



Islamabad POST

Saturday, August 14, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

Pakistan is ready to work with stakeholders for peace: COAS Bajwa

Detailed News On Page-01

Britain slams US' hasty Afghan pullout

Detailed News On Page-08


Afghan diplomat slams Ghani over failures

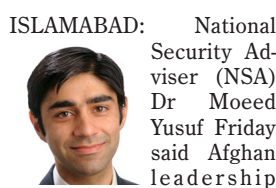
Detailed News On Page-08



Briefs

Afghan leadership insincere

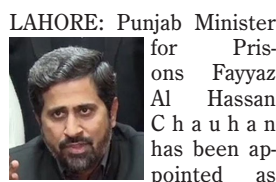
DNA



ISLAMABAD: National Security Adviser (NSA) Dr Moeed Yusuf Friday said Afghan leadership lacked sincere intention to contain the use of its soil against Pakistan damaging peace and security of the region. The NSA gave a clear response to the accusations, leveled by a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) news anchor questioning the country's role in Afghan peace process and allegations raised by the Awami National Party Leader Afrasiab Khattak blaming Pakistani government for chaos in Afghanistan. Dr Moeed refused to respond to Khattak's accusations flagged by the BBC anchor and emphasised that Pakistan only stood for peace and that's why had fenced its entire border with Afghanistan and called the Afghan government to place a biometric system for controlled mobility between the two countries which the latter refused. He said it was the Afghan government who not only opposed border fencing initiative and also Pakistan's proposal for proper visa regime.

Chohan returns as spokesman

ABID RAZA



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Prisons Fayyaz Ali Hassan Chohan has been appointed as the new spokesperson of the Punjab government, reported Geo News on Friday. Reports stated that Chohan's appointment as the spokesperson has been approved by Chief Minister Usman Buzdar. Chauhan is currently serving as Minister of Prisons for Punjab since August 2018. He has previously served as the provincial minister for information. Elected from PP-17 Rawalpindi, Chauhan's appointment as the spokesperson will be in effect from Friday, August 13.

Holiday Notice

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

- Editor

Inside...

Independence Day painting exhibition held at Faisalabad
- Page 02

UNDP hosts Pakistan inequality debate series
- Page 03

Neighbouring countries need to help ensure peace in Afghanistan
- Page 04

Return of a hard-line Iran raises worrying questions
- Page 05

SCO members to exchange agricultural technologies
- Page 07

PML-N blasts govt over Twitter trends report
- Page 08

Pakistan wants broad-based partnership with the US
- Page 08

CPEC: PM warns against the spoilers

The Chinese ambassador conveys the cordial greetings from President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday expressing the government's resolve to timely complete the projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) said "no hostile force would be allowed to undermine the 'iron-clad friendship' between the two countries".

In a meeting with Chinese ambassador Nong Rong, the prime minister termed CPEC a transformational project, for which he stressed that both sides needed close collaboration to make it a high-quality demonstration project of Belt and Road Initiative.

During the meeting, views were exchanged on China-Pakistan bilateral relations, CPEC, vaccines and mutual co-operation in other sectors. The Chinese ambassador conveyed the cordial greetings from President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang. He also conveyed felicitations on Pakistan's Independence Day.

PM tasks Punjab to hold early local bodies election

DNA

LAHORE, Prime Minister Imran Khan has tasked Punjab government to hold early local bodies elections and ordered to complete all preparations in this regard. According to details, local body elections are likely to be held in April next year. Talking to media, Local Government Minister Mian Mehmood-ur-Rasheed said that Punjab government is ready to hold local body elections in March-April next year. He said that legislative process will also be completed soon in this regard. Minister said that Election Commission (EC) can make necessary arrangements for the elections as provincial government is fully prepared.

Pak to work with all stakeholders for peace

Army Chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa while meeting with the US envoy, said Pakistan wants long-term relationship with the US



RAWALPINDI: Angela Aggeler, United States (US) Charge d' Affairs to Pakistan called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ. - DNA

NEHAL MIRAJ

RAWALPINDI: Angela Aggeler, United States (US) Charge d' Affairs to Pakistan called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ, on Friday. According to an Inter Services Public Relations press statement, matters of mutual interest, current security situation in Afghanistan and bilateral cooperation in various fields were discussed during the meeting. COAS said that Pakistan desires to maintain long term & mul-

ti-domain enduring relationship with US. COAS reiterated that Pakistan remains committed to Afghan Peace Process and will continue to work with all stakeholders for a peaceful settlement.

The US dignitary acknowledged and appreciated Pakistan's continuous support for peace and stability in the region and pledged to further enhance bilateral relations between both the countries. Earlier this week, in a phone call to Army Chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin con-

veyed Washington's interest in continuing to improve the US-Pakistan relationship, the Pentagon said. Secretary Austin "expressed his interest in continuing to improve the US-Pakistan relationship and build upon our multiple shared interests in the region", the statement added. "Secretary Austin and General Bajwa discussed the ongoing situation in Afghanistan, regional security and stability, and the bilateral defence relationship more broadly," Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby said.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China Nong Rong calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan. - DNA

President, PM Imran felicitate nation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan have greeted the nation on the occasion of Independence Day. In their separate messages the President and Prime Minister said there was a need to take the country forward for which everybody has to play his or her role. President Dr Arif Alvi has stated that the tremendous successes achieved by Pakistanis, a brilliant and brave nation, in various fields had made the country distinguished from other nations. "During this 74 years journey, Pakistan faced many challenges but it successfully overcame them with hard work, sacrifices and the support of the entire nation. Prime Minister Imran Khan stated that with the universal recognition of government's policies towards revival of economy, handling of COVID-19 pandemic and environment protection, Pakistan today can stand tall among the comity of nations. PM Imran said, "Pakistan today can stand tall among the comity of nations. Our policies towards reviving the economy, handling the pandemic, and protecting the environment have received universal acclaim.

President to visit Turkey

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: On the invitation of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President Dr. Arif Alvi will pay an official visit to Turkey on 14-16 August 2021. During the visit, the two Presidents will participate in the launching ceremony of the first of the four MILGEM corvettes for Pakistan Navy in Istanbul. The two leaders will hold talks on bilateral relations as well as exchange views on regional issues. President Alvi will also interact with the media and leading Turkish businessmen.

US sends troops to boost Afghan pullout

The temporary buildup of troops highlights the stunning pace of the Taliban takeover

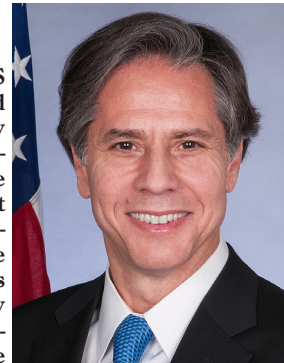
MONITORING REPORT

WASHINGTON: Three thousand fresh U.S. troops were rushing to Kabul on Friday in a temporary deployment to speed evacuation flights for some American diplomats and thousands of Afghans, as the Taliban pressed a lightning offensive that has captured much of the country and risks isolating Afghanistan's capital city. The Pentagon also was moving another 4,500 to 5,000 troops to bases in the Gulf countries of Qatar and Kuwait, including 1,000 to Qatar to speed up visa processing for Afghan translators and others who fear retribution from the Taliban for their past work with Americans, and their family members.

Blinken stresses 'political solution'

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: The US State Department said Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin spoke to Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Thursday and told him the United States "remains invested in the security and stability of Afghanistan". They also said the United States was committed to supporting a political solution to the conflict. In response to the Taliban's swift and violent advances, the Pentagon said it would send about 3,000 extra troops within 48 hours to help evacuate embassy staff. "We expect to draw down to a core diplomatic presence in Afghanistan in the coming weeks," said State Department spokesperson.



Gen Nadeem Raza meets Kazakh PM

Both sides discuss bilateral issues; regional peace

DNA

NUR SULTAN: General Nadeem Raza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, who is on official visit to Kazakhstan, called on Askar Mamin, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan. Chairman JCSC also had separate meetings with Defence Minister, Deputy Minister of Industry & Infrastructural Development, and Chief of General Staff of Kazakhstan Armed Forces. During the meetings, both sides deliberated upon various areas of interest, bilateral cooperation including security, counter-terrorism and prevailing regional environment particularly with reference to Afghanistan. The dignitaries dilated upon measures to



enhance the level and scope of military engagements between both countries and reaffirmed to continue to forge deeper ties. Chairman JCSC said that Pakistan is keen to expand its existing bilateral military to military cooperation with Kazakhstan. The dignitaries lauded the professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged their sacrifices in fight against terrorism. Earlier upon arrival at Ministry of Defence, Chairman JCSC was presented Guard of Honour by a smartly turned out contingent of Kazakhstan Armed Forces.

UK: 5 killed in mass shooting

NEWS DESK

LONDON: British police said on Friday they were investigating the background of a troubled loner who obtained a firearms licence and shot dead five people including a three-year-old girl in the country's first mass shooting in 11 years. No motive has yet emerged for Thursday evening's bloodshed at the hands of 22-year-old gunman Jake Davison, who killed himself after the six-minute spree in a quiet residential area of Plymouth, southwest England, not far from western Europe's biggest naval base. But Devon and Cornwall Police ruled out terrorism, including with far-right groups, and said there was a "familial relationship" with Davison's first victim aged 51, while declining to confirm local reports that she was his mother.

Denmark, Norway shut Kabul missions

DNA

KABUL: Denmark and Norway have temporarily shut their Kabul embassies while Finland will evacuate up to 130 local Afghan workers, ministers from the Nordic countries said on Friday. "The Danes in Afghanistan must leave the country immediately, the situation is very serious," foreign minister Jeppe Kofod told a news conference, adding that all embassy employees will also be evacuated and the mission will be closed temporarily. Norway echoed the move, with foreign minister Ine Eriksen Soreide telling a news conference that evacuation will also be available "to locally employed Afghans with immediate family in Norway who wish it".

Taliban seizes Herat; detains commander

The Taliban have taken more than a dozen provincial capitals in recent days and now control more than two-thirds of the country

NEWS DESK/DNA

KABUL: Taliban insurgents detained veteran militia commander Mohammad Ismail Khan on Friday after they seized the western city of Herat, a provincial council member said. The insurgents also captured three more provincial capitals as they press a lightning offensive that is gradually encircling the capital, Kabul. The seizure of Kandahar and Herat marks the biggest prizes yet for the Taliban, who have taken 12 of Afghanistan's 34 provincial capitals as part of a weeklong blitz. Khan, who has been leading fighters against the Taliban in recent weeks, was handed over to the insurgents along with the provincial governor and security officials under a pact, provincial council member Ghulam Habib Hashimi told Reuters. "The Taliban agreed that they will not pose any threat or harm to the government officials who surrendered," Hashimi said. Khan is one of Afghanistan's most promi-

nent warlords. Known as the Lion of Herat, he battled Soviet occupiers in the 1980s and was a key member of the Northern Alliance whose US-backed forces toppled the Taliban in 2001. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed that Khan had been detained. Meanwhile, the capture of Lashkar Gah - Helmand's provincial capital - came after facing some of the heaviest fighting in the last two decades. Hundreds of foreign troops were killed there over the course of the nearly two-decade war.

