of martyred cops of Islamabad police have been regularized. Several welfare steps for policemen had been initiated which include provision of best medical facilities for them as well as their family member while MoUs with well-reputed private laboratories were signed in this regard.

ICCI asks CDA to speed up  
work on development projects

The Rawal Dam Chowk Flyover project is to be completed by October this year, but with the current pace of work on this project, it will take more time for completion

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that Amir Ali Ahmed, Chairman CDA has activated the civic body to undertake many development works in the federal capital and focus on beautification of the city, which is laudable.

However, he stressed that the CDA should speed up the pace of work on mega development projects in the federal capital to ease the problems of citizens and facilitate the better growth of business activities.

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that CDA has started some mega development

projects in Islamabad, but the pace of work on them is very slow. He said that the PWD underpass was to be completed by July 2021, but still lot of work is remaining to complete this project to which the citizens are facing serious traffic rush daily on this portion of the expressway. He said that the current pace of work clearly shows that the Korla bridge project would not be completed by December this year.

Similarly, the Rawal Dam Chowk Flyover project is to be completed by October this year, but with the current pace of work on this project, it will take more time for completion. He emphasized that the CDA should work with full speed



to complete these major development projects to facilitate the citizens and the business community.

Fatma Azim Senior Vice President and Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI said that the construction work of Islamabad Dry Port road was started after a long period, but for the last many days, this work has been suspended due to unknown reasons. They

said that the construction of dry port road is very important to facilitate the traffic flow of heavy duty vehicles including trucks and trailers, but suspension of work on this busy road is creating unnecessary traffic rush.

Therefore, CDA should restart the suspended construction of dry port road to facilitate the business community.

They said that the development works in industrial area including restoration of streetlights should also be started soon to facilitate the growth of industrial activities while the issue of Nullah in Street No.7 of Sector I-10/3 and KachiAbadis should also be addressed for the facilitation of the business community.

PMAS for  
Tree program  
for plantation  
campaign

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) has introduced a special Tree-20 program to motivate and encourage the university students to come forward and play a role to make the plantation campaign a success.

According to Vice-Chancellor of PMAS-AAUR, Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman the program had been decided in a Vice-Chancellors Forum meeting under which every student of the university would be bound to plant and save 20 trees during his study period.

He informed that two plants nurseries were established under the University Green Office where different types of plants had been grown and being distributed free of cost to the students and local community to strengthen the Prime Minister's "Clean and Green Pakistan" Campaign. A monsoon tree plantation drive for a whole week under Prime Minister's Program "Clean and Green Pakistan" program was kicked off here at PMAS-AAUR, he added.

Pak firms to  
qualify for  
Fortune 500  
in near future

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Given the huge gap of \$20 billion between annual revenue of the smallest entity on the Fortune Global 500 list and that of the largest Pakistani enterprise, it looks like a far cry that any Pakistani firm will grow enough in near future to make it on Fortune's global ranking.

However, industry experts believe that provided some policy reforms and behavioural changes on company as well as national level, Pakistani firms do have the potential to make a place in this elite club of companies, says a report published by Gwadar Pro.

Dr. Nadeem Haq, Vice Chancellor Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad, said that Pakistani firms need to expand globally to make a place in the Fortune Global 500 index. "Unfortunately, Pakistani laws do not allow local firms to invest abroad as recently the government rejected a proposal by Lucky Cement to establish a plant in Africa," he said.

Dr. Haq, in his recently-published paper on Pakistan Stock Exchange, points out to the problems in board composition and management structures of the listed companies, which have plagued their growth.

"Pakistani enterprises operate like family businesses that have limited appetite for growth or raising money to fund expansion," he said.

Independence  
Day: brand  
shops attract  
customers

ISLAMABAD: As Independence Day approaching fast, enthusiastically people from all ages have made their way to various brand shops, roadside vendors and e-shopping sites to shop their favorite tri-colored themed clothes to celebrate upcoming festival.

Apart from flags, bunting, badges, posters, hats and wigs, specially designed clothes have managed to attract the masses largely where women and children alike are really excited to see attractive clothes, all cover in the national colors of Green and White.

E-shopping site retailer's claimed that ahead of I-D celebration, several E-websites are cashing in on the Independence Day and offering exclusive sales and discounts to attract their customers.

An online customer while speaking to a private news channel commented that in Covid-related current situation, technology has made shopping easy.

"I have recently placed a big online order for me and my family members in which tri-colored dresses were selected for all." — APP

## 1st China-Pak Pathology session held

Panellists discussed pathology study of COVID-19 and other diseases and reached a consensus on the necessity of Pak-China pathology cooperation

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: 1st China-Pak Pathology Study Session held this week for clinical academic exchange, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday.

It was participated by Anhui Medical University of China (AHMU) and Islamabad Medical & Dental College (IMDC) and was organized by Life Rehealth Technology Pakistan and Anlong Gene China. They conducted an in-depth academic exchange on the occasion.

Panellists discussed pathology study of COVID-19 and other diseases and reached a consensus on the necessity of Pak-China pathology cooperation. Pathology is the foundation of medicine, and pathological diagnosis is the gold standard which plays an important role in clinical practice.

The session focused on the histopathology cases and the latest research progress of the two sides, to carry out a multi-level, three-dimensional and systematic academic discussion to improve clinical development of both Pakistan and China. The AHMU team was headed by Dean Prof. Wu Qiang and the IMDC team was led by Dean Prof. Shoaib Shah.

Both sides agreed and reiterated the necessity of exploring and building a cultural exchange mechanism and platform under the guidance of BRI and CPEC. Dean Prof. Shah expressed that both countries are like 'Iron brothers' and as Pakistan is a prime partner in CPEC, it would definitely



be a key partner in China Pakistan Health Corridor. As a futuristic approach, both countries would foster exchange of students, faculty, and researchers.

Pathological experts from both sides exchanged their research results including Pathological changes of

COVID-19 (Dr. Ye Yuanzi), evaluation of HER2 over expression in various types of primary Gastric adenocarcinoma in Pakistani Population (Dr. Nazia Khan), A case analysis of tumor in the acetabulum (Dr. Zhan Heqin), A case analysis of presenting with Mediastinal Mass and Cervical lymphadenopathy (Prof. Saeed Alam), Awais Khan, counselor of the Pakistani Embassy in China, medical enterprises, academic institutions, and media also attended the event.

Dr. Ahmed Waqas, the convener of the session, told Gwadar Pro in an interview that the academic sessions will be continued and expanded to different medical fields in future. "Pakistan, a respected, trusted and supported all-weather strategic cooperative partner of China, is one of the most important members of BRI. Under the China-Pakistan Health Corridor, a mutually beneficial cooperation in the medical field has been initiated which marks a new era in the academic collaboration between two countries.



## Red list

AS sports should have nothing to do with politics, the same applies to decisions based on science. The Covid-19 pandemic is a global issue, and all countries are trying to manage this challenge not in view of political considerations but purely with the help of medical and scientific data. The UK appears to have developed a certain political preference while deciding about its red list that bars travel to and from the UK. In a rude shock to both British-Pakistanis and the people of Pakistan, the UK has decided to keep Pakistan on its travel red list. India which has the second highest number of Covid-19 infections has moved to the amber list whereas Pakistan – where the number of cases is much lower – has received this unfair treatment from the British authorities.

The same does not apply to Indian citizens as they are no longer in the red list. This arbitrary step is highly discriminatory and smacks of a certain bias against Pakistan and people of Pakistani origin. Just because India is a bigger country and the UK enjoys better economic relations with it, Pakistani travelers do not deserve this type of punishment. On the other side, the government of Pakistan should also expedite the process of vaccination in the country as right now fully vaccinated people are hovering around just two percent of the population. Recent spikes in infections and positivity rates in Pakistan, especially in Karachi, have made headlines and many countries do not take it as lightly as some in Pakistan have.

