



# Islamabad POST

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

**Pakistan for inclusive political settlement of Afghanistan issue**

Detailed News On Page-01

**Malaysia's PM resigns after 17 months**

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**China ready for friendly ties with Afghanistan**

Detailed News On Page-01



## Pak for inclusive political settlement of Afghan issue

PM Imran directs that all possible facilities be made available to repatriate Pakistanis, diplomats, journalists and staff of international organizations

**Pakistan evacuates 431 Afghans**

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, on the request of the government of Denmark, has facilitated the evacuation of 431 Afghan nationals from Kabul and is also assisting in their onward travel to Denmark. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi informed this to his Danish counterpart Jeppe Kofod, as he received his telephone call on Monday. The evacuations from Kabul were made on Sunday night after the fall of the government of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. The foreign minister reviewed the rapidly evolving internal situation of Afghanistan and apprised the Danish foreign minister of Pakistan's efforts in facilitating the evacuation of staff of diplomatic missions, international organizations, media and others from Afghanistan.

Continued on Page 06

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan aspires for peace in Afghanistan, the National Security Committee (NSC) reiterated Monday, as the Taliban took over the war-torn country after a lightning sweep. The development came during the NSC meeting which was called to deliberate on the emerging situation in Afghanistan — with PM Imran Khan in the chair. The NSC meeting was attended by senior cabinet members and services chiefs. Participants were briefed on the latest developments in Afghanistan and their possible impact on Pakistan and the region. The overall security situation in the region was also discussed. The NSC noted that Pakistan was a victim of the decades-long conflict in Afghanistan and, therefore, desired peace and stability in the neighbourhood. It was emphasised that the world must recognise the sacrifices made by Pakistan over the last four decades. Participants reiterated that Pakistan remains committed to an inclusive political settlement as the way forward representing all Afghan ethnic groups.

Continued on Page 06

**'UNSC must not abandon Afghan people'**

AGENCIES

NEW YORK: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on the Security Council on Monday (Aug 16) to "use all tools at its disposal to suppress the global terrorist threat in Afghanistan" and guarantee that basic human rights will be respected. "We are receiving chilling reports of severe restrictions on human rights throughout the country. I am particularly concerned by accounts of mounting human rights violations against the women and girls of Afghanistan," he told the 15-member council. "We cannot and must not abandon the people of Afghanistan," he said. Afghanistan's UN ambassador Ghulam Isaccai told the Security Council he was speaking for millions of people "whose fate hangs in the balance,"

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi in a group photo with the political leaders from Afghanistan. —DNA

**Qureshi meets the Afghan leaders**

Tells them that region cannot afford instability

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, has told the political leaders from Afghanistan that Pakistan earnestly wants a peaceful solution to the Afghan issue. During the call, the Foreign Minister shared Pakistan's perspective on the latest situation in Afghanistan. The Foreign Minister highlighted that Pakistan considered all segments of the Afghan society important in the final destiny of Afghanistan. He expressed the hope that the Afghan leaders would take advantage of international support for peace and reconciliation and work together to deal with the evolving situation in Afghanistan in the supreme national interest of the country and according to the aspiration of people.

## China hints at friendly relations with Afghan govt

The spokesperson called on the Taliban to ensure the safety of Afghans and foreign citizens

MONITORING DESK

BEIJING: China is ready to deepen "friendly and cooperative" relations with Afghanistan, a government spokeswoman said on Monday, after the Taliban seized control of the country. Beijing has sought to maintain unofficial ties with the Taliban throughout the US' withdrawal from Afghanistan, which spurred an advance by the hardliners across the country that saw them capture the capital Kabul on Sunday. On Monday, China said it "welcomed" the chance to deepen ties with Afghanistan, a country that has for generations been coveted for its geo-strategic importance by bigger powers. "The Taliban have repeatedly expressed their hope to develop good relations with China, and that they

**Russian diplomats to meet Taliban**

DNA

KABUL: The Russian ambassador and other diplomats based in Kabul are likely to have a meeting with the senior Taliban leadership today (Tuesday). The Russian authorities say they will decide about the recognition of Taliban government after the outcome of the meeting. Sources say, the Russian officials have decided not to close down their mission in Afghanistan. Similarly Chinese have also decided to stay in Afghanistan. Meanwhile the Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen announced that Mujahideen have been asked to protect lives and properties of people.

look forward to China's participation in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters. "We welcome this. China respects the right of the Afghan people to independently determine their own destiny and is willing to continue to develop ... friendly and cooperative relations with Afghanistan." Hua called on the Taliban to "ensure a smooth transition" of power and keep its promises to negotiate the establishment of an "open and inclusive Islamic government" and ensure the safety of Afghans and foreign citizens. China's embassy in Kabul remains operational, Hua said, although Beijing began evacuating Chinese citizens from the country months ago amid the deteriorating security situation.

## Uzbekistan force lands 46 planes, shoots 1

WEB DESK

TERMEZ: An Afghan military plane has crashed in Uzbekistan, the Central Asian country's defence ministry said on Monday, confirming earlier reports. However independence sources say that the Uzbek shoot down the plane because it violated the Uzbek air space. Source claim, the pilot was given enough time to eject. "The military plane illegally crossed the border of Uzbekistan. An investigation is under way," ministry spokesman Bakrom Zulfikarov told AFP, confirming Uzbek. Later, Uzbekistan said that it forced the landing of 46 Afghan aircraft carrying 585 troops that illegally crossed its border on a weekend which saw the Afghan government swept away by the Taliban.

**Diplomats briefed**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood briefed the Diplomatic Corps in Islamabad on arrangements made by the Government of Pakistan to facilitate the evacuation of members of the international community including diplomats and staff, representatives of international organizations, INGOs, the media, and others from Afghanistan. The members of the Diplomatic Corps were informed that all requests for evacuation/relocation may be directed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which will be processed expeditiously.

## Indonesian Independence Day Report

ISLAMABAD: Today's issue of Daily Islamabad POST carries a two-page supplement on the occasion of 76th Independence Day of Indonesia. Islamabad POST wishes happy Independence Day to the Indonesian govt and people.

— Editor

## EU FMs to hold Afghan crisis talks

EU officials have been pleading with the bloc's 27 capitals to give visas to Afghan workers at the bloc's mission in Kabul and their families

**Senate body extends support to Afghan people**

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Defense Committee has taken note of the evolving situation in the neighboring brotherly Afghanistan and expressed full solidarity and support to the people of Afghanistan in their quest for lasting peace in their war-torn country. Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed Chairman of the Defence Committee chaired the meeting. Peace, security, stability are inextricably intertwined between Pakistan and Afghanistan and no other country has higher stakes for peace in Afghanistan than Pakistan. As an expression of Muslim brotherhood, Pakistan continues to be a model host, having hosted the largest number of refugees for the longest duration in history. Pakistan's interests in Afghanistan are consistent and clear: Supporting the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Afghanistan through an inclusive broad-based consensus so that a new civil war can be prevented. The territory of Afghanistan should not be used to destabilize any neighboring country or used as a base for cross-border terrorism against Pakistan, as happened in the recent past.



Continued on Page 06

**India again blocks Pak entry in UNSC meeting**

DNA

UNITED NATIONS: A top Pakistani diplomat Monday denounced India, which as President of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), again blocked Pakistan from participating in the 15-member Council's meeting on Afghanistan, saying Pakistan has a vital stake in peace and stability of the war-torn country where the Taliban have now taken control of the government. "It is most regrettable that Pakistan's request to participate in the Security Council meeting was once again blocked by the Indian Presidency," Ambassador Murr Akram told reporters.

## 5 killed at Kabul airport shooting

Chaos in Kabul as people want to flee country; US forces help resume operations at the Airport



DNA/NEWS DESK

KABUL: At least five people were killed in Kabul airport as hundreds of people tried to forcibly enter planes leaving the Afghan capital, witnesses said. One witness said he had seen the bodies of five people

Continued on Page 06

## Who is Mullah Habitullah?

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Mawlawi Hibatullah is a hardline religious scholar and the leader of the Taliban. As of August 16, 2021, Akhundzada is said to be the de facto Military Leader/President of Afghanistan, due to the "official" president, Ashraf Ghani's departure from Afghanistan's presidential palace. Akhundzada reportedly issued the majority of the Taliban's fatwas, and was the head of the Taliban's Islamic courts. Unlike many Taliban leaders, Akhundzada is believed to have remained in the country during the War in Afghanistan.



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**MESSAGE**

**H.E. Mr. Adam M. Tugio, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia on the Occasion of the 76th Anniversary of the Indonesian Independence Day on August 17, 2021.**

*Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh!*



On the auspicious occasion of the 76th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia, I extend my warmest greetings to all the fellow countrymen and friends of Indonesia in Pakistan and around the world. As this time of national celebration, I am delighted also to extend my sincere felicitations to the Government and the brotherly people of Pakistan on their 74th anniversary of the Independence Day celebrated on August 14, 2021.

Today Indonesia has continued to witness profound social, political and economic developments that have transformed it into one of world's most vibrant democracies. In a very short span of time, Indonesia achieved amazing political and macroeconomic stability, made important progress towards its SDG targets, graduated to a Middle Income Country status and was welcomed to the fold of the G20.

Indonesian economic dynamism is sustained by a large and youthful population, which make up a pool of creative and productive human resources. In terms of economics, Indonesia has the tenth largest trillion-dollar economy in the world and is the largest upper middle-income country in Southeast Asia. Under Indonesian President H.E. Mr. Joko Widodo's "2045 Vision," the economy has thrived and is able to endure the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. GDP is expected to rebound by 4.9 percent in 2021 and 5.4 percent in 2022, up from 2.1 percent in 2020. Indonesia's market economy is now more accessible to international investors and offers appealing investment possibilities, thanks to the simplification of rules and regulations.

The commemoration of the Indonesia's Independence Day provides good opportunity to reflect on the depth and the breath of Indonesia's relation with Pakistan. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1948, Pakistan has always been a trusted friend and reliable partner of Indonesia in South Asia. The two countries enjoy cordial relation in every aspect of bilateral cooperation.

Building upon solid historical foundation and shared values in both society, there are ample opportunities for the two countries to elevate further bilateral relationship. We have a lot to learn from each other since we both have a demographic dividend of tech-savvy millennials and a thriving middle class.

