



Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

Islamabad POST

German envoy lauds Pakistan's assistance in evacuation process

Detailed News On Page-01

Matsuda offers good wishes for Pak athletes

Detailed News On Page-08



Taliban warns west against staying past Aug

Detailed News On Page-01



Briefs

'No reserves over India-Afghan ties'

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has no objection to India and Afghanistan developing cordial relations, said Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, clarifying that Islamabad was not focusing on any one particular group in Afghanistan. In a statement issued on the current situation in Afghanistan Monday, the foreign minister said the Indian media made a fuss over his 'visit' to Kabul and reported "irresponsibly" on it. He called out the Indian media for not confirming facts before reporting on anything. "I did not go to Kabul, but held important meetings on Afghanistan in Pakistan," Qureshi clarified.

National economy strengthened

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar says national economy has improved and strengthened due to prudent economic policies of the incumbent government. Talking to a private news channel, he said the coronavirus pandemic has badly affected the country's economy but the economic indicators are now heading into right directions. The Minister said the government has taken kinetic measures to bring improvement in agriculture sector and subsidy has also been provided to the farmers on seed and fertilizers to facilitate them.

German envoy lauds Pakistani assistance

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Germany in Pakistan Bernhard Schlagheck has lauded the government of Pak for assisting the evacuation of European citizens from Afghanistan. In a tweet, the ambassador said, "Kudos to the Pakistani authorities for the tremendous cooperation at Islamabad Airport. Evacuating German citizens and local staff from Afghanistan together with our EU allies (esp. Netherlands) would not be possible without it."

TTP won't act against Pakistan

Taliban leadership has assured Pakistan not to worry about TTP: Sheikh Rashid

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior, Sheikh Rashid Ahmad on Monday said Afghan Taliban has assured they would not allow anyone to use Afghan land by anyone against Pakistan. Addressing a press conference here, the minister said that the Afghan Taliban had also assured the government that the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) would not be given permission to operate in Afghanistan against Pakistan. He said few TTP members such as Maulvi Faqir Mohammad had been released in Afghanistan, adding that the government of Pakistan was in contact with Afghan authorities on the matter and have been informed that these terrorists were involved in terrorism in Pakistan. Sheikh Rasheed said the region has become significantly important due to changing situation in Afghanistan. He said that long-lasting peace in Afghanistan was important for the region as well as for the world. He said Pakistan would continue playing its role in maintaining peace in Afghanistan for a stable government as peace in Afghanistan was a must for peace in the entire region including Pakistan. He said that besides issuing visas to members of the Afghan cricket team, the government had issued

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan-Afghan series cancelled

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The ODI series between Pakistan and Afghanistan has been cancelled, sources said. The planned series will now take place next year. Earlier, it was reported that the series (ODI) will be held in Pakistan, media reported Monday, which was originally scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka. Sources in the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) informed media that due to logistical issues, the country's board was unable to host the series in Sri Lanka. The Pakistan-Afghanistan ODI series was in peril as Sri Lanka had imposed a nationwide lockdown last week, bowing to intense pressure from medical experts. Meanwhile, ACB and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) are in contact and will soon announce the dates and schedule for the series, sources informed the news outlet. Pakistan had also issued visas to Afghan cricketers, Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry had announced Sunday, saying that he hoped they will bring "smiles to the faces of their people".

Pakistan working for inclusive set up: FM

The world is looking towards Pakistan seeking help in evacuating their nationals, added Qureshi

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Foreign Affairs Shah Mahmood Qureshi Monday said Pakistan was working for an inclusive broad based arrangement in Afghanistan to further peace and stability in the neighbouring country. Addressing a press conference here, he said the views of the international community were in sync with thinking of Pakistan on the present situation in Afghanistan. Qureshi said he held conversations with a number of foreign ministers in previous days and they acknowledged that Pakistan was playing a vital and critical role in these challenging times. The world was looking towards Pakistan and it wanted help in evacuating their nationals from Afghanistan, he said adding very few embassies were working in Kabul and Pakistani embassy was one of them. "We are keeping an eye on the situation in Afghanistan,"

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: FM Shah Mahmood Qureshi addressing a press conference while Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar looks on. – DNA

FM talks to Swedish, Saudi counterparts

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on Monday exchanged views on the latest situation in Afghanistan and on the other issues of bilateral importance. During the telephonic conversation, the foreign minister underlined that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan was of critical importance for Pakistan and the region.

Continued on Page 06

Biden seeks to speed up evacuation process

Mess at Kabul airport leaves one more dead; 21 people so far killed in Airport clashes

MONITORING DESK

KABUL: Western security forces on Monday exchanged fire with unidentified gunmen at Kabul airport, as US President Joe Biden sought to speed up the chaotic evacuation of tens of thousands of people from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. One Afghan was killed and three others were injured in a dawn firefight that according to the German military erupted between Afghan guards and unknown assailants.

Continued on Page 06

Russia warns of civil war

NEWS DESK

MOSCOW: Russia warned of the risk of a civil war in Afghanistan but said that it does not intend to intervene. Potentially, there is a "risk of a renewed civil war in Afghanistan," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday, according to the Interfax agency. "Of course, no one intends to intervene in these events," Peskov said. Russia is watching the Taliban's takeover in Afghanistan with concern. Among other things, it fears that fighters in Central Asia could penetrate into former Soviet territory. Peskov said the current situation posed "additional danger and threats".



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chairs a meeting regarding essential items. – DNA

Taliban warns west against extending pull-out deadline

To manage the chaotic airlifting of foreigners and Afghans, thousands of soldiers have poured back into Afghanistan

NEWS DESK

KABUL: The Taliban warned on Monday there would be "consequences" if the United States and its allies extend their presence in Afghanistan beyond next week, as chaos continued to overwhelm Kabul airport. The Taliban takeover of the country

Germany in talks to continue evacuations

AGENCIES

BERLIN: Germany is in talks with both NATO allies and the Taliban about keeping Kabul airport open beyond the

planned August 31 US withdrawal date, to help evacuate as many Afghans who need protection as possible, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Monday.

Continued on Page 06

MR PRIME MINISTER

THE PROPOSED LAW BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION HAS BEEN REJECTED BY ALL MEDIA STAKEHOLDERS.

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.



1. The draft PMDA law seeks to wipeout all critical voices from the media through a system of coercive censorship.

2. 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.

3. Mr Prime Minister under no circumstances should you be misled by the Ministry of Information. Please do not implement this black law.

4. 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...

Annual insurance premium to be enhanced up to 1.5% of GDP – Page 02

Ambassador of Kazakhstan lauds COMSTECH initiatives – Page 03

Pakistan greatly values ties with Australia: President – Page 04

As the US quits, China looks to move in – Page 05

Putin warns against terrorism spillover from Afghanistan – Page 06

Chinese-Arab co-op embraces new opportunities amid Covid – Page 07

PM Khan directs to ensure implementation of SNC – Page 08

Briefs

Makaneole
new US CG in
Lahore

ABID RAZA



LAHORE: William Makaneole Monday assumed charge as the consul general of the United States Consulate here in Lahore. He has succeeded Catherine Rodriguez, who served a two-year stint in Punjab. William Makaneole is a career member of the US foreign service and Diplomatic Security Service, who has a good experience of working in Pakistan when he served at the US consulate Peshawar between 2017 and 2018. Consul General Makaneole's last assignment was as the Director at the US National Security Council where he coordinated with all US government departments and agencies on matters of national security and counter-terrorism. He previously accomplished diplomatic assignments in Oman, Yemen, Lebanon, and Central African Republic. His multiple assignments in the United States include Liaison Officer – the US Department of State and the Pentagon, where he co-ordinated humanitarian efforts, stabilisation and embassy security worldwide. Makaneole is a native Hawaiian from Hau'ula, Hawaii. He studied Political Science at the University of Hawaii and holds degrees in Political Science and Administration of Justice.

Prizes
distributed
among police
media wing

FAISALABAD: City Police Officer (CPO) Captain (Retired) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry distributed cash prizes and commendation certificates among the officials of police media wing in recognition of their excellent performance. In this connection, a prize distribution ceremony was held at CPO Office where the CPO awarded prizes and certificates to Public Relation Officer (PRO) Muneeb Ahsan and his team. On this occasion, the CPO said that the best performers would be encouraged to improve repute of the department whereas strict action would be taken against the corrupt, lethargic and delinquent persons. Such elements would be kicked out from the department without any discrimination and there is no room for these black-sheep in police, he added. – APP

SIM cards of
unvaccinated
people to be
blocked

PESHAWAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Peshawar, Khalid Mahmood has said that SIMs (subscriber identity modules) of those citizens refusing to get jabbed against Covid-19 will be blocked from August 31. He said this while presiding over a meeting regarding Corona vaccination campaign here on Monday. District Health Officer (DHO) Dr. Azmatullah Khan, officers of district administration and health department officers attended the meeting. The meeting reviewed the ongoing Covid-19 vaccination drive in the provincial metropolis and officers gave detailed briefing on the occasion. The meeting was told that the officers of health and revenue department under the supervision of district administration were carrying out door-to-door awareness campaign and vaccinating people against Covid-19. Talking on the occasion, the DC directed that the targets given regarding Covid-19 vaccination will be achieved in any circumstances. He directed the Assistant Commissioners (ACs) to monitor Covid vaccination within their tehsils. The district health officer was directed to ensure the presence of staff in vaccination centres. DC Khalid Mahmood has appealed the people for extending cooperation to Corona vaccinating teams and also urged them to get vaccinated to protect themselves and their loved ones from deadly virus. – APP

Annual insurance premium to
be enhanced up to 1.5% of GDP

He said that the Performa's for bank accounts and insurance policies are being simplified and in this connection legal experts have been deputed to pinpoint ten major points only and this per Performa should be bi-lingual



FAISALABAD: Engineer Hafiz Ihtasham Javed President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry is presenting FCCI shield to Insurance Ombudsman Dr. Muhammad Khawar Jamil during his visit to Faisalabad. – DNA

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD. The annual insurance premium of Rs. 378 billion is just a peanut which is only 0.8% of GDP and we intend to enhance it up to 1.5%, said Federal Insurance Ombudsman Dr. Muhammad Khawar Jamil. Addressing the business community in the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) here today, he said that insurance is of two types i.e., life and general insurance. He said that the Insurance Ombudsman was also receiving online complaints which were settled positively within 60 days. He said that in this connection regional offices of insurance ombudsman have been established in all provinces where competent and senior retired officers have been deputed as advisors and consultants. He said that he is preferring persuasion instead of prosecution to settle the insurance claims. He said that this strategy has yielded positive results as financial relief of Rs. 2.13 billion was given during 2020 as compared to the claims of Rs. 410 million in 2019. He said that appeals against ombudsman decisions to the president of Pakistan have also reduced to zero because of this reconciliatory policy.

He said that he had a very productive meeting with heads of insurance companies in which he stated that the claim amount is only one percent of their annual premium of Rs. 150 billion, hence they should not create hurdles in its expeditious payments. He said that the Performa's for bank accounts and insurance policies are being simplified and in this connection legal experts have been deputed to pinpoint ten major points only and this per Performa should be bi-lingual so that an ordinary applicant could fully understand its contents before signing it. He assured that an ombudsman desk would be established in FCCI on the pattern of Lahore.

Earlier Engineer Hafiz Ihtasham Javed President FCCI briefly introduced Faisalabad and FCCI and said that it was playing a key role in national exports. He also pointed out the problems faced by the insurance claimants and said that the Ombudsman should establish its desk in FCCI to redress the genuine complaints of the FCCI members. A question-answer session was also held that was attended by Syed Zia Alamdar Hussain and other executive members. Later Engineer Hafiz Ihtasham Javed presented FCCI shield to Insurance Ombudsman Dr. Muhammad Khawar Jamil while Vice President Ayub Aslam Manj offered vote of thanks.

He said that he had a very productive meeting with heads of insurance companies in which he stated that the claim amount is only one percent of their annual premium of Rs. 150 billion, hence they should not create hurdles in its expeditious payments. He said that the Performa's for bank accounts and insurance policies are being simplified and in this connection legal experts have been deputed to pinpoint ten major points only and this per Performa should be bi-lingual so that an ordinary applicant could fully understand its contents before signing it. He assured that an ombudsman desk would be established in FCCI on the pattern of Lahore.

