

### Japanese envoy grieved over blast

STAFF REPORT



expressed grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives in the bomb blast which occurred in Quetta on August 8th, leaving two policemen dead and numbers of people injured. "Any act of terrorism cannot be justified for whatever reason or purpose. Our thoughts and prayers are with the government the people of Pakistan, and the families of those who have lost their dear ones in the tragic incident. Please accept my deepest condolences and sympathies to the families of victims and I pray for the early recovery of those injured in the blast" said the Ambassador in his condolence message. While appreciating the efforts of Pakistani security forces in maintaining peace and stability, the Ambassador reiterated that Japan is committed to continuing to support the Government of Pakistan and its valiant security forc

## **Afghan leaders** must quit the blame game

Qureshi says India had violated its obligation as the UNSC president by not allowing Pakistan's request to brief the forum on the situation





**ISLAMABAD:** FM Shah Mahmood Qureshi addressing a news conference while Special Secretary **Raza Bashir Tarar and Spokesperson** Zahid Ch look on. - DNA

#### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi Monday said that Pakistan had played its role in Afghan peace and reconciliation process and now, it was up to the Afghan leadership to further move the Intra-Afghan dialogue process. Qureshi regretted that allegations were being leveled against Pakistan for the failure of Afghan peace process. Addressing a press conference here, the foreign minister said the Afghan leadership would be responsible for the success or failure of the dialogue process.

Continued on Page 06

'Extended troika' meets on Wednesday

#### STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Senior officials from Pakistan, the United States, Russia and China will meet in Doha on August 11 as part of efforts to prevent Afghanistan from slipping into another civil war.

The meeting of the so-called "extended Troika" comes against the backdrop of the Afghan Taliban making rapid inroads in the war-ravaged country since the start of the US and Nato forces' withdrawal and the lack of any headway in the intra-Afghan talks. The special representatives of these four key players last met in April in Doha, Qatar, and previously also held unannounced sessions in what appeared to be an effort to develop regional consensus on the Afghan endgame. Although the US has serious differences with China and Russia on many issues, Washington is now keen to take Beijing and Moscow onboard

on the current Afghan situation.



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Nong Rong called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr. - DNA

### Pakistan, China vow to further boost cooperation

The President underlined that Pakistan is committed to the timely completion of the CPEC project

Iraqi FM due

in Islamabad

tomorrow

During the visit, the two

FMs will hold in-depth talks

#### STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have reaffirmed their resolve to further boost bilateral cooperation in various fields for the mutual benefit of the two countries. This was discussed at a meeting between President Dr Arif Alvi and Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong in Islamabad on Monday.

cooperation in the field of Inissues of its national interformation Technology. est, such as Taiwan, Tibet, Hong Kong and the South Speaking on the occasion, the President said that China Sea. He appreciated China and Pakistan enjoy China's support for Pakistan's core national issues excellent relations and the "All-weather Strategic like Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Partnership" dispute, Nuclear Suppliers between the two countries Group and Financial Action would further take the bi-Task Force. He also thanked lateral relationship to new the Chinese government for heights. He said that both providing support to Pakistan in containing the COVtime-tested friends have

support to China on core huge potential to contribute to the socio-economic development of Pakistan. He said that certain hostile players are not happy over the project and are trying to sabotage it but they would not succeed as both the iron brothers are strongly committed to implement the project. Offering condolences to the Government of China and the bereaved families who lost their dear ones in Dasu, the President underscored that the security of Chinese nationals,

#### slams hike in prices of medicines

PML-N

es to combat terrorism.

#### SHAHEEN HANIF



yum Aurangzeb on Monday has criticized Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan and said that he has failed to provide relief to the nation. In a statement, the PML-N leader said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government has not provided cheap medical facilities to the people. Imran Khan is not worried about the problems of the nation as he intends to take votes from machine, she added Marrivum Aurangzeb further demanded to withdraw the decision of raising the process of medicine. In July, the inflation rate dropped to 8.4%, despite double-digit increases in costs of basic kitchen goods, gasoline, and electricity, as well as the possibility of a surge in imported inflation owing to the rupee's almost Rs10 drop in value versus the US dollar in only two months.

### PM inaugurates world's largest Miyawaki forest

The forest has been developed on over 100 kanals and will feature around 165,000 plants



month," he said.

Miyawaki was a

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Prime Minister Imran Khan said Monday Pakistan had done more than its available resources to stop global warming, as he reiterated the need to plant trees for a better environment in the country.

PM Imran Khan's comments came as he inaugurated the "world's largest Miyawaki urban forest, Saggian", which extends over a 100-Kanal area and



Now, we aim to grow 10 project. "This is the biggest billion trees, he said, urg-Miyawaki forest and we ing every Pakistani to dedicate this to [Akira Migrow a tree to leave the yawaki] who had died last country in a better state than they had inherited. leading

plant ecologist and botanist Continued on Page 06

Both sides emphasized the need for making collective efforts to promote peace, prosperity and development in the region. The meeting also un-

#### Muharram crescent sighted



QUETTA: The Muharramul Haram crescent has been sighted and Youm-e-Ashur will be observed on Thursday, August 19, the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee announced on Monday. The first of Muharram, which is also the first day of Hijri year 1443 according to the Islamic calendar, will be observed on Tuesday, August 10.

The announcement was made following a meeting for the moon sighting, chaired by Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman Maulana Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad in Quetta. The provincial and district moon sighting committees also held their meetings simultaneously today at their respective headquarters. Muharram is the month of mourning for the seventh-century martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

always stood by each other through thick and thin. The President reiterated Pakistan's commitment to "One-China Policy" and firm

derlined the need to enhance

ID-19 pandemic. The President underlined

on all aspects of bilateral

relations. They will also re-

view close cooperation in

multilateral organizations,

in particular the United

Nations and the Organi-

zation of Islamic Cooper-

ation (OIC). The Foreign

Ministers will also consult

on issues concerning the

Muslim Ummah as well as

on key regional and inter-

national issues. The Iraqi

Foreign Minister will also

call on the Pakistani lead-

ership and have meetings

with other dignitaries. Pa-

kistan and Iraq have close

fraternal ties, founded on

strong affinities of faith and

culture. Pakistan accords

high importance to these

**Continued on Page 06** 

that Pakistan is committed to the timely completion of the CPEC project that has

**Continued on Page 06** 

#### EVMs best source of transparency: Fawad

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Informa-



Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said on Monday that Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were the best tools of ensuring transparen-

tion and

cy and fairness in elections process. In an interview, the minister said that all the work on technology has been completed and if there was consensus between the government and the opposition, then the next elections could be held on EVMs.

He said that a mechanism would have to be developed for transparency in the election process, he said adding that EVMs fulfill all the requirements of Election Commission of Pakistan.

Vaccination must for train travel

#### KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Monday decided that only vaccinated individuals would be allowed to travel by rail from October 1. The NCOC meeting chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar expressed concern over the growing spread of COVID-19 in the country and especially in Rawalpindi and Peshawar.

The forum issued instructions to the concerned districts to implement the safety protocols and SOPs. The forum also considered the measures to be taken in view of the arrival of Muharram. The forum also expressed satisfaction with the vaccination process, and called for steps to be taken to administer the second dose in a timely manner.

#### Inside..

Majority of FTAs, PTAs not in favor of Pakistan: FPCCI - Page 02

EVM to ensure transparency in the electoral process – Page 03

ICCI for promoting selfassessment scheme – Page 04

Climate change warnings can no longer be ignored – Page 05

PCB announces schedule of 2021-22 domestic season – Page 06

Humans changing climate at 'unprecedented' rate: UN report - Page 07

US donates one million Covid-19 RDTs to Pakistan - Page 08

### Taliban seizes more Afghan provincial capitals Reports came in from the northern districts of Balkh, Badakhshan and Panjshir provinces, with the Taliban hoping to close in on their capitals. Unlike Jowzjan, Kunduz and Sar-e-Pol

#### **News Desk**

KABUL: The Taliban has captured a sixth provincial capital in Afghanistan in four days. The armed group's spokesman on Monday morning sent messages to the media, claiming it has overrun Aibak, the capital of the northern province of Samangan.

Samangan's deputy provincial governor confirmed the takeover to a news agency. The Taliban is "in full control", he said, shortly after a Taliban spokesman tweeted that all government and police installations in Aibak had been "cleared".

The armed group said its fighters now control the provincial governor's compound, the intelligence directorate, police headquarters and all other official buildings. Aibak is the fifth northern provincial capital to fall to the Taliban in less than a week, and the sixth

overall in the country. The fall of Samangan will put further strain on an already stretched Afghan security forces, as commandos and backup forces have been dispatched to the five other provinces whose capital have fallen - Kunduz, Takhar, Jowzjan, Sar-e-Pol, Nimruz - as well as the provinces of Herat, Kandahar and Helmand. The group also said on Monday that they were moving in on Mazar-i-Sharif, northern Afghanistan's largest city.

Overnight on Sunday and throughout the day on Monday, reports came in from the northern districts of Balkh, Badakhshan and Panjshir provinces, with the Taliban hoping to close in on their capitals. Unlike Jowzjan, Kunduz and Sar-e-Pol, Samangan was once known to be one of the safest provinces in Afghanistan, with a mini-

mal Taliban presence. However, the last three years

saw a growing presence of the group in the province. On Sunday, the Ministry of Defence claimed government forces had launched clearance operations in Kunduz, but residents speaking to Al Jazeera said the Taliban spent much of Monday trying to get closer to the airport. According to sources on the ground, the armed group has made it within 3km (2 miles) of the airport and fighting continues in the city.

With the road from Kabul to Kunduz having been under the rebel's control for several months, residents fear that a Taliban takeover of the airport would be a "disaster", robbing officials and residents of a possible evacuation.

#### **Continued on Page 06**

### Germany opposes calls of sending troops back

BERLIN: Germany's minister for defence, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer on Monday turned away the calls for German troops to return to Afghanistan following the fall of Kunduz city and its Taliban takeover. Germany had the second-largest military contingent in Afghanistan after the United States, losing more troops in combat in Kunduz than anywhere else since World War II.

The Taliban overran six provincial capitals, including Kunduz, at the weekend as it pressed an offensive since foreign troops began a withdrawal. "The reports from Kunduz and from all over Afghanistan are bitter and hurt a lot," wrote Kramp-Karrenhauer on Twitter.

"Are society and parliament prepared to send the armed forces into a war and remain there with lots of troops for at least a generation? If we are not, then the joint withdrawal with the partners remains the right decision," read the post. Some within her own conservative party want German troops to participate in an intervention against the Taliban, but Kramp-Karrenbauer said defeating them would require a long and hard campaign. - Agencies

During the visit, the two Foreign Ministers will hold in-depth exchange of views

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: At the invitation of Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Iraq Dr. Fuad Hussein is undertaking a bilateral visit to Pakistan on 11-12 August 2021.

## NATIONAL

Briefs

02

## People urged to vaccinate themselves

PESHAWAR: Commission er Peshawar Division, Riaz Khan Mehsud has urged upon the people to show responsibility in arresting of Corona pandemic, adding every individual will have to play crucial role in vaccination and creation of awareness in society in this regard. He expressed these views while talking to traders' associations, who called on him soon after assuming charge of his duty here on Monday. He termed vaccination and implementation of Corona preventive SOPs in bazaars as welcoming.

The traders' associations were led by president Markazi Tanzim-e-Tajiran, Malik Meher Elahi and president Tajir Insaf Group, Shahid Khan.

During meeting, traders assured that they will ensure the use of safety masks both by shopkeepers and shoppers as well. They said that shopkeepers will ensure administering vaccination to themselves and their employees within a period of one week and will extend full cooperation to district administration and police. Meanwhile, presiding another meeting, the Commissioner directed Transport Associations, Regional Transport Authority (RTA), Motorway Police and Traffic Police for implementation of Corona preventive SOPs in public transport at any circumstances. – APP

#### Pakistan's HC designated to Brunei visits LCCI

LAHORE: Pakistan's High Commissioner designated to Brunei Darussalam Maj. Gen. (R) Farhat Abbas Sani said on Monday that the Pakistan was pursuing strong economic diplomacy to explore new markets instead of depending on a few countries for trade.

He was speaking here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI). The LCCI President Mian Tariq shah Vice President

#### NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Pakistan's most of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) signed with various countries, with exception of few, are not in favor of local industry, as they are inked without taking the real stakeholders of trade and industry onboard.

These views were expressed by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) president Nasir Hayat Maggon and Businessmen Panel Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar during a dinner reception hosted in honor of FPCCI and BMP leadership. The reception was also attended by the business community's representatives from across the country.