The two countries also have great potential to become trade hub of the future economic activities in the region. The Embassy has been promoting connections through online meetings, E-trade expos, digital technologies, and frequent webinars to sustain the pace of expansion while the pandemic continues to threaten global economy recovery. In order to keep commercial transactions moving ahead, the Embassy is also partnering with a Pakistani IT firm to create a connection platform for the two nations' business communities. This will complement the 2013 Preferential Commerce Agreement review process, with the goal of increasing bilateral trade. And I am pleased to note that bilateral trade rose modestly during the epidemic.

There has been considerable progress in education as well. Pakistani students have received the most scholarships from the Indonesian government to study at the country's leading institutions this year. Defense cooperation currently extends across all services, allowing Indonesian and Pakistani military personnel to improve their professionalism via the exchange of best practices and participation in exchange programs. This is especially significant in the field of maintaining

international peace and security because the two countries are among the top ten soldier contributors to the UN's Blue Helmets contingents.

I would also like to make reference to ASEAN which celebrates the 54th Anniversary on 8 August 2021. Relation between ASEAN-Pakistan offers great potential for cooperation in various sectors such as trade, security, agriculture, education, infrastructure and tourism. With nearly 900 million people in ASEAN and Pakistan, there is a huge scope for the two sides to scale up its economic engagements and to expand their commercial ties. This can be accomplished by strengthening Pakistan's bilateral cooperation with ASEAN members while also bolstering its institutional framework cooperation with ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta.

ASEAN is a dynamic organization of 10 members, spanning an area of 4.4 million square km, a population of over 649 million, and a GDP exceeding USD 2.9 Trillion, making it the world's fifth largest economy. ASEAN countries' diverse cultural, economic, political and social systems add to the allure of this enormous integrated market. In this regard, Pakistan and ASEAN can cultivate potential fruits of cooperation in the area of science and technology, security, education, cultural interaction, defense and joint ventures using the Plan of Action of Sectoral Cooperation adopted last year.



Furthermore, there is a significant number of Pakistani diaspora in ASEAN countries and vice versa, which can be motivated for better connectivity and economic prospects. The creation of market research centers, public-private partnerships and extensive media coverage about the land, people and prospects of investment in ASEAN and Pakistan could also open new opportunities of cooperation. Indonesia, like other ASEAN members, stands ready to explore further its engagements with Pakistan in order to realize such potentials.

Finally, I sincerely thank the Government and the brotherly people of Pakistan for always extending their kind support and cooperation in our efforts for further fostering the mutually beneficial ties. I fervently believe that the bonds of friendship between our two countries will remain strong and vigorous.

**Long live friendship and brotherhood of Indonesia and Pakistan.  
Indonesia-Pakistan dosti zindabad**



**SHAMOON ZAKI, President of Pakistan - Indonesia Business Forum**



Indonesia has proved to be our unwavering and reliable friend, our people share the ideals of freedom, dignity, harmony and enjoy the fruits of mutually rewarding cooperation.

Our relationship is a role model for countries all over the world. Despite our differences in size, economy and society, we share a deep bond which has transcended the passage of time and changing leadership in both countries.

On this occasion of Indonesia's Independence Day, here's my warm patriotic wishes to make this day truly memorable



**HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY INDONESIA!**



**WELCOME TO wonderful indonesia**



visitors with its vast cultural variety, which includes historic temples, traditional and current pop music, dances, rituals, and modes of living that vary from island to island and region to area. Nonetheless, everywhere the visitor feels welcomed with that warm, gracious friendliness of the Indonesian people that is not easily forgotten.

The Republic of Indonesia is the largest archipelago in the world comprising more than 17,000 islands. Indonesia has a total population of more than 276 million people from more than 450 ethnic groups. Because of geographical location, Indonesia is blessed with the most diverse landscape, from fertile rice lands on Java and Bali to the luxuriant tropical rainforests of Sumatera, Kalimantan and Sulawesi, and from the savannah grasslands of the Nusa Tenggara islands to snow-capped peaks in Papua.



Indonesia is a land that offers wonderful opportunities for adventures, business and leisure. There is an astonishing choice of thrilling activity and adventure in store amidst stunning attractions and places, from exotic tropical rainforests and pristine pinky beaches to towns and huge cities. It has a diverse cultural and historical heritage, as well as unique rites and festivals, a diverse range of arts and crafts, and a number of intriguing places and fascinating sites accessible to travelers around the year.



A characteristically tropical climate of abundant rainfall, Indonesia's wildlife ranges from the prehistoric giant Komodo lizard to Orang Utan. This is also the habitat of the world's largest flower Rafflesia, the world's tallest flower Titan Arum, and a large variety of fruit trees. Hundreds of different coral and tropical fish species may be seen in Indonesia's archipelago, including the spawning ground of the most expensive species of yellow fin tuna.



President Joko Widodo has also announced "The 10 New Bali" project, which is upgrading tourist, transportation, and telecommunication infrastructure and services across the archipelago in order to realize this enormous potential. These 10 new tourist destinations are easily connected by direct international flights and many regular and low cost carriers fly passengers to Indonesia's towns or remote locations.

There is also the warmth and hospitality of the locals who go out of their way to ensure that tourists have a safe, enjoyable, and memorable stay. Simultaneously, the Indonesian government is putting in place additional procedures to comply with pandemic health protocols in order to welcome overseas tourists.

**So welcome to Wonderful Indonesia, a country of endless natural beauty and cultural diversity.**



**Indonesian economy emerging stronger from the pandemic**

The world economy has been badly impacted by the epidemic of coronavirus, and Indonesia is no exception. Indonesian government has taken numerous strategic measures as part of its National Economic Recovery Programs (NERP) in responding to the deteriorating effect. NERP essentially offers a stimulus of up to IDR 700 trillion (USD 48 billion) for healthcare, social safety nets, and incentives for MSMEs and business.

In the second quarter of 2020, economic growth of Indonesia was recorded at minus 5.3 percent year on year (YoY) since the onset of the COVID-19 wave hit the country. This was the first time since the Asian financial crisis that Indonesia's economy shrank. Indonesia's economic growth, however, reversed in the third quarter and improved at a rate of -3.5 percent and -2.2% in the last quarter of 2020. As a result, Indonesia's economic growth overall decreased by -2.1 percent in 2020.

**Current Economic Development**

The Indonesian economy in the second quarter of 2021 grew significantly compared to the same period last year. From the data submitted, it is known that economic growth in the second quarter of 2021 reached 7.07%, an increase compared to the second quarter of 2020 where the economy contracted by -5.32%. When compared with the first quarter of 2021, the economy in the second quarter of this year increased by 3.31%. This achievement made Indonesia release its recession status after consecutive negative growth in the previous two quarters. In fact, Central Bureau of Statistic said growth in the second quarter of this year was the highest gain since 2004.

In the second quarter of 2021, the Indonesian economy grew significantly, recovering to 7.07 percent from the same time the previous year in the second quarter of 2020. Indonesia was able to emerge from the recession thanks to a 3.31 percent increase in GDP. This was the fastest growth rate since 2004.

**Source of Economic Growth in Q2/2021 by Expenditure (YoY %)**

Description	Q2/2020	Q1/2021	Q2/2021
Household consumption	-2.96	-1.22	3.17
Gross Fixed Capital Formation	-2.73	-0.07	2.30
Government Consumption	-0.53	0.14	0.16
Net Export	0.92	0.47	0.98
Others	-0.02	-0.03	0.01
GDP	-5.32	-0.71	7.07

Despite the COVID-19 epidemic, Indonesian non-oil and gas exports had the largest proportion of overall

exports in the previous four years, accounting for 94.91 percent of total exports.

**Indonesia's Economic Growth Projection**

Indonesia, with its vast population, will play a significant role in the ASEAN digital economy. Indonesia's digital economy GDP is expected to surpass 55 percent of ASEAN's digital economy GDP, or IDR 323 trillion equivalent to USD 22.5 billion, by 2030, and will reach IDR 417 trillion or USD 29 billion.

The government estimates that Indonesia's economy, particularly the digital sector, would expand eight times to USD 315 billion in 2030, up from USD 44 billion in 2020. The digital economy of company to business (online trade) is expected to increase at a rate of 13% over the next decade, equating to IDR 763 billion (USD53 Billion). Health-tech (technology-based health services) is also anticipated to grow, with an estimated value of IUSD 33 billion, or 8% of the digital economy. Economic activities that adopt digital technology, such as online travel, online media, and digital transportation services, will also help Indonesia's gross domestic product in the next ten years.

Indonesia has made strides in a number of areas. The regulatory climate for businesses in Indonesia has considerably improved under President Joko Widodo. Several indicators of progress have also been made to enhance the ease of doing business, such as the issuance of new rules that make it simpler for firms to acquire finance and start up. People can also receive cheaper power and register a property for their companies as a result of the law. Furthermore, Indonesia's judicial system has been effectively overhauled, resulting in a reduction in court backlogs and insolvency case processing times.

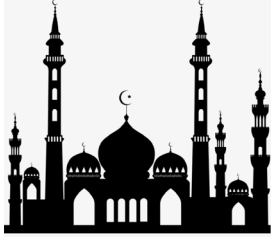
Indonesia is ranked 73rd in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index 2020, with a score of 69. There is still a potential for Indonesia to enhance its ranking in the ease of doing business by enacting new rules that aid enterprises. The government thinks that as the business environment continues to improve, economic and business growth will increase as well. International institutions also predict that Indonesia's economy would expand at a steady rate of more than 5% during the next two years (2021-2022).

