



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

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I hope Taliban will honor their vows about women rights: Bachelet

Detailed News On Page-08

India has no business in Afghanistan

Detailed News On Page-01

China slams Afghanistan policy of US

Detailed News On Page-08



Briefs

FM visits neighboring states

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi has embarked upon visits to Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Iran. During the visit, the Foreign Minister will have high-level interactions to exchange views on the evolving situation in Afghanistan and on enhancing bilateral relations. In the consultations, Foreign Minister Qureshi will share Pakistan's perspective on the latest developments in Afghanistan. Pakistan believes that the neighboring countries have a vital stake in the peace, security and stability of Afghanistan and the region.

NAB doesn't see frauds in BRT project

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb has said that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) did not see the frauds committed in BRT's Rs126 billion project. Responding to the new corruption case against PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif, the PML-N spokesperson said that Prime Minister Imran Khan did not get any summons by the bureau. "Allegations of corruption of billions and trillions have now fallen to 4.5 million," she added. The PML-N leader also said that the spectacle, which has been run for three years, has now exposed.

Faisal urges youth to get vaccinated

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Dr Faisal Sultan Tuesday said that citizens of age group 17 and 18 years would be allowed to get COVID-19 vaccine from September 1st. Addressing a press conference, Dr Faisal said that with this decision all young people of this age group will be eligible for vaccination.

'India has no business in Afghanistan'

Fawad Ch says Pakistan carrying out serious efforts for the evacuation of foreign nationals from Kabul



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain addressing a press conference. – DNA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Cabinet on Tuesday reiterated its stance that India was making constant efforts to sabotage Afghanistan peace process and said it should not meddle in affairs of the land-locked country. "India must stay away from the whole process going on in Afghanistan as it is neither its neighbour, nor has any role in Afghanistan peace process," Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said while briefing the media about Federal Cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan. He lashed out at India for using Afghan soil during previous government, led by Ashraf Ghani, to sponsor terrorism in Pakistan and said now its media had been on the forefront to sabotage the Afghan peace process

Cabinet defers decision on media authority

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Cabinet meeting on Tuesday deferred approval of the so-called Pakistan Media Development Authority (PDMA). Federal Information Minister Fawad Ch informed media that the Prime Minister has asked further deliberations on the subject. The minister said according to prime minister's advice, we will further negotiate with the stakeholders. The minister said his only concern was the issue of fake news and protection of rights of media workers. Other than that he had nothing against any media house, he added.

through baseless propaganda campaign. Fawad said Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi apprised the Cabinet of the evolving situation in Afghanistan. He said the Cabinet was informed that Pakistan was carrying out serious efforts for the evacuation of foreign nationals from Kabul. "We are facilitating the evacuation of thousands of people of different nationalities from Afghanistan's capital Kabul," he added.

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Bilawal welcomes PDM decision to launch protests

PPP has faced the government on every issue from the beginning, Karachi has many problems



Miftah Ismael quits party post

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has welcomed the decision of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) to start political activities. Talking to Media, Bilawal Bhutto said that PPP is serving the people with clear intentions. He appealed to the people for support and cooperation. He said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), and

Continued on Page 06



LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Sindh General Secretary Miftah Ismael has resigned from his party post arguing that politics became difficult in the presence of 'badmash tola' (mafia) in Karachi. The sources further claimed that Miftah Ismael had tendered his resignation to the top leadership of the party. The sources said while giving reasons for his resignation Miftah Ismael said politics has become very difficult in Karachi and Sindh in the presence of "a gang of goons". It is pertinent to note that PPP candidate Qadir Khan Mandokhail had emerged victorious in NA-249 by-poll recount defeating Miftah Ismael of PML-N by 909 votes.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani in a meeting with Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf Bin Saeed Al Maliki at embassy of Saudi Arabia. – DNA

Pakistan-China mull strategy to counter attacks

ALI FURQAN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China are formulating a joint security strategy for the protection of Chinese nationals and companies working in Pakistan. Federal Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed confirmed that a joint strategy would be formulated to counter the attacks on the Chinese citizens and projects in Pakistan. He stated this in a press conference the other day here in Islamabad. This statement came a few days after the attack on Chinese citizens in Gwadar port city of Balochistan. Chinese ambassador also raised the issue of safety of Chinese nationals in Pakistan and demanded stronger security protocol for them. The attack at the Gwadar East Bay Expressway project injured one Chinese national and killed two local children.

Continued on Page 06

IMF chief thanks Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva has expressed "deep and sincere gratitude" for Pakistan's assistance in the safe and swift evacuation of the organisation's personnel and their families from Afghanistan. In a letter to Prime Minister Imran Khan, Georgieva wrote that the "instrumental roles" played by Pakistan's ministers of foreign affairs, finance, and defence, as well as State Bank of Pakistan Governor Reza Baqir, were much appreciated.

CIA chief meets Mullah Baradar

The meeting came as efforts to evacuate thousands of people became increasingly urgent

AGENCIES



WASHINGTON: US Central Intelligence Agency chief William Burns held a secret meeting in Kabul with Taliban co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Washington Post reported Tuesday. The Monday meeting,

US to complete pull-out by Aug 31

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden plans to stick to his August 31 deadline for U.S. troops to leave Afghanistan, an administration official said Tuesday. Earlier, Biden and other G-7 leaders met virtually to discuss the situation in Afghanistan, with several pushing for him to keep U.S. troops in the country beyond next week's deadline to facilitate the ongoing evacuation effort.

Continued on Page 06

G-7 leaders discuss Afghanistan situation

NEW DESK

LONDON: An emergency meeting of the G7 leaders on Tuesday agreed that the Taliban will be held accountable for its actions in Afghanistan on

Impossible to evacuate all people: Spain

MADRID: Spain will not be able to rescue all Afghans who served Spanish missions in Afghanistan because of the "dramatic" situation on the ground, Defence Minister Margarita Robles said Tuesday.