The FPCCI President said that the government has been suffering a revenue loss of billions of rupees due to FTAs and PTAs, urging the authorities to always consult the apex trade body of FPCCI before finalizing any business treaty with any country. Nasir Maggon said that the leadership of FPC-



CI and BMP were in touch with the federal and provincial ministers to resolve the problems of the business community. And despite the business closures due to Covid-19, the FPCCI has been raising its constant voice at every forum for the cause of trade and industry's promotion. FPCCI's Businessmen Pan-

el Chairman Mian Anjum

Nisar said the government should redesign the FTAs and PTAs with a view to promote the domestic industry, suggesting that Pakistan should have entered into FTAs and PTAs with only those countries where it had a clear and mutual competitive advantage. He said the concerned stakeholders should also be taken on board while framing

the recommendations in that regard.

Mian Anjum Nisar suggested the government to devise a strategy in the light of impact on domestic industry, convincing other countries to liberalize their import policy by reducing tariff lines and easing sensitive list for Pakistan merchandise. He suggested that Pakistan should have entered into FTAs and PTAs with only those countries where it had a clear and mutual competitive advantage. FPCCI former president said that local cost of production was already high on account of high tariff of electricity and gas, coupled with import duties on inputs, making the local production uncompetitive. On the other hand, local Meeting held to overview anti-dengue

Islamabad **POST** 

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

#### ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: The meeting

of District Emergency Re-

sponse Committee for anti

dengue was held under the

chairmanship of Deputy

Commissioner Muhammad

Ali in his office committee

room. District Coordinator

for Epidemics control Dr.

Zulqarnain gave briefing

campaign

processors were unable to export their products to those countries as they were absolutely uncompetitive owing to hosts of reasons, he said. If imports are not checked immediately, the entire industry in general and the emerging industrial sectors in particular will suffer a serious setback, he warned. If relaxed import policy continues billions of rupees investment in domestic industry would be shattered, he added. The BMP Chairman asked the government to prioritize agriculture sector in its economic planning to avert shortages of essential

goods and industrial inputs. Agriculture sector has proved to be the weakest link in the current macroeconomic planning and strategies, Anjum Nisar said. Poor governance, bad planning, climate change and lack of investment in seed technology and agriculture research have already resulted in shortage of wheat, sugar and cotton. Pakistan's food security is dependent on production of essential crops that are providing basic food and input for industrial production, Anjum Nisar added.

Benefits of Ehsaas extended to Faisalabad

ISLAMABAD: Poverty Al-leviation and Social Safety Division (PASSD) has extended various benefits of multi-pronged Ehsaas initiatives to the residents of Faisalabad district during the fiscal year 2020-21, like other districts of the country.

According to an official source, an amount of Rs1.84 billion has been disbursed among 86.043 beneficiaries of Faisalabad district under the Ehsaas Kafalat programme during 2020-21. Under Ehsaas Emergen-

LAHORE: Minister of State

for Information and Broad-

casting Farrukh Habib said

on Monday that previous

PML-N government led by

Shehbaz Sharif had commit-

ted massive corruption in

the then Punjab Saaf Pani

Company (now Punjab Aab-

Briefing media persons

here, he disclosed that last

PML-N government had in-

stalled 116 water filtration

plants under its Punjab Saaf

Pani Company with exor-

bitant cost of Rs 7.5 billion

which means Rs 65 million

cost per plant, while PTI

government was installing

water filtration plants under

e-Pak Authority-PbAPA).

cy Cash Programme, an

amount of Rs779 million was disbursed among 64,966 beneficiaries of Faisalabad district during the period. The Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) Waseela-e-Taleem Programme expansion in Faisalabad district was approved on July, 13, 2020 and enrollment activities have been operational from October, 2020. During the year 2020-21, pay-

ment of 12,369 children of 6.386 mother beneficiaries has been made under Waseela-e-Taleem programme in Faisalabad district. – DNA



FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali inspected the process of typing test for recruitment of patwaris in Tehsil Chak Jhumra. - DNA

CM takes notice

on results of indoor and outdoor survillance. Deputy Commissioner urged the departments to speed up the survillance. He said that anti dengue teams should present in the field for chemical treatment of larvae and hotspots should be checked on regular basis. He said that hotspots should be checked regularly and negligency in this regard would nor tolerated. Meanwhile Deputy Commissioner informed that 1293978 general public and HCWs have administerd the corona vaccine. He informed that yesterday 30278 general public and 99 HCW administered. Earlier DC went to Agriculture University and inspected the process of typing test in connection with recruitment of patwaris in Tehsil Chak Jhumra. AC Chak Jhumra Muhammad Haider informed that 700 candidates apply for posts and 550 got roll number slips and typing test is being taken of applicants in a pleasent environment. Commissioner Deputy asked the ACs for smooth conduction of test. AC Sadar & City Umar Maqbool and Syed Ayub Bukhari were

#### Minister food directs for availability of quality flour

also present.

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister Food Atif Khan Monday directed the Food Safety Authority officials to start laboratory tests by taking samples from flour mills to ensure availability of quality and safe flour to people in the province.

The provincial minister said that the food department

should expedite the inspec-

tion process to ensure the

hir Manzoor Chaudhry also spoke on the occasion.

The High Commissioner appreciated government's vision of diversification to penetrate into the unexplored and relatively small markets. "It will ensure our economic sovereignty due to sustained and durable policies", he said and added that he would exploit his experience as Director General Defense Export Promotion Organization (DEPO). He said that he would also visit other chambers to have a clear-vision of Pakistan's economic strength which could be utilized to enhance exports to Brunei in addition to attracting maximum Foreign Direct Investment from that rich country.

The High Commissioner quoted his previous experience and said that he organized a single country exhibition in Moldova, a small country of Eastern Europe. – APP





10 Billion Tree



PTI and PML-N way of governance, and a true change (Tabdili) as every project is being executed transparently and on merit by the present government. The way of thinking and vision of PTI leadership is only and only ensuring better public service delivery and equitable utilization of public excheqclean drinking water filtration plants under PbAPA uer," he added. Farrukh Habib further said in 36 districts of Punjab

that one could better understand standards and merits of PML-N government from the fact that N-League leadership had preferred to establish Punjab Saaf Pani Company office in a plaza owned by relatives of Shehbaz Sharif then Chief Minister of Punjab.

PMLN govt committed

He mentioned that Prime Minister Imran Khan had entrusted the Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar to look after the affairs of Punjab Aab-e-Pak Authority and the Governor was performing his responsibility with dedication and efficiently by spending each penny of the people with austerity and transparently. PTI government The would install around 1500

by this year end, he said and added that on the directive of Prime Minister, PC-I of 177 drinking water projects (Aab-Pak Markaz) for 1,000 villages had been completed and was in its approval stage. Farrukh Habib said that Aab-Pak Markaz projects would be initiated in the second phase early 2022, asserting

that projects aimed at providing safe and clean drinking water to those south Punjab areas and Faisalabad where ground water was brackish or of bitter taste. He said that provision of clean and safe drinking water to the people had not only helped substantially elimination of water-borne diseases such as diarrhea, hepatitis and typhoid etc but also reduced the load on hospitals. - APP

of constructions in forests area

#### BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister KP Mahmood Khan has taken notice of illegal construction activities being carried out in Makhnival forests area in District Haripur and purchase/sale of forests land for commercial purposes and directed the concerned authorities for imposition of ban on all types of construction activities in the area with immediate effect.

He has further directed the quarters concerned to impose section 144 to this effect and ensure its strict implementation further directing them to take strict action under section 188 of Pakistan Panel Code against those who violate section 144.

He issued these directives while chairing a meeting held tablishment for investigation.

quality of flour in flour mills. He expressed these views here on Monday to devise a strategy to ensure preservation of Makhniyal Forest acres. Besides, Acting Chief Secretary Zafar Ali Shah, Principal Secretary to CM Amjad Ali Khan, concerned Administrative Secretaries, Commissioner Hazara, Deputy Commissioner and District Police Officer (DPO) Haripur, Director General Galvat Development Authority and other concerned senior officials

attended the meeting. The chief minister directed the high ups of Local Government Department to initiate strict action against the concerned Tehsil Municipal Officer TMO) of Haripur for the issuance of illegal NOCs for the construction of commercial buildings in the guzara forests of Makhniyal and refer the case to anti-corruption es-

while presiding over a meeting at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety Authority office on Monday. Director General Food Safety Authority Shah Rukh Ali Khan and Director Food Department also attended the meeting. During the meeting, DG Food Safety Authority Shah Rukh Ali Khan also apprised the provincial minister about the progress made in setting up mobile labs. The DG Food Safety Author-

ity said the establishment of a mobile lab would help food-related businesses be better monitored. The Food Minister was also apprised of the progress made so far on e-licensing.

The Food Minister Atif Khan directed the concern authorities to start e-licensing in practice as soon as possible.- APP

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#### **SERVICES**



# in the electoral process

#### Namaz Timings

Fajr 03:53 aı	m
Zohr 12:13 pi	m
Asr 05:02 pr	n
Maghrib 07:01 pi	m
Isha 08:33 pi	m



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines TurkishAirlines......8494949



#### Emergency

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



Enquiry

# **EVM to ensure transparency**

Senator Shibli Faraz told the President that EVM, which had been developed indigenously in the country, was effective, credible and reusable

#### SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Monday said that the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) will ensure transparency in electoral process and also help address the complaints of rigging. He said that without com-

promising the secrecy of voters, the Electronic Voting Machine will also help ensure timely compilation of election results. The President expressed

these views during a briefing given to him by Minister for Science and Technology Senator Shibli Faraz on



### First Lady urges girl guides to aware people on breast cancer

#### KHAYAM ABBASI

vised the girls over 18 years to practice self-diag-MURREE: Begum Saminosis as timely diagnosis na Alvi, wife of President could save lives Dr. Arif Alvi, on Monday On disabled persons, she asked the girl guides to said the neglected sec-

spread awareness among tion needed the attenthe communities about tion of the society. breast cancer and on She urged the girl mainstreaming differentguides to encourly-abled persons (DAP). age people not to In her address at the closing isolate or mock ceremony of National Sumthe disabled mer Camp organized by people and said Pakistan Girls Guide Assothe government ciation (PGGA), she urged was striving to the girl guides to use the facilitate platform for constructive such peopurposes by sensitizing the ple. She also

asked the

to

on

girls

work

people on social issues. Begum Alvi said with the rising number of patients. breast cancer had become

#### a global menace. She adsubjects of street children and child protection. Begum Alvi said Pakistan Girls Guide Association was positively contributing towards society by emphasizing on the education and character-building of girls.

She emphasized that educated and healthy women not only raised good families, but also played an important role the progress in of the country. She the sociation polished the skills and ities the

and helped them develop confidence and a sense of accomplishment.

She said that worldwide, the Girl Guide movement was playing an important role in keeping young girls healthy and active, who also played their part in providing relief assistance during natural disasters. The National Summer Camp organized by the Pakistan Girl Guides Association was attended by 65

Senior Guides and Young Leaders at GhoraGali, Murree from August 1 to 10. The camp launched the 'MehfoozRaho' (stay safe) project, where the participating girls were given training at the camp in various domains.

said

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girls

of

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### IIUI to bring more foreign teachers at campus

ISLAMABAD: President International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) Dr. HathalHomoudAlotaibi Monday said that university was working to bring more foreign faculty members and to establish a scholarships program for the its students. He also called for the joint efforts to implement the new strategic plan of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI).

He was delivering a Presidential speech at the workshop on the preparation of strategic plan and organogram of the faculty level organized by Quality Assurance Department (QAD). The workshop was attended by Vice Presidents, Deans, DGs, HoDs/ chairpersons and Directors for the brainstorming on the new organogram and strategic plan on the department and faculty level.

"We are setting a roadmap for the coming generations, this strategic plan will not only ensure academic excellence but it will also be a peg to build the future of youth with best higher education" he added. Dr. Hathal said "We are in a dire need to compete the world, while procrastination and unnecessary procedural constraints are the old ways of dealing with tasks. we are keen to revamp the infrastructure as well as the officials dealing such as addition of the E-office, building of new blocks and renovation of the classrooms." - DNA

#### Unity among Muslims vi in Muhar

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: PMLQ Punjab Deputy Secretary Information Khawaja Rameez Hassan in a press release said that unity among Muslims is very important during Muharram. He said that Pakistan could not tolerate sectarianism.

The enemy has long been trying various tactics to weaken the state, which are failing miserably. He said that there is no Shia-Sunni difference in Pakistan and people are creating an atmosphere of peace and brotherhood with each other. Intelligence-based policing can produce the best results to make the security of gatherings and processions fool proof. The people are not unaware of the enemy's hybrid war against Pakistan.

Local govt vital for grass root development

#### STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The local government system is the best means of transferring the effects of construction and development to the lower level and solving the basic problems of the people. The strengthening of the basic democracy system is essential for the formation of a stable political system. Our journey of public service has been going on for forty years and we will continue this journey of our late father. This was stated by PML-N candidate Malik Mohammad Arshad from Cantonment Board Constituency 3 and Malik Mohammad Arif from Ward 4 in an exclusive interview with Islamabad Post.

He said that some so-called candidates were using the name of the late Faisal Iqbal for political purposes even though his connection with the late was limited to financial interests. Our family has a long journey of services to choose their own constituency. Malik Arif said that provision of girls school, clean water and medical facilities for the constituency is in our view.