Despite having a population of nearly 1.4 billion, India has managed to vaccinate eight percent of its population. It has administered nearly 500 million doses and has around 110 million people fully vaccinated. This should not blur the fact that India is adding over forty thousand new infections daily. Then there is the issue of the Delta variant that the UK has perhaps overlooked while removing India from the red list. Irrespective of what leniency the UK has granted to India, the problems with Pakistani travelers have compounded with the country's continued presence in the red list. No country should display such a discriminatory treatment when making policies regarding the pandemic. The Foreign Office as well as the Pakistan High Commissioner in the UK must take up this issue with the UK government.

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## Medical relief

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$500 million loan for vaccine procurement, easing the financial pressure of the immunisation campaign on the government. If our goal is to vaccinate each member of the population, this will definitely bring us closer. It is this kind of monetary compensation that the government should seek for improving the conditions of hospitals as well. There is no denying that our healthcare system needs to be revamped and the only way we can facilitate that change is through external assistance.

Currently, vaccines dominate our import bill as the government pays nearly \$100 million on procurement on a monthly basis. Despite this, there are still 119 million people that have not been vaccinated, entailing that there will be countless other costly shipments. Fortunately, the \$500 million loan promised by the ADB will provide a good buffer and will give the authorities a chance to figure out alternative methods of financing without jeopardising the vaccination campaign.

Each day, 4745 cases of Covid-19 are reported and patients flood hospitals to seek treatment. Hospitals are at full capacity and vital resources are running out. This is excluding the problems of access and a lack of expertise to treat patients effectively. These are glaring problems that the pandemic has exposed within our healthcare system and with the rate at which the Delta variant is spreading, there is no room for any inefficiency. The cost incurred by not taking action right now will be too hefty for the country. Thus, the government should make medical development the centre of focus of the health policy going forward.

This strategy is bound to help us in the short and long-term as finances allocated to development will lead to better facilities and services that can be utilised in the future as well. At the same time, we must be cognisant of the fact that we cannot fund this development alone and must attract external funding from international entities, regardless of whether it's a loan, grant or humanitarian aid.

# 'Circling In': Deciphering Taliban's strategy

Irfan Shahzad Takalvi



Control of Zaranj, means Taliban are now in-charge of trade route leading from Afghanistan to Iranian port of Chabahar. Fall of Dostum's stronghold Jawzjan means Taliban not only control border with Turkmenistan but also overlook trade-routes with Uzbekistan passing through nearby Balkh province. Tajik president has already made it known to the world that militia controls his country's border with Afghanistan. Actually, several hundreds of Afghan national forces' troops ran away into Tajik territory fleeing Taliban attack a few days ago

THIS was certainly not the best of welcomes Abdul Rashid Dostum received on his return back from Turkey. Soon after he landed in Afghanistan, Taliban captured Sheberghan – the capital of Jawzjan province bordering Turkmenistan – considered stronghold of the notorious warlord.

This happened on Saturday, August 7, 2021. And it was the second provincial capital Taliban took within 24 hours. Zaranj, the capital of southern Nimruz province bordering Iran became the first provincial headquarters to fall to resurgent Taliban a day earlier, on Friday, August 6.

Not only that it depicts a hostile welcome for Dostum who was getting a 'treatment' in Turkey; but the fall of Zaranj and Sheberghan together with other recent happenings in the raging war between Taliban and government forces give us several indications about the unfolding strategy of Taliban.

On Sunday, August 8, Taliban are reported to be closing in on city center of Konduz, capital of the northern province with the same name bordering Tajikistan. Fighting is also said to be raging intensely in Heart, Helmand and Kandhar provinces.

So what does it tell us about Taliban's progress so far and strategy for the future?

Until the turn of August, Taliban were already controlling an overwhelming share of the countryside while the cities were, and mostly remain till now, under the control of government forces. Taliban claimed controlling 85% of country's land – which seemed realistic as most of the countryside is rural – while even an American general admitted few days ago that they [Taliban] control 'half' of the country.

It seems very likely now that within next few days Taliban would be controlling 5 to 7 provincial capitals, probably more. But the areas that have fallen to Taliban al-

ready or are going to fall soon to them give a very clear message.

Control of Zaranj, means Taliban are now in-charge of trade route leading from Afghanistan to Iranian port of Chabahar. Fall of Dostum's stronghold Jawzjan means Taliban not only control border with Turkmenistan but also overlook trade-routes with Uzbekistan passing through nearby Balkh province.

Tajik president has already made it known to the world that militia controls his country's border with Afghanistan. Actually, several hundreds of Afghan national forces' troops ran away into Tajik territory fleeing Taliban attack a few days ago. Some also fled to, and were given a safe passage by, Pakistan not far away from Tajik-Afghan border.

Taking Heart, and Kandhar would mean Taliban have seized control of much, rather all, of border with Iran and also with Pakistan's Balochistan. While entire Kandhar is yet to fall, Taliban already control border crossing of Spin Boldak with Pakistan – in fact having started to dictate terms of cross-border movement to Pakistani counterpart authorities managing Chaman-Spin Boladak crossing. Afghan government authorities stated a few days ago that customs revenue has decreased significantly as Taliban controlled many of the country's border posts – drying up the main source of revenue for Kabul.

So militia is making it clear that before they make any major move on Kabul, they are aiming for taking control of major international routes except for the air-traffic. Wakhan strip is already under their influence.

Internally, while Taliban did not rush towards provincial capitals until start of August, they were in control of many of inter-provincial roads and also partially

asserting control over roads between major provincial capitals and Kabul. With recent and upcoming gains, Taliban would be more in position to cut Kabul off from many of provincial capitals. Soon, it seems.

So the developments and moves so far tell us that 'Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan' – as Taliban formally name themselves – are following a strategy of 'circling in', on the center of power, gradually.

Yet, it is not going to be easy or smooth for them. Government forces, though highly demoralized, still control air power and airports of the country. So not only airpower may make Taliban retreat from certain gains but a complete blockade of Kabul is also not possible – it is clear to Taliban as well. Besides, government forces are also backed by lethal and unmatched airpower of US / NATO forces and bombing on advancing Taliban's positions has been intensified in recent days. Yet, bombing is not a feasible response when the militia had already entered cities as it means huge collateral damage.

As Taliban capture cities, they are releasing Taliban and other prisoners from the jails. More vehicles, equipment and ammunition in coming in their hands adding to their prowess.

It all indicates one of the bloodiest periods in Afghan history, ahead. Advance towards Kabul may take months, but even before that a lot of bloodshed is very much likely, all across the country. It is never too late, though. Let us hope that Taliban, Afghan regime in Kabul and other factions may somehow reach a negotiated arrangement – the earlier, the better. Unfortunately, the prospects for that are not really bright.

– *The author is Founding President of the Eurasian Century Institute, Islamabad-Pakistan and may be accessed at [irfanzad@gmail.com](mailto:irfanzad@gmail.com)*

## CPEC: assessing the gains

Haider Ali Nawaz



Recently President Arif Alvi when talking about Balochistan said that the government was "seriously focusing" on the social and economic uplift of the province. He highlighted the "enormous opportunities" that would be brought to Balochistan because of CPEC

8TH September 1958, the coastal land of Gwadar was handed over to the Pakistani government, by the Omani royalty, and like the rest of Balochistan the area was mostly neglected by the government. To see the reality of this one does not need to look any further than the provincial budget of 2015, prior to the Chinese investment. Hence, the coastal town of Gwadar went unnoticed and untouched for over 57 years up until the, China, opened the eyes of the government to its business and geo-political potential.

Gwadar is a naturally formed harbor which only requires a bare minimum of investment to be made on the port for operational purposes. Situated along the southwestern end of the Pakistani coastal belt is 15,216 square kilometers of a deep-water port with year around ability to function at full capacity and further divided into two bays, eastern and western. This division is made by the natural mountain formation which has been labelled as the Hammerhead.

