



Islamabad POST

Friday, August 13, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Iraq keen to forge stronger relationship with Pakistan: Fuad

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FO releases Dassu attack probe findings

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NAB subject to unwarranted criticism

Detailed News On Page-08



Briefs

Politicians violating covid SOPs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Thursday said during last one year, the worst violation of the Covid SOPs came from the politicians. "Two weeks back Bilawal Bhatti Zardari was threatening to hold prime minister and ministers accountable if COVID spreads further in Karachi and now Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) announces holding a 'Jalsa' this month in Karachi! Sadly the worst violations of Covid-19 SOPs in the last one year have come from politicians," he tweeted.

Corrupt elements not to succeed

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Communication Dr Shahbaz Gill on Thursday said that no confidence motion would prove to be another failure of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM). Giving reaction to the statement given by Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, he said the nation was well aware about those corrupt elements who plundered the country under guise of so called Charter of Democracy (CoD). He said those corrupt elements would not succeed to protect their corruption drive by offering each other's.

Durdana Butt passes away

DNA

LAHORE: Senior Pakistani actress Durdana Butt passed away on Thursday, aged 83. According to reports, Butt was put on ventilator previously and has died of COVID-19. Taking to Instagram, actor Khalid Malik shared the news of the actress' passing in a post captioned, "Durdana (dodi) apa has transitioned from this realm back to her Creator." "The wise, the humorous, The insightful Durdana Butt is a special soul now back in His embrace," Malik added.

NDS, RAW behind Dassu terror attack

FM Shah Mahmood Qureshi says the Pak-China All Weather Strategic Partnership would not fall prey to any such planning



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi Thursday revealed that the nexus of NDS and RAW was behind the terrorist attack took place on July 14 in Dassu and that Afghanistan's soil was used for the purpose. "As per our investigation, Afghanistan's soil was used for this incident. We are clearly looking the traces of its planning and executing meeting with the nexus of NDS and RAW. What do they want? Why did the nexus perpetrated it? We think, there are elements which cannot digest Chinese investment in Pakistan as well as growing economic cooperation," the foreign minister told media in a news briefing here. The foreign minister said that the investigation made it clear that the vehicle used in the attack was smuggled from Afghanistan.

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FO releases probe findings

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: In the terrorist attack in Dasu on 14 July 2021, 9 Chinese and 3 Pakistani nationals lost their lives. One more Chinese national succumbed to his injuries later. The two sides have condemned this attack in the strongest possible terms. As committed at the outset, the Pakistan authorities have conducted thorough investigations of the incident and shared the findings with the Chinese side at every stage. The investigations have reached important findings, as follows: i. The network involved in the terrorist attack was supported and facilitated by RAW-NDS nexus in Afghanistan. ii. The Swat chapter of TTP executed the terrorist attack on behalf of Hostile Intelligence Agencies (HIAs). iii. The planning for the terrorist attack was done in Afghanistan, with provision of material support as well. iv. The vehicle used in VBIED attack was brought from Afghanistan to Pakistan.

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COAS to EU envoys: no favorites in Afghanistan

Says Pakistan genuinely wants peace

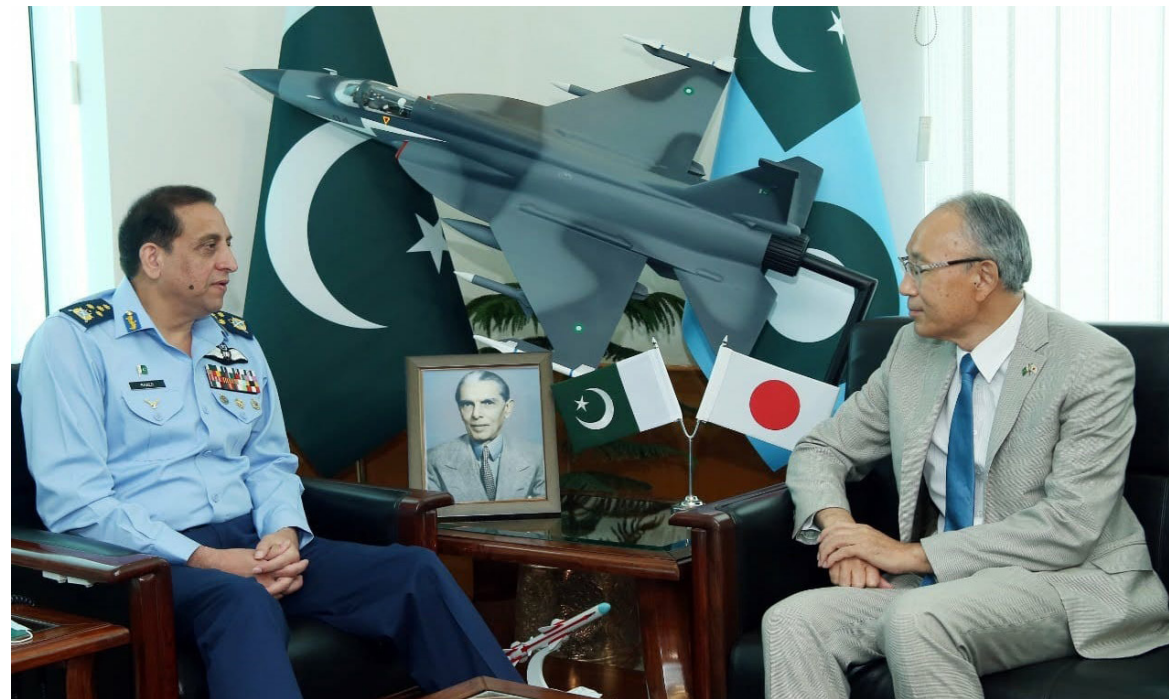


RAWALPINDI: Bernhard Stephan Schlagheck - Ambassador of Germany, Andreas Ferrarese - Ambassador of Italy, Willem Wouter Plomp - Ambassador of Netherlands & Yves Manville, Acting Ambassador of France called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS). - DNA

NEHAL MIRAJ

RAWALPINDI: The Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa has said that Pakistan has no favourites in the ongoing conflict and Pakistan's sole desire is to, "help achieve peace and stability in Afghanistan." He expressed these views while talking to Bernhard Stephan Schlagheck - Ambassador of Germany, Andreas Ferrarese - Ambassador of Italy, Willem Wouter Plomp - Ambassador of Netherlands & Yves Manville, Acting Ambassador of France, who called on him at General Headquarters. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security - including the latest situation in Afghanistan - and bilateral cooperation with the European Union (EU) was discussed. Regarding the developing situation in Afghanistan, COAS stressed that peace

in Afghanistan means peace for Pakistan. Gen Bajwa added that Pakistan values its relationship with the EU countries and earnestly looks forward to enhancing mutually beneficial, multi-domain relations based on common interests. The visiting ambassadors appreciated Pakistan's role in maintaining regional stability of the region and also promised to play their part for further cooperation with Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan, Kuninori MATSUDA calls on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force. - DNA

Japanese envoy lauds PAF

Air Chief briefs Ambassador Matsuda about air force performance

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan, Kuninori MATSUDA called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office on Thursday. The visiting dignitary lauded the professionalism of PAF personnel and the exceptional progress made by PAF over the years, especially through indigenization. The Air Chief highlighted that both countries enjoy cordial relations and reiterated his resolve to further enhance the existing bilateral cooperation between the air forces of the two countries. Various matters of mutual interest and professional cooperation also came under discussion during the meeting.

3 dead in POF explosion

STAFF REPORT

WAH CANTT: Three people were killed while two others sustained injuries after an accidental explosion occurred in one of the plants of the Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF) on Thursday, the ISPR said. Per the military's media wing, the explosion occurred due to a technical fault. The injured have been shifted to a hospital. The ISPR added that the technical emergency response team at the POF - which is a major firearm, defence contractor, and military corporation headquartered in Wah Cantt - has cleared the accidental site and the situation is under control.

Afghanistan govt blaming Pakistan for own failures: PM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Thursday said that the 'kleptocratic' government of Afghanistan had made Pakistan a scapegoat for all its misgovernance done in past years. The Prime Minister expressed these views in an interaction with journalists, here at the PM House. Pakistan would try to bring Taliban and Turkey on table to hold direct talks for securing Kabul International Airport as the U.S. troops are set to exit the conflict-hit country by August 31. "We will be trying the best thing for Turkey and Taliban to have a face-to-face dialogue, so that both could talk about the reasons to secure the Kabul airport," he said. He was responding to a question by a reporter about the government's position after

Continued on Page 06

Taliban captures Ghazni

'Afghan negotiators offer the Taliban a power-sharing deal'

NEWS DESK

KABUL: Taliban fighters captured the city of Ghazni on Thursday, the ninth provincial capital they have seized in a week, as US intelligence said Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, a few hours drive away, could fall to the insurgents within 90 days. The speed of the Taliban advance has sparked widespread recriminations over US President

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan to get \$2.77 billion from IMF

Pakistan had been already working on reform programme to bring stability and sustainability under the IMF programme



ZUBAIR AHMED

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and

Revenue, Shukat Tarin said Thursday that Pakistan would get \$2.77 billion on August 23 from International Monetary Fund's (IMF) general allocations of \$ 650 billion that had been approved to boost global liquidity amid coronavirus pandemic across the globe. Addressing a press conference here, the Finance Minister said that the IMF would directly transfer the amount to

Continued on Page 06

Germany: thousands got saline, not vaccine

MONITORING DESK

BERLIN: Authorities in north Germany have asked more than 8,000 people to get repeat Covid vaccinations because a nurse is suspected of having injected saline instead of vaccine in many cases. Police are investigating the nurse's actions at a vaccination centre in Friesland, near the North Sea coast. Initially just six people were believed to have received the harmless salt solution there in March and April. Many of those affected were aged over 70 - a high-risk group in the pandemic. Inspector Peter Beer, quoted by Süddeutsche Zeitung, said the 40-year-old woman had been sharing "corona-critical information" on social media.

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Will the govt complete its five year tenure?

OPINION

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI



THE opposition parties that gathered on August 11, under the banner of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) resolved to give tough time to the government especially on the issues of the so-called electronic voting system. The govt, few days ago, unveiled Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) to be used in the next general elections. The opposition has unanimously rejected this idea arguing the govt has introduced yet another method of manipulating the elections. The opposition smells something fishy behind this idea as, according to it, the government did not take it into confidence on this particular issue. The PDM is of the view the EVMs experience may not be successful in Pakistan until and unless they are tested and tried

"From the face of it, it appears as if Prime Minister Imran Khan may break this tradition, yet those close to power corridors still believe the tradition will not be broken. They say it is likely that the fresh elections are called before the end of the tenure of this government"

thoroughly. In last elections, according to the opposition, the powers that-be managed rigging through RTS, which at the eleventh hour went out of order and thus results were delayed abnormally. Now after that system stands fully exposed, the government now wants to try another one, the PDM believes. The govt must have taken on board all the electoral parties before introducing the EVMs because they are the stakeholders and thus they have every right to be part of a system that relates to the election process. The one sided approach perhaps has cast doubts. The govt says it wants to ensure that the next elections are flawless and held in a transparent manner. So, if that is the case then why not to take the opposition on board? On the other hand, opposition parties are

still groping in the dark when it comes to evolving a joint strategy against the government. At one point in time it became evident that the opposition may send the govt packing however after some manipulations and lucrative offers, the PPP - the main party in the PDM, torpedoes these efforts as it chose to dance to the tune of govt wishes. Thus PDM was rendered ineffective. The August 11 meeting sought to instill a new spirit into the PDM as PML N President Shehbaz Sharif re-surfaced on the scene. PML N, during past few months, has witnessed some internal rifts mainly because Shehbaz Sharif is not willing to move ahead in the light Nawaz Sharif philosophy. The latter believes in a head-on collision with the establishment while Shehbaz holds a diametrically different view on this issue.

He believes, PML N can grow faster while being in good terms with the establishment, which, in the given scenario, seems to be a logical approach. In one of his recent interviews Shehbaz Sharif openly admitted that in 2018 PML N could have come to power if it would have reached an understanding with the establishment. This is true to a great extent. Shehbaz Sharif as Prime Minister is accepted to all stakeholders. There was a risk in introducing Imran Khan and his team because of their being new in the field. However, when there was no deal with the PML N, PTI had to be elevated. The top PML N leadership is worried these days as it knows this tug-of-war within the party will lead them nowhere. Next year shall be the election year and still they have not been able to

grapple with the internal differences. They genuinely believe, if they go to polls with a party that is badly fragmented and disjointed, it would simply allow PTI and others to beat them easily. Unlike, the PML N supreme leader Nawaz Sharif is said to have told Shehbaz that the establishment was setting him up in order to fracture the party. Sources say, Nawaz told his younger brother that offers of prime minister ship to him were nothing but bait. Once the party stands fractured, such offers shall also be withdrawn and he will be left in the lurch. All said and done, one thing is for sure that the government is not going anywhere for another year. But Pakistan's history suggests that no prime minister has completed five year term. From the face of it, it appears as if Prime Minister Imran Khan may break this tradition, yet those close to power corridors still believe the tradition will not be broken. They say it is likely that the fresh elections are called before the end of the tenure of this government, maybe six months earlier, so if it happens the government and prime minister will not complete five years!!