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Continued on Page 06

Estd. 1860

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America's strategic mess is creating a void – Page 05

Kamala Harris accuses China of 'intimidation' – Page 06

Azeri, Uzbek economies have good preconditions for interaction – Page 07

Full vaccination by Oct 15 must for entering schools – Page 08

Taliban urges US to stop evacuating skilled Afghans

The Taliban spokesman says any extension in the August 31 deadline, if being considered, is "unilateral"

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN KABUL



KABUL: The Taliban have asked the US not to encourage the Afghans from leaving their homeland, saying they are "not in favour" of such a move. In a media briefing in Kabul, spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said "we are not in favour of allowing Afghans to leave", as translated from Pashto to English by his interpreter. In a speech that continued the conciliatory messaging put out by the movement since its lightning seizure of Kabul on August 15,

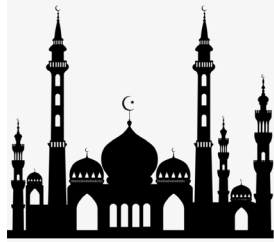
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Confusion over Ukraine jet 'hijacking' in Kabul

MONITORING DESK

KIEV: Ukraine's deputy foreign minister said Tuesday that one of the country's jets had been hijacked at Kabul airport earlier this month in a version of events later denied by his own ministry. Yevgeny Yenin told the independent Hromadske radio station that a Ukrainian plane had been "hijacked" in Kabul and flown to Iran "with a group of unknown passengers on board, instead of evacuating Ukrainians." Yenin confirmed to AFP that the incident took place on August 15 and that the plane subsequently returned to Ukraine. But his comments were then denied by the foreign ministry. "There are no Ukrainian planes hijacked in Kabul or elsewhere," spokesman Oleg Nikolenko told AFP, saying that Yenin's words "do not correspond to reality". He said three planes – two civilian and one military – that Kiev chartered to evacuate its citizens from Afghanistan "safely returned to Ukraine" carrying a total of 256 passengers.

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr..... 04:08 am
Zohr..... 12:10 pm
Asr..... 04:51 pm
Maghrib..... 06:44 pm
Isha..... 08:12 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
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Motorway Police..9270601-20
Women Police Stations
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WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
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MH.....561116
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DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International.4603666



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CDA.....9221334-43
CDA.....9208301-04
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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

Dr. Alvi for increasing the quantum of online education

Rector NUML Major General (R) Muhammad Jaffer gave a presentation about the role of university in promotion of education in the country

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi has urged the universities to increase the quantum of online education and focus on research and innovation to promote quality education in the country. He said that the universities needed to shape their vision in a way to prepare students to cope with challenges of fast changing world. The President gave these remarks during a briefing on National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Rector NUML Major General (R) Muhammad Jaffer gave a pres-

– Enforce ordinance for retrieval of illegally occupied land

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has promulgated an ordinance for retrieval of illegally occupied state land and assets and to end encroachments on the state land. The president issued the ordinance under article 89 of the constitution, said a press release issued here. Under the ordinance, the authorized officer will have the authority to issue orders for retrieving the illegally occupied state land. The officer will have the authority to take action and use force if the state land is not vacated. The local police will provide assistance to the administration in retrieving the state properties. The expenditure incurred on ending encroachments will be received from the illegal occupants who will face imprisonment and fines. President of Pakistan will set up an appellate tribunal in consultation with the Chief Justice of Pakistan for ending encroachments. – DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Germany Bernard Schlagheck gives certificate to persons leading the program Educate the Educators funded by the Germany organizations.– DNA

SCO committed to promote peace, progress, and stability

He mentioned that Pakistan, as a member of SCO, has been promoting the “Shanghai Spirit” and its foreign policy goals are in complete harmony with the Charter of SCO

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), participated in an international scien-

tific and practical conference on “20 Years of the SCO: from Regional Forum to Global Recognition” held on August 20, 2021.

In his speech, Ambassador Mahmood said that since its establishment in 2001, the SCO has grown exponentially in terms of its membership, geographical remit, international stature, organizational character and efficiency. The Organisation has evolved to promote peace, stability and progress among its members through cooperating in the domains of security, politics as well as trade, culture, tourism, education, environment and science and technology portfolios.

However, the challenges remain. Relentless efforts are required by SCO member states to overcome the hurdles in the way. He was of the view that the SCO member states have been quite successful in maintaining regional peace and security.

However, he emphasised, there is a need to step up their cooperation on issues related to security, drug traf-

ficking, counter-terrorism and bringing peace and stability in Afghanistan. He mentioned that Pakistan, as a member of SCO, has been promoting the “Shanghai Spirit” and its foreign policy goals are in complete harmony with the Charter of SCO.

Islamabad is striving towards enhancing regional connectivity, peace and security, and nurturing cultural linkages with the member states.

He reiterated that the Shanghai Spirit characterised by mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, cooperation, respect for diversified civilizations and common development is very much alive in the SCO.

He urged all the member states to persevere the collective efforts to make SCO a strong international organisation to the mutual benefit of all of us.

The conference was a part of ongoing celebrations of 20 years of SCO and all the member states participated in it. It was organised by the Centre for Strategic Researches under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan.

OIC must have training mechanism for the chemical handlers

Khalid Latif, corporate sector consultant with 33-year experience in multinational chemical industry, said we use chemical in large quantity in our daily life without following any safety measures



DNA

ISLAMABAD: COMSTech and ICCBS inaugurated 2-day international workshop on “Chemical Safety & Security in Academic and Industrial Laboratories”, on Tuesday at COMSTech Auditorium in Islamabad. Addressing the inaugural session, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, a renowned chemical scientist, Coordinator General COMSTech and Director, International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), a world renowned institute in the field of chemical and

biological sciences, said, chemicals have immense effects on human health and even impact on health of coming generations. He asked, when we buy chemicals from abroad, we are given safety instruction to handle them, but when we synthesize new chemicals, do we know the safety concerns? He stressed the need of knowing the kinds of hazards of chemicals we are exposed to in our labs and environment. He informed that there are many chemicals that have immense risk even if we are exposed to a very small quantity of them. Dr. Choudhary recommend-

ed that we must have proper training mechanism for people who work in labs and handle chemicals, develop capacity and infrastructure, spend more money to secure people exposed to chemicals, introduce regulatory framework, and develop a good system of chemical disposal. Dr. Shahid Baig, Chairman, Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), said that many chemicals have short and long term serious effects that can even take our life. He suggested we must have proper chemical handling training for lab workers, students, and chemical han-

dlers. He informed that we do not have any chemical safety and security training course. He said academic and industrial labs would benefit from this workshop. Dr. Baig said that PSF and Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) commends the role of COMSTech under the leadership of Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary for the capacity building of Pakistan and the entire Muslim world in the field of science and technology. He informed that PSF, MoST and COMSTech are working together on number of projects, and have many in pipeline.