In 2015, the CPEC's inception took place which allocated \$46 billion for the development of the overall China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Hence began the development of the second planned city of Pakistan in 74 years of its independence and that too at the behest of a foreign government.

This influx of foreign investment into the most underutilized province of Pakistan does have positive influence in terms of uplifting the social and economic fabric. However, the question remains how much share does Pakistan government has in this progress? Or it is China how is doing all the work.

As per the agreement which has been signed the Pakistani government has leased out 2,200

acres of coastal area to the Chinese government for the next 40 years, established the first Free Zone of the state and set up a combined civil and military Special Security Division of 15,000 personnel with the objective to safeguard the foreign investment. Although this sets up the state of Pakistan well on its way to realize its true economic potential and place in the regional and global economic landscape, the future thinking should be complimented by the lessons of the past.

There has been instances where Pakistan allowed foreign presence which most of the time didn't turn out to be as much beneficial for Pakistan. Here, it is important to understand that the previous presence was of military purposes, however in case of Pakistan-China it is sheerly economic. Henceforth, the outcomes could turn out to be more beneficial for Pakistan if things went smoothly.

However, most of the skeptics has genuine concern regarding this collaboration pointing out the question: Is Pakistan genuinely gaining the best possible outcome of the promises made by a foreign government or is it just the same deal camouflaged as an economic presence rather than military? If one thinks pragmatically it is important to understand that any of bi-lateral agreement would be of any benefit unless Government of Pakistan knows how to turn tide in the favor for Pakistan. Whenever an agreement is taking place between two sovereign states each has to score maximum for itself. That is how international interactions work either military or economic.

In attempts to curtail the on-going security concerns of Gwadar the government fenced up the most economically active parts of the city. However, instead of providing the locals

permits to operate within these premises it further sidelined the local fishery businesses, whose cooperation was key to setting up the initial infrastructure of the port.

Moreover, in terms of uplifting the social fabric, progress is there but what was promised is being delivered remains a question for many. The labor that is being used includes local however, upper tier of construction sites is purely Chinese. It might be due to the lack of technical training of the local population. Hence not only are the locals pressed for jobs presently but as time goes on without the presence of proactive steps taken to impart these skillsets the situation will only get worse. Another key issue that is being faced is the language barrier of the locals with the foreigners. Without the ability to communicate, any sort of collaboration between the two nationalities in the future will only remain a fool's paradise.

The point that the government should remember is that this socio-economic project is not an accommodation of a foreign state on Pakistani soil but rather a collaboration. Rather than using this initiative as a means of political point scoring when the elections roll in, the political strata of Pakistan should ensure that the state is treated as an equal partner at the table rather than that of a licensed contractor. A reevaluation of both long- and short-term strategies should be carefully considered to ensure that Pakistan is also pursuing its own national interests rather than only acting as a bridge between China and the Indian Ocean.

– *The writer is currently a student at Lahore University of Management Science pursuing his BSc (Hons) in Political Science*



## Briefs

## Two more cities fall to Taliban

FROM PAGE 01  
2016 but never managed to hold it for long. The ministry of defence said government forces were fighting to retake key installations. "The commando forces have launched a clearing operation. Some areas, including the national radio and TV buildings, have been cleared of the terrorist Taliban," it said in a statement. Kabul's inability to hold the north may prove crucial to the government's long-term survival. The Taliban claimed in a Twitter post that it had seized a large number of armored vehicles, vehicles, weapons and military equipment. The ministry of defence said government forces were fighting to retake these key sites. Taliban forces are fighting in Lashkar Gah, the capital of Afghanistan's southern Helmand province. Airstrikes damaged a health clinic and a high school in the city, a provincial council member said on Sunday. Pro-Taliban sources said the Taliban have taken complete control of the city of Taloqan in northeastern Takhar Province that borders Tajikistan.

## Retired Lt. Col and eight others arrested...

FROM PAGE 01  
However, following disclosures made by them the other accused were also arrested, including military contractors Lt Col Irfan Kiani and Ahmed Kiani, the owner of Core Corporation (Pvt) Limited. The Core Group, which deals in military and defence projects in the energy sector, claims having collaboration with various manufacturers in Asia, Europe and the Americas in brands, commodities, technology and infrastructure. As per the allegations, Lt Col Kiani and his son Ahmed have been receiving secret/confidential documents from one of the accused, Safdar, so that the same could be provided to a foreign agent. FIA recovered confidential documents related to defence purchases and defence production from their custody. Some electronic devices/gadgets were also recovered that have been sent for forensic analysis, say the court papers. Lt Col Kiani and Ahmed, who have both been confined to the Adiala Jail, filed the post-arrest bail petition in the IHC. Appearing on behalf of the federal government, Additional Attorney General Qasim Wadud filed an application that stated the government intends to place some highly sensitive information on judicial record. He requested for an in-camera hearing so that the government could easily present its stance in the case. It may be mentioned here that the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan was recently briefed about such network during his visit to the ISI headquarters. The prime minister upon receiving the briefing asked the agency to launch a relentless crackdown against all those who have been involved in selling secrets to enemies. It was after the directions of the prime minister that action against all such elements has been intensified. Reports suggest, the foreign agents who were found involved in the business have been called back as their indemnity stood compromised. Further action in this regard continues and it is expected that more arrest shall be made in the coming days.

## Ali Alizada appointed Azerbaijan...

FROM PAGE 01  
The President of Azerbaijan as an Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Azerbaijan to Iran and at the same time the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the Economic Cooperation Organization. 'I will do all my efforts to justify this trust and contribute to strengthening of our friendly relations. I am very grateful to Mr. President for confidence and trust', he added. Ambassador Alizada is expected to take charge of his new responsibilities later this month. He has already served in Iran as the Consul General.

## Hardwork needed to put hockey back on track

"The team that went to play the Olympics at Rome 1960 was a very tough team. We planned that this time we have to win the medal and went to the extravaganza with full passion and zeal," he said.

ISLAMABAD: A time when India has regained their lost Olympic glory by winning a bronze medal after a gap of 41 years at the Tokyo Games, Pakistan's absence from the mega event for the second consecutive time upsets the former Olympians who believe that stern hard work was needed to get the national game back on track. India men's hockey team defeated Germany 5-4 in a thrilling bronze medal match at the Tokyo Olympics. Meanwhile Pakistan have won three gold medals in the Olympic Games field hockey tournaments in Rome 1960, Mexico City 1968 and Los Angeles 1984. Pakistan have won two sil-

ver and two bronze medals in the Olympics as well. However, Pakistan could not qualify for Olympics since 2016. Pakistan was also the most successful national field hockey team in the Hockey World Cup with four championships 1971, 1978, 1982 and 1994. Former Olympian Abdul Waheed Khan, who was part of the national team which won a gold medal at the 1960 Rome Olympic Games, said the game of hockey was played very much in the country when Pakistan came into being. "The team that went to play the Olympics at Rome 1960 was a very tough team. We planned that this time we

have to win the medal and went to the extravaganza with full passion and zeal," he said while talking at a sports program at a private news channel. He said the same type of passion was not seen now in Pakistan. "When we won the gold medal and Pakistan's flag was raised at the 1960 Rome Games, people were asking which country it is as few of them knew about our country. After winning the medal people came to know about Pakistan," he said. Waheed said when Pakistan team came back home after winning the gold medal, the reception we got was tremendous. "The reception we got, I believe was only received

by the founder of Pakistan Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah or the national team," he said and added that Ayub Khan who was President at that time, came to visit us in Karachi and declared hockey as the national game. Speaking about the downfall of the national game, he said at first hockey was played on grass but after that the rules changed and the game was played on astro-turf. "Playing on grass was very difficult and the Europeans were thinking to discard hockey from the Games as we were very good in playing on grass. Then they brought in the astro-turf as it suited them and also changed the rules so much

that hockey didn't remained the same. The off-side rule was also changed," he said. But the thing is whatever rule comes in, we have to work hard and win. Pakistan stands at 18th position in the ranking and we feel ashamed as we were No 1. I appeal the players and officials to play and run the game honestly," he said. Former Olympian Tariq Aziz, who led the team to victory in 1968 Mexico Olympics by outplaying India in the final, said at that time hockey was very popular and played in schools, colleges and universities. "We had a nursery of hockey and players used to come to clubs, regions and the

national team from schools, colleges and universities. I also played from school, then college and university and moving on," he said. He said by looking at the current situation, it seems difficult for the national game to recover its position. "We can regain our lost glory in the game but we have to do a lot of hard work. We should invest in the juniors (Under16, 17) more and I'm sure we will get good results," he said. Academies for juniors should be established at Lahore, Peshawar and Karachi and the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) must keep the best coaches in there to train the players," he said. - APP