Briefs

40 'criminals' held, drugs seized

DNA

FAISALABAD: Police Thursday arrested 40 alleged criminals and recovered drugs and illegal weapons from them. According to police, raiding teams nabbed five proclaimed offenders and 18 drug pushers and recovered 4.5-kg hashish, 0.3-kg heroin and 280 litres of liquor from them. The police also held 11 gamblers with stake money of Rs 6,980.

In a crackdown on illegal weapons, police arrested six persons and recovered five pistols, one repeater and a number of bullets from them.

Woman killed in road accident

A woman was killed while her relative sustained injuries in a road accident here on Thursday. According to police, the incident took place near Misaq-ul-Mall Nishatabad when a rashly driven truck hit a motorcycle. As a result, Noor Bibi died on the spot while her relative Muhammad Zaman sustained serious injuries. Area police reached the spot and shifted the body and injured to Allied hospital.

Use of pressure horns banned on August 14

PESHAWAR: Commissioner Peshawar Division, Riaz Khan Mahsud has ordered ban on use of pressure horns and motorbikes with ruptured silencers by youngsters on the occasion of Independence Day celebrations on August 14.

The decision was taken to restrict such elements from public annoyance by creating nuisance through use of pressure horns and bursted silencers, said a statement issued here Thursday.

The Commissioner Peshawar while ordering enforcement of Section 144, has also directed Police to act in accordance with Section 188 against such elements and those violating the ban. He warned that those who violated the ban on August 14 and caused public boisteration would be dealt accordingly by facing action from administration. — APP

UAF to plant more than 20,000 saplings

DNA

FAISALABAD: The University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) will plant more than 20,000 saplings during the current plantation season whereas 60 percent of the set target has already been achieved, said University of Agriculture Faisalabad Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan.

He was addressing a plantation ceremony arranged by Estate Management and Department of Forestry UAF under the PM Clean and Green Pakistan campaign. The Vice Chancellor praised the steps of the government of Clean and Green Pakistan in order to mitigate climate change impact that will help battle ecological crisis.

He said that massive plantation at the national level will prove to be a milestone to fight the climate changes, health, and other related issues. He said, "Increasing temperatures, floods, and irregular rain patterns are vital signs showing that we have fallen prey to climate change." He added that the heavy chunking of smoke from factories and vehicles and other factors have disturbed the climate.

He said that in the recent past, different eminent personalities including Sania Nishtar, the Special Assistant to Prime Minister and Hussain Jahania Gerdezi, Punjab Agriculture Minister also kicked off plantation drive at UAF and motivated the campus community to actively participate for the noble cause.

Principal Officer Estate Management Prof Dr Qamar Bilal said that the all possible measures are being taken on the part of the UAF to promote the plantation drive and for the beautification of the campus. He said that during last year, the UAF planted thousands of saplings with more than 85 percent of survival rate.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan. — DNA

Clerics urged to disseminate message of cleanliness

FDA Chairman Ch Latif Nazar welcomed the participants and said the love with the Pakistan is required to make it clear and green and the clerics can play their key role to achieve the great objective of cleanliness of the city and Pakistan

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Religious leaders and Clerics have been appealed to disseminate the message of keep cleanliness and plantation through their sermons of Juma congregations for raising the awareness among the society in this regard. An event was held here at Metropolitan Municipal Corporation Hall in which a large number of prayer leaders and clerics were participated. Chairman Faisalabad Development Authority Ch Latif Nazar was the chief guest on this occasion. Managing Director WASA Jabbar Anwar, General Manager Operation Faisalabad Waste Management Company Col Ahammad Gill, Director PHA Abdullah Nisar, Trader leader Khawaja Shahid Razaq Sikka and other officers were also present in the event.

Addressing the moot, FDA Chairman Ch Latif Nazar welcomed the participants and said the love with the Pakistan is required to make



FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Development Authority Chairman Ch Latif Nazar addresses the gathering of religious leaders and clerics. — DNA

it clear and green and the clerics can play their key role to achieve the great objective of cleanliness of the city and Pakistan.

He said that the Ulama karam were the influential segment of the so-

ciety and people were following their education and message. He said that the society can save from the different epidemic diseases by providing clean air and pollution free environment which

can only be possible through making massive tree plantation and keeping quality cleanliness of the surroundings. He said that being Islamic society there should be seen practical exercise of the

golden principle of cleanliness is half faith. He informed that the volunteers would distribute saplings outside the masjid on the occasion of Juma congregations and citizens should get the saplings for growing them on available sites.

MD WASA Jabbar Anwar emphasised upon setting up septic tanks and under ground water tanks at masjid to avoid the choke of sewerage system and short of water. He said public cooperation is vital to keep the sanitation system intact. General Manager operation Col Ahammad Gill and Director PHA Abdullah Nisar also spoke on the occasion. Trader leader Shahid Razaq Sikka assured his cooperation and said that trees would be donated by the traders community. Mufti Abdul Rehman, Qari Ubaidur Rehman, Najeebullah Tariq and other speakers highlighted the significance and importance of cleanliness and tree plantation under Islamic education. They said that all out cooperation would be extended to create awareness among public in this regard.

Iraq urged to issue 15-day visa to Pakistani religious tourists

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sahibzada Noor-ul-Haq Qadri on Thursday urged Iraqi au-

thorities to issue at least 15 day religious tourist visa to Pakistani pilgrims instead of only seven days visa. Talking to a high level delegation led by Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Fuad Hussein, the minister

urged devising strategy to facilitate religious tourists by issuing individual and group visas. The minister also demanded the facility of direct flights to Najaf and Baghdad from different cities of the country.

He said Pakistani people has historical, religious, spiritual relations with the people of Iraq.

In the meeting, the dignitaries discussed early completion of Ziarat directorate in Iraq and completion of Pakistan House in Karbala for facilitation of Pakistani religious tourists. The minister said the relations of both countries have further strengthened in last three years.

The delegation comprising Iraqi Foreign Minister Fawad Hussein, Iraqi Ambassador to Pakistan Hamid Abbas Lafta, Deputy Head of Mission Iraq Mahmoud Khalid and Suleiman Khalid, Parliamentary Secretary ministry of religious affairs and interfaith harmony Aftab Jehangir, Federal Secretary for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sardar Ijab Khan Jaffar, Pakistan ambassador in Iraq Ahmed Amjad Ali and other officers were present in the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony, Pir Noor ul Haq Qadri receives Iraqi delegation leading by Foreign Minister Iraq, Fuad Hussein at the Ministry. — DNA



Certificates distributed among FWMC workers

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Under the arrangements of Faisalabad Waste Management Company certificates of appreciation were distributed among the waste workers, supervisors, inspectors and management who participated in the successful cleaning operation on Eid-ul-Adha. DC Muhammad Ali was the chief guest on the occasion. CEO Kashif Raza Awan, Senior Manager Colonel Emad Iqbal Gill, Manager Operations Ijaz Bandisha, Communication Officer Mu-teeb Work and other officers

were also present. Deputy Commissioner said that the waste workers and officers sacrificed their happiness on Eid-ul-Adha and gave a clean environment to the citizens, the performance of which was commendable. He said that waste workers are our asset and a function was organized to encourage them and their facilities would be taken care of in future also. He declared honorarium of 10 days for waste workers. CEO Waste Management Company Presented Shield of Honor to DC Muhammad Ali and thanked him for the participating event.

Kisan card to provide direct subsidy for 8.4mn farmers

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam on Wednesday said that government has launched Kisan Card Scheme to provide direct subsidy to 8.4 million farmers across the country.

Addressing the 6th meeting of ministers of SCO member states on agriculture issues, Imam said that under Prime Minister Imran Khan's leadership agriculture has been given utmost importance.

He said that the current government aims to transform the agriculture sector through mechanization and research, adding that it was also intended to eliminate the role of middleman and directly benefit the end farmer. Fakhar said that the PM envisages to double the income of the farmers that contribute approximately 19 percent to the GDP of the country.

Pakistan is one of the most ad-

versely affected country in the world due to climate change, he said adding that the pattern of rainfall has significantly changed which has drastically affected the agriculture output of the country. He said that due

to irregular rainfall two million cotton bales were destroyed in Sindh. The minister said that the current government has been extremely successful in thwarting the menace of locust and Covid 19.

He said that the government aims to improve the on-farm water management through techniques such as sprinklers and drip irrigation system so that utilization of limited water resources can be maximized.

He urged the members to further increase cooperation and exchange in agricultural research so that Pakistan can transform their agricultural sector to the likes of the developed countries. — APP



Watch program on cards for surveillance purpose

DNA

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police would soon launch 'Neighborhood Watch' program for effective monitoring of suspicious activities within society through active support of people.

Under the program, various tiers would setup within the community to keep close eye on presence of suspicious elements and their activities and timely report to Police for action.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General of Police (IGP) Moazzam Jah Ansari said that close liaison between police and public was key to maintain law and order situation and eliminating anti-social elements from the society. The IGP said that it was our collective responsibility to keep close eye on miscreants in the society. A neighborhood watch program was a group of people living in the same area who wanted to make their neighborhood safer by working together and in conjunction with local law enforcement to reduce crime and report suspicious activities in their neighbourhood for quick action.

Distt admin gears up crackdown on Corona SOPs violators

PESHAWAR: On the special directives of Commissioner Peshawar, district administration has accelerated crackdown on the violators of Corona preventive standard operating procedures (SOPs) and sealed more business centers and arrested shopkeepers and managers on Thursday.

The officers of district administration visited various bazaars during day and night and inspected various business centers and on violation of SOPs sealed Seven Star Mega Mall (Warsak Road) and Toray Kabab House. Similarly, the officers also sealed 21 shops and arrested their owners.

Similarly, the officers of district administration also inspected the status of the implementation of Corona SOPs in bus stations within their areas of jurisdiction. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Peshawar, Khalid Mahmood has said on the directives of Commissioner Peshawar Division a crackdown was in progress in the district and urged people to show adherence to the SOPs and mandatory use of safety masks. He has also urged upon the drivers to implement official Corona SOPs while boarding commuters and extend cooperation to administration to arrest the spread of coronavirus. — APP

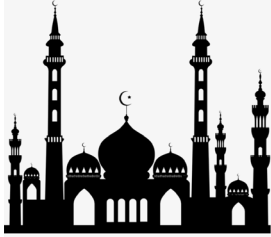
Over 1.4m people vaccinated in Faisalabad

DNA

FAISALABAD: As many as 1,421,790 people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in Faisalabad district. District Health Officer Dr. Ataul Mun'im said on Thursday that 1,149,401 citizens had been given the first dose while 225,365 were administered the second dose of vaccine. He further said that 28,387 health workers were also given the first dose while 18,637 received the second dose of vaccine. He said that sufficient stock of anti-coronavirus vaccine was available in the district.

He said that 37 vaccination centers and 20 mobile vaccination camps were operational in Faisalabad where registered persons were getting anti-coronavirus vaccine doses. To facilitate the people these centers had been established in various areas of the city including Allied Hospital, District Headquarters Hospital, Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology, Government General Hospital Samanabad, Children Hospital, Sports Complex Samanabad, Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Jaranwala, Samundri, Tandianwala, Chak Jhumra, he added. He further said that timing of these vaccination centers was 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. except Sports Complex Samanabad center which would remain open round the clock.

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	03:56 am
Zohr.....	12:13 pm
Asr.....	05:00 pm
Maghrib.....	06:58 pm
Isha.....	08:29 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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Emergency

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

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



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



Complaints

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....	9209224
Potohar Town.....	9209224
Rawal Town.....	5773343

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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President urges varsities to promote healthy activities

President regrets the commercialization of educational institutions in the country has marred the environment that once used to be their hallmark, where the focus was laid on both academic and co-curricular activities along with character-building of students

SHUJAAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Thursday stressed the need for universities in the country to emerge as 'centres of excellence' to side by side hone talent of their students in academic and co-curricular domains.

Addressing at the launch of 'Sports and Co-curricular Activities Division' under the Kamyab Jawan programme at the Higher Education Commission (HEC) in connection with International Youth Day, the President said promoting healthy activities through sports was fundamental to the physical and social development of youth.

