



# Islamabad POST

Saturday, August 21, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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### Italian envoy sees huge opportunities of trade with Pakistan

Detailed News On Page-08

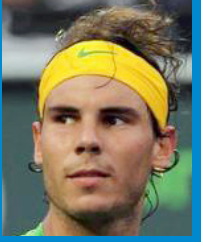
### China-Pakistan should boost liaison: Wang Yi

Detailed News On Page-01



### Nadal to miss US Open due to foot injury

Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

### Role of regional countries crucial

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain has said Pakistan has urged the regional countries to play their role in bringing peace and stability in Afghanistan. In an interview with Turkish Radio Television on Friday, he said we are following the policy that would ensure lasting stability in Afghanistan. He said we want an inclusive government in Afghanistan. The Minister said Pakistan doesn't have any control over Taliban, therefore, can't make any decision on their behalf.

### Asim Iftikhar appointed new FO spokesperson

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Senior diplomat Asim Iftikhar Ahmad has been appointed as new spokesperson of the Foreign Office. Asim Ahmad has replaced Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri, who will assume the responsibilities of Pakistan's High Commissioner to Australia. A career diplomat, Asim Iftikhar Ahmad recently was serving as ambassador to Thailand (June 2017 - July 2021), and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

### PPP always stood up for oppressed

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that the tragedy of Karbala reminds us of the universal battle between good and evil, and the importance to always stand by what is right, irrespective of the consequences because the long arc of history always bends towards good. In his statement on the occasion of Ashura Day, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said.

## Pak expects Taliban to fulfill promises

### COAS says Pakistan paid huge price for Afghan instability; Despite own economic challenges Pak has hosted over 3 million Afghan refugees

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) says Pakistan desires for peace and progress in the country and the region. While addressing the cadets and officials at Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) Kakul, COAS said Pakistan's sincere efforts to promote and support an Afghan process manifest our vision for a peaceful, economically integrated and prosperous region. "We have unambiguously and repeatedly asked global community to play its part in an inclusive and unbiased Afghan process as well as economic sustenance of Afghanistan." COAS said Pakistan has paid huge price for instability in Afghanistan.



### Pakistan pays homage to victims of terrorism

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is being commemorated today on 21 August 2021. The Day calls upon the international community to connect and stand in solidarity with those who have suffered from the scourge of terrorism. On this Day, we honour all those victims who lost their lives and their loved ones who cherish their memories every day. We recognize sacrifices of

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

## AFGHANISTAN ISSUE

### China-Pakistan should boost liaison: Wang Yi



### FM talks to Korean counterpart

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi Friday said Pakistan would extend every possible assistance to Republic of Korea in evacuation of their diplomatic

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: China and Pakistan should strengthen communication and coor-

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 07



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chairs a meeting on steps taken by Pakistan regarding Facilitation in Evacuation of Foreign Journalists in Afghanistan. - DNA

## EVACUATION OF JOURNALISTS

### PM Imran Khan reviews plans

### The Prime Minister appreciated the initiatives taken by the Information Ministry in this regard

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday was given a detailed briefing on the steps taken by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting regarding the evacuation of foreign journalists from Afghanistan. Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain informed the prime minister that in view of the situation in Afghanistan, a special cell had been set up at the Ministry to facilitate journalists by ensuring prompt processing of their visa applications. The meeting under the chairmanship of the prime minister was also attended by Minister of State for Information

### PM for awareness campaign about EVMs

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has directed to formulate an awareness campaign to sensitize the people and stakeholders about the utility of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). He was chairing a meeting in Islamabad on Friday about the use of EVMs in the elections. The Prime Minister emphasized for responding to unwarranted criticism against the voting machines with facts. The Prime Minister was informed about the judicial commission's proposed legal amendment regarding the use of EVMs. The meeting was informed that steps like the use of EVMs are aimed at ensuring transparency in the elections.

Farrukh Habib, Information Secretary Shaheera Shahid and other senior officials. He said promoting impartial, independent and responsible journalism in the country was a top priority of his government.

### Suicide attack in Gwadar kills two

DNA

GWADAR: At least two children were killed in a "suicide attack" targeting a vehicle carrying Chinese nationals in Balochistan's Gwadar district on Friday, the provincial government's spokesperson said. Three people, including the car's driver, were also injured when a suicide bomber blew himself near the vehicle. "Strongly condemn suicide attack on Chinese nationals' vehicle in Gwadar," Balochistan government spokesperson Liaquat Shahwani tweeted. He said two children playing nearby had died in the explosion, while one Chinese national sustained minor injuries. The Gwadar police control room earlier said three children had been injured in the incident. The injured were shifted to GDA Hospital in Gwadar. The blast took place shortly after 7pm in Baloch Ward near Gwadar's Eastbay Expressway.

### Iran condemns attack on mourners

DNA

TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Saeed Khatibzadeh has strongly condemned the brutal terrorist attack on the group mourners for Imam Hossein (PBUH) in Punjab province, Pakistan and expressed his condolences to the bereaved families of the victims of this terrorist act. Emphasizing the need to combat all forms of inhumane and terrorist acts, he called for the cooperation of all regional countries to continue fighting the perpetrators, organizers, supporters and sponsors of such measures.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio cutting the cake to celebrate the 76th Independence Day of Indonesia. Due to Covid restrictions, the Embassy arranged an in-house small get-together participated by the Embassy staff only. The Indonesian embassy however issued special supplements in newspapers to highlight the importance of the Day. - DNA

## Afghan leaders for all inclusive political govt in Afghanistan

DNA/NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Afghan political leaders visiting Pakistan called for an all inclusive political solution in Afghanistan through power sharing and decentralized government, believing that any monopolistic set up was bound to fail. The visiting delegation comprised Speaker Wolesi Jirga Mir Rehman Rehmani, Salahud din Rabbani, former Afghan vice president Mohammad Yunus Qanooni, Ustad Mohammad Karim Khalili, Ahmad Zia Massoud, Ahmad Wali Massoud, Abdul Latif Pedram, and Khalid Noor.

### PIA airlifts more foreigners from Kabul

ZUBAIR AHMED

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has airlifted more passengers including foreign nationals from Kabul via special flights. A special flight of PIA, PK-6250, brought 90 passengers to Islamabad from the Afghan capital Kabul. The national carrier operated A-320 and Boeing 777 aircraft in Afghanistan capital to bring stranded nationals and foreigners. The national flag carrier operated two special flights from Islamabad to Kabul on Friday and airlifted stranded Pakistanis and foreigners in Afghanistan. PIA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Arshad Malik also departed for Kabul via a special flight where he was welcomed by the director of Afghanistan civil aviation authority and Pakistani ambassador. Arshad Malik also held important meetings at Kabul airport.

The delegation visited Pakistan at the invitation of the Government of Pakistan and met top civil and military leadership including Prime Minister Imran Khan, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, and DG ISI Lt. General Faiz Hameed. Addressing a press conference here, Younus Qanooni along with other delegation members, spoke high of the government of Pakistan's positive approach towards Afghanistan and desire for a comprehensive political settlement in the country.

Continued on Page 07

**MR PRIME MINISTER**  
THE PROPOSED LAW BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION HAS BEEN REJECTED BY ALL MEDIA STAKEHOLDERS.

**NO**

PMDA is the most harsh attempt to muzzle the media/Press. Pakistan ranks as low as 145 on the World Press Freedom Index according to the report issued by *Reporters Without Borders*. This law will acutely damage Pakistan's image in the eyes of the international community.

- The draft PMDA law seeks to wipeout all critical voices from the media through a system of coercive censorship.
- In the manifesto of PTI you have committed yourself and your Govt to freedom of expression and a free media. A back tracking on this promise would damage Pakistan's claim of being a free democracy.
- Mr Prime Minister under no circumstances should you be misled by the Ministry of Information. Please do not implement this black law.
- Damaging the constitutional basis of democracy will irrevocably damage a free Pakistan.

• ALL PAKISTAN NEWSPAPERS SOCIETY • PAKISTAN BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION • COUNCIL OF PAKISTAN NEWSPAPER EDITORS. • PAKISTAN FEDERAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS • ASSOCIATION OF ELECTRONIC MEDIA EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS.

## Inside...

Faisalabad peacefully observed Ashura with religious solemnity - Page 02

Azerbaijani culture center to be opened at NUML - Page 03

PM inaugurates expansion of Ehsaas truck kitchens - Page 04

What will the Taliban victory mean for Mid East? - Page 05

IS poses steady threat globally: UN counter-terrorism chief - Page 06

Uzbekistan role in regional connectivity highlighted: Furqat - Page 07

Italian envoy sees huge trade opportunities with Pakistan - Page 08



## Briefs

## Govt decides door-to-door vaccination drive

PESHAWAR: The provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Friday decided to conduct a door-to-door coronavirus vaccination campaign in Peshawar division. The decision was taken in a meeting held here with Commissioner Peshawar Division, Riaz Khan Mehsud in the chair. Beside, Secretary Health, Director General (DG) Health, Deputy Commissioners (DCs) of Peshawar, Nowshera, Charsadda, Mohmand and Khyber, District Health Officers (DHOs) and other concerned officers attended the meeting at large. The meeting reviewed the pace of the ongoing Corona vaccination in all five districts of the division and briefed the meeting about campaign in their respective districts. The meeting decided that a door to door vaccination on the pattern of polio campaign will begin in Peshawar division from Friday. For this purpose, the Commissioner Peshawar directed the provision of vehicles and required staff on emergency basis. Under the campaign a specified vaccination target has been fixed for each district of the division and the weekly offs of Public Health and other concerned departments have been cancelled for the purpose. — APP

## Protection of consumers rights top priority

## BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Chairman Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) Board of Directors (BODs) Syed Husnain Haider said that protection of the rights of consumers as well as staff is top priority of the board, in this connection all FESCO staff has to play its pivotal role, he was addressing the officers of who rejoin FESCO from different Distribution Companies (DISCOs). Board members including barrister Dr Irfan Ahmed Chattrah, Rana Atif, Col (R) Syed Saleem Ahmed, Ali Zain and Chief Executive Officer FESCO Engr. Bashir Ahmed were also present at this occasion. He stressed upon the FESCO officers and officials that provision of uninterrupted power supply and excellent services to the consumers should be their priority. He said that every employee should adopt the self accountability because only corruption free institutions made progress and development. He said that BOD would provide every possible support for provision of best services to consumers and progress of the company. He said that officers who rejoin the FESCO are well aware about its dimensions and fully experts in their fields and their arrival would surely change the company culture.

## PRC provides first aid to more than 400 mourners

KARACHI: Pakistan Red Crescent (PRC) Sindh Branch organized three first aid camps during two days of Youm-e-Ashoor in Karachi. It was revealed in the statement issued here on Friday. The PRC-Sindh medical teams consisted of paramedical staff and trained volunteers for providing first aid to mourners in case of any untoward incident from 9th to 10th of Muharram. PRC-Sindh Ambulances were also deployed in this regard. In a statement, Provincial Secretary PRC-Sindh Kanwar Waseem said like every year, two-day first aid camps were established at three different places of procession including the Numaiish Chowrang. He said medical team remained present in the camp to provide treatment to mourners of procession from morning to till night, while 40 trained & experienced emergency response volunteers, paramedics and First Aiders of PRC headed by Emergency Response Officer (ERO) Zain-ul-Arfeen have also been put on high alert on the spot to deal with any untoward emergency situation. — APP

## Faisalabad peacefully observes Ashura with religious solemnity

DC said that Muharram arrangements had been made successful by following the coordinated strategy in order to ensuring peace and tranquility on Asura Muharram

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Ashura Muharram was observed peacefully with religious solemnity and reverence throughout the Faisalabad district. On this occasion, tight security arrangements were made along the routes of processions to avert any untoward incident. On the directions of Punjab Govt., Divisional Commissioner Saqib Manan, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali and Acting RPO/CPO Sohail Ch. were remained active whole the day and visited chowk clock tower, Central Anambargah Diglouspura, Sitiana road, Peoples Colony, Allama Iqbal Colony and other localities to check the security arrangement on the Ashura Muharram processions routes and they also supervised administrative and security arrangements at Chowk Clock Tower by staying there on sensitive time of main Processions and majlis. SSP Operations Muhammad Afzal, Assistant Commissioners Umar Maqbool, Syed Ayub Bukhari, Senior Officers of Pak Army and Rangers, Members of District Peace Committee and other Ulama Karam were also along with them. Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and Acting RPO/CPO also kept close liaison with Control Rooms. They visited the main control room at DC office and carried out monitoring of the security affairs on the routes with the help of CCTV Cameras. They visited the medical camps set up at Clock Tower and directed the health department and Rescue 1122 to provide best medi-



cal treatment to the mourners. Talking to the mediemen, Divisional Commissioner Saqib Manan said that Ashura processions and majlis in the division were held in peaceful environment while ideal atmosphere of sectarian harmony was witnessed among all schools of thoughts in this connection. He said strict security arrangements were made by districts and police administration to avoid any incident. He told heavy contingents of police and other forces were deployed at all the entry and exit points in sensitive areas to ensure security of the people. Divisional Commissioner appreciated the remarkable role of ulama karam, traders, me-

diamen and civil society for their exemplary cooperation to maintain peace during Ashura. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali said that Muharram arrangements had been made successful by following the coordinated strategy in order to ensuring peace and tranquility on Asura Muharram. He lauded the sincere efforts of religious personalities of all sects, business community, media, organizers of processions and majalis, police, civil defence and other security agencies for playing their vital role for maintaining peace and religious harmony. He thanked ulama and members of peace committee for extending all out cooperation

to resolve some religious issues amicably. Acting RPO/CPO said that police had made foolproof security arrangements by deputing policemen, teams of elite force and quick response force also patrolled around the processions and majalis. He said that the stringent security arrangements were made including setting up security check points at short distances and everybody had to cross four layers of security for reaching the venues of processions. Meanwhile, the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and Acting RPO/CPO monitored the procession from roof of Municipal Library Dhobi Ghat and kept a close eye on security arrangements. Later Divisional Commissioner Saqib Manan paid visits to other districts Jhang, Toba Tek Singh and Chinot and monitored the arrangements. He also met with members of Peace Committees and Ulama from all sects. Commissioner appreciated the vibrant role of ulama karam and said that ulama of all sects had played their key role for promoting the sentiments of tolerance, religious harmony, unity, brotherhood and fraternity during Muharramul Harram. Members of peace committee appreciated the foolproof security arrangements made by district administration and police in connection with the Muharramul Harram and expressed their satisfaction for maintaining durable peace and religious harmony. Assistant Commissioners of Tehsils also remained present in field to look after the arrangements on Ashura day.