## Pakistan bins India's baseless..

FROM PAGE 01  
"The Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) is one of the most militarised zones in the world with over 900,000 Indian security personnel. India has erected a multi-tiered fence, installed electronic surveillance equipment, and set up multiple layers of security, making it impossible for anything to cross the LoC to enter IIOJK. Therefore, such allegations recycled from time to time have no basis to stand on." On its part, India has been involved in state-terrorism in IIOJK and against Pakistan. From the Samjhota Express killings of February 2007 to the terrorist blast in Lahore in June 2021, terror incidents targeting Pakistanis have had an Indian hand. Earlier in 2020, Pakistan had provided irrefutable evidence to the world community of India's aiding, abetting and financing of state-sponsored terrorism against Pakistan through a detailed dossier.



LONDON: Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur players in action during a friendly game at Tottenham Hotspur stadium. - DNA

## KPL 2021: Shan Masood stars as Bagh Stallions beat Mirpur Royals

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: Bagh Stallions successfully defended their 212 runs target in match 04 of KPL 2021 where they had a challenge of beating Mirpur Royals on Sunday. A match winning knock of Shan Masood and all-round performance of Amir Yamin helped Stallions register their second victory in KPL 2021. Mirpur Royals won the toss and elected to ball first but the decision backfired as opposition came hard at Royals. Zeeshan Malik was an early loss to Stallions but captain Shan Masood built a 90 runs part-

nership alongside young Rohail Nazir who scored 36 off 28 in this 2nd wicket stand with the skipper. Shan Masood was joined by Asad Shafiq after Rohail's dismissal and both produced a 51 runs stand before Shan got out for 78 off 45. Asad Shafiq also played a fantastic inning of 54 off 23 and sent the ball over the top for 4 times. An outstanding 30 runs inning of Amir Yamin at the back end of the inning helped Stallions post 211/ 6 in 20 overs. Salman Irshad remained the prominent bowler of the inning as he got 3 wickets for 47 runs. Sharjeel Khan and Mohammad Akhlaq kept the game in balance as both scored 57 off 34 and

68 off 39 respectively to produced a 110 runs partnership at the 2nd wicket. After Sharjeel got out, the following middle order batsmen could not score with the required run-rate as Khushdil Shah scored 12 off 12 and Shoaib Malik 11 off 11. When Amad Butt also lost his wicket for a golden duck in the 16th over of the inning, Stallions got themselves in the perfect position to defend their 212 runs target. Aamir Sohail, Mohammad Imran and Umaid Asif got 22 wickets each but the most recent spell of 4 overs was of Amir Yamin who conceded just 19 runs in his 4 overs and came up with an early breakthrough as well at the start of the inning.

## KPL to help promote tourism: Mirpur Royals CEO

ISLAMABAD: The Chief Executive Officer of Kashmir Premier League (KPL) team Mirpur Royals Adil Waheed believes besides providing a platform to the Kashmiri people for showcasing their culture and hospitality to the foreigners the inaugural extravaganza would also help in promoting tourism. "The KPL is not only addition in the T20 leagues circuit but also an opportunity to show this beautiful land of breathtaking valleys and tremendous potential of youth and local cricketers," he told APP. To a question, on India tried to stop foreign players from featuring in KPL, he said Sports bring countries and their people closer. "It should be the choice of players to choose where to play. Healthy completion between playing countries and players always brings positivity and goodwill." Waheed was of the view that KPL would portray a simple message to the world which is "Khaylo Azadi Se". Speaking about his team, he said Shoaib Malik was leading the side who has immense experience of playing Twenty20 leagues all over the world. "Having a captain of Shoaib's caliber, I believe the players will learn a lot from his experience. Also, we have Pakistan's international players such as Sharjeel Khan, Khushdil Shah and Muhammad Irfan and couple more. However, our primary focus and intention was to pick young talent from Kashmir."

## Tearful Messi confirms Barcelona exit

BARCELONA: Lionel Messi fought back tears Sunday as he confirmed he is leaving Barcelona, where he has played his entire career. The 34-year-old Argentinian superstar, six times a Ballon d'Or winner, has been out of contract since the end of June and Barca say they Saint-Germain widely expected to Princes. "This year, my family and stay here, at home - this is what said a suited Messi as he struggled in frustration at some of the club where he has won four up staying. Last month Barcelona were in agreement in print-tourage on a new five-year deal on I don't know what to say," said Messi, a 13-year-old. "After 21 years I am leaving with my three Catalan Argentine children," said Messi, who won 10 league titles with the club. "I gave everything for this club from the first day that I arrived right to the last. I never imagined having to say goodbye. "In recent days I have given lots of thought to what I can say and truth to tell I can't think of anything. - Agencies



## USA top Olympic medal table as delayed Games draw to close

TOKYO: Eliud Kipchoge produced a marathon masterclass and the USA edged China at the top of the Tokyo Olympics medals table as the curtain fell on the biggest sports event since the pandemic on Sunday. After Kipchoge's marathon win for Kenya, the United States scored victories in volleyball, track cycling and basketball to top the medals tally with 39 golds, just one ahead of China. The 339th and final gold medal went to Serbia's men's water polo team, capping a Games that were in stark danger of cancellation after they became the first postponed Olympics last year. Thirty-three sports have been contested across 16 days in largely empty stadiums, with fans barred over coronavirus risks and

athletes living in strict biosecure conditions. "Some were already speaking of 'Ghost Games'," Olympics chief Thomas Bach told an International Olympic Committee session on Sunday. "What we have seen here is that on the contrary the athletes have brought soul to the Olympic Games." The Olympics were plagued by low Japanese support over super-spreader fears but officials maintained that a record haul of 27 gold medals, putting Japan third on the table, has won hearts. "We believe our athletes' earnest spirit and all-out performance moved people," said Tsuyoshi Fukui, chef de mission for the Japanese team. Britain finished fourth with 22 golds and the Russian Olympic Committee, the team for Russian athletes after

Russia were banned for systematic doping, were fifth with 20. A succession of big names have failed to perform in Japan, where new sports skateboarding, surfing, sport climbing and karate have brought young new stars to the fore. But marathon world record-holder Kipchoge showed his class, kicking in the closing stages and clocking 2hr 08min 38sec to retain his 2016 title. "I know there were a lot of people against holding this Olympics due to the coronavirus," said a flag-waving, 47-year-old fan on the marathon route who gave his name as Tsujita. "But I am glad it took place. This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for everyone." The marathon, moved north to Sapporo to avoid Tokyo's summer heat, was one

of the few events to allow spectators. Sunday's closing ceremony will take place at a largely vacant Olympic Stadium, rounding off an extraordinary Games conducted mostly without live spectators for a worldwide audience of billions. Fears of a major outbreak proved unfounded in the mostly vaccinated Olympic contingent and 430 cases were picked up during the Games, including 32 in the Olympic Village. But athletes had the added pressure of strict 'bubble' conditions including orders to wear masks unless competing, training, eating or sleeping. Victory celebrations have been low-key, with lonely laps of honour and sparsely attended medal ceremonies. But the emotions of the competitors have been on full view. - APP

## Uzbek Jalolov wins super heavy boxing gold

SPORTS DESK

TOKYO: Uzbekistan's towering Bakhodir Jalolov won the Olympic super-heavyweight boxing title on Sunday with victory over Richard Torrez as Team USA's hopes of a first men's gold since 2004 evaporated in Tokyo. It was double disappointment on the day for the US, with lightweight Keyshawn Davis also settling for silver after losing his final. The 22-year-old Torrez was defeated by the taller man on unanimous points as Jalolov added Olympic gold to his 2019 world champion crown. Torrez caught Jalolov with a thudding left in the first round and rattled him again early in the second. But he then had a point deducted for use of his head and took a standing count as Jalolov clicked ominously into gear. Torrez briefly needed medical treatment in the second round for a cut over his eye. Earlier in the day, classy Andy Cruz won Cuba's fourth Olympic boxing gold in Tokyo with a tough victory over Davis.