With a cost of Rs 3,969 million, the HEC will execute five projects of Kamyab Jawan, namely Kamyab Jawan PM's Youth programme, establishment of Sports academics (high-performance and resource centres) and Youth Olympics, Talent Hunt Youth Sports League, Green Youth Movement and Innovative League. President Alvi said Pakistan's talented youth could



excel in all fields of life if provided with the right platform to showcase their skills.

He regretted that the commercialization of educational institutions in the country had marred the

environment that once used to be their hallmark, where the focus was laid on both academic and co-curricular activities along with character-building of students.

In the past, he said, the schools,

colleges and universities with their rich traditions produced several national heroes in sports, who brought laurels to the country.

He lauded the performance of the two Pakistani athletes, who

had a near-miss at the recent Tokyo Olympics, and said a proper infrastructure was key to prepare best stuff for the future sporting events.

The president urged the HEC to remain cognizant of the scope of jobs as per the market requirements and formulate the course outline accordingly.

Without planning, he said, the graduates and Ph.Ds. could face severe crisis of unemployment. The president mentioned that China's emphasis on education and health sectors helped it overcoming the big challenge of poverty and rising as a strong nation.

He said the government of Prime Minister Imran Khan was also focusing on the uplift of all segments of society through projects such as Kamyab Jawan and Ehsaas, to mainstream them in national development.

The president lauded Education Minister Shafiqat Mehmood, who despite the limitations of the Constitution's 18th amendment, was successfully pursuing the government's agenda of uniform syllabus.

37 shops, 4 snooker clubs sealed on SOPs violation

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi District Administration on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Aamir Aqib Khan has sealed 37 shops, four snooker clubs and arrested 11 on violation of corona Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by the Punjab government.

According to a district administration spokesman, the administration under the supervision of DC conducted raids in different markets and imposed fines amounting to Rs 171,000 on restaurants and shops for violating the orders of the government.

He informed that City Traffic Police (CTP) and Regional Transport Authority also

penalized the transporters with Rs 303,600 fines. CTP issued 1116 challan slips to different vehicles worth Rs 280,100 while 721 bikers were challaned and imposed Rs 144,200 fine.

308 challan slips were issued to private cars with Rs 92,400 fines while 87 Public Service Vehicles were imposed Rs 43,500 fines for violating the rules. Assistant Commissioner City, Rawalpindi Waqas Sikandari sealed 17 including 13 shops and four snooker clubs. AC Kahuta Yasir Rizwan sealed seven shops.

17 shops were also sealed at Murree Road Rawalpindi while 11 violators were sent behind the bars during the operation launched to ensure implementation of SOPs.



RAWALPINDI: Pakistan is committed to play its role for peace and stability in the region says Ms. Zobia Jalal, while meeting Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussain in Rawalpindi. - DNA

COMSTECH workshop on gene bank management



Organization of Islamic Cooperation Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH organized training workshop on "Acquisition, Conservation, Exchange, and Safety Duplication of Plant Genetic Resources" in OIC Member Countries - Africa Chapter". It was organized online by COMSTECH in partnership with the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), Kazakhstan, and the Bio-resources Conservation Institute (BCI) of Pakistan Agricultural Research Centre (PARC), Islamabad.

The Coordinator General of COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary and the Director General of IOFS, Mr. Yerlan A. Baidaulet addressed the opening session of the workshop and

described the commitment of their respective organizations to ensure the capacity of African member states of OIC to manage and develop their plant genetic material using gene banks.

Both the heads stressed the importance of developing and maintaining cooperation and sharing technical expertise and genetic material among member states. Addressing the crucial issue of providing food security in the face of booming populations and looming climate change scenarios, COMSTECH is organizing a series of international regional training webinars on the preservation and expansion of national plant genetic resources.

The objectives of this series of webinars are to build the capacity of OIC

member countries in maintenance and operations of gene banks - collection of genetic materials, conservation, germplasm exchange policies - and familiarize the participants with international and national laws and policies on the subject.

The webinars also seek to enhance networking among gene banks from different countries, as effective international collaboration will help preserve biodiversity and ensure long-term agricultural sustainability and food security worldwide.

Resource persons represent the extensive experience and knowledge of the gene banks and research institutions of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Tunisia, Turkey, and UAE.

'PM Imran Khan broke the status quo'

DNA

RAWALPINDI: PTI and its leader Imran Khan shattered the butt of traditional Pakistani politics and broke the political domination from generation to generation. For the first time in the country, projects like Health Justice Card, Uniform Education System, and Sponsorship Program for Poor Families and Low Cost Housing for the Poor Launched. Constituency Seven is the most important constituency in cantt Board where there are numerous problems due to the rapidly growing population. This was stated by Ward 7 candidate Lalzada Khan while talking to Islamabad Post and later addressing the inauguration ceremony of Central Election Office. Clean drinking water, dirt-free area, cantt Board Dispensary and Girls' School are my priorities.

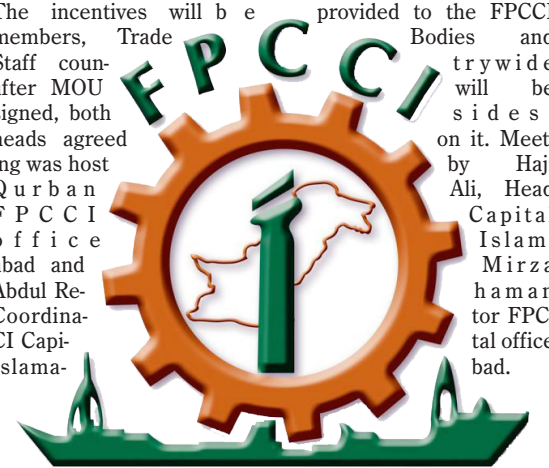
FPCCI, Careem to sign MoU for mutual co-op

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Careem corporate sales team led by Miss Sana Shakeel had meeting with FPCCI Office Bearers in FPCCI Capital office Islamabad. Careem team and FPCCI discussed mutual benefit matters in the meeting, how FPCCI members (chambers and associations) will be beneficiary in near future from Careem and what flat rate instead of using Peak Factors will be provided to FPCCI, and as agreements were done with PTCL how technical facilitation will be provided to FPCCI as well.

Careem corporate sales team and FPCCI had very fruitful meeting and have discussed mutual interest's issues in meeting as well.

The incentives will be provided to the FPCCI members, Trade Bodies and Staff counter after MOU signed, both heads agreed on it. Meeting was hosted by Qurban F P C C I office abad and Abdul Re-Cordinaci Cap-Islama-



IGP Islamabad meets news editors

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Inspector-General of police (IGP) Islamabad, Qazi Jamil Ur Rehman Thursday met with news editors to discuss law and order situation in the federal capital.

SSP Operations Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanweer gave a detailed briefing to the delegation over police performance and steps being taken by the department to reduce crime in the city, a news release said.

He said police have arrested several drug-peddlers as a massive crackdown underway in that regard. The news-editors lauded the efforts of police to curb the menace from the society and gave suggestions to improve performance of the department. They assured the police of their best cooperation in highlighting the impact of drugs on society. DIG (Operations) Afzaal Ahmed Kausar, DIG (Headquarters) Kamran Adil and other officers of capital police were also present on the occasion.

PTA kicks off monsoon plantation drive

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) on Thursday organized a tree plantation drive at its headquarters here on Thursday. In line with the Prime Minister's vision of Clean and Green Pakistan. Chairman PTA, Major General Amir Azeem Bajwa (R) inaugurated the eco-friendly drive by planting a sapling along with Members of the Authority.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman said that trees are an invaluable asset of a country and for future generations. He encouraged PTA officers and officials to participate in the monsoon tree plantation drive and extend its scope to their neighborhoods to increase green cover.

Strict security on Ashura demanded

RAWALPINDI: Recalling the tragedy suffered by local traders of Madina Market and Al-Umer plaza in 2013 on Ashura day in Raja Bazar, President Markazi Anjumam Tarjan Punjab Sharjeel Mir urged the Interior ministries of federal and provincial governments and heads of law enforcing agencies to take stringent security measures for ensuring peace and security in the city from 1st to 10th Muharram.

Talking to APP, Mir said the city administration must take extraordinary measures by intensifying snap checking and patrolling, effective monitoring of city's entry and exit points, deployment of the additional police force and Rangers, installation and repair of CCTV cameras and other security steps so that all processions and other religious activities conclude peacefully.

"We cannot afford any further loss of life and property, it takes years to recover and restore businesses which were put on fire by the angry mob on November 15, in 2013? He said. He called for taking the business community into confidence regarding the security plan devised for various routes of Muharram processions so that shopkeepers/ traders could adhere to the security plan and schedule their business activities accordingly.

When contacted, the City Police Officer Muhammad Ahsan Younas assured that foolproof security arrangements were being made to provide security to mourners as well as traders to feel a sense of security. He said around 6000 to 8000 security personnel would perform their duties to ensure law and order during the holy month while the district administration had imposed a ban on entry of 38 fiery ulemas and Zakarian's in Rawalpindi district. - APP

ICCI for plantation to contribute in clean, green Pak

ICCI is the first Chamber to launch a Go Green Drive last year under which hundreds and thousands of trees were planted in ICT and this year more trees would be planted in the federal capital including markets and industrial areas

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry kicked off a tree plantation drive by planting a sapling in the premises of ICCI to support the Prime Minister's initiative of clean and green Pakistan. Fatma Azim Senior Vice President, Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI, Khalid Chaudhry, Malik Mohsin Khalid, and Zia Chaudhry were also present at the occasion.

Speaking at the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that ICCI was the first Chamber of the country to launch a Go Green Drive last year under which hundreds and thousands of trees were planted in Islamabad and this year more trees would be planted in the federal capital including markets and industrial areas. He said that Prime Minis-



ter Imran Khan had set a target of planting 10 billion trees in five years and launching a tree plantation drive from ICCI was part of the initiatives to support the PM's mission of a clean and green Pakistan.

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan called upon the business community to take active part in this noble campaign and plant maximum tree plants in Islamabad to make its environment healthier and green. He said that proper care should be taken of planted trees as the survival rate of plants was almost 50 percent due to various factors including damage to the plants by animals and termites.

ICCI President also appealed to other organizations and the members of civil society to become part of the tree plantation campaign and contribute their share by planting maximum saplings that would go a long way in making Islamabad a green and beautiful city of the country.

Briefs

Physical remand of accused extends

ISLAMABAD: An Accountability Court (AC) on Thursday extended the physical remand of ex-CDA's chief Farkhand Iqbal till August 20, in matter of illegal land allotment to Asif Ali Zardari's alleged front company Park Lane. The accused was produced before the court of AC-I Judge Muhammad Bashir by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). The NAB apprised the court regarding the investigation progress from the accused and request for his more physical remand. Farkhand Iqbal was accused of allotting 118 kanal land to former president Asif Ali Zardari's alleged front company Park Lane in 2012. Meanwhile, AC-II Judge Muhammad Azam Khan adjourned Thatha Water Supply reference till September 9, against former president Asif Ali Zardari and others. The defence lawyers couldn't complete their cross examination with witness Nadeem Ahmed during the hearing. The court also granted one-day exemption from hearing to Asif Ali Zardari on his lawyer's request. — APP

CJP urges prompt relief to aggrieved

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) on Thursday said that bench and bar should work hard for dispensation of justice so aggrieved parties could get prompt relief. He expressed these views while meeting a 12 member delegation of Executive Council of High Court Bar Association (HCBA) Peshawar, headed by its President Bahlool Khattak and comprising officials. Chief Justice welcomed the delegation and said that Bench and Bar were integral part of same system, therefore both should work hard for dispensation of justice. The delegation thanked the Chief Justice for sparing time for them and discussed the issues faced by them in dispensation of justice. They requested the Chief Justice for permanent bench of Supreme Court Registry at Peshawar and increase in number of Judges in Peshawar High Court, Peshawar, and construction of model bar rooms, availability of books, computers and e-library connections. CJP assured to discuss the issues at relevant forum to resolve them and expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the delegation.

ALGC resolve 98 complaints

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Anti-land grabbing committee (ALGC) of Islamabad Police has successfully resolved 98 complaints, said a news release issued on Thursday. The committee received 110 complaints from February to August out of which 98 were disposed of. Cases were registered against 22 complaints while 31 were settled through agreements among the contesting parties. Police were directed for prompt action on 9 complaints and 26 complaints were termed of civil nature. The remaining 12 applications were being reviewed by the committee and decisions on them would be taken soon.