CDA implementing Miyawaki method in Islamabad

Miyawaki method has been successfully used to regenerate forests with indigenous species in more than 38 countries

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: In order to develop green spaces in the capital, Capital Development Authority (CDA) is adopting Miyawaki method to transform it into a green and clean city. Talking to media on Tuesday, Horticulture Supervisor Tahir Bhagwali said the CDA is greening the federal capital by adopting a well-trieed and a tested approach to mitigate some of the impacts of climate change, i.e. Miyawaki approach in some sectors including H-8, I-9, I-8, G-6 and others.

"In this method of plantation, the trees are planted very close to each other. It involves planting two to four trees per square metre. These forests grow in two to three years and are self-sustaining," he further said.

He said the city is observing rapid urban sprawl over the last many years, the disappearance of green spaces – plantations, parks, green belts, and urban gardens – has become synonymous with development while the reality is otherwise. Green spaces not only enhance the quality of the urban environment but also promote sustainable lifestyles by having an impact on the health and well-being of the residents. From an ecological point of view, living greenery is the only producer in the ecosystem, he added.

Assistant Director Environment, Ahmed Shah Abdali said that Miyawaki method in Islamabad is proving to be successful one as the saplings planted as yet are growing as per the standards set by the Environment Directorate of the CDA. The saplings are watered by the same directorate. The CDA employees related to the plantation drives are found to be very enthusiastic in performing their duties, he added.

Miyawaki method has been successfully used to regenerate forests with indigenous species in more than 38 countries. It has been championed as a sustainable, cost-efficient model for environmental protection, disaster prevention, and water source protection. A fundamental requirement of the Miyawaki method is the replication of a native forest with a species that can thrive in the local climate and topography. Another core principle of the Miyawaki method is the creation of multilayered communities comprised of tall trees, medium to short trees, and bottom weeds that function together as an entire forest ecosystem.

PBM plant over 200 saplings at Faizabad

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Orphan Children of PBM's Dar-ul-Ehsaas on Tuesday planted over 200 saplings along with Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM), Managing Director Malik Zaheer Abbas Khokhar in the grassy area adjacent to Faizabad Interchange here in Islamabad. Over 200 children of PBM Schools for the rehabilitation of Child Laborers and Dar-ul-Ehsaas planted the saplings under prime minister's clean green Pakistan movement. Appreciating the children, PBM managing director said that it is the best time to motivate our children to build their attitude towards planting trees to have the nature-friendly environment ahead. "The purpose of involving the children in plantation campaign is to engage them in a national responsibility to enable them in turning Pakistan into green and environment friendly country,"he added. Malik Zaheer Abbas further said the prime minister has taken this task as a challenge to protect our country from deforestation, extreme weather conditions, pollution, carbon emission, flooding and to overcome global warming; that also demands an animated contribution of the whole nation at large.

Covid-19 threatens Asia's progress on SDGs

ISLAMABAD: The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is threatening Asia and the Pacific's progress toward critical targets under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), according to a new report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The pandemic pushed an estimated 75 million to 80 million more people in developing Asia1 into extreme poverty as of last year, compared with what would have happened without COVID-19, according to Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2021, released on Tuesday.

Assuming that the pandemic has increased inequality, the relative rise in extreme poverty—defined as living on less than \$1.90 a day—may be even greater.

Progress has also stalled in areas such as hunger, health, and education, where earlier achievements across the region had been significant, albeit uneven.

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For further information please contact the following.

Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman
Mobile: 0300 8553342

Briefs

NHMP road safety campaigns declines accidents

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Number of road accidents were decreased on national highways due to special road safety campaigns launched by the National Highway and Motorway Police (NHMP). According to a spokesperson of National Highways and Motorway, it was a matter of immense pride to uphold highest standards of professionalism whilst ensuring safety of travelers on National road network. He said patience, discipline and courage were the hallmark of NHMP, said a statement issued here. The motorway police were utilizing all their energies to create awareness about road safety, besides enforcing traffic laws. NHMP working with a vision to ensure a safe and secure driving environment on national highways and Motorways.

Universities supposed to be centers of quality

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Shafqat Mahmood on Tuesday said universities were supposed to be the centers of quality conventional and virtual education with highly qualified faculty. Addressing the launching ceremony of Phase-II of the Digital Learning and Skills Enrichment Initiative (DLSEI), he said it was an initiative of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan in partnership with Coursera. The ceremony was also attended by Dr. Shaista Sohail, Executive Director, HEC, Mr. Jeff Maggioncalda, CEO Coursera, Vice Chancellors, senior faculty members and students. After the successful completion of the DLSEI Phase-I project, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan has signed a contract with Coursera and officially launched the Program at a largely discounted pricing model. HEC through its initiative "Digital Learning and Skills Enrichment Initiative" (DLSEI) intended to enhance online learning and skills development among passionate students with 1000+ Courses and 28 Learning tracks, said a news release issued here. Addressing the ceremony, the Minister said Pakistan's education system was facing a plethora of challenges, particularly lack of quality and relevance, amidst rising demand for universities. — APP

Eagle squad briefed about effective policing

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senior Superintendent of Police (Operations) Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer on Tuesday directed the Eagle Squad of Islamabad Police to ensure effective policing measures in city and maintain high vigilance. In a briefing to the personnel of Eagle Squad, he said that strict patrolling measures should be ensured in the city for protection to the lives and property of the citizens. He asked to behave politely with citizens and ensure prompt assistance to people in case of any emergency. He said those involved in effective policing would be awarded while strict action to be taken against those involved in dereliction of duties. The government, he said, has given resources and new motorbikes to personnel of Eagle Squad and effective policing as well as safety to citizens to be ensured through high vigilance. He said 150 posting and transfers have been made today by him on the requests of policemen as the sole purpose was to accommodate policemen so that they may perform effectively.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's newly appointed High Commissioner to Canada Ameer Khurram Rathore meeting with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi before leaving for Canada. — DNA

