



Islamabad POST

Monday, August 16, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

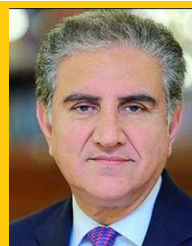
Price Rs. 20

Indonesia, Pakistan ties poised for a quantum leap: Envoy

Detailed News On Page-01

Pakistan supports peace in Afghanistan

Detailed News On Page-01



Amb. Sajjad highlights govt achievements

Detailed News On Page-07



ASHRAF GHANI FLEES Taliban in full control

Taliban leadership rejects idea of interim govt; want to have full control; Abdullah Abdullah, Hamid Karzai and Gulbudin Hekmatyar to negotiate with Taliban; Taliban fighters enter Kabul 'to maintain law and order'

Taliban announces amnesty

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The spokesman of Taliban has said that its door are open for all those who have previously worked and helped the invaders, or are now standing in the ranks of the corrupt Kabul administration and already announced amnesty. We once again invite them all to come and serve the nation and the country, Suhail Shaheen said in his Tweeter message. He added, Mujahideen should pay utmost attention to the treasury, public facilities, and government offices, equipment of government offices, parks, roads, and bridges. These are the trust and property of the nation; no personal tampering and negligence should be done with them but be strictly guarded, he added.

NEWS DESK/DNA

KABUL: President Ashraf Ghani fled Afghanistan on Sunday, a top official said, effectively ceding power to the Taliban as they reached the capital Kabul to seal a nationwide military victory in just 10 days. Taliban have rejected the idea of an interim govt. They want to have full control. "The former Afghan President has left the nation, leaving the people to this situation," Abdullah Abdullah, who heads the peace process, said in a video on his Facebook page. "God hold him accountable, and the people will have their judgement." He gave no indication where Ghani was going, but leading Afghan media group Tolo news suggested he was heading to Tajikistan. Later, a Taliban spokesman said that Taliban fighters have entered Kabul in response to a "law and order issue", media reported. The group ordered its fighters earlier Sunday not to enter the capital, saying the remnants of the government's

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'Ali Jalali may head interim govt'

DNA

KABUL: Former Afghan ambassador to Germany, Ali Ahmad Jalali, has been appointed as the head of the new interim government in Afghanistan, reported Afghan media Sunday. Taliban fighters arrived at Kabul's surrounding areas but have not yet entered the city. The Taliban, however, announced that they did not intend to take the city by force. Reports from the Afghanistan media state that negotiations between the Taliban and the Afghan government are taking place inside the ARG Presidential Palace in Kabul, as Taliban fighters wait at Kabul's gates for further instructions. Abdullah Abdullah, the head of Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation, is acting as the arbitrator in the negotiations.



ISTANBUL: President Dr. Arif Alvi, along with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, at the venue to jointly inaugurate 1st MILGEM Ship, PNS Babur, being built by Turkey. -DNA

'84 Afghan soldiers entered Uzbekistan'

The Uzbek authorities are in touch with the Afghan govt for the safe return of the soldiers

DNA

TASHKENT: According To Uzbek foreign ministry officials a group of Afghan soldiers crossed the state border with Afghanistan in the number of 84 people crossed the line of the state border and was detained by border guards of the SGB, while violators did not resist and asked for help medical number, for three injured. These Afghan citizens have been carried out the necessary filtration procedures and epidemiological measures, some are provided with medical care, and food and temporary accommodation. At the same time, the Afghan part of the Termez-Haroton bridge noted a cluster of Afghan government troops. These persons are taking measures to provide humanitarian aid. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan talks with the Afghan side to return Afghan citizens to their homeland and resolve the situation in the Termez-Khairaton bridge.

Pak-Turkey ties a force of peace

President Alvi, along with President Erdogan inaugurated 1st MILGEM Ship, PNS Babur, being built by Turkey

AGENCIES

ISTANBUL: President Dr Arif Alvi Sunday said that the relationship between Pakistan and Turkey was a force for regional peace and stability with their exemplary support towards peaceful co-existence and cooperative multilateralism. Addressing the inauguration ceremony of 1st MILGEM Ship, PNS Babur, built by

Turkey here, the president said Pakistan appreciated Turkey's invaluable role for international peace and stability. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, First Lady Samin Alvi and senior Turkish government officials attended the ceremony. The president said the people and the government of Pakistan would continue to stand by Turkey for achievement the shared goals of peace and prosperity.

He said Pakistan and Turkey were faced by common challenges and threats and both the countries had deepened the security cooperation. The president particularly congratulated the Turkish defence ministry for making great progress under the leadership of President Erdogan, defying all odds and challenges to change the destiny of Turkey.

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Pakistan monitoring situation

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office spokesman Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said on Sunday Pakistan is closely following the unfolding situation in Afghanistan and the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul is extending necessary assistance to Pakistanis, the Afghan and other nationals in terms of consular work and flights.

US is defeated in Afghanistan

DNA

LAHORE: Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haq has said that the defeat of the US is a victory for the Afghan people and the Islamic world. Sirajul Haq said in a statement that he hoped that the United States would not invade any country.

FM discusses situation with British counterpart

Pakistan supports peace in Afghanistan

Qureshi stresses there is no favourite of Pak in Afghanistan

MULTAN: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi here on Sunday said that Pakistan and the international community were on same page and wanted solution of Afghanistan's conflict through a negotiated political settlement. During a press conference, the Foreign Minister stated that Afghan leadership should sit together and resolve the conflict in a peaceful manner. Pakistan always stated that there was no military solution to Afghanistan's problem, Qureshi said and added that it was also a test of Afghan leadership

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ZUBAIR AHMED

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi received a call from Dominic Raab, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs.

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Indonesia, Pakistan ties poised for a quantum leap

Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio says ASEAN-Pakistan collaboration has the potential to bring tremendous benefits for both sides; keen to enhance think-tank cooperation

EXCLUSIVE

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan Adam Tugio gave an exclusive interview to Daily Islamabad POST. Ambassador Tugio talked about a variety of subject relating to bilateral as well as multilateral issues. He specifically talked about trade and economic cooperation between the two countries and shared his vision as to how this cooperation can further be strengthened. The ambassador wished Pakistani people and govt of Pakistan happy Independence Day. The Indonesian Independence Day is celebrated on August 17. Here is the text of the interview. **Indonesia is celebrating its 76th Independence Day on 17 August 2021. Please share with our readers the significance of the Day and how do you plan to celebrate the event amidst prevailing Covid situation?** For every sovereign nation, Independence Day is a source of pride and a symbol of national unity. The 17th of August is a day of great significance for Indonesians because we honor their founding fathers' sacrifices for independence while also reaffirming our resolve to work hard in pursuit of wealth, peace, and progress. This important day also gives an opportunity to celebrate national accomplishments and consider future plans of action. Today, Indonesia is a vibrant democracy as well as a diverse and pluralistic society. We cherish the values of freedom and tolerance based on the principles of unity and diversity. As the largest economy in Southeast Asia, under the leadership of Indonesian President Joko Widodo, Indonesia has shown steady economic growth

even in this turbulent pandemic time and has made significant social progress. The Independence Day is traditionally celebrated across Indonesia with great enthusiasm. From the presidential palace to remote villages, the festivities include flag hoisting ceremonies, parades, competitions and cultural performances that reflect the national identity. However, the pandemic situation has certainly affected the routine life activities and big gatherings on this occasion would probably be difficult. But, the spirit to celebrate is high as people are emotionally charged to reflect their association and love with their homeland. So, the celebration may be held virtually or at the limited scale this year but it would certainly not affect the vigor and sense of pride of the Indonesian people. **Covid has hit Indonesia hard like other countries. If you could briefly dilate upon the negative effects of the pandemic on the Indonesia economy and Government's measures to cope with this predicament?** The global economy has been devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Small companies and the tourism sector have been hit hard by this pandemic. The impact of a pandemic is not confined to Indonesia. Following Eid Al-Adha, we have noticed an increase in the positive ratio. Around 25% of population have received inoculation as of August 1, but we observe that the virus is evolving. To prevent the virus from spreading, the Indonesian government has implemented social restrictions in areas where the number of cases is high, which are reviewed on a daily basis to allow responsible economic activity to resume once the health situation has been stabilised. The Indonesian government has set

comprehensive COVID-19 policies. The National Economic Recovery Programs (NERP) offers a stimulus of up to IDR 700 trillion or USD 48 billion last year and almost the same amount for 2021. The stimulus will be used to support public healthcare, enhance social safety nets, and provide incentives to MSME's and business sector. The health sector receives the largest allocation of USD 15 billion, followed by social protection with a total budget of USD 13 billion, MSME's stimulus of USD 11 billion, and business incentive of USD 4.4 billion. After contracting to -5.32 last year, the economy is rebounding in the first semester of 2021, achieving its highest annual growth rate in 17 years. The expansion rate surpassed experts'

expectations of 6.57 percent and was the best since the October-December quarter of 2004. The economy was bolstered by soaring exports, notably a 56 percent increase in commodities shipments, a resurgence in consumption and investment, and increased government expenditure. **Pakistan wants expansion and deepening of relations with especially the ASEAN countries. Do you think Pakistan's "Look East" policy can pay dividends?** I fervently believe that active ASEAN-Pakistan collaboration has the potential to bring tremendous benefits for both sides. The ASEAN countries deeply appreciate "The Look East" policy of Pakistan and its strong desire to further expand the mutually beneficial cooperation. In the wake

of ongoing geo-economic scenario, the importance of comprehensive ASEAN-Pakistan relations has also been increased significantly. The fast growing economy of the Asia Pacific region, which is the future hub of the world trade, offers a precious opportunity for cooperation and development. The Southeast Asian region is projected as centre of global trade activities with its combined population of over 649 million and a GDP exceeding USD 2.9 trillion or the fifth largest economy in the world. Moreover, Indonesia alone is a trillion dollars economy as well as the biggest economy in this region, which reflects the pattern of global trade trend towards this area.

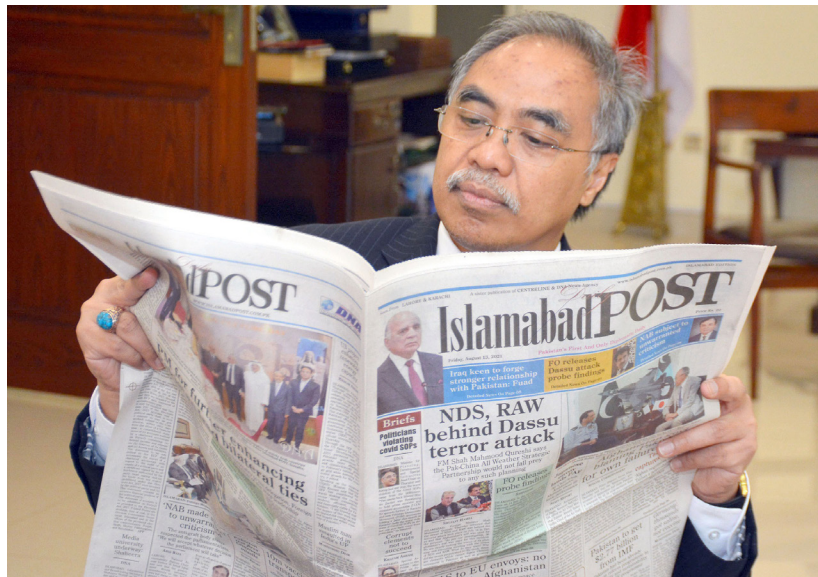
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ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Adam Tugio poses for a picture during the interview



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Adam Tugio reading Islamabad POST

Briefs

Govt keeps petrol, diesel prices unchanged

ISLAMABAD: In order to provide relief to the common man, the government has kept prices of petrol and diesel unchanged with effective from August 16 for next fortnight.

According to press statement issued by the Finance Ministry, the sale of petrol would continue on Rs119.80 till August 31st.

Likewise, prices of High Speed Diesel (HSD) would remain unchanged at Rs116.53 per liter.

However, the prices of kerosene oil have been increased by Rs0.81 per liter, from Rs87.49 to Rs 88.30.

Likewise, the prices of Light Diesel Oil (LDO) have been increased by Rs1.10 per liter from Rs84.67 to Rs85.77. — APP

Green Pakistan need of hour

KARACHI: Green denoting cleanliness and freshness, has turned to be a buzz word across the country with major focus on braving the challenges of pollution, global warming and climate change registered to affect atmosphere, public health, livelihood and ultimately the economy.

Scenario in the context of Karachi is also no different with different groups, organizations and people in their individual capacities trying to help the city be provided with the much required "green cover" during the ongoing, country wide, monsoon season tree plantation.

Need for a comprehensive approach ensuring that campaigns are organized with due care towards sustainability is, however, generally felt to be a missing link that otherwise is critical averting possible loss of material resources, time and efforts put in by people with the best of intentions.

"Ecological compatibility of chosen trees coupled with optimum care towards sustainability and deep sense of ownership are key requirements for the success of efforts being made towards the cause," commented Dr. Rafi ul Haq, a senior plant ecologist. As per available literature the industrial hub of the country that falls in arid zone has its indigenous varieties, that fortunately are quite wide, matching the specified conditions in terms of its ecosystem. People keen to plant fruit trees can go for Jujuba, Moringa, Chiku, Jungle Jalebi, Lasura, Shaeefa or Custardapple. For flowering trees, the choice could be Amaltas, Gul Mohar and Lignum (which is not local but acclimatized). Shady trees including Neem, Peeperal, Banyan, Siris and Bakain can particularly help counter the heat island risks. — APP

Dist admin sealed three brick kilns

DNA

ISLAMABAD: District Administration has sealed three brick kilns and registered cases against three persons for running the brick kilns without ZigZag technology. According to detail the teams of Environment department checked the brick kilns at Jaranwala and Tandlianwala tehsil and found emitting smoke from brick kilns at chak 119 GB Adda 64 Makoona at Jaranwala and one brick kiln was found at Tandlianwala that were sealed and the management of that brick kilns were arrested and registered case against them. Remember that a day before Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali also checked the brick kilns at various points and directed to take action against violators.