Bike lifter arrested

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

Co-op for B2B link between Kazakhstan-Pakistan urged

Following the meeting, the parties agreed to organize relevant negotiations between the Kazakh and Pakistani interested bodies in an online format

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin visited the Pakistan Stock Exchange Limited and held a meeting with its Chairman Zahid Latif Khan, which was also attended by the head of the company INFOTECH Mr. Naseer A. Akhtar. During the conversation, issues of establishing cooperation between the financial institutions of the two countries were discussed. In particular, the head of the stock exchange expressed interest in establishing direct ties with the Kazakhstan Stock Exchange and the «Astana» International Financial Center. In addition, the issues of building up relations in the B2B format between the business circles of Kazakhstan and Pakistan were discussed, the parties noted the significant potential for the imple-



mentation of joint projects. Along with the above, the need to study the possibility of strengthening ties in the IT field

related to the digitalization of the business environment was noted. In turn, N. Akhtar noted the interest of the Pakistani side

in developing a dialogue with the authorized agencies of Kazakhstan in this direction. Following the meeting, the parties

agreed to organize relevant negotiations between the Kazakh and Pakistani interested bodies in an online format.



RAWALPINDI: Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed inaugurates new COVID-19 Ward at Holy Family Hospital. — APP

Webinar on impacts of climate crisis held

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP), Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a Webinar titled «Strategies for Mitigating Impacts of Climate Crisis», on August 12, 2021. Mr. Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, Climate Change and water expert was the keynote speaker on the occasion. Other speakers for the webinar included Mr. Ashfaq Mehmood, former Federal Secretary, Water and Power, Government of Pakistan; Dr. Gulfaraz Ahmad, former Federal Secretary, Petroleum and Natural Resources, Government of Pakistan; Dr. Arjumand Nizami, Country Director, Helvetas, Pakistan and Ambassador Shafiq Kakakhel, Chairperson BoG, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). The Talk was moderated by Mr. Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC & CSP at the ISSI. Mr. Ali Tauqeer Sheikh said that the world has passed beyond the linear changes of Climate Change, and moving towards abrupt system changes. Monsoon patterns are changing with increased precipitation in South Asia. In Pakistan heat waves, droughts and flash floods can be associated with Climate Change. Pakistan is not a big emitter but has increased its emissions

by more than 300% in the last two decades. Improving economic growth through green growth policies will benefit the country. Earlier in his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, said that there is a need to raise awareness among the country's policymakers that Climate Change is an existential threat and needs appropriate action to deal with the vulnerabilities arising out of it. Malik Qasim Mustafa in his introductory remarks said that countries like Pakistan are among the top 10 countries, which are suffering from the Climate Change phenomenon. According to the latest IPCC report, «Climate change is widespread, rapid and intensifying.» The Climate Change threat is real now and Pakistan needs to work and develop strategies to reduce and mitigate the impact of the climate crisis. Mr. Ashfaq Mehmood said that Pakistan is already in a crisis regarding water availability. Pakistan is approaching water scarcity. Pakistan is an arid country with an average rainfall of 250mm rain per annum in 70 per cent of the area. Pakistan needs to build to store water, as it will be available for a shorter period. Water pricing is also needed for the efficient use of water.

IIUI inaugurates dialogue room

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prof. Zafar Ishaq Ansari conference and dialogue room endowed by the Iqbal International Institute for Research and Dialogue (IRD) was inaugurated here at the Faculty of Usulludin (Islamic Studies) of International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI). Professor Emeritus Zafar Ishaq Ansari was a renowned Islamic scholar who is known for his scholarly contributions. He also served as President and Vice President of the university. In addition, he also served as Director General of the Shariah Academy and Islamic Research Institute of IIU. The inauguration ceremony was joined by Dr. Masoom Yasinza, Rector IIUI, Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, President, IIUI, Syed Ahmed Abu Akif, and former Federal Secretary Cabinet Division who represented the family of Dr. Zafar Ishaq Ansari. It was also attended by Dr. Ahmed Shuja Syed, Vice President HS&R, Dr. Taj Afzar, Dean Faculty of Usulludin, Dr. Husnul Amin, Executive Director IRD, HoDs and faculty members and scholar of IRD. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Masoom Yasinza said that keeping the legacy alive is a surety to success and excellence.

IG NHMP for ensuring safety on motorways

Kaleem Imam addresses the audience about the importance of road safety and emphasized on shared responsibility of community

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Highways Motorway police conducted Seminar at Foundation University Islamabad on the topic (Road Safety is shared responsibility of community and State). Focal person senior patrol officer Atif Ghafoor Bhatti reported that Inspector General of Police Dr. Syed Kaleem Imam addressed the audience and highlighted the importance of road safety and emphasized on shared responsibility of community along with state to ensure traffic safety on Highways and Motorways.



Laptop distribution ceremony held at PMAS

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A laptop distribution ceremony of Scotland scholarships for young girls through British Council was held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS), here on Thursday. Vice Chancellor PMAS Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman was the chief guest while Deans, Directors and a large number of students also attended the ceremony. Addressing the ceremony, Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman said that girls' education was imperative for the growth of the society as educated women could play significant role in the development of a society by practicing the learned knowledge in every aspect of life. Appreciating the British Council for providing scholarships, he congratulated the female students and emphasized on the role of women empowerment. Earlier, Director Financial Assistance PMAS Chaudhry Waqas Ahmed shared with participants that the collaboration between British Council and PMAS played a vital role to facilitate maximum number of female students from developing areas. He further elaborated the eligibility criteria and selection process of British Council Scholarship and shared that five million rupees had been distributed among female students of PMAS. Ms. Sara Parvez, Head of Higher Education and Skills at British Council, Pakistan informed about the ongoing scholarship schemes offered by British Council. She also applauded the cooperation and efforts of the Directorate of Financial Assistance for providing timely financial assistance to female students for continuation of their studies.

M. Javaid appointed as Collector

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) appointed Ch. Muhammad Javaid, a BS-20 officer of Pakistan Custom Services (PCS) as Collector, Collectorate of Customs, Gawadar. According to FBR notification issued here Thursday, he relinquished the charge of the post Chief, FBR (HQ), Islamabad and assumed the charge of the post.FBR also notified that Feroze Alam Junejo, a PCS/BS-20 officer has assumed the charge of the post Director (OPS), Directorate of Post Clearance Audit (North), Islamabad. FBR notified that Zahra haider, a PCS/BS-19 officer has assumed the charge of the post Director (OPS), Directorate of Law and Prosecution, Lahore.

PAC examines audit report of PWD

ISLAMABAD: The meeting of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Thursday held here at Parliament House under the chairmanship of MNA Rana Tanveer Hussain. The committee examined the audit report for the year 2019-20 of Pakistan Public Works Department, Ministry of Housing and Works maximum 10 highlighted audit paras in order of highest amount involved therein. The committee also examined the audit report for the year 2018-19 of federal government employees housing authority. On the directives of PAC, an inquiry was conducted regarding Messr Chahat Food Industry and Usman Trade Linkers Multan. Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) officials informed the committee that notice was issued to Chahat Foods on the occasion of evasion of crores of rupees in income tax and sales tax by selling oil in the market without establishing any industry. After which Chahat food approached court and now the matter was in a court. Chairman of the committee said that those involved in this corruption also tried to pressurize him. He recommended further investigation into the matter. — APP

PRCS celebrates International Youth Day

Abrar ul Haq urges youth to play their role for equitable food system, promotion of healthcare and hygiene through their education, skills, innovation and entrepreneurial solutions

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The issues and priorities keeping in view the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly demands actions & measures to bring improvement in our health, environment and food systems, youth should have to work together towards this end and to promote health care and hygiene culture across the country through their education, skills, innovation and entrepreneurial solutions, this was stated by Chairman PRCS Abrar ul Haq while addressing the volunteers countrywide in a webinar held in connection with International Youth Day at PRCS, National Headquar-

ters here today. More than 5000 youth & volunteers from different districts of Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Merged Areas (FATA), Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Federal Capital Islamabad attended the webinar. PRCS Secretary General Dr. Adeel Nawaz, officers were also present on the occasion. International Youth Day is celebrated on 12th August throughout the world every year. The theme of International Youth Day 2021, «Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health», highlights the success of such a global effort will not be achieved without the meaningful participation

of young people. Addressing the participants of webinar, Abrar ul Haq said PRCS volunteers have strong acceptance in the communities, they are Agents of Behavior Change and they have always played an effective and efficient role in changing the minds of people during awareness

campaigns, thereby promoting a culture of peace, tolerance and non-violence through community watch. Abrar ul Haq said the COVID-19 pandemic affected millions of people worldwide and caused disruptions at the global level including in healthcare provision and food system. He said that

the current generation of youth is the largest in history and young people often comprise the majority in countries marked by armed conflict, unrest and climate change, therefore youth can play important role in deterring and resolving conflicts and are key constituents in ensuring the success of both peacekeeping and peace building efforts.

Chairman PRCS said the unique idea of «Muhafiz Force», comprising trained volunteers, did well and its actuation benefitted 96,000 households across the country, provided food and health advice to more than 600,000 people. «PRCS» volunteers collected food from philanthropists and affording communities and passed it on to

the poor families, the idea was appreciated by the US media and declared it as the most workable solution to the subject», he added. He directed PRCS Programme heads and officers to provide the volunteers with adequate capacity development with respect to the resilience of food systems, in particular during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and in its aftermath. In the end, Chairman PRCS Abrar ul Haq administered pledge to volunteers under the theme of International Youth Day. Earlier, Dr. Nosheen Abbas, HoD nutrition at PAF hospital gave a detailed presentation to the participants on wellness and eating habits in youth.



Road safety

EVERY year, thousands of passengers die in road accidents that could have been prevented by sensible regulations and their implementation. One of the most frequent tragedies involving vehicles has been buses or vans catching fire due to CNG cylinders installed inside the passenger's compartments of Public Sector Vehicles (PSV). The problem is particularly rampant in Hiace vans because of unauthorised placements inside their cabins.

After a tragic incident where nine passengers were burnt to death and seven others received critical burns when a van caught fire after a collision with a milk tanker in Gujranwala, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) has asked the provincial governments, district administrations, regional transport authorities and operators of fuelling stations to ensure that vehicles without fitness certificates do not get compressed natural gas (CNG) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). A ban on CNG and LPG cylinders inside the passenger compartments had been placed in 2019 after several road crash incidents occurred where transporters were using LPG in place of LNG and had more than one cylinder beneath passenger seats.

However, this ban has been difficult to implement—it is not possible for the transport department and motorway police to check each and every PSV operating on roads. Furthermore, the ban was undermined by several challenges to the order by the All Pakistan CNG Association (APCNGA). This is why the ban ought to have been accompanied with further measures like this ban on using fuelling stations for vehicles without fitness certificates, to ensure that no one can doge the law like they have been doing so. This is imperative for road safety—CNG tanks are a big threat to road safety. Almost all CNG incidents in Pakistan to date could have been prevented if suitable precautions had been in place and the systems were fitted and inspected by qualified personnel. The government must withstand pressure from groups and ensure no loopholes are left in place.

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State of war

THERE is no longer any question of Afghanistan falling into a situation of civil war. The fact is that this war has already begun in that country, and a new level of international panic has been triggered as a result. The extended troika of nations, consisting the US, Pakistan, Russia and China, have met in Doha to discuss the situation and the US has warned the Taliban that if they take control of Afghanistan by force their nation will become a pariah state. At the same time, in what is an alarming twist of events, that have been predicted for months though, the US has warned Pakistan about safe havens for militants along its borders with Afghanistan. All this sounds familiar.

As the Taliban advance in Afghanistan, with three more provincial capitals falling to them, and nine of the 34 capitals in the country now in Taliban hands, Pakistan must keep a careful consideration of what is happening and what should be done since Pakistan will be worst affected by a Taliban takeover of Afghanistan and is indeed already being affected. Pakistan is already seeing small-scale attacks, and experts on the region predict other attacks could follow as sleeper cells, which had grown quiet after the military operation against the TTP in previous years, once again come into action bolstered by the gains of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

While the Afghan Taliban have said they have no intention to allow their country's soil to be used against any other state, the reality is that the Taliban in Afghanistan and splinter groups of the Taliban in Pakistan share a similar ideology and the same perception on many events. Pakistan must also prepare for a time when beleaguered Afghan people who have already been internally displaced begin to move into Pakistan. In all this, it is really the ordinary Afghan who is suffering the most. There is a great deal at stake and the only way out of a bigger mess is to ensure a peace settlement in Afghanistan.

Black magic with long range precision rifle

F. Z. Khan

“Black Magic” is a work of lifetime of indulgence – reading, learning and practical experience in the field and on the range. It is a simple, progressive and step by step guide to the popular but almost mysterious art of long-range precision rifle shooting. The power to connect with a far-off target with cold bore at unknown distance can only be appreciated by those who have the privilege of harnessing this skill “The Black Magic” of the science and art of long-range precision rifle shooting.