Chakwal's uplift Govt top priority, says Ch. Sarwar

Secretary General of United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari, Group Leader of CCCI Qazi Muhammad Akbar, President Haji Noor Sultan, Senior VP Moin Akram and VP Shaukat Rafiq Malik at Governor House meet governor

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar has said that Chakwal is a district rich in mineral and natural resources and of course there is a huge potential for industrial and commercial development here. He expressed these views during a meeting with Secretary General of United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari, Group Leader of Chakwal Chamber of Commerce Qazi Muhammad Akbar, President Haji Noor Sultan, Senior Vice President Moin Akram and Vice President Shaukat Rafiq Malik at Governor House today. A delegation of Chakwal Chamber of Commerce along with Member National Assembly Tahir Iqbal Chaudhry from Vehari apprised the Governor of Punjab



Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar about the problems of Chakwal.

Governor Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar said that there

is ample potential for the promotion of tourism in Chakwal and

Chakwal district could be promoted as one of the best tourist destinations in Punjab and Tourist Resorts could be established. Referring to the 35 small dams in Chakwal, he said that he would call for a report and review it and would also send the report to Punjab Chief Minister Mr. Usman Bazzar. Earlier, a delegation of Chakwal Chamber of Commerce highlighted the problems of Chakwal, he was requested to set up an industrial estate in Chakwal, improve the tourism of Chakwal and declare it as a tourist city of Punjab. The certified small dams of Chakwal should be made functional for irrigation as these dams have the potential to irrigate up to one lakh acres of land of Chakwal and yet these dams had been failed to achieve this objective.

No NRO for corrupt elements: Ali Nawaz Awan

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Capital Development Authority (CDA) affairs Ali Nawaz Awan on Tuesday said PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif should come back to the country and face all the corruption charges in the courts. He mentioned that Prime Minister Imran Khan had

already cleared many times that there would be no National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) for anybody. Talking to a private news channel, he alleged that opposition was involved in money laundering cases and now trying to seek NRO from the incumbent government rather than facing court cases adding that they would not be succeed in their objectives.

Media organisations reject advertisement against PMDA

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The office bearers of various media organizations on Tuesday rejected the advertisement being run on various television channels against PMDA declaring it a unilateral campaign claiming to malign the proposed law. Office bearers of media

organizations including Fourth Pillar International, Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (Professionals) and Young Journalists Association said this during a meeting with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain and Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib here. They categorically stated that

all the media organizations had not rejected the PMDA draft. They said that in the past governments used to be blackmailed by media house owners, but the PTI was the first government which took this step for protection of media workers' rights. They said that they would not allow some organizations to protect the interests of the media owners

and had decided to approach Competition Commission of Pakistan against the misleading advertisement and campaign being shown by various television channels. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said the greatest challenge being faced by the modern media was distinction between fake and genuine narratives.

Police to attend public complaints

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police officials have been directed to specify an hour on daily basis for listening to public complaints and enhance meaningful coordination with general public. These directions were made by IG of Police Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman during his sudden visit to Karachi Company police station along with SSP (Operations) Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer. The IGP said that every Superintendent of Police (SP) should

interact with public and resolve their complaints on priority basis. He asked them to specify an hour on daily basis for listening to public complaints. Islamabad police chief also interacted with visitors and inquired from the staff at Front Desk about process to lodge complaints. He expressed his annoyance over not shifting the impounded bikes and vehicles at proper place and directed to hand over the identified vehicles to their actual owners. — DNA



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Shafqat Mahmood standing in respect of national anthem at launching ceremony of Digital Learning & Skills Enrichment Initiative-II at HEC. — APP

ICCI urges to incentivize Int'l brands in Pakistan

ICCI President said that Pakistan was a huge market of over 220 consumers and international brands including retailers and food chains have great potential for JVs and investment in Pakistan

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has called upon the government to incentivize the international brands in Pakistan by reducing duties on their import that would reduce their prices and make them affordable for general consumers besides bringing healthy competition in the domestic market. He said this while inaugurating the very first Hugo Boss store in Pakistan that has been opened by Sun Sports Karachi in Centaurus Mall, Islamabad. Fatma Azim Senior Vice President, Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI, Abdul Samad Zeeshan Franchisee of

Huge Boss store, Omais Khattak, Umar Hussain, Aslam Khokhar, Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, Rana Qaiser Shehzad, Naem ur Rehman Paracha, Shaikat Hayat, Hafiz Bilal Munir, Muhammad Shakir, Saeed Khan and others were also present at the occasion. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that the labour cost in Pakistan was quite cheap and provided a great advantage to international investors for penetration in Pakistan and urged that the government should also provide good incentives to the manufacturers of international brands in order to attract them for JVs and investment in Pakistan. It would help the country to increase exports of international brands and further strengthen its forex reserves. He said that the larger



presence of international brands in Pakistan would increase the confidence of foreign investors in the Pakistani market and attract more FDI to the country. He said that the entry of more international brands and their manufacturers in Pakistan would also bring more competition in the domestic market and mo-

tivate the local industry to upgrade itself for producing world class products that would give a boost to our exports as well. ICCI President said that Pakistan was a huge market of over 220 consumers and international brands including retailers and food chains have great potential for JVs and investment in Pakistan. However, they needed good incentives, consistent policies from the government side to penetrate the Pakistani market. He further emphasized that FBR should focus on further simplification of the taxation system that would encourage more international brands towards Pakistan. He congratulated the franchisee of Hugo Boss and wished him great success in business. Speaking at the occasion, Abdul

Samad Zeeshan, Head of Sportswear/Fashion at Sun Support and Franchisee of Hugo Boss said that Sun Sports is a well-established name in the category of Sports & Lifestyle, supplies some of the exclusive brands in Pakistan through its chain of sports stores located in the major cities of Pakistan. He said that Sun Sports has successfully marketed and distributed a number of globally renowned sports brands in the Pakistani market and has gained a tremendous popularity and credibility among the retailers and the customers. He said that being a progressive company equipped with highly-trained professionals of the industry, Sun Sports always seeks for the premium brands to represent in Pakistan.