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIAFlightInfo	114
PIACargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange92	270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi5	5555489
CAA	9281092



#### Hospitals

СМН5611111
MH561116
Cantt Hospital9270907-11
DHQ5556311-4
RGH9290301-7
Holy Family9290322-7
PIMS9261170-79
Polyclinic9218300-09
Shifa International.4603666



#### Departments

-	
CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Offic	e9250360-6
RDA	5555864
ТМА	5770886
Cantonme	ent Board 9270151-3



#### Complaints

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

#### Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation......9209224 Potohar Town......9209224 RawalTown......5773343

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....0331-5022125

## All set to celebrate 74th Independence Day on Aug 14

#### **STAFF REPORT**

RAWALPINDI: The arrangements were underway across the district like other parts of the country to mark the Independence Day in a befitting manner on August 14. With the start of August, the measures for the celebrations of the 74th Independence Day of Pakistan have begun in every nook and corner of the city to celebrate the day with zeal and zest. As Independence Day gets nearer, the buildings were being illuminated and a number of colourful activities have also been planned to mark this occasion with great enthusiasm. Different public and private departments will hold special functions and activities including seminars, discussion programmes, photographic exhibitions, painting, poetry, national songs and debate competitions with the focus on acknowledging the contribution of leaders of the Pakistan movement and sacrifices of national heroes.

Jashan-e-Azadi preparations were at their peak as only five days left while the most eager were children who were busy collecting stickers, badges and also beautifying their bicycles with special stickers inscribed with messages of Independence Day. The makers of buntings, flags, banners and badges were working round the clock to meet demand as well as supplying to other adjoining areas of the city.

Rawalpindi Arts Council (RAC) will also arrange artisans exhibitions, folk dance performances, photographic exhibitions and other activities to mark Independence Day. A number of stalls carrying bunting, flags, badges, Azadi dresses, toys and other accessories were set up in all commercial areas and streets of the city to attract youth and children. Many food outlets were ready to offer Azadi deals with the discount to attract food lovers while different boutiques and shops offer a huge variety of Azadi dresses. "We have planned to wear Azadi dresses of green and white colour, bangles and badges and will avoid visit-

ing any recreational place this year due to prevailing wave of COVID-19 pandemic," said Amina, a citizen. She further said this year they will mark their Independence Day with patriotic zeal but in a limited manner due to the holy month of Muharram



ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Gulzar Ahmed administering oath of office of Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Chief Justice High Court of Balochistan as Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan at Supreme Court. - DNA

### OGRA for measures to avoid accidents in vehicles on roads

ISLAMABAD: In order to avoid accidents in vehicles running on roads, Oil And Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) takes all the necessary measures in coordination with the local governments, Explosives Dept. other relevant Departments and enforces the safety standards by conducting rigorous safety inspections through designated Third Party inspectors, to the extent of CNG Stations, to ensure protection of the public at large. Further the CNG Dept. of OGRA has time and again informed Chief Secretaries as well as issued instructions to CNG Associations regarding compliance of CNG Rules, 1992/Standard Code of Practice to avoid accidents and loss of lives. It is emphasized to ensure compliance of CNG Refueling procedure while filling the vehicles and only those vehicles get refueled which meet requirements of CNG Rules 1992 (CNG cylinders, kits and fittings are thoroughly checked/ inspected/ re-tested and stamped/ marked by the concerned authority i.e. M/s HDIP or any quarter authorized by M/s. HDIP), CNG cylinder in use or being refueled is of approved standard/ brand/ within periodic hydro-test life, that there are no obvious leaks in the vehicle's CNG system/ equipment and all types of gauges are calibrated and working accurately and the vehicle is not using multiple fuels i.e. CNG & LPG at the same time along with valid fitness certificates from Regional Transport Authority. - DNA

#### IHC adjourns NBP president case till Sep 9

#### STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday adjourned hearing till September 9, on an intra court appeal (ICA) regarding the appointment of President National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) Arif Usman. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Aamer Farooq heard the ICA against the decision of single member bench. Chief Justice Athar Minallah remarked that whether a person having degree in masters in Urdu could be appointed, too, against the slot. NBP's lawyer pleaded that it was governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)'s powers to decide the appointment for the top slot of the bank. Justice Farooq questioned what qualification was required for the post.

#### RCCI to organize FinEx conference

#### SHAHEEN HANIF

RAWALPINDI: The Financial Instrument Exchange (FinEx) conference being organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) will be organized on August 11. According to a statement issued here, RCCI President Mohammad Nasir Mirza said that the main objective of the conference was to strengthen the networking between the financial sector, corporate sector, consultants, decision-makers and providing a platform to the experts from various walks of life and the community associated with them under one roof. He said that the major topics of the conference include financing facilities, awareness for consumer banking, women and young entrepreneurs.

### Meeting for construction of Judicial Complex in Capital

It was decided at the meeting that a tender would be issued for the construction of the Judicial Complex. The project will be completed in a short period of six months

#### ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: An important meeting chaired by the Chairman Capital Development Authority was held at CDA Headquarters Islamabad in which Sessions Judge East Islamabad, Sessions Judge West Islamabad, Member Engineering CDA, DC Islamabad and other senior officials attended the meeting.

The participants were briefed about the construction, design and layout plan of the Judicial Complex. The meeting was briefed on the construction, de-



sign, and layout plan of the Judicial Complex, which includes canteens with proper washrooms for ladies and gents, suitable place for Separate parking and canteen space have also been allocated with women and under-18 years offenders special places In addition, the Judicial Complex building will be designed with future needs in mind so that it can be expanded. Furthermore, it was decided at the meeting that a tender would be issued for the construction of

the Judicial Complex. The project will be completed in a short period of six months.

## 04

## **TWIN CITIES**



### **Briefs**

#### ICT police to start courses for women

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police will hold training courses for female citizens to educate them as how to prevent themselves from violence and remain protected in an untoward situation. Following the directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehnman, Islamabad police would arrange such courses which would also provide them training as how to protect their homes, cars while special programs for swimming, hurdling, martial art and firing would be initiated for them, a police spokesperson said.

The experienced policewomen would act as instructors and to provide training to the female citizens. They would educate as how to adopt precautionary measures in case of any emergent situation.

Moreover, special skill would be inculcated not to get scared from anyone as prompt action should be taken for protection life and dignity.

Islamabad police is committed to provide every assistance to citizens for their safety but it is also their responsibility to prepare themselves against any untoward situation and counter it effectively.

#### Police recover kidnapped girl

#### STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Industrial Area police here on Monday claimed to recover an abducted girl and arrested the kidnapper.

According to police spokesman, the mother of abducted girl had lodged an FIR with Industrial-Area police station that her daughter was kidnapped by a suspect Arif Shah in area of sector I-9. Taking notice of the incident, SP industrial area Fida Hussain Satti consti-

# ICCI for promoting self-assessment scheme

President ICCI said that in the prevailing circumstances when the business community is still struggling to combat the impact of Covid-19 pandemic, focusing on self-assessment scheme would be helpful in improving the tax revenue collection of the country

#### ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has called upon the FBR to focus on promoting the self-assessment scheme in order to increase the tax base and tax collection of the country instead of installing the POS devices in business premises as resorting to POS has the potential to create unnecessary harassment and distrust in the business community instead of improving the tax revenue.

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the

business community had hailed the restoration of the self-assessment scheme in the last budget as they are feeling more confident in paying taxes on self-assessment basis. He said that in the prevailing circumstances when the business community is still struggling to combat the impact of Covid-19 pandemic, focusing on self-assessment scheme would be helpful in improving the tax revenue collection of the country.

ICCI President said FBR should take traders and all market associations fully on board before setting up Point of Sale (POS) devices in the business premises. He further said that traders have fully coop-



erated with the government in the corona vaccination drive and they should be engaged in talks for POS installation instead of sending FBR's monitoring teams to monitor their sale at business premises because it would not send a positive signal to the trading community.

He said that previously the FBR was providing the POS devices for installation at business premises and the same arrangement should be continued instead of asking traders to arrange POS devices at their own cost.

Fatma Azim Senior Vice President and Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI said that the trading community was playing an important role in boosting the trade activities in the country and it should be treated with respect and regard. They said that

the government should make all possible efforts to avoid taking measures that have the potential to create harassment in the business community. They urged that FBR should withdraw all monitoring teams from business premises and increase the use of technology to minimize the interface between the taxpayers and the tax collectors that would give more confidence to the business community. They further emphasized that the government should focus on ease of doing business in order to ensure fast recovery of the economy and avoid taking measures that would create problems for the business community.

#### National songs competition starts at PAC

#### STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Under the auspices of Punjab Arts Council, national songs competition was organized in connection with Independence Day celebrations in which music class students participated here on Monday. The special guest of the competition was Naheed Manzoor. Dozens of young singers took part in the competitions

the competitions. Naheed Manzoor said that Pakistan is the fruit of the sacrifices of our forefathers, which we all have to make a great nation together. As we celebrate Independence Day, we must also pay tribute to the eternal sacrifices of our forefathers. She further said that the young generation of Pakistan is very creative which is making a name for it self in other fields besides education. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said that the children have expressed their immense love for Pakistan through popular songs. If there is Pakistan then we are, our identity is from Pakistan.

AIOU organizes 'Jashn e Azadi' walk

#### STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has organized a walk in connection with the Independence Day celebrations here Monday at the main campus.

Deans, principal officers, teachers, and students of the university participated in the walk, while they were holding national flags in their hands and chanting slogans of 'Long live Pakistan'.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum said that Pakistan is the fruit of sacrifices and long struggle of our elders, therefore every Pakistani should play his role in the development of the country with hard work, dedication and sincerity.

He said that together we should make our homeland the cradle of prosperity, development and peace.

As a nation, we will not forget the great sacrifices made by Pakistan's armed forces and we pay tribute to them and we have to play our part in building a prosperous state.

Expressing his views, Registrar Raja Umar Younis said that the purpose of Independence Day celebrations was to highlight the importance of August, to explain the concept of freedom to the new generation and to salute the heroes of Tehreek-e-Pakistan.

He said that for the stability and development of Pakistan, each of us has to play our part.

#### CTP finalize arrangements for Muharram

RAWALPINDI: The City Traffic Police (CTP) have finalized the arrangements for Muharramul Harram under a comprehensive traffic plan formulated on the directives of Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Rai Mazhar Iqbal to ensure security of the mourning processions.

According to duty officer, CTP Headquarters, there would be a complete ban on parking of any vehicle or pushcart on the route of the procession. 1191 traffic officials including nine DSPs, 72 inspectors, 820 traffic wardens and 290 traffic assistants would perform duties on city roads to control the traffic flow during Muharram. He said, traffic police officers and wardens had also been directed to take action against rules violators. Fork lifters would also move with Muharram processions, he said. He said, the CTO had directed the wardens to remove all kinds of encroachments from the processions routes besides keeping a vigil on suspected persons and things.



ISLAMABAD: Vendors displaying national flags and other related stuff along Islamabad Expressway In connection with Independence Day Celebrations. – APP

tuted a team under the supervision of SDPO and SHO of the jurisdiction for safely recovery of the girl, besides arrest of culprit.

The team successfully rescued the girl and apprehended the accused, recovering of vehicle used in the crime along with weapon and ammunition. The accused on day of inci-

Ine accused on day of incident also hit a motorcycle on Srinagar Highway and injured the riders after opening fire onto them.

A case has been also registered against the suspects in Shams Colony police stations and police teams were mobilized to ensure the arrest of remaining accused. Meanwhile, in another action, the Aabpara police held two accused, namely Khurram Mushtaq and Faizan and recovered two pistol along with ammunition from them.

DIG and SSP operations appreciated the performance of police teams.

#### Exports increase by 16.44% in July

ISLAMABAD: The exports from the country witnessed an increase of 16.44 percent during the first month of the current fiscal year (2021-22) as compared to the corresponding month of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported Monday.

According to PBS data, the exports from the country stood at \$2.330 billion during July 2021 as against the exports of \$2.001 billion recorded during July 2020, showing growth of 16.44 percent.

The imports during the month under review also went up by 47.90 percent by growing from \$3.674 billion in July 2020 to \$5.434 billion in July 2021.

Based on the data, the trade deficit during the month was recorded at \$3.104 billion, showing an increase of 85.53 percent over the deficit of \$1.673 billion recorded during July 2020, the PBS data revealed.

Meanwhile, on month-onmonth basis, the exports from the country witnessed a decline of 14.59 percent during July 2021 as compared to the exports of \$2.728 billion recorded during June 2021.– APP

### Medical camps to be set up for Ashura processions

#### SHAHEEN HANIF

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Minister for Literacy & Non-Formal Basic Education Raja Rashid Hafeez on Monday said that special medical camps would be set up along the Ashura procession routes on Muharram 10, to provide first aid to the mourners.

Presiding over a meeting along with Deputy Commissioner Amir Aqiq Khan, to review arrangements for Muharram ul Haram, the minister directed the officials of the district health authority to make arrangements at city hospitals to deal with any emergency like situation.