The insurgents have taken more than a dozen provincial capitals in recent days and now control more than two-thirds of the country just weeks before the US plans to withdraw its last troops. Attaullah Afghan, the head of the provincial council in Helmand, said that the Taliban captured the provincial capital of Lashkar Gah following heavy fighting and raised their white flag over governmental installations. He says that three national army bases outside of Lashkar Gah remain under the government's control.

Pak offers visas to Journalists

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed on Friday announced that the Government of Pakistan will relax the visa policy for journalists and media workers stranded in Afghanistan. The decision was taken in view of the changing situation in Afghanistan. According to a statement issued in this regard, international journalists and media workers, who intend to leave Afghanistan via Pakistan, are urged to apply for a Pakistani visa. The Interior Ministry said it will issue visas to these international journalists and workers on a priority basis.



No headway at Doha meeting

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The extended Troika meeting held in Doha ended without any progress. According to Pakistani foreign office, the meeting of the Extended Troika including Special Envoys of Pakistan, US, China and Russia was held in Doha. The members of the Extended Troika discussed the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan and explored ways of expediting the intra-Afghan peace talks for achieving an inclusive political settlement and bringing an end to the four decades long conflict in Afghanistan. Delegations of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan led by Dr. Abdullah Abdullah and Taliban led by Mullah Bradar also had interaction with the Extended Troika.

Briefs

**1,451,313
people
vaccinated
in Faisalabad**

FAISALABAD: As many as 1,451,313 people had so far been vaccinated against the COVID-19 in the district. District Health Officer DrAtaulMun'im on Friday said 1,175,063 citizens had been given the first dose while 229,119 were administered the second one. He said sufficient stock of vaccine was available in the district, adding that 37 vaccination centers and 20 mobile vaccination camps were operational in Faisalabad. The centers had been set up in Allied Hospital, District Headquarters Hospital, Government General Hospital GM Abad, Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology, Government General Hospital Samanabad, Children Hospital, Sports Complex Samanabad, Tehsil Head Quarters Hospital Jaranwala, Samundri, Tandlianwala, ChakJhumra, Sports Complex ChakJhumrah, Sports Complex Jaranwala, Pindi Sheikh Musa, Kanjwani, Mamukanjan, RHC Chak 400-GB, RHC Chak 153-RB, RHC Chak 374-GB andChak 469-GB, he added.

CM seeks report on rules of all organizations

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mahmood Khan on Friday sought a report on the new approved rules of government organizations and departments. While chairing a meeting of the provincial cabinet, he directed all organization to present a detailed report on new rules in the next cabinet meeting. The Chief Minister directed that those organizations who have not yet framed rules under the new law should make rules within one month time and present it before the cabinet for approval. – APP

Independence Day painting exhibition held at Faisalabad

The FDA Director General took a round of the paintings exhibition and expressed his keen interest in the paintings made by special students of fine art



FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Development Authority Director General Dr Faisal Azim along with special children cuts Independence celebrations cake. – DNA

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: In connection with the Independence day celebrations, paintings exhibition was held here at main campus of Tanzeem Al Lisan (local NGO) in which paintings created by special students were placed depicting different aspects of Independence movement, achievements of national heroes, defence of mother

land and love for Pakistan. Faisalabad Development Authority Director General Dr Faisal Azim inaugurated the paintings exhibition and cut the Jashan e Azadi cake along with special children. Deputy Director Social Welfare Nasir Mehmood, Social Welfare Officer Kashif Nisar, NGO office bearers Drifttekhar Ahmed, Ch.Sarfraz Ahmed, Subhan Ali, KalsoomIftikhar, faculty members and others were

present on the occasion. The FDA Director General took a round of the paintings exhibition and expressed his keen interest in the paintings made by special students of fine art. He lauded the skill and art of hearing impaired students and said that they beautifully highlighted the importance and significance of Independence through colours and enthusiasm. He appreciated the welfare



FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Development Authority Director General Dr Faisal Azim witnessing paintings exhibition held in connection with Independence Day celebrations. – DNA

activities of the NGO and said it is great service of society to promote the special education for the rehabilitation and betterment of the special children. Meanwhile, FDA Director General Dr Faisal Azim also visited the classrooms of hearing impaired, mentally and physically retarded and autistic special students and reviewed the methods of teaching. He laudised the efforts and commitment of teachers and

said they are doing very tough task successfully. The Director General also planted a sapling at NGO main campus along with special children. He expressed his pleasure over the valuable participation of special students in tree plantation campaign and said we would make Pakistan clean and green through joint efforts of every segment of the society. Prayers were also offered for the development and prosperity of the Pakistan

and national solidarity. Earlier, NGO president Drifttekhar Ahmed gave briefing about the services being rendered by the NGO for education and welfare of the special children. He informed that the education facilities from play group to master degree level was being extended to the special students beside providing opportunities to them for participation in extra curriculum activities.

Routes of Muharram processions should be kept clear: DC M Ali

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali spent a busy day in Tehsil Jaranwala and presided over a briefing meeting on implementation of administrative and security matters of Muharram visited DahiMarkaz Mall Makuana and inspected RHC and BHU and brick klin. He was accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Jaranwala Muhammad Zubair

and other Tehsil Officers. During the surprise checking of brick klin DC directed to take action against the owners for running brick klin without zigzag technology on which the team of environment department under the supervision of Assistant commissioner Jaranwala Muhammad Zubair sealed two kilns Chaudhry Azeem and Rana Nasir Brics sealed at 64 stop in Chak 119 GB and cases were registered against the owners. Meanwhile Deputy

Commissioner chairs a meeting and urged the concerned departments to make arrangements till Ashura day and perform their duties responsibly. He said that the routes of Muharram processions should be kept clear at all times while utility services should be available on the routes. He urged the members of the peace committee and the organizers to maintain close liaison and keep a close watch on security matters. Deputy Com-

missioner during his visit to DahiMarkaz Mall urged to ensure speedy delivery to the applicants those came for take fard and other documents regarding land. He asked about the provision of services to the applicants present on the spot and said that on the instructions of the Board of Revenue Punjab, centers have been set up so that people can get access to land record matters and no need to go far to get such documents.

Smart lockdown imposed in four Peshawar areas

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has imposed a smart lockdown in four areas of Peshawar to curb the rising coronavirus cases in the city. A notification was issued by the office of the deputy commissioner of Peshawar on Friday. Entry and exit points of these areas will be sealed from August 13 to August 31. Shops, malls, and businesses in the localities will remain shut during these days. All gatherings, weddings, and ceremonies have been banned. Only essential services will remain open such as pharmacies, general stores, clinics, and hospitals. Commissioner, assistant commissioners, and other police officers will be responsible for ensuring SOPs are strictly implemented. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa health ministry has revealed that the Delta variant is on a rise in the province. The Delta variant of the coronavirus, also known as the Indian variant, has spread to more than 70 countries. It was first detected in India in December 2020. It is highly transmissible and appears to be more severe. – DNA

PPC, AGC sign MoU

PESHAWAR: Peshawar Press Club (PPC) here Friday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Aspire Group of Colleges (AGC) for providing college level education on 40% discount to the children of journalists. The MoU was signed in a session held here at PPC that was attended by Regional Director AGC, Mazhar Iqbal, President PPC, M. Riaz, General Secretary, Imran Bukhari, President Education Committee, Alamgir Khan and other journalists. Speaking on the occasion, RD AGC Mazhar Iqbal said that AGC aimed to ensure that students acquire the knowledge, skills, and attributes to become leaders. According to signed MoU, AGC would be given 40 per cent concession to the children of the journalists for imparting intermediate level education across the country. President PPC, M Riaz lauded the services of AGC and said that PPC intended to ensure quality education facilities to the children of journalists. Meanwhile, journalist's community hoped that the step will facilitate a lot by reducing expenditure on study of their children seeking admission in college.

BRT completes one year of operation

PESHAWAR: Based in the provincial capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the first third generation BRT service successfully completed one year of its operation with more than 38 million people traveling in its buses, distributing over 850,000 zoo cards and providing employment around 2000 people. Addressing a press conference, Provincial Minister for Transport Malik Shah Muhammad Khan Wazir and Special Assistant to Chief Minister on Information Kamran Bangash said the BRT system which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Imran Khan last year provided best world class travel facility to people of the province and thanks to this modern service traffic congestion in the city. – APP

پاکستان ماحولیاتی تبدیلی سے جنگ میں سب سے آگے

پاکستان نے ماحولیاتی تحفظ کے نئے عالمی ریکارڈ بنالیے ہیں۔ جیسا کہ دنیا کے سب سے بڑے میاداک کے جنگلات اور ایک منٹ میں سب سے زیادہ درخت لگانے کے ریکارڈ۔

وزیراعظم پاکستان نے اس یوم آزادی کو گرین پاکستان ڈے نامزد کیا ہے۔

اس 14 August درخت لگائیں اور پاکستان کا جذبہ پوری دنیا کو دکھائیں۔

درخت لگا کر اس کے ساتھ اپنی سیلفی، ہمیں نیچے دیے گئے نمبر پر بذریعہ واٹس ایپ بھیجیں۔

WhatsApp Number

0300-4445433
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

0342-9716005
Azad Jammu and Kashmir

0309-4407628
Punjab

0345-2510491
Sindh

0333-7861942
Balochistan

0344-4403677
Gilgit Baltistan

0322-7627273
Islamabad



Ministry of
Climate Change

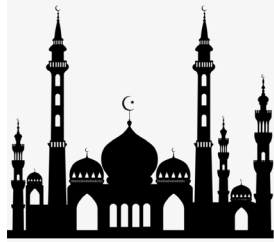
10 Billion
Tsunami

/PLANT4PAKISTAN



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SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	03:57 am
Zohr.....	12:13 pm
Asr.....	04:59 pm
Maghrib.....	06:56 pm
Isha.....	08:28 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
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....	9222596
Rawalpindi.....	9270601-20



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....	115
PIA Flight Info.....	114
PIA Cargo.....	9280979
Railway Inquiry.....	117
Railway Exchange.....	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....	5555489
CAA.....	9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....	5611111
MH.....	561116
Cantt Hospital.....	9270907-11
DHQ.....	5556311-4
RGH.....	9290301-7
Holy Family.....	9290322-7
PIMS.....	9261170-79
Polyclinic.....	9218300-09
Shifa International.....	4603666