147797 get vaccination
As many as 147797 general public and Health Care Workers have administered corona vaccination at designated 37 vaccination centers so far. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali informed that 1430752 general public and 47220 HCW vaccinated yet. He further informed that 1198522 & 232221 general administered first and second dose and 28446and 18774 HCW vaccinated first and second dose respectively.

Faisalabad celebrates 74th Independence Day

The main flag hoisting ceremony was held at Commissioner Complex ground

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: The Independence Day was celebrated with national zeal throughout the Faisalabad district with the commitment that all out efforts would be made to put the country on the path of rapid development and no stone would be left unturned for the prosperity of Pakistan.

The main flag hoisting ceremony was held at Commissioner Complex ground. State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mian Farrukh Habib, Divisional Commissioner Saqib Manan, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali, Parliamentarians Faiz Ullah Kamooka, Khurram Shahzad, Latif Nazir, Shakil Shahid, Firdous Rai, Mian Waris Aziz, Addl. Commissioner Coordination Imran Raza Abbasi, DG PHA Asma Ejaz Cheema Ac City Syed Ayub Bukhari, Pakistan Movement Workers Haji Bashir Ahmad, Asghar Makhdoomi, officers and staff of different departments of Divisional & District Administration and large number of citizens of different walk of life participated in the ceremony. At 8.58 AM, Siren was blown and after it, one minute silence was observed.

The parliamentarians and officers hoisted national flag. The participants of the event recited national anthem. Active Contingents of police, Rescue 1122, Civil Defence, FPMC presented salute and March past, students presented Milli Nagmas and special prayers was offered for the development and prosperity of the country. In the end sweets was also distributed among the



participants. State Minister for Information said Pakistan came into being after a hard struggle and we should be committed with country. He congratulated the nation a independence day. Divisional Commissioner congratulated the nation of Independence Day of Pakistan and said that we should continue to contribute our struggle for making the Pakistan strong and prosper to raise its honour. He said 14th August is a day of commitment for renewing the pledge that we are a strong nation and have the capability to meet any challenges. He urged the people to play their due role for the development of country and to promote national solidarity and love.

He said that the future of Pakistan is bright and we should keep discipline in every field of life for success. Meanwhile, Divisional Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner along with parliamentarians and DG PHA

distributed plants among citizens and urged them to sapled the plants for best environment. Later Deputy Commissioner also visited Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology for distributing of fruits among the patients by Heart Saver Foundation. He also cut a cake. DD Social Welfare Nasir Cadhar, Medical Social Officer Aasia Faqir Hussain, General Secretary HSF Kashif Farooq and others preant. Deputy Commissioner also went in different wards and greeted the patients of Independence Day and prayed for their early recovery. He said that the Independence Day was the day to review our commitment to serve the community with more zeal and passion. Deputy Commissioner also hoisted flag at Govt Crescent Model Higher Secondary School. Meanwhile the flag hoisting ceremonies were also held at Tehsil Jaranwala, Samundri and Tandlianwala where Punjab Minister for Prosecution Ch.Zaheer ud din,



Punjab Miniater for Excise Hafiz Mumtaz Ahmad, MPA Adil Pervaiz Gujjar, Assistant Commissioners Muhammad Zubair, Faisal Sultan, Numan Ali participated. Earlier, the day was dawn with the special prayers in the main mosques after Fajar prayer for the prosperity of the nation and solidarity of the Pakistan.

Quran Khawani was held for the departed soul of the martyrs of Pakistan movement. Various social, political and trades organizations also hold a number of events to highlight the importance of Independence. The markets and streets were decorated with the buntings and national flags. Banners/steamers were displayed at the important roads and intersections pertaining to the slogans on patriotism. The police and district administration made stringent security arrangements. At the night, the public and private buildings were illuminated tastefully.

Smallest Quranic manuscript displayed at FAC

Divisional Commissioner Saqib Manan and MPA Firdous Rai inaugurated the exhibition of Quranic calligraphy on the reference of Independence celebrations

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: The world's smallest handwritten Holy

Quran was exhibited at the Punjab Arts Council. 463 pages of Quran Pak has written by Caligraph Muhammad Qa-

mar Sultan on 1x1.5x1 cm size. Divisional Commissioner Saqib Manan and MPA Firdous Rai inaugurated the

exhibition of Quranic calligraphy on the reference of Independence celebrations. Deputy Director Zahid Iqbal, Assistant Director Asad Hayat Nol, dignitaries and calligraphers were present.

National and International Calligraphers Nisar Ahmed, Gulzar Butt, Mohammad Arif, Rana Ghazanfar, Zameer Ahmed, Aslam Dogar, Salamat Ali and Ajmal Balg's Exhibition of Quranic Art Handwritten Qur'anic manuscripts and other Islamic art on flags and maps. Divisional Commissioner expressed great love with Quranic calligraphs and appreciated the greatest work of calligraphs.

He said that to witnesses the smallest hand witten Quran Pak was the dignity for him and calligraphs work is appreciable.



FAISALABAD: Divisional Commissioner Saqib Manan looks the Quranic calligraphs at Arts Council. — DNA

No PCR test for those returning from Afghanistan

The rule will remain in effect for all direct flights between Kabul and Islamabad arriving up to August 18, 2021, 2359 hours

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Civil Aviation Authority, in a statement on Sunday, said special permission has been accorded for the return of Pakistanis from Afghanistan without the mandatory negative PCR test for coronavirus. "As informed by our mission in Kabul, the current situation in Afghanistan has necessitated imminent repatriation of Pakistani nationals residing in Afghanistan," read the CAA statement. It said that "given the paucity of time", it was decided that Pakistani travellers be allowed to arrive

without the possession of mandatory negative PCR test results which is usually conducted within the 72 hours prior to commencement of travel to Pakistan. The rule will remain in effect for all direct flights between Kabul and Islamabad arriving up to August 18, 2021, 2359 hours. "This approval, however, is subject to strict compliance with other provisions of standard operating procedures in-vogue relating to inbound travel to Pakistan, including Rapid Antigen testing, PCR Testing and any other stipulations as mandated by the relevant health authorities upon arrival in Pakistan," the notice said.

Peshawar hospitals record gradual surge

PESHAWAR: The hospitals in Peshawar recorded a gradual surge in the number of coronavirus patients as Lady Ready Hospital (LRH) and Khyber Teaching Hospital (KTH) reported 165 and 90 cases respectively. This was stated by spokesman of LRH Muhammad Asim while briefing the media men here on Sunday. He said the number of patients in the Intensive Care Unit is 19, adding, another 25 new corona patients were admitted to LRH while 15

patients had been discharged after recovery. He informed that LRH has 400 beds for coronavirus patients. Giving details about the KTH, an official of the administration said that KTH has 106 beds for corona patients out of which 90 were occupied by the coronavirus patients. He said the hospital has 25 ventilators for coronavirus patients and at least 20 patients were in ICU of the hospital while 45 other patients were being treated at HDU. — APP

428 cases reported in KP

PESHAWAR: The coronavirus claimed 14 more lives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while 428 new cases were reported across the province during last 24 hours.

According to Corona updates shared by Health Department here on Sunday, with 14 more deaths, the tally from the virus has reached to 4668 while active cases in the province have climbed to 152,625.

Similarly, 291 patients have also been recovered that has reached the total number of recovered persons to 141041 in the province.

A total of 9245 Corona tests were conducted during the period of last 24 hours that reached the total number of tests to 2490459.

The updates show that the highest number of 133 new cases was confirmed in Peshawar division and particularly district Peshawar where out of the total 428 new cases 126 have been reported only from the provincial metropolis while 7 cases were from Nowshera. No Corona case was reported from Charsadda, Khyber and Mohmand districts. Similarly, 76 new Corona cases have been reported from Hazara division with highest 68 cases from Mansehra, seven in Abbottabad and one in Haripur while no case was reported from Torghar, Kohistan Upper, Kohistan Lower, Kolai Pallas and Battagram districts of the division.

Furthermore, 62 Corona cases have been reported from D.I. Khan division and that all also from divisional headquarters D.I. Khan while no case has been reported from Tank and South Waziristan. Similarly, 64 case have been reported from Malakand division with highest number of 30 from district Malakand, 16 from Chitral Lower8 each from Swat and Shangla districts, two from Chitral Upper while zero cases were reported from Buner, Dir Lower, Dir Upper and Bajaur districts. — APP

Funeral prayers of 13 people in Baldia town tragedy held

KARACHI: The Namaz-e-Janaza (Funeral prayers) of 13 victims including seven women and six children from a same family killed in the hand grenade blast at Mawach Mor - Baldia town, was held at Star ground Landhi area here on Sunday. Large number of local residents and notables of the area participated in the last rituals of the victims who were buried to a graveyard here. The victims were killed and others were injured when a hand grenade was hurled at a moving truck transporting the family. The entire area wore a deserted look in mourn over the tragedy. Sindh Minister Saeed Ghani, PTI leader Haleem Adil Shaikh, MNA Abdul Qadir Mandokhail of PPO, Aslam Ghouri of the JUI-F, Younous Bonari of the ANP, and several JI leaders, including Munim Zaffar, Birjis Ahmed, Ishaq Khan, Younous Barai and others attended the funeral prayers. — APP



PESHAWAR: Ambassador of Germany Bernard Schlagheck enjoying famous Charsi Tikka during his recent visit to Peshawar. — DNA

PM Khan's forests initiative to help create carbon sinks

LAHORE: Global Joint efforts to restore the ecosystem through sustainable climate change measures are essential to protect the planet earth and improve the livelihood of its inhabitants directly dependent on its green resources. Unfortunately, as a result of widespread and intensifying eco-degradation phenomena, during the present time frame, some trends, and

impacts of climate changes have become irreversible and have prevailed globally. Biologists and Scientists through their various research-based findings have expressed concerns on global irreversible climate changes, happening at a fast pace in every region impacting global climate and ecosystems, reveals the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate

Change (IPCC), released recently. Many changes being observed in climate change are unprecedented even in a span of thousands of years, such as continued sea-level rise are irreversible over hundreds to thousands of years, it said.

However, strong and considerable reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gases (CFCs) would

limit climate change while stabilizing temperatures during the next 20 to 30 years, further reveals IPCC Working Group-I report, Climate Change 2021, the report observed. This Physical Science Based report was approved by the 195 member governments of the IPCC, through a virtual session that was held over two weeks, starting on July 26, 2021. — APP

AUGUST 2021

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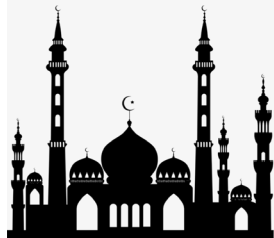
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FPCCI chief tenure: Ministry to consult the stakeholders

Extending the term of the FPCCI president is not in the national and commercial interest: Zafar Bakhtawari

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Saleh Ahmad Farooqi, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce has said that the proposal to extend the presidency of an FPCCI for two years was not put forward by the Ministry of Commerce but was a private member's bill and his ministry would take all the chambers and Federation into confidence. He expressed these views during a meeting with Member National Assembly Tahir Iqbal Chaudhry, Secretary General of United Business Group Pakistan Zafar Bakhtawari and former Vice President of FPCCI Zahid Iqbal Chaudhry during a meeting at his office. He further said that Khalid Tawab's appeal for FPCCI elections was before the Cabinet Committee and in the light of its decision, the DGTO would take necessary action.

PBM distributes 4500 standard wheel chairs among PWDs

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) has distributed 2100 customized wheel chairs and 4500 standard wheel chairs among the Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) all over the country during the last three years under its scheme of 'Assistive Devices for PWDs'. According to an official source, the PBM provides assistive devices including ordinary wheel chairs, customized wheel chairs, artificial limbs, artificial knee caps, hearing devices etc. to the needy patients. Under a new initiative of 'Cochlear Implant' started in 2020, the source revealed that PBM has provided this facility to 118 patients in the pilot phase so far. While, under another initiative 'Special Friend Project' (SFP), the PBM has provided financial assistance to 12783 PWDs with the budget of Rs. 151,900,712 (15 crore 19 lac approx) during the last three years. Under this project, a payment of Rs.10, 000 is made to the family with one PWD and Rs. 25,000 to the family with two or more PWDs, the source added.

Diamer Bhasha to generate 4,500mw power

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The installed capacity of Diamer Bhasha Dam will be 4,500 Mega Watt (MW), which will generate 18,100 Gigawatt hours (GWh) power annually. The gross storage capacity of the project will be 8.1 Million Acre Feet (MAF) with live storage capacity of 6.4 MAF. The official information revealed that Diamer Basha Dam project which is expected to be completed by April, 2029. Diamer Basha Dam is being constructed on River Indus

– 40 kilometer downstream of Chilas town. The project is of paramount importance for water, food and energy security of the country. The total estimated cost of Diamer Basha Dam project is Rs.1406, 122 million which includes PC-I (acquisition of land & resettlement Rs. 175,436 million, PC-I (Dam Part Rs. 479,686 million while cost for PC-I (Power Generation Facilities yet to be approved) is Rs. 751,000 million. Similarly, the amount spent by previous governments on the Dam is Rs. 86,685 million under acquisition of land & resettlement (AL&R) since 2009-10 while present government has spent Rs. Rs. 30273 million under AL&R and Rs. 51555 million under dam part. The total amount of Rs. 116,158 million has been spent under AL&R and Rs. 51,555 million under dam part.