ISLAMABAD: Norwegian ambassador to Pakistan Kjellb Gunnar Eriksen calls on Foreign Secretary Suhail Mehmood. — DNA

## PTI govt draws applause for launching Sehat Insaf Card

PESHAWAR: Public were praising Pakistan Tehreek Insaf government for launching Sehat Insaf Card Scheme saying it was historic and milestone achievement to facilitate ailing community who was unable to bear the expenses of modern day healthcare facilities. Lauding the government for the healthcare provision scheme, beneficiaries said that the PTI government has won the hearts of thousands of deserving people by launching the welfare oriented initiative. It was impossible for me to bear the treatment expenses of my father, Muhammad Shams who was suffering from cancer and needed immediate medical attention, said Muhammad Daud while talking to APP. Muhammad Daud who belonged to Adeena, Mardan District told that Sehat Insaf Card was a new hope to my father who was once dejected due to exorbitant prices of medicines and diagnostic being used for treatment of cancer. Muhammad Daud who runs tailoring shop of his father in Adeena told that meager income was further dwindling due to corona pandemic that put my entire family on a brink of financial quagmire. He told that the continuous

decreasing income and uncertainty due to corona further added to my miseries. Prior to pandemic, I was earning Rs 1500 per day but in existing situation that WAS growing grim with each passing day due to corona my daily income has reduced to merely Rs. 600 per day, he told and added that I am unable to meet by both ends. Moreover, the current condition of my father that demands interminable resources had made me speechless and turned my nights into a nightmare. Sehat Insaf Card was a blessing in disguise for me and many more others who were beyond resources to treat illness of their dear ones. Muhammad Daud told APP. The initial treatment of my father was going to start after completion of diagnostic and radiology tests under Sehat Insaf Card. My father was also hoping for best treatment and medicines like many more who belonged to lower strata of society and unable to bear expenditures of medical care. Siar Khan, another beneficiary of Sehat Insaf Card whose femur bone was broken in a motorcycle accident, told APP that he was dumbfounded when doctors inform my family about the treatment expenses. Siar

who lives in Warsak area and do laundry in a hotel said that the estimate of my treatment was beyond my financial resources. All the financial problems and hurdles in my treatment were solved by Sehat Insaf Card that has proved to be revolutionary step of PTI government aiming transforming health sector for benefit of underprivileged and poor, he told. "We praise the efforts of PTI government to help out people and provide them modern healthcare facilities of free treatment in best hospitals of the country, he said. It is worth mentioning here that Sehat Insaf Card program was launched by PTI government to provide free medical treatment to people and improve patient care at government hospitals. An agreement was also signed between the KP government and State Life Insurance Corporation (SLIC) for distribution of Sehat Insaf Card under which an annual health insurance cover of Rs1 million each would be provided to around six million families of the province, enabling the whole 40 million population to avail free medical treatment at over 250 public and private hospitals across the country. — APP

## FCCI welcomes mango export to Russia

## BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD. Engineer Hafiz Intasham President FCCI has welcomed the first export consignment of mango to Russia via land route and said that it will not only encourage export of non-traditional items to the non-traditional markets but also help Pakistan to achieve the projected export target of 50 billion dollars within the next couple of years. He was sanguine of the proactive economic policies of the current government and said that it was making serious efforts to diversify the exports.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of UAE Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Al-Zaabi calls on federal minister Malik Amin Aslam. — DNA

## UBG establishes 5 facilitation centres

## DNA

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry's United Business Group (UBG) has established 5 high profile facilitation centres one each at Peshawar, Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi and Quetta for Afghan importers and exporters for smooth flow of trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Chairman UBG Iftikhar Ali Malik talking to Afghan traders delegation led by Muslim Khan here on Friday said that volume of bilateral trade traffic on both sides will be coming massively in the coming days contrary to fears of reduction in Pak Afghan trade and transit trade due to the changing situation in Afghanistan. He said in a couple of days trade between either countries has almost doubled since the Taliban seized control. He said that it's good open that new Afghan government in one go reduced customs duties on 159 items in Afghanistan which included construction, steel, cement, glass, plastic, foams, petroleum products and foods. He said that the reduction in customs duty will also benefit traders adding that all these announcements are specific to the law and order situation in Afghanistan. Iftikhar Ali Malik said if

situation improved in coming days, the confidence of local and foreign investors and traders including general Afghan people will be restored. He said business friendly conducive environments will create job opportunities besides help strengthening the fractured economy of decades long war torn state. He lamented that earlier the number of imports in 24 hours did not consist of more than 60 to 70 vehicles as the former Afghan government did not want better trade relations between the two countries best reasons known to them; however 1223 cargo trucks were cleared in 24 hours of the Taliban taking over charge of what is the largest border crossing between two countries. He said it's another feather in the cap of new Taliban government is that it will continue trading with neighbouring countries and steps will be taken to promote trade. Muslim Khan said after Taliban government, no Afghan police and transport ministry officials demanded from driver 10000 to 25000 Afghani to let their trucks return Pakistan. He hoped that Pakistan Customs pending unresolved issues with Afghan customs will also be worked out on priority mainly aimed at accelerating uninterrupted flow of trade between the two sides.

## MAP elects Executive Committee members

## DNA

KARACHI: Management Association of Pakistan (MAP) elected new Office Bearers in its 576th Executive Committee (EC) meeting held on 13th August 2021 in Karachi. The new Office Bearers are: Mr. Talib S. Karim-President, Mr. Humayun Akhlaq-Vice President, Mr. Abid Akber Vazir-Honorary Secretary and Mr. Farrukh V. Junaidy-Honorary Treasurer. Earlier, during the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 30th July 2021, results for the ten positions of the MAP's Executive Committee were announced. Following Executive Committee members were declared elected unopposed for the period 2021-2024: Mr. Abid Akber Vazir, Executive Director Cherat Cement, Mr. Amir J. Abbasi, Sr. Partner KPMG, Mr. Farrukh V. Junaidy, Sr. Partner Junaidy Shoaib Asad Chartered Accountants, Mr. Hassan Khan, MD / CE Jubilee General Insurance, Mr. Humayun Akhlaq, CEO / Country Head Schneider Electric Pakistan, Mr. Khalid Zaman Khan, SEVP Group Head HR, Learning & Development, Meezan Bank, Ms. Saadia Naveed, Dy Managing Director, EBM, Mr. Sultan Rehman, Coordinator FPCCI, Mr. Talib S. Karim, President IoBM, Mr. Zubair Haider, CEO Luminar Consulting Services Pvt Ltd. Mr. Salah Uddin continues to be the Executive Director.

## World should accept change in Afghanistan

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said the world should accept change in Afghanistan and cooperate with the new government. All the countries should establish diplomatic and trade relations with Afghanistan for a better tomorrow, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that neglecting Afghanistan would be a mistake as it will destabilize the region and its effects would be felt across the world. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the central bank of Afghanistan has kept gold foreign currency and relics worth almost ten billion dollars in western banks for security purposes that cannot be retrieved due to the decision to freeze Afghan assets. The international financial institutions have also stopped their due payments which will not be beneficial for the world. He said that strict actions against the new regime will result in economic troubles, frustration, difficulties in payment of salaries and bills and degradation of infrastructure.

## ICU produces best talent: VC

PESHAWAR: The Vice Chancellor (VC) of Islamia College University (ICU), Prof. Dr. Gul Majeed Khan Friday said that the university has rendered excellent services and produced renowned players in the field of sports who were bringing laurels for the country. He expressed these views during a visit to the ICU Sports Directorate here. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem, In-charge MN Dar, President of Islamia Cricket Club Engineer Aurangzeb Khalil and Director Sports Islamia College University Ali Hoti were also present on the occasion. Dr. Gul Majeed Khan said that ICU has rendered excellent service not only in the field of education but also in the field of sports and has produced eminent players of which a great example was that ICU students Rizwan, Shahenshah Afridi and Usman Shinwari were playing for the Pakistan cricket team. Islamia College has also produced scores of Hockey Olympians, international athletes, footballers, squash players and international players of other games as well. — APP

## Indonesian 76th Independence Day ceremony held

## DNA

KARACHI: The Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia hosted a flag hoisting ceremony in commemoration of the 76th Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia. The ceremony was held with limited participants which adhere to strict health protocols regarding COVID-19. With all the challenges and limitations posed by the pandemic, the spirit of Independence stays on with the people of Indonesia around the world in these tough times. The ceremony was led by Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia Dr. June Kuncoro Hadiningrat as the Inspector, and supported by flag hoists from the Indonesian students in Karachi. The program



was attended by all members of the Indonesian Consulate, as well as representatives of Indonesian diaspora in the Sindh Province. The Consulate also provided live

streaming for public who wished to participate virtually. In addition of ceremony, the Independence Day Celebration of the Republic of Indonesia also hosted

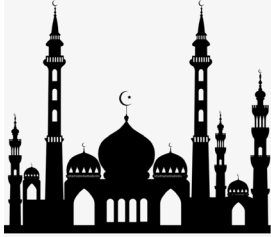
several other programs, namely games and competitions participated by the Indonesian public, as well as closing ceremony "Panggung Gembira" held virtually on 17

August 2021 at 6pm.

The Independence Day of Indonesia, formally known as Hari Ulang Tahun Kemerdekaan Republik Indonesia shortened or simply Hari Kemerdekaan, and colloquially referred by the people as Tjuhbelasan, meaning "the Seventeenth" is a national holiday in Indonesia commemorating the anniversary of Indonesia's Proclamation of Independence on the 17 of August 1945. It was made a national holiday by government decree in 1946. Ceremonies and festivities are held throughout the country to celebrate this national day, including the flag hoisting ceremony conducted nation-wide and at Indonesian diplomatic installations abroad, local community competitions, with patriotic and cultural parades.



## SERVICES



## Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	04:04 am
Zohr.....	12:11 pm
Asr.....	04:54 pm
Maghrib.....	06:49 pm
Isha.....	08:18 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
Rawal Town.....	5773343

## Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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## Azerbaijani culture center to be opened at NUML

Azerbaijani Language and Culture Center is scheduled to be inaugurated in Sept. 2021

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Anar Rahimov, assistant to Rector of Azerbaijan University of Languages met with Major General (Retd) Muhammad Jaffar, Rector of the University of Modern Languages of Pakistan.

Anar Rahimov thanked the rector for the warm reception. Talking about the high-level relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, he specially stressed the political and moral support provided to Azerbaijan by brotherly Pakistan during the Patriotic War. Mr. Rahimov informed the rector about the newly inaugurated Pakistan Cultural Center at the Azerbaijan University of Languages and noted that with the initiative of Rector Kamal Ab-



dulla, they intend to open the Azerbaijani Language and Culture Center at NUML, as well as to teach Azerbaijani Multiculturalism subject in brotherly Pakistan from next term. Anar Rahimov stressed that the implementation of such projects will fur-

ther deepen relations between the two countries, strengthen people to people contacts, as well as contribute to the development of scientific and educational ties between Azerbaijan and Pakistan. Major General (Retd) Muhammad Jaffar, Rector of

the University of Modern Languages of Pakistan spoke about the existing fraternal relations between Azerbaijan and Pakistan, told that the two countries have always supported each other and congratulated the Government and people of Azerbaijan on victory in



the Patriotic War which resulted with the liberation of Azerbaijani territories from Armenian occupation. He welcomed the intention of opening of the Azerbaijani Language and Culture Center and teaching of Azerbaijani Multiculturalism subject at NUML

from the next term, and expressed his confidence that the university administration would provide all necessary assistance for the inauguration of the center. The Azerbaijani Language and Culture Center is scheduled to be inaugurated in September 2021.