Departments

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



Complaints

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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UNDP hosts Pakistan inequality debate series

Value of the privileges of Pakistan’s vested interests added up to PKR 2,660 billion in 2017-2018: UNDP Pakistan NHDR

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: UNDP Pakistan hosted the second webinar of its Pakistan Inequality Debate series today. These webinars are being held to discuss the findings of the Pakistan National Human Development Report (NHDR) 2020: The Three Ps of Inequality: Power, People, and Policy which was launched by Pakistan’s Prime Minister Mr. Imran Khan in April this year. The webinar began with a plenary session, entitled “Policy as a Driver of Inequality: Centering People for Inclusive Policy”, addressing the Report’s emphasis on Policy. The session included Dr. Sania Nishtar, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety as the Chief Guest; Mr. Knut Ostby, Resident Representative, UNDP Pakistan; and former Federal Minister and NHDR 2020 lead author Dr. Hafiz Pasha. The panelists for the session included Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Chairperson, Karandaz and the Pakistan Stock Exchange; Dr. Abid Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI; and feminist researcher Dr. Saba Gul Khattak. In her keynote address, Dr. Sania Nishtar



spoke of the government’s commitment to building a ‘welfare state’ where rule of law, meritocracy and transparency is guaranteed to all citizens and a social safety net is provided to marginalized segments. “This year we will cover 1 million families under Ehsaas Kafaalat, breaking a record—this will be the highest number of families ever getting regular support from the government,” said Dr. Nishtar. In his welcoming remarks, UNDP Pakistan Resident Representative, Mr. Knut Ostby, highlighted policy as a core strategy through which governments determine what kind of country they want to create for citizens. “Citizen power is an important part of public policy. By participating in the political process, citizens can play

an important role in defining the future of the country,” said Mr. Ostby. Dr. Hafiz Pasha, when presenting the report’s findings, spoke of policy in the context of areas that need redressal. “Pakistan has experienced high income and wealth inequality, with the richest groups co-opting the lion’s share of national income, bank advances, farm area, and property. The NHDR 2020 shows that the value of the privileges of Pakistan’s vested interests added up to PKR 2,660 billion in 2017-2018,” observed Dr. Hafiz Pasha. Moderated by Mr. Mosharrar Zaidi, CEO and Senior Fellow at Tabadlab, the panel discussion explored the role of policy in creating inequality in the country. Speakers engaged in a wide-ranging discussion covering challenges to inclusive policy making; how financial inclusion can lead to greater human development; and how the government has leveraged policy for inequality reduction in the wake of COVID-19. UNDP’s Pakistan Inequality Debates continue to explore themes related to inequality at the national, provincial, and regional levels, with the goal to deconstruct Pakistan’s disparities and move the country towards an Equal Pakistan.

Police bust bike lifter gang; arrest 3

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Police have busted a bike lifter gang and arrested its three members besides recovering two stolen motorcycles, cash and other items from their possession. A police spokesman said police team under the supervision of Station House Officer Ratta, Amral Police Station was constituted which netted three accused namely Muhammad Haroon, Shoab Khan and Rajab Ali, who were involved in bike lifting and also allegedly involved in several cases. Police recovered two stolen motorcycles, cash and other valuables from their possession. They confessed to have committed bike lifting and other crimes in different areas. A case has been registered and started investigation.

ECP to witness EVM demo

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has fixed August 17 (Tuesday) to witness the demonstration of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM). In response to a letter written by the Ministry of Science and Technology to the ECP in this regard, the Commission has asked the Ministry to finalize the arrangements along with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for demonstration of EVM at ECP Secretariat. The ECP’s letter written to the Ministry of Science and Technology, stated that the similar kind of request had been received from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The ECP has asked both the ministries to mutually coordinate for making arrangements to give demonstration to the ECP on August 17.

Nation to pay tribute to forefathers on I-Day

ISLAMABAD: Women Parliamentarians on Friday said that nation would mark Independence Day in befitting manner and would pay a glowing tribute to the forefathers of the nation. Parliamentary Secretary for National Heritage and Culture Division Ghazala Saifi said women had also played a vital role in the struggle for the Independence of Pakistan. Talking to APP, she said August 14 is a special day for each Pakistani. “We will never forget our national heroes and the struggle under the leadership of Quaid-e-Muhammad Ali Jinnah for the Independence of Pakistan”. She urged people to specially remember and pay tribute to the sacrifices of Martyred on this day. Secretary Women Parliamentary Caucus Member National Assembly Munaza Hassan said Women remained among the heralds of the Pakistan Movement. She said the Founder of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah gave great importance to women’s active role in the political arena and encouraged their participation in the freedom struggle. “As a result, many women came to the political limelight, such as his sister Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah, Begum Rannalqaat Ali Khan, Begum Maulana Mohammad Ali Johar (who was appointed to the Central Working Committee of the All India Muslim League), Begum Jahanara Shahnawaz (who represented the Indian women at the 2nd Roundtable Conference in London in 1932), her sister Gaitiara, Anwari Begum, Fatima Begum, Lady Hidayatullah and many others,” she added. In fact, the Quaid’s sister Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah became a leading icon of the Pakistan Movement, she said. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Fawad Hussain witnessing photographs during an exhibition organized in connection with Independence Day of Pakistan. – DNA

Islamabad police tightens noose around drug dealers

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police has tightened noose around drug dealers and arrested 123 person, besides recovering huge quantity of narcotics. The police had launched a massive crackdown to eliminate drugs from the federal capital, following directions of Inspector General of Police Islamabad Qazi Jameel-ur-Rehman, said SSP Operations Mustafa Tanvir on Friday. Addressing a press conference here at central police office, he said the department has so far recovered 27123 grams heroine, 50965 grams hashish and 2788 grams ice in various operations across the city. The federal capital police has arrested 19 Nigerians involved in the business of ice during the ongoing year, he added. He said Tarnol police arrested a notorious drug dealer Basharat which was accused in 13 cases including murder, terrorism, illicit arms and drugs. Similarly, he said another famous drug dealer Irfan Ali alias Bhola who was selling drugs to adults was also nabbed. He said most of the arrested persons were taxi drivers, females and

some foreigners. During the investigation, he said the accused informed the police that the buyer contact them through mobile phone and later the drug was delivered to the desired destination. The youth and students were the safe target for foreigners’ drug dealers, he added. The capital police was striving hard to break the chain of drug traffickers to purge the menace from the society. The SSP appealed the parents to keep an eye on their children to prevent them from drug addiction. He asked the citizens to cooperate with police and in-

formed them in case of any suspicious activity in their surroundings. The name of informer would be kept in secret, the SSP added. Meanwhile, in a message the Inspector General (IG) said the department had set up a specialized anti-narcotics unit in the federal capital to eradicate the menace from the society. “We are going to launch an awareness campaign in colleges and universities to sensitize the students about the negative impacts of drugs on human health”, he added. He expressed the determination to continue fight against drugs till its complete eradication.

Queen of singing ‘Nazia Hassan’ remembered

ISLAMABAD: Nazia Hassan, also regarded as the “Queen of Pop,” was remembered on her 21st death anniversary on Friday, nation has paid glowing tributes for her unforgettable singing career by sharing her famous songs on various social media platforms. Nazia Hassan was born on April 3rd, 1965, and debuted into the massive music industry of the subcontinent by introducing the disco genre with her Aaplaaisa Koi song for Feroz Khan’s film Qurbani. Nazia started her career at the age of 10 as a child artist. She rose to fame through the popular Pakistan Television (PTV) program Sung Sung. Even though she did not sing too many songs for movies, the aura she generated with her music is unparalleled. – DNA

Minister visits POF blast victims

RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister Ghulam Sarwar Khan has said that the security, stability and prosperity of this country achieved as a result of many sacrifices is dear to us and on this occasion we should not forget the martyrs of Pakistan and the martyrs of POF. Under the present government, not only the promotion of Pakistaniness but also the bold stance of the Prime Minister on important issues was well received at the international level. The Prime Minister will soon visit Wah cantt and Taxila. The Federal Minister said this while talking to media at PTI Secretariat Wahdat Colony. Member National Assembly Mansoor Wahdat , parlimani secretary Maber Taimoor Masood akber, and Member Punjab Assembly Ammar Siddique were also present on the occasion. – DNA

Presidency of FPCCI for two years not acceptable

Suggestions will be taken from the chambers before making a decision

ISLAMABAD: The proposal to extend the presidency of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce for 2 years is not acceptable. Demand of Nasir Mirza, President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and other members. President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce Muhammad Nasir Mirza met Secretary Commerce Saleh Ahmad Farooqi through video link. Senior Vice President Usman Ashraf and Vice President Shah Rez Malik were also present on the occasion. The term of office of the President of the Federation was discussed during the meeting. Chamber President Nasir Mirza expressed strong reservations over the proposal to extend the term of office of the President to two years and demanded that the term of office be kept at one year only. Secretary Commerce Saleh Ahmad Farqi said that the tenure of the FPCCI President is being reviewed in the Standing Committee of the National Assembly. After receiving suggestions from there, information and suggestions will be shared with all the chambers of commerce. And suggestions will be taken from the chambers before making a decision. Chamber President Nasir Mirza said that it has always been the position of the Chambers and the business community to move forward in consultation with the stakeholders. The proposal to extend the term of the president of the federation for two years is not acceptable. – DNA

Organic farming gaining grounds in Pakistan

Indigenous seed used in organic farming is more resilient to harsh weather than those of hybrid seeds available in the Pakistani local market, says Dr. Engineer Zia-ul-Haq

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Organic is a unique system of farming and food production. Peasants who grow ‘Organic Foods’ basically are serving the humanity as they care about much the most important element of life, i.e: the health. Organic farmers grow high-quality food on the basis of organic agriculture. They use those methods which benefit the whole food system, from people to planet and plant health to animal welfare so educated segment of the society is preferring to ‘Organic Foods’ today. Nowadays, the human beings are facing diet related health problems more than ever before in the history. Fertilizer-based agriculture production has harmful effects on the health as much of fertilizers are made up of a number of chemicals. These chemicals are giving birth to new diseases with every passing day. New researches have pinpointed the hidden reason behind these diseases, i.e: use of inorganic foods in the daily life. Indigenous seed used in organic farming is more resilient to harsh weather than those of hybrid seeds available in the



Pakistani local market, said Dr. Engineer Ziaul Haq, working as lecturer at Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi. He said that at least 70 percent

of Pakistan’s land is arid, with rainfall insufficient in some areas to grow crops without irrigation and thus why this increasingly erratic rainfall is pushing a growing share of small farmers to organic farming as it requires a smaller cash investment and is producing good yields. One farmer Zeeshan Talha from Chahan, district Rawalpindi, told media here on Friday that many people believe introducing organic farming can cut yields, but in fact the opposite is proving true. Another farmer M Nazeer from Chakri told that organic farming is

gaining grounds in this land of ours with the passage of time as organic produce is healthful for the human beings that is why its acceptability is increasing day by day. An official working at Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) said that researches shows that organic farmers get better yields from their crops; therefore the area under organic agriculture is fast increasing. “If we have abundant and timely rainfall, the organic crops give around a 10 percent higher yield,” he said, adding that growing crops organically also helps increase soil fertility.