**Indonesia's Economic Growth for 2021-22 from International Institutions (%)**

Year	World Bank	IMF	ADB	OECD	Government
2021	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.7	3.7 - 4.5
2022	5.0	5.8	5.0	5.1	5.2 - 5.8



## SERVICES



## Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	04:00 am
Zohr.....	12:12 pm
Asr.....	04:57 pm
Maghrib.....	06:53 pm
Isha.....	08:23 pm



## Hotels &amp; Restaurants

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



## Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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## Emergency

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



## Enquiry

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



## Hospitals

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



## Departments

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



## Complaints

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

## Islamabad Metropolitan

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

## Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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## Double decker tourist service for twin cities inaugurated

The double decker bus will cover almost all the famous tourist points of the twin cities including Allama Iqbal Park, Faisal Mosque, Constitution Avenue, Rose & Jasmin Garden, Pakistan Monument and Shakarparian

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) inaugurated as Chief Guest a double decker tourist bus service at Centaurus, which was launched by Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab (TDCP) in collaboration with the Centaurus Mall, Islamabad for promoting tourism between the twin cities. The Centaurus Mall will provide parking facility to these buses and will also handle the reservation of their seats for tourists. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President ICCI & CEO Centaurus and Zahid Ashraf, Regional Manager (North), TDCP also signed a MoU of cooperation at the occasion. Fatma Azim Senior Vice President, Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI, Ejaz Abbasi, Ajmal Baloch, Khalid Chaudhry, Naveed Anjum, Project Manager Bus Service and others were also present at the occasion. The double decker bus will cover almost all the famous tourist points of the twin cities including Allama Iqbal Park, Faisal Mosque,



Constitution Avenue, Rose & Jasmin Garden, Pakistan Monument and Shakarparian. The bus will entertain various categories of tours including educational tours, premier

tours, family tours, full blue booking and corporate tours. Speaking at the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President ICCI and CEO Centaurus said that in line with the Prime Minister's vision for tourism promotion, Centaurus has collaborated with TDCP for launch of double decker bus service to promote tourism and attract local as well as foreign tourists to enjoy the culture and scenery of the twin cities. He said it will also be great fun for the tourists. He said that Pakistan has tremendous potential to promote tourism and urged that the government should focus on development of modern tourism infrastructure in the region to harness the actual potential of tourism for the economic development of the country. Zahid Ashraf, Regional Manager (North) TDCP thanked the Centaurus Mall for collaborating in launching a tourism bus service that would enable the potential tourists of the twin cities to enjoy this great service. He said that the TDCP was working on multiple projects to promote tourism in Punjab and make it an attractive destination for tourists. He hoped that the launch of this tourist bus service would contribute towards promoting tourism in the region.

## CDA reviews summary of auctioned plots, other agendas

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The eighth meeting of the Board of the Capital Development Authority was held on Monday under the chairmanship of Chairman Amir Ali Ahmed at CDA Headquarters Islamabad. The meeting was attended by Nayyar Ali Dada, Ifukhar Hassan Arif, Ali Asghar Khan, Dr. Muhammad Ali among other board members. The decisions of the sixth and seventh meetings was approved. A summary of the auction of commercial plots held on August 4 and 5 was presented to the board in which the auction of 22 commercial plots was approved by the board, while the bid of one commercial plot was canceled for falling below the stipulated price. The efforts of the auction committee were also appreciated in the meeting.

In addition, the board also approved an increase in the mess and uniform allowance of 1122 permanent nurses of the Directorate who are performing their duties in BPS 16 and above from July 1, 2019.

In addition to the development projects in Islamabad and the provision of quality services to the citizens Pe2 for the smart city in the next six months were agreed to be prepared, the meeting also decided the Islamabad bus service project to be started soon. The launch of the project with 20 buses on three different routes was decided at the meeting. Initially, the project will be funded by CDA but in future a commercial company will be incorporated that will run the project on commercial basis.

In addition, approval was also given to add 38 kanals to the land of the third Muslim graveyard in Sector H-13 of Islamabad which consists of 80 kanals of land so that the citizens do not have any difficulty in burial facilities.

In addition, a committee consisting of Member Finance, Member Engineering, Member Administration and Vice Chancellor of Quaid-e-Azam University has been constituted to report on setting up a museum for students at Quaid-e-Azam University. The report will be presented at the board meeting.

In addition, amendments to the CDA Service Regulation 1992 also approved that only the competent authority for appointment would be authorized to take disciplinary action.

## Three criminals held, fake currency recovered

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Crime Investigation Agency (CIA), Islamabad has arrested three members of criminal gang and recovered looted cash and fake currency from their possession, a police spokesman said on Monday. According to the details, DIG (Operations) Islamabad police, Afzaal Ahmad Kausar has categorically directed all the police officers to accelerate their efforts to curb crime and secure the city against criminals. Following these directions, SSP (Investigation) Atta-ur-Rehman constituted a special police team under the supervision of CIA DSP also including ASI Rana Tasneem Ahmed and others which nabbed three members of criminal's gang identified as Muhammad Jahngir s/o Tika Khan Resident of Kangar district Rawalpindi, Shahzaib Zafar s/o Zafar Iqbal resident of Jagot Islamabad and Malik Muhammad Younas s/o Saddar uddin resident of Kirpa Islamabad and recovered looted cash 200,000, fake currency 150,000 and fake currency manufacturing tool from their possession.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtwari in a group photo with Federal Minister for Science and Technology Shibili Frazza. - DNA

## PRCS holds meeting to elect VC, treasurer, other members

Abrar ul Haq chaired the meeting; Four Governance Committees including Executive, Finance, Human Resource and Procurement were established from amongst the Managing Body members of PRCS

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The first meeting of new Managing Body of Pakistan Red Crescent Society with Chairman PRCS Abrar ul Haq in the chair was held at National Headquarters on Monday in which Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Coopted members were elected and four Governance Committees were established including Executive, Finance, Human Resource, Procurement from amongst the Managing Body members of PRCS.

Mr Asif Bajwa - Former Secretary Planning Division and Secretary Finance, has been elected as the Vice Chairman of PRCS. Dr Irshad Muhammad - Former Secretary FBR and Revenue Division and Former Chairman FBR, has been elected as PRCS Treasurer while renowned journalist Mr Rana Mubashar, Brig. (R) Sajid Naeem - Member ADPC



and Former Member of NDMA and Mr. Babar Hassan, have been elected as new Coopted members of PRCS Managing Body.

PRCS Punjab Branch Chairman Justice (R) Shiekh Ahmed Farooq, Balochistan Branch Chairman Abdul Bari Barech, erstwhile FATA Branch Chairman Asif Khan, AJK

State Branch Chairman Ejaz Raza, Dr Irshad Muhammad, Asif Bajwa, Syed Hashim A Hassan, Dr Parvez Ghaffar Rajwani, Brig (r) Abdul Hadi and Brig (r) Dr Mowadat Hussain Rana, representatives of Federal Ministries and Secretary General Dr Adeel Nawaz also attended the meeting.



RAWALPINDI: RCCI President Nasir Mirza, Chairman RDA Tariq Murtaza, among others, perform cake cutting to make 75th Independence Day of Pakistan at Chamber House. -DNA

## Open House for Diplomatic Missions

Murree Brewery Company Limited located in Rawalpindi is an icon reflecting the past and the present history of the subcontinent.

Murree Brewery Company is pleased to invite friends from diplomatic missions to visit us and share the experience of our efforts towards keeping it afloat for over 160 years of operation.

We cordially invite diplomatic missions to visit us on any Saturday from 10 am to 1:30 pm to enjoy our hospitality and our products tasting. However, since, we are located in the Red Zone / Prohibited area and it will be mandatory to obtain No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs well in advance of the intended visit date. We look forward to welcoming you all soon.

For further information please contact the following.

**Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman**  
Mobile: 0300 8553342

## Briefs

## Anti-dengue measures reviewed

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Muhammad Ali has directed all departments concerned to intensify measures for complete eradication of dengue in Faisalabad district. He was presiding over a meeting of District Emergency Response Committee for Anti-Dengue which was also attended by CEO Health Dr. Mushtaq Sipra, District Coordinator Epidemiology Control Dr. Zulqarnain and other officers from different departments. The Deputy Commissioner said that there is a danger of dengue virus as current season is conducive for its growth and spread of its larvae so no negligence would be tolerated in this regard. He said that district heads of all departments should fulfill their responsibilities for prevention of dengue and in case of negligence they would be held responsible. He also directed to expedite surveillance activities in the field and said that possible sources of dengue larvae breeding should not be overlooked in addition to check tyre shops, junkyards, plant nurseries on daily basis. During the meeting, District Coordinator for Epidemiology control Dr. Zulqarnain gave a detailed briefing on indoor and outdoor surveillance. — APP

## KP, WB, Nestle launch community engagement drive

PESHAWAR: The Tourism Department in partnership with the World Bank and Nestlé Pakistan launched community engagement activities under the Travel Responsibly for Experiencing Eco-tourism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (TREK) initiative. TREK is a collaboration between the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, World Bank Group and Nestlé Pakistan under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Integrated Tourism Development (KITE) project.

The activities of the project emphasize on heritage preservation and destination development while adhering to the fundamentals of responsible tourism. Prime Minister Imran Khan had launched the TREK in December 2020. Nestlé Pakistan's commitment to TREK includes 2 pillars: awareness campaign focusing on Reduce, Reuse and Recycle and a community engagement plan which includes activities that will help in countering the issues of waste and pollution. Before the launch of awareness drive, a two-day training titled "TREK for Healthier Kids" was held in collaboration with the Nestlé for Healthier Kids (N4HK) programme. It concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony for teachers, distribution of 4,000 reusable bags and 2,300 N4HK books to children in Galiyat. N4HK is one of Nestlé's global creating shared value initiatives that empowers parents, caregivers and educators to foster healthier eating, drinking and lifestyle habits among school age children. — APP

## FSA destroys 3000 liters adulterated milk

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety Authority on Monday seized 3000 liter substandard milk from a vehicle at Nowrang Chowk Bannu in its ongoing crack down against food adulteration. The Food Safety Authority officials said milk was wasted as it contained water and chemicals. The authority also sealed godown supplying honey over poor cleanliness arrangements in Taimurgarah, Dir Lower district. Similarly, the authority sealed a beverage factory in Charsadda involved in producing fake and substandard beverages and seized 2000 liters counterfeit juices. The Food Safety Authority said strict action was being taken against food adulterators and businesses for violating Coronavirus Standard Operating Procedures across the province. — APP

## FDA to finalize Faisalabad master plan 2021-2041

The Director General said that various reforms were being introduced to raise the performance of FDA and quality of services would be made polished for providing timely relief to each and every applicant

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: The 20 year Faisalabad Master Plan (2021-2041) is being finalised under the arrangements of Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA) for the organised development in different sectors as per the future requirements. This was told by Faisalabad Development Authority Director General Dr Faisal Azim while talking to the reporter Islamabad Post Ashfaq Mughal. The Director General FDA informed that the Master Plan would be made comprehensive from all respect and proposals are being invited from all segments of society including parliamentarian so that no aspect should not be left behind relating to the development in Socio-economic sectors besides urban uplift. He revealed that he decided to review the details of Master Plan after assuming his charge as Director General FDA because there were some loopholes and shortcomings.