Mufti Shah Nawaz held in Pirwadhai case

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The police arrested Mufti Shah Nawaz in Pirwadhai madrasa abuse case, said a police spokesman on Tuesday. He informed that police teams under the supervision of Superintendent Police (SP) Rawal were making all-out efforts to net the accused Mufti Shah Nawaz Ahmed allegedly involved in Pirwadhai Madrasa female student abuse and violence case. He said the raids were conducted in Chakri, Hassanabdal, Mansehra and other areas to arrest the accused. DSP City also visited the house of the victim and apprised her mother about progress in the case, he said adding, a transparent investigation would be ensured under the supervision of senior police officers. The spokesman informed that police respected the madaris but abuse and violence against seminary students would not be tolerated.

Faysal Islami, Sajid Sadpara join hands

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Faysal Islami, a leading name in the Islamic banking industry of Pakistan, has joined hands with the National Hero Sajid Ali Sadpara, the son of late legendary Mohammad Ali Sadpara, in a bid to support mountain sports in the country. Pakistan is home to five of the 14 highest peaks in the world. Every year, the magnificence and challenges of Pakistan's lofty mountains attract a large number of climbers, skiers, and adventurers from the world over, said a press release issued here. With the signing of this partnership, Faysal Islami would help to encourage the participation of aspiring youth from all over Pakistan in undertaking expeditions in the high-rise peaks of the country. The bank would also work together with Sajid Ali Sadpara in identifying other areas that need attention for promoting and facilitating adventure sports in the country especially in the north region.

Weather to remain hot, humid in plain areas

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) Tuesday forecast hot and humid weather conditions for most plain areas of the country during the next 24 hours. According to the synoptic situation, weak monsoon currents were penetrating eastern parts of the country. Mainly hot and humid weather is expected in most plain areas of the country on Wednesday. However, rain-wind-thundershowers are expected at isolated places in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north east Punjab, Gilgit Baltistan, Kashmir and its adjoining areas. The rainfall recorded during the last 24 hours was 01 mm at Dir. The highest maximum temperatures recorded during the period were 45 C in Dadu and 44 C in Sibbi. — APP

IHC grants interim bail to Ahsan's brother

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) Tuesday granted interim bail to PML-N leader Ahsan Iqbal's Brother Mustafa Kamal till September 13, in case pertaining to corruption in metro bus project. A division bench comprising IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Aamer Faooq granted the bail against surety bond worth Rs0.5 million. The court also sought comments from the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) against the bail petition of Mustafa Kamal till the next date. According to NAB, Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) had awarded the contract of beautification of metro bus to M/s Horti Group a company owned by the accused. — DNA

Contaminated water

THE Pakistan Council of Research of Water Resources (PCRWR) tested 29 sources of potable water for toxicity levels across the country and found 20 of them to be entirely unsafe. Apparently, the public has been drinking water laced with high levels of arsenic, iron, fluoride and even brain-eating amoeba and the provincial governments have turned a blind eye to the health hazard entirely. With the matter being discussed in the National Assembly, it is vital that all authorities—including the federal government, ministry, provincial governments and relevant departments—embark upon a purification drive. A report released by the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) earlier this year revealed that the country's industrial waste, poor sewerage system, agricultural run-off and unplanned urbanisation are all primary causes of the contamination of drinking water, and this polluted water was being consumed all across the country. It is no surprise then that our water supply has become a thriving environment for dangerous bacteria and viruses like the brain-eating amoeba that killed six people this month alone. Considering how this further aids the transmission of polio, hepatitis, influenza and even coronaviruses, alarm bells should be ringing and the authorities should be scrambling for finding viable and immediate solutions. Already, the KP and Punjab governments approved water policies that revolved around making it mandatory to check water quality once a year. Surely it takes no expert to state that this may not be enough; our country requires a comprehensive strategy that involves laws regarding proper disposal procedures and a detailed purification process. Filtration, distillation, chlorinating and reverse osmosis have been scientifically proven to create effective barriers for pollutants and bacteria to remain in the water. However, if these are proving to be unsustainable for the government, the least it can do is provide incentives, like tax cuts or subsidies, for corporations to either develop more sustainable methods or take over the large-scale purification process. Regardless of what route we take, now is the time for the government to remain determined and motivated politically and socially. If we are to battle the impending water crisis, we must eliminate pre-existing problems first.

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Continued oppression

REPORTS have emerged that the Modi government is considering imposing a ban under the black law, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, on the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and the Mirwaiz-led Hurriyat forum to stifle their voice for freedom. Hurriyat leaders in IIOJK have strongly reacted to this news by terming this as an attempt at defaming the APHC and silencing the movement for self-determination. This revelation is alarming to say the least because the allegations being levelled against the APHC are false and the group's struggle has always been peaceful and transparent. India's crimes against humanity, curbs on freedom of press, speech and assembly cannot be allowed to go unnoticed. The APHC is a recognised political and democratic forum that has been struggling for Kashmiri rights for many decades. The international community cannot allow a representative group of the Kashmiri people to be silenced in such a blatant fashion. As the situation in Afghanistan captures all the news headlines, the Modi government's atrocities against innocent civilians continue unabated. On Saturday, Indian troops shot and killed three Kashmiri youth in Pulwama district, taking the number of slain youth in the territory to six in a period of three days. This spate of violence against innocent Kashmiris and the repression of APHC only further underscores India's desperation when it comes to IIOJK. It's only aim at this point in time is to somehow eradicate all aspects of resistance. However, such heavy-handedness is only going to make matters worse for New Delhi. PM Modi would be foolish to believe that such tactics would stop the Kashmiris from pursuing their struggle for right to self-determination. In fact, banning the APHC could potentially mobilise an even greater number of people against the ongoing occupation. Hurriyat leaders represent the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the only way to work out a solution to this long-standing dispute is political dialogue, not high handedness.