Briefs

Kotli Lions register first win in KPL 2021

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: Kamran Akmal-led Kotli Lions have finally managed to win the first match of the 2021 Kashmir Premier League (KPL) as they defeated Overseas Warriors by eight wickets.

Lions chased down a mammoth total of 212 in 19 overs. Kamran scored 60 off 35 balls powered by 10 fours and two sixes while Junaid Ali stroked 51 off 28 balls which included five fours and three sixes. Ahsan Ali and Asif Ali remained unbeaten on 56* and 34* respectively. Imad Wasim and Faizan Saleem bagged a wicket each for Warriors. Earlier, Nasir Nawaz, Haider Ali, Azam Khan guided Warriors to 211/6 in 20 overs. Nasir smashed 66 off 44 balls while Haider Ali continued his form, scoring 62 off 38.

Azam smashed 22-ball 51 with the help of five fours and four sixes. Khuram Shahzad took three wickets for Lions while Khalid Usman and Nadeem Khalil bagged a wicket each.

Court extends judicial remand of 7 accused

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A judicial magistrate on Friday extended the judicial custody of seven accused including Usman Mirza till August 27, in a case pertaining to blackmailing and torturing a couple in an upscale sector of Islamabad.

The seven accused were produced before the court of judicial magistrate Shehzad Khan. The court marked the attendances of accused and then ordered the police to produce them again on August 27.

Lukaku rejoins Chelsea for record fee

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: Romelu Lukaku returned to Chelsea on Thursday for a reported club record fee of £97 million (\$135 million) from Inter Milan, seven years after his first spell at Stamford Bridge came to an end.

The Belgian striker was instrumental in securing Inter's first Serie A title for 11 years last season, but the Italian giants financial problems forced them into selling their prized asset to the Premier League side.

"I'm happy and blessed to be back at this wonderful club," said Lukaku, who has signed a five-year contract. "It's been a long journey for me: I came here as a kid who had a lot to learn, now I'm coming back with a lot of experience and more mature. "The way the club is going fits my ambitions perfectly at 28 and just coming off winning Serie A. I think this opportunity comes at the right time and hopefully we can have a lot of success together."

Lukaku scored 64 goals in two seasons in Italy to quickly become a hero at the San Siro. But the 28-year-old also has a proven record in the Premier League, scoring 113 goals during spells with Manchester United, Everton and West Brom.

The only blot on Lukaku's career so far was his first spell at Chelsea as he failed to score in 15 appearances. Signed as an 18-year-old as the apparent heir to Didier Drogba, Lukaku quickly grew frustrated at his lack of opportunities in the first team. Drogba was the hero as Lukaku's first season as a Chelsea player ended with them winning the Champions League for the first time in the club's history. But he later stated he felt he played "no part" in that success due to his limited game time.

Prolific loan spells with West Brom and then Everton proved Lukaku's ability to score goals in the Premier League before he made a permanent move to the Toffees in 2014.

Neighbouring countries need to help ensure peace in Afghanistan

Online conference Online Conference on the "Uzbekistan and Pakistan Partnership: The Perspective for Multidimensional Interaction" organized by Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS)

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Furqat A. Sidikov, Deputy Foreign Minister of Republic of Uzbekistan has said bilateral cooperation between Uzbekistan and Pakistan was excellent. He stated that Afghanistan situation has direct spill-over impacts on Pakistan and Uzbekistan being neighboring countries. Therefore, regional countries must cooperate to find solution of Afghanistan crisis.

He expressed these views during an online conference Online Conference on the "Uzbekistan and Pakistan Partnership: The Perspective for Multidimensional Interaction" organized by Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad with the collaboration of the Information and Analytical Centre for International Relations (IACIR), Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Khalid Taimur Akram, Executive Director, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad, Pakistan was the moderator of the online conference.

Furqat A. Sidikov also highlighted the trade and economic turn over between Uzbekistan and Pakistan that has been increasing since last 3 to 4 years. He suggested that it is significant to promote peace and stability in the region for enhanced economic trade and get access to Pakistan's

Gwadar port which is crucial for economic connectivity for CARs.

Aybek A. Usmanov, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan gave the welcoming remarks. He welcomed all the participants and speakers to the online conference. He appreciated efforts of CGSS for being a major stakeholder in enhancing bilateral relations between Uzbekistan and Pakistan. Aybek A. Usmanov also discussed the grand initiative of Central and South Asia regional connectivity. He stated that prospects for multilateral cooperation are high in which peace in Afghanistan is an important factor.

Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery HI(M), (Retd), President, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad shared his expert analysis that co-operation between Uzbekistan and Pakistan is inter-linked with Afghanistan.

He discussed in detail about the recent situation of Afghanistan. While enlightening the audience, Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery HI(M), (Retd) stated that Central and South Asian connectivity is important to enhance economic potentials. In this regard, CARs can benefit from CPEC. He suggested that all regional countries must join hands and move towards economic connectivity for long-term stability and peace in the region.



Lt. General Khalid Naem Lodhi, HI (M), (Retd), Former Federal Defence Minister of Pakistan expressed his views on Emerging Realities in International political system: U.S. Policy towards South, Central and west Asia. He stated that geopolitics cannot be separated from geo-economics and geostrategic factors. All these factors are interconnected. He discussed that

emerging realities of the world are contested and interlinked.

For example, China has been trying to enhance its influence through economic ideology and cooperation. Unlike U.S. who always try to use multiple tools to maintain its dominance and political ideologies over others. Lt. General Khalid Naem Lodhi, HI (M), (Retd), highlighted

major important tools, i.e., economic, strategic and hybrid that the superpowers use to gain their interest. While concluding speech, he suggested that all regional countries must cooperate with each other to find ways to create peaceful and powerful region.

Dr. Donyar Qurbanov, Director, Information and Analytical Centre for International Relations (IACIR),

Tashkent, Uzbekistan enlightened the audience with his analysis on the ongoing Afghan situation. He stated that Taliban zone has been increasing that will create refugee crisis, and humanitarian issues for the Kabul regime. He suggested that Taliban and Kabul government must reach to a compromise to eradicate existing gap. He also stated that there is growing need to increase interactions between Afghanistan's neighbor. In this regard, a strong policy framework would be an additional force to bring peace to the region. He also highlighted prospects for enhanced bilateral ties between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

Ahmer Bilal Soofi, Former Federal Law Minister of Pakistan gave speech on Current Situation and Future legal Parameters and options for Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Ahmer Bilal Soofi stated possible ways to enhance cooperation between the two nations, Pakistan and Uzbekistan. In this aspect, he provided options to implement on the legal existing agreements and MoUs between both countries. He discussed that there is a need to take advantage by existing legal bridges and agreements that would open avenues for joint ventures. He suggested that we have to be specific in order to encourage and protect the private business and entrepreneurs of Paki-

stan and Uzbekistan. In this aspect, best plan of action is to enhance connectivity through economic planning. Prof. Dr. Shabir Ahmad Khan, Director, Area Study Centre (Russia China & Central Asia), University of Peshawar shared his expert opinion on Implications of U.S. Withdrawal from Afghanistan: Challenges and Options for Pakistan. He stated that if Afghanistan's conflict is increased it will have massive spill-over on the neighboring countries in the form of drug trafficking, violence and refugee crises. He expressed his views that there is a regional consensus to bring peace in Afghanistan. Therefore, all regional countries must devise a plan to eradicate issues with the continuity of global assistance. He also stated that there is a need that different ethnic factions and groups in Afghanistan must be engaged through Loya Jirga to create peace and reach towards a consensus.

He highlighted prospects for Central and South Asian regional connectivity in that he also appreciated the recently held international conference on Central-South Asian connectivity hosted by Uzbekistan to have constructive implications on the region. At the end of the discussion, an interactive session was also held amongst the participants of the Conference.

Maradona, Messi famous lefties

SPECIAL REPORT

LONDON: The date Aug. 13 marks the International Lefthanders. Paris Saint-Germain's recent signing Lionel Messi, deceased Argentine superstar Diego Maradona, former Brazilian attacking left-back Roberto Carlos, ex-Romanian star Gheorghe Hagi and ex-Manchester United veteran Ryan Giggs were the famous lefties in the game that come to mind instantly. A stellar player in the last two decades, Messi, who generally plays on the right flank and center of the offense, is known for his pace, dribble skills and powerful left foot. The 34-year-old Argentine forward was a pure Barcelona product to lead the Spanish club to 10 La Liga and four UEFA Champions League titles from 2004 to 2021 during his sensational career.

The six-time Ballon d'Or award holder also won seven Copa del Rey, eight Spanish Super Cups, three FIFA Club World Cups, and three UEFA Super Cups.

Messi is also Barcelona's all-time top scorer with 672 goals in 778 appearances. He was a free agent when his deal with Barcelona expired in July.

Maradona, who died of heart failure on Nov. 25, 2020, is regarded as one of football's greatest players ever.

Like his compatriot Messi, Maradona was known for his pace, highly skilled technique, and dribbling skills. He was a versatile player on the pitch who could play in different positions in the offense. One of the iconic football figures of all time, Maradona, 25 at the time, was the Argentina captain when he helped his nation win the 1986 FIFA World Cup.

Royals down Tigers by five wickets

SPORTS DESK

MUZAFFARABAD: Khushdil Shah's blistering 56-run knock from 22 balls helped Mirpur Royals beat Muzaffarabad Tigers by five wickets despite Mohammad Hafeez's century on Friday in Kashmir Premier League (KPL). Chasing a mammoth 228-run target, Sharjeel Khan and Mukhtar Ahmed made an aggressive start. Mukhtar departed for 30 on the last ball of powerplay. Sharjeel was also dismissed in the next over by Anwar Ali after scoring 21 in 14 balls.

Royals captain Shoaib Malik combined with Mohammad Akhlaq for 85-run partnership in just 42 balls, before Akhlaq was trapped lbw by Arsalan Arif for 42. Malik didn't stay long for either as he was caught on the bowling of Sohail Tanvir for 46. He hit one six and five fours in his 27-ball knock. After Malik's departure, Khushdil Shah took responsibility and scored a brisk fifty in just 19 balls to take Royals over the finish line with two balls to spare. Batting first, Muzaffarabad Tigers scored 227/6 in their allotted 20 overs.