## By October, free meal to be delivered in 29 cities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Friday said expansion of 'Ehsaas Koi Bhooka Na Soy' (EKBS) programme would ensure deployment of at least 40 food trucks in 29 cities of all the four provinces by October this year.

In a series of tweets, he said Prime Minister Imran Khan had expanded scope of the programme to another three cities including Gujranwala, Lahore and Multan.

He said with addition of four more food trucks in the EKBS fleet, the number of facilities had reached to 16, delivering free and nutritious food to poor and needy in different cities.

The minister said the countrywide expansion of EKBS would benefit 40,000 people daily, and to some 1.46 million annually. Farukh said the initiative would not only provide free and hygienic food to daily wage earners, but also help them send more money to their loved ones through savings.

## Police arrest 3-member dacoit gang

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district police has busted an inter-district dacoit gang and arrested its three members besides recovering Rs 700,000 cash, one vehicle and other items.

According to a police spokesman, the Wah Cantt Police team under the supervision of SDPO Taxila and SHO Wah made hectic efforts and managed to net Farooq, Danish and Fakhar Alam allegedly involved in a number of dacoities. During the investigation, they confessed to have committed a dacoity in the house of Naiz Ahmed on May 5, 2021, in the Wah area besides other crimes in different areas of Rawalpindi. - APP



ISLAMABAD: The ambassador of Kazakhstan Mr. Yezhan Kistafin called on the chairman CDA. The two sides exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. It was decided that the two brotherly countries should benefit from each others experiences and explore opportunities of cooperation. - DNA

## AIOU M.Phil, Ph.D admissions to close on 23rd August

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The deadline for the submission of application form for admission in PhD, MPhil, MBA/MPA and BS programs offered in autumn 2020 semester is August 23. While admissions in matriculation, intermediate and I.Com programs will remain open till September 06, 2021. Admissions for the programs offered in the second phase of autumn 2021 semester will commence from September 1, 2021 which include teachers training programs, BA (Associate Degree) and BS (ODL) programs. Prospectuses and admission application forms are available online on the university website (www.aiou.edu.pk). Interested candidates are required to consult prospectus for further information. It is pertinent to mention here that university has introduced online admission system for continuing students of matriculation, intermediate and I.Com programs for getting admission in the upcoming semester. The university will share username and password details through SMS and Pakistan postal services. The students are required to contact admission focal person in their respective regional office in case of any difficulty. Moreover, AIOU has achieved another milestone by extending its educational network to international students.

## SC takes notice of 'harassment' of journalist

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Taking notice of alleged harassment of journalists, Justice Qazi Faez Isa of the Supreme Court of Pakistan on Friday summoned senior government officials on the next hearing along with reports on the matter.

A two-member bench of the court, comprising Justice Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, issued notices to FIA DG, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, secretary interior, secretary information and secretary Ministry of Human Rights.

Press Association of Supreme Court had filed a petition in the apex court. Similarly, the judge also issued notices to the bodies of journalists namely CPNE, APNS, PBA and PFUJ.

## ICCI for tapping investment potential in CPEC



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that the CPEC project is very important for Pakistan and the government should provide maximum facilitation to the local and foreign investors for tapping the investment potential in CPEC that would help

in uplifting the economy. He said that the government has to establish 9 Special Economic Zones in the first phase under CPEC and urged that they should be established well in time so that the economy could get benefits from them for growth. He said that the government should ensure 50 percent share in investment and JVs of CPEC projects for local investors and 90

percent employment for local human resources besides transfer of technology that would be very beneficial for our economy. He was speaking as Chief Guest at the concluding session of Summer School organized by Bahria University in collaboration with Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands. The Summer School concluded with a Master Class

on the topic of CPEC and its importance for Pakistan. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President ICCI chaired the concluding session and highlighted the venues to be tapped by Pakistan in short and long term in order to improve its economy. Other dignitaries in the session included Mian Abdul Rauf former Advocate General Islamabad, Vice Admiral Asaf Humayun (TI), Barrister Waqas Azam Legal Advisory CPEC and Dr Sanders Schrovers from Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan appreciated the efforts of Bahria University for organizing a summer school for its students and assured that ICCI is ready to offer any help in organizing such events in future.

## Pasha Union will win CDA Referendum: Pasha

ISLAMABAD: Pasha Union senior leader Izat Kamal Pasha has said that his union will win the impending referendum with tangible margin for its countless services for the employees of Capital Development Authority (CDA). While talking to media here on Friday, Pasha said that a meeting is scheduled to be held on August 23, 2021 at the National Industrial Relations Commission (NIRC) Head Office in connection with discussing the impending referendum in the CDA. The referendum will be conducted by the NIRC and its official result would be announced after sometime of the polling. He said that after becoming notified Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) in the Authority, his union would first oppose the defective policies of the previous unions, particularly, the mazdoor union. He said the mazdoor union damaged the interests of workers tangibly as it allowed the helm of affairs to divide the Authority, adding that his union will not allow anyone to dint interests of the employees anymore. He said that opposition parties have always chosen the politics of confrontation that may open the door to unrest and political instability in the CDA and put at risk the interests of the employees. The pivot of his politics is to serve the poor employees of the Authority, he said. Pasha was of the view that the CDA employees will prove that they have complete confidence in him as his union is rendering services to the Authority since last 40 years. His union got built environment site offices for the employees. His father got inducted a number of people in the CDA and those still pray for the departed soul, he said. "I'm a graduate in Business and Finance Studies and had worked in the United Kingdom after my studies. - DNA

## Campaign to sell flour Rs.20 per kg launched

Syed Ahmed Ali said that free distribution of flour was not being done because many people did not accept charity. "The campaign is being run purely to help white-clad families", he added

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In view of rising inflation and poverty in Pakistan, an international organization of overseas Pakistanis has launched a campaign to sell flour at Rs.20 per kg. Initially the campaign is being launched in Karachi and Islamabad. Speaking to reporters here at National Press Club, the founder and Chairman of "I am Pakistan Worldwide Movement", Syed Ahmed Ali said that inflation is skyrocketing in Pakistan while rising price of flour

has deprived the common man of the right to have two meals a day - that is the reason IMPakistan Movement has decided to sell flour in Pakistan at only Rs.20 per kilogram. Syed Ahmed Ali said that free distribution of flour was not being done because many people did not accept charity. "The campaign is being run purely to help white-clad families", he added.

According to the Chairman of the Overseas Pakistanis' Organization, initially 100,000 kg of flour will be sold daily in Islamabad and Karachi.

AUGUST 2021

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ISSUE 304

August 2021

Surprised by diverse history of Pakistan Page 12

Finale of Sarangi competition at Serena Hotel Page 40

CEO Monal hosts dinner for Nyrgez envoy Page 11

RS 500



## Briefs

## Rescue-1122 provides first aid to 2204 mourners on Ashura

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Emergency Service (PES), Rescue-1122 remained on high alert in Rawalpindi during Ashura and provided first aid to 2204 mourners while 30 critically injured were shifted to hospitals.

According to a Rescue-1122 spokesman, the rescuers also provided medical first aid to all the injured mourners during their shifting to the hospitals. He said that the holidays of the rescuers were canceled under special plan formulated to deploy maximum rescuers at rescue stations, key locations and rescue posts on Ashura.

Special teams were deployed at Imambargahs Colonel Maqbool, Raja Bazaar, Ashiq Hussain, Hifazat Ali Shah, Yadgar Hussain, Qadeemi, Hussaini Iranians, Qasre Sajjad, Qasre Abbas, Qasre Hussain, Darbar-e-Hussaini, Qadeemi Kahuta and Central Imambargah Gujjar Khan to provide timely medical aid to the injured mourners of the processions.

In addition to providing medical assistance to Ashura processions, Rescue-1122 also responded to 88 emergencies including 18 road traffic accidents, 29 medical emergencies, three fire incidents and 26 miscellaneous emergencies on 10th Muharram. Regional Emergency Officer, Rescue-1122, Rawalpindi Dr Abdul Rehman reviewed the performance of Rescue 1122 Rawalpindi during 10th Muharram. — APP

## Govt starts vaccination drive for students

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for National Health Services Dr Nausheen Hamid Friday said that government has started a special vaccination drive for students going abroad where all due documents should be made available during their visits to vaccination centres. Certificate for vaccination would be issued from the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) website or Nadra office as per standard procedure, she said while talking to a private news channel.

"Students who are intending to travel abroad asked to get Pfizer and Moderna vaccine", she added. Replying to a question about booster shots of vaccine, she said World Health Organization (WHO) has not yet approved the booster shots of vaccine and there was dire need to give full coverage to most vulnerable people in the country.

Nausheen said government was only focused to vaccinate its majority of population and get its given vaccination targets on time, adding, mass vaccination and strict implementation of SOPs are the only way to fight COVID-19.

## Sell flour Rs.20 campaign launched

DNA

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Speaking to reporters here at National Press Club, the founder and Chairman of "I am Pakistan Worldwide Movement", Syed Ahmed Ali said that inflation is skyrocketing in Pakistan while rising price of flour has deprived the common man of the right to have two meals a day — that is the reason IMPakistan Movement has decided to sell flour in Pakistan at only Rs.20 per kilogram. Syed Ahmed Ali said that free distribution of flour was not being done because many people did not accept charity. "The campaign is being run purely to help white-clad families", he added.

According to the Chairman of the Overseas Pakistanis' Organization, initially 100,000 kg of flour will be sold daily in Islamabad and Karachi.



ISLAMABAD: ICICI President Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan is cutting the birthday cake of former executive member Zia Chaudhry. Abdul Rehman Khan, Khalid Chaudhry, Ashfaq Chatha, Nisar Mirza, Saeed Bhatti, Fahim Khan, Raja Abdul Majeed and Zarif Khan are also present on the occasion. — DNA

## PM inaugurates expansion of Ehsaas truck kitchens

The Ehsaas has been running 12 trucks in 5 cities including Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Lahore, Faisalabad and Peshawar and the program is being expanded to seven cities including Gujranwala, Lahore and Multan

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday inaugurating the expansion of 'Ehsaas Koi Bhooka Na Soye' initiative to Gujranwala, Lahore and Multan, directed the authorities concerned not to compromise on quality of food served to the needy people.

The prime minister inaugurated four food trucks that will serve free cooked meal to daily-wage earners across the cities. With addition of four trucks under the expansion plan, the total number of such vehicles will be increased to 16.

The Ehsaas has been running 12 trucks in 5 cities including Rawalpindi, Islamabad,

Lahore, Faisalabad and Peshawar and the program is being expanded to seven cities including Gujranwala, Lahore and Multan. Each truck feeds 1000-1500 people daily on specified service points, twice a day and seven days a week.

Special Assistant to PM on Social Welfare Senator Dr. Sania Nishtar and Managing Director Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal Malik Zaheer Abbas Khokhar briefed the prime minister on the expansion plan of the free food service. SAPM Dr Shahbaz Gill and Senator Faisal Javed were also present there.

During the briefing, the prime minister questioned as whether there was any mechanism for quality audit. In response, Sania Nishtar told that they had received some complaints

from Peshawar regarding the quality of food which were addressed later.

To this, the prime minister repeatedly directed for no compromise on quality of food, both at trucks as well as Panagahs, because the poor who felt contented only for getting free food, would never complain about its quality.

While also reiterating his government's commitment to serve the poor without hurting his dignity, the prime minister said such initiatives were the reflection of State of Madinah which had taken the responsibility of their poor people.

The prime minister was told that by October, the "Ehsaas Koi Bhooka Na Soye" operations would be expanded to all four provinces, Azad

Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan with the overall fleet of 40 food trucks in 29 cities that would feed 40,000 people every day and 1.46 million people annually.

To-date, 831,625 meals have been served across Lahore, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar and Islamabad.

On March 10, 2021, the initiative was officially launched by the prime minister to serve free meals to deserving populations in Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

Under the Ehsaas umbrella, this programme runs through a public private partnership whereby Pakistan Baitul Mal was responsible for the operations of the food trucks and Saylani Welfare International Trust was responsible for provision of meals.



RAWALPINDI: CEO Murree Brewery Isphanyar Bhandara presenting book to an official of the Taxila Museum. — DNA

## Amin Aslam urges nation to plant more trees

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam Friday urged the nation to plant more saplings for a better tomorrow and take care of those plants, which were planted in earlier tree plantation drives.

"We must protect the environment. This country is ours. If we want to protect the country from the adverse impacts of climate changes, we must promote greenery in this green Pakistan campaign", he said this in talks with a private news channel.