CII offers
assistance for
course contents

Lauding Prime Minister's initiative of including Seerat-e-Nabi in the curriculum

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) on Monday lauded PM's initiative of including Seerat-e-Nabi (PBUH) in 8th to 10th grades syllabus and offered optimum technical and scholarly assistance in implementing the decision. In a letter written to Minister for Education and Professional Training Shafiqat Mahmood, CII Chairman Dr. Qibla Ayaz, said the council could help develop



the course contents. He stressed for ensuring training of teachers making the objective to get the young generation fully acquainted with different aspects of Seerat-e-Nabi of our Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) achievable. Dr Qibla offered CII contribution to develop and impart training manual to teachers and suggested teaching of Seerat-e-Nabi to young generations in story telling manner. Laudng Prime Minister's initiative of including Seerat-e-Nabi in the curriculum, he said the move would help establish welfare state on the pattern of Riasat-e-Madina.



FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali inspected the quality of essential items at Insaf Sasti Shop of Imtiaz mega mega store at Sheikhpura road. – DNA

‘Sewerage system being
upgraded in Faisalabad’

He said that for his constituency, Rs 470 million projects had been proposed including Rs 247 million for laying new sewer lines and Rs 223 million for improvement of disposal stations

FAISALABAD: Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting Farrukh Habib has said the government will utilise all available resources to provide basic amenities to masses at their doorsteps by improving the performance of Water & Sanitation Agency (Wasa) and other departments. He was presiding over a meeting at Wasa Head Office here on Monday while Chairman FDA Chaudhry Lateef Nazir, Managing Director Wasa Abdul Jabbar Chaudhry and other officers were also present. The state minister directed Wasa authorities to focus on provision of facilities to masses by launching new



projects, in addition to improving working of the existing disposal stations. He regretted that sewerage system in Faisalabad had almost broken, adding that Samanabad and its adjoining areas were in the worst condition due to overflow

gutters and stagnant sewerage water in various streets. He said that for his constituency, Rs 470 million projects had been proposed including Rs 247 million for laying new sewer lines and Rs 223 million for improvement of disposal stations. He said that Rs108 million would be spent on purchase of pumps, generators, sucker and other machinery to improve the sewerage system in Samanabad, Elahi Abad and Ahmad Nagar and other stations. He said these projects were directly linked with public welfare. Therefore, their completion period must be reduced from three years to

one year. In the later phase, disposal stations of Sitara Colony and Gulshan-e-Iqbal would also be refurbished and upgraded. He said a proposal was also under consideration to construct an open drain from Samanabad to Paharang drain. It will intake the waste water of adjoining localities and discharge it into Paharang drain. He directed the Wasa management to issue tenders without delay for up-gradation of disposal stations and improvement of sewer lines. Wasa Managing Director Jabbar Anwar Chaudhry briefed the state minister about Wasa services. – APP

FESCO chief
inaugurates tree
plantation drive

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) Engr. Bashir Ahmed planted a sapling in the lawn of the newly built FESCO rest house to inaugurate the clean and green Pakistan plantation campaign, in connection with the Prime Minister's vision

plant for Pakistan.

He said that we should actively participate in the plantation campaign and every FESCO official should play its pivotal role to make the country lush green through planting a tree. He further said that trees are mandatory for human survival and are also helpful to overcome the pollution and environmental adversity.

1,639,082
people
vaccinated in
Faisalabad

FAISALABAD: As many as 1,639,082 people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in Faisalabad district. District Health Officer Dr. Ataul Mun'im said on Monday that 1,316,149 citizens had been given the first dose while 274,940 were administered the second dose of vaccine. He further said that 28,591 health workers were also given the first dose while 19,402 received the second dose of vaccine. He said that sufficient stock of anti-coronavirus vaccine was available in the district. He said that 37 vaccination centers and 20 mobile vaccination camps were operational in Faisalabad where registered persons were getting anti-coronavirus vaccine doses. To facilitate the people these centers had been established in various areas of the city including Allied Hospital, District Headquarters Hospital, Government General Hospital, Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology, Government General Hospital Samanabad, Children Hospital, Sports Complex Samanabad, Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Jaranwala, Samundri, Tandlianwala, Chak Jhumra, Sports Complex Chak Jhumrah, Sports Complex Jaranwala, Government General Hospital Chak 224/R-B, New Building RHC Khurrianwala, New Building THQ Samundri, New Building THQ Tandlianwala, Social Security Hospital Madina Town, Wapda Hospital, Rural Health Centers Mureed Wala, Chak 174-JB, Chak 134-JB, Chak 229/R-B, Chak 65-GB, RHC Lundianwala Jaranwala, RHC Khurrianwala Jaranwala, Pindi Sheikh Musa, Kanjwani, Mamukanjan, RHC Chak 400-GB, RHC Chak 153/R-B, RHC Chak 374-GB and Chak 469-GB, he added. – APP

KP Assembly
condemns
terrorism
incidents

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Monday strongly condemned the attack on a Swat family in Karachi and the incident of indecent assault on a girl in Lahore on the occasion of Independence Day. Waqar Ahmad Khan of Awami National Party, on point of order said someone attacked on a van in which 13 persons of a family were killed in Karachi. He lamented that no coverage was given to the incident in media. Sardar Khan of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz demanded holding of judicial inquiry into the incident. Nighat Orakzai of Pakistan Peoples Party said the Chief Minister Sindh took immediate notice of the incident and provided financial assistance to the victims. Minister for Housing, Amjad Khan said Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan also contacted Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah for a probe into the incident and arrest of the culprits. Deputy Speaker Mahmood Jan asked to talk with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to raise the Karachi killing incident with Chief Minister Sindh. He also directed to bring a resolution in the House regarding the respect and protection of women. – APP

FESCO
issues
shutdown
program

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has issued shutdown program for Wednesday due to necessary repair, maintenance and expansion of electricity lines. According to the program issued by the company, power supply from TM-1 feeder emanating from 220-KV Jaranwala Road grid station will remain suspended from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. while Gogera, Bucheki Road, Buchiana Road, new Awagat, Ali Pur Bunglow, Arkana and Waseer feeders originating from 132-KV Jaranwala grid station will observe shutdown from 5 a.m. to 8 a.m. on Wednesday (August 25). Similarly, electricity supply from Pakka Anna feeder emanating from 132-KV Nia Lahore grid station, Momin Abad, Gausahala, Sir Syed Town, Tata Bazaar and Rehmania Town feeders originating from 132-KV Factory Area grid station will also remain suspended from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Aug 25, 2021. – APP

Media to help govt through positive criticism: CM KP

DNA

ABBOTTABAD: Chief Minister KPK Mahmood Khan Monday said that the media has a huge responsibility to bring the performance of the government to the fore, Prime Minister Imran Khan has brought positive changes through reforms. He expressed these views while addressing the oath-taking ceremony of Abbottabad Press Club (APC) at KP House Abbottabad. The Chief Minister further said that the media should identify problems with positive criticism so that they can find a solution, the print and electronic media must authenticate any news before its release. Mahmood Khan stated that the government was aware of the issues faced by journalists, all possible steps would be taken to resolve those issues. He added that government believes in freedom of media and we would welcome positive criticism. On the occasion, Chief Minister Mahmood Khan also gave a cheque of grant Rs. 8 million rupees to the Abbottabad Press Club and a cheque of Rs. 2 million to the Abbot-

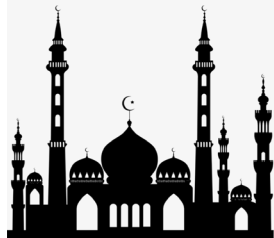
tabad Union of Journalists.

Earlier, while speaking on the occasion Information Adviser Kamran Bangash said that we have allocated a quota of advertisements for regional newspapers while to facilitate regional social media, the digital platforms we will also get approval from the cabinet. A two percent quota has been allocated for Media Colony in Peshawar and Malakand,

we will also double the endowment fund for journalists and provide Insaf cards for health facilities, adding he said. Kamran Bangash stated that Abbottabad Press Club is our priority after Peshawar, media is an important pillar of the state while the PTI government has the support of media. He said that through advertisement policy we would cooperate with the regional newspapers



SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr..... 04:07 am
Zohr..... 12:11 pm
Asr..... 04:52 pm
Maghrib..... 06:45 pm
Isha..... 08:13 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



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 Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

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



Complaints

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....0331-5022125

Ambassador of Kazakhstan lauds COMSTECH initiatives

Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary briefed the Ambassador on current programmes and past achievements of COMSTECH, along with future plans

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan visited COMSTECH secretariat on Monday morning. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General COMSTECH extended him a very warm welcome. Both the dignitaries discussed avenues of mutual cooperation in the field of science and technology. They discussed joint new initiatives between universities of the OIC member states to share expertise, extend scholarships, and exchange faculty to enhance cooperation for capacity building in science and technology in OIC member states. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary



briefed the Ambassador on current programmes and past achievements of COMSTECH, along with future plans. The Ambassador appreciated COMSTECH programmes and activities conducted for capacity building of OIC member states. He appreciated the organization of Al-Farabi forum to celebrate his 1150th birthday by COMSTECH and MoU signed between COMSTECH and Turkic Academy to start joint programmes of mutual interest. Joint initiatives in connection with 30-year anniversary of Pak-Kazakh diplomatic relations. He assured full cooperation of his office for initiatives taken by COMSTECH for enhancing mutual cooperation with his country.

Pakistan gets global attention for right climate actions: Amin

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Special Adviser to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam on Monday said the climate change impacts were continuously creating global chaos and InterGovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report had highlighted this reality quite elaborately. Therefore, climate action has become imperative to avert various kinds of disasters including frequent floods, droughts, wildfires, and heatwaves in different parts of the world, Amin said

while speaking as chief guest at a webinar 'Ahead of COP 26: what IPCC report has for South Asia' organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). "The voice of Pakistan is being heard at important international forums dealing with climate change as Pakistan is amongst very few countries that are having climate action on the ground," Aslam said adding that there should be a compensation mechanism in place coupled with allocation of funds, especially for the countries such as Pakistan that are facing huge losses to GDP due to

climate change impacts. He highlighted that Pakistan was modeling climate action and playing an active role in combating climate change despite its insignificant contribution in global carbon emission. The government of Pakistan is rigorously pursuing Green Solutions including enhancing the size of forests and mangroves, adding protected areas for forests and steps to achieve the 30% energy target through green resources by the year 2030. Mr Sanjay Vashist, Director, Climate Action Network in South Asia (CANSAs), earlier, explained that we have

been seeing extreme weather phenomena for the last several years. We must hold ourselves, especially the rich people of the world accountable for allowing this crisis to happen and make serious efforts including getting rid of fossil fuel and making investment in renewable energy. He said within South Asia, we need to allocate our own resources as developed countries are now facing the impacts that have been averted earlier. Let us not wait for the developed countries to respond to our needs. We have to take action now to avert the impacts of extreme climate events.

Liaison Committee of FDE holds meeting on academic issues

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Liaison Committee of Federal Directorate of Education held at Islamabad Model Postgraduate College of Commerce (IMPCC) H-8/4 on Monday, August 23, 2021. The meeting was chaired by Professor Muhammad Naeem Dar Principal IMPCC H-8/4. The members who attended the meeting were Ms. Sadia Adnan Director Academics FDE, Professor Sualeha Jabeen Principal IMCG (Postgrad-

uate) F-7/4, Ms. Aliya Durani Principal IMCG F-6/2 and Mr. Tahir Mahmood, Associate Professor IMPC H-8 Islamabad. The Liaison Committee of FDE is the main channel for communications between Quid-i-Azam University and ICT Colleges. In this session different academic affairs and various issues of ADP and BS students were discussed. The discussion was focused on various courses, online exam issues, admission of BA/B.Sc. students in 5th semester, bridging semester and credit hours issues.