He told that the departmental coordination was being insured to make the Faisalabad Master Plan as per the expectations of citizens for the rapid and durable development. The Director General said that various reforms were being introduced to raise the performance of FDA and quality of services



FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Development Authority Director General Dr Faisal Azim talks with the reporter Daily Islamabad Post. — DNA

on high alert to take immediate action against the encroachments and violators of building laws. He asked the developers to follow the relevant rules and regulations while establishing the housing schemes as the present government had announced various incentives to promote the construction sector.

He added that the system had been evolved to monitor staff performance and any sort of corruption would not be tolerated. The Director General also gave the details of development activities being carried out for the uplift of FDA City Housing Scheme and informed the electricity was being supplied to different blocks and

FESCO had been paid the funds of Rs 760.00 million in this connection. He informed the work of boundary wall is under way which is being constructed at a cost of Rs 10.00 million. The DG concluded that the door of his office is open for every citizen and complaints are being entertained properly.



PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan chairing a meeting to review law & order situation in the province. — DNA

## GCWUF VC nominated for Tamgha-e-Imtiaz

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: In a ceremony arranged by Directorate of Student Affairs and VC Secretariat, all chairpersons and principal officers of the university gathered to congratulate Madam Vice Chancellor on her nomination for the award of

Pakistan's highest civil award Tamgha-e-Imtiaz. Prof. Farooq, on this occasion, shared her success story with a word of advice to all that determined mind with steadfast pace is a key to success. One should invest potential in all positive ways to reach destination. At the end she thanked everyone for their greetings.



## OIC to organize Trade festival in Pakistan next year: Envoy

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Pakistan is making serious efforts to reactivate the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and in this connection the first ever Trade Festival under the banner of OIC will be held in Pakistan next year.

Talking to a delegation of the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) Excellency Mr. Rizwan Saeed Sheikh Pak ambassador to OIC said that it is the second largest organization after the United Nations (UN) with 57 member states. "Its head office is in Jeddah and Pakistan is trying its optimum best to exploit the economic potential of Islamic countries by encouraging mutual cooperation", he said. About the scheduled Trade Fair, he said that maximum member countries will participate in it to explore new opportunities of cooperation and investment. He hoped that this Trade Fair would open new avenues of cooperation between Islamic countries in addition to serv-



FAISALABAD: Engineer Ihtasham Javed President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry is presenting FCCI memento to Excellency Rizwan Saeed Sheikh Pak ambassador to the Organization of Islamic Countries during a meeting. — DNA

ing as an economic stimulus. He said that a meeting of foreign ministers of the Islamic countries is also expected to be held in March 2022 in Pakistan to forge unity for the collective uplift of the Muslim Ummah. He said that "Halal" food is the basic requirement of Islamic countries and a Halal food conference will also be arranged next year in Paki-

stan. He said that it will open vast opportunities of trade in this Muslim specific industry which has huge untapped potential in non-Muslim countries also. Similarly, Pakistan will also host a tourism promotion conference under the aegis of OIC. He asked Engineer Hafiz Ihtasham Javed, President FCCI to prepare viable and tangible recommen-

dations and proposals for these conferences so that Pakistan could play a lead role in the overall development of Islamic countries. About technology transfer, he requested President FCCI to identify the sectors in which new technologies are required so that he could arrange it in collaboration with other developed Islamic countries.

## 71 persons fined over violation of Corona SOPs

PESHAWAR: District administration Peshawar Monday in crackdown against the violators of Corona standard operating procedures (SOPs) fined 71 people over not using safety masks in BRT stations and buses while some restaurants were also sealed over dine in violation. The officers of the district administration carried out inspection of bazaars in various localities, BRT Stations and Commuters' bus stations in areas within their respective jurisdictions and collectively fined 71 persons over violation of Corona SOPs and not wearing safety masks. Similarly, the officers of district administration also checked various restaurants on Ring Road and arrested the managers of Charsi Tikkah, KDF Restaurant, Makkah Restaurant, Madina Restaurant and Hakeem Khan Restaurant. Furthermore, checking was also carried out on G.T. Road, City Circular Road and other localities and 25 shops were sealed and shopkeepers were arrested over violation of Corona SOPs. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Peshawar, Khalid Mahmood has said that a crackdown on violators of Corona SOPs is continued on the directives of Commissioner Peshawar Division, Riaz Khan Mehsood. — APP

## FPCCI organizes session on e-commerce

DNA

KARACHI: Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo, President FPCCI, has emphasized the significance of TVET Sector Support Program (TVET SSP) and appreciated their contribution in organizing a high-profile orientation session on E-Commerce and National Employment Exchange Tool (NEXT). TVET SSP is funded by the European Union (EU) and the governments of Germany and Norway.

In his remarks, Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo appreciated the efforts of TVET Sector Support Program for conducting skills development programs for the private sector of Pakistan. He assured his full support and assistance in implementation of Technical and Vocational Trainings in Pakistan under NAVTTC and ably supported by the TVET SSP. It is worth mentioning here that FPCCI signed an MoU with National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) in January 2018 to improve the TVET system of Pakistan; with an objective to develop quality skills through supporting on-the-job trainings and by providing the employers a perspective in the development of training policy and its implementation. Mr. Amjad Rafi, Convener International Forums FPCCI, elaborated that under this Agreement, FPCCI established a Joint Secretariat of the National Skills Forum at Federation House, Karachi.

## UET to hold int'l conference on Oct8

PESHAWAR: The Department of Civil Engineering, University of Engineering Technology (UET) Peshawar was organizing the first one day International conference (online) on "Recent advances in civil and earthquake engineering (ICCEE, 2021) "Making resilient infrastructures" to be held on 8th October at UET Peshawar. The Conference was aimed to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to share views on all aspects such as latest trends and practical challenges in the fields of civil, structures and earthquake engineering. Sixteen years ago on October 8, 2005, a 7.6 magnitude earthquake affected an area of almost 3000 sq km shook and more than 80,000 people lost their lives while an estimated 4 million others were left homeless. UET Peshawar has contributed significantly in developing the national building code for Pakistan in 2007, producing high quality research innovations and creating awareness in the civil engineering community for building safe infrastructures in Pakistan. — APP

## Nation must realign its approach to vision of Quaid

The Divisional Commissioner immediately after his arrival to FCCI performed the flag hoisting ceremony. He also planted a sapling and cut ID cake

DNA

FAISALABAD: Nation must critically analyze its past history of 74 years through introspection and realign its national approach to materialize the vision of founding father Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and make Pakistan politically and economically a strong, respectable and prosperous country in the comity of nations. Addressing an Independence Day (ID) function in the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) to mark the 75th ID, Divisional Commissioner Mr. Saqib Manan congratulated the nation and said that this day provides us an opportunity to deliberate on our achievements and missed goals. He said that Pakistan is a blessed country and we have the most talented stock in almost all segments of life. "Pakistan has won many nobel prizes, we have 50 airports and thirty

thousand kilometer long motorways", he said adding that similarly we have the largest mountain range of Karakoram and biggest earth-filled Tarbela Dam. He said that our armed forces are the best in the world and we produce thirty thousand doctors and thirty thousand engineers every year. The Divisional Commissioner said that we have an economy of 50 billion dollars in addition to having legendary and epoch-making sportsmen like Jahangir Khan, Samiullah, Imran Khan and Javed Mian Dad who brought laurels to Pakistan in Squash, hockey and cricket. The Commissioner said that despite all these plus points, there is something wrong as Pakistan was dismembered in 1971 and our 35% population is still living below the poverty line. "We also faced worst type of terrorism for ten long years", he said and added that main cause of these problems is our individual approach towards

the national issue. He said that we must adopt a national approach to regain respect in the international community. Mr. Saqib Manan said that we are facing a fifth generation war. "Our enemy is invisible but inflicting colossal loss to the nation and economy", he said and added that individuals with vague faith in Pak ideology and deprived segments are being abused for anti-Pakistan activities. He said that we must make concerted and conscious efforts to promote and project a national approach to make Pakistan a stronger country. He said that we are blessed with the most precious asset of independence but it is not recognized and appreciated by most of us. He said that the people of Kashmir and Palestine are offering unprecedented sacrifices to get independence which is their fundamental right. He said that every Pakistani must make a solemn pledge on ID to protect

the hard earned independence by contributing its own role as a true, sincere and patriotic Pakistani. Regarding clean and green Pakistan, he urged that every individual should plant at least two saplings to mark this ID. He said that trees planted now would not only make the country neat, clean and lush green but it will also be an unprecedented gift for the coming generations. Earlier Engineer Hafiz Ihtasham Javed President FCCI said that Pakistan is a blessed country which came into being by offering unprecedented sacrifices. Quoting his meeting with Pak ambassador Excellency Rizwan Saeed Sheikh to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), he said that Pakistan is the only country in the world which has eight major minerals. Similarly, Allah Almighty has given us five seasons and unlimited bounties but we failed to avail from these blessings of Allah Almighty.

He said that we must promote a national approach which is a prerequisite to put Pakistan on the road to progress and prosperity. Chaudhary Talat Mahmood Senior Vice President FCCI was the master of ceremony while Vice President Ayub Aslam Manj offered vote of thanks. The Divisional Commissioner immediately after his arrival to FCCI performed the flag hoisting ceremony. He also planted a sapling and cut ID cake. Couple of Faisalabad Mr. and Mrs. Nasir and a special player on wheel also participated in the function in addition to Mr. Shahid Razaq Saka, Hafiz Shafiq Kashif, Haji Muhammad Abid, Mian Asif Aslam, Mr. Aslam Bhatti, Mr. Zulfiqar Ahmed, Muhammad Ahmad of Pakistan Textile Exporters Association, Mr. Muhammad Fazil, Abdul Waheed, Rana Fayyaz, Mr. Atif Munir and Muhammad Idrees Sadhe Sheikh.