"It is not enough to plant saplings only. We must take care of those trees, which were already planted," he said.

Talking about Gujranwala tree plantation drive, he said Gujranwala school students and teachers made a world record by planting 52,040 trees in 40 seconds under PM Khan's Clean Green Ten Billion Tree Tsunami programme, which is landmark achievement. He said enthusiastic students, teachers and civil society members of Gujranwala had voluntary participated in tree plantation drive to set a record of planting trees. — APP

## FM likely to visit four neighbouring countries

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi is likely to visit the neighbouring countries to gain their confidence amid the major developments in Afghanistan. Pakistan has decided to take the neighbouring countries into confidence during an important phase of the transfer of power in Afghanistan.

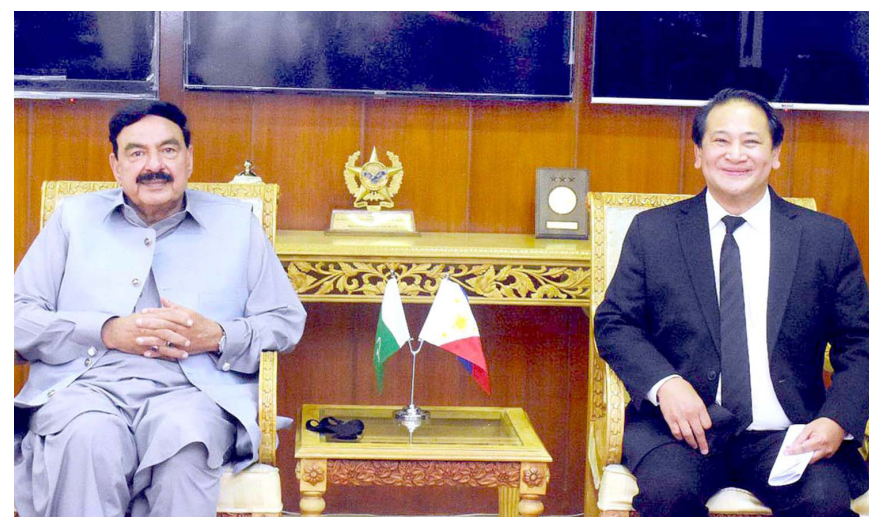
Sources said that FM Qureshi will pay visits to Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Iran from August 25 to 27. The foreign minister will the governments of the neighbouring countries to discuss the Afghan situation and the crucial phase of power

transfer. Sources added that arrangements are being finalised for the upcoming visits of the foreign minister. Earlier in the day, PM Imran Khan has expressed strong support and solidarity for the fraternal people of Afghanistan, linked to the people of Pakistan through immutable bonds of faith, history, geography, culture and kinship. He made the statements while meeting with the delegation of Afghan political leaders in Islamabad. PM Imran Khan has expressed strong support and solidarity for the fraternal people of Afghanistan, linked to the people of Pakistan through immutable bonds of faith, history, geography, culture and kinship.

## Ambassador of Philippines calls on Interior Minister

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Philippines Daniel Ramos Espiritu on Wednesday called on Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed. During meeting, they discussed issues of mutual interest including Pakistan-Philippines bilateral relations. They also discussed the evacuation of more than 100 Philippines citizens stranded in Afghanistan. Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said Pakistan will extend its all possible assistance in bringing Philippines citizens to Pakistan from Afghanistan. He said that Pakistan is fulfilling humanitarian and diplomatic responsibilities in view of the changing situation in Afghanistan. He



said that visa policy has been relaxed for diplomats, journalists, officials of international organizations and their families. Interior Minister said that

on the direction of Prime Minister Imran Khan, they are being provided visa facility on arrival in Pakistan. He said that Pakistan is also allowing special flights and providing security. Earlier, Philippine Ambassador expressed the desire to evacuate Philippines citizens from Afghanistan as soon possible.

## CCoE reviews draft of Oil Refinery Policy 2021

ISLAMABAD: The Cabinet Committee on Energy (CCoE) Friday reviewed the draft Pakistan Oil Refinery Policy 2021 and directed the Petroleum Division to consider recommendations of the committee in the draft and submit it in next meeting for approval. The meeting of the committee was held here under the chairmanship of Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar. Petroleum Division submitted that the purpose of the policy was to attract investment in new deep conversion refineries as well as for up-gradation of existing refineries. Members of the committee made a number of suggestions on the draft policy. It was decided that Petroleum Division would deliberate on the suggestions and re-submit the draft policy for consideration of CCoE in its next meeting. Petroleum Division presented an update to CCoE on Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline Project. The update included details of head of shareholders agreement terms, funding arrangements, completion of technical studies and regulatory approvals. — APP



RAWALPINDI: Pakistan day celebration in Punjab College for Women Rawalpindi, Principal Ms Hira Chohan and Provincial Minister of Jail Department Mr Fayyaz-Ul-Hassan Chohan. — DNA

## AIU M.Phil, Ph.D admissions to close on 23rd

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The deadline for the submission of application form for admission in PhD, MPhil, MBA/MPA and BS programs offered in autumn 2020 semester is August 23. While admissions in matriculation, intermediate and I.Com programs will remain open till September 06, 2021. Admissions for the programs offered in the second phase of autumn 2021 semester will commence from September 1, 2021 which include teachers training programs, BA (Associate Degree) and BS (ODL) programs. Prospectuses and admission application forms are available online on the university website (www.aiou.edu.pk). Interested candidates are required to consult prospectus for further information. It is pertinent to mention here that university has introduced online admission system for continuing students of matriculation, intermediate and I.Com programs for getting admission in the upcoming semester. The university will share username and password details through SMS and Pakistan postal services. The students are required to contact admission focal person in their respective regional office in case of any difficulty.

Moreover, AIU has achieved another milestone by extending its educational network to international students. Previously, admission facilities were offered to the students settled in Middle East only but now anyone across the globe can enhance their educational qualification by getting themselves enrolled in any of the programs offered by the university. This, indeed, is a clear reflection of visionary leadership of Prof Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum, Vice Chancellor, AIU to consider overseas Pakistanis as an important segment of our society which has enabled them not only to enhance their skills and expertise but also generate foreign revenue for the country.

## Gill pays tribute to Minhas' sacrifice

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Communication Dr Shahbaz Gill on Friday said Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed's deeds of unshakable courage and chivalry are a reflection of the immense professionalism of PAF personnel. The Prime Minister's aide took to Twitter to pay tribute to first Nishan-e-Haider Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed for rendering supreme sacrifice while safeguarding the air borders of the country. Gill said it was the 50th martyrdom anniversary of Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed. He wrote that by sacrificing his life, Minhas Shaheed not only protected the homeland but also thwarted the nefarious intentions of the enemy. Dr Gill concluded, "Thanks to Allah Almighty that the country's airspace is in safe hands." — APP

## Output of injections increase 20.12%

ISLAMABAD: The production of injections in the country has witnessed 20.12 percent increase during the fiscal year 2020-21 against the output of the same period of last fiscal year. As many as 1533,866 injections were manufactured during July-June (2020-21) as compared to the production of 1276,969 injection manufactured during July-June (2019-20), showing growth of 20.12 percent, according to official data revealed by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). During the period under review, the production of capsules also increased by 22.29 percent as it surged from 3815,341 units last year to 4665,966 units during FY 2020-21. The production of liquids / syrups during the period under review rose by 28.40 percent by going up from the output of 93,743 liters last year to 120,369 liters during the period under review. — APP



## Cyber security

**P**AKISTAN is looking for multibillion dollar funding from the World Bank after the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) main data centre was subjected to a cyberattack. While the attempt was not successful this time, the incident only highlights the frequency with which our agencies are targeted. Clearly, there are always those on the hunt for certain gaps within our security system which make us an easy target. The government must rectify the situation and install rigid barriers that promote cyber security.

The FBR's database contains vital information pertaining to transactions worth trillions of rupees, private information about the wealth of citizens and the financial records of businesses. Any successful infiltration, and the subsequent access to information, is a violation of the promise of security and privacy made to all the stakeholders involved. Furthermore, in the wrong hands, this data could be used to manipulate the government or individuals involved. Already, Pakistan has had its fair share of cyberattacks. As recently as August 14, hackers were able to bypass the protection software used by the FBR and took over a fair percentage of the data. It was only after they started to alter the cyber environment that the authorities took notice. This points towards an ineffective surveillance and management system that must work more proactively considering the kind of sensitive information at stake.

Those within these institutions are failing to grasp the urgency of the situation entirely. In July, the Indian government was allegedly able to hack our system and tap the mobile phones of politicians, including PM Imran Khan. For an external country, particularly India, to be able to carry out such cybercrimes is a reflection of our own failings. The government must take action now before we have more grievances to voice. More often than not, human error and lack of knowledge enables countless breaches of data. The solution is to automate the system by improving ICT infrastructure, providing digital education, frequent technological updates to the staff and limiting access to government agency accounts. Rather than engaging in damage control, prevention is the best strategy that the government must focus on.

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## Risk allowance

**T**HE government is taking steps to ensure timely health-risk allowance to clinical and non-clinical employees of the health facilities by law. In a briefing of the National Assembly Standing Committee on National Health Services (NHS), Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Faisal Sultan on Monday assured a parliamentary committee that the health-risk allowance will be paid to 12,000 government employees in Islamabad next week. The ministry of NHS has moved a summary to the Finance Division to pay the health-risk allowance to clinical and non-clinical employees of health facilities. This issue was previously brought up in July when National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser pointed out during a parliament session that healthcare workers had not received their risk allowance since August of last year. This was supposed to have been resolved then—yet the same problems that prevented the grant of health-risk allowance last year also slowed them down this year too.

It has been estimated that around 14,600 healthcare workers have been affected by the coronavirus and more than 143 have lost their lives in the line of duty. As the Delta strain of the virus spreads around the country, this number will only increase unless the government steps up and protects its healthcare workers. If healthcare workers are not safe, none of us in this country are.

It is hoped that this is carried out smoothly and expanded. All healthcare workers, not just those who directly treat coronavirus patients, are at a heightened risk of the virus just by being in proximity of hospitals and clinics. Covid-19 wards were given adequate gear, including PPEs, masks and goggles for the protection of their staff while those working in other departments were often without any protective gear, leaving them more vulnerable to exposure to undiagnosed Covid-19 patients. Such initiatives should be improved and expanded to include as many healthcare workers as possible.

# What will the Taliban victory mean for Mid East?

Joe Macaron

This Taliban's success is seen as a form of vindication by Islamist armed groups in the Arab world and may inspire them to consolidate their power and seek international legitimacy. In Gaza, Hamas is clearly watching the events in Afghanistan closely, which might reinforce its thinking that the takeover of the strip in 2007 was the right move that the international community will ultimately recognise. In fact, Hamas's political bureau chief Ismail Haniya called Taliban leader Abdul Ghani Baradar to congratulate him on August 17. Two days earlier, Hamas leader Moussa Abu Marzouk wrote on Twitter that the Taliban "was not deceived by flashy words such as democracy and elections, nor by false promises"

**O**VER the past few days, many have drawn parallels between images of an Air America helicopter rescuing Vietnamese evacuees from the rooftop of a building in Saigon in 1975 and desperate Afghans climbing over a US Air Force plane taking off from the tarmac of Kabul's airport on August 16. These parallels feed into the growing perception of the United States as a power that engages in reckless invasions only to depart when the human, monetary or political costs become too high for the American public to bear. After investing \$2 trillion over two decades, Washington watched the Afghan national government and army collapse like a house of cards in a matter of days following the withdrawal. Many analysts are now declaring the end of US nation-building efforts after their spectacular failure in Afghanistan. But state-building has long been dead as a Western policy, as it was evident in the cases of Libya and Syria after the Arab uprisings in 2011. The US and NATO had realised this failure early on and stayed longer in Afghanistan not to continue such efforts but to prevent the Taliban and other groups from establishing a haven for terrorists. The Taliban has recently committed not to harbour terrorists that could threaten the US but there are no guarantees the militant group will abide by these promises. The US decision to carelessly abandon Afghanistan to the Taliban will have repercussions beyond South Asia. Political leaders in the neighbouring Middle East are watching carefully what is unfolding in Kabul and are making their conclusions about the nature of US power and its future foreign policy in the region.

In ordering the withdrawal from Afghanistan, US President Joe Biden did not act outside established policy-making in Washington. Since the presidency of Barack Obama, there was a recurring debate between those in the administration who wanted a surge in the number of US troops to "finish the job" and those who were itching to end the war and put an end to human and material losses. President Donald Trump decided to talk to the Taliban. He gave political recognition to the armed group by negotiating with its leadership directly, while completely sidelining the Afghan government. Today, Biden is finishing what Trump started, but the "orderly withdrawal" he promised turned into mayhem that will long tarnish both his legacy and the US image abroad. In the Middle East, US allies have been watching with uneasiness US decision making in Afghanistan. The Kurdish forces in Iraq and Syria as well as the central government in Baghdad most probably have cold feet now. They are undoubtedly questioning the US commitment to supporting them in the future.