Rashid said that four medical camps would be set up at Committee Chowk, Choor Chowk, Kotwali chowk and Qasai Gali. He directed heads of departments to complete all necessary arrangements to provide security at majalis and processions during Muharram as nothing could be more important than maintaining law and order.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Amir Khan passed instructions to all Municipal officers regarding lighting, patchwork, installation of manhole covers, traffic management, parking and removal of hanging electrical wires.

He directed the Rescue-1122 officials to keep their vehicles in order at Fawara Chowk, Banni market, Bara market and near Imambargah Maqbool Hussain on the Ashura day to handle any crises.

Amir asked the officials to maintain close liaison with religious institutions that had licenses to hold majalis and Muharram processions in the first 10 days of Muharram.

### CDA install five new tube wells, repairs nine

There were around 170 tube wells functional in the city which were supplying uninterrupted water supply to the areas dependent on tube wells

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) has installed five new tube wells and repaired nine to mitigate water scarcity issues in the federal capital.

There were around 170 tube wells functional in the city which were supplying uninterrupted water supply to the areas dependent on tube wells, said an official of Water Supply Directorate.

Talking to APP, he said sectors I-8, I-9 and its adjoining sub-sectors depends on tube wells for which the concerned staff of the directorate had been deployed who were performing duties round the clock in different shifts.

To a query, he said water was being supplied to the citizens under a comprehensive strategy, however with increase in water demand It was expected that four to five more tube wells in different sectors would be added to the system next month.

Similarly, the demand for tankers in Islamabad has also been reduced sig-

nificantly due to the operation of tube wells, he said.

During past, he said the CDA used to receive over 400 complaints a day, but now due to improvement in system it



reduced to 150.

Further-more, he said the number very of tankers and staff has also been reduced from 25 to 10 to ensure full we water supply in the city and to address the

the grievances of the citizens.

The official added that the staff of Water Supply Directorate was repairing old, dilapidated and damaged water supply lines in some sectors, besides addressing complaints of water leakage. The new and modern pipelines for water supply were being laid underground.

The CDA has formed special teams to control water theft and pressure issues, he said in response to another question. The department had launched a survey of all private and government houses and commercial buildings in Islamabad to determine water issues, he added.

Meanwhile, the CDA administration has urged the citizens to refrain from reckless use of water so the water could be be shared equally. It also warned the residents to pre-

vent from getting deeply bored, in case of violation the administration would take strict legal action against the person. – **APP** 

al action against

Entry of vehicles on the route of the processions would be blocked by erecting barricades and other hurdles, he added.

He said that traffic police officials would be deployed along with district police personnel to ensure security of the mourners. – **APP** 

#### PNCA to organize puppet show

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) has called out to show a special puppet on the occasion of Independence Day celebrations on August 14.

According PNCA, National Puppet Theatre will showcase the skills of its puppeteers featuring vibrant costumed puppets and will present national songs, folk tales, skits and folk dances to provide infotainment.

PNCA, National Puppet Theatre would highlight Pakistan independence journey and its historical background.

Children along with parents would be invited to attendant the shows. According to PNCA, the art of puppetry have long been a part of country culture.

The COVID-19 SOP's and guidelines would be strictly adopted during puppet shows. PNCA would also organize various cultural events online to entertain the audience on the occasion of Independence Day.

### **PTCL inducts top 50 grads for internship program** Through Experia, PTCL and Ufone aim to revitalize the youth by providing them

with great opportunities through this program at PTCL Group, which will serve as a launching pad to propel these graduates ahead in their careers

#### KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) and Ufone have inducted top 50 graduates across Pakistan through its flagship internship program 'Experia' to provide students and fresh graduates handson working experience at PTCL Group.

Students were on boarded through a rigorous and wellhoned selection procedure as Experia has become one of the most sought-after internship program in the country. This year more than 2700 young graduates applied for Experia Program. Top 50 candidates with excellent competencies and potential were selected after undergoing detailed assessment. The successful candidates have been placed at PTCL and Ufone offices in different cities to work on real-time business projects, along PTCL Group team members.



Sharing his thoughts on the program, Syed Mazhar Hussain,
Group Chief Human Resource
Officer, PTCL & Ufone, said: "We
welcome the new batch of 'Experians' at PTCL & Ufone. I congratulate all those who have successfully qualified for the program and look forward to rewarding engagement with them.

Through Experia, PTCL and Ufone aim to revitalize the youth by providing them with great opportunities through this program at PTCL Group, which will serve as a launching pad to propel these graduates ahead in their careers."

Experia was launched to enable young graduates and profession-

als to gain practical experience of corporate culture and learn about work ethics and functionality as evident through its slogan 'Strengthen your experiential learning anchor'. Along with this, the internees will gain hands-on experience of the organizational ecosystem while putting their academic theory into practice. Moreover, Experia is a fun-loaded program that also features a series of engaging activities and projects, with excellent learning experiences for the interns.

PTCL Group endeavours to provide a diverse, progressive, and enabling environment for the youth to develop and showcase their talent.

### **Emerging threats**

**V**HE chaotic situation unfolding in Afghanistan most of all affects Pakistan and its future. Should a situation emerge such that the Afghan Taliban assume greater power and where the self-exiled leader of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan gains any degree of influence, there could be further problems for Pakistan with the TTP insisting to take over the former tribal areas of Pakistan, and set up an Islamic Emirate in that area. We know that Pakistan now has limited power with the new generation of Taliban who have assumed growing influence and growing hold over territory in Afghanistan. Pakistan's inability to bring about a settlement during round after round of talks in Doha makes the country's role much less strategic as it used to be. This is of crucial importance for Pakistan, which has already seen an increase in terrorist attacks on its soil, the latest coming yesterday in Quetta. The country is also keen to avert a new refugee crisis such as the one seen in 1989 as Soviets pulled out of Afghanistan. But the issue of refugees needs to be handled carefully, and with some concern towards humanity. The people of Afghanistan are not responsible for what has been done to their country and how things have unfolded within it.

The paramount priority should be to bring nations around the world with influence in Afghanistan together to try and bring about something resembling peace and settlement in Afghanistan. Interventions from the outside over so many years have not helped Afghanistan, its people or even Pakistan. The Taliban gaining ascendancy in Afghanistan will not just harm the Afghan people but also bode danger for the rest of the region's countries, most of all Pakistan. Nothing, other than talks and dialogue - with the aim of preventing Al-Qaeda from gaining a firm hold on Afghanistan and the territories which lie alongside it - will fix this mess. Pakistan cannot do this alone, but it can play a role alongside other nations to try and finally bring some kind of peace to the troubled lands of Afghanistan.

#### Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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### Tackling climate change

RIME Minister Imran Khan's 10 billion tree plan-D tation programme is coming along incredibly well as on Saturday, government officials, teachers and students, politicians and social workers planted a record 700,000 saplings in Attock city. Tree plantation is not only vital for the green future of Pakistan, but it will also ensure a healthy environment for the coming generations. Another encouraging aspect of such programme's is the fact that the federal government is targeting to create 200,000 new green jobs by the end of 2021 under its ecological protection and restoration projects. In addition to the Billion Tree Tsunami, the government has introduced multiple other campaigns to combat climatic issues. Such initiatives should continue and must be appreciated; however, this is not where the line should be drawn. Given how Pakistan is particularly vulnerable to climate related threats, a more holistic strategy will be required to cope with future challenges.

Pakistan's increasing vulnerability has been illustrated with the substantial increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, droughts, floods and heatwaves. The effects are likely to become more severe due to our geographic location, heavy reliance on agriculture and water resources, and low capacity to deal with climate emergencies. Sectors such as water, agriculture, livelihood and economy at large have been and are projected to be impacted seriously by climate change. The accelerated warming, coupled with changing water availability in the future, underscores the need to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change impacts along with efficient disaster preparedness and response actions to confront the climate-related hazards and disasters. The impact of these changes will be felt differently across the country. Therefore, it is crucial to formulate a bottom-up response to climate change. This will require the government to work in conjunction with federating units to increase their capacity to tackle climate issues.

### Climate change warnings can no longer be ignored OR the past week, Turkey has been ex-periencing the worst and most painful wildfire crisis in the country's history has for the country's history has been ex-

Sinem Cengiz



The climate crisis is having other serious effects on the country. For example, it has recently been dealing with the largest-ever outbreak of marine mucilage, more colorfully known as "sea snot." This brown and gray slime that floats on the surface of water is secreted by marine algae, and its elevated levels are blamed on rising sea temperatures and pollution. A sea snot outbreak recently took over the Sea of Marmara, stifling tourism, stripping local fishermen of their livelihoods

wildfire crisis in the country's history. At least nine people have died in blazes that have destroyed forests on the Aegean and Mediterranean coasts, which are major tourist hot spots. Homes have been destroyed, animals killed, and large sections of the country's natural habitats have turned to ash in front of our eyes. This heartbreaking disaster has shown us that there is something seriously wrong in the ways we approach environmental issues. For years, experts have been warning that the climate crisis could lead to environmental disaster. Their calls fell on deaf ears.

Climate change is a global concern that requires action from the international community. For example, Turkey is just one of several countries in the Mediterranean region, including Greece, Italy and Spain, that have been struggling with wildfires as summer temperatures soar. However Turkey has been worse-affected than other countries, and there are many reasons for this. It is prone to fires, floods and earthquakes. While forest fires are not uncommon in the country's Mediterranean and Aegean regions, the most recent incidents have been particularly severe. The climate crisis is having other serious effects on the country. For example, it has recently been dealing with the largest-ever outbreak of marine mucilage, more colorfully known as "sea snot." This brown and gray slime that floats on the surface of water is secreted by marine algae, and its elevated levels are blamed on rising sea temperatures and pollution. A sea snot outbreak recently took over the Sea of Marmara, stifling tourism, stripping local fishermen of their livelihoods - because it clogs boat engines – and threatening to kill coral, shellfish and other marine life. These are not the only signs of the severity of the climate problems Turkey faces. Sev-

province of Konya. Hundreds of baby and adult flamingos have been found dead in its dried-up areas, prompting a renewed focus on the effects of drought on the ecosystem. As temperatures have steadily risen in the country as a result of climate change, water levels have fallen significantly. This has prompted experts to warn of a looming water crisis within a decade. Such is the nature of the climate crisis, while one part of the country faces drought, other parts face deadly floods, such as those last month that killed at least six people in Rize province, in Turkey's flood-prone Black Sea region. This latest tragedy occurred one month before the first anniversary of the previous such disaster.

This and the increasingly severe wildfires in Turkey are the result of climate change caused by global warming. Although forest fires are a reality of life in some areas, it is up to the government to take action to address the escalating threat. Whether they are started deliberately, or the result of the effects of human activity on climate, the severity of the environmental threat cannot be ignored. The consequences of the climate crisis have become impossible to dismiss and all countries must be organized and prepared for similar disasters in the future. Turkey is one of the countries worst-affected by climate change and so it is important for policymakers to recognize the significance of the climate crisis and the need to counter it by any means necessary. The current fires have been raging for eight days and people across the country are questioning how we got to this point and why the country has fallen short in efforts to counter threats to the environment.

society rather than uniting it. Yet, despite the deep political polarization in the country, great public solidarity is evident in the areas destroyed or damaged by the fires and this gives cause for hope.

Many of the criticisms that have been made do have merit, but for the moment the environmental disaster should not become a political squabble. What is most important now is to focus on what can be done to help, as people work tirelessly to put out the fires across the country. The lack of coordination of efforts, a cohesive strategy and proper equipment, especially the aforementioned shortage of firefighting aircraft, has increased the pain people are feeling and is fueling their anger.

So the first priority is to recognize the importance of planning for disasters and how to respond to them, before thinking about the reforestation of burned areas. The path to development, progress and enrichment depends on effective planning. As with the economy, education, health and the workforce, environmental issues also require proper short, medium and long-term planning. Turkey also needs to focus on obtaining water-bombing planes that can help to tackle fires quickly. Most important, though it has yet to sign the Paris Agreement on climate, Turkey also needs to raise public awareness of the looming environmental crisis. For example, workshops could be organized to educate residents about the risks. This heartbreaking crisis has once again proved, in the most bitter way possible, that ignoring or downplaying the importance of climate change, and delaying efforts to counter it, can be disastrous. Turkey needs effective tools to prepare itself for future environmental disasters so that the people of this country can be spared more pain.

Some have criticized the government for its handling of the disaster, in particular the lack of firefighting planes. Others accuse the opposition of politicizing the crisis.

- Courtesy: Arab News

### **Education after COVID-19**

#### Huma Arshad



"The students of the future will demand the learning support that is appropriate for their situation or contect nothing more or nothing less." Marcus Specht Education Technology is not the complete answer to sit at home and taking online classes by using your personal computers seems very convenient. Technology has made our lives more comfortable

HE beginning of COVID-19 has brought many changes in the world. Many sectors have been affected and most of them are still struggling to survive. Among them, the education sector has been hit badly. Schools, colleges, and universities have been affected and students are still suffering. According to UNESCO 1in 5 learners cannot attend school and almost 102 countries have ordered nationwide school closure. The pandemic has adversely affected the progress few governments were making around increasing the education budget. This is a crisis that requires urgent attention globally.