## A failed US policy

**T**ALIBAN forces are in Kabul. The group made rapid territorial gains in Afghanistan the past few weeks, and there are concerns about what this means for those under their rule. While the extremists say they have no intention of taking the Afghan capital by force, there are worrying times indeed for those who have fled their homes ahead of the Taliban advance.

That we are in this position now stems largely from a series of policy failures by successive US administrations dating back to the presidency of Barack Obama. Washington led the charge into Afghanistan in the wake of the terror attacks of 9/11, promising to root out terrorist groups such as Al Qaida that found a safe haven in the then Taliban-controlled territory.

The international community through Nato-backed intervention and the establishment of a stabilisation force did manage to at least allow large pockets of the divided nation to experience peace and some prosperity – but that was built on the premise of having a large US military presence on the ground.

Efforts to train and professionalise the security forces of Afghanistan were inherently conditional on US and Nato military expertise – but sustaining a presence in Afghanistan for two decades has proved politically untenable. Since the Obama presidency, the US has drawn down the number of servicemen and presence on the ground in Afghanistan, with other nations following suit. Clearly, the nature of the pull out only allowed Taliban forces to grow in strength – and the capitulation of Afghan security forces underscores the futility of US policy in Afghanistan.

While the decision by former US President Donald Trump to signal withdrawal from Afghanistan played to his domestic audience, it would have come as little surprise to America's allies. The clock was set in motion for the events unfolding now in Afghanistan.

President Joe Biden must also face a reality because of his decision to follow through on the pull out. What events transpire now in the coming days and weeks, either humanitarian crisis or a chapter of vengeful attrition, now rest at his doorstep.

For years now, analysts have been warning of the consequences of a full drawdown of international forces. Let us hope that the worst-case scenarios do not develop. Everyone in Afghanistan has endured so much for so long already.

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## Exporting smartphones

**T**HE first consignment of 5,500 mobile sets of 4G smartphones manufactured by Inovi Telecom was exported to the UAE last week. This makes it the first time that Pakistan has become an exporter of smartphones. This is great progress within the manufacturing industry and must be encouraged through supportive policies by the government. There is good potential for revenue in this market—particularly if we target a certain section, specifically the Gulf countries, which have a large number of expats that prefer efficient, affordable smartphones that cater to local demands.

Knowing and playing to our strengths is important since Pakistan cannot compete with high-end luxury brands like Apple or Samsung. However, there is a huge, perhaps even bigger market for Chinese, affordable but still effective and easy to run phones. This is where Pakistan has a good fighting chance. The Gulf countries have a mass market that Pakistan should take advantage of. It has also been noted that the ordinary citizens of Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan too preferred mobile sets up to \$100 each, which Pakistan can provide.

However, this is just the beginning and there is a lot the government needs to improve before Pakistan can be known as a big name for smartphone production. The local manufacturers of mobile phone sets have stressed the need for an export supportive policy, allowing Pakistan to beat competitors in the Middle East region.

There have been some grievances that the government's approach towards enhancing export markets is slow, compared to other manufacturers which are aiming much higher. The government has enacted some favourable policies to encourage exporters, such as banning the smuggling of mobile phones and taking steps to block those who do it. However, such policies must be expanded upon—it is unfair to expect our manufacturers to compete with the likes of India, Bangladesh, China and East Asian countries with fewer facilities.

## The devil disguised as human

Wajeeha Bilal



The world that is getting scarier with the spread of a pandemic where it can be impossible to distinguish the victims from the ordinary; the fear of the unknown recurs to haunt the hopes of the survivors. On top of that the horrifying acts of violence rendered by devils in the form of humans exist to haunt those who had experienced death in one form or another

**T**HE devil has been present throughout history and literary evolution. Stories about the hostility between good and evil have existed since the beginning of mankind. The devil is one of the most frequently appearing character in Old English poetry, and literature, with his attempts to deceive others. Satan and his demons can take many human forms which defies the typical pitchfork carrying dude in red. Through centuries, people have tried to predict what devil must look like; standing red with two horns and a tail, but the truth is that his actions are not limited to any form or appearance. Whether it is Dante's depiction of Hell and its ruler who is a monstrous devil, or Milton's rebellious Satan who is banished from Hell, Marlowe's Dr Faustus - the ultimate mankind's pact with the devil, or Mark Twain's Mysterious Stranger that has an ultimate dark side; the devil appears in a huge variety of books and plays, going by different shapes and forms, but he still exists to affirm our belief in evil alongside good. The devil later on became more abstract in stories and was seen as something that was within the humans and represented their dark sides. "...the greatest trick the devil pulled was convincing the world there was only one of him."

As long as there are threats and fear of the devil lurking in our society, a human's desire to live with peace can never be achieved. One thing that every human wants is to live with freedom and happiness. Desire for freedom is overshadowed by our fears; whether it's the freedom to be able to go out or exist in a neighbourhood or the freedom to live during a pandemic. The courage and fortitude of our wish

to be free makes it essential to be vigilant of all the dangers and menace that threaten our existence or those of our loved ones. The threat of danger is forged upon every individual who dares to live in our society. Because of these threats, people struggle in the daily battle of interacting with strangers or raising their children in such a society.

The world that is getting scarier with the spread of a pandemic where it can be impossible to distinguish the victims from the ordinary; the fear of the unknown recurs to haunt the hopes of the survivors. On top of that the horrifying acts of violence rendered by devils in the form of humans exist to haunt those who had experienced death of their happiness in one form or another. The rise of another variant of the pandemic has made it more difficult to find peace in solitude but the fear of evil hiding under deceptive forms threatens our souls and makes life much more miserable. It is also more confusing and spirit-thumping, as the enemy could be anywhere or could be anyone at any time. The devil it is clear can undertake the human form when he wants to deceive others.

Everyone is shaken by the heinous crimes and their brutal effects that burden our minds with images of horror and sympathy for the victims. Noor murder case among other horrifying stories of brutal atrocities and harassment have left the public with emotional wounds that are deep and intimate and trying to be comfortable again with others can spark the hidden gashes and the trapped doors in the consciousness. The souls that suffer and depart the world in pain, leave behind a tragic burden for those who witness their news. There are injuries to

the mind and heart that are unseen and undressed. Whether we like it or not, good exists alongside evil and it is limited in some way or another. This life and every battle that we fight is a journey of accepting good and discarding evil. It is a journey to overcoming disillusionment and restoring our sense of good versus evil. The reality of the forces of evil lies in their existence and complexity of how they can be defined. This daily war with the uncertainty of living in fear is bound to change our focus from form to actions. Lives will transform if people are held accountable for their actions that are ignored otherwise for their physical forms do not fit the devil's outlook.

Amid these scary stories it's worth remembering that, while we may not have a better understanding of the devil's appearance, we can always do and say things to discard evil. Just like a disease, terror itself is a killer; fearing every moment and hiding out of fear can never be as satisfying as the feeling of standing above and against the evil. No one is here to live forever; all we can do is support virtue through our thoughts and actions. And with the evil taking the human form, the task of standing up against the devil might seem difficult and scary but it is not impossible. Fear is natural, we are all scared of the horrifying news and the evil lurking around but when we stand together in awareness against the felonious acts, then virtue and human kindness would surely triumph over evil and crime. A tyrant is a tyrant, a crime is a crime and abuse is an abuse whether physical or verbal, there is no how and why to it, and we stand against it.

– Wajeeha is author of two books.  
She tweets @WajeehaBilal

## The future of Afghanistan? A challenge!

Muhammad Akhter



The Afghan Taliban and the Afghan National Army are rivals in the current civil war in Afghanistan, but I think if no agreement is reached between the Afghan government and the Taliban, the civil war could escalate. According to international media, local armed groups in Afghanistan such as Zulfikar Omid group, Abdul Ghani Alipur group, etc. and dozens of other such armed groups have become active against the Taliban

**A**FGHANISTAN'S future still poses a challenge to the world that ranges from high human values to regional and global peace and the credibility of the United Nations. On one hand, the armed intervention of two superpowers in a row for four decades and the devastation caused by the civil war in Afghanistan is waiting for the Afghans to return to their homes and live in peace. On the other hand, there are countries in the region that are suffering from long-standing unrest in their neighborhood.

On the third side is a country like Pakistan, which is most affected by the situation in Afghanistan. On the fourth side are the powers that see their own interest in the resurrection in Afghanistan and its negative effects on its neighbors, while the condition of the region is such that its peace may no longer bear the horrific effects of the volcano burning in Afghanistan. Afghanistan's future is a major challenge for both, China and Pakistan have been considering because the repetition of this experience of the past cannot be acceptable to any peace-loving country, including Pakistan and China, which has faced the sudden withdrawal of the Soviet Union.

It is a matter of fact that, in the modern history of the United Nations, Afghanistan is the only country that has been at war for almost half a decade. The war in Afghanistan began with Russian intervention. After Russia's withdrawal, a power struggle broke out between the Taliban and other Afghan armed groups. The Taliban won the civil war and ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001.

The tragedy of September 11 took place

during the Taliban regime, after which the US-led NATO forces launched a new war in Afghanistan. The war has come to an end with an agreement between the Taliban and the United States after nearly two decades. As a result of this agreement, the process of withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan began and now the withdrawal of US and NATO forces from Afghanistan is almost complete. With this withdrawal, Afghanistan has fallen victim to a new civil war. The Afghan Taliban has launched a campaign to seize various parts of Afghanistan in the wake of the withdrawal of NATO forces. At present, about 200 districts and 20 provincial capitals of Afghanistan are under the control of the Afghan Taliban.

The recent actions of the Afghan Taliban are of concern to the world in general and to neighboring countries and Central Asia in particular. Central Asian states fear that armed individuals and groups from Afghanistan will enter nearby countries as a result of the civil war.

Recent Afghan Taliban operations have also strengthened the possibility that the Afghan Taliban may return to power. Based on the previous experience of the Taliban government, concerns are also being expressed that under the Taliban government, citizens will be deprived of their basic rights. Although, Taliban spokesmen are dismissing all these possibilities and assuring that no human and civil rights, including women's education, will be taken away during their rule, but the world's is not ready to erase the bitter memories of the past in this regard.