## Complete medal table of Tokyo Olympics

Who are Team GB's medal winners?					
Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	United States	39	41	33	113
2	China	38	32	18	88
3	Japan	27	14	17	58
4	Great Britain	22	21	22	65
5	ROC	20	28	23	71
6	Australia	17	7	22	46
7	Netherlands	10	12	14	36
8	France	10	12	11	33
9	Germany	10	11	16	37
10	Italy	10	10	20	40
11	Canada	7	6	11	24
12	Brazil	7	6	8	21
13	New Zealand	7	6	7	20
14	Cuba	7	3	5	15
15	Hungary	6	7	7	20
16	South Korea	6	4	10	20
17	Poland	4	5	5	14
18	Czech Republic	4	4	3	11
19	Kenya	4	4	2	10
20	Norway	4	2	2	8
21	Jamaica	4	1	4	9
22	Spain	3	8	6	17
23	Sweden	3	6	0	9
24	Switzerland	3	4	6	13
25	Denmark	3	4	4	11
26	Croatia	3	3	2	8
27	Iran	3	2	2	7
28	Belgium	3	1	3	7
29	Bulgaria	3	1	2	6
30	Slovenia	3	1	2	5
31	Uzbekistan	3	0	1	5
32	Georgia	2	5	1	8
33	Chinese Taipei	2	4	6	12
34	Turkey	2	2	9	13
35	Serbia	2	1	5	8
36	Uganda	2	1	1	4
37	Ecuador	2	1	0	3
38	Ireland	2	0	2	4
38	Israel	2	0	2	4
40	Greece	2	0	1	3
40	Qatar	2	0	1	3
42	Bahamas	2	0	0	2
42	Kosovo	2	0	0	2
44	Ukraine	1	6	12	19
45	Belarus	1	3	3	7
46	Romania	1	3	0	4
46	Venezuela	1	3	0	4
48	India	1	2	4	7
49	Hong Kong	1	2	3	6
50	Philippines	1	2	1	4
50	Slovakia	1	2	1	4
52	South Africa	1	2	0	3
53	Austria	1	1	5	7
54	Egypt	1	1	4	6
55	Indonesia	1	1	3	5
56	Ethiopia	1	1	2	4
56	Portugal	1	1	2	4
58	Tunisia	1	1	0	2
59	Estonia	1	0	1	2
59	Fiji	1	0	1	2
59	Latvia	1	0	1	2
59	Thailand	1	0	1	2
63	Bermuda	1	0	0	1
63	Morocco	1	0	0	1
63	Puerto Rico	1	0	0	1
66	Colombia	0	4	1	5
67	Azerbaijan	0	3	4	7
68	Dominican Republic	0	3	2	5
69	Armenia	0	2	2	4
70	Kyrgyzstan	0	2	1	3
71	Mongolia	0	1	3	4
72	Argentina	0	1	2	3
72	San Marino	0	1	2	3
74	Jordan	0	1	1	2
74	Malaysia	0	1	1	2
74	Nigeria	0	1	1	2
77	Bahrain	0	1	0	1
77	Saudi Arabia	0	1	0	1
77	Lithuania	0	1	0	1
77	North Macedonia	0	1	0	1
77	Namibia	0	1	0	1
77	Turkmenistan	0	1	0	1
83	Kazakhstan	0	0	8	8
84	Mexico	0	0	4	4
85	Finland	0	0	2	2
86	Botswana	0	0	1	1
86	Burkina Faso	0	0	1	1
86	Ivory Coast	0	0	1	1
86	Ghana	0	0	1	1
86	Grenada	0	0	1	1
86	Kuwait	0	0	1	1
86	Moldova	0	0	1	1
86	Syria	0	0	1	1



## Briefs

## Delta variant causes 95 pc of infections in West Bank

## WEB DESK

RAMALLAH: A senior Palestinian official announced on Sunday that 95 percent of the recent COVID-19 infections in the West Bank are of the Delta variant. Palestinian minister of health Mai al-Kaila told reporters in the West Bank city of Ramallah that COVID-19 Delta variant is spreading in all West Bank towns, adding that 95 percent of the recorded cases were infected by the new spreading variant. She clarified that until now, "the epidemiological situation in the West Bank does not need to go for a lockdown," adding that the health ministry needs assistance to limit the spread of the deadly virus, and then take all the needed measures later. Al-Kaila said that keeping cities and economic institutions opened and resuming education at schools and universities "requires a societal responsibility through citizens' awareness to prevent the virus from spreading on a large scale." "The recorded cases in Palestine are witnessing a slight increase, and the curve is rising from what it was a few days ago," she said, adding she is deeply concerned that "this is an indication of the entry of the fourth wave of COVID-19." Meanwhile, al-Kaila called on every Palestinian aged over 18 years old to immediately go to the vaccination centers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and abide by the precautionary measures of wearing face masks and social distancing.

## Cuba reports 8,893 new cases, 96 deaths

## FOREIGN DESK

HAVANA: Cuba reported 8,893 new cases and 96 deaths from COVID-19 on Saturday, the Ministry of Public Health said. The ministry's national director of hygiene and epidemiology Francisco Duran said that 31 of the people diagnosed with the virus in the last day had a source of infection from abroad, adding that 4.1 percent (365) of the 8,893 positive cases were asymptomatic. The province of Havana registered the highest number of new cases, with 1,590 new infections in the last 24 hours, followed by the provinces of Cienfuegos (1,272) and Ciego de Avila (1,087). There are currently 46,724 active cases in the country, while 451 patients have been admitted to intensive care units. Cuba has registered 448,792 cases and 3,355 deaths from COVID-19 so far.

## Turks send aid to fire-hit areas

## AGENCIES

ISTANBUL: Turkish people on Sunday continued to send aid supplies to those affected by devastating wildfires that hit the south and southwestern parts of Turkey. The Istanbul foundation affiliated with the Istanbul municipality sent an aid truck carrying food and relief supplies to the fire-hit southwestern Mugla province. The municipality said the supplies also included fireproof trousers, shoes, boots, gas masks, fireproof blankets, fire extinguishers, helmets, medical equipment for the burns, phone chargers, and generators. Several charity groups in Istanbul also launched campaigns to help those whose houses were burned to furnish their homes in both Mugla and the southern province of Antalya. They have been collecting all kinds of household appliances, pillows, bed linens, and other materials and constantly sending them to the fire-hit zones. Several aid trucks loaded with basic supply materials have been arriving in the Manavgat district of Antalya, one of the worst-hit areas from the fire, from many provinces across the country.