In some countries, distance learning programs were launched immediately after a lockdown in 2020 within few weeks of schools closing. While other countries took a much longer time. However, children in many countries have no access to any kind of education for months. A recent study finds a socioeconomic gap in Goggle searches for home-based learning resources following COVID-19 related school closures mentioning that rich parents are looking for distance learning opportunities at higher rates than poorer households and suggests that learning loss during school closure is likely to be even more critical and uneven than before.

"The students of the future will demand the learning support that is appropriate for their situation or contect nothing more or nothing less." Marcus Specht Education Technology is not the complete answer to sit at home and taking online classes by using your personal computers seems very convenient. Technology has made our lives more comfortable. Indepth if we dissect the issue we realize that online education does not cover all the areas of holistic development as is not as beneficial as traditional classroom teaching and learning process. Technology cannot replace teachers or reduce inequality. Traditional education when you are physically in school makes students feel less lonely which improves their interpersonal skills. The students build more confidence, as the student

might feel like they are not facing problems related to academics alone. Working in groups and interacting with students strengthen social ties which are very important in this rapidly growing technological world.

"COVID -19 has intensified and exaggerated fault lines in contemporary societies revealing back to us our ways of dealing with inequality." (Julian Sefton-Green - UNESCO Future of Education Idea LAB,26 August 2020).

Traditional education urges students to attend lessons and to study when required. This is not surprising that online education depends on technologies that a large number of families around the globe do not have access to. In underdeveloped countries, only 1 in 5 households has access to the internet. Blended learning ( online and onsite learning ) is the answer to many problems.

COVID -19 has intensified and exaggerated fault lines in contemporary societies revealing back to us our ways of dealing with inequality. Julian Sefton-Green – 26 August 2020 Education in Pakistan during COVID - 19.

All educational institutions in our country closed in March 2020 and since then the already struggling education system is fighting its battle for a smooth sail. In between, there are periods when the COVID-19 ratio is low and students do attend classes physically.Education plays a pivotal role in the growth and prosperity of any country.

The sudden shift towards digital teaching and learning has caused huge disturbance for students, teachers, and even for parents. Teachers are not technically trained or lack computer skills. The Unavailability of the internet and other hardware and software resources is a great matter of concern.

Pakistan launched eTaleem portal and apps like Taleemabad to encourage remote learning. On the other hand, the government has faced major criticism from students, asking for exams to be postponed or canceled. According to an estimate, Pakistan will suffer the loss of \$67-155 billion if the recently opened educational institute will close again. The world Bank has offered \$20 million to Pakistan to start an inclusive teaching and learning system targeted at 19.1 million outof-school children who might opt to support their families facing pandemic originated financial hardships. This is one of the significant achievements of the government. The government is striving to restructure the educational sector in the country.

The government has implemented various educational reforms especially in the field of curriculums, teaching methodologies, and other resources along with infrastructure. Now we all are in a wait-and-watch situation when it comes to the effective implementation of government reforms in the education sector, the severity of COVID-19 in the future, and the future of onsite and online education in Pakistan.

## 06

## WORLD / SPORTS

Islamabad **POST** Tuesday, August 10, 2021

### Briefs

#### Afghan leaders must quit the blame game

FROM PAGE 01 He said Pakistan would continue with its role in the Afghan peace process as there should be no ambiguity. The foreign minister said Prime Minister Imran Khan had been consistently saying that there was no military solution to the Afghan issue. He stressed that a well negotiated, all inclusive and broad-based political settlement was the only way forward to establish peace in Afghanistan. To a question the foreign minister maintained that they had facilitated the Afghan civilians despite the coronavirus pandemic. "Pakistan has been a generous and hospitable host to the 3 million Afghan refugees for four decades despite its limited resources," he said, adding that if there was any new influx of Afghan refugees, Pakistan did not have the capacity to host them.

The foreign minister said it would be the collective responsibility of the international community and other immediate neighbours of Afghanistan in that case. Pakistan had been urging the international community to play their due role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan and for the regional peace and stability. He said Pakistan had accomplished about 98 per cent work on fencing of Pak-Afghan border to stop illegal movement of people. He said Pakistan was a facilitator and not a guarantor of peace in Afghanistan. Qureshi said India had violated its obligation as the United Nations Security Council's president by not allowing Pakistan's request to brief the forum on the situation and its role in Afghanistan peace process.

To another question, he said Pakistan had clear priorities and about China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), there was a national consen-The foreign minister sus. said CPEC had been targeted by the enemies of Pakistan. but they had unflinching resolve to foil all such attempts.

# Mirpur Royals register maiden win in KPL 2021

Royals won their first game in the tournament after losing to Rawalakot Hawks and Bagh Stallions while Overseas Warriors are still in search of two points after two games in KPL 2021

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Mirpur Royals registered their maiden victory in Kashmir Premier League (KPL) 2021, courtesy to young Kashmiri pacer Salman Irshad and the batsmen, who came hard at Overseas Warriors in game six here at Muzaffarabad Cricket Stadium on Monday. Sharjeel Khan and Shoaib Malik backed Royals' chase as the team chased Warriors' 146 runs target easily on the very first ball of second last over for the loss of five wickets. Earlier, Overseas Warriors won the toss and elected to bat first against an experienced but out-of-form Mirpur Royals. But they failed to get off to a cracking start once again and kept on losing wicket regularly. Only Kamran Ghulam looked determined and threatening as the middle-order batsman scored 47 off 35, smashing three fours and two maximums. Azam Khan took his time and tried to save wicket as he managed just 32 runs off 40 balls.

**KP** Independence Day Squash C'ship begins

#### **BUREAU REPORT**

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Independence Day Men and Women Squash Championship got underway here at QamarZaman Squash Complex on Monday. Dr. Riaz Khan, Chief Scientist Atomic Energy Pakistan was chief guest on this occasion. Vice President Pakistan Squash Federation and President KP Squash Association QamarZaman, Coaches MohibUllah Khan, Mohammad Waseem, Amjad Khan, AlamZeb, NiamatUllah, Chief Organizer and Secretary KP Squash Association MunawarZaman, Executive Members KP Squash Sajjad Khalil, Director Blue Tone Squash Academy Wazir Mohammad, SherBahadur, Tournament Referee AdilFaqi were also present on this occasion. In the first round of the Men category Hammad Khan defeated Umair Arif by 3-0, Huraira Khan defeated M Umair Khan, ArbabMehran defeated Usman Yaqoob, M QasimNoorani defeated UbaidUllah, Asadullah (Snr) defeated Owaise Ahmed by 3-0, Huzaifa Zahid overpowered M Shoaib Afzal by 3-0, AsimShahzad defeated Abdul Haseeb by 3-0, Fahad Sharif defeated Haroon Khan by 3-0, YaseenKhattak defeated AmanUllah by 3-0, Azaan Khalil defeated Danish Sufain Khan defeated Abbas Rahim, Nasir Khan defeated M Raza, Zeeshan Khan defeated Kamran Hhussain, M Samiullah defeated Rafiullah, Sheraz Akbar defeated Shayan Ali, RizwanGul defeated HashirKifayat by 3-0, Mutahir Ali defeated Zubair Khan, ArbabAizaz defeated Kamran Khan, Shehzad-



Wasim, and Azam Khan back to the pavilion to help Royals restrict Warriors under

start of 63 runs and scored with a runrate of 10 until Sharjeel lost his wicket in

the 7th over of the innings. Muhammad Akhlaqalso got run out after scoring just a single run as fans saw Royals being 65/2 in 7.3 overs, looking towards the skipper for a rescue. Shoaib Malik joined Mukhtar Ahmed in the middle to produce another match-winning partnership of 63.

When both Mukhtar and Malik lost their wickets in the 15th over to young Mohammad Musa, who later dismissed Khushdil Shah as well in his next over, Royals were still in the perfect position to win the game. A 13-run innings by Amad Butt proved enough to chase 146 despite so much drama and excitement in the end due to the exciting pacer Muhammad Musa who finished his spell with the figure of 4/27. Abbas Afridi also kept the batsmen in check as the medium-pacer conceded just 16 in his four overs. Royals won their first game in the tournament after losing to Rawalakot Hawks and Bagh Stallions while Overseas Warriors are still in search of two points after two games in KPL 2021.

#### Pakistan, China vow to further boost co-op

FROM PAGE 01 working in various projects in Pakistan, is the highest priority of Pakistan and the Government is making all-out efforts for their protection and security.

Nong Rong said that Pakistan is the closest friend of China and his country wants to further strengthen bilateral cooperation with Pakistan. He added that his country would share its experiences with Pakistan that would help in its social and economic prosperity. He lauded the steps taken by the Government of Pakistan that successfully contained the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Ambassador informed that China would provide six million vaccine doses this week while 100 million vaccine doses would be provided by the end of the year. He also referred to the recently held Strategic Dialogue between the Foreign Ministers of the two countries last month and expressed the hope that the Dialogue would further push forward the relations between the two brotherly countries.

#### PM Imran inaugurates world's largest...

#### FROM PAGE 01

'This is the Lahore that we grew up in, which had forests, gardens, and clean air [...] and in no time, Lahore has now become one of the most polluted cities of the country," he said.

The premier said scientists, after lengthy research, published a report last month in which they revealed that there are several things on land that cannot be changed back to their old form.

"For example, the rise in sea level and temperature due to global warming cannot be reversed as human beings have damaged the world to such an extent. But if we humans join hands, we might be able to save ourselves from a catastrophe," he said.

### Belarusian Olympic defector was 'manipulated', says Lukashenko

#### AGENCIES

MINSK: Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko has said the Belarusian sprinter who defected at the Olympic Games in Tokyo had been "manipulated" by outside forces and would not have fled abroad otherwise. Defiant on the first anniversary of a disputed election that extended his decades-long rule, he also defended his victory on Monday at an annual news conference, accusing his opponents of plotting a "coup".

"Today, Belarus is in the focus of the attention of the whole world," Lukashenko said during the hourslong event at the presidential palace building in the capital Minsk.

"She wouldn't do it herself, she was manipulated," Lukashenko said, referring to the Olympic athlete KrystsinaTsimanouskaya. It was from Japan, from Tokyo that she contacted her buddies in Poland and they told her - literally when you come to the airport, run to a Japanese police officer and shout that those who dropped her off at the airport are KGB agents."There was not a single special service agent in Japan." Lukashenko was thrust into the international spotlight again this month after Tsimanouskaya, 24, refused to obey team orders to leave the Tokyo Olympics early and travel back to Belarus. Claiming she feared for her safety in her homeland, she instead sought refuge in Poland, which granted her and her husband humanitarian visas. The August 9 election last year handed



Lukashenko, 66, a sixth term in office but was denounced by the ex-Soviet nation's political opposition as rigged. Lukashenko said on Monday that he won last year's presidential poll fairly and was protecting his country against a violent uprising. Last year, some people "were preparing for a fair election, while others were calling ... for a coup d'état," he said. Thousands of people attended anti-government demonstrations following the vote, a movement that posed the biggest challenge to Lukashenko's rule since he first became president in 1994.

He responded by unleashing a sweeping crackdown that saw thousands of people arrested and his leading

European capitals including Kyiv, London, Warsaw and Vilnius. At loggerheads with Western countries that imposed sanctions on his government, Lukashenko has stayed in power thanks to support and financial backing from traditional ally Russia, which sees Belarus as a buffer state against NATO and the European Union.

In a sign of further tension, the United Kingdom imposed sanctions on Belarus's potash and petroleum product exports on Monday in an attempt to put pressure on Lukashenko, who swiftly retorted that London should "choke on" the new measures. So far, Western sanctions have done little to persuade Lukashenko to change course. Al Jazeera's Andrew Simmons, reporting from London, said the Belarusian leader was unlikely to be swayed by

the latest measures. "His stand has been one of defiance and will continue to be that way," Simmons said. "And the more the West pushes against him, the more he will move towards Russia." Lukashenko has previously denounced his opponents as foreign stooges and accused leading NATO member the United States and its allies of plotting to overthrow him.Lukashenko has also tussled with the European Union after Belarusian authorities forced a Ryanair flight flying over Belarus to land in the capital, Minsk, in May and arrested a dissident Belarusian journalist who was on board. Separately, EU neighbours Lithuania and Poland have accused the government in Minsk of engineering a migrant crisis on the Belarusian border in retaliation for EU sanctions.Lukashenko said Lithuania and Poland are to blame.