Dukhtran-e-Pakistan narrative to contribute in peace building

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a book launching ceremony of Dukhtran-e-Pakistan narrative said the book would contribute in building peace and discouraging extremism in the society. This narrative against extremisms, violence and terrorism has been prepared by the female campus of the International Islamic University (IIU) in collaboration with Government of Pakistan and Council of Islamic Ideology (CII). The ceremony was attended by the President of Pakistan and Chancellor IIUI Dr Arif Alvi, First lady, female parliamentarians, renowned figures of society including representatives of minorities, university Vice Presidents, Deans, Director Generals and faculty members. The launching ceremony was also addressed by Minister of State for Climate Change Zartaj Gul Wazir said women since establishment of the state of Pakistan have been playing a vital role in the progress of the country. Talking about Mother of Nation, Fatima Jinnah she said that she was a role model for the women of Pakistan. She said it was the need of our society that they must take responsibility and come forward to address the deterioration. She said respect of opinion, tolerance and dialogue are the keys to make society an ideal society to live in. – APP

Rubina chairs SSC meeting on maritime affairs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A Meeting of the Senate Standing committee (SSC) on Maritime Affairs under the chairpersonship of Senator Rubina Khalid was held here at the Parliament House on Monday. Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Ali Haider Zaidi also attended the meeting. The Port Qasim Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2021, The Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2021 and The Gwadar Port Authority (Amendment)

Bill, 2021 were considered. The Secretary, Maritime Affairs Committee informed the Committee that only 21 sections of the Port Qasim Authority ACT, 1973 are being amended. Similarly, only 13 sections of Pakistan National Shipping Corporation Ordinance 1979 are being amended and that only 25 sections of Gwadar Port Authority Ordinance, 2002 were being amended. A detailed discussion between the members of the committee and the Ministry officials took place on whether or not such amendments can take place by law.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi being presented with the book Dukhtran-e-Pakistan, "Daughters of Pakistan, The Envoys of Peace", at Aiwan-e-Sadr. – DNA

Police arrest seminary principal over alleged sexual assault

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pirwadhai police on Monday arrested the principal of a seminary for allegedly sexually assaulting and torturing a minor girl, a day after the registration of a first information report (FIR) against the primary suspect and a

female instructor. Rawal Division Superintendent of Police (SP) Ziauddin told Dawn.com that the suspect had obtained pre-arrest bail in the case. However, he was still arrested after two sections – 377-B (sexual abuse of a child) and 506(ii) (criminal intimidation) – were added to the FIR on the basis of a

statement made by the victim's mother. "The senior superintendent of police (SSP) investigation and I will oversee the investigation ourselves on the instructions of Rawalpindi City Police Officer (CPO) Mohammad Ahsan Younis," he added. Giving further details about progress made in

the case, he said police were recording statements of the seminary's students to determine whether the suspect had tried to sexually assault any other female pupil. SP Ziauddin said a case was registered against four people – all of whom have been arrested – for trying to help the suspect escape.

23 outlaws held, stolen items recovered

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have arrested 23 outlaws from various areas of the city during last 24 hours and recovered stolen items from them, a police spokesman said on Monday. Following the directions of Senior-Superintendent of Police (Operations) Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer, he said that Islamabad police have accelerated efforts against criminal elements and nabbed 23 outlaws besides recovery of stolen car, jewelry, LCD and weapons from their possession. Upon receiving a call from a citizen about his car theft, Industrial-Area police acted swiftly, chased the stolen vehicle and nabbed two car lifters with the help of motorway police. The nabbed persons have been identified as Irfan and Waqas and police recovered stolen car from their possession. Golra police arrested two accused Iqbal and Naseer and recovered stolen jewelry and electronic equipment from their possession. Sihala police arrested two accused Arslan and Sadiq and recovered two 30 bore pistols from their possession. Nilore and Ramana police arrested four accused Nabeel, Nawazish, Nawaz and Yousha and recovered one 30 bore pistol each from their possession. Likewise, Koral, Tarnol and Likher police arrested Anjeel, Ghazanfer, Jameel, Manahil Abbasi, Habib and Inam besides recovery of six pistols from them. Khanna police arrested two accused Mahmood and Ehtsham and recovered two 30 bore pistols from their possession. Karachi company police team arrested five accused including two women involved in immoral activities and recovered three wine bottles from their possession.

HEC aptitude test for undergrad on Sept. 12

ISLAMABAD: The Education Testing Council (ETC) has announced to hold Undergraduate Studies Aptitude Test (USAT), a standardized test for admission at the undergraduate level in universities all over Pakistan, tentatively on September 12, 2021. According to the Higher Education Commission (HEC) on Tuesday, the last date for online registration is August 30, 2021. The students who have passed the Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) or equivalent/Grade 12 education and those who have appeared in the final examination and are awaiting results can apply for the test by registering through <http://etic.hec.gov.pk>. The USAT test is a competitive product that intends to carve out its own niche based on quality tests. It is developed from a standardised question bank with quality, equity, reliability, and validity of the product as well as integrity of the processes involved ensured at all levels of development, administration, grading and result reporting. – APP

Dacoit shot dead in police encounter

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: A dacoit was killed after a police encounter near Al-Haram city in the jurisdiction of Saddar Baroni police station here on Sunday night. According to a police spokesman, four motorcyclists opened fire on a police party and in retaliatory fire, a motorcyclist was killed while three others managed to escape from the scene. Later, the body was identified as Ayaz Hussain who was a dacoit and record holder in several dacoities, robberies, drugs and illegal weapons cases. The police also recovered weapon and a motorcycle being used by the dacoit killed in encounter, who was wanted in several murder and robbery cases. The dacoit had also killed a citizen namely Muhammad Naseer in a dacoity. Superintendent Police (SP) Saddar informed that police parties were conducting raids to net accused managed to escape from the scene.

Business community urged to explore Morocco for trade

FPCCI and the Kingdom of Morocco agree on trade, investment promotion, and exchange of delegations

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Mohamed Karmoune, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Pakistan visit FPCCI Capital office Islamabad. To advises business community of Pakistan to visit Morocco for Business and Trade enhancement. President FPCCI Main Nasseer Hyatt Maggo, Head FPCCI capital Office Islamabad Haji Qurban Ali, Coordinator FPCCI Capital Office Islamabad Welcome the Ambassador of Morocco. Ambassador of Kingdom of Morocco Mohammed Karmoune, while indicating to enhance trade volume between Pakistan and Morocco, advised the Business & Industrial Community of Islamabad to arrange trade delegations' visit at least twice a year in order to explore trade and investment opportunities in Morocco which is

the gateway to the African region. And advice Pakistan business community to send with mutual understanding trade delegates to Morocco as well, for the above said purpose. Addressing to a Leading Business Community of Pakistan in FPCCI during his visit to the FPCCI Cap-

ital Office Islamabad, he added that Pakistani business community must look for trade and investment opportunities in Morocco and benefit from Morocco's free trade agreements with United States and European Union. And tourism and exchange of herbal products and fertilizer as well are the sectors

in which both sides needs to be focused and work together. And other relevant sectors like Halal food exports, food and beverages, and other relevant products has to be mutually exports to each other countries and business scale has to be high, while sharing and exchange of technology .

President FPCCI Mian Nasseer Hyatt Maggo in his welcome and introductory address, introduce about working of FPCCI apex body it's relevant sectors and also offer mutual business delegations exchange often sector wise in near future. Also intruded CPEC it's regional importance and market in near future and invite Morocco to invest in CPEC important regions Gwader and Gilgit Baltistan as well. Both Pakistan and Morocco agreed to work further for enhancement of trade between two countries having bounding of cultural in heritage also as well. President FPCCI said that with both country's business delegates exchange it will be easy for business men to play in vital role of economy of both sides. The idea of B to B meeting while using the facility of webinar was also discussed in the said meeting due to Covid-19 situation as it's easy to be held.



Briefs

PVMA urged to bring down edible oil prices

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Shaukat Tarin Monday urged the Pakistan Vanaspati Manufacturers Association (PVMA) to adopt market-based solutions and bring down prices of edible oil and ghee in the domestic market in line with the international price trend. If there is a slight dip in the international market, it must be reflected in the domestic prices so that the consumers get relief amid highly fluctuating edible oil market, the federal minister said during a meeting with a PVMA delegation here. The Finance Minister stressed the need to evaluate the whole situation rationally and urged PVMA to come up with sustainable pricing mechanism in collaboration with the Ministry of Industries and Production and Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). The Finance Minister also directed Chairman FBR to assure expeditious disbursement of refunds to the importers of vegetable ghee/oil to ensure availability of funds. Besides, he constituted a committee comprising representatives of PVMA, Secretary M/o Industries and Production and Chairman FBR to workout arrangement for streamlining collection of sales tax and a predictable pricing formula. — APP

IG Compliant Desk resolves 96 percent complaints

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A toll-free helpline (1715) of Islamabad police namely Inspector General Complaint Cell resolved 96 percent citizens' complaints during last two months and provided immediate relief to the people. The main objective of this desk is to prevent misuse of police powers and make cops more responsive towards public complaints. This unique initiative has been taken under the guidance of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman. Through IG Complaint Desk and helpline (1715), the internal accountability of police employees has been ensured through more responsiveness to public issues. During the last two months, this desk received a total of 550 complaints of which 526 were resolved while 24 are under process and to be resolved soon. Most of these complaints were against the delay in registration of First Information Report (FIR) as well as investigation and improper attitude of policemen. Eleven complaints were received against policemen with allegations of taking bribe and disciplinary action was ensured on them. The IGP said this desk (1715) has been set up to address public grievances and people can lodge complaints against policemen by following a simple process. Islamabad police chief said that he himself reviews the complaints received through this system.

AEDB for handing over solar data stations

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) Monday signed agreements with five host institutions for handing-over the solar data stations installed in 2014, within the premises of host institutes, under the World Bank's Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP). Chief Executive Officer, AEDB Shah Jahan Mirza executed the agreements with host institutes, said a press release issued here. The institutes include NUST, Islamabad, UET-Lahore, UET Peshawar, Mehran University, Jamshoro and Energy Dept. Govt of Punjab. The underlying objective is to continue access of credible and bankable ground based data.

Pakistan greatly values ties with Australia: President

He emphasized the need to develop collaboration with Australia in the areas of education and vocational training that would help towards the socio-economic development of Pakistan

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan attaches utmost importance to its ties with Australia and wanted to further strengthen bilateral cooperation with Australia in all areas of mutual interest. He emphasized the need to develop collaboration with Australia in the areas of education and vocational training that would help towards the socio-economic development of Pakistan. The President expressed these views while talking to the outgoing Spokesperson of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and High Commissioner-designate of Pakistan to Australia, Mr Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Discussing various aspects of bilateral relations between the two countries, the President stressed that Pakistan and Australia had huge potential to increase trade and economic cooperation. He added that Pakistan wanted to enhance bilateral cooperation with Australia in diverse fields, particularly education, agriculture, trade,



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Spokesperson of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and High Commissioner-designate of Pakistan to Australia, Mr Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri, called on President Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. — DNA

water management, mining and Information Technology (IT). He also underlined

the need to attract Australian investment to Pakistan, adding that the country had

adopted business-friendly policies and had shifted its focus from geo-politics to geo-economics. Emphasizing the Government's appreciation of the positive role played by the Overseas Pakistanis, the President asked the High Commissioner-designate to work for the facilitation and welfare of the Pakistani diaspora in Australia and extend them all possible support and services. Noting the considerable number of Pakistani students in Australia, he highlighted the need for further enhancement of educational cooperation between the two countries. The President congratulated Mr Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri on his appointment as Pakistan's High Commissioner to Australia and asked him to play his role in further strengthening and diversifying Pakistan-Australia cooperation. He also appreciated Mr. Chaudhri for the excellent discharge of his duties as Spokesperson of MoFA and expressed the hope that he would perform his duties as High Commissioner of Pakistan to Australia with the same spirit of dedication.

Gems exports witness 85.98 pc increase

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The Gems exports during the fiscal year of 2020-21 grew up by 85.98 percent as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year. During the period from July-June 2020-21, Gems worth of US\$ 6,684 thousand were exported as compared to the exports of US\$ 3,594 thousand of same period of last year. Meanwhile, Handicrafts exports increased by 100 per cent, worth US\$ 5000 were also exported in current financial year as compared to the exports of Nil valuing of same period of last year. During the period under view, Furniture exports increased by 47.73 per cent, worth US\$ 5,206 thousand were exported in current fiscal year as compared to the exports of valuing US\$ 3,524 thousand of same period of last year.

PHA plants saplings at Sixth road

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi on Monday planted saplings at Fazaia College Nur Khan Base and Sixth road under ongoing monsoon tree plantation campaign. Saplings were planted on Sixth road with the help of local community while Principal Fazaia College and students also took part in the plantation drive conducted in the college premises. On the occasion, Director General PHA Rawalpindi Zaher Ahmed Jappa and Director Horticulture PHA, Sheikh Tariq Mehmood informed that PHA on the directives of Advisor to the Chief Minister Punjab and Chairman PHA Rawalpindi Asif Mahmood had planted over 25,000 saplings. The DG said that PHA Rawalpindi was utilizing all available resources to achieve the target of 200,000 plants set by the Punjab government by the end of this year.