## United Business Group to win next elections, vows leadership

The business community of the country is the biggest stakeholder of Pakistan and also the biggest beneficiary of Pakistan creation, and we expect that the policies of the country should be made with their consultation



## DNA

LAHORE: United Business Group Chairman Iftikhar Ali Malik and Patron in Chief SM Munir have said that Lahore is a stronghold of United Business Group and after the election of Ali Asghar Hassam as Chairman United Business Group, Lahore has become the center of United Business Group's activities. They expressed these views at a meeting of the United Business Group held in Lahore yesterday, which was chaired by Mr. Iftikhar Ali Malik and Chief Guest was SM Munir. Addressing the meeting, SM Munir said that United Business Group is a representative group of the business community of the entire country and we will partici-

pate in the upcoming elections to the best of our ability and ensure the success of UBG. In his address, Iftikhar Ali Malik, Chairman, United Business Group, said that Lahore has been playing a key role in the political, cultural and social life of the country and now the Lahore Chapter has played an active role within the United Business Group. A new journey of success will begin. Zubair Tufail, President, United Business Group, said that the business community across the country was facing various problems and the ruling group which came to power through fraud had not made any significant progress in solving the problems of the business community. And, God willing, the United Business

Group will fully represent the business community after the election in the way they have served the business community for the past five years. Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General, United Business Group, said in his address that the business community of the country is the biggest stakeholder of Pakistan and also the biggest beneficiary of Pakistan creation. And we expect that the policies of the country should be made with their consultation. He further added that the business community should be taken into confidence and their dignity and honour and should be the major principle of the state craft. Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Information Secretary, in his address on the occasion, said that the busi-

ness leadership from Karachi to Khyber is united under the leadership of Mr. SM Munir and Iftikhar Ali Malik and we must win the next election through our unity and hard work. UBG Sindh President Khalid Tabwani in his address said that we have been kept away in the last elections by rigging and we are fighting for justice in every possible way and insha Allah truth and justice will prevail. Mr. Tanveer Ahmed Sheikh, Senior Vice Chairman, United Business Group and former President, FPCCI, said in his address that nations should think for the future and not involved in the past, we should learn from our mistakes, God willing. Will come forward and work hard to serve the merchants.

Other leaders of United Business Group: Mr. Amir Ata Bajwa, Sohail Altaf, Dr. Noman Idrees Butt, Malik Sohail Hussain, Ali Hussam Asghar, Sheikh Muhammad Asif, Hanif Gohar, Amjad Chaudhry addressed the function and besides Zubair Ahmad Malik, Ahmed Chanay, Arif Yusuf Jiva, Mazhar A. Nasir, Noor Ahmad Khan, Mian Zafar Iqbal, Pervez Lala, Rehman Aziz Chan, Haji Irfan Yusuf, Jamil A. Naz, Miss Rizwana Shahid, Hamid Akhtar Chadha, Mian Zahid Javed, Qazi Akbar, Shehzad Saadat, Rehmatullah Javed, Waqar Ahmad Mian, Sohail Anjum Ansari, Waqas Akram Awan, Asad Mashhadi, Zahid Latif Khan, Younis Sheikh, Zahid Iqbal Chaudhry, and a large number of traders and industrialists from across the country participated.



TOKYO: Representatives of Pakistan Olympics Federation meeting with Ambassador Imtiaz Ahmad at Embassy of Pakistan. - APP

## Five reported missing in huge California wildfire

## AGENCIES

LOS ANGELES: US authorities said Saturday they were searching for five people missing as a huge wildfire raged in northern California, leaving two towns in little more than cinders. The Dixie Fire, the largest active wildfire in the United States, recently became the third-largest in California history. As of Saturday it had blackened 446,723 acres (180,782 hectares) in four counties, up from the previous day's 434,813 and surpassing the vast Bootleg Fire in southern Oregon. Dixie is now 21 percent contained, the CalFire website reported. While the fire continued to grow, officials said Saturday that cooler, calmer weather was giving firefighters a much-needed break. Those conditions are expected to continue into Sunday. "We expect the same fire behavior as yesterday, which was fairly moderate," Jake Cagle, a firefighter sections chief, said in a briefing Saturday. Earlier, the Dixie Fire left the Gold Rush town of Greenville charred and in ruins, while also burning through the small town of Canyondam. The Plumas County sheriff's office said it had received descriptions of five people considered missing in Greenville and was searching for them. Five other missing people were confirmed found on Saturday.

## Pak exporters must establish brands to boost exports to China

## DNA

BEIJING: Expressing satisfaction over tremendous increase in exports to China in first half of 2021 as compared to six months of last year, Commercial Counsellor, Pakistan Embassy, Beijing, Badar uz Zaman on Sunday said that the Pakistani exporters needed to establish good brands to attract Chinese customers and further increase exports to China. "Since China has offered many concessions to the Pakistani exports, and many exhibitors and exporters are also working to market their products into the Chinese market after signing of free trade agreement between Pakistan and China, there is a tremendous export of

85percent in the first half of the year 2021 as compared to the first half of the year 2020," he told. He said that the per capita income was increasing in China, and now consumer products were gaining a lot of attraction from all over the world. "As Pakistan is also good in the consumer products, especially in the textile, leather, sports goods, surgical and food related industries and agro. So, in these areas there will be a strong Chinese demand," he said. Badar uz Zaman opined that the Pakistani exporters needed to establish good brands because Chinese prefer to buy the brands and added, "If we are able to market our good brands in China by setting up export offices and by engaging the big importers,

then we will definitely see the growth in exports." According to the official data from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC), Pakistan's export to China crossed \$1.735 billion in January-to-June in the first half of 2021 registering an increase of 70.3% during the first half of the current fiscal year (2020-2021). The bilateral trade between Pakistan and China witnessed a significant increase despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Pakistan's exports stood at \$1.735 billion in the first half of FY2021, up 70.3 percent from \$1.019 billion in the same period of the previous year. Last month, Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood announced via Twit-

ter that Pakistan's export to China registered an increase of 34% in FY2020-21. "I'm pleased to share that our exports have done quite well in our major markets. During financial year 2021, our exports to China increased by 34% to \$2.33 billion as compared with \$1.74 billion in the previous financial year, increasing \$586 million," tweeted Dawood. This half fiscal year China's export to Pakistan also increased 48 percent amounting to \$10.87 billion as compared with the previous year which was \$7.35 billion. The total volume of trade between China and Pakistan had increased by 50.8 percent amounting to \$12.6 billion as compared with 2020 which was \$8.37 billion due to COVID-19 pandemic.

## Declining of Rupee value to harm the economy

The positive development related to economic indicators, urging the government to control volatility of rupee against the US dollar, as the industrial revival and economic growth is not possible without stability of local currency

## DNA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial & Traders Associations Front chairman Mian Nauman Kabir has said that massive fall of rupee value continued to harm the economy, as the cost of deals done by the businessmen with their foreign buyers has increased manifold due to unprecedented plunge of local currency against dollar. Besides increasing exports and controlling imports the government will have to take administrative measures, as a large demand of cash dollars are seen in the market. He said that the rupee has dropped by 7

percent or Rs11 against the dollar during last couple of months. Mian Nauman Kabir, in a joint statement with vice chairman Javed Siddiqi appreciated the positive development related to economic indicators, urging the government to control volatility of rupee against the US dollar, as the industrial revival and economic growth is not possible without stability of local currency. He said that Pakistani rupee continued its downward slide against the US dollar, which has appreciated by seven percent against the local currency since May this year, trading at Rs163.5 against the rate of as low as Rs152 in May. In terms

of the rupee, the dollar has appreciated by Rs11 since May which shows the exchange rate is not managed by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) but it also shows the exchange rate is not stable. Mian Nauman said that the end of previous fiscal year with current account deficit was a serious blow to the exchange rate while the fear of higher demand of dollars further exacerbated with the information of the SBP that the county would need \$20 billion to repay loans. He said that the import bill of \$6 billion in June this year was enough to signal the market that demand of dollar was very high

but the State Bank's information that the current account deficit would be two to three percent in FY22 forced the importers to book as much as possible to avoid more appreciation of greenback. PIAF Vice Chairman Javed Siddiqi observed that the market-based flexible exchange rate system, resilience in remittances and other factors can help contain the current account deficit in a sustainable range of 2-3 percent of GDP in FY22. He said that the rising of dollar is not logical despite the fact that the State Bank says Pakistan's external position was at its strongest in 10 years with 0.6pc current account deficit in

FY21. He said that the rising instability in Afghanistan has stirred fear within Pakistan that may hurt the normal economic life in the country, motivating people to buy dollars. At the same time, exports to Afghanistan have come down to almost zero level. Formal and informal exports to the country are in the range of \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion per year. Javed Siddiqi said that the fourth wave of Covid-19 is another negative force to depreciate the local currency and shatter the confidence in it. Covid-19 may destabilize the economic growth and ultimately negatively impact the exchange rate.