In my point of view; if the Taliban come to power, it is very possible that their

style of governing will be slightly different from the past. In addition to this, the Afghan Taliban is, of course, now political forces, their style of governing is likely to be different from the past, given the past two decades of war, international outreach and international criticism.

The Afghan Taliban and the Afghan National Army are rivals in the current civil war in Afghanistan, but I think if no agreement is reached between the Afghan government and the Taliban, the civil war could escalate. According to international media, local armed groups in Afghanistan such as Zulfikar Omid group, Abdul Ghani Alipur group, etc. and dozens of other such armed groups have become active against the Taliban. Afghan women have also recently taken up arms in protest. The protest was a symbolic expression against the Taliban.

The problem of Afghanistan is a political issue, so a political solution must be found. To me, the right thing to do is for all parties, including the Taliban, to come up with a new Afghan constitution. This will certainly be a difficult step for both sides, as such an agreement will inevitably result in a loss for both sides, but it will be worth less than a new war anyway. If the parties do not agree to such an agreement, then, as in the 1990s, power will decide Afghanistan's future. And at the end, it should be noted that, the time also demands that the Afghan conflict be resolved without delay. Otherwise, the possibility of a worsening situation cannot be ruled out.

– The Writer is a Freelance Columnist. He can be reached at @MAkhter\_

## Briefs

## Pak for inclusive political...

FROM PAGE 01

It was reaffirmed that Pakistan would continue to work with the international community and all Afghan stakeholders to facilitate an inclusive political settlement in the country. Moreover, the meeting stressed that the principle of non-interference in Afghanistan must be adhered to. The NSC noted positively that major violence had been averted thus far and called on all parties in Afghanistan to respect the rule of law, protect the fundamental human rights of all Afghans, and ensure that Afghan soil is not used by any terrorist organisation or group against any country. Prime Minister Imran Khan directed that all possible facilities be made available to repatriate Pakistanis, diplomats, journalists and staff of international organisations seeking to leave Afghanistan. The Prime Minister lauded the ongoing efforts of the Pakistan embassy in Kabul and the state machinery in this regard. The NSC reiterated Pakistan's stance that the conflict in Afghanistan never had a military solution. The ideal time to end the conflict through negotiations might have been when the US/NATO troops were at maximum military strength in Afghanistan.

## Pakistan evacuates 431 Afghans

FROM PAGE 01

FM Qureshi underlined the importance of international community remaining engaged with Afghan leaders. He hoped that Afghan leaders would take advantage of international convergence in support of peace and reconciliation process. Foreign Minister Kofod conveyed profound appreciation of the Danish government for Pakistan's assistance in this critical hour. Foreign Minister Qureshi appreciated the Danish government's keenness in forging the Green Partnership agreement with Pakistan and hoped for its early conclusion. Qureshi urged the Danish government to review its travel advisory for Pakistan considering the country's improved security situation. He invited his Danish counterpart to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at an appropriate time.

## 'UNSC must not abandon Afghan people'

FROM PAGE 01

including women and girls "about to lose their freedom to go to school, to work and to participate in the political, economic, and social life of the country." Isaczi called on the council and the United Nations not to recognise any administration that achieves power by force or any government that is not inclusive. He urged them to call for the immediate establishment of an inclusive transitional government.

## EU FMs to hold Afghan crisis talks

FROM PAGE 01

EU officials have been pleading with the bloc's 27 capitals to give visas to Afghan workers at the bloc's mission in Kabul and their families, estimated to number around 500, European diplomats said. The European Commission has no power to issue visas on its own behalf.

## 5 killed at Kabul...

FROM PAGE 01

Officials were not immediately available to comment on the deaths. Later, all military and civilian flights had been halted at the Kabul airport because of the crowds of civilians who have surged out onto the runways, Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said Monday. "US military forces are on the scene working alongside Turkish and other international troops to clear the area of people. We do not know how long this will take," Kirby said.

## Yerevan, Delhi relations to reach a new level: Grigoryan

Armenia and India still have a lot to do to realize the untapped potential of bilateral cooperation in various fields

## AGENCIES

YEREVAN: Yerevan is ready to bring the Armenian-Indian cooperation to a qualitatively new level for the benefit of the two countries and peoples. This was announced at a reception on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Independence Day of this country by acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Armen Grigoryan.

He noted that relations between the Armenian and Indian peoples are rooted in the depths of millennia. They became more active in the 17-19th centuries, when numerous Armenian communities were formed in a number of large cities of India, which played an important role in the social, political, economic and cultural life of the country. Grigoryan stressed that since the establishment of diplomatic relations, Armenia and India have managed to turn centuries-old friendly relations into a close interstate partnership based on mutual respect and trust. He noted with regret that due to the pandemic and the war in Karabakh, many projects remained unfulfilled. "It is obvious that we still have a lot to do to realize the untapped potential of bilateral cooperation in the political, military, economic, business, cultural and educational spheres,"

Grigoryan said. Minister stressed that Armenia has always supported India in the Jammu and Kashmir issue. Our country also highly appreciates the address statements of the Indian authorities in connection with the war unleashed by Azerbaijan against Artsakh, the attraction of foreign fighters to the region, as well as the encroachment on the borders of Armenia. Grigoryan pointed to the activation of the Armenian-Indian intergovernmental commission and the holding of a business forum in the near future. Promising, he said, is cooperation between the two countries in the field of information technology, defense, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, tourism, education, culture and others.

In addition, Armenia is closely following the active participation of India in the project of the North-South international transport corridor and its plans for the development of the Chabahar port. Grigoryan noted that there is a lot in common between the two peoples - first of all, human potential - hard work, dedication, talent for creative innovation, as well as commitment to preserving a rich history, cultural heritage and value system. Official Yerevan is determined to bring bilateral cooperation to a qualitatively new level for the benefit of both countries and peoples.



JAMAICA: Players of WI cricket team celebrating after defeating Pakistan in first Test match. - DNA

## UK rules out returning troops to Afghanistan

## MONITORING DESK

LONDON: British and NATO forces will not return to Afghanistan to fight the Taliban, the United Kingdom's defence secretary said, after the group took control of Kabul following a blistering nationwide offensive. Ben Wallace told media on Monday that it was "not on the cards that we're going to go back" as reports of bloodshed in the Afghan capital fuelled concerns of a looming humanitarian crisis. "I acknowledge that the Taliban are in control of the country," Wallace said. The group's rapid takeover was a "failure of the international community", Wallace later told the media, describing the 20-year-long intervention led by the United States as a job only half-done. "All of us know that Afghanistan is not finished. It's an unfinished problem for the world and the world needs to help it," he said. Wallace pointed to the Taliban's removal from power after the September 11, 2001, attacks and the death of al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden as evidence that "half the mission ... was entirely successful", but warned of an impending threat to global security as the group resurged. He has previously accused former US



President Donald Trump of having brokered a "rotten deal" with the Taliban that allowed their return against the backdrop of a hasty withdrawal of foreign forces. "I'm afraid when you deal with a country like Afghanistan, that is 1,000 years of history effectively and civil war, you manage its problems and you might have to manage it for 100 years," Wallace said. "It's not something that you just rock in, rock out and expect something to be fixed." As chaos gripped Kabul airport, Wallace said the military side of the airport was secure and that the UK was doing everything it could to evacuate British citizens and Afghans with links to the UK, having relocated its embassy to the airport from the capital. Five people were reported killed at the airport on Monday, witnesses told Reuters, as hundreds of people tried to flee Afghanistan by entering planes without tickets. In extraordinary scenes, some Afghans were even seen clinging onto the exterior of planes in desperate attempts to leave. "Our target is ... about 1,200 to 1,500 exit a day in the capacity of our aeroplanes, and we'll keep that flow," Wallace said. The UK last month withdrew most of its 750 soldiers remaining in Afghanistan as part of the US-led pull-back of foreign forces, but last week announced that 600 soldiers would return to help with repatriation efforts.

## West Indies down Pakistan in first Test after thrilling finish

## SPORTS DESK

JAMAICA: West Indies held their nerve as tailenders Kemar Roach and Jayden Seales guided them to a thrilling one-wicket win over Pakistan in the first test in Jamaica on Sunday. Roach scored 30 and Seales two in an unbeaten 17-run partnership as the home side reached their target of 168 for the loss of nine wickets after the West Indies had bowled Pakistan out for 203 in their second innings, with Seales taking 5-55. Fortunes ebbed and flowed dramatically throughout the fourth day with 14 wickets falling before Roach stroked the winning runs through the covers. The West Indies looked to have little chance when they lost their last recog-



nised batsman Joshua da Silva with 26 runs still required and two wickets left, but Roach took up the challenge with a confident batting display. It was never going to be an easy chase after Shaheen Shah Afridi removed the Windies' top three batsmen cheaply to leave the home side reeling at 16-3 before a 68-run fourth wicket partnership between Roston Chase and Jermaine Black-

wood offered them hope. Imran Butt, however, began a series of stunning slip catches to turn the tide back Pakistan's way as Chase went for 22 off Faheem Ashraf, Kyle Mayers fell to the same combination four balls later and a spectacular diving catch saw Blackwood out for 55 off Hasan Ali. When Jason Holder was bowled by Hasan, tea was taken with the Win-

dies needing 54 to win and Pakistan requiring three wickets. The match continued to fluctuate in the evening session with three dropped catches contributing to Pakistan's failure to wrap up the tail. Earlier, the 19-year-old Seales became the youngest West Indian to get a test match five-wicket haul, beating Alf Valentine's 71-year-old record, as he rolled over Pakistan's lower order after they resumed at 160-5. Roach took the first wicket of the morning, then Mayers snaggd that of captain Babar Azam, who top-scored with 55, before Seales wrapped up the remaining three wickets. The second and final test is also behind closed doors at Sabina Park, Kingston starting on Friday.