Citizens demand repairing of faulty traffic signals

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Motorists and pedestrians of Capital city on Sunday have demanded the authority concerned to repair old and install new traffic signals at various spots which has caused continuous traffic accidents on important busy roads. Residents of capital informed that many complaints had been lodged with the authorities concerned but issue was still lingering on due to lack of maintenance and repair materials

Traffic remains choked at various important roads where vehicles honk horns desperately to find the way and attract attention of the warden who seems helpless to regulate the traffic, said a motorist at Aabpara chowk while talking to a private news channel. Another citizen complained that a number of crossing points in the capital were still without signals. Citizens further urged the civic authority to take immediate solid steps to avoid traffic jams on city roads. Several ambulances are also seen stuck in the long traffic queues on

roads, said another motorist. Efforts on managing the traffic in the capital has become problematic as most of the traffic lights were not working properly, said a traffic warden. A motorist said whenever the traffic volume is increased, they switch off the lights and regulated it manually. An official of CDA while demanding funds commented that the authority needs funds for the maintenance of traffic signals in the city, adding, there is no fresh survey of out of order traffic signals available so far.

Imran khan will make Pak great: Nazim

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: August 14 reminds us of the renewal of the covenant that our forefathers made at the time of the founding of this country.Imran Khan has emerged as the leader of the Muslim Ummah with his brilliant leadership skills and determination. This was stated by Nazim Khan, District Chief Organizer, Punjabi PakhtunIttehad and PTI Leader, in a special talk on the occasion of Pakistan Day. Nazim Khan stressed that tolerance and respect should be kept in mind in political differences and in order to satisfy our ego by promoting bigotry, sectarianism and extremism we are actually strengthening the enemy.

District Admin Jhelum recovers Rs 801.78 million

DNA

RAWALPINDI: District Administration Jhelum showing extraordinary performance, managed to recover outstanding amount to the tune of Rs 801.78 million pending since 2017-18 on the account of deficient amount of taxes. The deficient amount of taxes paid under stamp duties and Capital Value Tax (CVT) on immovable property from City Housing Society, Jhelum. According to a district administration spokesman, Rs 13.31 million had also been recovered on account of deficient amount of taxes paid under stamp duties and CVT pending on various instruments for decades. Deputy Commissioner Jhelum, Rao Pervaiz Akhtar and Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Dr Waqar Ali Khan on the directives of Board of Revenue Punjab took solid steps and succeeded to recover the outstanding amount during 2020-21. Furthermore, office of Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue also undertook inspection of manual 'Mauzas' in district Jhelum and found out deficient amount of mutations fees to the tune of Rs 2.98 million which is subsequently recovered and deposited in national exchequer. Besides, under stamp duty, Rs 475.35 million had also been recovered during 2020-21 against the target of Rs 472.215 and under mutation fees alone, Rs 146.51 million was recovered during last financial year against the target of Rs 217.201 million which is transaction based. Under agriculture income

tax on the basis of lists shared by FBR, total amount of Rs 1.59 million was recovered in 2020-21. Under the agriculture income tax on the basis of local assessment, District Administration Jhelum succeeded to enhance the locally assessed demand for year 2020-21 by almost 400 percent as compared to previous years and also recovered Rs 2.03 million, he added. Moreover, he informed that under water charges, District Administration successfully recovered all the assessed water charges as communicated by irrigation/Small Dams Organisation to the tune of Rs 0.83 million in 2020-21. Cumulatively, during last financial year, District Administration Jhelum recovered/generated Rs 629.29 million and deposited to the national exchequer.

PNCA plans to resume talent hunt

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) is planning to resume online weekly talent hunt singing and music edition. The arts council has started this special program for the promotion of classical and semi-classical folk music, modern and pop singing among the younger generation and to groom hidden talent at National Art Gallery, an official of PNCA told APP. Since its inception, the talent hunt program had conducted more than 32 talent hunt online open competitions. Renowned artists in different specialized music fields were taking auditions of registered participants at PNCA's official social media online group. The program was postponed due to the fatal accident of DG PNCA Dr. Fouzia Saeed. – APP

Hunerkada to organize costume classes

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Hunerkada College of Visual and Performing Arts would organize three-month long "costume makeup classes" at the Islamabad campus. According to Hunerkada, the registration was started for admission in the classes. Head of Hunerkada Amna Shah told APP that Hunerkada's primary aim was to promote the propagation of art and culture. The programs were a sophisticated and orderly assemblage of futuristically ambitious courses designed to refine student essence. She said that Hunerkada would also organize special classes of drawing & painting, graphic design, textile & fashion design, and interior design. "We aim to provide state-of-the-art practical skill-based knowledge to our prospective students", she added.

2 week kids' painting classes in full swing

ISLAMABAD:A two-week long kids' painting classes are in full swing here at Hunerkada College of Visual and Performing Arts ensuring to showcase the hidden talent of children. Director Hunerkada Amna Shah told APP that every child is an artist and Hunerkada was making efforts to learn them the basics of creative artwork. She said a total of 40 students were taking part in a two-week long course. She said that high skilled professional artists were conducting these courses. She said that on completion, of course, certificates would be issued to the participants. Amna said that the course was focused on the basic principles of painting including composition, warm and cool colors. The participants would also impart training about different themes and materials, like how to paint with acrylic and watercolors. She said that these classes are specially designed for children to learn and explore creating art. She said that painting classes would continue till August 9. – APP

Magistrates deputed to check hoarding

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has deputed 14 assistant commissioners and magistrates in various localities to check prices of various commodities. An official of the ICT administration, while talking to APP, said the local administration was closely monitoring the hoarding of essential food items. He said the shopkeepers were strictly directed to display the price list at prominent place of their shops. He said 25 mobile shops were also set up in various areas to provide essential items to the people at subsidized rates. The prices and hoarding were being regularly checked under the Price Control and Prevention of Profiteering and Hoarding Act, 1977. The assistant commissioners/price magistrates persistently visiting food factories, Godown of different food items, Sabzi Mandi and other establishments to check the hoarding. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Standing Committee Rana Qasim Noon, CEO Media Sanefar Usman Usmani and others are posing for group photograph after ceremony of celebrities Primer League. –DNA

COVID-19 SOP's: administration seals 179 shops

Chief Traffic Officer (CTP) Rawalpindi Rai Mazhar Iqbal had directed the Traffic Wardens to issue challan slips to bikers, motorists and the drivers of Public Service Vehicles (PSVs) for not wearing face masks

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi District Administration, on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Amir Aqif Khan, sealed 179 shops, six snooker clubs, restaurants during last seven days and arrested 11 on violation of coronavirus Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by the Punjab government. According to a district administration spokesman, the administration also imposed fines amounting to Rs 331,000 on the violators.

He informed that Traffic Police Rawalpindi and Regional Transport Authority also conducted raids at public transport and imposed fines amounting to Rs 620,600 on violation of SOPs during the period. He said that Traffic Police checked vehicles at different points and issued challans slips besides imposing fines on the violators. He informed that the DC had directed the Assistant Commissioners and Magistrates to remain in the field and ensure strict implementation of the SOPs and other preventive measures

issued by the government to contain spread of coronavirus. The DC urged the citizens to



adopt all possible precautionary measures against coronavirus as implementation of SOPs is inevitable to control spread of the virus. Necessary action was also being taken against the violators, he said adding, the Delta variant is the fastest, fittest and most formidable version of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 for which special precautionary measures should be adopted by all the citizens. He informed that the administration had launched crackdown in the entire district and action was being taken against the violators.

Meanwhile, Chief Traffic Officer (CTP) Rawalpindi Rai Mazhar Iqbal had directed the Traffic Wardens to issue challan slips to bikers, motorists and the drivers of Public Service Vehicles (PSVs) for not wearing face masks. A CTP spokesman informed that CTO had directed all the circle incharges, sector incharges and traffic wardens to penalize the coronavirus Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) violators particularly bikers, motorists and the drivers of PSVs if passengers of PSVs found without face masks.

India should end perpetual agony of Kashmiris in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf Member National Assembly Muhammad Sana Ullah Masti Khel has said India should stop human rights violations in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) to relieve the besieged Kashmiris from perpetual agony. Talking to APP, he said Kashmiri nation's sacrifices and protracted struggles against Indian occupation had shown that they were near to achieve their destination. He said at this stage it's the moral duty of the world community to raise voice for Kashmiri people of IIOJK who were facing unprecedented brutalities of Indian occupation forces. Replying to a question, he said Pakistan would continue its political, diplomatic, and moral support to the people of IIOJK for the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination. Indian government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi regime on August 5, 2018 had stripped off the special status of the IIOJK and revoked the article 370 and 35-A of its constitution rendering a separate status to the occupied valley, he said. He added that since then a continuous lockdown across the valley was enforced making it a two year long siege of IIOJK without any respite leaving the Kashmiri masses in a pathetic and destitute condition. – APP

Briefs

PAEC
Chairman
gets 'Nishan-
e-Imtiaz'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Islamic Republic of Pakistan, has conferred the highest civil award, Nishan-e-Imtiaz, upon Chairman Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), Muhammad Naeem on the auspicious occasion of Independence Day, the other day.

The conferment not only acknowledges Muhammad Naeem's meritorious contribution for the projects of national interest and scientific and technical achievements during his long association at PAEC but also reflects the invaluable contribution of the Commission for the country, said a news release.

It is pertinent to mention here that Muhammad Naeem has already been awarded both HI and SI earlier. It is a matter of great honor for the Commission that this year one NI, two Hilale-Imtiaz (HI), three Sitara-e-Imtiaz (SI), four Pride of Performance (PoP), and five Tamgha-e-Imtiaz (TI) have been awarded to scientists and engineers of PAEC.

Lok Virsa to
remain close
for 2 days

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: National Heritage Museum and Pakistan Monument Museum will remain closed on August, 18-19 on account of Ashura-e-Muharram.

According to Lok Virsa as per previous practice, both museums administered by Lok Virsa, will remain closed. The museums will reopen with routine public timings on Friday, August 20, 2021.

PAL, NUML
ink MoU to
co-op in field
of knowledge

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) and National University of Modern Languages (NUML) Sunday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to cooperate in the field of promotion of knowledge, literature and research.

Under the MoU, both institutions will assist each other in giving internships, book digitization and Information Technology, said a press release issued here.

Chairman PAL Prof Dr Yousuf Khushk and Major General (R) Muhammad Jaffar, Rector, NUML signed the MoU.

The signing ceremony was also attended by Muhammad Asim Butt, Director/Chief Editor Akhtar Raza Saleemi, Editor Urdu, Mir Nawaz Solangi, Assistant Director (S&A), M Masood Iqbal Hashmi, Manager Programs, Fiza Gul, Programme Coordinator and Ammar Ali Yasir attended the ceremony, Numal University, Dr Zubair Iqbal, Pro-rector Research and Strategic Affairs, Brigadier Salman Ahmed, Director Academics, Dr Safir Awan, Pro-rector Academics, Dr Sofia Lodhi, Dean of Language, Dr Zafar Ahmed, Assistant Professor, Dr Bushra Parveen, Assistant Professor and Imran Ahmed, Assistant Director attended this important event.

PR retrieves
442.90
acres land

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways (PR) has retrieved an area of 442.90 acres of commercial and residential land in its anti-encroachment drive conducted during last three years across the country. Regular anti-encroachment operations are being carried out at all railway divisions with assistance of Railways Police and District Administrations, an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP on Sunday.

Giving division wise details, he said Pakistan Railways had recovered commercial land 43,172 acres in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 140,343 acres in Punjab, 138,33 acres in Sindh and 7 6,085 acres in Balochistan. — APP



ISLAMABAD: General Manager Islamabad Serena Hotel Michel A. Galopin raising Pakistani flag on the occasion of Independence Day of Pakistan. Islamabad Serena Hotel celebrates the Azadi Day every year with enthusiasm. The General Manager also distributed gifts and awards among the staff members on the occasion. — DNA

Sri Lankan students appear in
tests to study in Pakistan

The selected students will pursue their BS, MS or PhD studies in public sector universities of Pakistan

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Over 700 Sri Lankan students from across Sri Lanka are appearing in the written tests being held for scholarships to study in Pakistan's universities at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

The scholarships are part of Pakistan-Sri Lanka Higher Education Cooperation Programme, which is aimed to further strengthen the ties between the two countries and bring people of both the nations more closely to each other. The tests are being conducted by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan in collaboration with Pakistan High Commission Colombo and University Grants Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka in three cities including Colombo,



Kandy and Batticaloa

The selected students will pursue their BS, MS or PhD studies in public sector universities of Pakistan. Scholarships are offered in all major disciplines including Medicine, Engineering, Business Studies, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, etc.

All Sri Lankan student, having the minimum qualification required to take admission in undergraduate and postgraduate studies, are eligible for these scholarships. A high school diploma or equivalent is required for admission in BS programmes. For MS programmes, students should have a four-year undergraduate degree or Bachelor's and Master's degree (16 years of education). Similarly for PhD studies, students should have a Master's or MPhil degree (18 years of education).

UAD, PMAS
AAUR ink MoU for
mutual cooperation

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: A memorandum of understanding was signed between the University of Agriculture Dera Ismail Khan and Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi here in Rawalpindi. The universities will now extend coordination and mutual cooperation in the fields of interest. The document was signed by the Vice Chancellor of the UAD, Prof. Dr. Masroor Elahi Babar (TI) and Vice Chancellor of Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Dr. Qamr Uz Zaman. As per agreement,

both sides agreed to create joint research venture in agricultural, animal and veterinary sciences especially in Agronomy, Entomology, animal husbandry and animal medicines to address the issues of the sector. The varsities will also collaborate in arranging the seminars, providing internship opportunities for students and faculty exchange. Director Administration of UAD, Mr. Farjad Sikandar Saddozai, Coordinator Agriculture Department Mr. Muhammad Umair Sardar, Director External linkages (PMAS-AAUR) Dr. Saqib Majeed and other staff was present at the occasion.