America's strategic mess is creating a void

Dr. Dania Koleilat Khatib



Donald Trump, on the other hand, rode the anti-Obama wave. He wanted to undo everything his predecessor did and, in turn, Joe Biden is working on dismantling all of Trump's policies. One might argue that a reset every four or eight years is a good thing, allowing a periodic review of policy. However, this review is rarely, if ever, based on strategic considerations

WHILE most observers were expecting a breakdown following the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, the world was amazed at the speed with which the prophecy was fulfilled. Some say it was a mistake, but the truth is that when the same mistake happens more than once, it is no longer a mistake but a flaw in decision making — and the US decision-making process has been majorly flawed because it lacks an overarching strategic framework. So, even when the US scores a win, it is limited and short-lived. Policies are crafted in a haphazard manner driven by partisanship. Barack Obama wanted to stop the war his predecessor started. His decisions catered more to public fatigue with the fighting than to the advice of his generals on the ground. Moreover, he wanted to be true to his campaign promise. Obama sensed the general mood. The American people were fed up sending their young men and women to Iraq, and felt increasingly disturbed by America's deteriorating image around the world, especially since there were no weapons of mass destruction, the main reason behind the war. But, in fact, the so-called surge worked well, reconciliations were made, violence was reduced, order was established, and reconstruction was carried out and paid for by Iraqi oil. However, the layman did not see this, and Obama catered to the average American preferences rather than to the overall national interest. The US withdrawal, conducted hastily and with no proper security structure put in place before consolidating the gains of the surge, led to the rise of Daesh. Donald Trump, on the other hand, rode the anti-Obama wave. He wanted to undo everything his predecessor did and, in turn, Joe Biden is working on dismantling all of Trump's policies. One might argue that a reset every four or eight years is a good thing, allowing a periodic review of policy. However, this review is rarely, if ever, based on strategic considerations. Instead it is based on populism, as in the case of Obama's decision to withdraw prematurely from Iraq, or on a personal grudge, as in the

decisions by Biden and Trump to undo the work of their predecessors. That is why there is no consistency in any policy. Decisions are taken in the hope of immediate solutions or pseudo-solutions, regardless of their long-term effects. During the Cold War, different presidents had less leverage on policy since they were bound by a strategic framework around which there was a political and popular consensus: Containment of communism. An overarching strategy guided US policy and, hence, there was consistency. The US wanted its allies or so-called allies to be stable and prosperous in order to prevent communism from spreading. Nation-building was a strategic necessity. The Marshall Plan that followed the Second World War did not come out of a void but was based on an overall strategy of confronting communism. A bipolar world was much more orderly than the unipolar world we witness today. Since the end of the Cold War, the US has not found a foe from which it can derive a strategic framework for its policies. China, Russia and Iran are in no way a replacement for the Soviet Union. China might become a replacement further down the road if it adopts a more assertive foreign policy. However, so far, it is mainly looking after its economic interests around the world and has not shown that it is seeking to export its communist model. Iran has an anti-US ideology, but its reach is restricted to the Middle East, unlike the Soviet Union, which sponsored communist regimes around the world. Russia, on the other hand, has overplayed its capacity, and has been able to flex its muscle only to fill the void the US willingly left. As a result, there is no genuine existential threat that offers the US a basis for its foreign policy. During the Cold War, the average American saw in the communist expansion in Africa or Asia a direct danger to his Midwest hometown, but today the average American does not share the same worldview. There is no clear existential threat that can define the national interest. The 9/11 attacks created an existential threat as terrorism reached the

US mainland and, hence, world affairs became of central importance. However, the sentiment created by the terror strikes cannot be compared to general perception of communism. To start with, terrorism is a fluid concept, Osama Bin Laden was one man, and Al-Qaeda is a clandestine organization, unlike the Soviet Union, which was a well-defined country with clear objectives as well as a strong conventional army and a nuclear arsenal. The absence of an existential threat means there is less interest and engagement in world affairs, and US foreign policy is reduced to optics. This is severely affecting stability around the globe. Despite the criticism Biden is facing for his decision to withdraw from Afghanistan, the reality is that the US is bound to make similar mistakes since it has no strategic foundation for its decision-making process. Each president wants to take decisions that improve his rating in the hope of winning a successive term. However, policy stops at that — it is not deep-rooted and has no real substance. Biden's slogan is that America is back, but America is more absent than ever. Despite former US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's efforts to re-establish American "swagger," Trump's policy was more isolationist than all of his predecessors' approaches and the trend will likely continue. As the US loses interest in world affairs, more decisions like the withdrawal from Afghanistan are likely to be made. At best the US will work to mitigate some of their effects. But policy most likely will continue to be crafted in a piecemeal manner, with no strategy underpinning it. With this flawed decision-making process, we are likely to see more chaos as the US withdraws from the world scene without putting a viable alternative in place to fill the void it leaves behind. Unless a game-changer in world affairs alters the current trend in foreign policy, more curtailment is inevitable while the US struggles to maintain the appearance of a great power.

— Courtesy: Arab News

Cyber warfare taking place in cyber world

Muhammad Akhter



The EU DisinfoLab has exposed India's fake news. According to the report, Sri Vastu Group and Indian Chronicles had been chanting against Pakistan for years. It was an India-pro-network. They propagated against Pakistan in a very organized manner. The network was carried out systematic propaganda against Pakistan through fake NGOs, some obsolete NGOs accredited by the UN, dead persons, fake individuals and 750 fake news websites