## 64 nations call for safe exit of people from Afghanistan

## FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: A total of 64 countries signed a joint statement late Sunday calling for the safe and orderly departure of anyone who wants to leave Afghanistan in the wake of the Taliban's stunning takeover. Among the countries that signed the joint statement were Canada, France, Germany and the UK. "Given the deteriorating security situation, we support, are working to secure, and call on all parties to respect and facilitate the safe and orderly departure of foreign nationals and Af-

ghans who wish to leave the country. "Those in positions of power and authority across Afghanistan bear responsibility—and accountability—for the protection of human life and property, and for the immediate restoration of security and civil order," said the statement. "Afghans and international citizens who wish to depart must be allowed to do so; roads, airports and border crossings must remain open and calm must be maintained," it noted. "The Afghan people deserve to live in safety, security and dignity. We in the international community stand ready to assist them." The statement comes after

the Taliban made rapid military advances, taking control of the country as Afghan government forces fled or surrendered. The Taliban took control of the presidential palace in Kabul on Sunday, according to the group's spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid. This came following an eventful day which saw minute-to-minute developments, including the Taliban's entering the besieged capital and the departure of embattled President Ashraf Ghani along with his close aides. Ghani, who was dubbed "the former president" by the head of Afghanistan's National Reconciliation Council, Abdullah Abdullah, in a video message, left the country.

## Serena and RGC host Azadi Golf Tournament

CEO Serena Hotels South and Central Asia Mr. Aziz Boolani thanked the participants for their participation in the pleasant overcast conditions

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels and Rawalpindi Golf Club (RGC) hosted a three-day mega golf tournament that culminated with an awards ceremony on Sunday afternoon. The Serena-RGC Azadi Golf tournament drew more than 250 Golf enthusiasts from Diplomatic Corps, Armed Forces, Government, Corporate and Business segments including women and teenage golfers. Inspector General Arms and Colonel Commandant of the Punjab Regiment, Lieutenant General Majid Ehsan, Hilal-e-Imtiaz

(Military) participated in the tournament as well as graced the event as Chief Guest. CEO Serena Hotels South and Central Asia Mr. Aziz Boolani thanked the participants for their participation in the pleasant overcast conditions. Over the years, Serena Hotels Sports Diplomacy Initiative has emerged as an integral part of the Company's efforts to build stronger relations with communities and provide platform to engage with each other while improving the teamwork, communication skills and leadership along with promoting a healthier lifestyle.

The winners in various categories were: Government & Armed Forces: Brig Azhar Yasin (1st Gross), Major Gen. Syed Anis Akbar (1st Net) Corporate: Mr. Alamgir

Shah (1st Gross), Mr. Asghar Khan (1st Net) Diplomat: Mr. Aamir Shaikat (1st Gross), Mr. Aziz Ahmed Chaudry (1st Net) Ladies: Ms. Tahir Nazir (1st Gross), Mrs. AVM Rizwan Riaz (1st Net) Amateur: Mr. Tipu Raja (1st Gross), Mr. Ziyad Abbas (1st Net) Senior Amateur: Major Shuaib Uddin (1st Gross), Major Tahir Janjua (1st Net) Juniors Male: Master Shahyar Sarfaraz (1st Gross), Master Umer Usman Ashraf (1st Net) Juniors Female: Miss Daniyal Irfan (1st Position) Veteran: Lt. Col S M Saif (1st Gross), Major Gen. Abdul Razaq (1st Net).

Analysts believe that there were differences among Taliban ranks on who should be appointed the new chief. The suggested names were Mullah Yaqoob and Sirajuddin Haqqani, the latter being the most prominent member linked with the Haqqani Network. Akhundzada, however, has sustained a neutral identity among the Taliban rank and file. To avoid conflict upon choosing Akhundzada as chief, the Taliban agreed that Yaqoob and Sirajuddin Haqqani will both work as his deputies.



## Who is Mullah Habitullah?

FROM PAGE 01

He became the leader of the militant group in May 2016 following the killing of the previous leader, Akhtar Mansour, in a drone strike. The Taliban also bestowed upon Akhundzada the title Emir-al-Momineen (Commander of the Faithful) that his two predecessors had carried. Akhundzada was born in 1959 in the Panjwayi district of Kandahar Province in the Kingdom of Afghanistan. A Pashtun, he belongs to the Noorzai clan or tribe. His first name, Hibatullah, means "gift from Allah" in Arabic. His father, Mullah Mohammad Akhund, was a religious scholar as well as the imam of their village mosque. Not owning any land or orchards of their own, the family depended on what the congregation paid his father in cash or in a portion of their crops. Akhundzada studied under his father. [citation needed] The family migrated to Quetta after the Soviet invasion and Akhundzada continued his education at one of the first seminaries established in the Sarnan neighborhood. In the 1980s, Akhundzada was involved in the resistance against the Soviet military campaign in Afghanistan. [6] When the Afghan Taliban captured the capital Kabul in 1996, one of religious scholar Akhundzada's first jobs was in Farah Province as a member of the Department of the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice paramilitary enforcers. [citation needed] He later moved to Kandahar and was made an instructor at the Madrasa, the seminary of about 100,000 students that Mullah Omar personally looked after. [citation needed] Mawlawi Akhundzada was later appointed as Chief Justice of the Shariah Courts of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. Rather than a warlord or military commander, he has a reputation as a religious leader who was responsible for issuing most of the Taliban's fatwas and settling religious issues among members of the Taliban. Both Mullah Omar and Mullah Mansour are known to have consulted Akhundzada on matters of fatwa. Unlike his predecessors who were educated in Pakistan—and who were also believed to have moved permanently east across the Durand Line after the U.S. invasion in 2001 and during the resulting war—Akhundzada is believed to have lived in Afghanistan throughout the 2001–2016 period with no travel record, though he has close ties with the Quetta-based Taliban Shura. After his promotion to deputy leader of the Taliban in 2015, Akhundzada put in place a system under which a commission would be formed under the shadow governor in every province that could investigate abusive commanders or fighters, according to Mullah Abdul Bari, a Taliban commander in Helmand. khundzada was appointed as the Taliban supreme commander on 25 May 2016 as the replacement for Mullah Akhtar Mansour. Mansour and a second militant were killed when munitions fired from a drone hit the vehicle in which they were riding. The strike was approved by U.S. President Barack Obama. Akhundzada was previously a deputy for Mansour. According to sources from the Taliban, Mansour had already named Akhundzada as his successor in his will. A Taliban spokesman stated that Sirajuddin Haqqani was named first deputy and Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob, the son of former Taliban leader Mullah Omar, was named second deputy. Mawlawi Akhundzada leads a number of madrasas, or religious schools, in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province. Analysts believe that there were differences among Taliban ranks on who should be appointed the new chief. The suggested names were Mullah Yaqoob and Sirajuddin Haqqani, the latter being the most prominent member linked with the Haqqani Network. Akhundzada, however, has sustained a neutral identity among the Taliban rank and file. To avoid conflict upon choosing Akhundzada as chief, the Taliban agreed that Yaqoob and Sirajuddin Haqqani will both work as his deputies.

## Rawalakot Hawks qualify for KPL final

MUZAFFARABAD: A belligerent knock from batsman Kashif Ali propelled Rawalakot Hawks to victory against Mirpur Royals in the second Eliminator of the Kashmir Premier League (KPL) on Monday. The victory ensures the Hawks a place in the final of the inaugural edition of the tournament. Chasing a mammoth target of 237 runs, Rawalakot Hawks were off to a bad start losing three early wickets. Opener Umar Amin went for a duck while opener Bismillah Khan (15 off 10) and batsman Mohammad Imran (13 off 11) could not get going. Batsman Hussain Talat played a brilliant knock, scoring 51 runs off 21 balls before falling to bowler Salman Irshad. Batsman Kashif Ali was standing tall in the middle, fighting hard to keep his side in the match. The explosive batsman Danish Aziz fell next off the bowling of pacer Amad Butt as Rawalakot Hawks looked for a batsman to step up in order to chase down the big target. Skipper Shahid Afridi (19 off 13) was removed by pacer Sameen Gul next as the game headed into the final stage. Kashif Ali did not let the opportunity go to waste and played an unbeaten knock of 114 runs off 52 balls to drive his side over the line with four wickets and two balls to spare. Earlier, Mirpur Royals were off to a great start batting first. Opener Sharjeel Khan seemed to be on a mission, going after the bowlers in explosive fashion. The other batsmen from the Royals' side could only support a brilliant knock by Sharjeel as the opener dominated the entire innings with his impeccable power-hitting. Batsmen Mukhtar Ahmed (21 off 17), Shoab Malik (15 off 12) and Mohammad Akhlaq (29 off 21) provided support for the explosive opener as the Rawalakot Hawks' bowlers seemed to have no answers. - DNA



# CULTURAL BEAUTY & NATURE'S WONDERS

## Captivating Images of Indonesia-Pakistan Similarities

### INDONESIA-PAKISTAN CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS: A GLIMSE OF CULTURAL SIMILARITIES

The culture and traditions are usually a source of delight and wonder, and provide moving pleasurable experiences. Culture is also a means of expressing creativity and gives a sense of pride to the nations. Moreover, different culture and indigenous traditions. A country's cultural attractions entice others to join and interact with it in addition to its inherent worth.

Indonesia and Pakistan are blessed with rich cultural heritage and traditions carrying interesting and attractive similarities, which plays an important role in keeping our fraternal bonds intact. Though the two countries are located in distant geographical regions of Southeast Asia and South Asia, yet traces and influence of culture of each other is quite visible on their way of life. The difference of climate adds more distinctive features and variety to their diverse flora and fauna, which are considered unique in the world. The people of the two nations cherishes the traditions and share many similarities from nature to culture and from preserving (Islamic) traditions as two of the most populous Muslim countries to embracing modernity.



Another interesting similarity is that Indonesia and Pakistan also celebrate Independence Day in August, on the 17th and 14th, respectively. With the objective to commemorating the two countries' independence and laying the foundation of strong exemplary bilateral relations, the Embassy is pleased to launch a coffee table book with the title "Captivating Images of Indonesia-Pakistan Cultural similarities" highlighting the attractive features of culture, tradition, food and festivities of the two nations.

The similarities are numerous, ranging from lost civilisations (Borobudur Temple and Takh-iBathi) to natural wonders (tropical glacier Mount Jaya Wijaya and K-2), from popular cuisines (Rendang and Pasanday, as well Bakwan and Pakora) to the madrasah educational system, from thriving symbols of modernity with tech-savvy millennials (Gojek and Gykea) where the two countries enjoy demographic dividends to creative artistic people (Truck Art). Te people of both the countries are also well known for their warmth and friendliness towards foreigners and tourists.