Trust in the US administration already began to crumble when Trump ordered the withdrawal of American troops from Syria in December 2018, but then backtracked. Although the cost of US operations in Syria and Iraq is smaller than in Afghanistan and Kurdish forces are better prepared to hold ground against an insurgency, compared with the Afghan security forces, they still feel uncertain about their future and some most probably have contingency plans ready. The events in Afghanistan also add to the apprehension US allies in Lebanon and Iraq have felt for what will

happen to them if Washington and Tehran renewed the Iran nuclear agreement. Such a deal might mean easing US pressure on Iran which would reinforce the already strong influence of Tehran's allies in Iraq and Lebanon. Even though the US support for the Iraqi and Lebanese militaries has been consistent, there will also be fears about this assistance suddenly being suspended or cut for budgeting purposes. The disorderly US withdrawal from Afghanistan is reinforcing the perception among US allies in the region that Washington is not a reliable partner, that it is willing to cut a deal with the "enemy" if it serves its interests, and that US foreign policy continues to be unpredictable. The US negotiations with the Taliban and its return to power raise questions about the future of US relations with both Islamist groups and authoritarian regimes, as the Taliban embodies both.

The armed group has been actively seeking to improve its image at home and abroad, even though it is a tall order. First, it has pledged to relinquish hosting terrorists or non-Afghan armed groups. Second, it has toned down excessive violence when taking over Kabul. Third, it has made it clear it is ready to talk to any foreign power even if it is an enemy. Fourth, the Taliban has made it clear it is open for business seeking to attract foreign investment.

This Taliban's success is seen as a form of vindication by Islamist armed groups in the Arab world and may inspire them to consolidate their power and seek international legitimacy. In Gaza, Hamas is clearly watching the events in Afghanistan closely, which might reinforce its thinking that the takeover of the strip in 2007 was the right move that the international community will ultimately recognise. In fact, Hamas's political bureau chief Ismail Haniya called Taliban leader Abdul Ghani Baradar to congratulate him on August 17. Two days earlier, Hamas leader Moussa Abu Marzouk wrote on Twitter that the Taliban "was not deceived by flashy words such as democracy and elections, nor by false promises". This statement shows that there is a growing debate within Hamas whether it should continue pushing for Palestinian elections to be held after the group emerged more powerful following the latest war with Israel.

In Lebanon, Hezbollah is taking notes and probably considering that if it survives long enough the current Lebanese collapse, it may be able to produce again an internationally recognised government that facilitates its interests.

In Yemen, the Houthis might feel more encouraged to continue their fight to dominate the country. On August 15, Houthi spokesperson Mohammad Abdel Salam posted a tweet, subtly directed at the Yemeni government, in which he said that seeking foreign intervention is "a crime that does not produce a state nor an army, but rather leads to loss, humiliation and shame".

As the Taliban was advancing in Afghanistan, non-armed Islamist groups in the Arab world faced another setback with Tunisian President Kais Saied sacking the government led by the Ennahda party, with the help of the military. Events in Afghanistan might deepen the political divide between moderates and

extremists in these movements on how to approach governance and political compromise.

These Arab autocratic regimes are also drawing some conclusions on the US withdrawal from Afghanistan. Some are likely reading these developments as the US signalling that "you can kill or oppress your people as long as you do not threaten our interests in the process". It is also likely that after the withdrawal from Afghanistan, Washington might once again prioritise terrorism cooperation in dealing with Arab authoritarianism. Biden, who ran on a platform of democracy promotion and human rights, has already skirted these issues in Afghanistan as well as in his approach to events in Egypt and Tunisia. Some local dictators, who in the past may have been isolated, may be hoping for a comeback on the international political scene. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, for example, may be thinking that if the Taliban can get to negotiate directly with the US and derive international legitimacy, why couldn't he?

The US move in Afghanistan will most probably reinvent the long-held battle between and among Islamists and authoritarian regimes in the Middle East.

The US withdrawal from Afghanistan is likely to give more momentum to the geopolitical battles that extend to the Middle East. China, Russia, Turkey and Iran are already working to fill the US vacuum in Afghanistan and have indicated that they will pursue formal relations with the Taliban and are ready to recognise a Taliban government in Kabul.

This will increase their clout in the Middle East as alternative forces to the US. They are all happy to see the US leave, invested in maintaining stability in Afghanistan, wary of intervening militarily, and might find ways to make deals that further weaken US influence.

The Biden administration has failed to plan the transition of the Kabul airport's control from NATO to Turkey, and now Ankara is eyeing to invest in Afghanistan on its own, by moving closer to the Taliban following the footsteps of Russia and China. This might ultimately add more layers of tension to US-Turkish relations and strengthen the alliance between Moscow and Ankara.

Iran, meanwhile, looks forward to not having US forces on its eastern borders but has had a complex relationship with the Taliban. Iranian security forces, already overstretched in the Middle East, will now have to worry about the border with Afghanistan and potentially an influx of refugees.

The US withdrawal from Afghanistan offers opportunities and challenges for these emerging powers. Moscow will now have a new bargaining card that it might play to pressure the US for concessions in Syria and beyond. The Biden administration will need Russian and Chinese support to contain the Taliban when needed through the United Nations Security Council and diplomacy. The US showed vulnerability once again, which will only reinforce the geopolitical competition in both South Asia and the Middle East. The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect Al Jazeera's editorial stance.

— Courtesy Al Jazeera

# China's vision 2035 and Sinocentrism

Huma Arshad



Xi Jinping has made a historic announcement in September 2020 at the UN General Assembly related to China's Commitment to an eco-friendly way of life in "Beautiful China" with peaking emissions in 2030 and steady declines thereafter and carbon neutrality by 2060

**A**FTER successfully defeating COVID-19, the top leadership of China recently revealed the plans and strategies for making China a modern socialist world power in all important fields, like technology, economy, and other fields by 2035. Long-range objectives of vision 2035 were laid down in the 5th plenary session of the 19th Central Committee of CPC. The 19th Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party was elected by the National Congress in 2017 and will remain there till the next National Congress is summoned in 2022. The geopolitical relation of US-China will be the main focus of China's Vision 2035. By 2035 China aimed to double its GDP up to 100 trillion Yuan and double the current per capita GDP of \$10,000 which means 3.5 percent GDP growth annually.

Sinocentrism refers to the ideology that China is the cultural, political, and economic center of the world. China includes Sinocentric 'World Dream' in Vision 2035 that is from China's dream to the world dream. The whole Vision 2035 revolves around this ideology.

Taking major steps in core technologies, by 2035 China will become a global leader

in innovation. China will finish building a modernized economy. The per capita GDP will reach the level of moderately developed countries. Eco-friendly ways of work and life will be advanced to cover all areas of society. Carbon emission will steadily decline after reaching a peak. The implementation of the secure China initiative will be enhanced to taken levels. China aims to encourage a combination of an efficient market and an effective government.

**Why the year 2035?**

The question is why 2035? The reason is it is halfway between the centenary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and 249's 100 anniversary of the founding of new China. The main aim is to achieve socialist modernization and new dimensions of China's relations with the world. China has already started working on aligning its domestic development with its international relations. Examples of this are China's Belt and Road initiative and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and multilateral trading arrangements like Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership or China - Pakistan Economic Corridor shows China's quest towards a new eco-

economic paradigm. China has also initiated many reforms to enable sustainable and inclusive developments. These reforms will be beneficial for Chinese consumers, small and medium-sized businesses, and China's global network of suppliers.

**Commitment to an eco-friendly way of life** According to World Bank data, GDP per capita in China is currently at \$10,200. By 2035, China intends to both modernize and strengthen its military capabilities. The CPC is also committed to majorly strengthening multilateralism and global governance. Xi Jinping has made a historic announcement in September 2020 at the UN General Assembly related to China's Commitment to an eco-friendly way of life in "Beautiful China" with peaking emissions in 2030 and steady declines thereafter and carbon neutrality by 2060. "Understanding what China and the CPC have experienced during the past 100 years is crucial to comprehending both China and the world's future on everything from the world economy to the climate crisis to international relations. Basically achieving socialist modernization by 2035 will be a watershed moment in China's history." (China Focus - John Taylor).



## Briefs

## Pak expects Taliban to fulfill promises

FROM PAGE 01

Despite Pakistan's own economic challenges Pak has hosted over 3 million Afghan refugees for more than 4 decades. Pakistan will continue to play its role for peace and stability in Afghanistan direly needed for entire region and in particular our Afghan brethren, COAS said.

"We expect that Taliban will fulfill promises to global community of women and human rights and Afghan territory won't be used against any other country." Army Chief also reviewed the Flag Presentation Parade as chief guest and awarded Battalion Standard to the 4th Pakistan Battalion which was raised on October 10, 2016.

Addressing the faculty and cadets, COAS Gen Bajwa lauded the PMA's role as the premier training institution of Pakistan Army and commended the faculty and staff for maintaining high standards of training and grooming the young leaders that form back bone of the country's military. Dilating upon the future challenges in the view of changing dynamics of warfare, he advised the cadets to "wholeheartedly focus on training and remain abreast with the latest advancements in technology to prove equal to the task". COAS said Pakistan Army is proud of its young officers who continue to lead their men from the front with courage and devotion to defend the freedom of motherland.

COAS covered present status of Pakistan's in comity of Nations, spoke on struggle and sacrifices with reference to month of independence (August) United front to confront challenges, Pak overcome challenges in all fields since independence, overcame recent challenges of terrorism, COVID & Locust. Armed forces acted as first responders to every challenge. The top military chief spoke in detail about Afghanistan situation, Pakistan's efforts, future course of action and role of spoilers. PMA is one of finest institutions in world entrusted with training of future leadership. The unconquerable resolve of junior leadership of army is what Pak enemies dread the most. "Today's Pakistan is strong and progressing well despite living in turbulent times."

COAS said August is month of freedom and reminds us unprecedented struggle and sacrifices of our forefathers and oath to defend Pakistan's sovereignty. Our vibrant and industrious youth is our pride and asset. Qaid's faith, unity and discipline are guiding principles for youth. Till the time we are united no one can harm us. After independence we not only with stood socio-economic and other challenges, but also defeated terrorism and defended the motherland. Our matchless national harmony discipline and imagination to respond to COVID-19 and locust despite lack of infrastructure and resources is tremendous.

Armed Forces have been first responders in case of war, terrorism, national emergency or disaster; acknowledged by the nation. COAS particularly recalled plight of Kashmiri people of IIOJK due to Indian state repression who are under worst military occupation in human history.

COAS said our hearts beat with Kashmiri people. COAS said we will continue to stand with them always and ever. Regional peace will remain elusive without a just and peaceful resolution of Kashmir issue. Referring to collective freedom struggle against imperialism by leaders, COAS said people of sub continent must not forget that the ultimate goal was to secure, independent, harmonious and prosperous region where in all new created countries could live peacefully. Unfortunately those goals today have become hostage to increasing polarisation and radicalisation in our neighbourhood. Inimical forces are trying to weaken our society and state through hybrid war. Pakistan Army is fully cognisant of these challenges and is prepared to tackle them. We will ensure country's defence by focusing on core competencies and technology. Only strong Armed Forces can guarantee defence of the motherland, COAS concluded.



ISLAMABAD: Royal Thai embassy in Islamabad held the 1st/2021 Team Thailand in Pakistan meeting, chaired by Chakkrid Krachaiwong, ambassador of Thailand to Pakistan via video conference. - DNA

## IS poses steady threat globally: UN counter-terrorism chief

Its core in Iraq and Syria has still access to significant, hidden financial reserves, estimated between 25 million and 50 million US dollars, said Voronkov, who heads the UN Counter-Terrorism Office

## AGENCIES

NEW YORK: The threat posed by the Islamic State (IS) to international peace and security has remained significant and steady over the past six months, raising serious international concerns, said the UN counter-terrorism chief on Thursday. "Da'esh (IS) has continued to exploit the disruption, grievances and development setbacks caused by the (COVID-19) pandemic to regroup, recruit new followers and intensify its activities both online and on the ground," UN Undersecretary-General Vladimir Voronkov told the Security Council during a briefing. Its core in Iraq and Syria has still access to significant, hidden financial reserves, estimated between 25 million and 50 million U.S. dollars, said Voronkov, who heads the UN Counter-Terrorism Office. The IS has decentralized its governance further and the additional autonomy, capacity, and confidence gained by its regional affiliates could provide the group new options, he said. Lockdowns related to COVID-19 in many areas were

more comprehensive in early 2021 than in 2020, he noted, believing attacks have been planned for when restrictions ease. He warned of an increased, near-term threat of attacks by lone actors or small groups inspired and possibly directed remotely by the IS, including online. Voronkov called for "cooperative measures between and within countries" to counter the terrorist threat online. The IS remains focused on reconstituting its capabilities in Iraq and Syria, and organized in small cells hiding in desert and rural areas to wage insurgencies, while crossing the borders between countries to avoid capture, he said. He pointed out that a comprehensive solution is needed to address the situation of thousands of individuals with alleged links to the IS in Iraq and Syria, who could shape the regional and global terrorist threat landscape over the medium to long term. He reiterated the UN secretary-general's call on member states for the voluntary repatriation of all concerned individuals, in line with international law and with the consent of relevant governments.