## #HelpTurkey: Hashtag sparks culture war

## WEB NEWS

ISTANBUL: It looked innocent enough. As Turkey burned, ravaged by its deadliest and most destructive wildfires in living memory, #HelpTurkey began trending on Twitter, supported by sympathetic celebrities and traumatised Turks. But in a deeply divided country where even minor events spark culture wars between President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's supporters and opponents, the hashtag turned into a scandal, leading to a prosecutors' probe. The powerful Turkish leader, unexpectedly facing one of the most serious challenges of his 18-year rule, sounded scandalised by the idea that his country needed help, even as the government revealed it no longer had functioning firefighting planes. "In response to this, there's only one thing we can say: Strong Turkey," Erdogan said after Friday prayers, mentioning a hashtag being circulated by his voters. "A terror of lies is being spread from America, Europe and certain other places," he said about the #HelpTurkey campaign. Acting on Erdogan's anger, the prosecutors' office said it would investigate whether the posts were designed "to create anxiety, fear and panic in the public, and to humiliate the Turkish government".

## Hundreds flee as forest fires ravage Greek island

## FOREIGN DESK

ISTIAIA: Hundreds of Greek firefighters fought desperately Sunday to control wildfires on the island of Evia that have charred vast areas of pine forest, destroyed homes and forced tourists and locals to flee. Blazes also raged in the Peloponnese region in the southwest, but fires in a northern suburb of Athens have subsided. Greece and Turkey have been battling devastating fires for nearly two weeks as the region suffers its worst heatwave in decades. Officials and experts have linked such intense weather events to climate change. So far, they have killed two people in Greece and eight in neighbouring Turkey, with dozens more hospitalised. But while rains brought some respite from the blazes in Turkey over the weekend, Greece continued to suffer amid soaring temperatures. The rugged landscape and thick pine forests on Evia which made it appealing to tourists have turned into a nightmare for firefighters. The inferno on Greece's second largest island, which lies east of the capital, has turned thousands of hectares into ashes and destroyed homes. Thousands have been evacuated, and hundreds of locals and tourists have fled on ferry boats.

## Saudi Arabia compensates families of health workers

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has begun compensating the families of health workers who died because of the coronavirus, state media reported on Sunday, after announcing last year that each will receive \$133,000. The kingdom said in October it would distribute "500,000 Saudi riyals to the families of those who died as a result of Covid-19 working in the health sectors, be it government or private, civilian or military, Saudi or non-Saudi". The oil-rich Gulf country said the decision applies from "the date of the first recorded infection" in the country on March 2, 2020. The official Saudi Press Agency announced the start of the distribution of funds to the families of those who have died as a result of the pandemic. They "gave their lives in the fight against the pandemic to preserve the health and safety of citizens and residents in the kingdom", SPA said. It is unclear how many health workers have died because of Covid-19 in Saudi Arabia, where thousands of foreigners are employed as medical staff. - APP



**Briefs**

**Soldier injured in cross border attack**

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: A Pak Army soldier has been injured in a cross border terrorist attack from Afghanistan. According to the military media-wing, terrorists from inside Afghanistan across the international border, opened fire on a Pakistan military post in Dewagar, North Waziristan District. Pakistan Army troops responded in a befitting manner. During exchange of fire, 1 soldier got injured. Pakistan has consistently been requesting Afghanistan to ensure effective border management. Pakistan strongly condemns the use of Afghan soil by terrorists for activities against Pakistan.

**CAA for in-flight message on trash disposal**

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) notified that from now onward in-flight the announcement is required to be made on passenger flights (all operators) to Gilgit, Skardu, Chitral, and Saidu Sharif for not throwing trash and disposables out in the open. The CAA took the measure in order to protect the environment of the tourist hub of Pakistan—northern areas—as PIA has enhanced number of flights to Gilgit Baltistan from parts of cities.

The notification reads, "Pakistan, our motherland, is home to one of the most scenic and beautiful places in the world. You are, at the moment, en route to witness the majestic beauty of Skardu/Gilgit/Chitral/Saidu Sharif (depending on flight destination). As responsible individuals, hence all passengers are requested to please take very good care of not throwing trash and disposables out in the open when you disembark and visit these places. Such items may only be disposed off in trash bins placed indoors and outdoors. Please play your part in the preservation of the beauty of our country Pakistan". The notification was issued as per the direction of Director-General. This announcement should come into effect immediately. All operators to ensure compliance.

**Sindh announces revised curbs**

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Sindh government, bringing an end to a nine-day lockdown, on Sunday announced revised COVID-19 restrictions for the province as the country battles the fourth wave of the pandemic. The new restrictions are set to take effect on Monday, August 9, and will last till August 31. Under the revised curbs, the following will apply: Market and business activities may continue till 8pm. This includes standalone grocery stores, fish and meat shops, vegetable and fruit vendors, e-commerce, and bakeries. Essential services allowed to open longer. These include pharmacies, medical facilities, vaccination centres, petrol pumps, milk shops, and tandoors. Indoor dining will not be allowed. Outdoor dining is allowed for a maximum of 300 people till 10pm under strict coronavirus safety precautions. Takeaway and home delivery are allowed 24/7, subject to strict adherence to safety measures with staff and delivery personnel fully vaccinated. Indoor weddings banned. Outdoor weddings allowed with a maximum of 300 guests till 10pm with strict enforcement of safety protocols. Shrines to remain closed. Cinemas to remain closed. Indoor gatherings, including cultural, musical, religious events prohibited.

**Serena hosts musical grand finale of Sarangi Season 5**

CEO Serena Hotels South and Central Asia, Aziz Boolani says "Serena has promoted the arts and intercultural activities to inspire a culture of peace and hope"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A star studded grand finale event was held on Friday evening at Serena Hotels to conclude the Season 5 of Serena Hotel's Sarangi countrywide music talent hunt competition. The event, held with full Covid-19 SOPs including social distancing and vaccination card checks, was attended by prominent members of the diplomatic corps, business community and Islamabad society gathered to listen to the musical performances and the announcement of winner. The First Lady Samina Alvi along with jury members Shehzad Roy and Sarmad Ghafoor as well as CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani jointly announced the results. The judges declared the contest a tie between Ali Baloch from Islamabad and Ghayyas Haider from Lahore.

A call for submissions had been given earlier this year through Serena Hotel's social media platforms as a result of which 5 talented contestants, hailing from diverse backgrounds and different parts of the country, were shortlisted for the grand finale. The contestants also included Ayesha Afzal from Pakpattan, Aden Sohail from Faisalabad and Fida Mughal from Neelum Valley, Kashmir. This year's Sarangi jury panel once again consisted of renowned figures of music industry including singers Shehzad Roy and Zoe Viccaji and music producer Sarmad Ghafoor. Sarangi is a Cultural Diplomacy initiative of Serena Hotels and aims to promote the arts and culture of Pakistan. Since its inception in 2017,



the Sarangi initiative has given a large pool of promising musical talent from around the country a platform to be discovered, polished and become the nation's rising star. Ayesha Rasheed from Lahore, who was the winner of Sarangi Season 4, also performed a powerful rendition of "Lambijudai" on the

occasion. Speaking to the press, Shehzad Roy said, "I am blown away by the talent that is to be found all over Pakistan. It was a tough challenge for us judges to select only five people from the 50 short-listed submissions, but we tried to do justice." "With the dearth of a proper

music industry and opportunities for younger people, projects like Sarangi gives young musicians a platform to work towards and be heard on a larger platform. The final prize which is a song recording and music video is so apt and something I would have truly valued when I first started pursuing music,"

commented Zoe Viccaji via a video message. CEO Serena Hotels South and Central Asia, Mr. Aziz Boolani, speaking at the occasion, said: "Serena has promoted the arts and intercultural activities to inspire a culture of peace and hope. And we truly believe in giving recognition and plat-

form to the emerging artists that need recognition. I am grateful to the judges and the guests for coming together to support this initiative and encourage the creative talent that Pakistan possesses."