CII offers assistance for Seerat-e-Nabi course

ISLAMABAD: The Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) on Monday lauded PM's initiative of including Seerat-e-Nabi (PBUH) in 8th to 10th grades syllabus and offered optimum technical and scholarly assistance in implementing the decision. In a letter written to Minister for Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mahmood, CII Chairman Dr. Qibla Ayaz, said the council could help develop the course contents. He stressed for ensuring training of teachers making the objective to get the young generation fully acquainted with different aspects of Seerat-e-Nabi of our Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) achievable. Dr. Qibla offered CII contribution to develop and impart training manual to teachers and suggested teaching of Seerat-e-Nabi to young generations in story telling manner. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology Senator Shibli Faraz while briefing members of FAFEN and UNDP on Electronic Voting Machine. — DNA

Pak's startup ecosystem is ready to lift off: CEO Ignite

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: 2021 has been a remarkable year for Pakistani start-ups as far as investments are concerned. In whole of 2020, Pakistani start-ups had received investment of \$77 million whereas in just 8 months of 2021, investments in Pakistani start-ups have crossed \$228 million according to Ignite. That is a growth of almost 3 times over 2020 with another 4 months still to go. If the momentum continues like this for the next couple of years, annual investments in Pakistani start-ups can reach billion dollars by 2025. According to CEO Ignite, Asim Shahryar Husain, "Over the last five years or more,



government, academia, and industry have launched many incubators which have produced more than a thousand start-ups in different verticals. Many of these start-ups are generating revenue and are ready for acceleration. When you have leading VCs like Kleiner Perkins and 20VC investing in Pakistani start-ups, then it means that you are getting ready for the global stage. Pakistani start-ups are the next big thing and many

are ready for acceleration and lift off now." Ignite is planning both horizontal and vertical expansion of its flagship National Incubation Centres (NICs) in future. Presently, Ignite has launched NICs in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, and Quetta. In future, Ignite will be launching new incubators in Faisalabad, Hyderabad, Multan and other cities of Pakistan. Also, Ignite will launch specialized incubators

in verticals such as gaming & animation, aerospace, health tech, etc. for incubation of start-ups in these areas. Sectors which are attracting investment include e-commerce, transport/logistics, FinTech, health tech, retail tech, and EdTech. So far, 37 Pakistani start-ups have raised funding of \$228 million this year. Five of them have raised more than \$10 million dollars each including Airlift (e-commerce), Cheeta (logistics), Tajir (retail tech), Educative (EdTech), and Finja (FinTech) in series A and series B funding this year. A shift towards series A and B funding by many start-ups shows that they are growing and planning national and international expansion of their operations.

Folk singer Qurban Niazi passes away

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A renowned folk singer Qurban Ali Niazi breathed his last while fighting with COVID-19 here on Monday. He was admitted in PIMS hospital where he died, said a press release issued here. Born in 1947, he made his debut by singing in the Urs/Festival of Shah Shams Tabrez in Multan at the tender age of 10. Like his elder brother and guru, legendary folk singer, late Muhammad Tufail Niazi, Qurban Ali was almost a household name in Punjab. His association with Radio Pakistan, PTV and National Institute of Folk & Traditional Heritage (NIFTH) was almost five decades old and as a member of Pakistan



Cultural Troupe, he had performed in the United States, Europe, Far East, Gulf states and India. He was specially known for his renditions of Sufi kalam/ mystic poetry of Baba Bulleh Shah, Mian Muhammad Bakhsh, folks songs, Jugni, Mahiya and Mirza. NIFTH with whom Qurban Niazi was artistically attached since its inception days has produced and published his audio-video recordings on CDs and DVDs. In addition to his achievements, he was also the recipient of Tamgha-i-Imtiaz.

Construction work of graveyard near completion

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Construction work of 'Sheri-Khamoshan' graveyard project at 'Rakh Dhamial' is near completion as boundary wall, footpaths, washrooms and ablution places have been completed at a cost of Rs20 million while remaining work is being completed swiftly. The government has also provided three ambulances and two buses to the 'Sheri-Khamoshan' authority to ferry funeral attendants and bodies from the city to the new graveyard. Punjab Law Minister Muhammad Basharat Raja, Provincial Minister for Literacy and Non-Formal Education Raja Rashid Hafeez and MPA Umar Tanveer Butt visited the graveyard and reviewed the ongoing development work. Punjab Law Minister Muhammad Basharat Raja on the occasion said that the 'Sheri-Khamoshan' consists of 1000 kanals land and the

graveyard was a longstanding demand of the people of Rawalpindi city and cantonment areas which is near completion. He said more funds required to complete all development work and provide more facilities to the citizens at the graveyard would be provided. Raja Rashid Hafeez and Umar Tanveer Butt appreciated efforts of Muhammad Basharat Raja for establishment of the graveyard and thanked him for taking keen interest in this project. According to a district administration spokesman, in 1996, the government had allocated the land in Rakh Dhamial for a graveyard, but the provincial governments and the city district administration failed to develop the project. He said that the Rawalpindi Municipal Corporation (RMC) got 1,000 kanals in Rakh Dhamial for the graveyard, but the project could not be completed and required facilities could not be provided there.

AUGUST 2021

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:
www.centreline.com.pk
www.dnanews.com.pk
www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@ Postislamabad / @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,
G-8 Markaz, ISLAMABAD-PAKISTAN
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165



Critical transition

TALKS are gaining momentum as the Taliban prepare to form a new government. The group's top political leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar arrived in Kandahar to hold consultations with different political groups and leaders—including women representatives as well as anti-Taliban commanders hailing from the Panjshir province. Such consultations are encouraging as they will help build a consensus for the formation of an inclusive government in Afghanistan.

Ex-president Hamid Karzai and chairman of high council for national reconciliation Abdullah Abdullah have also been spearheading efforts for peace, stability and national reconciliation by holding meetings with different stakeholders—including senior Taliban officials. It is expected that in the coming days Mullah Baradar will reveal what a future government setup is going to look like. The group's leadership has stated that its rule will be different this time around.

Some Afghans and INGOs have reported instances of harsh retaliation against protests and roundups of former government officials and those who are critical of the group. If true, these reports are extremely concerning as such retributive actions will only further perpetuate the cycle of violence. Post 2001, the Karzai government had made similar promises and had announced an amnesty, but the Taliban troops who laid down their arms soon realised that the promises were hollow. A repeat of this scenario needs to be avoided at all costs.

At this crucial juncture, it is essential for external stakeholders to facilitate intra-Afghan consultations so that a longstanding solution can be agreed upon. FM Qureshi has rightly stated that the current situation in Afghanistan requires sustained international engagement to ensure stability and long-term economic development. Given the fact that the US has frozen nearly \$9.5 billion in assets belonging to the Afghan central bank, Afghanistan urgently needs support for its economy, reconstruction, rehabilitation and humanitarian needs. Otherwise, we could have a humanitarian crisis on our hands, which will only further fuel unrest in the war-torn country.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 02 Issue: 93

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



Online Registration

MAKING progress on the front of digitising Pakistan, and e-governance in particular, Nadra has launched online CNIC registration, renewal and verification services. One SMS is all it takes now, compared to the tedious process of the past. This IT based solution, if efficiently run, could define future citizen registration processes and pave the way for an IT based solution to most similar services. It is vital that the government builds upon this progress.

According to officials, by sending a text to Nadra, citizens will be able to verify their personal information along with their family members which they will have to confirm through sending another text. This is a smart and effective tool to verify the status of the masses and weed out those who possess counterfeit ID cards and are living on Pakistani soil illegally. Thus, it is not just that we are making the process more convenient but we are using it to enforce laws and bring about accountability for violations.

Furthermore, in the midst of a pandemic that is here to stay for the next few years at least, this no-interaction method was the responsible step to take. On average, hundreds of people line inside and outside of government offices every single day for one reason or the other. With Covid-19, overcrowding and close proximity contact is not acceptable and the digitisation of simple processes like CNIC registration is a competent way to eliminate risks.

For the future, the government has promised the use of AI technology as well to further smoothen out official processes. This is a development that is worth looking forward to. Now, the focus of the government should just be to ensure that operations run smoothly and that the people utilise this avenue rather than sticking to their old ways.

As the US quits, China looks to move in

Dr. Azeem Ibrahim



Beijing is, therefore, very cautious in the way it is approaching the Afghanistan problem. The last thing the leadership wants is to be mired in the kind of quagmire the US and the Soviet Union found themselves in – or to bear Islamist blowback if things go off the rails. China's activities have been quiet because it wants to maintain as much global deniability as possible. It is working the diplomatic backchannels hard, but any visible engagement in the country will be concealed through obscuring veils

MAJOR regional powers are looking to fill the vacuum left by the US departure from Afghanistan. At the forefront are Russia and China. Moscow is proceeding with extreme caution and has upgraded its designation of the Taliban from "terrorist" to "radical," while Beijing sees Afghanistan primarily through the lens of its Belt and Road Initiative. The Chinese have already built extensive infrastructure throughout Afghanistan's northern neighbors and they continue to build at pace both there and through Pakistan down to Lahore and Gwadar.

China's main hope in Afghanistan is that conflict doesn't spill beyond its borders. In many ways, the stability the US brought to Afghanistan provided a suitable backdrop for Beijing to expand its own regional ambitions while Washington did the heavy lifting with its blood and treasure. China has no inherent affinity with or interest in any Afghan party. At most, it would have preferred not to have a strong US ally on its western border. And, given the extensive contacts between the Pakistani and Chinese military and intelligence establishments, it was probably influenced by Islamabad's long-term distrust of the Kabul government.

Beijing already has good working relations with both the Kabul government and the Taliban. It currently has investments in a copper mine outside Kabul and oil fields in the north. There is also a Confucius Institute at Kabul University. Much of this may not survive the takeover, but the Taliban have already indicated they would welcome Chinese investment to rebuild the country.

The Taliban have historically close ties to Pakistan, an increasingly important ally of Beijing, and have also cultivated closer ties with Iran, their erstwhile enemy, as a consequence of the two-decades-long US occupation. The confluence of interests toward



regional cooperation between both sides of the Afghan conflict with China, but also with Beijing's close regional allies in Pakistan and Iran, is remarkable – and may be the basis for a surprising peace in the region, if not a comfortable one for many of those who have to live under it.

But these circumstances are fragile and rapidly changing. The Taliban have proven in the past that they are independent-minded and belligerent above all else, while Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence will always be a wildcard in regional affairs and there are plenty of other, smaller extremist players operating in the region that could undermine cooperative efforts between the bigger players.

Islamabad will have to tread carefully as it will not be keen on seeing an inspired Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan jealously eyeing its counterparts over the border forming an Islamic emirate. And China's own approach to diplomatic engagements is also a

major risk factor: If Beijing tries any of its increasingly abrasive "wolf warrior diplomacy" against the major players, for whatever ill-judged reason, things could revert back to their chaotic norm.

Beijing is, therefore, very cautious in the way it is approaching the Afghanistan problem. The last thing the leadership wants is to be mired in the kind of quagmire the US and the Soviet Union found themselves in – or to bear Islamist blowback if things go off the rails. China's activities have been quiet because it wants to maintain as much global deniability as possible.

It is working the diplomatic backchannels hard, but any visible engagement in the country will be concealed through obscuring veils. Any economic investment will be led by "private" companies, any issues relating to security for economic projects will be managed by private mercenary groups, financing and guarantees will likely go through many middlemen, and so on. This will deviate quite substantially from the usual investment diplomacy playbook that China has honed over the past two decades, in which its efforts are usually highly public and serve propaganda purposes both domestically and internationally. But neither the success nor failure of Beijing's efforts in the country need necessarily be a bad thing in light of the original primary US objective after 9/11, which was to ensure Afghanistan does not become a haven for terrorist groups. If Chinese intervention manages to bring stability to the region, they will be more likely than America's own efforts to stamp out the kind of radicalism that might spill over to the West. And if China tries to get involved and fails to bring peace, it could be Chinese investment interests that start absorbing the attention of the extremists fighting "external enemies."

– Courtesy: Arab News

Who shall be the next IUCN president?