This book promises to give an insight into the capability and not only the skill of long-range precision rifle shooting. Most of the empirical data used in this book is self-generated, recorded and verified by the author as far as possible

“SHOOTING” as a personal skill or a study subject had never been touched before in an organized manner. Lt Gen Syed Muhammad Adnan's recently published, “Black Magic with Long Range Precision Rifle” is likely to fill this gap for a knowhow into shooting and hunting as well as firearms development learning. It is an interesting work done by a soldier who himself is a lifelong student and enthusiast of hunting and shooting. Introduced to these in early childhood, he developed particular interest in rifle shooting. He is lucky to be a soldier, a profession that relates to his passion. The author has hands on experience of long-range competition shooting, tactical shooting and hunting. To achieve long range precision, he develops hand loads for most of the many calibers he uses. Long range ballistics and optical sights are few of the aspects where he devotes special attention. He has also steered the development of few custom drag models for selected projectiles, ballistic calculator and a First Focal Scope with Ballistic Drop Compensating Reticle for marksmen.

“Black Magic” is a work of lifetime of indulgence – reading, learning and practical experience in the field and on the range. It is a simple, progressive and step by step guide to the popular but almost mysterious art of long-range precision rifle shooting. The power to connect with a far-off target with cold bore at unknown distance can only be appreciated by those who have the privilege of harnessing this skill “The Black Magic” of the science and art of long-range precision rifle shooting. This book promises to give an insight into the capability and not only the skill of long-range precision rifle shooting. Most of the empirical data used in this book is self-generated, recorded and verified by the author as far as possible. The data from other sources where quoted has been obtained from authentic and reliable sources with appropriate citations: a page turner compilation worth reading for those who practice the passion or profession of long and extreme long-range shooting. Every picture, image or data in this book has a meaning and will require reader's attention. Small details particularly in shooting often make a big difference.

Besides shooting and hunting, the author actively supports wildlife and habitat conservation and rehabilitation. Successful conservation of straight horned Markhor in Takatu Mountain Range in Quetta Valley, conservation of Blue Bull and Chinkara Antelope in Cholistan Desert, conservation of Urial Sheep in Kale Chitta Hills and reintroduction of once abundant now extinct Black Buck Antelope in Semi Desert habitat

are some of his initiatives. Competition shooting and conservation efforts patronized by him can be seen at www.majosc.com.pk.

The book contains 13 chapters with numerous illustrations and annexures containing valuable information. It becomes more authentic due to extensive bibliography, careful citations, a suggested reading list, list of abbreviations and glossary of terms. Here is the chapter wise gist of the book: Chapter 1 introduces the basic information about different categories of long-range shooting and explains how it differs from ordinary rifle shooting. In Chapter 2, the author has explained primary and secondary equipment required for long range precision rifle shooting. Details include weapon system and accessories used by the shooter and spotter. A practical introduction of each item of equipment associated with long range rifle shooting is given along with relevant photographs. It also guides the reader through a logical process to make the best choice of weapon system and equipment. Chapter 3 explains various terms related to ammunition. Types and categories of different types of bullets, cartridges and calibres are explained. These explanations are supported by illustrations, diagrams, data tables and graphs. Selection criterion of a suitable cartridge for shooting at long and extreme long range is also explained in a simple manner. Chapter 4 analyzes different design features of rifles along with the suggestions by the author regarding selection of a suitable rifle for different types of long-range applications. Chapter 5 “Long Range Optical Sight” covers often unknown details of optical sight that is used for long range precision rifle shooting. Optical sight internal design, features and quality are discussed at length with diagrams and photos. Interesting historical facts and examples make it a very interesting reading. Chapter 6 “Internal Ballistics” includes all processes that take place from the time trigger is pressed till projectile leaves the muzzle. It is the science of all the factors that affect the motion of the bullet before exiting the muzzle. The author has explained every step-in detail along with suitable and relevant photographs, diagrams, charts and graphs. Propellant types and their different characteristics provide basic as well as advance knowledge to the reader. Chapter 7 “External Ballistics” explains the phenomenon from the time a projectile leaves the muzzle till it reaches the target. Relationship of internal and external ballistics is explained along with their effect on the accuracy and precision of the projectile. Effect of atmosphere, wind and earth-based effects, angled shooting along with its effect on ballistics and its solution,

details regarding Transonic Zone, Coriolis Effect and Magnus Effect etc. – all are discussed with suitable and relevant photographs, diagrams, graphs and data charts. This is an extremely useful reading. Chapter 8 is a core of the entire book. The author explains how internal and external ballistics are put together in a logical and expedient fashion to calculate firing solution for engaging target with cold bore at unknown distance. He shares empirical data and ballistics tables. A comprehensive information is given on how a shooter should record ballistics data, update it and have suggested templates to calculate firing solution in the field. Information in this part is not available in most of the books on shooting. Chapter 9 encompasses details about how a precision long range rifle ammunition is hand loaded. Step by step explanation of what happens when a cartridge is fired is highly informative. Author has also discussed/ shown different tools and gadgets employed for this purpose. Whole discussion is supported with highly graphic illustrations. Chapter 10 discusses how a long-range rifle should be maintained. Different equipment that can be used for this purpose is discussed with photographs and diagrams. At the end of this chapter, author has explained different issues that may arise due to incorrectly maintained long range precision rifles. The discussion may be an eye opener for many shooters as it lay bare many popular but false myths. In Chapter 11, the author discusses different gadgets, techniques and criteria that can be used by a shooter to accurately calculate range to the target. Calculation of accurate range to the target is of utmost importance in long range shooting. In Chapter 12, the author enlists essential marksmanship and supporting skills for long range precision rifle shooting. Useful tips that can improve efficiency of a shooter are also included in this chapter. Lastly, Chapter 13 “Art of Sniping” covers brief concept of sniping and its associated aspects. Camouflage techniques, team work, and terminal ballistics viz mission criteria are few of the aspects covered here. Heavy rifle shooting and hard target interdiction are also discussed. The whole text is made more comprehensible with suitable photographs, diagrams, charts and data tables. Hopefully, “Black Magic” is likely to be welcomed by many who aspire to become long-range shooters, or just want to improve your current shooting skill. If you wish to improve your ability to hit your targets at the extended ranges with a rifle, you owe it to yourself to pick this book up.

– The writer is freelance columnist based in Islamabad

The dream of e-Governance in Pakistan

Muhammad Anwar Farooq



In Pakistan, Electronic Government Directorate was established in October 2002. In 2014 Directorate was merged with Pak Computer Bureau to form National Information Technology Board (NITB). NITB facilitates Federal Ministries in the implementation of e-governance programs intending to improve information

THE way power is exercised through a country's economic, political, and social institutions comprises strategies, actions and processes through which citizens and institutions meet their obligations and talk over their differences. E-governance is an important step in the evolutionary process towards this end. Electronic means are employed in mutual interaction of government & citizens and government & businesses, as well as in internal functioning of government offices. E-governance is the integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) into the government system to make the working processes efficient, accessible, and convenient. The major intent is to make things easier, simpler and to improve multiple aspects of governance. E-governance is not simply presenting or using certain technological tools, rather it is related to bringing change in the mindset and work culture to integrate government processes and functions to serve the citizens better.

In Pakistan, Electronic Government Directorate was established in October 2002. In 2014 Directorate was merged with Pakistan Computer Bureau to form National Information Technology Board (NITB). NITB facilitates Federal Ministries in the implementation of e-governance programs intending to improve information and service delivery, efficiency, and transparency. Pakistan is gradually moving towards the path of implementation of e-governance to increase the coverage and quality of information and services provided to the general public using ICT in a simple, economical, and cost-effective manner. NITB successfully implemented 24 interactive webs and 9 mobile apps. During COVID it developed and implemented 7 apps to facilitate decision-making in complex COVID

scenarios. In recent years, Pakistan in general and its Punjab province, in particular, have made significant progress in the digitization of their respective public sectors. However, keeping in view its importance as an integrated part of the public service delivery mechanism, there is a need to increase the scope, improve quality and expand its outreach. There are a large number of obstacles in the implementation of e-Governance in Pakistan.

There is a diversity in culture and languages in Pakistan. The literacy rate is low. The acceptance of the English language in Pakistan is very low. The e-governance applications are written in English. That is why e-Governance projects do not get much success. Hence, the e-governance applications must be written in the local language of the people so that they may be able to use and take advantage of these applications. Now the majority of e-governance applications implemented by the government are also available in Urdu and it is a good effort to sort out the problem. The majority of people are unaware of the usage of IT gadgets and modern applications. The majority of people in Pakistan do not have connectivity with the internet. Government networks have to go into all areas which are even unfriendly to live. It is, however, costly to manage this big network. The separation or digital divide that exists between the individuals, communities and businesses that have access to Information Technology and those that do not have such access. Economic poverty is closely related to limited information technology resources. People who are living below the poverty line cannot afford a computer and internet connection for themselves to take the benefits of the e-Government and other online services. Economic poverty is not the only cause of this

separation; it may also be caused by the lack of awareness among the people. In Pakistan, even some of the economically stable people do not know about the scope and services of e-Governance. Government has to take some actions to narrower this digital divide to effectively implement the e-Governance projects.

In developing countries like Pakistan, the cost is one of the most important obstacles in the path of implementation of e-Governance where the major part of the population is living below the poverty line. The per capita income of Pakistan is low as compared to the other countries. Therefore, majority of people cannot afford online services provided by the government which is a challenge for the implementation of e-governance. Government must issue a license after training to those people who are willing to provide such services. Such trained people can provide services to those who are unable to use e-governance applications with nominal charges. It would create a new opportunity for the unemployed.

It is also necessary to continuously monitor the outcomes of the already implemented e-governance system. If no one monitors the ratio of requests by the people to the relief granted to the people by the e-governance system then soon it would become a cliché. Now instead of implementation, it is also a big challenge to monitor the efficacy of the e-governance system. It is necessary to change the meaning of 'e' in the phrase of e-governance from electronic to efficient. Anyhow, in Pakistan, it would take more time to implement an efficient e-governance system. Currently, the writer is working as a lecturer in the department of humanities and social sciences, Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology, Rahim Yar Khan, Pakistan.

Briefs

Afghanistan
govt blaming
Pakistan
for own
failures: PM

FROM PAGE 01

Turkey had proposed a new joint mission involving itself, Pakistan and Hungary to protect the Kabul International Airport. The prime minister mentioned his meeting with Turkish defence minister retired General Hulusi Akar on Wednesday, which also discussed the security situation in the region including Afghanistan. We will also talk to the Taliban and use our influence [for a meeting with Turkish government], he said. Imran Khan said the Afghan government was getting extremely critical about Pakistan, considering that it had "some magic powers" to persuade the Taliban. He said in fact, persuading the Taliban had become more difficult. "Now, our leverage on the Taliban is minuscule as they think that they have won against the Americans," he said. He said the Afghan government was trying everything to get the United States back and intervene in the current situation. Asked about Pakistan's stance on Taliban demanding Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to step down, he stressed the need for a "ceasefire at all costs", adding that the "Doha talks would decide the middle ground for a compromise" between the stakeholders. Pakistan, he said, would deal with any government in Afghanistan, "elected or selected", by its people. "An inclusive government would be the best. But if the Taliban do a forceful military takeover, the result will be a civil war and a nightmare for Pakistan," he added. The prime minister said Pakistan was "worried" about the law and order situation in Afghanistan because any civil war could result in a direct impact on it in the shape of an influx of refugees. To a question on China's future role in Afghanistan, he said China being an emerging power and a neighbour would have its part in the rebuilding of the war-torn country.

Taliban
captures
Ghazni

FROM PAGE 01

Joe Biden's decision to withdraw US troops and leave the Afghan government to fight alone. Finding rural districts too hard to defend, government forces have withdrawn to protect Kabul and other cities, prompting thousands of families to flee the provinces in hope of finding safety there. A senior security official said the Taliban had captured Ghazni, 150km (93 miles) southwest of Kabul on the highway between the capital and the second city of Kandahar. The group had occupied Ghazni's government agency headquarters after heavy clashes, he said. Meanwhile, Afghan government negotiators in Qatar have offered the Taliban a power-sharing deal in return for an end to fighting in the country, foreign media citing Afghan government source reported. "Yes, the government has submitted a proposal to Qatar as mediator. The proposal allows the Taliban to share power in return for a halt in violence in the country," the source said. A government source also told Al Jazeera that the Afghan government offered the Taliban a share in power so long as the rising violence in the country comes to a halt. US special envoy for Afghanistan Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad is in Qatar for an international meeting on the escalating situation in Afghanistan.