Arshad Nadeem hosted

at Pakistan embassy

TOKYO: Ambassador Imtiaz Ahmad hosted Javelin

thrower Arshad Nadeem and representatives of Paki-

stan Olympics Association at Embassy of Pakistan, To-

kyo. The Ambassador commended Arshad for igniting

the passion for Javelin Throw in Pakistan. He hoped

that Arshad will surely bring gold medal for Pakistan

soon. Arshad Nadeem thanked Pakistan Embassy for

their cooperation during Tokyo Olympics . He thanked

the entire nation for their prayers and said that he is

Ambassador Imtiaz Ahmad presented Arshad Nadeem

with a certificate of appreciation & gift from the Em-

bassy. Arshad Nadeem on Saturday came within touch-

ing distance of winning a rare Olympic medal for Paki-

stan but eventually missed out as he finished fifth in

men's javelin throw event in Tokyo. Nadeem, at one

point in the competition, was placed as high as fourth

India's Neeraj Chopra claimed gold, whereas Czech Repub-

lic's Jakub Vadlejch and Vitezslav Vesely claimed silver and

bronze medals. Nadeem threw for 82.91m on his opening

attempt of the final round and 81.98m on the second. His

final attempt of the round and competition was a foul as he

finished fifth - just two shy of a podium finish that would

have netted him a rare medal. His main rival, India's Neeraj

Chopra, saw both his attempts of the final round adjudged as

fouls but his 87.58m throw in the opening round was good

enough to get him the coveted gold medal. Meanwhile, world

number one Johannes Vetter of Germany failed to make it out of the opening round with a disappointing 82.52m in first

determined to fight for the top spot.

before being surpassed by rival athletes.

attempt followed by two foul throws. - DNA

#### Taliban seizes more Afghan...

FROM PAGE 01 Health officials in Kunduz say they have treated dozens of injured civilians since Sunday afternoon, when the Taliban first flew its white flag from the city's main square. Meanwhile, residents in Kandahar, Herat and Lashkar Gah say fighting still rages near their capitals, which the Taliban has been trying to overrun for more than a month.

There have been unconfirmed media reports that US and government air attacks have damaged a hospital and a high school near Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand province. The Ministry of Defence confirmed the air raids occurred, but said they targeted Taliban positions, killing 54 fighters and wounding 23. Its statement made no mention of a clinic or school being bombed. Afghan officials have long called for additional air support, either through foreign air attacks or the procurement of their own airpower, but such tactics have proven controversial in Afghanistan, as there have been repeated reports of civilian casualties from such tactics

#### Iraqi FM due in Islamabad...

FROM PAGE 01 relations and is resolved to further deepen and broaden mutual cooperation in diverse fields. The relationship is reinforced by similarity of views on a range of regional and global issues. The visit of Iraqi Foreign Minister comes in the backdrop of a number of Ministerial-level visits from both sides in the past few months, which signify the importance accorded by the two countries to augmenting the bilateral relationship. Foreign Minister Qureshi visited Iraq in May 2021. Further high-level exchanges are envisaged in the coming months. The visit of Foreign Minister Dr. Fuad Hussein is expected to add further momentum to the positive trajectory of brotherly relations between Pakistan and Iraq

Sikandar defeated NawabShah.MJunaid defeated Fawad Hussain, Shehzad Khan defeated Jawad Ali Khan. In the second round Asad UllahSnr beat M QasimNoorani (2-1), Nouman Khan beat Majid Khalil (2-0), HuzaifaZahid beat AsimShahzad (2-1), Fahad Sharif beat Furqan Ahmed (2-0), YaseenKhattak beat Azaan Khalil (2-0), Nasir Khan beat Sufyan Khan (2-0), Samiullah beat Zeeshan Khan (2-0), ZeeshanGul beat Sheraz Akbar (2-0), Nouman Shahid beat Kashif Rasheed (2-1).

opponents jailed or forced into exile abroad. While protests in the country have since simmered down, authorities have continued their crackdown on dissent in recent weeks, targeting independent journalists and democracy activists in hundreds of raids. On Sunday, Belarusians living abroad held rallies against Lukashenko in

Shaun Tait appointed as Afghanistan's bowling coach

#### DNA

KABUL: Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) has appointed former Australian pacer Shaun Tait as their national team's bowling coach with immediate effect. Taking to Twitter, ACB disclosed that Tait will be joining their national team as bowling coach immediately.

"Former Australian Fast bowler Shaun Tait has been appointed Afghanistan National team's bowling coach with immediate effect." ACB announced.

Tait's first assignment will be the home ODI series against Pakistan in September. Afghanistan and Pakistan are scheduled to play three ODIs next month in Sri Lanka. Remember, T20 World Cup will also be played this year from 17 October to 14 November in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman.

> Barcelona defeat Juventus



TOKYO: Ambassador of Pakisan to Japan, Imtiaz Ahmad presenting an appreciation Certificate from the Embassy to Javelin Thrower Arshad Nadeem at Tokyo embassy, Japan. - DNA

### PCB announces schedule of 2021-22 domestic season

#### SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has confirmed the schedule of the 2021-22 domestic cricket season, comprising of 10 tournaments. The 2021-22 season will kick-off with the eight-day Cricket Associations T20 tournament on 15 September in which the six second XI Cricket Association sides will go head to head in the shortest format of the game in Quetta. The National T20, featuring country's best shortest format players, will be held from 25 September to 13 October. Eight-

een first round matches will be held in Multan, while the remaining 15 matches. including the two semi-finals and the final, will be held in Lahore.

Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, a jewel in the crown of Pakistan's domestic events, will commence on 20 October. The first half of the 10-round single-league competition will be held in Multan, Faisalabad and Lahore. The event will then move to Karachi where it will culminate with the five-day final from 29 December.

The three-day double-league Cricket Associations Championship for second XIs will be

held from 28 September to 14 November, while the 50-over single-league Cricket Associations Challenge for second XIs will be played from 19 to 27 November. Both the tournaments will be held in Faisalabad, Lahore and Sheikhupura.

Curtains will fall on the 2021-22 season in Lahore on 30 March 2022 with the final of the Pakistan Cup One-Day Tournament, which will get underway on 25 February and will be played on a double-league format. The other two event venues will be Faisalabad and Multan.

Domestic competitions in the 2021-22 season are separate to the home international matches against New Zealand, England, West Indies and

Australia, and the Pakistan Super League (PSL), which will be held between September 2021 and March 2022.

Not added to the 2021-22 domestic matches are the ongoing two-day CCA tournament matches, which commenced on 16 July and will conclude on 22 August, and the CCA U19 tournament that will begin on 1 September. The two tournaments are designed to provide opportunities to the outstanding performers to graduate to the Cricket Association sides for the senior and pathway competitions in the PCB Domestic Season 2021-22.

The additional matches in the forthcoming domestic circuit have been added in pathways cricket for which the PCB has allowed the six Cricket Associations to field two sides each in the U16 and U19

tournaments. This means 12 sides will feature in the 62-match National U19 three-day championship and One-Day Cup, which will run side by side, from 3 October to 12 November in Gujranwala, Islamabad, Muridke, Rawalpindi and Sialkot.

Another 12 sides will take part in the 31-match National U16 Cup from 8 to 19 March 2022 with Rawalpindi hosting the single-league competition.

The National U13 One-Day Cup has returned to the national circuit after missing out last year due to Covid-19 pandemic. This single-league event will be held in Faisalabad from 8 to 18 February 2022.

Details on the tournament schedule, squads and match official appointments will be released in the lead up to the events.

#### Schedule (subject to any late changes): **First XI competitions**

National T20 (six teams, 33 matches) - 25 September-13 October

Quaid-e-Azam Trophy (six teams, 31 matches) - 20 October-29 December

Pakistan Cup (six teams, 33 matches) - 25 February-30 March 2022

#### Second XI competitions

Cricket Associations T20 (six teams, 15 matches) – 15-22 September Cricket Associations Championship (three-

day) (six teams, 30 matches) - 28 September-14 November Cricket Associations Challenge (50 overs) (six teams, 15 matches) - 19-27 November

#### Pathway competitions

National U19 Championship (three-day) and Cup (one-Day) (12 teams, 62 matches) - (3 October–12 November)

National U16 Cup (One-Day) (12 teams, 31 matches) - 8-19 March 2022

National U13 Cup (One-Day) (16 matches) - 8-18 February 2022.

BARCELONA: Barcelona started life without Lionel Messi on Sunday with a 3-0 win over Juventus in the pre-season Gamper

DNA

Messi had earlier Sunday said his farewells to the club he had served for 20 years at a tearful news con-

Memphis Depay opened the scoring for Barcelona after just three minutes with Martin Braithwaite adding a second goal just before the hour mark from a corner. Young hope Riqui-Puig scored a third in stoppage time with a fine left

foot drive. In Sunday ´s other high-profile friendly, Real Madrid and AC Milan fought to a 0-0 stalemate.

Spain's La Liga season gets underway on Friday while the Italian Serie A starts on August 22.

Trophy.

ference

## **Π7**

## **BUSINESS / WORLD**



### **KCCI leads** in having e-Sahulat facility

KARACHI: Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) becomes first chamber establishing NA-DRA e-Sahulat for Pakistan Single Window portal as its President M. Shariq Vohra along with Additional Director Pakistan Single Window (PSW) Naveed Abbas Memon Monday inaugurated NADRA e-Sahulat at the chamber.

KCCI Senior Vice President M. Saqib Goodluck, Chairman of KCCI's PSW Registration Help Desk Abdul Samad Shaikh, Deputy Chairman Chaudhry Muhammad Zahid Bashir, former vice president Nasir Mehmood and KCCI Managing Committee Members also attended the ceremony. With launch of this important facility, KCCI will provide trade and industrial communities (also KCCI members) with quick biometric verification facility required for registration in the PSW portal.

Additional Director PSW Naveed Abbas Memon stated that PSW facility would reduce time, cost and complexity while improving quality of experience for all stakeholders to ensure ease of doing business besides support government agencies in adopting an Integrated Risk Management approach for efficient enforce ment of cross border trade related controls. - APP

About 300

mines

defused in

Karabakh

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan's Mine

Action Agency has seized

and unexploded ordnance

on the territories liberated

from the Armenian occupa-

In a report on demining

operations carried out in

the liberated lands from Au-

gust 2 to 7, the agency said

and

tion in 2020.

defused 295 mines

## Humans changing climate at 'unprecedented' rate: UN report

"The scale of recent changes across the climate system as a whole and the present state of many aspects of the climate system are unprecedented over many centuries to many thousands of years"

#### **MONITRING DESK**

NEW YORK: Humanity will experience more extreme weather in the coming years and it will suffer the consequences of rising sea levels and melting Arctic ice, scientists working from across the globe said in a crucial UN climate report.

The alarming report by a UN scientific panel, released on Monday, called changes to the climate "unprecedented", added that it is "unequivocal" that humans are to blame, and laid out the case for drastic cuts to emissions in order to hold the global temperature to under the limits set by the 2015 Paris Agreement.

"The scale of recent changes across the climate system as a whole and the present state of many aspects of the climate system are unprecedented over many centuries to many thousands of years," said the report issued by the Geneva-based Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Earth's average surface temperature is projected to hit 1.5C (2.7F) or 1.6C (2.9F) above pre-industrial levels around 2030 in all five of the greenhouse gas emissions scenarios - ranging from highly optimistic to

reckless - considered by the report. That is a full 10 years earlier than the IPCC predicted just three years ago.

By mid-century, the 1.5C (2.7F) threshold will have been breached across the board, by a tenth of a degree along the most ambitious pathway and by nearly a full degree at the opposite extreme. The report was compiled by 234 experts from 66 countries and is the most comprehensive to be released by the UN panel since 2013.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called the IPCC's assessment "code red for humanity"

"This report must sound a death knell for

### Code red for humanity, says Antonio Guterres

NEW YORK: A UN climate report that predicts quicker global warming than anticipated just three years ago "must sound a death knell" for coal, oil and gas and is "code red" for humanity, according to the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded on Monday that drastic cuts to emissions are needed in order to hold the global temperature to under the 1.5C (2.7F) limits set by the 2015 Paris Agreement.

"Today's IPCC Working Group 1 Report is a 'code red' for humanity," Guterres said. "The alarm bells are deafening, and the evidence is irrefutable: Greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel burning and deforestation are choking our planet and putting billions of people at immediate risk. Global heating is affecting every region on Earth, with many of the changes becoming irreversible. "This report must sound a death knell for coal and fossil fuels before they destroy our planet." Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg said the long-awaited report contained "no real surprises". "It confirms what we already know from thousands of previous studies and reports - we are in an emergency," Thunberg said. "It's a solid summary of the current best available science. "It doesn't tell us what to do," she noted of the report, which synthesises reams of climate studies conducted in recent years. "It is up to us to be brave and take decisions based on the scientific evidence provided in these reports. We can still avoid the worst consequences, but not if we continue like today, and not without treating the crisis like a crisis.

British PM Boris Johnson said the report should serve as "a wake-up call" for world leaders as they prepare to gather in Scotland later this year for the next summit on the climate crisis. "Today's report makes for sobering reading, and it is clear that the next decade is going to be pivotal to securing the future of our planet," Johnson said in a statement. "We know what must be done to limit global warming – consign coal to history and shift to clean energy sources, protect nature and provide climate finance for countries on the front line." World leaders will meet at the COP26 Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November, in what is being described as the most important meeting on the crisis since the 2015 Paris summit. - News Desk

coal and fossil fuels, before they destroy our planet." he said in a statement. "Countries should also end all new fossil fuel exploration and production and shift fossil fuel subsidies into renewable energy."