Munir Ahmed



The IUCN members will have an election for their next president during the World Conservation Congress next month in Marseille (France). Julia Marton-Lefevre has endorsed Her Excellency Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Managing Director of the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund and the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi

THE French government and IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature will be organizing the World Conservation Congress from September 3-11, 2021. Initially it was planned for 2020 but could not happen because of the Covid-19 situation. As the health situation has been improved in many of the IUCN member countries and in France as well, the plan is to go for a 'hybrid event'. Some participants will be present in-person while mostly joining the congress sessions and other proceedings virtually.

The bright side of the Covid-19 pandemic is that it has forced the world to explore the potential of the internet. Many have successfully experienced it. The developed countries are leading the virtual world. Many companies out there have made billions in the business and are still counting on. Environmental conditions improved and biodiversity flourished while the Covid-19 pandemic was rising. We, the human beings, especially the (un)gentlemen, need to understand that our undue interventions for the lust of money and power are the biggest and the largest threats to other species on the earth.

Do we need pandemics all the time to push away human beings from nature to give it some breathing space to flourish freely? Can't we put a stop to the (un)gentlemen's lust for money and power? Many out there are bearable. Some are genuinely appreciative for their dedicated humane leadership. They were the genuinely admirable men in leadership from France, Germany, Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland and some others from the developed world who launched the environment and sustainable development regime about three decades back. Environmental consciousness began even in earlier decades. All led by men of morals, values, ethics and norms. We shall be grateful to France for taking the lead yet another time for hosting the global event to

brainstorm nature conservation strategies and set goals for the world. The Paris Agreement, adopted by 196 Parties at COP 21 in Paris on 12 December 2015, was considered a historic milestone for the global climate change framework. It is a legally binding international treaty that is playing a central role in combating climate change impact. With the unmatched support from France, we shall believe the IUCN World Conservation Congress next month would come up with a meaningful Marseille manifesto for global nature conservation.

Industrialization was essential for development. But what the ungentle was done to nature and the environment by the men leading the industrial development have led us to the present-day disasters, pandemics and ecological crisis. Unfortunately, the men of morals, values, ethics and norms could not stop the outrage of lustful money mongers and power patrons. One bright side of the development is the emergence of women leadership in all spheres from national political leadership to the world environment and conservation regimes.

I don't know why women are more humane and naturalist than men. They never led wars or paved paths for over-exploitation for natural resources. Rather they have been more nature conservationists as I have seen them in three decades of my career in media, advocacy and outreach. Can we undermine the role of women like Julia Marton-Lefevre who have unmatched contributions to the environment and climate regime globally? She was Director General of IUCN from 2007 to mid-January 2015. Prior to this, she was Rector of the UN's University for Peace (UPEACE), and Executive Director of LEAD (Leadership for Environment and Development) International, a programme established by The Rockefeller Foundation to bring together and train mid-career leaders from all parts of the world in im-

proving their leadership skills around the issues of sustainable development. Julia has been the Executive Director of the International Council for Science (ICSU) while she began her international career in a programme on environmental education at UNESCO. Now she is serving several international organizations on their boards and as an advisor. Her career is a best combo of dynamic leadership and humanely possible conservationism. I had the chance to meet her in-person as an Associate of the LEAD International in 1998 (Yan'an-China) and in 2001 (Moscow-Russia) as the LEAD graduate. Since those years, I devotedly followed her to learn from her passionately professional speeches and writings that used to have an impactful imprint on the hearts and souls of the listeners and readers. Her nominations and selection of experts for different tasks have been on merit and keeping in view their potential.

The IUCN members will have an election for their next president during the World Conservation Congress next month in Marseille (France). Julia Marton-Lefevre has endorsed Her Excellency Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Managing Director of the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund and the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, as the candidate for the IUCN next president. Many IUCN member states and international organizations have endorsed Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak's candidacy against two men in the row. Let's push forward a woman's leadership for global conservation. She will be the only second woman in 73 years of IUCN history if elected. World needs another devoted Julia Marton-Lefevre on the global map of changing climate and conservation.

– The writer is a freelance journalist and broadcaster, Director Devcom-Pakistan, an Islamabad-based policy advocacy and outreach think tank. He can be reached at devcom.pakistan@gmail.com and tweets @EmmayeSyed

Briefs

TTP won't
act against
Pakistan

FROM PAGE 01
immigration to 1,277 foreigners including Afghans while 500 people were waiting for transit. He said that 874 people were also allowed to enter Pakistan via Torkham border while Chaman and Torkham borders were opened for trade. He said that so far no such decision was made about Afghan refugees while only those were being facilitated who were entering Pakistan legally. He said that a one-month visa was being issued to diplomats or representatives of international bodies such as the World Bank or IMF on their arrival in Pakistan. He said the Ministry of Interior had asked expired visa holders to leave, adding that they should apply for an online visa. Rashid said that the Ministry of Interior was fulfilling its responsibility of border security. The minister said that the ministry had decided to purchase six drones and 192 security cameras for safety purpose. He said that 1122 service was also being launched in the federal capital owing to security situation. He said that unfortunately the federal capital remained neglected for these much-required services in past. Sheikh Rasheed said a facilitation center had been established at the Ministry of Interior on the directive of Prime Minister Imran Khan while a helpline was also being launched to facilitate the citizens.

Taliban
warns west
against
extending...

FROM PAGE 01
last weekend shocked Western nations, coming just two weeks before an August 31 deadline for all troops to fully withdraw from the country. To manage the chaotic airlifting of foreigners and Afghans – many of whom fear reprisals for working with Western nations – thousands of soldiers have poured back into Afghanistan, with pressure growing on Washington to extend the deadline. But the Taliban, who have so far sought to strike a more moderate tone, showed no willingness to compromise on the US pullout. "If the US or UK were to seek additional time to continue evacuations – the answer is no. Or there would be consequences," Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen told Sky News on Monday. Staying beyond the agreed deadline would be "extending occupation", he added. The airport has been the scene of chaos since the Taliban seized the Afghan capital on August 15 as US and international forces try to evacuate citizens and vulnerable Afghans. A NATO official has said that at least 20 people have died in and around the airport in the past week. An Afghan security guard has been killed in a firefight between unknown gunmen and Afghan forces at the north gate of Kabul airport, the German military said, as thousands thronged the airport, seeking to flee Taliban rule. Three more people were injured in the gun battle on Monday morning that has also involved German and United States forces, the German military said on Twitter.

Germany
in talks to
continue...

FROM PAGE 01
"We are holding talks with the United States, Turkey and other partners with the goal of allowing the airport to continue to operate a civilian operation to fly these people out," he told reporters. Germany will "also continue to talk to the Taliban about this and will do this also after the withdrawal of US troops," he added. With tens of thousands crowding to the airport in a bid to flee Afghanistan after the Taliban swept back into power, the situation on the ground is "dangerous", said Maas. "The situation at and around the airport has become more chaotic in the last hours," he said, urging people not to head to the site on their own as it was not certain that they can reach the military part of the airport where evacuation flights run by NATO allies were running. German forces were "using every possible option... to bring Germans and vulnerable Afghans safely to the airport," he said.

Putin warns against terrorism
spillover from Afghanistan

Putin had earlier raised his concerns regarding the situation in Afghanistan, warning last week that a "collapse" in the security situation could see "terrorists" entering neighbouring states "under the guise of refugees"

DNA

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin has told Central Asian leaders that it is vital to avoid any spillover of "radical Islam" into the region from Afghanistan, according to the Kremlin. Addressing an online summit of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) on Monday, Putin said it was important to keep "Islamic extremists" at bay following the Taliban's takeover of power. The CSTO's emergency talks on Afghanistan were chaired by Emomali Rahmon, Tajikistan's president, and attended by the leaders of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan – all former Soviet republics. The military alliance voiced concerns that ISIL (ISIS) still had a foothold in Afghanistan and remained a threat to the wider region, the Kremlin said. It added that the six leaders had agreed to coordinate action on the unfolding situation in the country, including in response

to any emerging threats. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the group discussed the implications of "another civil war in Afghanistan", but added: "No one is going to intervene in these events." His remarks came as a Taliban spokesman said on Monday that the group had surrounded Panjshir, the only one of Afghanistan's 34 provinces that has not yet fallen to it. Several Taliban opponents have gathered in the area, which lies north of the capital, Kabul. They include Amrullah Saleh, vice president of the now-toppled government who claims



to be the acting president, and Ahmad Massoud, son of the slain commander of the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance coalition that partnered with the United States to drive the group from power in 2001. Putin had earlier raised his concerns regarding the situation in Afghanistan, warning last week that a "collapse" in the security situation could see "terrorists" entering neighbouring states "under the guise of refugees". "Our Western partners are persistently raising the question of placing refugees in Central Asian countries before obtaining visas to the United States or other countries," he told a meeting of officials of Russia's ruling

United Russia party on Sunday. "But who is among these refugees? How can we know?" Putin estimated that "hundreds, even hundreds of thousands, or maybe even millions" of people might want to flee Afghanistan, where Afghans and foreigners continue to descend on Kabul's Hamid Karzai International Airport in desperate bids to flee the Taliban's takeover. Meanwhile, hundreds have fled to Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, which share borders with Afghanistan. Moscow is keen to ensure that the instability in Afghanistan does not spill over into Central Asia, part of the former Soviet Union it regards as its own backyard, and that the region does not become a launchpad for other armed groups. It has praised the Taliban's conduct since it seized power, saying there was "no alternative" to the group and resistance to it would fail. But Moscow has stopped short, for now, of recognising the Taliban as the legitimate rulers of the country and still officially considers the group a "terrorist" entity.

Amir
Shrhzad
greeted as
new CDA
dir sports

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Officials and members of Capital Development Authority (CDA) cricket team have welcomed the appointment of Amir Shehzad as new Director Sports and Culture CDA. While congratulating Amir on his taking over as new CDA sports head they hoped that under his patronage sports and cricket will further flourish in the organization. Those greeting new CDA sports chief included Ch. Shehzad, assistant Director Sports and Culture, Manager CDA cricket team Zakauallah Khan and Shiraz Khan, Head Coach CDA cricket team.

FM talks to
Swedish,
Saudi...

FROM PAGE 01

He expressed hope that Afghan parties would work for an inclusive political settlement to ensure sustainable peace and security in the country and the region. Foreign Minister Qureshi thanked the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in its capacity as the current Chair of the OIC Summit, for convening the OIC's Extraordinary Meeting at the level of Permanent Representatives on 22 August 2021 to discuss the situation in Afghanistan. FM Qureshi also apprised his Saudi counterpart of Pakistan's efforts to facilitate the evacuation of personnel and staff of diplomatic missions, international organizations, media and others from Afghanistan. The two sides also agreed to continue close collaboration on all issues of common interest. Earlier, Swedish foreign minister Ann Linde in a telephone call to Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi expressed deep appreciation for Pakistan's assistance in the process of evacuation. Foreign Minister Qureshi apprised his Swedish counterpart of Pakistan's perspective on the latest developments in Afghanistan. He mentioned that in the last few days, he had been in touch with several European and other foreign ministers to exchange views on Afghanistan. Qureshi underlined that no other country wanted a peaceful and stable Afghanistan more than Pakistan. He said Pakistan had consistently advocated for an inclusive political settlement in Afghanistan as the best way forward and had been supporting efforts in that direction. He emphasized that the immediate priority was to ensure safety, security and protection of rights of all Afghans. He said that as a responsible member of the international community, Pakistan was fully facilitating several European countries, international organizations and media agencies to evacuate their nationals and employees and others from Afghanistan. Pakistan's efforts have been widely acknowledged. Foreign Minister Qureshi highlighted the importance of international community's sustained engagement with Afghanistan, both in areas of humanitarian arena and economic sustenance. Foreign Minister Qureshi informed FM Ann Linde of his upcoming visit to neighbouring countries of Afghanistan to consult them on the developing situation. Both the foreign ministers expressed the resolve further to strengthen bilateral relations in all spheres especially in trade, education and innovation. The foreign minister extended an invitation to his Swedish counterpart to visit Pakistan at an appropriate time. The two foreign ministers agreed to remain in contact.