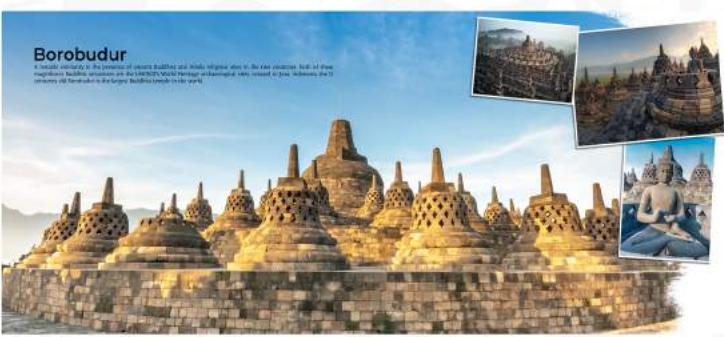
Indonesia, like Pakistan, offers a broad range of exhilarating activities and adventure, all set against a backdrop of breathtaking sites and settings. It has a diverse cultural and historical heritage, as well as distinctive rites and festivals, a diverse range of arts and crafts, and a number

of intriguing places and fascinating sites open to travellers all year. The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has acknowledged several of them as cultural heritage.

So, while you're in Indonesia, don't miss out on seeing the world's largest archipelago, which is home to some of the world's most diverse scenery, abundant wildlife, and distinct cultures and customs. Lake Toba, which sits in the crater of a super volcano, Labuan Bajo's immaculate pinkish beach, and diving in Wakatobi to witness stunning underwater coral reefs all provide excellence opportunity for adventure, business, and enjoyment in various regions of Indonesia.



Finally, the book serves as a reminder of our shared values and unwavering commitment to reaping the advantages of technological development for a brighter and more prosperous future. With this publication, it is hoped that more Pakistan brothers and sisters will be inspired to visit Indonesia and experience these enjoyable similarities for themselves, while also appreciating Indonesia's unique characteristics – thereby cementing cultural bridge and strengthening the strong bonds of friendship between our two great nations.



## Briefs

**Fawad, Malala discuss Afghan situation**

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Monday assured to keep on extending cooperation to promote education in Afghanistan, especially to its female population. Malala Yousufzai, an activist working for women education, telephoned Fawad Chaudhry to discuss her concerns about the women's rights in Afghanistan after the Taliban's takeover of Kabul. The minister said Pakistan was providing educational facilities to Afghan refugees and over 6,000 students were being imparted education here in different universities and colleges. Malala Yousufzai requested Pakistan to keep on playing its role for the promotion of education in Afghanistan, especially its female population, which the minister assured to keep on extending. On Sunday, Malala tweeted, "We watch in complete shock as Taliban takes control of Afghanistan. I am deeply worried about women, minorities and human rights advocates." She urged global, regional and local powers for an immediate ceasefire and to provide urgent humanitarian aid and protect refugees and civilians.

**Two weeks crucial to prevent 4th wave: SAPM**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health, Dr Faisal Sultan, said on Monday that the Covid-19 situation has improved in Karachi as the number of daily coronavirus cases continued to decline in the provincial capital of Sindh. The spread of the coronavirus Delta variant reached alarming levels in Karachi, as public and some private sector hospitals ran out of space which had forced the provincial government to impose partial lockdown in the port city on Aug 9. In a statement, Dr Faisal Sultan said that National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) was closely monitoring the fourth Covid wave situation and surge in Delta variant cases in the country.

# Govt will end class-based education system: PM

Prime Minister Imran Khan launches the first phase of single national curriculum for students of grade 1 to 5

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has launched the first phase of Single National Curriculum for students of grade one to five with the affirmation to make the country a unified nation. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said it was his vision to bring a uniform syllabus and end the class based education system in the country. He appreciated the Ministry of Education for taking a first step towards this end. He said nowhere in the world are three Curricula as is the case in Pakistan where the students of public and private educational institutions and the religious seminaries are studying different syllabus. The Prime Minister said he knew that bringing a



uniform curriculum will be a difficult task as the elite system will not allow this

change and create hurdles in it. He however assured that the process that has

been started is irreversible. He said this will take our youth to one direction and

rid them of the invasion of foreign cultures. Imran Khan said it has also

been decided to teach Seerat un Nabi to the students of grade eight, nine and ten. He asked the Minister for Education to enforce the uniform syllabus for these grades in the next five to six months after deliberations. He said the betterment of our youth lies in the fact that they learn from the unmatched achievements of Holy Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihe Wa Sallam Khatim-un-Nabiyeen. He said this will also help our youth better understand the religion and they won't be misled by the elements who misinterpret the religion for their vested interests. Imran Khan said the minorities will also be provided with opportunities to learn about their respective religions. He said the very foundation of teachings of all the holy prophets is respect for humanity.

COVID-19 active cases cross 88,000

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases was recorded 88,588 the highest during fourth wave of pandemic on Monday with 3,669 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 2,218 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. Seventy-two corona patients died during past 24 hours, 62 of whom were under treatment in the hospitals and nine of them perished in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). Most of the deaths occurred in Sindh followed by Punjab. Out of the total 72 deaths occurred, 28 of them died were under treatment on ventilators. There were 4,787 Covid infected patients under treatment in critical condition admitted in various Covid dedicated healthcare facilities of the country. The National Covid positivity ratio during past 24 hours was recorded 6.8 percent.

Media Joint Committee rejects PMDA

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The joint committee of media organizations comprising All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) and Association of Electronic Media Editors and News Directors (AEMEND) have unanimously rejected Govt. efforts to establish PMDA. The recently circulated Minutes of the meeting between Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and these organizations are misleading and have been purposefully distorted to give the impression that there was no serious objection to PMDA. All representatives were unanimous in rejecting The PMDA draft. The ministry is continuously trying to give the impression that sections of the media fraternity are supporting the ministry on this draconian attempt to muzzle the press. This should be stopped immediately. The joint committee is planning to call all human rights groups, bar associations, members of parliament and other sections of civil society to join hands in stopping this outrageous move by the present Govt. to put further curbs on media.

## Tarin for strengthening Pak-Canada business linkages

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Shaukat Tarin said on Monday that Canada was one of the major development partners of Pakistan, stressing the need to further strengthening business and economic linkages between the two countries. During a meeting with High Commissioner of Canada for Pakistan, Ms Wendy Gilmour, who called on him

here, the minister stated that Pakistan had long-standing and multidimensional ties with Canada. Extending a warm welcome to the Canadian High Commissioner, the Finance Minister said Canada has a large number of Pakistani diaspora and people to people contacts contribute an important component of the bilateral relations. He briefed the Canadian High Commissioner about the recent economic developments and initiatives, say-

ing that enhancing revenue collection, boosting exports, increasing remittances and making the energy sector sustainable were the foremost priorities of the current government. In addition to these, the government would promote agriculture, housing and SME sector while Kamyab Pakistan Program would be its signature project, he said. The Minister said that for inclusive and sustainable growth, the government was preparing various short, me-

dium and long term plans in 14 priority areas and it was his firm belief that these plans would bring about a turnaround of the economy and establish it on a more sound footing. On the occasion, the Canadian High Commissioner thanked the minister for his time and informed him that the Canadian Business Community saw great investment potential in wind-power generation, power transmission systems as well as mining sector in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Shaukat Tarin chairing the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet. - DNA

## Malaysia's PM Muhyiddin resigns

AGENCIES

KUALA LAMPUR: Malaysia's Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin and his cabinet have resigned after just 17 months in power amid infighting within his coalition and a resurgent wave of COVID-19. Muhyiddin held a last cabinet meeting on Monday morning before going to the palace to tender his resignation to the king.



74-year-old Muhyiddin has been under almost constant pressure since he came to power in March 2020 as head of a new Perikatan Nasional (PN) coalition after a power grab within the previous government. His resignation followed months of infighting within PN against a backdrop of increasing public anger over the political squabbling at a time when COVID-19 was surging. Some 12,510 people have now died from the disease in Malaysia as overloaded government hospitals struggle to cope with the influx of patients. On Sunday, Malaysia recorded 20,546 cases on Sunday, its fourth successive day of more than 20,000 cases.

## Saudi Chief of General Staff meets PM Imran, COAS

Pakistan committed to sovereignty of Saudi Arabia, reiterates PM Imran



NEHAL MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed Pakistan's commitment and support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Saudi Arabia. Talking to Chief of General Staff of the Saudi Armed Forces General Fayyadh bin Hameed Al-Rowaily, the prime minister underlined the importance Pakistan attached to Saudi Arabia in broadening mutual cooperation and strengthening the people-to-people contacts. During the meeting, views were exchanged on a range of important issues of common interest. Imran Khan expressed confidence that the recently established SPSCC would play a catalytic role in fostering enhanced bilateral cooperation in all fields. He welcomed the Saudi delegation and conveyed his warm regards to King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown

Prince Mohammed bin Salman. He said that the people of Pakistan always accorded special reverence to the Saudi leadership. The PM expressed satisfaction over the robust defence relationship between the two countries, and hoped that bilateral defence cooperation would grow further in the years ahead. He also expressed Pakistan's support for resolving the conflict in Yemen through dialogue and diplomacy, and appreciated Saudi efforts in this regard. General Al-Rowaily acknowledged the excellent collaboration and appreciated the professionalism of Pakistan armed forces. Later, a high level military delegation led by General Fayyadh Bin Hamed Al-Ruwaily, Chief of General Staff (CGS), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at General Headquarters.

# محکمہ صبر کا ایثار کا

محرم الحرام میں مذہبی مجالس کی ادائیگی کے دوران کورونا سے بچاؤ کے لیے خاص احتیاط کریں

COVID-19  
VACCINE

دیکھیں لگوائیں، خود کو اور دوسروں کو محفوظ بنائیں

کم از کم چھ فٹ کا فاصلہ رکھیں

مذرونیاز ڈسپوزیبل برتنوں میں تقسیم کریں

عاشورہ جلوسوں میں احتیاط سے تعاون کریں

ہینڈ سینیٹائزرز کا استعمال معمول بنائیں

گھر سے نکلنے وقت ماسک لازمی بنائیں

چھوٹے پتے اور 65 سال سے زائد عمر کے لوگ گھر پر رہیں

PID(1)989/21

حکومت پاکستان