Centurion from the last match, Zeeshan Ashraf, combined for a 108-run partnership with Mohammad Hafeez. Ashraf gave an ideal platform to Tigers scoring a blistering 49-run knock from 27 balls.

IHC orders to restore bank employee

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday ordered a private bank to restore the services of its manager who was terminated thirteen years ago. Justice Tariq Mehmood Jhangiri announced the verdict and instructed the bank concerned to restore the services of petitioner within fifteen days besides paying him Rs0.5 million.

The court said that there was no allegation against the petitioner for misuse of powers and embezzlement of bank's money.

The court said according to the inquiry report there was laps of only Rs 2,690 in accounts, which the petitioner had already paid. Career of someone couldn't be destroyed on ordinary mistake, the court said.

The order said that the petitioner was not given a formal charge sheet pertaining to the matter. Even no show cause notice was served before starting inquiry and terminating him.

The bank manager Rizwan Ali Khan was terminated on April 21, 2008 over minor allegations. — APP

Tech plays vital role to bring quality education

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum on Friday said technology played a vital role to bring transparency in quality of education and overall affairs of university. He informed that AIUO has completed digitalization which would help facilitate students to get distance learning.

While addressing the inaugural session of two-day Regional Directors conference organized by the Directorate of regional services here at the main campus of AIUO, he said elimination of irregularities in the system has improved the financial position of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIUO) over the past semester.

Dr. Zia congratulated the Deans, Principal Officers and Regional Directors for their continuous support in shifting the manual system to automation, said a news release.

He added that through e-registration, qualified and experienced teachers have been appointed as tutors and a module of UK Open University collaborative training program for their professional training has been prepared.

Govt wants private sector should be represented in FBR: Khusro

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Khusro Bakhtiar has said that our government wants that private sector should be represented in FBR, State Bank and other financial and commercial institutions to create a business friendly environment in the country. He expressed these views in his office today while speaking with Member National Assembly Tahir Iqbal Chaudhry, Secretary General of United Business Group Pakistan Zafar Bakhtawari and Former vice President FPCCI Zahid Iqbal Ch. He said that our government expects from the business community to play a better role in the national interest by bringing reforms in the Chamber of Commerce and FPCCI.

Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General, United Business



Group Pakistan, demanded from the Federal Minister that the results of the last elections of FPCCI are still pending with the Federal Cabinet Committee and should be decided soon by the Director General Trade Organization. Zafar Bakhtawari further said that the business community

has its reservations about the proposal to extend the presidency of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce for two years. "Just as you would think a thousand times about a proposal to extend the term of a president or prime minister from five to ten years, this proposal also has negative

implications and consequences that could lead to severe unrest in the business community," Zahid Iqbal, former vice-president of FPCCI, said on the occasion that some vested interests people are playing with the national interest of the business community.

Police chalk out elaborate security arrangements

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The capital police has planned elaborate measures during festivity of Independence Day in the metropolitan and decided to deploy heavy contingent of police at sensitive points to avoid any untoward incident.

According to a police source, a comprehensive plan has been chalked out on the occasion of Independence day and security personnel would be deployed at important installations as well as the public

places. As per plan, 2500 cops would perform security duties on the occasion and the city has been divided into various beats while additional strength has been deployed at main shopping centers at markets.

Likewise, special contingents have been also deployed at Dhokri Chowk, Korian Wala Chowk, French embassy chowk and Kashmir Chowk.

"Additional heavy contingents will be deployed at all public places, especially parks and various other important spots.



ISLAMABAD: Shaf guest Nazim Hussain posing for a group photo along with players of Midcourt UTR Men's Tennis league at Islamabad Tennis Club. — DNA

Climate change warning

WE humans have inflicted unprecedented and irreversible change on our planet and its climate, beginning a process of forever altering how our environment will act. In a critical report, top climate scientists say that the world has very little room and time to change course to avert further disaster and calamity.

The International Panel on Climate Change, the world's leading authority on climate science, has issued its latest report on the crisis facing us all on this planet – and it would indeed be both dangerous and foolhardy to dismiss it. No, this is far more serious, far more detailed and far more critical in the need for immediate and widespread urgent action on climate change.

Right now, firefighters in southern Europe are struggling to come to terms with huge forest fires in Greece and Turkey. Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg are reeling after devastating and deadly floods. The northwest quadrant of the US and Canada is baking under unprecedented temperatures and the monsoon season is expected to be more severe than normal.

These are not freak events. They are climate emergencies brought about by our heating of this planet through carbon emissions. What's more, they serve as a timely and potent reminder that no matter where we live, we are all affected by climate change and the catastrophic effects of a nature artificially heated and altered by our collective actions and carbon inaction. And time is running out.

Scientists can point to the lack of ice in the Arctic, super-warm Siberia, the altered Gulf Stream flows, changes in global tidal patterns, more frequent storms, more regular extreme weather events, more powerful flooding, more devastating wildfires – any and all caused by our warming of the planet and its inability to process our carbon emissions.

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Code red

THE recent United Nations (UN) panel on climate change, reading from the report from the scientists of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), confirms that the situation of climate change is not as bad as we think—it is actually much worse. The report states that global warming is dangerously close to being out of control and that humans are “unequivocally” to blame. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres described the report as a “code red for humanity”, stating that the “alarm bells are deafening”.

There are some major takeaways from the report, which is based on an analysis of more than 14,000 studies, which should be of high concern to all countries. Firstly, it is a fact that the planet is warmer than it was before and the report confirms that human influence is the major, if not sole, reason. Greater emissions, brought on by the increase in industrialisation in the world, have warmed temperatures—an effect which has impacted all parts of the world and has the potential to devastate some in the not-so-distant future. Secondly, the situation is dire and most of the damage is done. Even if countries now somehow manage to put aside their politics and implement extremely green policies to cut emissions, humans have put so much carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere that this warming will continue at least until the middle of the century.

As alarming as it is, the report still leaves room for hope. Aggressive, rapid and widespread emissions cuts, beginning now, could limit the warming beyond 2050, which can save the world in the remainder of the century from catastrophic consequences.

This is not some far-off dystopian threat—climate change is here and if emissions are not curbed, its devastation will start showing very soon, with poorer countries sure to be the worst hit. It is hoped that this terrifying report will propel the world into action.

Return of a hard-line Iran raises worrying questions

Ishtiaq Ahmed



Hence, the time ahead for the Gulf countries is fraught with potential risks. There are two major security concerns with Iran: Its support for militant proxies that cause instability across the Arab world, and its use of precision-guided missiles and drones against critical infrastructure in Saudi territory and maritime traffic in the Arabian Gulf

WITH the assumption of the Iranian presidency by a hard-line leader whose political interests seem to align with the dogmatic vision of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, Iran is likely to become more aggressive in its external behavior.

In his inaugural speech last week, President Ebrahim Raisi expressed his desire to have better relations with Iran's Arab neighbors, while also pronouncing Iranian militarism across the Arab world as a source of “stability and peace in various nations.”

This paradox has marked the Iranian approach toward its Arab neighbors since 1979, with Tehran aggressively seeking regional hegemony by exporting sectarianism while also keeping the pretense of brotherhood alive.

Hence, the time ahead for the Gulf countries is fraught with potential risks. There are two major security concerns with Iran: Its support for militant proxies that cause instability across the Arab world, and its use of precision-guided missiles and drones against critical infrastructure in Saudi territory and maritime traffic in the Arabian Gulf.

These concerns underscore a major security dilemma that is at the heart of two parallel negotiating processes underway since April 2021: The P5+1 (UN Security Council permanent members and Germany) talks with Iran to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), whose sixth round ended in June without an agreement; and the informal talks between Saudi and Iranian interlocutors, facilitated by Baghdad.

The fate of both dialogues now hangs in balance.

For the new Iranian leader, “regional and missile issues are non-negotiable.” Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies want these issues to be incorporated in the revised JCPOA. The 2015 nuclear accord failed to do so, thereby enabling Iran to expand its militant network across the Arab world, and develop precision strike capabilities using drones and guided ballistic missiles.

Consequently, Iran has stirred up regional conflict and instability through the Quds Force, militias in Iraq and in Syria, the Houthis in Yemen, Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Palestine. Iran has also put into practice its precision strike capabilities by orchestrating, directly or through the Houthis in Yemen and militias in Iraq, major attacks against critical infrastructure in Saudi Arabia. Iran also continues to target maritime traffic in the Arabian Gulf with greater vigor and has geared up the nuclear enrichment process in violation of the JCPOA.

A major reason Iran has been able to get away with its militarism and nuclear jingoism is the consistent erosion of the US military commitment in the region – a process that has accelerated under the Biden administration. In fact, by removing the Houthis from the US designated list of terrorist organizations, Washington has implicitly endorsed Iran's deadly activities in the region.

But the return of the hard-line leadership in Iran has pushed Tehran into a cul-de-sac: Biden now has to deal with an elected president facing US human rights sanctions for his role as a judge in the tribunal that awarded death sentences to thousands of Iranian citizens in 1988. Frustrated with the Iranian demands

that cannot be met, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has already said the talks to renew the JCPOA “can't go on forever.”

The US special envoy for Yemen, Tim Lenderking, has also lately discovered that the real culprits in the Yemen war are the Iranian-backed Houthis. Hence, the recent talk of the US Treasury imposing sanctions on Houthi leaders and Iran's precision strike capabilities.

With the hard-liners returning to power in Iran, the US and its allies in the region will have to work out a joint military and economic strategy to bring the Iranian leadership to its knees.

Conditions are ripe for this purpose. Iran is already crippled economically under the impact of US sanctions. The Abraham Accords have strategically aligned the Gulf against Iran. And the post-pandemic economic recovery has enabled Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies to resume economic diversification plans, even amid persisting security threats from Iran.

The proposed strategy could entail the expansion of international economic sanctions against Iran; the redesignation of the Houthis as a terrorist entity; and an unequivocal US guarantee to protect shipping lanes in the Gulf waters against Iranian drone and missile attacks. Depending on the outcome, more punitive measures may follow.

Ishtiaq Ahmad is a former journalist, who has subsequently served as the Vice Chancellor of Sargodha University in Pakistan and the Quaid-e-Azam Fellow at the University of Oxford.

– Courtesy Arab News

Independence and optimism

Wajeeha Bilal



The struggle for Pakistan through history is still connected to its current political status. Our Prime Minister Imran Khan sees the US viewing Pakistan as useful only in the context of the “mess” it left behind in Afghanistan after 20 years of fighting. Pakistan's regional borders have been affected by wars on terror and the ongoing global cold wars

INDEPENDENCE is the slogan that was raised as a founding factor for the establishment of our country. The struggle was sustained by those who sacrificed to lay the foundations of our independence. The desire for peace and prosperity is an integral part of a struggle. “You can't separate peace from freedom because no one can be at peace unless he has his freedom,” says Malcolm X. The struggle for Pakistan is inherited deeply in its existence. Its independent and democratic platform has been used or misused to achieve or sustain power.