## Naomi Osaka loses in Cincinnati Masters third round

CINCINNATI: World number two Naomi Osaka suffered a surprise third-round defeat to Swiss wildcard Jil Teichmann at the Cincinnati Masters. The Japanese star, 23, lost 3-6 6-3 6-3 to the world number 76. "I have high expectations of myself but there was nothing more I could do to win this match," Osaka said. Elsewhere, top seeds Daniil Medvedev and Ashleigh Barty are among the big names through to the quarter-finals in Cincinnati. Russian world number two Medvedev beat Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov 6-3 6-3 in the men's draw. He extends his winning streak to seven matches, having won the Canadian Open title on Sunday. Meanwhile, British duo Andy Murray and Daniel Evans, who both exited the Cincinnati Masters earlier this week, have been given wildcards for the Winston-Salem Open - the final tournament before the start of the US Open on 30 August. Murray was beaten in the second round by Hubert Hurkacz while British number one Evans lost to 10th seed Diego Schwartzman. Reigning US and Australian Open champion Osaka, who lost in the third round at the recent Olympics in Tokyo, made 41 unforced errors in the match while hitting only 17 winners. She was playing in her first tournament outside her homeland since withdrawing from the French Open in May. - DNA



## Nadal to miss US Open due to foot injury

PARIS: Rafael Nadal will miss the US Open after announcing on Friday that he is ending his season because of an injury to his left foot that has troubled him since his defeat in the semi-finals at the French Open in June. "Hello everyone, I wanted to inform you that unfortunately I have to end the 2021 season," the Spaniard wrote on Twitter. "Honestly, I've been suffering a lot more than I should with my foot for a year and I need to take some time to resolve this problem or at least improve the situation (if I want to be able to play) the next few years." Following his defeat to Novak Djokovic at Roland Garros, Nadal skipped Wimbledon and the Olympics before making a return to the courts in Washington earlier this month. He beat Jack Sock but then slipped to a three-set defeat at the hands of South Africa's Lloyd Harris, after which the 35-year-old said "the foot was better". However, he then pulled out of the event in Toronto saying it was "not a happy situation" and is missing from the current tournament in Cincinnati, the traditional curtain-raiser for the US Open which starts on August 30. - APP

## China: Three child policy formally passed

## DNA

BEIJING: China has formally revised its laws to allow couples to have up to three children, to boost the birth rate. The regulation was one of several passed on Friday at a meeting of the country's top lawmakers, the National People's Congress (NPC). Details on a controversial anti-sanctions law for Hong Kong, which many businesses feared would put them in a difficult position, were also expected. But Hong Kong media reported on Friday that the decision had been delayed. China had announced back in May that it would allow couples to have up to three children, in a major policy shift. That decision has now been formally passed into law, along with several resolutions aimed at boosting the birth rate and "reducing the burden" of raising a child, said Xinhua news agency. These include cancelling the "social maintenance fee" - a financial penalty couples pay for having children beyond the limit, encourag-

ing local governments to offer parental leave, increasing women's employment rights; and improving childcare infrastructure. Recent census data had shown a steep decline in the birth rate. In 2016, the country had scrapped its decades-old one-child policy to replace it with a two-child limit, but this failed to lead to a sustained upsurge in births. The cost of raising children in cities has deterred many Chinese couples. This past week, global banks and financial institutions had been watching the NPC meeting closely for signs on how and when the controversial anti-sanctions law would affect Hong Kong. China had already passed the law in June, and was expected on Friday to put it into Hong Kong and Macau's mini-constitutions, spelling out how it would be applied. Reports on Friday however quoted a lawmaker as saying this was delayed. Under the law, companies in China are not allowed to implement foreign sanctions against Chinese individuals or entities. On top of that, they are required to help

Beijing carry out retaliatory measures, and may face punishment if they refuse. It was tabled after the US government imposed several rounds of sanctions on Chinese officials - including Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam - over Beijing's crackdown on pro-democracy protests. In response, China imposed its own sanctions on US officials. Experts say that under the law, banks and companies in Hong Kong could face legal risk for following US sanctions. Hong Kong is a hub for many global financial institutions and the city state is a major source of profit for companies like HSBC and Standard Chartered. "Hong Kong's attraction for many firms, especially international ones, was its relative insulation from intra-party rivalry and major power competition. Such a law would take away one of those important legs," said Ian Chong, a political science expert at the National University of Singapore. "The cost and uncertainty of doing business in HK could increase substantially," he told the BBC.

## Team Thailand meeting held

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: On 17 August 2021, Royal Thai Embassy in Islamabad held the 1st/2021 Team Thailand in Pakistan meeting, chaired by H.E. Mr. Chakkrid Krachaiwong, Ambassador of Thailand to Pakistan via Video Conference. The purposes of the meeting is to exchange important information and discuss various issues among the Team Thailand agencies as well as to set a work strategy to promote Thailand-Pakistan relationships.

## China-Pakistan should...

FROM PAGE 01

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said. "As responsible neighbors to Afghanistan, China and Pakistan need to strengthen communication and coordination to support a stable transition in the country, and play constructive roles in maintaining regional peace and stability," Wang Yi made these remarks during a phone conversation with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, according to a press release issued by Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Thursday. Wang Yi said that the two countries should encourage all Afghan parties to strengthen solidarity, and establish a new broad-based and inclusive political structure that is suited to the Afghan national conditions.

"China and Pakistan should also support Afghanistan in its fight against terrorism, to prevent the country from becoming a hotbed for terrorism again, he added. He said that the Chinese and Pakistani embassies in Afghanistan are still functioning normally, and the two sides should communicate to the Taliban to ensure the safety of Chinese and Pakistani personnel and institutions in Afghanistan.

The two countries using their unique role as neighbors, should promote international cooperation involving Afghanistan in an orderly manner also and promote the situation in Afghanistan gradually into a virtuous circle, he added. Wang Yi congratulated Pakistan on its 75th Independence Day and wished Pakistan prosperity and strength. Foreign Minister Qureshi thanked China for its good wishes for Pakistan's Independence Day and its long-standing support for Pakistan's nation-building.

While appreciating China's important and active role in Afghanistan, he said that Pakistan and China are both neighbors of Afghanistan and most expecting to realize peace in Afghanistan.

He said that Afghanistan's future requires a negotiated political solution and added, the Taliban takeover of Kabul has not caused bloodshed while the internal order in Afghanistan has stabilized and life gradually returned to normal. All parties should support Taliban in fulfilling its commitments to protect the rights and interests of the Afghan people, he added.

Pakistan is ready to strengthen communication with China, push Taliban to work with all parties to form an inclusive and broad political framework and set up a multilateral cooperation mechanism, he added. He urged the international community to jointly support the efforts of the Afghan factions to achieve peace and stability. During the talk with Pakistani Foreign Minister, Wang also brought up the Dasu terrorist attack, hoping that Pakistan will make every effort to arrest the perpetrators, and punish them in accordance with the law. Foreign Minister Qureshi said that Pakistan will do its utmost to catch the perpetrators of the Dasu terrorist attack, identify the forces behind the attack and severely punish them.

## Pakistan pays homage to victims of terrorism

FROM PAGE 01

countless individuals around the world who have laid down their lives in fighting the menace of terrorism. We especially honour the victims of terrorism in Pakistan, IIOJK, Palestine and other parts of the world. A press release from foreign office stated that over last two decades, Pakistan has waged a relentless struggle against terrorism with conviction that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is condemnable and a bane to be rooted out from the world. In this campaign, the valiant security forces and the people of Pakistan have fought

against terrorism, day in day out, with utmost commitment and courage, to make their country and the world a safer place. It further added "We pay homage to our heroes who sacrificed their precious lives and have successfully eradicated the menace of terrorism from the country. While turning the tide of terrorism, Pakistan has suffered over 80,000 casualties and economic losses of US \$150 billion, with no other parallel in the world. This Day specially rekindles the pride and valor of our brave security forces who always stand guard to protect innocent men, women and children. We cherish their

noble cause by reaffirming our resolve to carry on the fight till its end and to play our part in ensuring international peace and security. The Government of Pakistan would always support our heroes and their families." The oppressed people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) deserve our special tribute for their unparalleled sacrifices while fighting the worst form of state-terrorism unleashed by Indian security forces. Despite horrific and unabated acts of terrorism perpetrated by Indian occupation forces on the innocent youth, elderly, women and children of IIOJK, their resolve and

spirit to fight the oppressors has remained unyielding. India's unabated reign of terror in IIOJK has led to death of over 90,000 Kashmiris. The people of Pakistan would always stand by their brothers and sisters in IIOJK and would continue to provide all possible support in their struggle against illegal, inhuman and alien occupation by India. Pakistan firmly reaffirms its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations including right-wing, Islamophobic, racially and ethnically motivated and above all state-sponsored terrorism. Terrorism at an organized

level would never completely cease to exist until those who support, plan, perpetrate, finance and facilitate it are prevented and held fully accountable. It is our firm resolve that use of terrorism as an instrument of state policy by some regional countries cannot be allowed to continue at the cost of peace, security and prosperity of the region. The international community owes it to the victims of terrorism and the fallen heroes in this fight and has a moral and legal obligation to take effective measures to suppress terrorism, beyond narrow political interests and parochial geo-political agendas.



## Briefs

Canaries tragedy  
boat captain arrested

## AGENCIES

MADRID: Spanish police said Thursday they had arrested a Moroccan man over the deaths of 14 migrants who perished while trying to make the crossing from Morocco to the Canary Islands.

The 43-year-old is suspected of being one of two men who captained the boat, which spent two weeks adrift before it was rescued by a merchant ship earlier this month, police said in a statement.

Of the 47 passengers on board the boat, 10 died during the attempted crossing and four fell into the sea and drowned during the rescue operation, which took place in rough weather, it added. Police said the migrant boat ran out of fuel, as well as water and food, just three days after it departed from Morocco at the end of July for Spain's Canary Islands. "The majority of migrants started to drink seawater. Over the following days, people began to die on board, and their bodies were thrown into the water," the statement said.

Police investigations determined that one of the suspected captains of the boat died during the attempted crossing, while the other was at a migrant reception centre in the Canaries with the rest of the surviving passengers where he was arrested.

Spanish govt  
feels heat  
over high  
power prices

## WEB NEWS

MADRID: Scorching heat has caused power prices to soar in Spain, leading to renewed tensions in the country's leftist coalition government over how to lower ballooning electricity bills.

A recent heatwave which sent temperatures soaring as high as 47 degrees Celsius (117F) in the southern region of Andalusia caused demand for electricity to jump as people turned on their air conditioners, putting further pressure on power prices which were already high due to a global natural gas supply crunch. "Everything indicates the month of August will end with the highest electricity bill in history," consumer rights group Facua said Tuesday.

It predicts the average monthly household electricity bill this month will hit 92 euros (\$107), a 44 percent increase over August 2020.

The jump in prices has largely offset the temporary reduction in the value-added tax (VAT) on electricity bills - to 10 percent from 21 percent - which Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's government introduced in July to provide relief to consumers.

Far-left party Podemos, the junior partner in Sanchez's coalition government, has accused the administration of not doing enough to cut power bills.

## Uzbekistan role in regional connectivity highlighted: Furqat

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Furqat Sidikov Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan has highlighted the Central and South Asia Connectivity conference held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and stated that the conference invited dignitaries from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and other countries and the mission of this event has highlighted the

importance of transport, energy and other cooperation for connectivity in this region. Results of that high-level conference were great he added.

He expressed these views during an international conference organized on, "Interconnectedness of Central and South Asia: Preconditions, Prospects, Geostrategic Significance" organized by the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Khalid Taimur Akram, Executive Director, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad highlighted the views of Imran Khan, Prime Minister of Pakistan, who mentioned that the Tashkent conference has presented a new collaboration in geopolitics and economy that is important for the sustainable development for Central and South Asia.

Khalid Taimur Akram, stated that in July 2021 we saw the grand vision of Central and

South Asia connectivity presented by President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev. In times to come the world will remember that after 5 centuries, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev brought back the idea of regional connectivity. Moreover, this time the message from Uzbekistan is a message of brotherhood, connectivity, and bringing our mutual legacy forward for the future generation.

He mentioned that the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan was part of the historical conference in Tashkent, and Pakistan is now a major part of this initiative and concept. Furthermore, Pakistan is also a part of Central Asia-South Asia (CASA 1000), Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program (CAREC). In addition to these, CPEC being the flagship project of the Belt and Road initiative is a connectivity route for the Central Asian countries as well.