Real Madrid
loan Kubo to
Mallorca

MADRID: Real Madrid confirmed that Japanese international forward Takefusa Kubo will spend next season on loan with Mallorca. It will be the third consecutive season Real Madrid has loaned out the youngster and it will be his second spell with Mallorca where he made 36 appearances and scored four goals in the 2019-2020 campaign, although he could not save the club from relegation to the second division. "Real Madrid and RCD Mallorca have agreed to the loan of the player. - DNA

Kepa the hero as Chelsea win
Super Cup 6-5 on penalties

Gerard Moreno - who scored against Manchester United before the Europa League final in Gdansk went to penalties - rescued Unai Emery's side in the 73rd with a side-foot finish after a back-heel from Boulaye Dia

DNA

BELFAST: Goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga came off the bench to make two shootout saves as Champions League winners Chelsea beat Spain's Villarreal 6-5 on penalties to add the UEFA Super Cup to their trophy collection on Wednesday. Extra time had ended 1-1 at Belfast's Windsor Park stadium, with Chelsea bringing on Kepa for Edouard Mendy in the final seconds in what turned out to be the game's tactical master-stroke. The freshest player on a field of tired legs saved first from Aissa Mandi at 1-1, after Kai Havertz had missed for Chelsea, and then made the winning stop at 6-5 when Villarreal captain and 2010 World Cup winner Raul Albiol hit the ball to the bottom left. Mendy was one of the first to congratulate his team mate, with Chelsea lifting the trophy for a second time. "It was certainly not spontaneous," Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel said of the goalkeeper switch. "We had some statistics, we were well-prepared. Kepa is the best percentage in saving penalties. The analysing guys, the goalkeeper coaches showed me the data and then we spoke with



the players that this can happen. "And since then they know and it's fantastic how Edu accepts it," added the German. "Kepa is better in this discipline and these guys are true team players." Mendy said, he had no hard feelings at all. "Of course I'm happy because we won," the Senegal international

told BT Sport television. Hakim Ziyech had put Chelsea ahead in the 27th minute, sweeping in from 12 yards after a perfectly measured cross from Kai Havertz on the left. The Morocco international, an unused substitute when Chelsea beat Manchester City 1-0 in the Champions League final in Porto

on May 29, then went off injured four minutes before the break following a collision with Juan Foyth. Ziyech returned with his right arm in a sling to watch the rest of the match from the bench while Christian Pulisic took his place. Villarreal, the Europa League holders with a noisy contingent

of some 1,000 fans among the 13,000-strong crowd on a clear evening in Northern Ireland, hit the woodwork either side of half-time. Their equaliser came as no surprise in a lively match with several scoring chances squandered on both sides and both keepers making key saves.

Gerard Moreno - who scored against Manchester United before the Europa League final in Gdansk went to penalties - rescued Unai Emery's side in the 73rd with a side-foot finish after a back-heel from Boulaye Dia. It was Moreno's eighth goal in his last nine European appearances for Villarreal. "It was tough, 120 minutes," said Tuchel. "We were very strong in the first 30-35 minutes and then we lost a bit easy balls after our goal... the equaliser was well-deserved. "Right after we conceded the goal we were very strong again, right until the end." Pulisic had a good chance in the 99th, the ball just running wide, while Mason Mount had a shot pushed out for a corner in the 108th. Chelsea now turn their thoughts to the start of the Premier League season, and the imminent signing of striker Romelu Lukaku from Inter Milan, with an opening match at home to Crystal Palace on Saturday.

Baku hosting moot of Three Brothers



DNA

BAKU: Baku is hosting a final planning conference of the "Three Brothers - 2021" joint exercises with the participation of representatives

of the special forces units of Azerbaijan, Pakistan, and Turkey, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC. "The conference will clarify the program and objective of the exercises, assigned tasks, number of

participants, and other organizational issues. It was noted that the "Three Brothers - 2021" international exercises will positively impact the creation of a favorable environment for the exchange of knowledge

and experience, as well as for the training of the servicemen of friendly and partner countries for operations in peacetime and wartime. The conference will last until August 13," the ministry said.

Waqar Zaka gives
cash prize to
Arshad Nadeem

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistani Olympian Arshad Nadeem returned home after a stellar performance at the Tokyo Olympics. He was given a warm welcome by his fans at Lahore Airport. Chairman Technology Movement Pakistan Waqar Zaka along with the team of Pakistan Sports Board welcomed the young player and also presented a gift of one million cash prize. On the occasion, Waqar Zaka said that Arshad Nadeem is the only Pakistani athlete who has made history by qualifying for the Olympics. He said that due to Arshad Nadeem, the tendency of Pakistani youth towards Olympics has increased due to which the chances of winning gold medals in future have increased. In this age of technology, keeping traditional sports alive is our number one priority, Chairman Technology Movement Pakistan said.

FO releases
probe
findings

FROM PAGE 01

v. The suicide bomber, Khalid Sheikh, was trained in Afghanistan and brought to Pakistan to carry out the attack. vi. Some of those involved in the attack have been arrested, while others are at large in Afghanistan. vii. An MLA (Mutual Legal Assistance) request is being made to the Afghanistan Government. According to foreign office, further investigation is in progress to find all those involved in this cowardly attack. The Government of Pakistan reiterates its strong commitment to apprehend all those responsible for this heinous crime and bring them to justice. We would not allow any hostile force to undermine the iron-clad friendship between Pakistan and China.

Pak to get
\$2.77 billion
from IMF

FROM PAGE 01

the State Bank of Pakistan (PBS), which he said would help further improve the country's foreign exchange reserves, hence have very good impact on economy. The minister said that it was unconditional allocations from the IMF which he said would be used in a productivity way. He said that Pakistan had been already working on reform programme to bring stability and sustainability under the IMF programme. He said that the measures taken by the government had been bearing fruits as was shown by the growth in revenue collection adding that the increase in revenues was indicative of economic growth. The minister thanked the IMF for such measures to promote global liquidity, particularly in those countries which have been facing challenges amid Covid-19 pandemic. It is pertinent to mention here that Board of Governors of the IMF had approved a general allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) equivalent to US\$650 billion (about SDR 456 billion) on August 2, 2021, to boost global liquidity. The allocation would benefit all members, address the long-term global need for reserves, build confidence, and foster the resilience and stability of the global economy. It would particularly help most vulnerable countries struggling to cope with the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

Heat is on as new
La Liga season
kicks off in Spain

SPORTS DESK

MADRID: Fans will be back in the stands after over a year of empty grounds when the new La Liga season kicks off this weekend in Spain. The opening round of matches starts on Friday night when Valencia entertain Getafe after fate has decided that new Valencia coach Pepe Bordalas' first game for his new club is against the team he left at the end of last season to move to the Mestalla Stadium. Valencia have had another summer without important signings, so Bordalas' influence will be key to their survival while it will be interesting to see if Getafe adopt a more attacking style under his replacement Michel Gonzalez. It has been a low-key summer for Real Madrid, whose only new face is defender David Alaba and we will have to see if Carlo Ancelotti decides to trust Gareth Bale, who is back from his loan at Tottenham. Madrid are without Toni Kroos with a groin injury for Saturday's visit to play Alaves, while Dani Cabellos is also sidelined with an ankle ligament injury and left-back Ferland Mendy has also been struggling with a muscle problem ahead of the league opener. Results haven't been brilliant for Ancelotti in the run up to the new campaign and if Lucas Perez and Joselu hit form in the Alaves attack, the season could kick off with a surprise. The first round of matches in the summer comes with Spain expected to bake in the first major heatwave of the year and it will be hot in Saturday's 5pm kick-off as Osasuna face Espanyol, who return to the top flight after a season in the second division. Osasuna look to have improved in attack with Ante Budimir signing a permanent deal and Kike Garcia joining from Eibar over the summer.

Tigers register record-breaking
victory against Bagh Stallions

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: Muzaffarabad Tigers chased down the highest total in the ongoing Kashmir Premier League to register a famous win against Bagh Stallions on Thursday. Chasing a mammoth target of 214 runs, the Tigers reached

home in emphatic fashion with eight balls to spare. Top-order batsman Sohail Masood was the highest scorer with 60 runs off 40 balls. However, belligerent hitting towards the end of the innings by Anwar Ali and Mohammad Wasim Jr was instrumental in taking the team over the finishing line. Anwar remained

unbeaten on 42 runs off 18 balls, while Wasim was not out on 31 off 9. ALSO READ: Pakistan name 19-player squad for West Indies Tests

Batting first, Bagh Stallions would have considered themselves in the driving seat after posting the highest total, 213/4, in the tournament. Skip-

per Shan Masood continued his rich vein of form and scored 65 runs off 40 balls but the real impact came from Iftikhar Ahmed who scored 86 runs off just 38 balls. Aamir Yamin also contributed with a quick-fire 21-ball 41. For the Tigers, captain Mohammad Hafeez bagged figures of 2/24 in four overs.



EU countries halt deportations from Afghanistan

US Special Representative Zalmay Khalilzad had previously said any Taliban government that comes to power by force will not be recognised by Western powers

AGENCIES

PARIS: France has become the latest European country to announce that it has stopped efforts to deport Afghan refugees as the Taliban continues to make sweeping gains in the war-torn country, amid the withdrawal of foreign troops. A French interior ministry spokeswoman confirmed on Thursday that Paris halted deportations in early July, owing to the deteriorating security situation. The confirmation came as the Taliban on Thursday took its 10th provincial capital, the city of Ghazni just 130km (80 miles) southwest of Kabul, in less than a week. France's announcement comes af-

ter Germany and the Netherlands pulled an about-face on the controversial deportations, announcing on Wednesday they were also pausing the expulsion of Afghan refugees. The move affects some 30,000 Afghan refugees in Germany alone. European Union member states Finland and Sweden, as well as EEA member Norway, have also paused deportations. The governments in Berlin and Amsterdam had previously joined Austria, Belgium, Denmark, and Greece in a letter urging the EU's executive branch to "intensify talks" with the Afghan government to ensure that the deportations of refugees would continue. "Stopping returns sends the wrong signal and is likely to motivate even

more Afghan citizens to leave their home for the EU," the ministers wrote to the European Commission. A spokesman for the European Commission later told reporters it is "up to each [EU] member state to make an individual assessment of whether a return is possible". As well as stepping back from the letter, Germany has also said Berlin would suspend its 430 million euros (\$505m) in aid Afghanistan if the Taliban seizes Kabul and attempts to rule the country alone. US Special Representative Zalmay Khalilzad had previously said any Taliban government that comes to power by force will not be recognised by Western powers. The pace of the Taliban offensive has reportedly surprised US offi-

cial, who announced in April that US troops would be completely withdrawn by the end of August. The Afghan capital Kabul could fall within 90 days, US officials told The Washington Post newspaper. Amid the Taliban gains, NATO, the US, and other countries which deployed troops to Afghanistan over the last 20 years continue to face pressure to grant asylum to Afghans they employed. On Thursday, Denmark offered temporary asylum to roughly 45 Afghans it had employed. Sweden and Finland were expected to make similar pledges. The US, Canada, the UK, and Germany have also made moves to relocate Afghan contractors, but activists say such efforts

are inadequate. In July, the US announced a special visa programme for Afghans who worked for the US government and their families, saying 2,500 Afghans had been approved for rapid relocation for the US. About 20,000 have applied for the programme. The US subsequently widened the scope of those eligible for refugee visas to include current and former employees of US-based media organisations, aid and development agencies and other relief groups that receive US funding. Some countries, notably Turkey, have criticised the US scheme, which partially relies on Afghans being relocated to third countries as their applications are processed.

Briefs

Sicily records Europe's 'highest ever' temperature

FOREIGN DESK

ROME: Fires stoked by hot winds tore through southern Italy on Thursday, a day after a monitoring station in Florida, Sicily reported temperatures of 48.8C (119.8F) – levels some scientists believe could be the highest in European history. Wednesday's record temperature, which still needs to be verified by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), was reported close to the city of Syracuse, in the southeast of the island of Sicily, as an anticyclone nicknamed "Lucifer" swept in. "If the data is validated, it could become the highest value ever recorded in Europe, beating the previous record of 48 degrees measured in Athens on July 10, 1977," meteorologist Manuel Mazzoleni wrote on 3Bmeteo.com, a specialist website.

Temperatures are expected to remain high on Friday and over the weekend. Firefighters said on Twitter they had battles more than 500 blazes in Sicily and Calabria overnight, employing five planes to try to douse the flames from above.

They said the situation was now "under control" on the island. The fires have had a fatal impact, with the death toll linked to wildfires at least four people over the past week.

A 77-year-old shepherd who was found dead in the southern Calabria region was among the victims. Reports said he was in a farmhouse where he had apparently sought refuge with his flock.

Spanish police arrest 71 in hectic drug bust

AGENCIES

MADRID: Spain's Guardia Civil has arrested 71 people associated with a drug trafficking ring operating between Sweden and Spain, seizing tons of narcotics, cash and guns.