The corrupted negativity could have destroyed our individual and collective freedom had we not stood against it. We live in a pessimistic world looking for opportunities to divide and take away what truly was hard earned by our ancestors. But cynicism and negativity never helped to bring freedom or peace and certainly through an analysis of our history, we have the cure for this virus in the form of hope and elation.

The dream of our great nation was built on morality and optimism. Our founding fathers believed that an independent state was a true hope of opportunity for the struggling Muslims of the subcontinent. A dream of a separate homeland brought hope that we shall rise despite our difficulties. Political struggles in Pakistan continue to be scarred by world politics and regional instability. Mohammad Ali Jinnah had envisioned a democratic Pakistan but Pakistan faces the inevitable task of setting up government priorities alongside sustaining its regional demographics.

Since its birth on 14 August 1947, Pakistan's journey for survival has been as coercive as it has been challenging. In spite of being one of the largest Muslim states in the world, Pakistan struggled to keep its eastern wing

in 1971. Pakistan's rise in the world politics, pricked its neighbor who conspired their support for separating its eastern wing. The conspiracy was driven by a neighbor's dismay and Indira Gandhi's support to counter the existence of Pakistan. Despite its strong struggle to exist, Pakistan has always been engaged in a continuous struggle to sustain demographic stability. We are free Pakistanis who are known for their struggle and sacrifice and proudly identify with our homeland that still faces difficulty in its existence. We do not allow neighborly politics to deviate us from our struggle to exist.

The struggle for Pakistan through history is still connected to its current political status. Our Prime Minister Imran Khan sees the US viewing Pakistan as useful only in the context of the “mess” it left behind in Afghanistan after 20 years of fighting. Pakistan's regional borders have been affected by wars on terror and the ongoing global cold wars.

The US withdrawal from Afghanistan and its regional brutality oriented at Pakistan's struggle and strategic survival in that area. Our Foreign Minister Qureshi, in a recent press conference, stated that Pakistan was consistently advocating a reduction in violence and supporting the peace process.

He said Pakistan sympathised with Afghanistan and would support it, but it would not shy from saying “What we believe in because of our clear approach... We have never advocated use of force and we have never shown inclination towards a particular group. We have no favourites,” he stressed.

Our collective optimism has been a powerful force for our achievements. We have struggled through our turbulent history but the main obstacles in our survival lie ahead of us. Our country is a developing one that requires prop-

er plans and implementation not only in politics but other organizations as well.

It survives daily struggles against corruption in different fields. Regardless of the regional turbulence, political turmoil and instability, Pakistanis are a hardworking nation that sustain a great culture and optimism for their independent land.

Our hope and courage shield us from the international conflicts and regional instability. Whether it's our daily endeavors to excel in different fields or our prayers to elevate our artists and athletes during competitions, all the efforts lead the way to move on and celebrate every Independence Day with an enthusiasm that defies all the negativity.

“Throughout history many nations have suffered a physical defeat, but that has never marked the end of a nation. But when a nation has become the victim of a psychological defeat, then that marks the end of a nation.” ~ Ibn Khaldun.

Our founders risked their lives to establish a new homeland where people could fulfil their dreams with freedom and peace. The biggest threat to that dream arises when the willpower to struggle or live with hope dies with fear from daily struggles. As long as people have faith and hope to survive any obstacle that comes their way, the idea of a free dreamland will flourish. There is no better way to celebrate our independence day than by doing what we can with optimism, in our own fields for the existence and prosperity of our country. Pakistan's existence and survival rests above all conspiracies and conflicts, for to lose hope in any way about our homeland would mean a war against all those who dreamed and sacrificed for Pakistan.

“There is no power on earth that can undo Pakistan.” ~ Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

74 August

وطن پاکستان
ہمسکایا
پاکستان

دن دل پاکستان
SHADES OF GREEN

جشن آزادی میلاد

مہمانِ صدر

ٹمبرو آیرن مارکیٹ
حاجی آباد

مہاجر اشراف منڈل

14 اگست
کشمیر
بنے گا پاکستان



Haji M Atta Ullah
(Vice Chairman Taneem-e-mughalia)

INDEPENDENCE
Day of Pakistan

On 14 August 1947, the new Dominion of Pakistan became independent and Muhammad Ali Jinnah was sworn in as its first governor general in Karachi. Independence was marked with widespread celebration, but the rifts remained heated given the communal riots prevalent during Independence in 1947.

Mirza Ghulam Abbas
Senior Vice President
Anjuman tajran Timber & Iron Market
Sheikhpura Road Faisalabad

INDEPENDENCE
Day of Pakistan

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Subhan Ali Malik
Deputy Director Information
(RETD)

[illegible]

Malik Saeed Raza
(Deputy Director Safety)
Faisalabad Electric Supply Company

14th August
the day of Sacrifice, the day of Love, the day of Division

Celebrating with the message of
freedom and peace to the world
Happy Independence Day

Kashif Raza Awan
(Chief Executive Officer)

Muteeb Ather Virk
(Head of Communication Dept.)

Faisalabad Waste Management Company
صاف سقرا فیماں ہا

Briefs

Azerbaijan,
Turkey
expand
tourism ties

FOREIGN DESK

BAKU: Chairman of the State Tourism Agency Fuad Naghiyev and Turkish Ambassador to Azerbaijan Cahit Bagci have exchanged views on expanding tourism cooperation. Speaking about tourism, Fuad Naghiyev pointed out that the Turkish citizens were among the first foreigners to visit Azerbaijan before the pandemic.

The chairman of the State Tourism Agency noted that 92,550 Turkish citizens visited Azerbaijan in January-July 2021. The chairman of the State Tourism Agency informed the Turkish Ambassador about the current flights in accordance with the pandemic conditions. Despite the challenges arising from the COVID-19 crisis, Azerbaijan sees the positive changes development of domestic tourism.

During the meeting, Fuad Naghiyev called on Turkish tourists to visit the country's regions. The Ambassador Cahit Bagci said he was pleased that Turkey was one of the countries where Azerbaijani tourists visited for many years. He stressed the importance of expanding ties in the tourism industry. The sides also exchanged views on the work planned to restore tourism in the post-pandemic period.

Uzbekistan
recorded 948
COVID cases

DNA

TASHKENT: As of 12 August 2021, the number of registered cases of coronavirus infections in Uzbekistan made up 141,158 (+948).

New cases were registered: 91 people in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, 42 people in Andijan region, 23 people in Bukhara region, 65 people in Jizzakh region, 27 people in Kashkadarya region, 19 people in Navoi region, 47 people in Namangan region, 93 people in Samarkand region, 29 people in Syrdarya region, 90 people in Surkhondarya region, 82 people in Ferghana region, 40 people in the Khorezm region, 96 people in Tashkent region, 204 people in Tashkent. In Tashkent, 116 patients were cured, 134 307 (+945) people were cured, the recovery rate is 95%. Also, 8 patients with coronavirus died, and the number of deaths from the disease was 964 people.

Russia
reports
record-high
Covid deaths

FOREIGN DESK

MOSCOW: Russia has recorded its highest daily coronavirus death toll for a second day running, as a third wave of infections persists despite efforts from authorities to boost vaccinations. A government tally on Friday showed 815 fatalities over the past 24 hours and 22,277 new cases.

Russia, the fourth worst-hit country in the world in terms of cases, has since mid-June been hit by a new wave of infections driven by the highly transmissible Delta variant.

The new figures bring Russia's total fatalities from COVID-19 to 168,864 – the highest toll in Europe.

This figure, however, only takes into account deaths where the virus was established as the primary cause of death after an autopsy.

Under a broader definition for deaths linked to the coronavirus, statistics agency Rosstat said that Russia has seen more than 300,000 fatalities as of the end of June. Authorities have faced a vaccine-sceptic population, with a poll by the independent Levada Center this week showing that 55 percent of Russians do not plan on getting inoculated. Moscow, the epicentre of Russia's outbreak, and a host of regions have introduced mandatory vaccination measures to speed up the country's inoculation drive, and President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly called on Russians to get vaccinated.

SCO members to exchange
agricultural technologies

The SCO Secretary General noted that the Yangling Demonstration Industrial Zone of High-Tech Agriculture is today recognized as the national brand of China

DNA

TASHKENT: Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan Jamshid Khodjaev took part in the sixth Meeting of Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization member states on agriculture on 12 August 2021. As a result of the event, a draft Joint Statement of the Heads of the SCO Member States on Food Security was agreed upon, and the Concept for the creation of the SCO Demonstration Base for the Exchange and Training of Agricultural Technologies was approved. "The SCO demonstration base for the exchange and training of agricultural technologies on the basis of the Chinese Yangling demonstration zone of new high technologies in agriculture is being created in order to implement the Agreement on cooperation in the field of agriculture of the SCO member states and other existing documents on cooperation in the field of agriculture," noted Minister Jamshid Khodjaev. The branch of the Yangling demonstration zone will be located in Uzbekistan on the territory of the Academician M. Mirzaev (Schroeder) Research Institute, as well as on the basis of the Tashkent regional AKIS Knowledge and Innovation Center. This will be the format of an agricultural park, where Chinese private companies will grow agricultural products, introduce and demonstrate technologies, and conduct



practical training for local farmers. Initially, about 20 companies from China are expected to participate. "The minister stressed that the agricultural sector is one of the main points of cooperation between the SCO member states.

The demonstration base will facilitate the exchange of experience between states, the development of sectoral cooperation based on market principles, the dissemination of

new high agricultural technologies and advanced knowledge in the field of sustainable development of high-tech agriculture.

Earlier, the SCO Secretary General noted that the Yangling Demonstration Industrial Zone of High-Tech Agriculture is today recognized as the national brand of China, as one of the authoritative and large-scale platforms for international exchanges and the development of new models

of cooperation based on the achievements of science and practice.

The meeting, which was held online on 12 August, was attended by the Secretariat of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization headed by Secretary General Vladimir Norov, FAO Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia Vladimir Rakhmanin, as well as the Ministers for Agriculture of the SCO member states India, Russia, Kazakhstan, People's

Republic of China, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan. According to the Joint Statement on Food Security agreed at the meeting, the member states intend to further develop:

- mutually beneficial trade in agricultural and food products, including with the help of modern information and communication technologies;
- cooperation on the organization of "green" transport corridors and SCO routes for the timely delivery of food;
- cooperation between supervisory authorities in the field of veterinary and phytosanitary safety to ensure mutual access of agricultural products.