He specifically mentioned the initiative of Mazar-i-Sharif-Kabul-Peshawar by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and stated that this regional transport corridor will open



new avenues of cooperation in the region and will also connect countries to the Indian Ocean. Acknowledging the efforts of Furkat Sidikov Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, he emphasized that his exemplary role in taking the bilateral ties of Pakistan and Uzbekistan is commendable. Khalid also highlighted the

efforts of Sodyq Safoev, First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and assured that Pakistan is enthusiastic for this initiative of Central & South Asia Connectivity and CGSS has already started to advocate this idea in many universities of Pakistan. He also invited future collaborations with the senate and

other institutions in Uzbekistan to bring this message of Central & South Asia connectivity to future generations of Pakistan.

The international conference included dignitaries, diplomats, and experts from more than 15 countries including Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Japan, United States, Belgium, Russia, Germany, etc.

## Pak can make best use of traditional medicines: Dr. Atta

## DNA

BEIJING: Pakistan can make best use of traditional medicines through cooperation with China, said Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman, Chairman of Prime Minister's Task Force on Science and Technology. According to a report published by China Economic Net, Rahman was elected as Foreign Member of the Chinese Academy of Science in 2015 and was awarded the International Science and Technology Collaboration Award by the Chinese President on 10th January 2020, which is the highest scientific award in China.

He says, currently China has many such herbal and traditional drugs that are used alongside the western medicine. We have to work on similar lines to develop our homeopathic medications, carrying out research in an organized way to cer-

tify all the herbs that have medical benefits based on science and then promote them. That's what I'm working on," Dr. Rahman added.

In this effort, Dr. Rahman contributed to the cooperation between Hunan University of Chinese Medicine and the University of Karachi in Pakistan on the establishment of the Sino-Pakistan TCM Research Center in 2013. Over the past eight years, the center has undertaken several research programs and received many international publications and patents. "We have been carrying out clinical trials on many herbal drugs from both Pakistan and China. One of the researches we are doing now at the center is to examine herbs that are active against Corona Virus. To enhance our capacity in this field, we have established a virology center with Chinese collaboration in Wuhan," noted Dr. Rah-

man, "In the meantime, we are also examining the diseases that are very common in our region, including hepatitis and cholera.

For other diseases, like malaria, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and heart disease, we refer to the TCM certification procedures to test the herbs and see which herbs are beneficial against them."

In Pakistan, traditional medicines have been a strong part of its cultural heritage and play a significant role in providing health care to a large part of the population. Based on diversified medicinal plants distributed in various climatic zones in Pakistan, three developed systems of medication, Tibbe-Unani, Ayurveda, and Homoeopathy, are applied in different areas of the country. Among more than 6000 plant species inhabiting the vast land of Pakistan, approximately 600-700 spe-

cies are significant from a medicinal point of view.

"These medicines in Pakistan are treasures as they contain many important compounds applied in modern medicine. For example, a herb known as Rawolfia Sarbantine from which a compound extracted called Ajmarieen has been marketed in Germany for a long time for cardiac disease. In the same way, compounds extracted from the leaves of Evergreen plant are used against cancer.

There are many other herbs like these in Pakistan and we should try to promote and make use of them," said Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman. In addition to internal challenges, the practices of traditional medications are facing threat from the allopathic medication system, which runs antagonistic with the former, a report by Nazif Ullah from Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan pointed out.

## China to support peaceful rebuilding in Afghanistan

## DNA

BEIJING: China together with the international community will continue to support Afghanistan in its peaceful rebuilding and will provide assistance for its economic and social development, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Wednesday.

As a friendly and close neighbour and friend of Afghanistan, China always upholds a friendly policy towards the entire Afghan people which will never change, Zhao Lijian said during his regular briefing held here.

We will continue to support peaceful reconstruction in Afghanistan and to the best of our capability assist Afghanistan in its economic and social development, he added. The spokesperson said that

in the past the situation in Afghanistan has experienced major changes after four decades plus war and turmoil, the Afghan people yearned for peace and stability.

China hopes that all factions in the country will work to resolve differences through dialogue and consultation and prevent new conflict and humanitarian disaster and work for a steady transition of the situation.

Noting the statement from Afghan Taliban about friendly relations with other countries, he said that the Chinese side hopes it will work with other factions at home through dialogue and consultation and establish an inclusive and open political framework and adopt moderate and prudent domestic and foreign policy and ensure that personnel and institutions of other countries in Afghanistan will be safe.

## Afghan leaders...

## FROM PAGE 01

They said the change of approach was visible in Naya Pakistan as the leadership wanted to leave the past behind and looked towards the future for stronger bilateral ties. The delegation members told media that the discussion with Pakistan leadership focused on all inclusive set up in Afghanistan representing all ethnic groups of the country. Another objective was to prevent bloodshed in the country.

They thanked Pakistan's leadership for giving assurance to play their all out role for a peaceful Afghanistan which was also inevitable for a stable Pakistan. He said the whole leadership had unanimity of views towards Afghanistan and wanted to start a new chapter of relations with the neighboring country.

The delegation members believed that the government of one group as experienced in 1996 had failed and was bound to fail in future too owing to the multi-ethnic nature of the Afghan society. They said another priority was the protection of rights of the people including women and children besides freedom of expression and voting rights.

To a question, Qanooni said the Taliban could capture the land but not the people until they form an inclusive government and fulfill their commitments for protection of all communities' rights including the minorities.

About the escape of Ashraf Ghani and reports of him carrying huge cash, the delegation said the corruption of public money had been a practice there which could not be curbed until a comprehensive political system representing all groups.

## Uzbekistan to aid evacuation of Swiss nationals

## DNA

TASHKENT: The foreign ministers of Uzbekistan and Switzerland discussed the evacuation of citizens from Afghanistan media reports with reference to the Foreign Ministry of Uzbekistan. According to the information, a telephone conversation took place between the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov and the Federal Adviser (Minister) of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation Ignazio Cassis.

It is reported that the heads of the foreign ministries discussed the current state and prospects for the development of bilateral cooperation. In particular, special attention was paid to the organizational and technical aspects of the evacuation of Swiss citizens from Afghanistan through the territory of Uzbekistan.

Earlier it was reported that an evacuation plane from Germany with 125 passengers flew to Tashkent from Afghanistan. In addition, the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner of the Polish LOT airline landed at the international airport in Navoi. The crew reportedly flew LO-7023 from Warsaw to evacuate Polish diplomats from Afghanistan.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood received Chinese Special envoy for Afghanistan Yue Xiaoyong. Both sides exchanged views on evolving situation in Afghanistan, stressed the importance of safety, security, stability, inclusive political settlement, and international engagement. - DNA

## Afghanistan: The Taliban's victory will test India

The West is likely to form a united front to keep pressure on the Taliban. British PM Boris Johnson has already called for a joint response to the Taliban government

THE Taliban's blisteringly fast takeover of Afghanistan has stunned security and diplomacy experts worldwide. Days after the fall of Kabul, nations are hurriedly evacuating their diplomats and citizens, leaving behind two decades of work and investments.

The Taliban's rout is likely to cause a significant shift in the geopolitics of South Asia, and it could be particularly testing for India, given the country's historically tense relations and border disputes with Pakistan and China - both are expected to play a crucial role in Afghanistan's future.

Pakistan shares a porous border with Afghanistan and has long been an active player in its northern neighbour's affairs. Now China is showing an interest in playing a bigger role in Afghanistan. Foreign minister Wang Yi's meeting with senior Taliban leaders last month shows Beijing doesn't want to be a silent player anymore.

This potential geopolitical realignment could "change things upside down", said Gautam Mukhopadhyaya, India's former ambassador to Afghanistan and Syria.

Afghanistan was a loose alliance between the democratic government in Kabul, the West and other democracies like India. But the world is likely to see Pakistan, Russia, Iran and China coming together to play the next chapter of the Great Game.

Some in India see this as a loss for Delhi and a big win for Pakistan. But former Indian diplomat Jitendra Nath Misra said that was too simplistic a view, because the Pakistan-led Taliban has never recognised the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, creating discomfort for Islamabad.

"Pakistan would want to get the Taliban to accept the border and this will be a top priority," he said.

But it's also true that the Taliban's rule in Afghanistan gives

Pakistan strategic depth against India. Islamabad has gotten what it always wanted, said Michael Kugelman, deputy director of the Wilson Center think-tank in Washington - a government in Afghanistan that it can easily influence.

"Pakistani officials may show this off as India's loss, but then there are bigger strategic goals for Pakistan," Mr Kugelman said. "It really sees itself as the biggest regional winner at the moment." Experts say Pakistan was not happy with the growing ties between the US and India, or former Afghan president Ashraf Ghani's lukewarm relations with Islamabad. The country's struggling economy also made it feel vulnerable.

Now Islamabad has reasons to believe that it's the winner because its "all-weather" friendship with China will be useful in Afghanistan. Moreover, Beijing is not shy of showing its might anymore. "China can and will play

the game now according to its own rules," Mr Misra said.

China also has economic interests in Afghanistan, which can help fulfil its ever-growing need for minerals, but more importantly it can pressure the Taliban to ban the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), which it blames for unrest in its Muslim-dominated Xinjiang province, to operate on Afghan soil.

Mr Mukhopadhyaya said China and Pakistan "would ride piggyback on each other in Afghanistan". But he added that Beijing should be cautious and not fall into any trap like other world powers in the past.

Russia and Iran also seem to be on the same trajectory - neither has evacuated its embassy, and both nations' diplomats are still working in Kabul. So, what can India do now? The country was never as big a player in Afghanistan as Pakistan, the US or Russia. But Delhi has always been involved in promoting

security and cultural ties. Thousands of Afghans are in India for education, work or medical treatment.

The biggest challenge India will face is whether to recognise the Taliban government or not. The decision will get tough, especially if Moscow and Beijing decide to acknowledge the Taliban government in some form. Experts say Islamabad is likely to officially accept the Taliban government, as it did in 1999.

India's best option at the moment seems to keep a channel of communication open with the Taliban. But it will be an uneasy relationship, considering the history between the Taliban and Delhi.

With the Taliban in the heart of Kabul, India may now wish to put the past to one side in order to safeguard its own interests, and to ensure the region remains stable. Amalendu Misra, a professor of politics at Lancaster University and the author of a book on Af-

ghanistan, says it's a diplomatic tightrope India will have to walk. And it may need a strategy to ensure that the contested region of Kashmir doesn't become the next rallying point for the mujahideen.

While experts say India needs to keep talking to the Taliban, it will have to decide how much it may want to get involved in any anti-Taliban groupings. The West is likely to form a united front to keep pressure on the Taliban. British PM Boris Johnson has already called for a joint response to the Taliban government.

Then there are other possibilities, like the Northern Alliance regrouping later, or Afghanistan becoming another place for a fight for supremacy between the US-led West and a joint group of China, Russia and Pakistan.

So there are no easy options for India, but its decisions will have consequences on regional peace and global geopolitics.

-Courtesy BBC



## Briefs

**Taliban urged to allow fleeing Afghans safe passage**

### AGENCIES

KABUL: Taliban fighters manned checkpoints around Kabul's airport as concerns built they were blocking Afghans from reaching evacuation flights, with the United States demanding safe passage.

Tens of thousands of people have tried to flee Afghanistan since the headline Islamist militants swept into the capital on Sunday, completing a stunning rout of government forces and ending two decades of war. Taliban leaders have in recent days repeatedly vowed not to seek revenge against their opponents, while seeking to project an image of tolerance.

They have also sought to portray growing political authority, with Taliban co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar returning from exile and other senior figures meeting ex-president Hamid Karzai. But the United States said Wednesday the Taliban were reneging on pledges to allow Afghans who worked with the United States and its allies out of the country. "We have seen reports that the Taliban, contrary to their public statements and their commitments to our government, are blocking Afghans who wish to leave the country from reaching the airport," Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman told reporters.

### Tahir

## Ashrafi visits Imambargah

BAHAWALNAGAR: Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council and Special Representative of the Prime Minister of Pakistan for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi visited the Imambargah along with Ulemas and Ulemas-Mashaykh of all religious schools of thought here on Thursday.

The clerics and leadership of different religious schools of thought visited Qasr-e-Zahra and attended the Majalis.

Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi said that all possible steps are being taken for inter-faith harmony in the country.

Indian and anti-Pakistan forces wanted riots and anarchy in the country during Muharram which were foiled successfully, said Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi.

The cracker attack in Bahawalnagar is regrettable and reprehensible. The perpetrators will be taken to justice. Security and law enforcement agencies and police have taken immediate action. - APP

## Relative of DW journalist killed in Afghanistan

### WEB NEWS

BERLIN: Taliban fighters in Afghanistan have shot and killed a relative of a Deutsche Welle journalist while hunting for him, the German public broadcaster said.

The militants were conducting a house-to-house search for the journalist, who now works in Germany, DW said Thursday.

A second relative was seriously wounded but others were able to escape, it said, without giving details of the incident. DW director general Peter Limbourg condemned the killing, which he said showed the danger to media workers and their families in Afghanistan.