Ramiz Raja appointed
as chairman PCB

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday appointed former Pakistan captain Ramiz Raja as the new chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), media reported. The development followed a meeting between Prime Minister Imran Khan, PCB sitting Chairman Ehsan Mani and Ramiz Raja at the PM's office on Monday. The PCB Chairman has been informed that he would not be given another term in the office, well-informed sources said, adding that Imran Khan will recommend Ramiz Raja's name to the PCB's governing board for the coveted post. After meeting the Prime

Minister, Ehsan Mani left without speaking to the media, sources said. Mani's term as PCB chief ends on August 25. The sources said that Prime Minister Khan, himself a former captain of the national cricket team, has decided to appoint Raja, who is likely to be given the task to implement Khan's vision. The News reported that Raja's name was floated by former cricketer Majid Khan. Incidentally, Majid Khan was the favourite to take over as the PCB Chairman three years back. At that time, Majid Khan had backed Mani for the job. Majid Khan, being a close relative of Imran Khan, did not accept the proposal of taking the position. This time, he has expressed his

support for Raja, who has always had good relations with the Khan family. On Monday, the Pakistan and Afghanistan one-day international series (ODI) will be held in Pakistan, ESPN reported Monday, which was originally scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka. Sources in the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) informed media that due to logistical issues, the country's board was unable to host the series in Sri Lanka. The Pakistan-Afghanistan ODI series was in peril as Sri Lanka had imposed a nationwide lockdown last week, bowing to intense pressure from medical experts. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who had resisted calls for a lockdown for weeks, agreed to the 10-day closure after dire warnings that hospitals could no longer cope with the inflow of COVID-19 patients. Meanwhile, ACB and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) are in contact and will soon announce the dates and schedule for the series, sources informed the news outlet. Pakistan had also issued visas to Afghan cricketers, Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry had announced Sunday, saying that he hoped they will bring "smiles to the faces of their people".

Biden seeks
to speed up
evacuation
process

FROM PAGE 01

German and American troops "participated in a further exchange of fire", the German army said in a statement. This was the latest episode in a chaotic operation overseen by the US army that has seen about 30,000 people evacuated from Afghanistan since the Taliban marched into Kabul on August 15, taking effective control of the country. The Taliban, infamous for an ultra-strict rule during their initial 1996-2001 rule, have repeatedly vowed a softer version this time. But terrified Afghans continue to try and flee, overwhelming the operation at Kabul airport and leading to tragic scenes in which at least eight people have died. The Taliban's victory ended two decades of war as they took advantage of Biden's decision to withdraw nearly all US troops from the country. The airport has been the scene of chaos since the Taliban seized the Afghan capital on August 15 as US and international forces try to evacuate citizens and vulnerable Afghans. A NATO official has said that at least 20 people have died in and around the airport in the past week.

US's unconvincing
account of the
Kabul operation

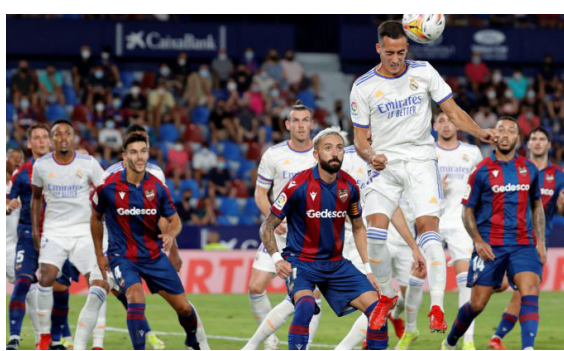
LONDON: The article "Pakistan goes to the root of Taliban support. Time to stop treating it as an ally" by Kyle Orton (telegraph.co.uk) includes the claim that Mullah Omar died in Pakistan. By all accounts, he died in Afghanistan. In the past 20 years, more Pakistani soldiers have died in confronting terrorism than those of the United States and Nato combined. Pakistan has suffered over 80,000 casualties. Pakistan's intelligence cooperation has been pivotal in decimating al-Qaeda and other groups. Pakistan continues to be a generous host to over three million Afghan refugees. It has been the consistent position of Imran Khan, the prime minister, that there was no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan, and that dialogue was the only way forward. So Pakistan played its part in bringing the Taliban to the negotiating table. The US, the Taliban and the Ashraf Ghani government held direct talks. Failure of intra-Afghan negotiations to make headway speaks of the inflexibility of various Afghan parties, rather than any "duplicity" on the part of Pakistan. Pakistan maintained that any withdrawal of international forces must be accompanied with a negotiated settlement. Unfortunately, the decision to withdraw forces was made without informing Pakistan. In the last week, Pakistan has helped hundreds of diplomatic staff of several European countries and Afghans working at organisations like the World Bank and UN to evacuate safely. Pakistan expects all stakeholders in Afghanistan to respect fundamental human rights, including the rights of women, while fulfilling their commitment to ensure that Afghan territory is not used by international terrorists against any other country. – DNA

West Indies
bowled out for
150 in 1st innings

KINGSTON: Pakistan bowled out West Indies for 150 in the first innings of second test. Pakistan players have put up a terrific fight against West Indies in the ongoing Test series. The visitors near-ly won the first Test but the Caribbeans did all the magic to seal the Test opener. West Indies won the first Test match by 1 wicket and took a 1-0 lead in the two-match Test series. The second Test match is taking place at Sabina Park, Kingston in Jamaica. Pakistan has come roaring back into the second Test after losing the first Test. West Indies won the toss and opted to bowl first. Pakistan batted first and scored 302/9 and then declared the innings. Fawad Alam top-scored with an unbeaten 124 runs with the help of 17 fours. Pakistan captain Babar Azam chipped in with 75 with the help of 13 fours. Kemar Roach and Jayden Seales bowled well and took 3 wickets each. – DNA

Laliga: Real Madrid draw with
Levante in 6-goal thriller

MADRID: Vinicius came off the bench to score a pair of goals and help Real Madrid avoid defeat at Levante in a 3-3 thriller on Sunday night at the Estadio Ciutat de Valencia. The first half was as straightforward as possible for Los Blancos, punctuated by a Gareth Bale strike, but their defence would unravel at the start of the second stanza, with Levante striking twice to take the lead. However, Vinicius would provide the heroics as a substitute with his two goals, the second of which serving as the final score and equaliser. Coach Carlo Ancelotti handed out a start to Isco, while the front three was led by Karim Benzema, Eden Hazard and Bale. Ancelotti could not have asked for a better start from his men, with David Alaba looping



a ball upfield to Benzema, who charged in on goal before cutting a pass back to Bale and the Welshman fired into net to make it 0-1. Real Madrid were very comfortable for the rest of the half with Isco at the controls and Alaba a threat every time he had the ball. Nevertheless, they failed to add on to their lead, with the best chance being a swerving freekick from Bale. At the other end, there was little from Levante, making for a relatively simple first 45 minutes for Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois and the back four. As easy as the first half was for Real Madrid, the second half started in the most complicated fashion possible for the visitors and Roger quickly had the home

side level 1-1 just seconds after the re-start when he beat Lucas Vazquez and squeezed a shot past Courtois. Levante remained on the front foot and a sweetly-hit right-footed volley from an unmarked Jose Campana off an inch-perfect cross from De Frutos gave Levante a 2-1 lead before the hour mark. The visibly annoyed Ancelotti went right to his bench and made a trio of changes, with Marco Asensio, Vinicius and Rodrygo on for Isco, Hazard and Bale, respectively. Minutes later it was a long-awaited return for right-back Dani Carvajal, who replaced Lucas Vazquez. Real Madrid were desperate for a response, and one of the new introductions would duly deliver, as Vinicius equalised 2-2. – DNA

US focus on Afghan evacuations, pledges open S China Sea

DNA

SINGAPORE: US Vice President Kamala Harris said on Monday during a visit to Singapore that the United States was focusing on evacuation efforts taking place in Afghanistan and that there would be plenty of time to analyse the context of the troop withdrawal. Harris met with Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and President Halimah Yacob during a trip aimed at bolstering ties with partners in the region as part of Washington's efforts to counter China's growing economic and security influence. "There is going to be plenty of time to analyse what has happened and what has taken place in the context of the withdrawal from Afghanistan," Harris said during a joint news conference with Singapore's prime minister. "But right now we are singularly focused on evacuating American citizens, Afghans who have worked with us and Afghans who are vulnerable, including women and children and that is our singular focus at this time," said Harris. U.S. President Joe Biden has faced criticism at home and abroad over his

handling of the withdrawal of U.S. forces and the chaotic evacuation after the lightning takeover by the Taliban.

"We hope Afghanistan does not become an epicentre for terrorism again," said Lee, adding that Singapore had offered transport aircraft to help with evacuations. Part of Harris's task during the trip will



be convincing leaders in Singapore and Vietnam that Washington's commitment to Southeast Asia is firm and not a parallel to Afghanistan. "Today, we are in Singapore to stress and reaffirm our enduring relationship to this country and in this region, and to reinforce a shared vision of a free and open Indo Pacific region," Harris said.

Singapore's Lee said that perceptions of U.S. resolve and commitment to the region would be determined by "what the U.S. does going forward, how it repositions itself in the region, how it engages its broad range of friends and partners and allies..." Singapore is not a U.S. treaty ally, but remains one of its strongest security partners in the region with deep trade ties. However, it also seeks to balance its relationships with the United States and China by not taking sides. The country is home to the biggest port in Southeast Asia, and supports continued free navigation in the area, where China is growing increasingly assertive - a concern U.S. officials plan to address during Harris' visit to the region, which also includes a trip to Vietnam. "I reaffirmed in our meeting the United States' commitment to working with our allies and partners around the Indo Pacific to uphold the rules based international order, and freedom of navigation, including in the South China Sea," said Harris. The disputed South China Sea, a strategic waterway with potential oil and gas riches, has competing claims by China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei.

Pakistan
working...

FROM PAGE 01

he said adding the international community wanted Pakistan to promote an inclusive arrangement in Afghanistan. Afghanistan had a number of ethnic groups which had a role to play, he explained.

Briefs

Uzbekistan's foreign TFO reaches \$21 billion

NEWS DESK

TASHKENT: In January-July 2021, Uzbekistan's foreign trade turnover (FTT) reached US\$21.56 billion, which, compared to the same period in 2020, increased by US\$1.98 billion (an increase of 10.1%), and imports – US\$13.44 billion US dollars (an increase of 19.0%). As a result, the foreign trade turnover amounted to a passive balance in the amount of US\$5.33 billion.

Of the total volume of the FTT, exports amounted to US\$8.11 billion (by January-July 2020, there was a decrease by 2.0%), and imports – US\$13.44 billion US dollars (an increase of 19.0%). As a result, the foreign trade turnover amounted to a passive balance in the amount of US\$5.33 billion.

Among the 20 large partner countries in foreign economic activity, there is also an active foreign trade balance with four countries, in particular with such countries as Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkey. The remaining 16 countries maintain a passive balance of foreign trade turnover.

Kyrgyzstan's COVID-19 cases hit 174,148

BISHKEK: The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Kyrgyzstan has reached 174,148 on Monday as 228 new cases were registered in the past 24 hours, the Republican Headquarters for Combating COVID-19 said. The number of recoveries has climbed to 166,702 after 394 patients were reported to have been cured and the death toll rose to 2,489 with five new deaths recorded in the past day.

Currently, there are 3,534 active cases in the country with 1,375 patients in hospitals and 2,159 patients being treated at home. A total of 3,364 tests have been conducted over the past day. The Central Asian country has started COVID-19 vaccine jabs on March 29. To date, a total of 635,867 people have been vaccinated with the first dose, and 356,215 people with the second dose. –APP

Unvaccinated citizens barred from entering malls

FOREIGN DESK

BAKU: Azerbaijan will ban unvaccinated citizens' entry to large shopping centers and catering facilities as of September 1, Interior Ministry's Spokesman Elshad Hajiyev said on August 23. The official stressed that in case of the violation of this rule, the owner of such facilities but not the citizens will be fined.

Citizens who received the first dose of the vaccine against COVID-19 will be allowed to enter the above-mentioned facilities, Hajiyev added. Meanwhile, chairman of the country's Union for Management of Medical Territorial Units (TABIB) wrote in his Twitter account today that 96 percent of citizens who were infected with coronavirus (COVID-19) and hospitalized in Azerbaijan from March to date are unvaccinated citizens. In the same post, he called on citizens to be vaccinated and thereby reduce the level of threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It should be noted that Presidential Aide Shahmar Movsumov announced on August 20 that residents over the age of 18 will be required to introduce COVID-19 passports for entering public catering establishments, hotels and large shopping centers.

No requirements on COVID-19 vaccination will be imposed for Baku metro passengers and for buyers in grocery stores, while the decision to reopen theaters and cinemas is expected to be made in the future depending on the further epidemiological situation, Movsumov said.