The member states are interested in further developing the SCO's interaction on food security with international organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Jamshid Khodjaev as the current chairman of the Regional Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for Europe and Central Asia until 2023, stressed the importance of enhancing interaction between the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and FAO. He also noted that Uzbekistan is ready to assist in further deepening the interaction of these two organizations.

The fundamental document on cooperation of the SCO countries in the field of agriculture was signed in the capital of Uzbekistan - Tashkent in June 2010.

Attack kills eight
Egyptian troops

FOREIGN DESK

CAIRO: A roadside bomb exploded in the restive northern part of the Sinai Peninsula, killing eight members of Egypt's security forces, including an officer, while six others were wounded. The troops were riding an armoured vehicle when the bomb went off in New Rafah, a town on the border with the Gaza Strip, said officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to the media.

The wounded, who suffered serious injuries, were transferred to a military hospital in the nearby Mediterranean city of el-Arish late on Thursday.

The armed group ISIL (ISIS) claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement on an ISIL-affiliated website.

In a similar attack last month, ISIL fighters ambushed a checkpoint in the town of Sheikh Zuweid, killing at least five troops and wounding at least six

others. Egypt has been battling armed groups in northern Sinai for years. Violence and instability there intensified after the 2013 military coup that removed Mohamed Morsi, an elected but divisive president, amid nationwide protests against his brief rule.

The fighters have carried out numerous attacks, mainly targeting Egyptian security forces, minority Christians, and those who they accuse of collaborating with the military and police. Also on Thursday, the spokesman of Egypt's armed forces, Lieutenant-Colonel Gharib Abdel Hafez Gharib, issued a statement saying nine troops were killed and wounded in clashes in Sinai.

However, he did not provide the breakdown of the casualties. It also remained unclear which attack he was referring to.

Gharib added the armed forces killed 13 fighters and confiscated 15 automatic rifles and ammunition in northern and central Sinai.



ISLAMABAD: German Ambassador Bernhard Stephan Schlagheck, is calling on Federal Minister of States and Frontier Regions, Sahibzada Muhammad Mahboob Sultan in Islamabad. – DNA

Uzbek President proposed to
intensify coordination of C. Asia

DNA

TASHKENT: During the third Consultative meeting of the heads of state of Central Asia, which took place on 6 August this year, in Turkmenistan, the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev put forward a number of initiatives to further develop the regional energy sector.

In particular, Shavkat Mirziyoyev urged to continue efforts to form a common energy space, paying special attention to the advanced implementation of "green" energy and energy efficient technologies. In addition, it was proposed to intensify the activities of the Coordinating Electricity and Energy Council of the Central Asian countries, expanding its mandate and powers, as well as increasing the level of representation of countries.

Undoubtedly, this initiative of the head of Uzbekistan is designed to increase the efficiency of the said Council,



to facilitate the coordination of common efforts to accelerate the development of the common energy space. This will also allow the countries of the region to effectively interact on the generation and transmission of electricity, construction and operation of power transmission lines, rational water use in the agricultural sector, as well as export of electricity abroad. In this regard, today the countries of Central Asia need to unite their efforts in the construction of new power plants, the construction and modernization

of interstate power transmission lines. At the same time, the countries of the region can effectively use the complementarity of our economies.

In particular, Kyrgyzstan is rich in coal reserves that can be used to generate electricity. In turn, Uzbekistan has significant experience in the construction of power plants and can provide practical assistance to Kyrgyzstan in this area. This undoubtedly meets the interests of both countries, since Kyrgyzstan will be provided with electricity, and Uzbekistan will receive water for agricultural needs. In addition, it is necessary to intensify the Uzbek-Tajik interaction in the electric power sector. Both countries can work together to modernize transmission lines, which are largely outdated. This will help to increase the supply of electricity from Tajikistan to Uzbekistan, to make them sustainable. It should be noted that supplies of Tajik electricity to Uzbekistan

resumed in 2018. In 2020, the reconstruction of the 63-kilometer section of the 500 kV power transmission line "Guzar-Regar" began. Mirziyoyev's initiatives, put forward during the summit in Turkmenistan, are very relevant against the background of the gradual rejection of fossil fuels in the world. For example, in 2020 in Europe, the share of renewable energy sources (RES) in electricity generation exceeded the share of fossil fuels for the first time in history. A number of European countries have planned to completely abandon the use of coal in the energy sector.

It should be noted that energy cooperation is gradually being established in the region. Thus, Uzbekistan jointly with Tajikistan plans to build 2 HPPs with a capacity of 320 MW on the Zarafshan River. Tashkent has also shown its readiness to participate in projects for the construction of the Kambar-Ata and Rogun hydroelectric power plants.

Canada to deploy Special Forces to
assist Afghan embassy evacuation

A number of Afghan nationals who worked for the Canadian government, as well as their families, also hope to be evacuated along with Canadian citizens

AGENCIES

OTTAWA: Canadian special forces troops will be deployed to help evacuate diplomatic staff from Ottawa's embassy in Afghanistan, according to multiple reports, following similar moves by the US and UK amid a devastating Taliban offensive. The special operators will work alongside British and American counterparts to ensure civilian personnel leave the country safely as fighting ramps up, unnamed Canadian officials told the Associated Press, CBC and Global News on Thursday night. While the officials did not say how many troops will be sent, a source

told CBC that the government does not plan a large presence, suggesting it would be smaller than Washington or London's embassy deployments, which include 600 British 3,000 American soldiers.

Also on rt.com US cuts staff at Kabul embassy down to 'core presence' as Taliban closes in

A number of Afghan nationals who worked for the Canadian government, as well as their families, also hope to be evacuated along with Canadian citizens, but officials have not decided on where they should go, Global News reported. A planeload of Afghan workers was sent to Canada earlier this month amid the Taliban's latest offensive, while the government says it's resettled more than 800 Afghans over the last decade.

The rapid evacuations were ordered earlier on Thursday as Taliban fighters continue a relentless offensive across Afghanistan, seizing around a dozen provincial capitals over the last week, including Kandahar on Thursday, the country's second-largest city and formerly the home of Canada's military mission. Later in the evening, a Taliban spokesperson declared the militant group had also captured Lashkar Gah, capital of Helmand province, claiming the major southern city is now "under the complete control of the mujahideen" and that large numbers of government troops had surrendered after suffering "heavy casualties."

Death toll
from floods
in Turkey
rises to 27

DNA

ANKARA: The death toll from floods in Turkey's Black Sea region has risen to 27, authorities said on Friday.

Floods caused by heavy rains hit the northern Black Sea region on Wednesday, leaving 25 people dead in the Kastamonu province, a Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) statement said.

Two others died in the Sinop province, while one is missing in the Bartin province. Rescue and relief operations are continuing in the flood-hit areas, the statement added.

It said 112 villages in Kastamonu and 86 villages in Sinop have been left without electricity, adding that a fund of 20 million Turkish liras (\$2.4 million) has been allocated for the region. Over 895 workers in Bartin, 2,333 in Kastamonu, and 1,532 in Sinop are carrying out relief work in the affected areas, according to a previous AFAD statement.

A total of 323 people in Bartin, 925 in Kastamonu, and 472 in Sinop were evacuated to safe areas by helicopters and boats, Communications Director Fahrettin Altun said on Twitter.

He said 220 volunteers, nine catering trucks, and 42 vehicles sent by the Turkish Red Crescent to the region are working on the ground.

The volunteers, non-governmental and humanitarian organizations in the region continue their work in coordination with AFAD and other relevant public institutions, Altun said and appreciated their efforts.

Uzbekistan
to receive
batch of
AstraZeneca

WEB DESK

TASHKENT: A batch of AstraZeneca vaccine will be delivered to Uzbekistan on 14 August. This was reported by the press service of the Ministry of Health.

According to the ministry, 276,480 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine will be delivered from France.

The vaccines will be supplied through the COVAX program.

As a result, the volume of vaccines delivered to Uzbekistan will reach about 14.86 million doses. As of 12 August, 11.65 million doses have been used in the campaign to vaccinate the population.



On the auspicious occasion of Independence Day of Pakistan, I extend my warm greetings to all fellow citizens. 14 August symbolizes the saga of sacrifices for independence by the Muslims of Sub-Continent. Undoubtedly, what our forefathers envisioned was not a geographical entity but a much higher cause - the attainment of a separate homeland where they could live in peace and harmony, in line with their collective will and ideology. While celebrating our independence, we must strive to be worthy of our predecessors' tremendous struggles and prove ourselves true inheritors of the invaluable reward bestowed on us. Since creation, Pakistan has confronted varied trials and tribulations; and even today, the country is facing diversified challenges. By the grace of Allah Almighty, we have always triumphed on the strength of our unity. Our successful fight against COVID-19 Pandemic is a recent manifestation of the same. On this happy day, we show solidarity with our Kashmiri brothers, who have been suffering oppression and rendering supreme sacrifices for over seven decades. We stand by them in their indigenous and just struggle for self-determination. I also assure my compatriots that Pakistan Air Force is fully committed to the Mission entrusted to it by the Nation. Over decades, Pakistan Air Force has come a long way in establishing itself as a professional and efficient Air Force, Second to None. May Allah Almighty grant us strength and guide our efforts to defend our motherland in a manner befitting the Nation's faith and pride in PAF. (Aameen)!

Air Chief Marshal
ZAHEER AHMED BABER SIDHU, NI (M)
Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force

PAKISTAN AIR FORCE
A SYMBOL OF PRIDE FOR THE NATION
PID (I) 854/21



Briefs

Afghan diplomat slams Ghani for Afghan collapse

FOREIGN DESK

KABUL: Omar Zakhilwal, former ambassador of Afghanistan to Pakistan, blamed Ashraf Ghani for the country's "rapid collapse" as the Taliban continue to make swift advances and conquer more territory.

In a series of tweets, Zakhilwal blamed Ashraf Ghani's misuse of authority, rampant corruption for reducing the Afghan state to "personal fiefdom". The former ambassador lashed out at the Afghan president, saying that he had spent years on promoting his image as the "greatest leader" Afghanistan ever had and the "second-most intellectual person in the world".

He listed some of Ghani's failed tactics during his rule, mainly excessive repeated violation of the constitution, nepotism, instilling political and national divisiveness, deliberate politicisation and "demoralisation of state institutions, political conspiracies, sabotaging of successive opportunities". He said due to Ghani's self-promotion, the Afghan security forces today were unsure whether they were fighting to protect the state or to ensure Ghani stays in power for another term.

Airlines start rapid COVID tests on 7 airports

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has on Friday said it has allowed space to private airlines in seven large airports to conduct rapid Covid tests for passengers after the UAE imposed a condition for results not older than four hours.