Punjab Arts Council arranges
naat, qirat competition

Role of every class and institution is important in development of Pakistan: Seemabiah Tahir

SHAHEEN HANIF

RAWALPINDI: Member Punjab Assembly Seemabiah Tahir has said that the role of every class and institution is important in the development and prosperity of the country.

She said this while addressing as a chief guest on the occasion of Hassan Qiraat and Naat competition among the students of madrassas under the auspices of Punjab Arts Council in connection with the Independence Day celebrations. Seemabiah Tahir said that the students must be convinced of that after which Pakistan came to existence and the Muslims who were persecuted during the migration stand in awe. She said that madrassas have as much responsibility in the prosperity of Pakistan as any other educational institution.

She further said that students of madrassas should be

imparted training in technical as well as scientific education along-with religious education so that they can achieve success in the hereafter as well as in worldly life and play their role in the development of Pakistan.

Naheed Manzoor said that extra-curricular activities should be made compulsory

for the children of madrassas so that they also develop self-confidence in them. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed in his address said that Arts Council has included all sections in the celebrations of Pakistan's independence. He thanked the guests for coming to the Council. Qari Zeeshan Haider, Qari

Muhammad Farooq, Qari Ami Iqbal and Hafiz Mohsin Ali adjudged Qirat Competition while Prof. Syed Asad Ali, Syed Zeeshan Bukhari, Amir Mushtaq and Prof. Zabeer Abbas Qadari adjudged Naat Competition. The winners of the both competitions were awarded participation certificates and shields.



Students from Balochistan visit Parliament House

The ongoing study tour of the students from Balochistan was very encouraging and will help them acquainted with the country's critical national issues and affairs, says Sanjrani

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Acting President of Pakistan, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, received a 100-member delegation of students from seven districts of Balochistan here at Parliament House on Saturday. The Acting President welcomed the students and underlined that Balochistan is on the path of development and prosperity. The successful completion of CPEC projects will bring development and prosperity for the Balochistan Province and the whole nation. "Being the future of the Nation, the young generation should step up and play their full role in the country's progress and prosperity", he emphasized while addressing the students. The ongoing study tour of the students from Balochistan was very encouraging and will help them acquainted with the country's critical national issues and affairs, Sanjrani

noted.

"Development of Gawadar is imperative for the prosperity of the country. He maintained that people from all over the country would come to Balochistan, and this Province will be at the forefront in coming days", he maintained.

Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani said that full utilization of natural resources and promoting education is essential for the development and prosperity of Balochistan. He added that Balochistan is rich in natural resources, and the people of Balochistan, especially the educated youth, can benefit from CPEC projects. Addressing the students, Sanjrani remarked that they could become a valuable asset for their Province and the entire country with the wealth of education.

Highlighting the importance of Gawadar, Sanjrani underscored that the development of the country is interlinked with Gawadar, which

can be taken advantage of not only to change the destiny of Balochistan but also to bring growth and prosperity to the entire country. "Steps are being taken to promote education in Balochistan. Soon universities will be set up in Chaghi and Gawadar areas of Balochistan province so that the people there can get higher education", he informed. He said that Balochistan has vast investment opportunities, and efforts should also be made for enhancing trade and investment in the Province. We have to work hard, diligently and honestly for the development and prosperity of our country and especially for Balochistan, Sanjrani further added. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani said that the Upper House has played an essential role in encouraging the young generation and invited various delegations to acquaint the students with the work of Parliament House so that the students can be prompted to enter the politics of the

country.

The Acting President remarked that it was the shared responsibility of all of us to convince the world that the people of Balochistan were progressive and would work hard to find new avenues for development.

While lauding the premier Imran Khan efforts for Balochistan development, Sanjrani underlined that the Prime Minister of Pakistan is paying particular attention to the development and riches of Balochistan, which is why projects worth billions of rupees have been approved during his tenure, inter alia, including roads, the establishment of higher education institutions and countless other projects.

Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, while giving detailed answers to the questions regarding power outages and water issues, said that steps are being taken to solve the problems of electricity and water in Gawadar. While referencing his recent

visit to Iran, Sanjrani apprised the students that detailed consultation on the aforementioned issues was held with the newly elected President of Iran. He informed that six trade routes on the border were also identified during the meeting with the newly elected President of Iran. Sanjrani assured the delegation that a Permanent solution for electricity and water would be sorted out in a year.

While replying to a question, the Acting President said that with the cost of Rs. 18 billion, Gawadar would soon be connected to the National grid. Furthermore, with the installation of a 50MW solar plant, the electricity requirement of one district could be met. For the permanent solution of the water issue, a plan would be put in place to desalinate salted water, he informed. There are vast opportunities to generate electricity from alternative sources in the Province. Sanjrani pointed out.

CTP finalizes
arrangements
for 7th
Muharram

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The City Traffic Police (CTP) have finalized all the arrangements for 7th Muharram ul Harram under a comprehensive traffic plan formulated on the directives of Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Rai Mazhar Iqbal to ensure security of the mourners.

According to a CTP spokesman, as many as 200 traffic officials including three DSPs, nine Inspectors, 124 Traffic Wardens and 64 Traffic Assistant would be on special duty on 7th Muharram. He informed that 7th Muharram procession would start from Sadiqabad after Maghrib prayer and after passing through various city roads would culminate at Imam Bargah Qadeemi at morning. He informed that there would be a complete ban on parking of any vehicle or pushcart on the route of the procession.

The CTP had finalized a traffic plan for Muharram ul Harram under which nearly 1191 traffic officials including nine DSPs, 72 Inspectors, 820 Traffic Wardens and 290 Traffic Assistants were performing duties on city roads to control the traffic flow during Muharram. Special arrangements were finalized for 7th and 10th Muharram processions.

He said, traffic Police Officers and Wardens had also been directed to take action against rules violators. Fork lifters would also move with Muharram processions, he informed.

265 outlaws
held during
last week

ISLAMABAD: The police arrested 265 outlaws during last week with huge recovery of looted items worth millions of rupees.

The federal capital police accelerated efforts against criminals to reduce crimes in the city, said SSP (operations) Dr Syed Mustafa Tanweer in a news release on Sunday. Following directions of Inspector General of Police Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman and Deputy Inspector General of Police (Operations) Afzaal Ahmad Kausar, he said that renewed efforts were made and police achieved remarkable success.

SSP (Operations) told that, 24 arrested culprits were involved in dacoity, robbery, car/motorcycle theft while 18 were absconders. Complete challans of 192 cases were sent to concerned courts, he added.

Syed Mustafa Tanweer further stated that ICT Police had launched a special campaign against drug sellers/ bootleggers for eliminating the menace from the city. During this campaign, the police nabbed 42 accused and recovered 25,745 grams hashish, 11,630 gram heroine 260 gram ice and 61 wine bottles from them. 31 accused were also held for having illegal weapons and recovered 28 pistols one Kalashnikov and one rifle, 179 round and one dagger from them, the SSP maintained.

He emphasized that police accelerated its efforts against criminals and 150 accused involved in crimes of different nature were also arrested.

Tanweer reiterated that criminal elements would not be spared and those involved in such acts would have to face action as per law.

He has also appealed the citizens to cooperate with the police in curbing activities of such elements. — APP

RDA deposits
crosses
\$2 billion

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Sunday said the Roshan Digital Account (RDA) crossed the historical milestone of \$2 billion in deposits.

In a tweet, he said the increase in funds of Roshan Digital Accounts during the last eleven months reflected the confidence of overseas Pakistanis in the leadership and prudent policies of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

PDM's fate

OPPPOSITION parties trying to breathe some life into the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) might just as well have been flogging a dead horse because the same kind of sabre rattling that they employed when PDM was born is no longer going to have the same effect on the government. Indeed, the time when it seemed that the 10-party opposition roller coaster, which was holding impressive rallies up and down the country, was on a collision course with the government is long gone. And now whenever they try to take centre stage in the news cycle they are only likely to raise more questions about the difference of opinion about the way forward between the many parties that make up the alliance; and in the case of PML-N the breakdown within the party as well.

The biggest sticking point is of course Mian Nawaz Sharif's aggressive posturing which the PPP, known for its penchant for moving pieces on the board as opposed to direct confrontations, finds more than a little awkward. Later it turned out that even PML-N's senior leaders were completely unaware that Nawaz Sharif had planned to drop a big bomb in the Gujranwala rally, which is why the cleavage that emerged within the party was not entirely surprising.

For Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Shahbaz Sharif to think that they can pick up where the movement left off, as if nothing has happened, is asking for too much. There is no question now of the PTI administration facing anymore unpleasant headwinds during the remainder of its term. Therefore the opposition would be better advised to invest its energies in papering over its own cracks and limiting its criticism to government policy. Truth be told, PDM has already died its natural death. Now, keeping it alive by force can serve the purpose of optics, but beyond that it has no intrinsic value left. Its brand has been damaged and its credibility lost. And if Shahbaz joins it and Maryam has reservations, then Nawaz Sharif will also not back it and it will only deepen the divide within and among opposition parties. PDM does not have much of a future.

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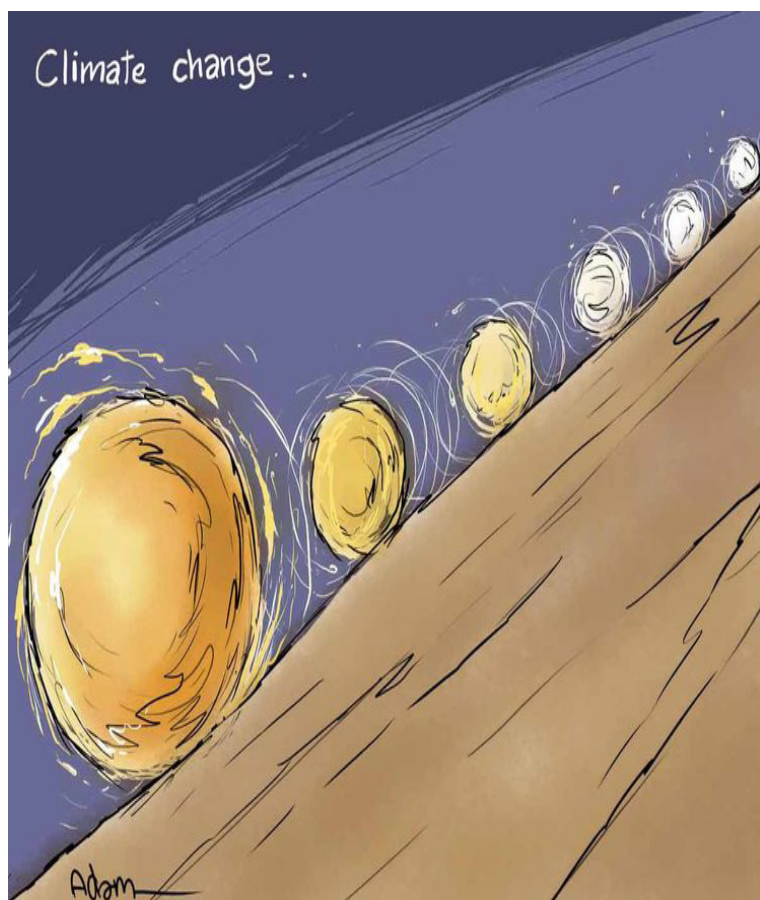
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FATF compliance

PAKISTAN has worked incessantly to comply with the requirements laid down by FATF—the government has passed through impactful legislative reforms, tightened financial controls and kept up active communication with the international body. This effort has been recognised by FATF; the regional body of FATF, in its follow-up report published on Thursday, stated that Pakistan was now in the top tier of countries that have achieved a rating of compliant/largely compliant. The Asia Pacific Group, in its third Mutual Evaluation Report (MER), has found that out of 40 recommendations, Pakistan has been declared compliant or largely compliant on 35 recommendations in order to combat money laundering and terror financing. These findings have led Pakistan to have an improved rating on four more of the 40 recommendations, leaving three requirements partially compliant and only two being non-compliant. Pakistan has been ranked largely compliant in all the big six recommendations of FATF, which are difficult to implement. However, despite these positive developments, Pakistan has still been retained in the 'Enhanced Follow up' category. The country is still on the grey list and must continue to report back to APG on progress to strengthen its implementation of AML/CFT measures, considering we have been seen to be lagging behind on the risk assessment of financial groups—although this does not even specifically tie in with AML itself. Compared to other G20 countries, Pakistan ranked only lower than the UK, Italy and Saudi Arabia. There is no logical explanation for why Pakistan should be retained on the grey list, considering there are many countries with far worse records that are not given the same treatment. Only a few formalities are left for Pakistan to become fully compliant—we could not have done more to appease FATF. The only conclusion behind this retaining is the play of politics in FATF and international bodies. Nevertheless, Pakistan should not pay heed to this and complete its commitments for its own sake.

At last, the world wakes up to climate change

Hafed Al-Ghwell



The consequences of unmitigated climate change will upend most of the region's developing countries, mostly populated by those who will be unable to adapt as temperatures soar

FOR many climate scientists and activists, the conclusions in the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change were no surprise. Drawn from more than 14,000 scientific studies, it is the most comprehensive depiction yet of a planet in peril as the intensifying climate change continues to alter the natural world. The report concluded that human activity was solely to blame for global temperatures rising faster than at any time over the last two millennia.