DOHA: Ambassador of China to Qatar Zhou Jian called on Pakistan ambassador Syed Ahsan Raza Shah. The two ambassadors discussed recent regional developments and other issues of mutual concern & agreed to continue to maintain close coordination. – DNA

Chinese-Arab co-op embraces new opportunities amid Covid

China, the largest trading partner of Arab states, has the confidence to further expand cooperation with Arab countries in emerging fields such as the digital economy, new energy and AI, said Chinese Minister Qian Keming via videolink at the opening ceremony

FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: The fifth China-Arab States Expo, held as scheduled despite the COVID-19 pandemic, concluded on Sunday in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. During the four-day event, delegates from home and abroad saw 277 projects inked and reached common ground in fields of cooperation such as the digital economy and clean energy.

China, the largest trading partner of Arab states, has the confidence to further expand cooperation with Arab countries in emerging fields such as the digital economy, new energy and artificial intelligence (AI), said Chinese Vice Commerce Minister Qian Keming via videolink at the opening ceremony.

As one of the expo's guest countries, Morocco erected a national pavilion with an area of over 300 square meters, in which visitors could gain an overview of its culture, tourism, aerospace and renewable energy development. It also held a trade and investment promo-

tional event. A child learns about local culture through a VR device at the Morocco pavilion of the fifth China-Arab States Expo in Yinchuan, northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, Aug. 22, 2021. [Photo/Xinhua] The China-Arab States Expo has enhanced bilateral enterprise cooperation and non-governmental exchanges in a pragmatic and innovative way, said Nasser Bouchiba, president of the Africa-China Cooperation Association for Development in Morocco. He said it has injected strong impetus into mutual development, playing a leading and demonstrative role for Arab states and China to jointly build a high-quality Belt and Road.

Facing the pandemic and profound global changes, participants from China and Arab states said they believed the two sides need more than ever to seek common development and tap cooperation potential.

The expo, which was downsized this year for COVID-19 prevention and control, attracted thousands of enterprises from home and abroad at its offline and online sessions. Senior officials from countries such as the United

Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Tunisia made speeches via video, aiming to attract more investment and business.

Data shows that 277 deals worth an approximate total of 156.7 billion yuan (about 24 billion U.S. dollars) were signed at the expo, covering fields including electronic information, clean energy, new materials, green food, and capacity cooperation. Arab countries and China are highly complementary in their economies and enjoy broad cooperation prospects, which drives the continuous development of practical bilateral cooperation based on mutual benefit, Moroccan Prime Minister Saad Eddine El Othmani said via video.

"The signed projects reflect that the expo has become an important platform to add new momentum for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and bring about huge opportunities for the complementary advantages and open development of countries and regions along the Belt and Road," said Zhao Yongqing, executive vice-chairman of Ningxia regional government.

In line with the current needs of the two sides, the digital economy and clean energy have become the focus of this year's event, creating new opportunities and space for further cooperation. In the UAE's economic recovery plan announced in 2020, the UAE government said it will encourage investment in the digital economy in the long term, focusing on cutting-edge technologies such as 5G and AI in order to promote digital transformation and economic recovery.

People visit the digital economy exhibition area of the fifth China-Arab States Expo in Yinchuan, northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, Aug. 22, 2021. [Photo/Xinhua] A report on 2021 Chinese-Arab trade and economic cooperation released at the expo predicts Arab states will have an increased demand for information infrastructure for years.

Some Arab countries lack the capabilities to build communication networks, which means huge market opportunities for Chinese enterprises that are experienced in engineering design and construction and have strong capabilities to serve overseas markets.

Cultural activities in Borisov City



DNA

BORISOV: The Embassy held a cultural event at the Central library of Borisov in collaboration with the Library and the Centre for Children and Youth Creativity in Borisov district on 19 August 2021. Deputy Head of Mission Abdullah

Amin represented the Embassy.

The program included a documentary about widely known Pakistani calligrapher Sadequian. On the occasion, a poetic recital (in Belarusian) of a Ghazal by Pakistani poetess Fehmida Riaz, was delivered by the Belarusian translator Svetlana Bykova. A Belarusian violinist, Nina Pruzhano-

vskaya, enchanted the participants with a rousing performance on the Pakistani composition "Sanu ek pal chain naan aawe".

Following this, the audience was introduced with the genesis and evolution of Pakistani truck art. Artists, Iqbal Khan and Tariq Khan also had a truck art master class for the local enthusiasts.

Afghan media not facing any problem after Taliban takeover

Afghan Newscaster Abasin told Pakistani media in Kabul that there was no pressure on them

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Afghan Journalists in Kabul on Monday said they were not facing any difficulties in the discharge of their professional duties ever since the takeover of Taliban in Afghanistan. Aryana Television Network Newscaster Zmaryalai Abasin told Pakistani media in Kabul that there was no pressure on them and services were being provided to the masses.

The newscaster said that the media in Afghanistan was working with maturity. He said that the last one year of Dr Ashraf Ghani's



government was very tough and dangerous for the media as they were receiving direct threats.

CEO of Aryana Television Network Sharif Hassaryar said that he has not witnessed any change in their working after the Taliban takeover and things were moving on in routine. He said that female staff was also working at the television channel as usual.

Turkey provides vocational trainings for Afghans

AGENCIES

ANKARA: Turkey is providing vocational trainings for illegal Afghan immigrants hosted in the immigration removal centers in the country following the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan, Turkish media reported on August 23.

Along with the healthcare services and food, the immigrants are provided with vocational trainings to ensure that they become employed upon their return to Afghanistan, the report said.

An immigration removal center in Van that is hosting 750 Afghan immigrants, has been provided with a psychosocial support center, a gym and children's playgrounds. Turkish language courses and handicraft courses are also given to immigrants in this center.

Irregular migrants caught by the security forces on the Iranian border and in the city center of Van are first brought to the Van Provincial Police Department. Action is taken against those who are found to have a terrorist connection or to be involved in a crime. Immigrants are hosted up to a year at the removal centers. After the contact with the relevant country consulates, the immigrants are sent back to their countries. Currently, 7,500 Afghan migrants are expected to be sent once the Kabul Airport restores its routine operation.

People evacuated as wildfire hits Greek island

AGENCIES

ATHENS: Scores of firefighters backed by water-dropping aircraft battled a forest fire that broke out early Monday on the southern part of Greece's Evia island, less than two weeks after an inferno decimated its northern part.

The fire was burning near the village of Fygia where two neighbourhoods have been evacuated and was moving toward the coastal tourist village of Marmari, where authorities were preparing boats to evacuate people if needed, according to Athens News Agency.

Forty-six firefighters were battling flames fanned by high winds – assisted by 20 fire engines, three water-dropping airplanes and two helicopters, the Greek fire brigade said.

Authorities have boats on standby off Marmari. Evia is northeast of the capital Athens.

The civil protection authorities had announced on Sunday a "very high risk" of fire for many areas of Greece on Monday.

Iran resumes fuel exports to Afghanistan

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Iran restarted exports of gasoline and gasoil to Afghanistan a few days ago, following a request from the Taliban, Iran's Oil, Gas and Petrochemical Products Exporters' Union said on Monday.

The Sunni Muslim group seized power in Afghanistan last week as the United States and its allies withdrew troops after a 20-year war.

The price of gasoline in Afghanistan reached \$900 per tonne last week as many panicked Afghans drove out of cities, fearing reprisals and a return to a harsh version of Islamic law the Taliban imposed when in power two decades ago.

To counter the price spike, the new Taliban government asked Shi'ite Iran to keep the borders open for traders.

"The Taliban sent messages to Iran saying 'you can continue the exports of petroleum products,'" Hamid Hosseini, board member and spokesperson at the Iranian union in Tehran, told Reuters, adding that some Iranian traders had been cautious due to security concerns.

Iranian exports began a few days ago, after the Taliban cut tariffs on imports of fuel from Iran up to 70%, Hosseini added, showing an official document from Afghan Customs organisation.

US envoy Zalmay Khalilzad and the Taliban's rise

The 70-year-old envoy spent years as Washington's point man for talks with the Taliban that paved the way for the deal to end the US's longest war and exit Afghanistan

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: If one individual could bring peace to Afghanistan, US envoy Zalmay Khalilzad touted himself as the man for the job. In the end, however, the seasoned diplomat seems to have overseen nothing more than the demise of the republic he helped assemble.

The 70-year-old envoy spent years as Washington's point man for talks with the Taliban that paved the way for the deal to end the US's longest war and exit Afghanistan.

That milestone came after more than a year of intense shuttle diplomacy during which Khalilzad visited foreign capitals, attended summits at glitzy hotels, and gave speeches at prestigious think-tanks. The Taliban were ready to discuss a compromise, he assured his audiences.

Once a prolific social media voice, Khalilzad has gone silent since the Taliban returned to power follow-

ing the collapse of the US-backed government in the face of an overwhelming blitzkrieg.

The Department of State said last week the envoy remained in Qatar, working the phones in hopes of encouraging a diplomatic settlement. But the deal he had hoped could end the war had actually unleashed disaster. Husain Haqqani, a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, said Khalilzad told successive US presidents eager to withdraw their troops that he had a peace deal, but it was in fact a surrender.

"He negotiated poorly, emboldened the Taliban, and pretended that talks would yield a powersharing agreement even though the Taliban had no intention to share power," Haqqani told AFP.

Khalilzad took control of the US-Afghan portfolio in 2018 after the Trump administration named him a special envoy overseeing negotiations with the Taliban. The new assignment followed a storied career.



Khalilzad had shaped embryonic governments in Afghanistan and Iraq following successive US invasions, gaining a reputation for bringing disparate groups to the table. Washington's decision to pursue talks followed years of rising violence in Kabul where the Taliban unleashed chaos by sending waves of suicide bombers into the Afghan capital. Khalilzad secured the release of the Taliban's co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar from

Pakistan's custody to kick-start the initiative, with the two sides cobbling together an agreement charting US withdrawal after nearly 20 years of conflict.

During months of negotiations in Qatar, Khalilzad was said to have developed a close rapport with the Taliban delegation.

Pictures published online showed the gregarious envoy sharing laughs and smiles with Taliban negotiators, stirring resentment in Afghanistan where war raged.

But when the US withdrawal deal was finally signed in February 2020 at a lavish ceremony in Doha, Khalilzad had secured nothing more than mostly nebulous assurances from the Taliban about any future peace.

"Khalilzad prised... just one strong commitment – that they would not attack the US and 'its allies'," wrote Kate Clark of the Afghanistan Analysts Network in a new report.

More vague were promises from the Taliban to abandon al-Qaeda

and other international armed groups, and to begin talking to the Afghan government. In hindsight, the agreement appears to have been little more than a string of American concessions.

The US was leaving Afghanistan without a ceasefire and had not even established a framework for a future peace process, something that would be vital for locking down a settlement to end the war. Rather than securing compromises from the Taliban in the months following the deal, Khalilzad piled more pressure on the Afghan government – strong-arming the palace into releasing thousands of Taliban prisoners who immediately bolstered their ranks.

To add to Kabul's woes, the agreement effectively set off a countdown, with the US promising to pull all of its remaining troops from Afghanistan by May 2021 – a deadline later extended until September. US President Joe Biden later brought back the date to August 31.

Briefs

Covid death toll hits 25,000 mark

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan marked a grim milestone Monday morning as its coronavirus death toll reached 25,000. The National Command and Operation Centre's website reported 80 deaths from the last 24 hours Monday morning, pushing the total to 25,003.

An additional 3,772 positive coronavirus cases were recorded by the NCOC over the last 24 hours after taking 53,881 tests. The positivity rate now stands at 7%.

Pakistan's total number of cases now stands at 1,127,584, with 89,919 active cases, 1,012,662 recovered and 25,003 deaths.

COVID-19 infections are decreasing in Pakistan, with 3,628 new infections reported on average each day. That's 62% of the peak – the highest daily average reported on June 17. Pakistan has administered at least 46,456,077 doses of COVID vaccines so far.

Assuming every person needs 2 doses, that's enough to have vaccinated about 10.7% of the country's population.

During the last week reported, Pakistan averaged about 594,775 doses administered each day. At that rate, it will take a further 73 days to administer enough doses for another 10% of the population.

Taliban hold first Loya Jirga after take-over

AGENCIES

KABUL: After taking over Kabul by Taliban on August 15, without firing a single bullet, the Taliban Monday held first Loya Jirga which was attended by more than 800 Ulama and representatives of various Afghan political leadership and communities.