"The killing of a close relative of one of our editors by the Taliban yesterday is inconceivably tragic, and testifies to the acute danger in which all our employees and their families in Afghanistan find themselves," he said.

"It is evident that the Taliban are already carrying out organized searches for journalists, both in Kabul and in the provinces. We are running out of time!"

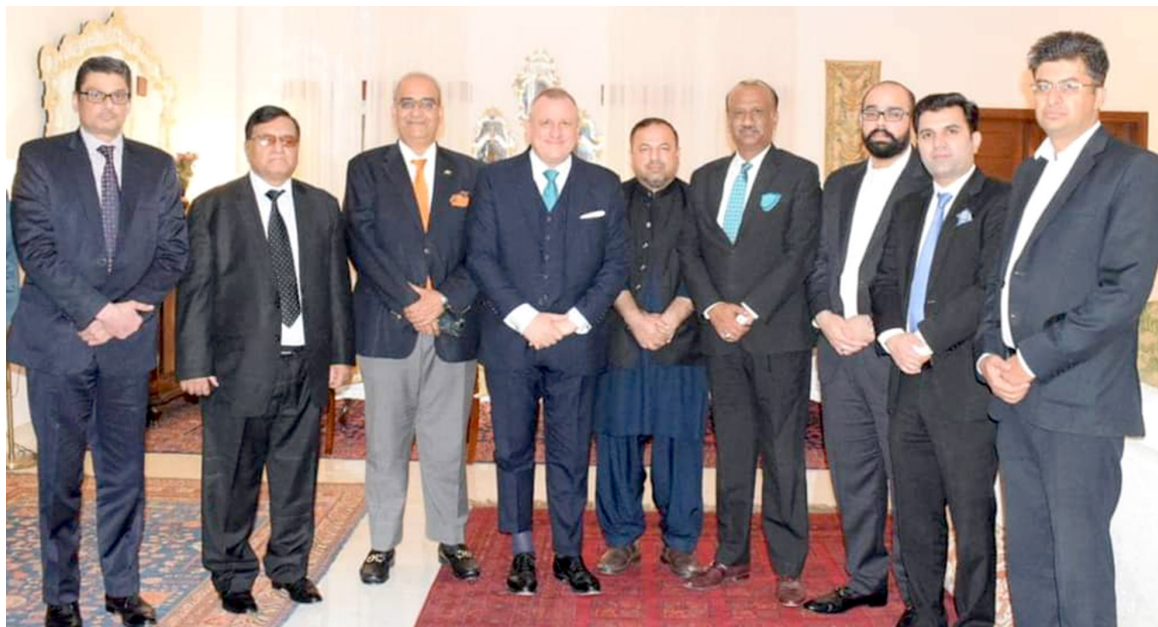
# Italian envoy sees huge trade opportunities with Pakistan

Ambassador Andreas Ferrarese says his country wanted to further strengthen relations with Pakistan in all fields; Zafar Bakhtawri stresses the need to establish the direct air link between Pakistan Italy

### STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese has said that there are vast opportunities for mutual trade and investment between Pakistan and Italy from which businessmen and traders of both the countries can reap the benefits. Pakistani businessmen and traders move forward and work to promote mutual trade and economic ties between Pakistanis in Italy, he said. Economic, trade and cultural relations between Italy and Pakistan are at an all-time high, he said this while hosting a dinner in honour of senior business leaders and Presidents of different trade chambers of the country at his residence.

While renowned business leaders including former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce, Zafar Bakhtawri, Chairman Federation Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Capital Office Qurban Ali, President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Muhammad Nasir Mirza, President Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Umer Ashraf Mughal, President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sherbaz Ilyas Bilour, Former Senior Vice President ICCI Shakeel Muneer, MD Islamabad Stock Exchange Mian Ayaz



Afzal and Abdullah Shad Abasi attended the dinner. The Ambassador informed that Italy hosts the largest Pakistani Diaspora in the European Union (EU) countries. In FY 2020-21, workers' remittances from Italy reached \$601 million which is an all-time high figure, he said. It has made Italy, Pakistan's 7th largest destination for workers remittance globally and No.1 from the EU. He said that there was huge trade potential in different sectors of the economy which needed to be explored and in this regard both sides were engaged in the dialogue process through the Pak-Italy Joint Economic Commission was

the forum for bilateral economic engagements. The Ambassador said that currently Italy was providing technical assistance in Agriculture and textiles up gradation through modern machinery, value addition in agriculture, leather and marble sectors. He said Pakistan was working to expand it to Agricultural items including dairy and livestock, olives and olive products, plastics, processed food and the construction sector in the Italian market. Andreas Ferrarese was of the view that Italy wanted to start a new era of economic and trade cooperation with Pakistan through transfer of technology and for upgra-

and livestock, olive and olive products, plastics, processed food and the construction sector were the areas where Italy could extend its cooperation with Pakistan to further promote bilateral trade and economic cooperation in different potential areas, he said. Initially the new economic mission has been established in major cities of Pakistan including Karachi and Islamabad and later it would be expanded to other potential trade hubs to increase the economic and trade integration between Pakistan and Italy, he said. He underlined the importance of promoting cultural connectivity to promote bilateral trade. He said that he would also encourage exchange of students to further strengthen bilateral relations. The top diplomat said that Italy was committed to extend the cooperation of a diverse potential sector to enhance the bilateral economic and cooperation between Pakistan and Italy. While senior business leader and Secretary General United Business Group (UBG), Zafar Bakhtawri stressed the need to establish the direct air link between Pakistan Italy. He also proposed promotion of Italian and start Italian language classes in selected schools in the major cities of Pakistan.

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ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands Wouter Plomp called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office. - DNA

## US troops may stay past deadline: Biden

### NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden has said US troops may stay in Afghanistan beyond his withdrawal deadline, as armed Taliban fighters kept desperate evacuees from reaching Kabul's airport.

Biden wants US forces out by the end of this month, but up to 15,000 US citizens are stranded in the country. The US president told ABC News the turmoil in Kabul was unavoidable. Foreign governments are ramping up the airlift of Western citizens

and Afghans who worked with them. Washington has pledged to evacuate all remaining American citizens, along with 50-65,000 Afghans - such as former translators for the US military. In total, America has evacuated more than 5,200 people to date, including 2,000 in the last 24 hours. The Pentagon has told reporters it aims to expand the airlift to 9,000 people a day. About 4,500 US troops are in temporary control of Karzai International Airport in the nation's capital, but Taliban fighters and checkpoints ring the perimeter.

Since Sunday 12 people have been killed in and around the airport, a Taliban official told Reuters news agency. The deaths were caused by gunshots or stampedes. The Taliban are blocking Afghans from entering the airport without travel documents - but even those with valid authorisation have struggled. One Afghan interpreter was reportedly shot in the leg by the Taliban as he tried to reach the airport on Tuesday night for an Australian military evacuation flight. Photos published by SBS showed the man being treated for the gunshot wound by a doctor.

## Justice Umar Ata Bandial takes oath as Acting CJP

ISLAMABAD: Justice Umar Ata Bandial on Friday took oath as Acting Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP). The oath was administered by Justice Qazi Faez Isa in a simple but dignified ceremony in the Supreme Court. Justice Umar Ata Bandial will act as Chief Justice during the period, Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed remained abroad. Judges of Supreme Court, senior lawyers, law officers and officers of Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan attended the ceremony. - APP

## Ambassador Mansoor meets Karzai, Dr. Abdullah

The development came as the Taliban announced the formation of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

### AGENCIES

KABUL: Pakistan's Ambassador to Kabul Mansoor Ahmed Khan on Thursday met former Afghan president Hamid Karzai and chief of the High Council for National Reconciliation (HCNR), Abdullah Abdullah, to discuss the evolving situation in the country. Khan said he had "constructive discussions on efforts for lasting stability in Afghanistan", as Pakistan tries to play its role for peace in the country following Taliban's takeover. The development came as the Taliban announced the formation of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, four days after ousting the previous government

in their 10-day lightning sweep. Taliban Spokesman Zabullah Mujahid, in a tweet, announced the group had decided to establish the Islamic Emirate on the occasion of Afghanistan's 102nd anniversary of independence from British rule. Mujahid had earlier "assured" his nation that after consultations - that will be completed very soon - Afghanistan would witness the formation of a strong, Islamic, and inclusive government. Meanwhile, Karzai, in a tweet about the meeting, said the current situation in the country and the inclusive political process with national and international legitimacy were discussed.



## Naval Chief meets top Jordanian military leadership

The Admiral highlighted Pakistan Navy's focused efforts towards fight against terrorism; Counter Piracy Operations and PN initiative of Regional Maritime Security Patrol (RMSP)

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi is on official visit to Jordan. During the visit, the Naval Chief called on Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) Jordanian Armed Forces Major General Yousef Ahmed Al-Hnaity, Director Air Operations Brigadier General Mohammad Kh Aljaloudi and Commander Royal Jordanian Naval Force (RJNF) Colonel Hisham Khaleel Al Jarrah, in separate meetings. Upon arrival at Royal Jordanian Naval Force Headquarters at Aqaba, the Admiral was received by Commander Royal Jordanian Naval Force (RJNF) and was presented Guard of Honor.

During call on with Commander RJNF, Naval Chief was briefed on roles and capabilities of RJNF. The dignitaries dwelled on significance of close and strong bilateral naval association in diverse realms between Pakistan and Royal



Jordanian Navy. Earlier, the Naval Chief called on Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) Jordanian Armed

Forces Major General Yousef Ahmed Al-Hnaity and Director of Air Operations Brigadier General Muhammad Kh Aljaloudi.

During the meetings with Jordanian Armed Force Commanders, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi dilated upon matters of mutual interest and naval collaboration. The Admiral highlighted Pakistan Navy's focused efforts towards fight against terrorism; Counter Piracy Operations and PN initiative of Regional Maritime Security Patrol (RMSP). Commanders of Royal Jordanian Armed Forces lauded Pakistan Navy's efforts in promoting peace and security in the maritime domain and acknowledged strong defence foundations & brotherly relations between Pakistan and Jordan. Later, Naval Chief visited King Abdullah Special Operations Training Center (KASOTC) and witnessed a counter terrorism demonstration by Jordanian Special Forces squad. It is expected that recent visit of the Naval Chief will further enhance and expand bilateral relations between the two countries and Defence collaboration between the Armed Forces.

## PAF pays tribute to Rashid Minhas

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: To pay homage to Pakistan's valiant son and the youngest recipient of Nishan-e-Haider, Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed, the Directorate General Public Relations of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) has released a short documentary on his 50th martyrdom anniversary. Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed was born on February 17, 1951. Having a dream of defending the aerial frontiers of the motherland, he got commission on March 14, 1971 in the 51st GD (P) course, said a PAF media release. He was later posted to No 2 Squadron stationed at Maripur (Masroor) for an Operational Conversion Course, where he was destined for sublime heights by Almighty Allah. On August 20, 1971 an unforgettable saga of bravery was crafted with his ultimate sacrifice.

On this fateful day, Rashid Minhas vanquished the iniquitous intentions of his instructor pilot Flight Lieutenant Mati-ur-Rahman, who tried to hijack his training jet T33 towards India. Rashid battled to take back the controls of the aircraft and finally preferred to crash the plane before it could cross the border. The brave son of soil accepted to sacrifice his life but didn't allow the country's dignity to be tarnished.

## EU: Afghan situation to change region

### WEB DESK

BRUSSELS: The European Union has said developments in Afghanistan with return of Taliban to power would change geo-political balance of power in the region and expressed concern that the influence of China and Russia would increase in the country.

"Current developments are going to have wide ranging impact on regional and international security because what has happened is the most important geo-political event since the Ukraine Crimea's annexation by Russia," EU High Representative Josep Borrell told the European Parliament during a debate on Afghanistan. "China has already recognized the Taliban. Russia will do it. They are not going to close their embassies there. On the contrary they will increase their presence. And this is going to change the geo-political balance of power," he said.

"We are aware that Turkey, China Russia have a new opportunity to increase their influence. Other countries like Iran, Pakistan, India and all Central Asian nations have to be taken into consideration in our diplomatic reach out. We have to also work closely with the US," said Borrell.

## Taliban announce Islamic Emirate

### DNA

KABUL: Four days after taking over Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, the Taliban on Thursday announced the establishment of an Islamic emirate in the country.

Spokesman for the Taliban Zabullah Mujahid took to Twitter to announce the decision. Mujahid shared a picture in the tweet, bearing the words, 'Da Afghanistan Islami Imarat' and also the Islamic state's flag as well as the official logo. The spokesman said in the tweet that the newly established emirate is in favour of better ambassadorial and trade relations with all the countries. He categorically rejected reports that the Taliban government was against having trade relations with a certain country. "All talk of severing trade links with a certain country is baseless," he announced.

Meanwhile, the Taliban's spokesman at its Qatar office Suhail Shaheen has said that there is no space for the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Afghanistan following the establishment of an Islamic emirate in the country.