Since about 1960, forests, soil and oceans have absorbed 56 percent of all the carbon dioxide humanity has chucked into the atmosphere - even as those emissions have increased by half.

Without nature's help, Earth would already be a much hotter and less hospitable place.

Global oceans have risen about 20cm (eight inches) since 1900 and the rate of increase

has nearly tripled in the last 10 years. Crumbling and melting ice sheets atop Antarctica, especially Greenland, have replaced glacier melt as the main driver.

If global warming is capped at 2C (3.6F), the ocean watermark will go up about half a metre over the 21st century. It will continue rising to nearly two metres by 2300 - twice the amount predicted by the IPCC in 2019. Because of uncertainty over ice sheets, scientists cannot rule out a total rise of two metres by 2100 in a worst-case emissions scenario. Significant advances in palaeoclimatology the science of natural climate in Earth's past

- have delivered sobering warnings. For example, the last time the planet's atmosphere was as warm as today, about 125,000 years ago, global sea levels were likely five to 10 metres (16 to 32 feet) higher - a level that would put many big coastal cities under water

Three million years ago, when atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations matched today's levels and temperatures were 2.5C (4.5F) to 4C (7.2F) higher, sea levels were up to 25 metres (82 feet) higher.

The report includes more data than ever before on methane (CH4), the second most important greenhouse gas after CO2, and warns that failure to curb emissions could undermine Paris Agreement goals.

Human-induced sources are roughly divided between leaks from natural gas production, coal mining and landfills on one side, and livestock and manure handling on the other. Methane lingers in the atmosphere only a fraction as long as carbon dioxide but is far more efficient at trapping heat.

Methane levels are their highest in at least 800,000 years. The IPCC warns against abrupt, "low likelihood, high impact" shifts in the climate system that, when irreversible, are called tipping points.

"Abrupt responses and tipping points of the climate system ... cannot be ruled out," the report says.

#### Iraq to host 'regional summit' in late August

Islamabad **POST** 

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

BAGHDAD: Baghdad is to host a regional summit late this month, with French President Emmanuel Macron also attending, the Iraqi premier's office said Monday.

Mustafa al-Kadhemi's office has said Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Saudi Arabia's King Salman have been invited, although an exact date has not been announced.

Baghdad has not said whether President Ebrahim Raisi of Iran, the arch-enemy of Saudi Arabia and the United States, would attend.

Iraq is seeking to establish itself as a mediator between Arab countries and Iran, after reportedly hosting talks in April between rival regional powers Tehran and Riyadh. Macron told Kadhimi in a phone call that he planned to visit Iraq to attend the conference, Kadhimi's office said.

It would be Macron's second visit to the country in less than a year.

Iraq, which has been an arena for bitter rivalry between the US and Iran, has been attempting to act as a regional mediator since defeating the Sunni extremist Islamic State group in 2017. In recent months Baghdad has hosted senior Iranian and Saudi officials in efforts to restore their relations, which collapsed in 2016.

A rebuilding of ties between the two regional heavyweights would benefit Iraq, which regularly sees rocket attacks by pro-Iranian groups, something Iraqi officials say Iran regularly uses as leverage in negotiations. - APP

#### Uzbekistan receives aid from the USA

#### FOREIGN DESK

TASHKENT: A shipment of humanitarian cargo from the United States arrived at the Islam Karimov International Airport in Tashkent. The cargo worth US\$330,000 was provided by the Global Jewish Assistance and Relief Network and the World Congress of Bukharian Jews (USA),



Pak-Holland trade records 107.62% surplus in FY21

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's \$108.000 million. goods and services trade On month-on-month basis, with Holland witnessed the exports to Holland rose by 23.74 percent during June 2021 as compared surplus of 107.62 percent during fiscal year (2020-21) to the exports of \$87.273 as compared to the corresponding period of last year. million in May 2021, the SBP data revealed. Overall The overall exports to Holland were recorded at Pakistan's exports to other \$1118.093 million during countries witnessed growth July-June (2020-21) against

that 180 anti-personnel and three anti-tank mines, as well as 112 unexploded munitions, were found and neutralized in Tartar, Aghdam, Fuzuli, Shusha, Gubadli, Jabrayil and Zangilan. Some 127 hectares of land were cleared of mines and unexploded munitions within a week

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

Azerbaijan has warned its citizens against traveling to formerly occupied territories without permission citing land mine threats. On June 12, Armenia sub-

mitted to Azerbaijan mine maps for Aghdam, and on July 3 mine maps for Fuzuli and Zangilan.

#### Siberian wildfires worsen

MOSCOW: Russian weather monitor said Monday that forest fires ravaging Siberia are worsening as NASA satellite images showed smoke from its burning forests reaching the North Pole.

Devastating forest fires have ripped across Siberia with increasing regularity over the past few years, which Russia's weather officials and envi ronmentalists have linked to climate change and an under funded forest service.

UN climate experts Monday published a report that shows unequivocally that global warming is unfolding more quickly than feared and that humanity is almost entirely to blame. One of Siberia's hardest-hit regions this year has been Yakutia - Russia's largest and coldest region that sits atop permafrost - which has seen record-high temperatures and drought.

Russia's weather monitoring institute Rosgidromet said Monday that the situation in the region - also known as Sakha - "continues to deteriorate". According to Rosgidromet, close to 3.4 million hectares (8.4 million acres) are currently burning in the region, including areas that are "difficult to access and re mote". – APP

PESHAWAR: German ambassador Schlagheck had a very fruitful meeting with the business community in Peshawar at Khyber Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Both sides discussed key areas of collaboration as well as challenges facing Pak-German economic ties. - DNA

DNA

LONDON: High Commis-

sioner Moazzam Ahmad

Khan hosted Pakistani

Chevening and Common-

wealth Scholars over a

Dinner Reception at the

Pakistan High Commission

London on 6 August 2021.

As many as 45 Scholars

enrolled in various academ-

ic programmes at the UK

Universities attended the

In an interactive session

with the students, the High

lated the students on their

selection for the prestigious

scholarship programmes.

He urged them to benefit

from the enriching academ-

ic experience in Britain and

make the most of their stav

congratu-

reception.

Commissioner

exports of \$982.263 million during July-June (2019-20), showing growth of 13.82 percent, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). Meanwhile, on year-onyear basis, the exports to Holland during June 2021 also increased by 44.29 percent, from \$74.846 million as against the exports of

and said that such scholar-

ship programmes were vital

to promote people to peo-

ple contacts and develop

appreciation for cultural di-

versity. They also apprised

of 13.72 percent during FY 2020-21, from \$22.536 billion to \$25.629 billion, the SBP data showed.

of their efforts to introduce

Pakistan's rich and diverse

culture, tourism opportuni

ties and economic potential

to their fellow scholars from

over 160 countries

boundaries, is comprehensive.

Ensuring security is not limited to

the state of being protected from

the traditional challenges and

threats of terrorism, extremism,

drug trafficking, but must also

include the ability of the Central

Asian countries to withstand such

new types of challenges as the

negative consequences of climate

change, global epidemics, and cy-

According to the expert, in these

conditions only through a sys-

tematic political dialogue, an in-

tegrated approach, and close co-

ordination of joint efforts can the

challenges and threats faced by

our countries be overcome. Today

we are successfully cooperating in

bilateral and multilateral formats

within the SCO, CIS, CICA.

bercrime.

On the other hand, the imports from Holland into the country during the period were recorded at \$465.645 million against \$668.013 million last year, showing negative growth of 30.29 percent during FY 2020-21. - APP

Dunyo news agency reported. The cargo was sent in order to facilitate the creation of a fund of medical supplies for medical institutions in Uzbekistan in connection with the new waves and mutations of the coronavirus.

The batch included N95 respirator masks in the amount of more than 165 thousand pieces, KN95 - 4,000 pieces and three-laver masks - 100 thousand pieces. The received medical masks will be sent to the appropriate medical institutions of the republic in the near future. In general, humanitarian aid consists of about 270 thousand medical respiratory masks of various types.

#### 30 bn euros to rebuild after German floods

BERLIN: The conservative frontrunner to succeed Angela Merkel as German chancellor, Armin Laschet, called Monday for up to 30 billion euros (\$35 billion) to rebuild after last month's catastrophic floods.

Laschet, who leads one of the states hardest hit by the historic deluge, North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), told a special session of the regional legislature that victims could count on "solidarity".

'The total damage in North Rhine-Westphalia will reach 13 billion euros according to initial estimates." he said. while neighbouring state Rhineland-Palatinate "will reach a similar, perhaps even higher sum".

Laschet said Germany's 16 state leaders and the federal government were well on their way to hammering out a relief package for afflicted areas.

"All the states have shown they are ready to commit this 20 to 30 billion euros." He added that NRW had not faced the need to rebuild thousands of destroyed homes at once since World War II and would appoint an official to manage the reconstruction effort and improve disaster warning systems.

The costs are to be equally shared between the federal government and the states. according to draft conclusions of a meeting of top political officials to be held on Tuesday reported in German media. – APP

BAKU: Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev signed an order on approving the 'E-House of SMEs' portal

Azerbaijan

to create

'E-House of

SMEs'

on August 9. According to the order, the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of Azerbaijan was instructed to undertake necessary measures for integrating the mentioned portal into the Electronic Government Information System within

the president's order 'On approval of rules of formation, maintenance, integration and archiving of state information resources and systems and other measures in connection with electronic government' No. 263 dated September 12, 2018. – **DNA** 

### Scholars from Pakistan hosted at the London High Commission

in the UK by making lasting friendships with the British people and fellow scholars from other countries. The High Commissioner also apprised them of the work-

ing and efforts of the High Commission in promoting the relations between Pakistan and the UK. The students shared their

experiences here in the UK

LONDON: Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK, Moazzam Ahmad Khan in a group photo with the Chevening Scholars from Pakistan at the Pakistan High Commission London

LONDON: Pakistan High Commissioner to the

### **C.** Asia ready to solve the issues of the region According to Nematov, the main conclusion of the third Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asia is that the process of regional cooperation has become stable, progressive and irreversible

#### FOREIGN DESK

TASHKENT: The countries of Central Asia can and are ready to play a key role in solving the most pressing issues of the region. This opinion was shared by the first deputy director of the Institute for Strategic and Interregional Studies (ISMI) under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Akramjon Nematov during an international online conference on the topic "State and prospects of regional cooperation in Central Asia.<sup>3</sup>

According to Nematov, the main conclusion of the third Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asia is that the process of regional cooperation has become stable, progressive and

irreversible. A completely new political atmosphere of friendship, good-neighborliness and mutually beneficial cooperation has been established in the region. This, as noted by the representa-

tive of the ISMI, is evidenced by the following facts: First, a regular political dialogue

has been established at the highest level, which allows resolving the most important issues in an open and trusting atmosphere on the basis of mutual respect and consideration of each other's interests. Mutual trust and understanding of our leaders is the driving force behind the multifaceted and multi-level interaction between our countries.

Secondly, the heads of state of Central Asia reaffirmed their firm political will not to stop at what has been achieved, to steadily and consistently expand and deepen regional cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

Thirdly, and this is very important, our countries have demonstrated a decisive attitude and ability to play a primary and key role in solving the most pressing problems of the region, which hinder the development of its rich economic and human potential. Thus, Akmal Nematov stressed.

the results of the next meeting, which were reflected in the adopted Joint Statement, clearly showed a high level of consolidation and readiness of the leaders of our states to take responsibility for ensuring stability, security and sustainable development of the

Central Asian region.

Of course, the deputy director of the ISMI noted, all this significantly strengthens the geopolitical integrity, subjectivity of the region, significantly increases the ability of states to jointly confront challenges and threats to security, together defend and promote our common interests. This is especially important today, when there is a crisis of confidence in the world, threats to global and regional security are growing, and uncertainty remains in Afghanistan.

In the opinion of the representative of the ISMI, in these conditions, it is important for experts to continue to strengthen the understanding that security is common, equal and indivisible, it knows no

UK, Moazzam Ahmad Khan in a group photo with the Commonwealth Scholars from Pakistan at the Pakistan High Commission London.







#### **Briefs** 7-9% growth needed to create jobs,

## **US donates one million Covid-19 RDTs to Pakistan**

These new rapid diagnostic tests detect infection in minutes and greatly enhance real-time monitoring, enabling health officials to quickly identify hotspots of infection

#### DNA

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The United States

Government, through the U.S.