Taliban's leader and an important member of Doha negotiators team Molvi Amir Khan Mutaqqi chaired the Jirga.

Speaking to the Jirga's participants, Molvi Mutaqqi said Taliban wanted an inclusive government of Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan, which would be represented by all the political parties and members of the Afghan communities.

Taliban's Spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid speaking to the Jirga said there was no need of any fear as all were safe in Afghanistan and no one should leave the country.

He said men and women would work to help build the Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan. He urged those who wanted to leave the country to stay and play their role in uplift of their country. Earlier, The Taliban have appointed an acting head of the Afghanistan central bank to help ease growing economic turmoil, more than a week after the group seized the capital Kabul, a statement says.

Taliban name acting head of central bank

FOREIGN DESK

KABUL: The Taliban have appointed an acting head of the Afghanistan central bank to help ease growing economic turmoil, more than a week after the group seized the capital Kabul, a statement says. Haji Mohammad Idris was named as acting governor of the central bank to help bring order to a war-crippled economy, which has been adrift for more than a week with banks closed and many government offices empty. He was expected to help organise institutions and address the economic issues facing the population, a statement from Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said.

PM Khan directs to ensure implementation of SNC

The PM stressed that Islamic history and the life and teachings of holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihe Wa Sallam Khatim-un Nabiyeen should be taught to the children

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has directed to ensure immediate implementation of single national curriculum with the cooperation of provincial governments. He was chairing a meeting regarding enforcement of uniform syllabus, in Islamabad on Monday.

The Prime Minister stressed that Islamic history and the life and teachings of holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihe Wa Sallam Khatim-un Nabiyeen should be taught to the children. He said Seerat un Nabi Sallallahu Alaihe Wa Sallam is a beacon of light for our young generation.

Imran Khan noted that Seerat-un-Nabi Sallallahu Alaihe Wa Sallam provides the best panacea to all social issues. He said the most important aspects of the life of holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihe Wa Sallam Khatim-un Nabiyeen are ethics and good manners.

The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction over the Education Ministry's so far performance for enforcement of the national curriculum. He said the implementation of the syllabus should constantly be reviewed



and changes be brought according to the requirements.

The Prime Minister directed that syllabus for grade six to twelve should be finalized by the end of this year.

Minister for Education Shafqat Mahmood briefed the meeting about the various aspects of Seerat un Nabi made part of syllabus. It was informed that a detailed consultation was held with the religious scholars of all schools of thought in this regard.

The meeting was informed that emphasis has also been laid on the standard of examination and the teachers' training.

PM reviews Dubai Expo 2020 preparations

ISLAMABAD: Chairing a review meeting on preparations regarding Dubai Expo 2020, in Islamabad today, Imran Khan directed the provincial governments to finalize the preparations for Expo 2020 to be held in Dubai.

He said special focus should be given to projects like Ravi River Project, Central Business District as well as tourism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Northern Areas, promotion of domestic mineral resources, IT and religious tourism to attract international investment in these sectors. He also directed the provinces including Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir to highlight all provincial projects.

The Prime Minister emphasized that during the Expo, special focus should be given to highlight the abundant investment opportunities in Pakistan.

Chairing another meeting on the progress on establishment of special technology zones in the country, Prime Minister Imran Khan directed to ensure one window operation for the convenience of the business community to protect them from any kind of inconvenience. The Prime Minister said the government is providing every facility to the investors and business community regarding special technology zones available in any country of the world. He said promoting technology in the country, building strong partnerships between educational institutions, the industrial sector and government agencies, and providing a conducive environment for young people to showcase their talents is among top priorities for the government.

The meeting was informed that the purpose of establishing special technology zones in the country is to ensure technology transfer, foreign investment, manpower development, research and development, job creation and increase exports in the field of technology to create import substitutes. – DNA

‘Up to Rs250 mn fine on TV channels under PMDA’

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry has said the proposed Pakistan Media Development Authority (PMDA) will be authorised to impose a fine [on TV channels] of up to Rs250 million against the current upper limit of Rs1 million in existing laws.

In an interactive session with digital broadcasters on Monday, the minister pointed out that the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority

(Pemra) was a rich organisation, “but unfortunately it didn't spend a penny on journalists' training, research and digital media since its formation.” He said there were currently seven laws regulating media in Pakistan. “Social media is dealt by the PTA, press is managed by the Press Council, the electronic media is dealt by Pemra, labour regulations are looked after by Implementation Tribunal for Newspapers Employees (ITNE), while the Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC) deals with newspaper registrations.” He reiterated that all the laws were being abolished to replace them with the one authority – the PMDA.



ISLAMABAD: Chinese ambassador Nong Rong in a meeting with JUI-F chief Molana Fazl ur Rehman. – DNA

‘Solid evidence of money laundering by the big fish’

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB chaired a meeting to review overall performance of NAB at NAB Headquarters. Chairman NAB has said that NAB has solid evidence of money-laundering of billions of rupees by the big fish which were laundered by opening fake accounts in the names of ‘falooda wala’, ‘chhabri wala’ and ‘paupar wala’.

He said that

NAB is committed to the logical conclusion of mega corruption cases by utilizing all available resources as per law. He said that NAB had constituted a Combined Investigation Team (CIT) to benefit from the collective wisdom of senior supervisory officers.

He said the CIT had the services of director, additional director, investigation officer, legal counsel and experts of the monetary and land revenue department which is lending quality. He

said NAB was the focal institution of Pakistan under the UN Convention against corruption and the chairman of SAARC Anti-Corruption Forum. He said NAB was considered a role model organization in SAARC countries. The Chairman said that NAB from Oct 2017 to June, 2021 has recovered Rs 535 billion from corrupt elements which is a record achievement as compared to other years which shows a commitment and dedication of NAB officers to

wards performance of their national responsibilities in eradication of corruption from the country.

He said that NAB has recovered Rs. 822 billion directly and indirectly since its inception and there are 1273 corruption cases, having an accumulative volume of approximately Rs. 1300 billion, are under trial in various accountability courts. The performance of NAB has been lauded by reputed national and international institutions.

The Bureau is the focal organization of Pakistan under the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Pakistan is the only country with whom China has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for eradication of corruption. He said that NAB has proved that its actions against corrupt elements are across the board as NAB does not believe in victimization. The performance of NAB is being reviewed regularly on the basis of a monitoring and evaluation system.

Paralympic Games: Amb. Matsuda extends good wishes

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Matsuda Kuninori has extended good wishes and success to Pakistani athletes participating in the Tokyo Paralympic Games which were scheduled to kick off on Tuesday.

Two Pakistani athletes were featuring in the Tokyo Paralympic Games including Haider Ali and Ms. Anila Baig. “Congratulations to the athletes, coaches, supporting staff and the families of the Pakistan's Paralympic Team for their resilience to compete in the Games especially during the time of challenging COVID-19 situation. I am sure that the Pakistani Paralympians will do their best for their country,” he said in a statement issued here.

After an impressive Tokyo Olympics finished on August 8, the Tokyo Paralympics begins on Tuesday (August 24) Overall theme for both the Olympics and Paralympics



was “Moving Forward” and the theme for the opening ceremony for the Paralympics is “We Have Wings”.

While expressing his good wishes and solidarity on the occasion of Tokyo Paralympics, the President of Pakistan's Milestone Society for Special Persons, Muhammad Shafiq ur Rehman, also congratulated the Pakistani athletes for their dedication and hard work for the Tokyo Paralympic Games.

“Due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, Pakistan team could not participate with a large contingent but still we are praying and hoping for the two Pakistani athletes to perform well and win medals for the country.”

PML-N rejects EVMs, PMDA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb has rejected the Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) and Pakistan Media Development Authority (PMDA) on Monday.

In a statement, Marriyum Aurangzeb termed the election reforms introduced by PM and the proposed PMDA as black laws. “The PMDA cannot conceal its government's incompetence, ineligibility, and corruption,” she said.

The PML-N spokesperson also maintained that the development of EVM is aimed at election rigging. She also said that said that the PML-N rejects the EVMs and PMDA as they are both unconstitutional. Marriyum Aurangzeb further said that the PML-N will not let anyone deprive the people of their right to vote or their freedom of expression.

Earlier, the joint committee of the media organizations including PBS, APNS, CPNE, PFUJ and AEMEND had totally rejected the proposed PMDA Bill and termed the concept an unconstitutional and draconian law against the freedom of press and expression. In a joint statement, representatives of media organisations said that the impression was given that the media organisations had no serious objections to the PMDA. All representatives were unanimous in rejecting the PMDA draft. The ministry is continuously trying to give the impression that sections of the media fraternity are supporting the ministry on this draconian attempt to muzzle the press.

US grants Pfizer vaccine full approval

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: The US Food and Drug Administration on Monday fully approved Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine for people aged 16 and older, a move expected to trigger a new wave of vaccine mandates as the Delta variant batters the country. “The FDA's approval of this vaccine is a milestone as we continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic,” acting FDA Commissioner Janet Woodcock said in a statement. “While millions of people have already safely received COVID-19 vaccines, we recognize that for some, the FDA approval of a vaccine may now instill additional confidence to get vaccinated.”

Punjab to ban entry of Tiktokers in parks

DNA

LAHORE: The Punjab government has decided to ban the entry of Tiktokers and YouTubers to the parks across the province, it emerged Monday. Only national media will reportedly be allowed to shoot videos in parks.

The development comes after multiple incidents of violence and harassment against women came to light in parks during public holidays in the province. Content creators are usually seen in public places making videos for their followers. In one such scenario, a Tiktoker was groped and assaulted in Greater Iqbal Park on Independence Day while she was recording a video for her channel. The assault sparked anger across the country. Sources said that permission to make videos for social media will be conditional on the submission of a script in advance, while security personnel deployed at the parks will monitor Tiktokers and YouTubers.

According to the sources, the Punjab government has also decided to ban entry without family in all major parks while students in school and college uniforms will not be allowed to enter parks either. The sources said, however, that Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar would give final approval to this ban.

China to help Pakistan deal with terrorism

The spokesperson Wang Wenbin urged the Pakistan side to arrest the perpetrators of Gwadar blast and punish them as soon as possible

AGENCIES

BEIJING: China would continue to work with Pakistan to deal with the threat of terrorism and protect the safety of the Chinese people and personnel in Pakistan, Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said on Monday.

“Terrorism is the common enemy of mankind. China firmly opposes any force using terrorism to seek geopolitical interests,” he said during his regular briefing held here. Expressing shock and condemning the attack on a vehicle carrying the Chinese nationals in Gwadar, he offered condolence over killing of Pakistani personnel in the attack and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved

families and injured.

The spokesperson urged the Pakistan side to arrest the perpetrators and punish them as soon as possible. He said the Pakistani side had given proper treatment to the injured Chinese personnel, adding, the Pakistani authorities had said they would take every effort to ensure the safety of the Chinese personnel projects in Pakistan.

He called on all regional countries to collaborate in eradicating terrorist groups and upholding the common safety and development interests of all the countries in the region. Responding to a question about Chinese nationals still in Afghanistan, he said that the Chinese side was closely following the security of the Chinese institutions and personnel in Afghanistan.

“Now our embassy there is operating normally. Most Chinese nationals in Afghanistan have returned to China beforehand with the arrangement made by our embassy,” he said. With regards to



the few Chinese who stayed there, he said, the Chinese embassy was in close contact with them, given them guidelines on strengthening the awareness of safety and taken relevant measures coordinated with the Afghanistan side to offering security guarantees for them. Noting reports of the announcement of the government framework by Afghan Taliban in near future, he said that China's position on Afghan issue was consistent and clear cut. “We hope Afghanistan can form an inclusive open broad-based government which adopts a foreign and domestic policy that is prudent and moderate so as to echo and meet the aspiration and share will of the international community and its own people,” he said.

To yet another question, he stressed that the US was an important perpetrator and biggest external factor for the Afghan issue. “I cannot leave the mess without doing anything.” He said that the US also pledged clearly that it wanted help Afghanistan to maintain stability with peace, reconstruction and development. “We hope the US will match its words with deeds and shoulder its responsibility to honour its own commitments in humanitarian assistance and reconstruction,” he added. The spokesperson said that China always adopted a friendly policy towards entire Afghan people and added, “We have provided substantial assistance to socio-economic development in the country.”