We are now on an irreversible path to average global temperatures rising by nearly 2°C in the next two decades even if we accelerate climate action plans, slash greenhouse gas emissions and eliminate fossil fuels. The damning assessment sent shockwaves throughout the world. There is a palpable sense of urgency among governments to prioritize climate change mitigation, and extend adequate funding to the developing world to assist with similar measures. Usually, there are muted reactions to climate change publications such as the IPCC report. Governments have traditionally meandered between indifference, and perfunctory gestures informed by the complexities of public policy, the absence of jurisdiction or accountability when it comes to climate change mitigation, and global mistrust of governments creating new barriers to effective climate action. Additionally, the world has often struggled to imagine the catastrophic consequences of runaway global warming. Such scenarios, which are often described in graphic detail by climate scientists, tended to be too improbable to be effective inducements for us to change our behavior. However, the past two years have delivered numerous signs that our planet is treading dangerously in uncharted waters. Heatwaves continue to bake parts of the world, fueling wildfires from California to Siberia and Turkey to Algeria. Reduced rainfall has led to dried-up lakes and rivers, worsening food and water insecurity in some of the world's most impoverished regions. Countries in Europe, Africa, and Asia

experienced unprecedented floods, resulting in mudslides, destruction of infrastructure, and the disruption of lives and livelihoods. All these now visible changes are occurring at a time when the world is more than 1°C warmer than when we began burning fossil fuels. Extrapolating from the latest findings, it is likely the world will experience exponentially worse climate-related disasters unless significant action is taken now. Climate change has ceased to be a nebulous doom-laden phenomenon coming at some indeterminate future date. We are living through it now.

More frequent and extreme heatwaves will become common even in places with little or no experience of them, such as Asia, Europe, and North America. In the Middle East and North Africa, where extreme poverty has doubled and nearly 20 percent subsist on less than \$2 a day, a hotter planet will exacerbate existing socioeconomic challenges. Climate disasters will compound already heightened risks of perpetual instability. A fumbled response to the COVID-19 pandemic is thwarting much-needed economic growth, which could have addressed rising unemployment, funded critical socioeconomic transformations, and ultimately sparked a divergence from the traditional dependence on fossil fuels. The consequences of unmitigated climate change will upend most of the region's developing countries, mostly populated by those who will be unable to adapt as temperatures soar. Already, more than a third of heat-related deaths in the world are attributable to climate change. This is extremely concerning especially for the Arab world's poor, who have little choice but to engage in strenuous activity outside in extreme heatwaves. Extreme weather events are already known to worsen the conditions that perpetuate the cyclical nature of poverty since the poor will need increasing amounts of capital and resources to recover. Essentially, failing to act now, given the warnings and visible signs of a planet in peril, will intensify most of the region's ills, producing new challenges that governments, and the interna-

tional community, are ill-equipped to address.

Some of these risks are not shared by oil-producing nations that have so far escaped the worst of the pandemic-induced global downturn. However, the conclusions drawn in the IPCC report mean that planned long-term global energy transitions that strike at the core of the region's hydrocarbon industries will be accelerated. In other words, the world is likely to arrive at "peak oil" a lot sooner than anticipated as new investments go towards alternatives and subsidization of lifestyle changes to meet new, more urgent, and ambitious climate goals.

It remains to be seen whether governments will revisit climate goals, set new ambitions, and re-commit themselves to confront what is increasingly becoming an inevitable future. That litmus test will have to wait a few months for the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP26, in Glasgow, Scotland. So far, current voluntary pledges will fall far short of keeping temperature rises under 2°C and the IPCC report has added more pressure on governments to take far more drastic steps. For the Arab world, accelerated climate action will create a two-track response. Developing countries in the region will have to make their assessments in terms of what changes they can make to contribute to global climate goals, and how much funding they will require, which will then be borrowed from the wealthier nations. Those wealthier countries will have to speed up their transformation plans even more to compensate for revenues from fossil fuel.

This creates a divergence of policies at a time when enhanced regional cooperation is needed to ensure neighboring countries are working in lockstep and sharing the burden of preventing runaway climate change. Working unilaterally will widen existing gaps, which will lead to wealthier Arab nations becoming the primary destination of choice for climate refugees fleeing uninhabitable regions, and conflicts sparked by food and water scarcity.

— Courtesy: Arab News

Uzbekistan's ten commandments for connectivity

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan



As a "Practitioner of Reality" the president Mirziyoyev coined practical contribution of development orientation and institutionalization of effective means for free movement of investments, good and services through the development of advanced "Integrative Transport System (ITS)" and befitting propositions of energy infrastructure

WHILE addressing the international conference "Central Asia and South Asia: regional interconnectedness: Challenges and opportunities, President of Uzbekistan H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev pinpointed "ten initiatives" to achieve greater regional connectivity. Being prominent regional expert of Uzbekistan and CIS I term it "Ten Commandments of Modern World". It is indeed a "Strategic Road Map" to foster trade and commerce activities, joint ventures, mutual investments, new jobs and eradication of poverty. It is a modern "Transportation Network Modeling and Calibration" to create modern, efficient and safe transport and logistics infrastructure in Central Asia and South Asia. It is a "Blue Print" of socio-economic prosperity, massive industrialization, persuasion of green energies, sincere efforts of de-carbonization, formation of economic and logistic corridors, paradigm shift in trade tariffs, integrative mechanism of preferential and free trade.

It is "Bible of Commercial Diplomacy" which eschews conspiracies, conflicts and contradictions and promotes spirits of cooperation, coordination and collaboration among the main stakeholder in the region. It is a "Das Kapital" for modern era in which rights are protected through development orientations, regulatory bodies and investments are made to bring comforts in the lives of common people. It is a new "Magna Carta" for the 21 century in which equity of finances creates equitable business propositions and sustainable partnerships for all the regional countries. It is an "Aurora Supercomputer" to stimulate digitalization in the region to enhance virtual connectivity and provide platform of locomotive of economic cooperation between the two regions of Central Asia and South Asia. It is a comprehensive outline of digital transformation, techniques of survives and thrives in an era of mass extinction. It is a new version of "Neo-Malthusian Theory" which argues that food security and sustainable development are intrinsically linked. It formulates a holistic approach by involving all main regional as well as global stakeholders to devise a joint development research to institutionalize usage and utility of advanced technologies and of course implementation of industrial cooperation. It is a "Grand Green Book" of simulation of green development in Central Asia and South Asia which has now instrumental to human survival, productive channels, booming trade and commerce and maintenance of appropriate balance between "Divine and Development".

It is a new "Blue Book" of tourism to promote "Sustainable Tourism Supply Chain Management System (STSCMS)" between both the regions. It is a journey towards beautification of collective cultures, traditions, brands and products. It is vivid reflection of new adventures, adjoining strategies and holy policies to promote tourism in the new age of "virology" in the age of dawn of science and technology. It is a new "Quantum Theory" of scientific discipline and development to expand scientific, cultural and humanitarian exchanges. It is also a new "Trust Receipt" of mutual trust, friendship, peace, stability and harmony in the entire region. It is new "Rethinking" of youth, nurturing, education and value of human capital among the regional countries. It is a new "Newtonian Spirits" to promote science, technology and innovations between Central Asia and South Asia. It is of course depiction of human survival through scientific means, induction of modern and smarter technologies to accelerate spells of development in the region. It is a new "Richer, Wiser and Happier" thoughtfulness process in the crucial decision making for the betterment of common people to achieve immense socio-economic prosperity and of course regional connectivity. As a renowned "Strategist" President of Uzbekistan H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev also suggested comprehensive plans and programs to make these ten initiatives successful. He like a "Maestro" of applied economics suggested creating "simulative" and "supportive" mechanism and conditions to foster development of economic ties and mutual investments between Central Asia and South Asia.

As a "Practitioner of Reality" the president Mirziyoyev coined practical contribution of development orientation and institutionalization of effective means for free movement of investments, good and services through

the development of advanced "Integrative Transport System (ITS)" and befitting propositions of energy infrastructure. He also used holistic approach and dissemination of "Effective Communication Theory" to translate deities and traditions of common heritage to promote spirits of cooperation in both the regions. It is indeed a new "Grand Diagnostic Dialogue (GDD)" which would be transformed into specific programs and projects for the creation of new jobs and achieving of stability and sustainability of regional economies. As an expert "Jurist" the President Mirziyoyev suggested to initiate joint study for the formulation and conclusion of multilateral agreement of economic cooperation among all the regional countries. As a "Passionate Champion" of modern logistics and integrative transportation system the Uzbek president suggested to start trans-regional railway project of "Termez-Mazari-Sharif-Kabul-Peshawar" and termed it real architecture of the interconnection between Central Asia and South Asia. It will full realize the transit potential of the entire region having shortest and smoothest route of regional connectivity.

Moreover, it is a time and cost effective project for transporting goods between South Asia and Europe through Central Asia and Commonwealth nations. It would be inclusive economic development project of both the regions. Moreover, it would be revival of ancient Northern trade route of "Uttarapatha" which used to connect Indo-Gangetic Plain with the Southern territories of Eurasian continent through the historic cities of Taxila, Gandhara and Termez. Furthermore, proposed trans-regional railways project is fully in line with the goals of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). As a "Digitalized Personality" the Uzbek President proposed to develop specific measures to implement digital connectivity in diverse fields of trade, transit and border management through devising a Joint Action Strategy (JAS).

As an experienced "Food Economist & Technologist", President Mirziyoyev chalked out comprehensive policies to achieve the goal of optimal food security in the Central Asia and South Asia. He proposed Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to hold a meeting of the regional agriculture ministers to develop of program to overcome serious issue of food security. As a true "Angle" of humanity, stability, security and of course peace the President Mirziyoyev emphasized the need to consolidate efforts of anti-ter-

rorism, extremism and transnational crime including cyberspace. He presented Multidimensional Strategy (MS) to counter all these looming threats to human existence, prosperity and sovereignty through "Joint Anti-Drug Action Plan" with the help of UN Office on Drugs and Crime. He was of the opinion that joint efforts should be started in the fight against terrorism. He envisioned holistic approach to eradicate menace of terrorism through the help of regional experts. As a "True Lover" and "Protectionist" of nature, environment, ecology and biodiversity the president Mirziyoyev suggested taking all possible measures to mitigate devastating effects of climate change which has already produced havoc in terms of water scarcity, air and environment pollution, soil degradation and desertification. As a "Beautifier" of natural beauty and tourism potential the President Mirziyoyev showcased economic value of regional tourism which would be utilized in creation of new jobs, increase in revenues, GDPs, GNP's and of course grand benching mark of cultural diplomacy in the days to come.

As a "Guru" of international marketing and advertising the President Mirziyoyev pinpointed structural reforms and integrative steps for the development of regional tourism in terms of recognizable travel brands with elements of attractiveness and affordability, and safe routes in the ongoing human sage of COVID-19 with various variants. He suggested developing a comprehensive popular program with the framework of the World Tourism Organization for Central Asia and South Asia Regions.

As an "Applied Scientist" the President Mirziyoyev rightly emphasized to follow scientific ways and means for cultural and humanitarian exchanges and cooperation for achieving ultimate goal of trustworthy friendship among all the regional countries. He suggested initiating joint programs for regional education, science, culture and sports by involving and participation of young generations. He proposed formation of a permanent Youth Council of both the regions.

As a "True Stimulator" of science and technological innovation the President Mirziyoyev highlighted strategic importance of science, technology and innovations. In this connection the president of Uzbekistan proposed "Facilitated Visa Regime (FVR)" for regional scientists and researchers. Online connectivity among the regional universities would also be vital for economic development, he further added.

As a "True Champion" of "rational thinking" and "accumulate" decision making having forward looking outlook the President Mirziyoyev proposed formation of permanent expert pool of prominent scientists and researchers from all the regional countries to promote cooperation. Fallacies of religion and wrong notions of different phobias are the potential threats to regional peace and stability that is why he strongly recommended to joint fight against terrorism, extremism and radicalization through tolerance, education and scientific thinking.

To conclude rapidly changing socio-economic orientations, geopolitical conditionality and last but not geo-political compulsions there is an urgent need to start new journey towards greater regional cooperation, coordination, collaboration and connectivity in which President of Uzbekistan H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev ten initiatives may be act as "ten commandments" of modern world.



Briefs

Afghan team in Islamabad

FROM PAGE 01
Ahmad Wali Massoud, Abdul Latif Pedram, and Khalid Noor,” Pakistan’s Special Representative for Afghanistan Mohammad Sadiq wrote on his Twitter handle. He said that matters of mutual interest will be discussed during the Afghan political leadership’s visit. Matters of mutual interest will be discussed during the Afghan political leadership’s visit. While the objectives of the arrival remain unclear, chances of dialogue seem certain amid the rapidly changing situation in Afghanistan due to the continuous Taliban gains against the security forces.

Pakistan supports peace in...

FROM PAGE 01
how they resolve the issue. He, however, added that Afghan people wanted peace, stability and protection of their rights. They did not want displacement, said Qureshi adding that the process of dialogue should move forward.

FM discusses situation...

FROM PAGE 01
During the call, the Foreign Minister reviewed the rapidly evolving situation in Afghanistan with Secretary Raab. Reiterating Pakistan’s steadfast support for a peaceful settlement, the Foreign Minister stated that the latest situation in Afghanistan required international community’s consistent engagement with the Afghan leaders to ensure a peaceful and stable Afghanistan. The Foreign Minister expressed the hope that the Afghan leaders would take advantage of international convergence in support of peace and reconciliation process. The Foreign Minister also apprised Secretary Raab of Pakistan’s efforts to fully facilitate the evacuation of personnel and staff of diplomatic missions, international organizations, media and others, as requested. Drawing the attention of Secretary Raab to UK’s decision to retain Pakistan on the Red List, Foreign Minister Qureshi expressed the hope that the UK would revisit its decision in the light of the data shared with the relevant UK authorities. The Foreign minister reiterated the invitation to his counterpart for the next round of Enhanced Strategic Dialogue (ESD) in Islamabad.