On Thursday, Spain's national police published a video depicting the intense raids. The footage shows Spanish forces – accompanied by police sniffer dogs – uncovering large amounts of hashish, marijuana, cocaine, amphetamine and an opioid substitute for heroin.

The authorities also seized two submachine guns, a rifle, eight handguns, a hand grenade, five compressed air pistols and 400 cartridges. Additionally, huge amounts of illegal money were intercepted during operation 'Candinavia-Mueble', including Euro 592,000 (\$695,000) in cash, Euro 1.8 million in bank accounts and bitcoin wallets with an estimated value of Euro 15,000. Spanish police have reported that properties valued at more than Euro 14 million have also been blocked. The drug traffickers reportedly used a Swedish removal company based in Alicante and Malaga to transport drugs largely purchased from Morocco to Northern Europe.

Uzbekistan, China sign an agreement

DNA

TASHKENT: A ceremony of signing an agreement on cooperation in the production of a recombinant vaccine against COVID-19 between the Chinese biopharmaceutical company Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biopharmaceutical Co., Ltd and the Uzbek company Jurabek Laboratories JV LLC was held. The ceremony was chaired by the Office of Foreign Affairs of the People's Government of Prov. Anhui / East China / Speaking at the ceremony, Yong Chenghan, head of the Foreign Affairs Office of the People's Government of the aforementioned province, expressed the hope that, taking this opportunity, Anhui province will be able to deepen cooperation and exchanges with Uzbekistan in other areas. During the event, an agreement was signed on the procurement and supply of a recombinant vaccine against COVID-19 by representatives of the above two companies.



ISLAMABAD: Malik Amin Aslam SAPM on climate change, Canadian High Commissioner to Pakistan Wendy Gilmour, Youth ambassador of German embassy Marion Pfnennigs and other delegates pose for a group photo after an event of Climate Change ministry to launch its national youth roadmap for 21-22 on the occasion of International Youth Day. – DNA

Baku slams Yerevan to evade obligations under ceasefire deal

The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry stressed that the document also noted that the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia "shall stop at their current positions"

DNA

BAKU: Baku has said that Yerevan's latest statement alleging that Azerbaijan violates the trilateral ceasefire deal signed on November 10, 2020, is Armenia's another attempt to evade its obligations under the document. "The statement of the Armenian Foreign Ministry of August 11, 2021, accusing Azerbaijan of allegedly violating the trilateral Statement of November 10, 2020, is another futile attempt by the Republic of Armenia to evade its obligations to fully implement the provisions of said document," the ministry stated on August 12.

Baku drew Yerevan's attention to the fact that paragraph 1 of the trilateral statement announces "a complete ceasefire and

a cessation of all hostilities in the zone of conflict shall be introduced at 00:00 hours Moscow time on November 10, 2020". The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry stressed that the document also noted that the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia "shall stop at their current positions". "It should be emphasized that the word 'stop' does not mean 'remain' in this or any other context. This applies both to the Russian language, in which the document was drawn up, and other languages," the ministry said.

Baku underlined that paragraph 3 of the trilateral statement defines that Russia's peacekeeping contingent shall be deployed "along the contact line in Nagorno-Karabakh and along the Lachin corridor". It noted that paragraph 4 of the trilateral statement specially indicates that "the

peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation shall be deployed in parallel with the Armenian armed forces' withdrawal". Paragraph 6 of the trilateral statement states that "the Republic of Azerbaijan shall guarantee the safety of citizens, vehicles and goods traveling along the Lachin corridor in both directions", the statement added.

Thus, the agreed language of the statement of November 10, 2020 signed by the three parties clearly notes the withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from the territory of Azerbaijan and in no way envisages the stationing and deployment of military personnel, the ministry said.

It emphasized that "attempts to make an absurd interpretation of the key provisions of the trilateral Statement indicate that the Armenian side either did not

fully understand the essence of the document it signed on November 10, 2020, or initially did not intend to fully comply with its requirements. Such behavior once again underlines the destructive position of this country".

The ministry stated that the international community is well aware of the practice of Armenia's non-compliance with the fundamental norms and principles of international law, decisions of international organizations and obligations assumed.

"In this regard, it is enough to mention Armenia's refusal to comply with the requirements of four UN Security Council resolutions of 1993. This destructive practice is devoid of any prospects in the context of ensuring the long-awaited peace and security in the region," the ministry said.



RABAT: Prime Minister of Pakistan has nominates Tazi Ali, as Pakistan's Honorary Consul at Casablanca. – DNA

President Aliyev awards prominent Kazakh poet

DNA

BAKU: Awarded Kazakh public figure and poet Olgas Suleymenov on August 12, stressing his constant support for Azerbaijan, Azertag has reported. During the meeting with Suleymenov in Baku on August 12, the head of state underlined that the prominent Kazakh poet has always supported Azerbaijan in resolving the conflict with Armenia over Karabakh. Aliyev said that the poet was loyal to his roots and nation even in the most difficult times and did his best for the successful development of Kazakhstan.



He emphasized Suleymenov's efforts in strengthening solidarity among the Turkic-speaking countries and uniting the countries of the Turkic world. The president said that this is especially important at a time when the situation in the world is changing. Aliyev reminded that Suleymenov was earlier awarded several high prizes of Azerbaijan.

World Conference on Youth Rights kicks off at Tashkent

DNA

TASHKENT: On 12 August 2021, the World Conference on Youth Rights "Engaging Youth in Global Action" began its work.

The event is organized on the basis of an initiative put forward by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev in a speech at the 46th session of the UN Human Rights Council, with the support of the international community. Representatives of more than 30 foreign countries take part in it.

At the conference, the Chairman of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan Tanzila Narbaeva made a welcoming speech. It was noted that the youth issue in our country is defined as one of the priority directions of state policy. Over the past 5 years, more than 50

laws and other normative legal acts have been adopted to protect the rights and interests of young people. The first among them was the Law on State Youth Policy. In addition, in the Action Strategy for the five priority areas of development of Uzbekistan, the issue of youth is given special attention. At present, youth parliaments have

been created in the chambers of the Oliy Majlis. More than 260 young deputies carry out their activities in local Kengashes of people's deputies.

A new system has been created in the republic to involve young people in education, culture, art, sports, reading books and computer technology, ensuring their employment and supporting entrepreneurship.



Institute of Child rights established

DNA

TASHKENT: A Presidential Decree "On measures to further improve the system for ensuring the rights of the child" was adopted. According to the decree, Institution of the Oliy Majlis Commissioner for the Rights of the Child (Children's Ombudsman) was established. The position of the Deputy Commissioner for Human Rights of the Oliy Majlis (Ombudsman) - Commissioner for Children's Rights was abolished.

Children's Ombudsman independently exercises its powers and is accountable to the chambers of the Oliy Majlis. Children's Ombudsman elected by the Legislative Chamber and the Senate for a term of five years. A candidate for the position of a children's Ombudsman is submitted by the President for consideration by the chambers of the Oliy Majlis. According to the Decree, the Republican Interdepartmental Commission on Minors' Affairs was transformed into the National Commission on Children.

Helicopter crash in Russia kills 8 people

FOREIGN DESK

MOSCOW: A helicopter crash in Russia's Far Eastern Kamchatka region killed eight people, the country's Emergency Ministry said on Thursday.

The Mi-8 copter manufactured by Vityaz-Aero made a hard landing near Lake Kuril in the Kronotsky Natural Reserve, which led to the aircraft's destruction. According to preliminary information, there were three crew members and 13 passengers on board, eight of whom died on the spot.

Engine failure and pilot error are considered likely causes of the crash.

The Russian Investigative Committee opened a criminal case, and the Far Eastern Transport Prosecutor's Office began checking compliance with the legislation on flight safety in connection with the crash.

Vityaz-Aero reported that the Mi-8 helicopter went through major maintenance in 2020 and was checked for any malfunctions before departure.

The Kronotsky reserve is a popular local tourist attraction, with helicopters often bringing in tourists.

The deadly incident followed the crash of a passenger plane in Kamchatka early last month, killing all 28 people on board.

Trafficking of Covid vaccine stopped in Tashkent

NEWS DESK

TASHKENT: On 6 July, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan received a statement from citizen M.M.

In it, he asked to take legal action against a person named "Zebo", who in the Telegram messenger posted an advertisement for the sale of the Covid-19 vaccine, which issued by the state free of charge to vaccinate the population.

On this fact, on 8 July, employees of the Department for Combating Corruption and Economic Crimes of the Main Directorate of Criminal Procedure of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan carried out special operation in Tashkent.

Within the operation, the citizen M. Ya. was detained when she was receiving US\$1,400 for 186 doses of COVID-19 vaccine - ZF-UZ VAC2001. The total sum of the deal was 27.75 million soums or 150,000 soums for each dose.

In the course of the check carried out prior to the investigation it was established that A.Z. received these vaccines from citizen B.S., who works as a senior nurse in one of the family clinics in Yakkasaray district of Tashkent.

The criminal cases was opened. An investigation is underway.

Russian, British envoys anger Iranians

MONITORING DESK

TEHRAN: Russian and British envoys to Tehran have infuriated Iranians inside and outside the country after they tried to re-enact a World War II conference that harkens back to a time of death and occupation for Iran.

On Wednesday, Russian Ambassador Levan Dzbagaryan and new UK Ambassador Simon Shercliff sat on chairs on the historical stairs of the Russian embassy in Tehran, leaving an empty chair in the middle.

A tweet by the Russian embassy posting the picture received thousands of angry comments and quote tweets. The site had hosted the Tehran Conference of 1943, where the "Big Three" Allied leaders, Joseph Stalin, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Winston Churchill, sat down to discuss how to counter Nazi Germany.

Iranian officials were not invited and were not even aware the meeting was taking place.

Iran at the time had been invaded by the Soviet Union and the UK. The country, then ruled by the imperial Pahlavi dynasty, had declared neutrality in the world war.

Turkish authorities working to set talks with Taliban

Violence has escalated across Afghanistan as US-led foreign forces have almost withdrawn following 20 years of military operations

DNA

ANKARA: The Turkish authorities are working to set talks with the Taliban, Turkey's president said on Wednesday.

"Turkey's relevant institutions are currently working until we have some talks with the Taliban. Maybe even I can be in a position to receive the person who will be their leader," Recep Tayyip Erdogan said during a joint TV interview broadcast live on CNN Turk and Kanal D. Erdogan said that he earlier spoke with the Qatari leader and they discussed "where can we stop the steps taken by the Taliban and where can we take a step towards peace." If the Taliban is not taken under control, "it will not be possible for us to achieve peace in Afghanistan," he asserted.

Violence has escalated across Afghanistan as US-led foreign forces

have almost withdrawn following 20 years of military operations.

The Taliban have rapidly captured several smaller administrative districts, and are now targeting towns and cities. They have captured nine provincial capitals from government forces in six days. US President Joe Biden said on Tuesday he did not regret his decision to pull US troops from Afghanistan. Biden maintained that his plans to exit militarily have not changed despite the group's battlefield successes, emphasizing that Afghanistan's leaders must come together to "fight for themselves, fight for their nation."

Drawing to irregular migrants from Afghanistan, Erdogan said that Turkey is raising walls along borders with both Iran and Iraq. "The walls rising there are to prevent these irregular migrants from entering our country." A significant part of the irregular migrants held are deported to Afghanistan by Turkish institu-

tions, he added. Erdogan stressed that Turkey is not a place where anyone frequently stops by. "We evaluate all these and we take our steps accordingly."

The Turkish president also denied that there was a flow of irregular migrants across Turkey's borders, as it is "exaggerated on social media." Turkey has been a key transit point



for irregular migrants who want to cross into Europe to start new lives, especially those fleeing war and persecution.

Dubbing the helicopters "the most important aircraft in firefighting" in Turkey, Erdogan said the number of those helicopters has increased from 18 in 2002 to 39 in 2021 – referring to AK Party's ongoing term in power – and approached 60 during the recent wildfires across Turkey. "Turkey ranked 46th in the world in 2015 among the countries that increased its forest assets, and rose to 27th place in 2020," he said. Erdogan said Turkey will "probably buy itself a plane for firefighting," and will have made the team and fleet "much stronger" in battling fires. "Our burning forests will rise from their ashes. These areas will be afforested in the most efficient way and become forests again," the president vowed. He also underlined that Turkey's

government-backed housing agency TOKI will start construction in a month in areas affected by the forest fires, and the goal is to finish these constructions within a year.

The Turkish leader also slammed those who are trying to smear the country's firefighting efforts with false information and news, saying that it is a "manipulation." "I believe that with the opening of the parliament, a work on social media should be done," he said, also adding that no digital medium "is exempt from the law." Erdogan also thanked all countries for extending a helping hand to Turkey during the wildfires. As many as 285 forest fires in Turkey have been brought under control while three continue to burn in the Aegean province of Mugla, the resort city of Antalya and southwestern Burdur province, according to the country's agriculture and forestry minister.