IN today's world of automation and propaganda, propaganda is considered to be the most important weapon. Regrettably, no action is taken by the international community against countries that pose a threat to regional and global peace and security by taking such steps. That is why many countries are causing a lot of problems by spreading propaganda through fake news. And India is one of the countries that uses social media to spread fake news. The Modiregime of India is spreading anti-Pakistan propaganda through fake news to sabotage Pakistan's efforts in the Afghan peace process. It also has the support of the Afghan government. According to the information that came to light in this regard, 65% of the tweets through which the demand for sanctions on Pakistan was made came from bot machines. The G5 Internet Observatory, an organization that monitors fake news, has unveiled the whole story of India's heinous game, which has once again thwarted India's attempt to throw dust in the eyes of the world. According to a report by G5 Internet Observatory, India and Afghanistan have been involved in propagating against Pakistan on Twitter for the past few days. It is a matter of fact that, the Fake Twitter accounts spread fake news against Pakistan and the Pakistan Army, which was later spread with the help of official Twitter accounts in India and Afghanistan. The international organizations and the international community are aware of this whole situation and they have received solid evidence in this regard many times. It is pertinent to note here that, it is not a first time Indian conspiracy has been exposed, but also the conspiracies of India's fabricated anti-Pakistan propaganda also had been exposed in earlier this year by EUDisinfoLab. Let's review, how pro-India network 'spread disinformation'. It is well-known to everyone, India never misses an opportunity to propagate against Pakistan. Recently, the secret of Indian false propaganda against Pakistan has come to light. Never before in the world has such a well-organized and large-scale propaganda network had been exposed. EU DisinfoLab's report is a unique event of its kind that had shocked the whole world. It can also be called the Fifth Generation Warfare. What is being done? The global propaganda against Pakistan has been going on for the last fifteen years, not just a few weeks and months. The European Union (EU) DisinfoLab has exposed India's fake news. According to the report, Sri Vastu Group and Indian Chronicles had been chanting against Pakistan for years. It was an India-pro-network. They propagated against Pakistan in a very organized manner. The network was carried out systematic propaganda against Pakistan through fake NGOs, some obsolete NGOs accredited by the United Nations, dead persons,

fake individuals and 750 fake news websites. False news and reports against Pakistan were also being provided internationally through the Indian news agency ANI. No one bothered to confirm these negative news. This propaganda has benefited India and harmed Pakistan's interests. India has used digital media extensively against Pakistan. India had also provided some of Pakistan's friendly countries with fabricated and self-made reports which were first disseminated around the world through its network, then kept these fake reports against Pakistan as evidence. The propaganda against Pakistan would have continued if the EU DisinfoLab had not uncovered this secret Indian network in its report. The report shocked not only the European Union, but also UN agencies. It is the result of cyber warfare that minorities in India, including Muslims, Christians and Sikhs, are being targeted with prejudice and hatred, but India is not among the countries violating religious freedom, while minorities in India are currently being persecuted at the state level. Specific laws are being made, for which the land of India has been narrowed. Minorities have been made, a second citizen. It is true that Indian Prime Minister Modi and the Indian Establishment have become a threat not only for the minorities living in their country, but to the whole world. The Sri Vastu Group defamed Pakistan to divert attention from India. According to independent analysts, there is a strong possibility that the Indian state agencies and the Indian intelligence agency RAW are behind all this network. Because No individual or NGO can do this alone. The resources provided are possible only at the state level. Of course, India is involved in all the projects. India has emerged as an irresponsible state after this scandal. The world has changed and the style of warfare in the world has also changed. Now, instead of missile and tank wars, cyber warfare is being waged on computers and the internet. He who has successfully propagated against the enemy has won. Now, the most important question is what does India want and what is the purpose of all this propaganda against Pakistan? The straightforward answer to this is what every Pakistani knows, India's aim is to weaken and destabilize Pakistan and discredit Pakistan's role in the Afghan peace process. India has been trying for a long time to impose various kinds of sanctions on Pakistan. Sometimes an issue is raised and sometimes another. On the one hand it has started cyberattacks against Pakistan and on the other hand it has started to set up a new game in Afghanistan, where double game is being played to derail the Afghan peace process. India has opened many fronts against

Pakistan. But it is facing defeat on all fronts. In this cyber world, cyber wars are taking place, now new wars are not being fought on the field like traditional wars, but they are being fought on the screen, on news channels, on computers and on our cell phones. You can simply call it the world of cyber-world or internet. People's minds are being changed. If you have succeeded in changing the minds of a nation or a group through propaganda, then this is the greatest achievement in the new world. We can also call it Fifth Generation Warfare. In today's world, social media or digital media cannot be separated from the fifth generation warfare. These are two sides of the same coin, that is, one goal. The purpose of cyber warfare is to weaken Pakistan and to create suspicion and frustration in the hearts of the Pakistani nation and to break their hearts and minds. This is the beginning of cyber war, its end and its outcome, no predictions can be made at this time, but it has been decided that the first frontal cyber war between the countries will take place. On the other hand, if independent NGOs and research institutes do a little research, they can reach the influential segments of the Indian propaganda against Pakistan in the FATF. How fake reports have been prepared to discredit Pakistan. How India is throwing dust in the eyes of the international community. International institutions also have to fulfill their responsibilities now. The UN agencies have to take this whole issue seriously that, The Indian Establishment has been spreading propaganda against Pakistan through Sri Vastu Group, Indian Chronicles, Ghost NGOs and fake news websites. Is it continue? How many fake news websites have been blocked so far? How many NGOs have been cracked down on? Are the UN agencies taking any steps to prevent such tactics in the future? However, those NGOs, fake websites and personalities who have been taking money from the Indian establishment and spreading propaganda against Pakistan and any other country should be banned. They should be blacklisted forever. Despite all facts, some countries have remained silent only because they have business interests with India and they sell their goods in India's big market. But how long will this double standard last? The world will ultimately have to prioritize human blood and basic human rights over business interests, and that time will surely come. Now is the time for the international community to go beyond mere rhetoric and take regular action against India to stop it from its nefarious activities.

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Briefs

CIA chief meets Mullah Bradar

FROM PAGE 01
which if confirmed will have been the highest-level encounter between the group and the Biden administration since the militants' return to power, came as efforts to evacuate thousands of people from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan became increasingly urgent. Meanwhile, Taliban spokesperson Mujahid said he "cannot confirm" if Taliban co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar met CIA chief William Burns. Burns is one of US President Joe Biden's most experienced diplomats; while Baradar, is one of the top leaders in the regime that has taken power in Kabul. A spokesperson for the CIA would not confirm the meeting to AFP, saying that the agency "never discusses the director's travels." The Washington Post, which cited anonymous US sources for the meeting, did not the content of the discussions between the Taliban co-founder and the CIA boss. But it said it was likely they revolved around any delay in the deadline for the United States to finish evacuations at the airport of the Afghan capital, where thousands of Afghans, are still massed with the hope of fleeing the country. Biden has set an August 31 deadline to finish the chaotic airlift organised by thousands of temporarily deployed US and UK troops, but has left the door open to an extension if needed. But a spokesman for the Taliban warned Monday the hard-line group would not agree to any extension, calling the issue a "red line", with any delay viewed as "extending occupation".