Jutanugarn pegged back by Hull, O’Toole

LONDON: Thailand’s Ariya Jutanugarn saw her three-shot overnight advantage evaporate in the third round of the Women’s Scottish Open on Saturday as England’s Charley Hull and Ryann O’Toole of the United States joined her at the top of the leaderboard. Ariya’s third round ended with five birdies, three bogeys and a double-bogey. All three players are nine under ahead of Sunday’s final round. “Today, I was thinking about the outcome so much, I don’t want to miss and make putts, and that’s why I end up today not playing so well,” said Ariya. “So I think tomorrow just have to go back to like yesterday or first round and have good commitment and not really thinking about the outcome.” Hull, who is searching for her second LPGA Tour win and first since 2016, carded a third successive 69. “I’ve been feeling confident the last six weeks ever since pretty much, just the couple weeks after U.S. Open. I feel good. I feel really good,” said Hull. O’Toole, 34, will look to become the sixth first-time winner of the season with victory on Sunday. — APP

NBP win Mari Petroleum Azadi Hockey Cup 2021

It is very encouraging to see corporate sector organizations such as Mari Petroleum coming forward to help out our National Sport. With these sincere efforts, the day is not far when we will be in a position to regain our former glory in Hockey



RAWALPINDI: Players on National Bank Hockey team in a group photo with Dr Fehmida Mirza Federal Minister for Inter provincial Coordination after winning Azadi Cup Hockey tournament. NBP defeated Wapda on penalties. — DNA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC) Dr Fehmida Mirza has said that Pakistan lacks a well governed sports system like there was in the other countries. “The world was advancing

in sports and we are getting one step behind, she said at the closing ceremony of the 1st Mari Petroleum Azadi Hockey Cup at the Mari Hockey Stadium, Ayub Park on Sunday. Dr Fehmida flanked by Pakistan Hockey Federation President Brig r Khalid Sajjad Khokhar also lauded Mari Petroleum Company’s

(MPCL) Management and their former Managing Director Lt Gen (R) Ishfaq Nadeem Ahmed for their efforts to revive the game of field hockey in the country while creating a sense of ownership and pride amongst the citizens during the tournament. “It is very encouraging to see corporate sector or-

ganizations such as Mari Petroleum coming forward to help out our National Sport. With these sincere efforts, the day is not far when we will be in a position to regain our former glory in Hockey. Meanwhile, National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) clinched the inaugural Mari Petroleum Azadi Cup Hockey Tour-

nament title. In an exciting final match NBP downed Wapda by 3-2 on penalty shoots, as both teams managed to score two goals each on the completion of two halves. On the occasion, Faheem Haider, Managing Director/ CEO of Mari Petroleum said Mari Petroleum formed its own hockey team in 2018,

with the intention of reinvigorating interest in national sport. “Within a short span of two years, MPCL Hockey Team managed to win the 1st Chief Minister Punjab Gold Hockey Cup in 2020, beating the top-ranked local teams. Presently MPCL hockey team is ranked Number 5 in the National Rankings.

Thai protesters clash with police at anti-PM rally

AGENCIES

BANGKOK: Three protesters are injured when Thai police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at a Bangkok rally, as coronavirus cases soar and anger builds about Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha’s handling of the pandemic. For the third day in a week, protesters and police clashed on Friday, while the kingdom grappled with its worst virus outbreak so far and registered a new daily high of 23,418 infections. Cases were slightly lower on Saturday at more than 22,000 and 217 new deaths, bringing the country’s total since the pandemic to more than 900,000, with more

than 7,300 deaths. On Saturday, Bangkok Post reported that Thanpuying-Boonruen Choonhavan, the widow of former Prime Minister Chatchai Choonhavan died of COVID-19 at the age of 101. The sluggish rollout of Thailand’s vaccination programme and financial pain from restrictions is heap- ing political pressure on the prime minister. Protesters gathered in Bangkok at a major inter- section by Victory Monument, defying a ban on public gatherings, and set fire to sacks of rotting fruit to symbolise the economic hardship of farmers. “These fruits can’t be sold because of government failure [to manage the virus and the economy],” a fe-

male protester told a crowd of several hundred people. Demonstrators attempted to march on Prayut’s residence inside a military barracks holding a large banner that read, “Prayuth must get out immediately.” Police used barbed wire and rows of shipping containers to block their path while officers fired tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannon. Deputy National Police spokesman Kissana-Phathanacharoen said protesters targeted officers with ping pong bombs, slingshots, bricks, and firecrackers. Fourteen motorbikes were impounded, he said. At least three protesters were injured including youth activist Thanat “Nat” Thanakitamnuy, an emergency medical centre said.

At protests on Tuesday and Wednesday in the same area, police used water cannon, tear gas and rubber bullets, and some demonstrators threw firecrackers at officers. Bangkok police, facing accusations of heavy-handedness, have insisted their approach is in line with the law and urged people not to jeopardise public health and safety. “There is clear evidence that some people among the protest group have contracted COVID-19,” Metropolitan Police Bureau chief Phukphong Phongpetra told reporters on Friday. A young protester who blew his own hand off while throwing a firework during Wednesday’s rally has tested positive for coronavirus, local media reported.



Uzbek-Russian Presidents discuss Afghan situation

TASHKENT: President of the Republic of Uzbekistan ShavkatMirziyoyev held a telephone conversation with President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin. This was reported by the Kremlin press service. The heads of Uzbekistan and Russia thoroughly discussed the development of the situation in Afghanistan. With this in mind, it was agreed to intensify interaction between the relevant ministries and departments of Russia and Uzbekistan. The press service of the President of Uzbekistan said in a statement that during the conversation the issues of further development of the Uzbek-Russian relations of strategic partnership and alliance, as well as the expansion of multifaceted cooperation were discussed. The presidents will continue to maintain regular contact with each other.

Afghan ODI series shelved

SYDNEY: Australia’s scheduled one-day international series against Afghanistan in India has been postponed, the cricket boards of the competing countries said on Sunday, leaving players free to fulfil their Indian Premier League (IPL) commitments. The three one-dayers were supposed to take place ahead of the Twenty20 World Cup but that tournament has now been moved to the United Arab Emirates because of the prevalence of COVID-19 in India. The Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) “and Cricket Australia agreed to postpone the tour given the complexities of travel, quarantine periods and a finding a suitable location for the matches given the relocation of the T20 World Cup to the UAE,” the boards said in a statement. “With the World Cup relocated from India to the UAE, the ACB will continue to explore the possibility of hosting a proposed T20 tri-series involving Australia and the West Indies.” — Agencies

Royals thump Warriors by 4 wickets

SPORTS DESK

MUZAFFARABAD: Mirpur Royals down Overseas Warriors by four wickets on Sunday to qualify for the second Eliminator of Kashmir Premier League (KPL). Chasing a target of 161 runs, Sharjeel gave an ideal start to Royals as he made a brisk 30 from just 17 balls, before he was dismissed by Agha Salman. After a quick start from Royals, Warriors struck in quick succession as Mo-

hammad Akhlaq (26 runs in 14 balls) was removed by their captain Imad Wasim. Shoaib Malik formed a crucial 45-run partnership with Hassan Khan to take Royals closer to the target. However, Hassan lost his wicket to Faizan Saleem after scoring 20 from 15 balls. Malik got an able ally in Khushdil Shah, who scored a quick 21 from 8 balls, before he was caught by Rumman Raees on the bowling of Musa Khan. Despite Khushdil’s departure, Malik remained calm

and scored 27* not out from 34 balls, to take his team over the finish line with eight balls to spare. After being asked to bat first, Warriors posted 160/9 in their allotted 20 overs. The Warriors had a terrible start as they kept losing wickets at regular intervals and were left reeling at 34/4 in the seventh over. Kamran Ghulam and Azam Khan were looking set to rebuild the innings but Azam was trapped lbw by Shadab Majeed for 20. He scored

two fours and a six in 13-ball stay at the crease. Soon after Azam’s departure, Salman Irshad clean bowled Kamran Ghulam for 18. Warriors needed their lower-order to stand up and Agha Salman responded with a blistering 59-run knock from just 26 balls, to take his team to competitive total. Shadab Majeed was the pick of the bowlers for Royal with four wickets, while Sameen Gul and Salman Irshad picked two wickets each.

HUM TV wins RISJA Independence Cup Final

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: In the decisive final of first RISJA Inter-Media Independence Cup Cricket Tournament, Hum TV defeated Geo TV by 9 wickets to clinch the title of the tournament at National Cricket Ground Islamabad. Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Hussain was the chief guest in the closing ceremony of the tournament while Chairman RISJA Abdul Mohi Shah, President Ayaz Akbar, Park View City CEO Mian Umer Farooq Manan, NasGas corporate head Ijaz Akbar, former member of Pakistan Cricket Board Governing Board Shakil Sheikh and other dignitaries were also present during the concluding ceremony. In the final of the tournament with the collaboration with Park View City and NasGas, Geo TV batted first and scored 82 runs for the loss of six wickets in the stipulated 12



overs. Hassan Ahmed scored 25 and Shahzad Iqbal scored 16 runs for Geo tv while Sameer Butt bowled two wickets. In reply, Hum TV achieved the target in the last over for one wicket. Hum TV’s Sameer

Butt decelerated man of the final match with unbeaten 53 runs. Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain distributed prizes among the players. On becoming

the champion of the tournament, a prize money of Rs. 500,000 was distributed to Hum TV and Rs. 2.5 lakh to runners-up Geo TV. Sameer Butt was declared the best batsman of the tournament

and Afzal Javed was declared the best bowler. On the occasion, Federal Minister Fawad Hussain appreciated the efforts of Rawalpindi Islamabad Sports Journalists Association (RISJA) to organizing the wonderful tournament and assured all possible cooperation and said that such healthy activities should be organize among the journalists. Federal Minister said that he welcomes this step towards involving media persons in healthy activities on the sidelines of their demanding profession. “I am delighted to see the final played on the Independence Day. Winning and losing hardly matter. What matters is that we all gathered here to celebrate Independence Day. RISJA has taken a big initiative and I must congratulate the association office-bearers for making the event a big success,” he added. He also hoped that RISJA would continue to host such events in the future.

Taliban in full control

FROM PAGE 01
forces were responsible for security. But later, a spokesman tweeted that Taliban forces should enter areas deserted by Afghan forces in order to maintain law and order. The Taliban issued a statement under the “Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan” banner saying the group has now been permitted to enter Kabul. Meanwhile, Afghan leaders have created a coordination council to meet with the Taliban and manage the transfer of the power, after the religious militia’s lightning offensive swept to the capital, Kabul. In a statement posted on social media by former president Hamid Karzai, he said the body will be lead by the head of the High Council for National Reconciliation, Abdullah Abdullah, as well as the leader of Hizb-e-Islami, Gulbudin Hekmatyar, and himself. The statement said the move was “to prevent chaos and reduce the suffering of the people,” and to manage peace and a “peaceful transfer.” Ghani’s departure from office was one of the key demands of the Taliban in months of peace talks with the government, but he had stubbornly clung to power. In just over a week, the Taliban have carried out a lightning sweep of the country, with troops incapable of holding onto territory without US military support. The insurgents said they want a “peaceful transfer” within the next few days, two decades after US-led forces toppled it in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks. The group ordered its fighters earlier Sunday not to enter the capital, saying the remnants of the government’s forces were responsible for security. But later, a spokesman tweeted that Taliban forces should enter areas deserted by Afghan forces in order to maintain law and order.

Pak-Turkey ties a force of peace

FROM PAGE 01
He said Pakistan was one of the biggest markets of Turkish defence products. He said the collaboration for construction of Milgem Class Corvettes would not only enhance the capability of Pakistan Navy rather it was great moment to further cement the bilateral ties. He also appreciated the role of all stakeholders for timely achieving the major milestone despite COVID-19 challenges. The president told the audience that in current world affairs, the morality was taking second position to vested interests, but he believed that a new world era was emerging where the morality would lead the nations. And that is where the role of Pakistan and Turkey becomes important, he remarked. President Alvi said under the agreement, four Milgem corvettes would be constructed with first and third in Turkey and second and fourth in Pakistan. He said the relationship between Pakistan and Turkey was not merely between the two governments rather the nations. President Alvi said that the fake news phenomenon was not new rather it was an old issue. He said in the current world, the knowledge was not free rather it flows as per the vested interests. However, he said as per the Islamic traditions, the flow of knowledge should be free for benefit of all. He also thanked the Turkish president for inviting him to attend the inauguration ceremony. In his remarks, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Pakistan played a vital role in ensuring peace and stability for Afghanistan, which had recently seen an increase in conflict. He said both the countries would make all out efforts for Afghanistan to reach stability as soon as possible. Therefore, Turkey’s relations with Pakistan will continue,” he added. Erdogan said the solutions to the problems in the region could only be materialized with the support of Pakistan. He said under first of the four Milgem Corvette was inaugurated for Pakistan Navy and as per agreement, two each would be constructed in Turkey and Pakistan. He said the steel cutting ceremony had taken place in 2019 and the project would complete by 2025. He said Turkish defence ministry has been cooperating with numerous countries but Pakistan had a special place among those states.