Agency for International Develop-

ment (USAID), donated one million

COVID-19 antigen rapid diagnostic

tests today to help Pakistan to diag-

nose the coronavirus and respond

These new rapid diagnostic tests

detect infection in minutes and

greatly enhance real-time moni-

toring, enabling health officials

to quickly identify hotspots of in-

fection. Having access to quick

and accurate testing will allow

Pakistan's National Command

Operation Center and the Federal

Health Ministry further mitigate

the spread of COVID-19, especial-

ly in remote locations and at bor-

"These rapid test its will help

Pakistan to more quickly detect

der crossings.

to urgent health needs.

control debt

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's economy must develop at a 7 to 9% rate for the next three decades to create jobs and reduce government debt. The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) highlighted this in its most recent report, Reforms for Accelerated Prosperity and Inclusive Development (RAPID).

The report claimed, "The 7-9 percent growth rate is not the predicted rate; it is the rate required to keep out of the woods." "Two, moving to a high and sustainable growth trajectory necessitates breaking free from the past, which can only be accomplished through profound structural reforms in practically all sectors that influence growth," the paper concluded.

According to the report's findings, the state of a country's institutions is a crucial factor in its growth. Recognizing the country's resource restrictions, the reform agenda modernize institutions (laws, regulations, procedures, and processes) to increase productivity and investment.

#### Opening of 'Shamsheer-E-Bahr-VIII' held

#### NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy War game 'Shamsheer-E-Bahr-VIII' commenced at Karachi where Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi graced the opening brief of the exercise as Chief Guest and was received by Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Faisal Rasul Lodhi Later, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Operations) Rear Admiral Javaid lqbal presented the overview of war game outlining objectives and concepts set forth for demonstration during the exercise, said a Pakistan Navy. He highlighted that the war game would comprise participation of Tri-Services and government 'Shamsheer-E ministries. Bahr-VIll' is the flagship war game of Pakistan Navy that is held biennially to corroborate various concepts which are validated in subsequent maritime exercises prior being incorporated in naval strategy. While addressing the occasion, Chief of the Naval Staff highlighted that Pakistan is facing multitude of internal and external challenges which necessitate external vigilance and strong resolve. The admiral emphasized that the unresolved Kashmir issue remains the flash point between Pakistan and India. "Indian heavy handed policies in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and attempt to enforce fascist control over IIOJK have serious implications towards security in South Asia and the world at large," he added.

### Covid infects 4040 more people

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has been recording a slow In the last 24 hours, another 53 people have died decline in its daily COVID-19 numbers over the last three days, with 4,040 fresh cases reported Monday morning, National Command and Operation Centre's statistics showed. According to the NCOC's latest stats, the positivity rate fell to 7.54%.

The 4,040 new cases were detected after 53,528 coronavirus tests were taken in the last 24 hours. This pushes the total number of cases to 1,071,620. There is a small downward trend in daily numbers, however, active cases continue to increase with the latest figure recorded at 83,298 cases.

The shipment was formally reand diagnose the coronavirus, enabling the government to adjust ceived at the ceremony by Dr. its strategy to curb the spread of Faisal Sultan, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health, COVID-19," said USAID Mission Director Julie A. Koenen. "This Ministry of National Health Serdonation delivers on President vices, Regulations and Coordina-Biden's promise to stand with tion. In his remarks, Dr. Sultan the people of Pakistan in the fight thanked USAID for their donation against the COVID-19 pandemic." and partnership. He also com-

of COVID-19. Two days ago, Pakistan had recorded 95 deaths from coronavirus, which was the highest single-day toll during the ongoing fourth wave of the pandemic

Some 964,404 patients have so far recovered, whereas the total number of deaths has reached 23,918. Overall, coronavirus cases across Pakistan haven't declined significantly, however, Sindh has lifted its lockdown as of today. Revised COVID-19 restrictions, which will last till August 31, have been announced by the Sindh government. – DNA

> mented that this effort is a true reflection of the mutual friendship between the United States and Pakistan.

The United States has delivered more than \$50 million in COV-ID-19 assistance through our partnership with the Government of Pakistan, including a do-

nation of 200 ventilators to care for COVID-19 patients, personal protective equipment, and pulse oximeters. Since the start of the pandemic, the United States has worked together with Pakistan to improve infection prevention and control, enhance patient care, expand laboratory testing, disease monitoring, and case tracking in all districts, and support frontline healthcare workers.

In July, the U.S. government provided 5.5 million doses of the Moderna vaccine to the Pakistani people from the United States' own vaccine supply.

Separately, the United States has pledged \$4 billion to support COVAX, making the United States the single largest contributor to global COVID-19 vaccine access. Pakistan has received 2.4 million doses of the Astra-Zeneca vaccine since May as part of the COVAX effort.

promote bilateral relations.

Chaudhry Fawad said that

Pakistan highly valued its ties

with Cuba which are based

on mutual trust, respect

,decades old friendship and

understanding of each other's

viewpoint on issues. He said

that Pakistan would welcome

visit of journalists from Cuba

Pakistan to chair Abu Dhabi dialogue for first time

#### KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will chair the upcoming Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD) for the first time since its inception in 2018, said former special assistant to the Prime Minister Syed Zulfi Bukhari on Monday. "It's a privilege for Pakistan

to chair the upcoming Abu Dhabi Dialogue being held later this year for period of next two years," he said in a statement on his official Twitter handle. "This honour comes for 1st time since Dialogue's inception in 2008 from among 18 nations. We thank ADD & all member states, we hope to

chair with fruitful insight." The PTI leader termed the achievement "a huge recognition for Prime Minister Imran Khan's work for overseas labour rights." "Globally, it will help us create a better eco-system for labour rights, empower and ensure the protection of workers and skills up gradation of labour", he added.

Established in 2008, the ADD is a forum for dialogue and cooperation between Asian countries of labour origin and destination. It consists of 12 member states of the Colombo Process (CP), including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, India, China, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

Six Gulf countries of destination are Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

#### Raisi hold talks with French Macron

**TEHRAN:** Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said Monday any talks over Tehran's nuclear programme must ensure Iran's "rights", while his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron urged the Islamic republic to resume negotiations quickly. Raisi also told Macron in the hour-long phone call that Tehran is serious about "maintaining deterrence" in Gulf waters, following accusations from Israel and its allies, mainly the United States, that it was behind a deadly tanker attack off Oman - charges it denied. It was Raisi's first reported call with a Western leader since taking office last week. – APP

ISLAMABAD: Cuban ambassador to Pakistan Zéner Javier Caro González meets Federal Minister for Information Chaudhry Fawad Hussain and discussed issues of mutual interest between the two countries. - DNA

### Fawad for joint Pak-Cuban showbiz ventures

ISLAMABAD: Federal Miniscommunication. He also apter for Information and Broadprised the Ambassador about casting Chaudhry Fawad the Cabinet's approval for Hussain on Monday stressed news exchange agreement the need for joint ventures bebetween Associated Press tween Pakistan and Cuba in of Pakistan (APP) and Latin the realm of film, drama and Press of Cuba and reiterated co-productions. that cooperation in areas of culture and media would help

During a meeting with Cuban Ambassador Zéner Javier Caro González who called on him here, he said that Pakistan has a rich and diverse cultural heritage that needs to be shared with Cuban people and cooperation in the field of joint productions would help in understanding each other's values and norms of the two societies.

to Pakistan as exchange of The minister also undermedia delegations between scored the need to strengththe two countries would proen collaboration between the vide an opportunity to learn from each other's experienctwo countries in the fields of media, information and es and best practices. - APP

#### Firdous barred from entering PA

#### STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Former Special



from entering Punjab Assembly on Monday.

As per details, the former SACM arrived at the assembly to attend the oath taking ceremony of Ahsan Saleem Baryar but was shocked to know that she was not on the list. Firdous Ashiq Awan, who resigned as SACM on information on Friday, less than a year after being appointed to the position, said that she was on the list of guests but her name was removed later. It merits mention that the ruling PTI clinched the PP-38. Sialkot IV, seat by defeating PML-N in what turned out to be a major upset.

### **Probe into Dasu** incident completes

#### **ZUBAIR AHMAD**

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed on Mon day announced that the probe into the Dasu attack has been completed. However, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Shah Mehmood Qureshi will be the one to inform the media about the findings of the probe in detail. The minister was addressing a press conference in Islamabad during which he shed light on several national and inter national issues concerning Pakistan.

He said that Israel and India want to play with Pakistan's peace but the opposition is not willing to understand what is going to happen in the region in the next six months. The minister said that the "entire nation is united on the matter of Kashmir and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)" adding: "we have to thwart the conspiracies of India, Ísrael and Afghanistan's NDS against national security." Rasheed also added that no obstacles in the way of CPEC will be tolerated, he added.

Referring to former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, Rasheed said that he only has two options - either to file for an appeal or seek asylum in any other country.

The minister asserted that Sharif should return to the country immediately since his passport has expired. "Nawaz Sharif makes big claims only when he has authority but other than that, he just flees as soon as he loses power," said Rasheed. Rasheed also expressed his views over 'disintegrations' within the federal government and said that he will keep supporting prime minister Imran Khan and added that he will confront those who want a political war.



### Scholars vow to practice tolerance during Muharram

All religious scholars, ulema, zakareen would jointly foil the attempts of anti state elements to fan communal hatred with full might

#### SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The religious scholars, leadership of various religious organizations and sects in a meeting on Monday announced unanimously not to support, endorse or tolerate any controversial remarks against sacred religious personalities during Muharram.

media briefing, During Representative to Special Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and middle East Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, said the meeting chaired by him, was agreed not only to be careful while handling social media, but also to remain fully vigilant about any miscreants trying to fan differences.

Ashrafi said the participants

agreed to respect each other's religious beliefs besides emphasizing tolerance, humanity and unity of the Ummah and completely avoid humiliating opponents and highlighting the differenc-

es. All religious scholars, ulema , zakareen would jointly foil the attempts of anti state elements to fan communal hatred with full might, he added. Ashrafi said that the upcoming Friday would be ob-

served as Unity Day. He said the forum strongly condemned temple vandalism in Rahim Yar Khan and pledged taking action against the responsible miscreants. He said that the enemy wanted unrest, sectarian ri-

ots in Pakistan. However all such attempts of anti social

elements to spread violence

would be thwarted. The meeting of leading Ulema and religious scholars was organised by Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony to ensure peace and harmony, maintaining law and order and effective implementation of covid-19 standard operating procedure (SOPs) during upcoming Muhar-

ram-ul-Harram. The meeting was attended

by Parliamentary Secretary for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aftab Jahangir, Federal Secretary Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Religious Sardar Ijaz Khan Jaffer, Allama Arif Wahidi, Maulana Chiraguddin Shah, Maulana Tanveer Alvi, Maulana Abu Bakar Hanif Sabri, Maulana Tahir Aqeel Awan, Pir Azmatullah Sultan, Maulana Abdul Qudoos, Allama Akhtar Abbas, Allama Basharat Deputy Commis-Imami. sioner Islamabad Hamza Shafqaat and senior officers of Ministry of Interior and senior officers of National Command and Operation

Centre (NCOC) attended

the meeting.

#### Canada welcomes vaccinated Americans

#### AGENCIES

LACOLLE: American visitors trickled across the Canada-US border on Monday, cheering the reopening of the world's longest land boundary 17 months after all non-essential travel was halted to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus. Ottawa lifted quarantine requirements for US citizens and permanent residents arriving with proof of vaccination.

'It's absolutely wonderful," Vicki Poulin said of the border reopening. "We're just so happy to be here."

The Canadian-born resident of Queensbury, New York, her American husband and their dog Sully used to make the trip to see her extended family in Montreal every month, but have not visited since the border was shuttered in March 2020.

"I was so happy that they opened (the border) because I have a lot of friends in Canada," echoed Richard Antaki, who drove nonstop from New York City to be among the first in line at the Lacolle, Quebec border crossing.

He said he was so eager to reconnect with friends in Montreal that he hasn't seen in more than a year and a half that he "didn't touch the brakes" of his car the entire ride up.

Most travellers interviewed by AFP said their crossings went smoothly. with lineups much shorter than expected.

Pakistan, Ulanbek Totuiaev handing copies of his Credentials to the Chief of Protocol of Ministry Foreign Affairs, Ali Haider Altaf. - DNA

**OIC-IPHRC** team concludes visit to Pakistan, AJK

#### SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) concluded its 5-day visit to Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) . The 12-member IPHRC delegation was led by its Chairperson, Dr. Saeed Al Ghufli. The visit was undertaken in compliance with the mandate provided by the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) to assess the deteriorating human rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The IPHRC an independent expert body of the OIC - has established a Standing Mechanism for that purpose which regularly monitors and reports on the dismal state of human rights in IIOJK.

During its stay in Pakistan,

Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Ali Mahmood. IPHRC

the IPHRC delegation was received by Prime Minister Imran Khan, Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, and the

Amin Khan Gandapur. The delegation also met the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir Affairs headed by Mr. Shehryar Afridi as well as Foreign Secretary Sohail In AJK, the IPHRC delegation called on President

Masood Khan and widely interacted with Kashmiri refugees from IIOJK, leadership of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Kashmiri civil society and media representatives. The delegation also visited the Line of Control (LoC) and met with the victims of ceasefire violations carried out by Indian security forces.