Briefs

Canada satisfied over PIA's services

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The operational services of the Pakistan International Airlines are up to international standards, according to an audit report completed by Transport Canada. Transport Canada had conducted a safety audit of PIA called 'Safety Validation and Airworthiness Audit' from August 24, 2020 to September 24, 2020. PIA has conducted corrective actions to address the findings generated by Transport Canada Foreign Operations Division Airworthiness Audit of Specific ICAO Airworthiness elements dated August 26, 2020, Transport Canada said in its report. The Canadian government department hoped that PIA will maintain its efficiency of flight operations. PIA has enhanced flight safety performance, the report stated. Transport Canada said it will continue to carry out surveillance and oversight activities of PIA operations in Canada which will allow Transport Canada to evaluate the effectiveness of long term corrective action plans by PIA.

Parties asked to file assets' statement by Aug 29

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has asked political parties to file their statement of accounts for financial year 2020-21 on or before August 29, 2021. Political parties are required in terms of section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017 read with Section 204 of the Act ibid and rule 159 & 160 of the Election Rules, 2017, thereof, that they are required to file with ECP their statement of accounts every year. It may be recalled that Section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017 provides that a political party shall, in such a manner as may be prescribed, submit to the Commission, within sixty days from the close of a financial year, a consolidated statement of its accounts audited by a chartered accountant on Form-D containing: (a) Annual income and expenses; (b) Sources of its funds; and (c) Assets and liabilities. The statement to be submitted to the ECP shall accompany the report of a chartered accountant with regard to the audit of accounts of a political party and a certificate signed by an officer authorised by the party head stating that: (a) No funds from any source prohibited under the Elections Act, 2017 were received by the political party; and (b) The statement contains an accurate financial position of the political party. The statement of accounts is to be submitted on Form-D as provided in the Elections Act, 2017. Printed Forms are available, free of cost, in the Election Commission Secretariat, Islamabad and in the offices of the provincial election commissioners, Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. - APP

Media university underway: Shaheera

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Information and Broadcasting Secretary, Shaheera Shahid on Thursday said that incumbent government was establishing a media university equipped with modern technology. The media university would impart state-of-the-art knowledge to youth of the country, she said while talking to a PTV. Commenting on future of the state television, she said, we had strong desire to transform all channels of PTV into HD. Appreciating the efforts of her ministry, she said that Press Information Department (PID), had been made paperless.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Iraq hosted dinner for his visiting Foreign Minister. On this occasion ambassadors of mainly Arab countries posed for a group photo. Seen in the picture are (from left to right) Syria, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Editor Islamabad POST, Somalia, Jordan, Egypt, Kuwait, Yemen and CEO Monal group. - DNA

PM for further enhancing Pakistan-Iraq bilateral ties

Thanking the Prime Minister for extending warm hospitality to his delegation, Foreign Minister Dr. Fuad Hussein conveyed cordial greetings of the Iraqi leadership

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister extended warm welcome to the Foreign Minister and reaffirmed Pakistan's close fraternal ties with Iraq, founded on strong affinities of faith and culture. The Prime Minister appreciated Iraq's resolute efforts to rebuild the country and wished well for the upcoming Parliamentary elections. While discussing various aspects of bilateral relations, the Prime Minister underscored the importance accorded by Pakistan to further deepening and broadening mutual cooperation with Iraq in diverse fields. The Prime Minister also reiterated his invitation extended to the Prime Minister of Iraq and expressed the hope that the visit would take place at an early date. In the regional context, the Prime Minister underscored the importance of resolving issues through dialogue and diplomacy.

Iraqi Foreign Minister meets Army Chief

RAWALPINDI: Doctor Fuad Hussein, Foreign Minister of Iraq called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ, on Thursday. According to an ISPR statement, matters of mutual interest, overall regional security situation including Afghan Peace Process and bilateral cooperation in various fields were discussed during the meeting. The Chief of Army Staff said that Pakistan values its brotherly relations with Iraq which are rooted in shared values and culture. COAS also appreciated sacrifices rendered by Iraqi nation in fighting terrorism and offered all possible assistance and cooperation in development and defence related fields. Iraqi Foreign Minister appreciated Pakistan's positive role for regional peace & stability, especially Afghan Peace Process and pledged to keep working for better bilateral relations between two brotherly countries. - DNA

On Afghanistan, the Prime Minister reiterated that there was no military solution and that a negotiated political solution was the

only way forward. He outlined Pakistan's consistent support for an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement. While reaffirming

Pakistan's resolve to support the Afghan peace process, the Prime Minister urged the international community to reinforce these efforts as peace in Afghanistan was shared responsibility. Thanking the Prime Minister for extending warm hospitality to his delegation, Foreign Minister Dr. Fuad Hussein conveyed cordial greetings of the Iraqi leadership. He affirmed Iraq's desire to forge stronger relationship with Pakistan in pursuance of the vision of the leadership of the two countries. Thanking the Prime Minister for his invitation to the Iraqi Prime Minister, Foreign Minister Dr. Fuad Hussein conveyed invitation on behalf of the Iraqi Prime Minister to Prime Minister Imran Khan to visit Iraq. The Foreign Minister also highlighted Iraq's efforts to defuse tensions in the region and promote cooperative ties among regional countries. The Prime Minister expressed Pakistan's support for these endeavors.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Iraq, Dr. Fuad Hussain calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan. - DNA

'NAB made subject to unwarranted criticism'

The anti-graft body always respected the parliamentarians. "We will accept whatever decision the parliament will take"

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: National Accountability Bureau Chairman Justice @ Javed Iqbal has said that the government should introduce amendments to the NAB laws but these amendments should be in the interest of the country. Addressing at a function in Lahore on Thursday, the National Accountability Bureau chief said that the anti-graft body always respected the parliamentarians. "We will accept whatever decision the parliament will take," he said. Justice @ Javed Iqbal held that the law permitted the NAB to accept the plea bargain deal. He was of the view that if constructive criticism was made, it would be beneficial for the anti-corruption body. He lamented that the body was made subject to unwarranted criticism. "Apart

from an allegation of spreading coronavirus, all other kinds of accusations have been levelled against the NAB," he rued. The NAB chief was of the view that the anti-graft body never made unsubstantiated cases. But it has to face criticism whenever it files corruption references, he maintained. Mr Iqbal vowed that the National Accountability Bureau would continue to perform its duty despite all accusations. He said that the NAB was reviewing all references. He held that the NAB could only make references but to decide a case was not in its jurisdiction. He said that the National Accountability Bureau simply files cases in a court of law. He said in a legal evidence, quality was important, not the quantity.

Pakistan test-fires Ghaznavi missile

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday conducted a training launch of surface-to-surface ballistic missile Ghaznavi. The successful training launch was aimed at ensuring the operational readiness of Army Strategic Forces Command, besides re-validating technical parameters of the weapon system, said a statement issued by the ISPR. The training launch was witnessed by Lieutenant General Muhammad Ali, Commander Army Strategic Forces Command, senior officers from Strategic Plans Division, Army Strategic Forces Command, Scientists and Engineers of the strategic organizations, Commander Army Strategic Forces Command appreciated the excellent standard of training, handling of the weapon system and execution of launch mission in the field by troops. President, Prime Minister of Pakistan, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and the Service Chiefs have congratulated all ranks of Army Strategic Forces Command, the scientists and engineers on the successful conduct of the missile launch.

'Media Authority bill will be strongly opposed'

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The member of Senate Standing Committee for Information and Broadcasting and Chairman Senate Standing Committee for Education, Senator Irfan Siddiqui has strongly criticized the proposal of the Government to establish Print Media Development Authority. He stated that this proposal is an attempt to subjugate freedom of expression and terrorize the media already

under pressure. The senior Journalist, elected senator on the ticket of Muslim League (N) and member of upper house Mr. Irfan Siddiqui has expressed his concern in a press statement that the Government has yesterday (Wednesday August 11, 2021) convened a joint meeting of standing committees of Senate and National Assembly at Pak China Friendship Centre outside the parliament premises without consulting any opposition party.

US project enhances renewable energy capacity

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday appreciated the United States for greatly enhancing capacity of renewable energy projects by approximately 50% through its Sustainable Energy for Pakistan (SEP) project. The statement comes after Pakistani officials and representatives from the US government celebrated the conclusion of the four-year Sustainable Energy for Pakistan (SEP) project, an official statement said on Thursday. Through the SEP project, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) partnered with the Pakistani government to provide more affordable, and climate-friendly power to Pakistan's national energy grid while fostering economic growth for the country, it added. Speaking on the occasion USAID Mission Director Julie Koenen said that the SEP has contributed towards making the energy sector more competitive, modern, efficient, clean, and financially viable for Pakistanis. "I am hopeful that the impact of this work will go beyond the energy sector and benefit the entire economy of Pakistan."

Muslim man assaulted in India's UP

MONITORING DESK

UTTAR PRADESH: A Muslim man was beaten, paraded through a street and forced to chant "Jai Shree Ram" (Hail Lord Ram) by a mob in India's Uttar Pradesh state on Wednesday, NDTV reported. Video footage of the incident, circulating on social media, showed the victim - a rickshaw driver in UP's Kanpur town - being forced to chant the slogan and begging the attackers to not beat him while his daughter clung to him. He was later handed over to the police. The NDTV report quoted the man as saying that he was driving his rickshaw when the mob "started abusing and assaulting me and threatening to kill me and my family". "I got saved because of the police," he added. The report further stated that the incident took place less than a kilometre away from an intersection where a right-wing group - Bajrang Dal - held a meeting earlier in the day in which people complained that Muslims in the area were "trying to convert a Hindu girl".

Japan eases travel curbs for Pakistan

DNA

TOKYO: Japan has eased quarantine restrictions for travellers from Pakistan, United Kingdom, India, and other countries, as it issued the latest travel advisory amid changing coronavirus situation. Quarantine for passengers from the United Kingdom, Pakistan, Malaysia, and Moscow has been reduced to three days from six, The Japan Times reported, saying that the revised restrictions would come into effect from Saturday. "COVID-19 tests will be done on arrival and on the third day. With the change, Japan will also lift the entry ban on foreign nationals arriving from Pakistan," the publication said. Similarly, passengers from India, the Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Zambia will no longer be covered by a 10-day mandatory quarantine in government-designated facilities. Their stay in quarantine facilities, from Saturday, will be for six days, while they will be tested for coronavirus on arrival, third, and sixth days. "Only those who test negative will be allowed to move to facilities of their choosing or return home for the remainder of the 14-day self-isolation period," it said.

10m vaccine doses to be transported from China

The govt intends to achieve the target of administering 70mn doses of vaccines to people under its massive vaccination campaign

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) will run eight special flights to airlift 10 million doses of anti-Covid-19 vaccines from China to Pakistan between August 12 to August 22 to help ensure the government's ongoing prevention and control drive against Covid-19 pandemic. A couple of flights of the national flag carrier left Beijing Capital Airport on Thursday with anti-Covid-19 vaccines procured from China, Qadir Bux Sangi, PIA Country Manager for China said here on Thursday. Another two PIA flights are likely to come to the Chinese capital to transport Covid-19 vaccine to Pakistan in next two days. In total, ten million doses of vaccines will be airlifted from August 12 to August 22, he said. He said that PIA has so far brought around 35 million doses of Sinopharm and CanSino vaccines to Pakistan from China. It is worth mentioning that Pakistan

COVID-19 claims 102 more lives

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases was recorded 86,217 the highest during fourth wave of pandemic on Thursday with 4,934 more people testing positive for the deadly virus and 3,376 people recovering from the disease during the last 24 hours. One hundred and two corona patients have died during past 24 hours, 98 of whom were under treatment in the hospitals and two of them perished in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest update issued by the NCO. Most of the deaths occurred in Sindh followed by Punjab. Out of the total 102 deaths occurred, 45 of them were under treatment on ventilators. There were 4,584 Covid infected patients under treatment in critical condition where 71 of whom were admitted in past 24 hours in various Covid dedicated healthcare facilities of the country. - DNA

has expedited the vaccination process prevent and control the fourth wave of Covid-19 in the country. Chinese vaccines namely Sinopharm and Sinovac besides other vaccines are being used in the vaccination drive. The government intends to achieve the target of administering 70 million doses of vaccines to people under its massive vaccination campaign across the

country. China will provide a total of 2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines to the world this year, in the latest effort to honor its commitment to make vaccines a global public good by ensuring vaccine accessibility and affordability. China will donate \$100 million to the COVAX global vaccine initiative for the distribution of vaccines to developing countries.