Briefs

Pakistan's expo drive launched at Burj Khalifa

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan 'the hidden treasure' Expo2020 campaign was launched at Burj Khalifa, Dubai on the Independence Day. During a flag hoisting ceremony, a large number of people gathered at Burj Khalifa. A cultural performance was also arranged giving a quick look into Pakistan's participation in the Expo2020. The performance was also a dedication to Dubai's vision of connecting minds, creating the future, a press release said on Sunday. The Pakistan pavilion is designed to leave a lasting impact on the visitors by inspiring them through a poetic narrative on the past, present and future revealing its rich history, culture and traditions, as well as the potential and possibilities for the future. The audience at the Burj Khalifa were enthralled with the impressive campaign launch by Pakistan. For continuous updates and further details on Pakistan's participation in Expo2020 interested people can connect to Pakistan Pavilion website and social media handles through Website (www.pakistanexpo2020.com) Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn (pakistanexpo2020) Twitter (Expo2020Pak). – APP

Morocco reports 10,240 new Covid cases

RABAT: Morocco's COVID-19 tally rose to 752,076 on Sunday as 10,240 new cases were registered during the past 24 hours. The death toll from the virus rose by 110 to 10,933, while 2,242 people were in intensive care units, said a statement by the Ministry of Health. The total number of recoveries from COVID-19 in Morocco increased to 657,958 after 8,529 new ones were added, while the number of active cases rose to 83,185. Meanwhile, 16,240,404 people have received the first vaccine shots against COVID-19 in the country, with 11,389,655 having received the second doses. The North African country launched a nationwide vaccination campaign on Jan. 28 after the arrival of the first shipment of China's Sinopharm vaccines. – APP

UBG hails Sindh govt's lockdown strategy

DNA

KARACHI: The leaders and members of the United Business Group (UBG) have highly appreciated the outstanding efforts made by the government particularly by means of smart lockdown in the period of COVID-19 pandemic which kept the industry alive resulting in significant export enhancement. The decision of the government for smart lockdown gave a considerable edge to Pakistan on the other textile producing countries. Pakistan kept the textile producing industry functional which boosted Pakistan's textiles export to various destinations particularly UK where Pakistan made significant increase in export for US\$2.025 billion in the fiscal year 2021 against US\$1.522 billion in 2020. While Pakistan's textile was the main commodity contributed in exports to UK. President of UBG, Zubair Tufail said that the other main reason for increase in Pakistan textile products was because of the market diversification drive and under taken by the UK companies in the period of COVID-19 who heavily relied on Pakistan's competitors. The volume of the bilateral trade between both the countries has now reached to US\$2.648 billion in 2021 against US\$2.122 billion of last year.

Haiti searches for survivors after quake kills at least 304

Rescuers raced against the clock to find survivors, with the civil protection tweeting that efforts by "both professional rescuers and members of the public have led to many people being pulled from the rubble

AGENCIES

PORTAU-PRINCE: Rescue workers were scrambling to find survivors after a powerful 7.2-magnitude earthquake struck Haiti, killing at least 304 and toppling buildings in the disaster-plagued Caribbean nation still recovering from a devastating 2010 quake. The epicenter of the shaking, which rattled homes and sent terrified locals fleeing for safety starting around 8:30 am (1230 GMT) Saturday, was about 100 miles (160 kilometers) by road west of the center of the densely populated capital Port-au-Prince. Churches, businesses, schools and homes crumbled in the quake that trapped hundreds of victims under rubble and left at least 1,800 people injured, the country's civil protection agency said.

Rescuers raced against the clock to find survivors, with the civil protection tweeting that efforts by "both professional rescuers and members of the public have led to many people being pulled from the rubble," adding that already overburdened hospitals continue to receive injured. Hours after the quake, the agency announced the death toll had jumped to 304, ticking upwards throughout the day from a first report of 29 fatalities. The long initial quake was felt in much of the Caribbean, emanating from the epicenter at Haiti's southwestern peninsula. The civil protection said at least 160 people were killed in the country's South department alone. "Lots of homes are destroyed, people are dead and some are at the hospital," 21-year-old Christella Saint Hilaire, who lives near the

epicenter, told AFP. Hospitals in the regions hardest hit by the quake were already struggling to provide emergency care and at least three were completely full, according to Jerry Chandler, head of the civil protection agency. The health ministry quickly dispatched personnel and medicine to the southwestern peninsula, but their arrival could be hampered by insecurity that has for months plagued the poor country in the Americas. The United States and other nations swiftly pledged support to the crisis-wracked country, with US President Joe Biden approving "immediate" aid efforts and Haiti's neighbor Dominican Republic shipping 10,000 food rations and medical equipment. A medical brigade of 253 Cuban doctors deployed in Haiti was traveling to treat the injured and adapt

a Port-au-Prince hospital until now used for Covid patients, their head said on Cuban television. In Ecuador, Quito Fire Department said it was preparing to send a team of 34 personnel specialized in urban search and rescue. Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Peru and Venezuela also offered help while Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said Haitians "can count on the support of Spain to come through this terrible event." Tennis star Naomi Osaka, whose father is Haitian, said she was going to donate her prize money from an upcoming tournament to help quake victims. "Really hurts to see all the devastation that's going on in Haiti, and I feel like we really can't catch a break," Osaka wrote on Twitter. Images circulated on social media showed people frantically trying

to pull people from the ruins of caved-in buildings, while screaming bystanders sought safety in the streets outside their homes. "Houses and their surrounding walls have collapsed. The roof of the cathedral has fallen down," resident Job Joseph told AFP from the hard-hit city of Jeremie on Haiti's far western end. Heavy damage was reported in the center of the city, which is home to around 200,000 people and composed primarily of single-story residences and buildings. The damage in the city of Les Cayes appeared to be significant, including the collapse of a multi-story hotel. Prime Minister Ariel Henry, who surveyed the damage via helicopter, declared a state of emergency for one month while calling on the nation to "show solidarity" and not panic.

PKBC to hold meeting with UK investors in London

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: UK-Pak Business Council will hold meeting with UK investors in London next month to lure foreign investment in diversified fields in Pakistan besides establishing collaboration between private sector for setting up joint ventures in various sectors of economy. Chairman UK-Pak Business Council Pakistan chapter Mian Kashif Ashfaq on Sunday while talking to a delegation of importers and exporters led by Chaudhary Araib Arain said that UK is the fifth largest economy in the world measured by nominal gross domestic products (GDP) comprising 3 percent of the global GDP.

He said the UK is the ninth largest exporter and the fourth largest importer in the world, adding that council is creating awareness about PM Imran Khan's special unprecedented package of incentives offered to all foreign investors to attract foreign investment to Pakistan for industrialization coupled with business friendly environment. He said council is also planning to conduct a joint meeting of UK-Pak investors in the UK for exploring investment avenues in different sectors. Mian Kashif said Pakistan's export to the UK posted a 33 percent growth when it reached \$2.025 billion in the fiscal last fiscal year ended on June 2021 against \$1.522bn over financial year 2020 mainly led by textile products.

14 Aug celebrations held at Pakistan embassy Austria

DNA

VIENNA: Pakistan Embassy in Vienna organised a flag hoisting ceremony at the Embassy to celebrate country's 75th Independence Day. The members of Pakistan community in Austria from different towns and cities attended this ceremony to demonstrate their love for the beloved homeland. Ambassador of Pakistan to Austria, Aftab Ahmad Khokher hoisted the national flag. Messages of the President and the Prime Minister marking the 75th Independence Day were read out. Addressing the gathering, Aftab Ahmad Khokher paid tribute to the glorious struggle

of Pakistan's founding fathers and the foresight and sagacious leadership of Quaid-e-Azam. He reaffirmed the nation's commitment towards realizing the vision of Quaid-e-Azam in building Pakistan as a democratic, progressive and a forward-looking Islamic country. He also highlighted Pakistan's efforts for peace and stability in South Asia as well as its success in defeating terrorism through resolve and resilience. He called upon the Pakistani community to stay united and counter the negative and motivated propaganda against Pakistan by remaining peaceful and showing grace. Prayer was offered for the peace, progress and prosperity of Pakistan.



Tajikistan to host SCO and CSTO summits

FOREIGN DESK

DUSHANBE: Tajik capital will host summits of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Collective Security Organization (CSTO) next month, Trend reports citing Asia-Plus. The meetings of heads of state of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and CSTO member nations will take place in Dushanbe from September 16-17. High-ranking delegations from seventeen countries of the world and secretary-generals of SCO and Collective Security Organization will gather in the Tajik capital for participation in these summits. The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) is a military alliance of Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization currently has eight full members – China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia are four observer states, and SCO's dialogue partners include Azerbaijan, Turkey, Armenia, Cambodia, Nepal and Sri Lanka. ACEAN, CIS, Turkmenistan and the United Nations are guest attendances.

Amb. Sajjad highlights govt achievements on Independence Day

On the occasion, children also sang Pakistani national songs



DNA

MINSK: To commemorate the independence day of Pakistan, a flag-hoisting ceremony was held at the Embassy of Pakistan, Minsk on 14 August 2021. The ceremony was attended by Pakistani Diaspora from different walks of life including students. Ambassador Sajjad Haider Khan raised the national flag to the tune of national anthem of Pakistan and delivered the messages from the President and Prime

Minister of Pakistan whereby a glowing tribute was paid to the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and that of the other leaders of the Independence Movement, whose unwavering struggle culminated in freedom for the Muslims of subcontinent. The Ambassador also highlighted the achievements of the current government in the socio-economic fields. Appreciating the importance of freedom as a basic human right, Pakistan's resolute commitment

to the innocent people of IIOJK by extending them moral, political and diplomatic support was also reiterated. Expressing the resolve to nurture Pakistan into a progressive Islamic society on the ideals of Riasat-e-Madina, the need for unity among nation during these testing times was underlined. On the occasion, children also sang Pakistani national songs. Towards the end, guests were treated with traditional Pakistani cuisine.

Malaysian PM to offer resignation Monday

AGENCIES

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's embattled leader will offer his resignation to the king Monday, a minister said, potentially spelling an end to his 17-month-old government and plunging the country into fresh turmoil. Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin has faced mounting pressure to step aside after losing his parliamentary majority, and over his administration's handling of a worsening coronavirus outbreak. He made a last-ditch attempt to cling to power Friday by urging opposition MPs to support him in exchange for institutional reforms – but his offer was rejected. Minister Mohamad Redzuan Yusof told AFP that Muhyiddin had informed lawmakers from his party during a meeting in Kuala Lumpur Sunday that he would tender his resignation. "He will hold a final cabinet meeting on Monday, then he will head to the palace to submit his resignation letter," said the minister in the prime minister's department. "We did try to convince him to stay on, but he said: 'We do not have the number of MPs.'" Muhyiddin told the meeting it would be up to the king – who has publicly criticised his government – to accept his resignation or not, the minister added. There has been speculation that, should he step down, a new government will be formed without elections due to concerns that polls could worsen the virus outbreak. But, with no clear successor as prime minister, there are likely to be days of political horse-trading ahead as MPs seek to form a workable coalition.

Eight people killed in bus accident in Hungary

WEB NEWS

BUDAPEST: Eight people were killed and dozens injured when a passenger bus crashed into a motorway bridge some 70 kilometres (40 miles) southwest of Budapest early Sunday, Hungarian police said. Two people were seriously injured and 46 suffered minor injuries in the crash, which occurred at 4:55 am (0255 GMT), police said in a statement on their website. The exact cause of the crash was not yet known and no details were currently available regarding the age or identity of the victims. In a major road accident in 2003, 33 people died when a train and a bus carrying German tourists collided in Siofok, a popular holiday resort on the shores of Lake Balaton.

Fuel tanker explodes in Lebanon

FOREIGN DESK

BEIRUT: At least 28 people were killed and 79 injured when a fuel tank exploded in Akkar in northern Lebanon, the health ministry said. The explosion occurred early on Sunday morning. Caretaker Health Minister Hamad Hassan said the worst cases of burns probably needed quick treatment abroad to save their lives. Yassine Metje, an employee at an Akkar hospital, said the facility had received at least seven corpses and dozens of burn victims. "The corpses are so charred that we can't identify them," he told AFP. "Some have lost their faces, others their arms." He said the hospital had to turn away most of the wounded because it is unable to treat severe burns. A military and a security source told the Reuters news agency that the explosion took place as the Lebanese army was distributing gasoline from a hidden fuel storage tanker it had confiscated. The official National News Agency said the explosion took place following scuffles between "residents that gathered around the tank to fill up gasoline". It said the army had left the area before the fight and the explosion.

Situation in Kabul to have impact on regional economy

He stressed the urgent need that both Kabul and the Taliban to achieve economic prosperity, will have to demonstrate the highest degree of flexibility to reach a result oriented settlement

ISLAMABAD: President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday cautioned that rapid changing security situation in Afghanistan will have adverse impact on economy of countries of the region especially Pakistan. In a press statement, he said that the impact of crisis in Afghanistan could ultimately spread far wider, adding that the peaceful and stable Afghanistan is pre-requisite for economic prosperity in south Asian countries. The progress of this region is linked to free from war and secure Afghanistan, he said adding that in this regard Pakistan

is playing its key role for the success of intra-Afghanistan peace dialogue aiming at political reconciliation and an end to decades of violence in the war stricken country. He hoped that intra-Afghan negotiations will lead to a sustainable and durable peace and reiterated that there is no military solution to the Afghan conflict. He stressed the urgent need that both Kabul and the Taliban to achieve economic prosperity, will have to demonstrate the highest degree of flexibility to reach a result oriented settlement. He said in prevailing scenario,



survival of state only mainly depended on its sound economy otherwise its will be eliminated from world globe like other countries. Iftikhar Ali Malik said Pakistan

has taken a crystal clear stand on non-interference and it has no favourites in Afghanistan besides firmly believing in a well grounded political government. He said world must recognise with open mind that Pakistan suffered trillions of rupees irreparable economic losses in war against terror besides causing decades long insecurities in region as a result foreign investors were reluctant for investment in Pakistan. He said it's first time in the world history that Pakistan is only country in the world hosting a sizeable number of Afghan refugees for more than three decades and now

time has come for their dignified and honourable return to their homeland. He said Pakistan economy can not afford any new influx of refugees in coming months. He emphasised that South Asia is rich in minerals and natural resources which he added must be fully exploited with mutual co-operation and down trodden people of this under developed region should reap its benefits for improvement of their socio economic conditions. He lamented that share of South Asia in world trade is only 5 % while it housed one fifth of the total world population he added. – APP

Briefs

New SNC to
be launched
by PM:
Shafqat

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mahmood on Sunday said that Prime Minister Imran Khan would formally launch new Single National Curriculum (SNC) on Monday (today).