*(Detailed coverage in the coming issue of CENTRELINE)*

**2 cops martyred, 22 injured in blasts**

A police van was targeted during the first attack, another blast occurred in Sariab

NEWS DESK

QUETTA: Two police personnel were martyred while many others sustained injuries when a powerful blast targeted their vehicle near a luxury hotel in Balochistan's capital Quetta on Sunday, officials said. According to provincial government spokesperson Liaquat Shahwani, a police van was targeted during the attack in which at least 22 people were also injured. He said that the explosive material was planted in a motorcycle. The injured have been shifted to a local hospital. According to the provincial spokesperson, an emergency has been declared in the hospital another person was injured in a separate blast at Sariab. While condemning the "heinous incident", Shahwani said that the terrorists want to dismantle the peaceful atmosphere in Balochistan. However, he added, those involved will be taken to task. The police officials martyred during the blast were identified as Sepoy Niaz Ahmed resident of Sibi and Ali Akbar resident of Dera Bugti. MS Civil Hospital Quetta Dr Javed Akhtar said that among the 12 injured, five are police officials.

**Applications for Umrah opened**

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia will start receiving Umrah pilgrimage applications from abroad for vaccinated pilgrims from today (Monday). An official of the Saudi Hajj and Umrah Ministry said that vaccinated pilgrims from countries that Saudi Arabia includes on its entry-ban list will have to be institutionally quarantined upon arrival, a private news channel reported. He said the Saudi government will also increase the overall capacity of the pilgrims to two million per month with certain conditions. Only "immunized" people against COVID-19 were allowed to perform the Umrah and visit the Prophet's Mosque in Medina, official further added. - APP

**32073 acres land acquired for Diamer Basha Dam**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The government has so far acquired 32,073 acres of land for important Diamer Basha Dam project which is expected to be completed by April, 2029 and would meet growing water and power needs of the country. The acquired land is around 90 percent of total required 35,924 acres of land for the project. The official information revealed on Sunday that the total estimated cost of Diamer Basha Dam project which includes PC-I (acquisition of land and resettlement Rs. 175,436 million, PC-II (Dam Part Rs. 479,686 million while cost for PC-I (Power Generation Facilities yet to be approved) is Rs. 751,000 million. Similarly, the amount spent by previous governments on the Dam is Rs. 86,685 million under acquisition of land and resettlement (AL&R) since 2009-10 while the present government has spent Rs. 302,73 million under AL&R and Rs. 51,555 million under dam part. The total amount of Rs. 116,158 million has been spent under AL&R and Rs. 51,555 million under the Dam's part. The information further revealed that Supreme Court of Pakistan is custodian of Dam Fund. The total amount of the Funds collected for the project so far is Rs. 12,934,008,868 up to July 15, 2021.

**Pakistan, China for early completion of Dasu blast probe**

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have decided to wrap up the probe into the Dasu bus blast as soon as possible. The decision was taken in a meeting between Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed and Chinese Ambassador in Pa-

kistan Nong Rong when the envoy visited the minister's residence in Islamabad on Sunday. During the meeting, both the minister and the envoy deliberated upon a string of issues including the Dasu bomb explosion. On the occasion, Sheikh Rasheed assured the envoy

that the Pakistani government will ensure foolproof security arrangements for the Chinese workers and companies working on a number of development projects in Pakistan. "We will not let the CPEC being sabotaged by any foreign conspiracy," the minister said and added "No

power can create hurdles in the way of Pakistan-China friendship." The Chinese ambassador said a number of companies have been working on different projects in Pakistan. "We thank the Pakistani government for the facilities it provided to the Chinese workers," he said.



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong calls on Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmad. - DNA

**New programme to focus education, reforms, health: WB**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank Group is preparing its new 5-year program of support for Pakistan, the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for 2022-2026 with special focus on structural reforms, health, education, promoting climate friendly future, inclusive growth, and good governance. During a week-long visit of the World Bank Vice President for South Asia, Hartwig Schafer to Pakistan concluded on Sunday, he discussed with the government authorities, the Pakistan government's priorities for the next few years.

The CPF framework has been informed by broad-based stakeholder consultations to help ensure alignment with country priorities, according to a statement issued by the World Bank on Sunday. It said during the visit consultations have been held with federal and provincial governments, parliamentarians, private sector, civil society organizations including women and youth groups, media and academia, as well as devel-

opment partners. "I am pleased to see broad support for the direction of the new Country Partnership Framework, which is structured around human capital development - particularly ensuring health and education for girls and boys to give them the best possible start; promoting a cleaner and more climate-resilient future; fostering more equitable and inclusive growth; and strengthening governance," Schafer said. Schafer was joined in his meetings by the Country Director for Pakistan, Najy Benhassine, and the Pakistan Alternate Executive Director for the World Bank, Naveed Baloch. During his visit Schafer met with Prime Minister Imran Khan to discuss the key reforms. The Government's ambitious plans for investing in human capital, social protection and job creation were also discussed. The Bank offered its support to ensure that new initiatives like 'Kamyab Pakistan' benefit from international experience, global knowledge and are implemented in a targeted, impactful and fiscally sustainable way.

**NCOC lauded on 500 days of tackling covid-19**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan, President Arif Alvi, and Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, along with other federal ministers, have paid tribute to the National Command and Control Centre (NCOC) for its efforts against COVID-19. August 8 marks 500 days since the NCOC was formed to synergise and articulate a unified national effort against COVID-19. To celebrate the occasion, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) uploaded a documentary on their YouTube channel titled "Azam-e-Alishan (NCOC: A Unified Endeavour)". The documentary highlights how the NCOC was created in March 2020 and how it is functioning to supply statistics and make informed decisions based on them. The documentary was shared by Director-General ISPR Major General Babar Iftikhar on Twitter with the Army chief's praise for the NCOC.

**Farrukh regards NCOC 'Unified Endeavor'**

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Sunday lauded the role of National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) for creating national unity that eventually lead country to fight against coronavirus pandemic with efficacy. In a tweet, he said on the completion of 500 days of NCOC a documentary portraying

the 'Unified Endeavor' displayed by the nation against COVID-19 pandemic has been launched. He said Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar and his team under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan took timely decisions that had been an instrumental in tackling the pandemic. - DNA

"NCOC has remained pivotal to Pakistan's riposte against COVID-19. It symbolises [an] optimised national response [to] adversity, saving precious lives. Accolades for the NCOC team on completing 500 days of continuous struggle & delivery," said the COAS.

Prime Minister Imran Khan also took to Twitter to note that Pakistan's COVID-19 strategy has been appreciated by the world and paid tribute to the NCOC team which has been the "linchpin" of Pakistan's coronavirus response strategy. President Arif Alvi also appreciated the ef-

fort done by the "platform laid by the PM" to ensure poor people did not suffer in lockdowns. Several federal ministers including Education Minister Shafqat Mehmood and Human Rights Minister Shireen Mazari also lauded the efforts of the NCOC. Shafqat Mehmood wrote that NCOC did "a tremendous job by coordinating the national response" and paid special compliments to Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar and Lt General Hamood uz Zaman. Shireen Mazari called the NCOC a "successful" model of coordination between the federal and provincial governments. She added that NCOC's work prevented Pakistan from a fate similar to India's. The NCOC has been lauded by many for its work in coordinating and rolling out information regarding the epidemic. As Pakistan goes through the fourth wave of the coronavirus, NCOC's policies are expected to play a vital role in managing the spread of the virus.