CAA has allowed the private airlines to set up rapid coronavirus testing stalls by private laboratories on seven airports as the United Arab Emirates made it a condition to get fresh rapid PCR test results before boarding the flights.

According to the development, Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar, Faisalabad, Multan, and Quetta airports to have the facility for rapid testing. CAA said the Karachi's domestic arrival lounge will have the testing space for the facility of rapid PCR test as well. The private labs outsourced by the airlines will conduct these tests, CAA said.

Soldier martyred in South Waziristan

RAWALPINDI: A soldier of Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom during chase of terrorists detected in Sararogha area of South Waziristan district where due to prompt and effective response, one terrorist was killed and another apprehended in injured condition. "On the night of 11/12 August 2021, Pakistan Army military post in Sararogha, South Waziristan District detected suspicious move of 3-4 suspected terrorists in its area of responsibility," said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release. A Quick Reaction Force (QRF) was immediately dispatched to challenge the suspected terrorists; however the troops were fired upon, it said. The martyred soldier was identified as Naik Zia ud Din (resident of Mardan), part of leading troops, got critically injured and embraced shahadat, during intense exchange of fire, it said. "The apprehended terrorist later revealed that they planned to conduct a fire raid on a military post," the ISPR statement mentioned. It further mentioned that Pakistan Army was determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism. "Sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," it emphasised.

Pakistan wants broad-based partnership with the US

"We want to build long term, broad-based, comprehensive and mutually beneficial partnerships, rather than having transactional relations"

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday said it wanted to build a broad-based partnership with the United States, rather than the transactional relations.

"We want to build long term, broad-based, comprehensive and mutually beneficial partnerships, rather than having transactional relations," the Foreign Office Spokesperson said at a weekly press briefing here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He was responding to a question regarding a statement of Prime Minister Imran Khan as saying, "the U.S was considering Pakistan good only to clear the mess in Afghanistan".

"Pakistan had repeatedly stated that neither should Pakistan be looked at through the prism of an-

other country, nor should our relations be viewed narrowly," he said. The FO Spokesperson said Pakistan would take all such decisions and pursue policies that were in its national interest and contribute to peace and prosperity in the region and beyond.

He said Pakistan and the United States had a history of close cooperative relations, adding that the cooperative relationship had served the interests of both the countries.

"We have convergence of views and interests on a number of key issues including the ongoing Afghan Peace Process. We both believe that there's no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan," he said.

FO Spokesperson said both Pakistan and the United States supported an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political set-



tlement in Afghanistan through a process that was owned and led by Afghan themselves.

He said Pakistan played a key role in facilitating the US-Taliban agreement for peace in Afghanistan in February last year.

"We consider the United States a friend and want broad-based relations to achieve our shared objec-

tives of peace and prosperity in the region and beyond," he said.

To a question on Extended Troika, he said Pakistan would continue to support it to bring lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan.

"Pakistan will continue to engage in this platform to undertake collective efforts to expedite the peace process," he said.

The Special Representatives of Pakistan, the United States, China and Russia met in Qatar's capital of Doha on Wednesday to discuss the worsening situation in Afghanistan. Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said the members of the Extended Troika discussed the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan and explored ways of expediting intra-Afghan peace.

He said talks were held for achieving an inclusive political settlement and bringing an end to the four dec-

ades long conflict in Afghanistan. He mentioned that the delegations of Afghanistan led by head of the High Council for National Reconciliation Dr. Abdullah Abdullah and the Taliban led by Mullah Baradar also had interaction with the Extended Troika. FO Spokesperson said the Extended Troika countries broadly conveyed to the Afghan sides that there was a need for "urgent measures to reduce violence leading to a ceasefire".

It was stressed that there was no military solution to the Afghan conflict and the Afghan sides should put forward their peace plans on priority basis so that progress was made towards a political roadmap, he added.

He mentioned that the need for all sides to respect human rights and not indulging in human rights violations was also stressed upon.

Nation celebrates Independence Day

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The nation will celebrate Independence Day today with renewed resolve to work with the spirit of Pakistan Movement to make the country a true Islamic welfare state.

The day will dawn with thirty-one gun salutes in the Federal Capital and twenty-one gun salutes in the provincial headquarters. Prayers will be offered for security and progress of Pakistan and well-being of the people.

National flag will be hoisted at all important public and private buildings.

The main feature of the celebrations will be a national flag hoisting ceremony at President House Islamabad. President Dr. Arif Alvi will be the chief guest on the occasion.

Similar flag hoisting ceremonies will also be held at provincial, divisional and district headquarters level throughout the country.

Public and private buildings as well as streets, bazaars and markets have been profusely illuminated.

National flags, bunting, portraits of founding fathers, posters and banners are also seen everywhere as part of the celebration of Independence Day.

Erdogan visits Turkish flood victims

AGENCIES

ISTANBUL: The death toll from Turkey's flash floods soared to 27 on Friday as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited one of the hardest-hit cities to lead a prayer for the victims and pledge government help.

The devastation across Turkey's northern Black Sea regions came just as the disaster-hit country was winning control over hundreds of wildfires that killed eight people and destroyed swathes of forest along its scenic southern coast.

A previous spate of flooding killed six people last month in the northeastern province of Rize.

Scientists believe such natural disasters are becoming more intense and frequent because of global warming caused by polluting emissions.



PML-N blasts govt over Twitter trends report

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The PML-N on Friday raised doubts about the credibility of a report released by the government earlier this week regarding manipulative use of social media accounts to defame Pakistan, calling it "extremely misleading and shoddy".

Reacting to the report at a press conference today, senior PML-N leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi claimed that a Canada-based company which the government had cited as the source of the data had confirmed that it had neither sold any data to Pakistan nor provided it in any capacity.

He said the Canadian firm made this revelation in a statement given to Geo News programme 'Aaj Shahzeb Khanzada Kay Sath'.

"This shows that the government in Pakistan either stole the data or made it up on its own," he alleged.

He said the data should have been garnered from a credible source or through own research.

The former prime minister noted that the government had mentioned sev-

eral hashtags and trends in the report, but "it didn't elaborate the content written under the hashtags, whether it was in favour of Pakistan or against the current government's corruption." He regretted that a major part of the report targeted politicians and political parties with representation in the National Assembly and the Senate and that they had been labelled as "enemies of Pakistan".

He also pointed out that a map shown in the report five to six times allegedly showed Kashmir as part of India. "Did these ministers take a look at the report before making it public?" he asked.

Abbasi said it was "shocking" to note that criticism of the government's alleged corruption was dubbed as a matter of national security.

He said political leaders like Afrasiab Khattak, Bushra Gohar, Rehman Malik, Farhatullah Babar and many others were being labelled as enemies of the state just because "they talk about democracy." He said the country's problems could not be resolved through tweets and "concocted" reports.



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of Poland to Pakistan, Piotr A. Opalinski, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. - DNA

IMF allocations to take forex reserves to historic high level: SBP

"We were in deep scramble in 2017-18 when our CAD went up to \$19b or 6% of GDP"

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Reza Baqir said Friday that the foreign exchange reserves of the central bank would reach to the historic high level once the country receives \$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 the coronavirus pandemic.

Addressing a press conference, Baqir said that earlier, the highest reserves of \$19.5 billion were recorded in year 2016.

Appreciating the International Monetary Fund's step for providing global liquidity, the SBP Governor said that this was a happy news, which he said would help improve country's reserves and have very positive impact on various economic indicators.

He said the increase in reserves would help provide coverage to imports into the



country, saying that since the country was currently in recovery mode, hence needed more imports.

He said that the inclusion of \$2.77 billion would also help enhance the net international reserves of the country, which is also positive sign for the country's economy.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund had approved a general allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) equivalent to US\$650 billion (about SDR 456 billion) to boost global liquidity.

The allocation would bene-

fit 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.

Referring to apprehensions raised by some of the economists about rising trend of Current Account Deficit, Governor SBP Reza Baqir said the deficit would likely to remain at 2-3% of GDP during current year which is a moderate ratio.

Moderate increase is a good sign for economy provided that it should remain sustainable, he said adding "We were in deep scramble in 2017-18 when our CAD went up to \$19 billion or 6% of GDP".

The Governor said there were three signs when the economy could be in trouble due to rising current account deficit. First alarming bell, he said was that amid growing CAD, fluctuation in the exchange rate was high and non-adjustable.

Britain chides US over Afghan pullout

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Britain on Friday branded US President Joe Biden's decision to press on with pulling troops from Afghanistan as "a mistake," warning the country is on the brink of a civil war.

In a rare criticism of the UK's key NATO ally, British Defense Minister Ben Wallace warned that the withdrawal "leaves a very big problem on the ground." Wallace said the drawdown would benefit al-Qaida, who were given safe haven by the Taliban before the 9/11 attacks in 2001 that prompted the West's 20-year involvement in Afghanistan. "I'm absolutely worried that failed states are breeding grounds for those type of people," he told the broadcaster Sky News. "Of course al-Qaida will probably come back," he said, warning that would lead to "a security threat to us and our interests."

He later told the BBC that Afghanistan is "heading towards a civil war."

Speaking in a separate interview with the LBC radio station, Wallace refused to rule out British troops returning if terror groups started using Afghanistan as a base to launch attacks.

Australian, Japanese envoys felicitate Pakistanis

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: MATSUDA Kuninori, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, has congratulated Pakistani people on the occasion of the country's 75th Independence Day, which is marked on August 14th, and reiterated his resolve to strengthen long-standing friendly relations between our countries.

"On behalf of the Government and the people of Japan, I would like to express our sincere congratulations to the Government and the people of Pakistan on their 75th Independence Day and best wishes for further peace and prosperity in Pakistan. I would also like to take this opportunity to recall our long-standing cordial relations and assure you that Japan will work with Pakistan to enhance such relationships, especially next year,



which marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our countries," said Ambassador.

The Ambassador also referred to the Tokyo Olympic Games, expressing his sincere gratitude to all people concerned and congratulated Pakistani athletes on their notable performance. In his message, the Ambassador welcomed the development of Japan-Pakistan relationships in a wide range of fields including such sports exchange as well as political, economic, cultural, and people-to-people

exchanges.

In the end, the Ambassador appreciated the Government of Pakistan and all medical workers who have been fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic for more than a year.

Meanwhile, the Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Dr Geoffrey Shaw congratulated Pakistan on its 74th Independence Day. In a special message, he said: "I join the people and Government of Pakistan in celebrating the occasion of Pakistan Independence Day.

Pakistan has continued to strengthen as a nation during its 74 years of independence and Australia has been a steadfast friend throughout this time.

We were one of the first countries to formally recognise the new nation of Pakistan in 1947. Since then, the relationship between our two countries has strengthened and deepened.

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