Addressing a press conference here, the Federal Education Minister said the curriculum had already been implemented in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Balochistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, whereas it was not yet implemented in Sindh. The new curriculum would be implemented in all public, private schools and Madaris at once, he said.

He said, model textbooks have been prepared from class one to five which are being implemented. He said that private publishers would be allowed to publish the books according to the curriculum. The new curriculum from grade one to five will be implemented from Monday, he informed. However, he said, it will be implemented from class 6th to 8th from next year while from 9th to 12th from 2023.

Pakistan
reports
positivity rate
at 6.8 percent

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan reported a significant decline in coronavirus cases over the past 24 hours, with the country reporting a positivity ratio of 6.8%. As per data from the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Pakistan reported 3,711 new cases of the virus Sunday after the country conducted 54,204 tests. The NCOC reported 68 deaths over the past 24 hours. The last time Pakistan reported a coronavirus positivity ratio was almost 20 days ago, on July 27 when the country reported a positivity ratio of 6.6%. As Pakistan continued to report a rise in coronavirus cases, the NCOC issued special guidelines for people to guard themselves against the coronavirus during the month of Muharram. The guidelines have been issued keeping in view the various recommendations forwarded by the ulema. The NCOC statement stressed that all majalis (gatherings) and juloos (processions) must be held in accordance with the government-mandated coronavirus safety protocols.

This means that during majalis and juloos, all participants must ensure they wear a mask and maintain social distancing. The organisers, for their part, must use thermal screening devices to check the temperatures of participants before permitting them entry.

Blinken
defends
US troops'
withdrawal

MONITORING DESK

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told US media on Sunday that it was not in the interests of the United States to remain in Afghanistan, as Taliban insurgents entered the capital Kabul.

Blinken said Washington had invested billions of dollars over four U.S. administrations in Afghan government forces, giving them advantages over the Taliban, but they have failed to beat back the Taliban's advance. "The fact of the matter is we've seen that force has been unable to defend the country," Blinken said. "And that has happened more quickly than we anticipated."

Indonesia, Pakistan ties poised
for a quantum leap: Amb. Tugio

From Page 01

Likewise, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), BRI initiative, Gwadar port are projects of immense importance in South Asia for the potential two-way investments. ASEAN has already gained substantive economic benefits from regional cooperation and peaceful conflict resolution strategies. Therefore, as ASEAN's Sectoral Dialogue Partner, Pakistan could strengthen ties with ASEAN in the field of scientific research, education, IT, agriculture and through high-level interaction and connectivity with Pakistani diaspora living in Southeast Asia, which will certainly cement the bonds of friendship.

In the recent days, the Indonesian Embassy partnered with various think-tanks and organized webinars and conferences on Pakistan-ASEAN relations? How do you assess this activity? Besides, as the incumbent rotating chair of ASEAN Committee in Islamabad, what else do you have in mind to promote this relationship?

In fact, during my six-month tenure as Chairman of Asean Islamabad Committee (ACI), I have tried to enhance engagement with the think-tanks of Pakistan to create more awareness about ASEAN and to further explore the possibilities of enhanced collaboration. The Indonesian Embassy has arranged several events in collaboration with think tanks like ISSI and CGSS, online courses, webinars with Vice Chancellors of Universities in Pakistan, especially to highlight the available opportunities and expand cooperation. I am glad that we have been successful



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio presents a draft copy of the Coffee Book, to be launched soon. – DNA

in attracting the students through our efforts and there is renewed interest to know more about Southeast Asia among the Pakistani students.

To further enhance the people-to-people contacts, the Embassy has also been working to promote the establishment of ASEAN Study Centre and Indonesian Corners at some leading Pakistani universities for the benefit of students and book lovers to learn more about ASEAN and Indonesian literature, culture and other topics of interest. The Embassy is also in the process of publishing a "Coffee Table Book" that highlights the striking similarities in our geographically distant apart

countries.

During past few years, we have witnessed enhanced economic activity between Indonesia and Pakistan. Are you satisfied with existing trade and economic cooperation or you think still more needs to be done?

We have certainly seen a healthy trend in economic activities between Indonesia and Pakistan during the last decade but still it does not reflect the true trade potential. Since there is always a room at the top, therefore, existing bilateral trade level could go much higher as vovled by the top leadership of the two countries. Indonesia and Pakistan with their combined population of almost

half billion are the two emerging economies of young and talented people which make the prospects of bilateral investment and economic cooperation very bright. Meanwhile, the Covid-19 pandemic is another hurdle, which is hampering the pace of trade activities. We are not sure when it will end, therefore, the Embassy is utilising digital information technology tools to implement the new normal strategy and to develop linkages between the Chambers of Commerce & Industry of both sides. The strategy aims to ensure flow of information on business opportunities through virtual multi business meetings, virtual Trade Expo and introduce new invest-

ment plans. Another attractive opportunity for Indonesian trade sector is the ongoing CPEC project in Pakistan, which could serve as a prospective hub to increase Indonesia's trade and investment in south and central Asia.

Several supporting factors, such as increasingly stable security conditions, pro-investor policies, a large population, big consumer market and talented millennial have also made Pakistan a promising investment destination for Indonesia. I trust that the real trade potential of our corporate sector is far above than the trade figures and what we need is more concerted efforts to materialize this potential.

Other messages you want to convey to the readers?

What a pleasant coincidence that our Pakistani brothers and sisters, like Indonesian, also commemorate their Independence Day in August. Let me take this opportunity, therefore, to extend my heartiest felicitations to the Government and the brotherly people of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of the 74th Anniversary of Independence of Pakistan. At this time of jubilation, I wish to pay tribute Pakistani brothers and sisters for making significant socio-economic progress. Pakistan is a lovely country of talented people and big potential. I am very glad that Indonesia-Pakistan ties are accelerating and consolidating with a fast pace in all important areas of bilateral interest. May the wonderful cordial relations and spirit of cooperation between our two countries continue to develop for the mutual benefit of our two countries and peoples.

Sh Rasheed
seeks report
of Karachi
blast

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed took notice of Karachi



and sought an immediate report of the incident from IG Sindh and DG Rangers. The minister also expressed sorrow over the loss of precious lives in the incident.

Rashid also expressed sympathy with the family and said that all aspects of the incident should be investigated. He said federal agencies will provide full cooperation to the Sindh government.

On the other hand, Administrator Karachi Murtaza Wahab has also taken notice of the Baldia Town blast and has contacted SSP Kemari to find out the details of the incident. Murtaza Wahab said that investigative agencies were examining the incident from various angles and best medical aid should be provided to the injured. The Administrator Karachi has expressed his condolences to the families of those killed in the Karachi blast. Meanwhile, Provincial Minister for Transport Syed Owais Qadir Shah while expressing regret over the blast said that he was deeply saddened over the loss of precious lives.

German
troops to aid
Kabul embassy
evacuation

WEB DESK

BERLIN: The German military will assist in the previously announced evacuation of German and local staff from Berlin's embassy in Kabul, Defence Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer said on Saturday.

As the Taliban edges closer to the Afghan capital, Kramp-Karrenbauer said in a statement that Germany would "mobilise the first forces as soon as possible". "The security situation in Afghanistan continues to escalate," she said, adding that the military would help the foreign ministry in repatriating German citizens and evacuating local staff "who are in need of protection to Germany".

She declined to provide further details, adding only that "bringing those who need protection to Germany now has absolute priority". Foreign Minister Heiko Maas had said Friday that Germany was reducing staff levels at its embassy in Kabul to an "absolute minimum" and that the evacuation would be carried out "in the coming days".

The ministry estimates its remaining staff count at the embassy in the "high double digits". With Afghanistan's second- and third-largest cities having fallen into Taliban hands, Kabul has effectively become a last stand for government forces who have offered little or no resistance elsewhere.

UK has
abandoned
Afghanistan,
senior MP says

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: The withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan is Britain's biggest foreign policy disaster since the Suez crisis of 1956, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee has said.

Tory MP Tom Tugendhat said the UK had "abandoned the Afghan people". The Taliban have reached the outskirts of the capital Kabul after taking almost every other major city.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson called a meeting of the emergency Cobra committee on Sunday afternoon.

Parliament will be recalled on Wednesday for one day to discuss the situation in Afghanistan.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said he had shared his "deep concerns about the future for Afghanistan" with Pakistan's foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi.



ISTANBUL: President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo with the Turkish recipients of Pakistan's civil awards and their families. – DNA

Alvi confers civil awards
upon Turkish citizens

DNA

ISTANBUL: President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi conferred Pakistan's civil awards upon two Turkish dignitaries at a special investiture ceremony in Istanbul.

President conferred Sitara-e-Imtiaz upon Dr. Selami Kilic for his services to Pakistan. Dr. Selami participated in the relief activities after 2005 devastating earthquake in Pakistan. After the 2010 floods in Pakistan, Dr. Selami Kilic helped establish a field hospital in Dera Murad Jamali and carried out damage and needs assessment surveys in various areas of Sindh and Baluchistan. He was also at the forefront of the initiative to establish the Recep Tayyip

Erdogan Hospital at Muzaf-fargarh.

Dr. Selami is currently working as the head of the Foreign Affairs Department of the Turkish Ministry of Health. He received his medical education from Quaid-e-Azam Medical College Bahawalpur. His deep love and regard for Pakistan has always remained a distinguishing feature of his professional career.

The President Pakistan also conferred the award of Sitara-i-Quaid-i-Azam upon Prof. Dr. Celal Soydan, in recognition of his outstanding contribution in the field of Services to Pakistan. Prof. Dr. Celal Soydan, currently head of Urdu Department in Istanbul University, has made remarkable contribution for the promotion of Urdu language and

literature in Turkey in his career spanning three decades. Prof. Celal Soydan has written 20 books and published over two dozen articles and papers in Urdu and Turkish in various national and international journals. Due to his efforts, the study of Iqbalat in Turkey has been further enriched.

Both his PhD and M.A. thesis were on Iqbal. He has translated into Turkish language the classical works of Allama Iqbal such as Armughan-e-Hijaz, Zarb-e-Kaleem, Bale-Jebreeel, Bange-e-Dara, the Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam, etc. He has played a prominent role in highlighting the special place that Iqbal had in his heart for Turkey, its people and its luminaries.

Death toll
in Lebanon
fuel blast
climbs to 28

AGENCIES

BEIRUT: At least 28 people were killed and 79 injured when a fuel tank exploded in northern Lebanon early on Sunday, the health ministry said. Military and security sources said that the army had seized a fuel storage tank hidden by black marketers and was handing out gasoline to residents when the explosion occurred.

Lebanon is suffering from a severe fuel shortage, leading to long lines at gas stations and extended blackouts. The disaster happened in the town of Altail, in the Akkar region that is one of Lebanon's poorest areas.

Two PIA aircrafts
carry citizens
home from Kabul

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Two PIA aircraft that had been stuck at Kabul airport with a total of 499 passengers on board, were finally permitted to fly and arrived in Islamabad, Geo News reported on Sunday evening.

One is a Boeing 777 which has 329 passengers, while the other is an Airbus 320 with 170 passengers.

According to PIA, three flights will be operated between Islamabad and Kabul tomorrow as well, as there is a large volume of Pakistanis and other nationals looking to leave Kabul. Earlier, the aircraft were

not being allowed the use of the runway to take off as the US military evacuated American diplomats.

Kabul airport sources told media that two helicopters belonging to the US military were blocking the runway and over the past few hours, four C-130 cargo planes, also belonging to the US military, landed for evacuations of American diplomats.

Several US embassy cars were seen entering the airport. The sources said that the Kabul airport's air traffic control "has no control over what is happening".

"All air traffic is being controlled by the US army soldiers," they added.

US' hasty pullout created mess in Afghanistan

The minister said the Fifth-Generation War and Hybrid War are not a philosophy but a reality. He said to address the challenge of fake news and sectarian and hateful content we are setting up the Pakistan Media Development Authority

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhary Fawad Hussain has said the United States did not take Pakistan into confidence before leaving Afghanistan adding this decision has created mess in our neighbourhood. He further said digital media is the future of new era and the government is working on a plan to present Pakistan's narrative to the world effectively through this technology. Briefing the media about Digital Media Wing



Pakistan seals Torkham border

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani authorities have shut down its Torkham border with Afghanistan after Taliban fighters took over control of the border posts inside Afghan territory. Taliban fighters took positions on the posts after Afghan police and border forces laid down their arms before them. According to sources, the capture of border posts by the Taliban alerted the Pakistani officials who rushed to seal the border by shutting down six gates. The development came a day after Pakistan had reopened the Chaman-Spin Boldak border crossing with Afghanistan, following two rounds of successful negotiations with the Taliban on repatriating stranded individuals.

Reacting to the development, Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has said that the Torkham border has been closed long ago due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Jalalabad had a population of around 356,000 people as of 2014. The city is around 65 kilometers (40 miles) from the Pakistani Torkham border crossing, making it a center for international trade. "Chaman border is open," he said and added "Afghan sides should know that talks are the only way forward." – DNA

in Islamabad on Sunday, he said Digital Media Wing has published a report with glimpse of

the hybrid war facing Pakistan. The minister said the Fifth-Generation War and Hybrid War

are not a philosophy but a reality. He said to address the challenge of fake news and sectarian and hateful content we are setting up the Pakistan Media Development Authority. The Minister said a big network, being operated by India to promote sectarianism in Pakistan, is spreading baseless news against Pakistan. The Minister said millions of users of social media are using different social media platforms in Pakistan and the future of advertising is digital ads.

He said it is important to bring digital advertisement under regulation as Google and Facebook are getting seven billion rupees from Pakistan in terms of advertisement. Fawad Chaudhry said there are 114 satellite TV channels, 183 million mobile users, 98 million subscribers of 3G and 4G internet services and 101 million subscribers of broadband services.