Bilawal welcomes PDM...

FROM PAGE 01
the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) have been exposed and people are aware of their reality, adding Imran Khan's economic policies are causing an increase in poverty. When asked about the Pakistan Democratic Movement, he said, "Our party wants to give a tough time to the government." The PDM was told by PPP that undemocratic rulers could be sent home in a democratic manner, he added. He said that PPP has faced the government on every issue from the beginning, Karachi has many problems and we want to find a solution of every problem.

G-7 leaders discuss...

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protecting women's rights and preventing terrorism. "We reaffirm that the Taliban will be held accountable for their actions on preventing terrorism, on human rights in particular those of women, girls and minorities and on pursuing an inclusive political settlement in Afghanistan," said a statement issued by Downing Street after British Prime Minister Boris Johnson convened the meeting. The Taliban must "guarantee" a safe passage for those fleeing Afghanistan beyond the current August 31 evacuation deadline, the G7 agreed, according to British Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Johnson said that he and his colleagues had agreed "a roadmap for the way in which we're going to engage with the Taliban" in the future. He added that the "number one condition" was "to guarantee... through August 31 and beyond, a safe passage for those who want to come out."

Impossible to evacuate..

FROM PAGE 01
Robles said Taliban checkpoints and violence were making it difficult for people to reach Kabul airport to catch one of the daily flights on a Spanish military plane out of the country. "We will evacuate as many people as possible but there are people who will stay behind for reasons that do not depend on us, but on the situation there," Robles said during an interview with news radio Cadena Ser.

Kamala Harris accuses China of 'intimidation'

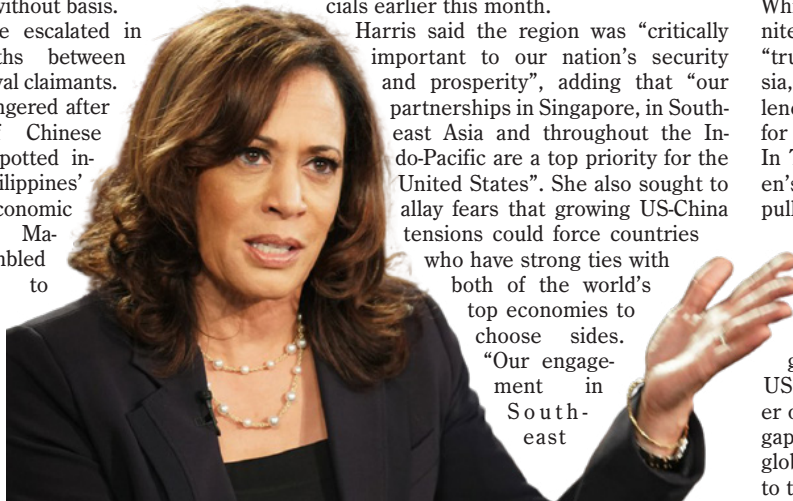
"Beijing's actions continue to undermine the rules-based order and threaten the sovereignty of nations," she said

FOREIGN DESK

SINGAPORE: US Vice President Kamala Harris has accused China of using "coercion" and "intimidation" to back unlawful claims in the South China Sea as she sought to rally Asian countries against Beijing and shore up US credibility in the wake of a chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan. Her comments on Tuesday came during a seven-day trip to Singapore and Vietnam that is aimed at standing up to China's growing security and economic influence globally. The US has called rivalry with China "the biggest geopolitical test" of the century and is diverting attention and resources to the Indo-Pacific region as it turns away from old security preoccupations, including with the withdrawal of its forces from Afghanistan. "We know that Beijing continues to coerce, to intimidate and to make claims to the vast majority of the South China Sea," Harris said in her speech in Singapore. "Beijing's actions continue to undermine the rules-based order and threaten the sovereignty of nations," she said. "The United States stands with our allies and partners in the face of these threats."

'Right, courageous'

China claims almost all of the resource-rich sea, through which trillions of dollars in shipping trade passes annually, with competing claims from four Southeast Asian states as well as Taiwan. Beijing has been accused of deploying a range of military hardware, including anti-ship and surface-to-air missiles there, and ignored a 2016 international tribunal decision at The Hague that declared its historical claim over most of the waters to be without basis. Tensions have escalated in recent months between Beijing and rival claimants. Manila was angered after hundreds of Chinese boats were spotted inside the Philippines' Exclusive Economic Zone, while Malaysia scrambled fighter jets to intercept Chinese military aircraft that appeared off its coast. The US Navy



meanwhile regularly conducts "freedom of navigation" operations through the disputed waters, which China objects to, saying they do not help promote peace or stability. In recent months, US President Joe Biden's administration has ramped up outreach to the region, with Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Austin both visiting the area. Secretary of State Antony Blinken held a number of virtual meetings with Southeast Asian officials earlier this month.

Harris said the region was "critically important to our nation's security and prosperity", adding that "our partnerships in Singapore, in Southeast Asia and throughout the Indo-Pacific are a top priority for the United States". She also sought to allay fears that growing US-China tensions could force countries who have strong ties with both of the world's top economies to choose sides. "Our engagement in South-east

Asia and the Indo-Pacific is not against any one country, nor is it designed to make anyone choose between countries," she said. Part of Harris's task during the trip will be convincing leaders in the region that the US commitment to Southeast Asia is firm and not a parallel to Afghanistan. The chaotic US withdrawal from Afghanistan, however, complicated that message of support to the region, raising questions about the US commitment to its allies. While Biden said last week that an indefinite engagement would have benefitted "true strategic competitors" China and Russia, China has seized on the images of violence from the evacuation to slam the US for its engagement there. In Tuesday's speech, Harris defended Biden's decision to push ahead with the US pullout from Afghanistan as "courageous and right" and reiterated that US officials were "laser-focused" on the evacuation from Kabul airport. She also said the US had put itself forward to host a meeting of the Asia-Pacific trade group APEC in 2023, which includes the US, China and Japan. She will hold talks later on Tuesday with business leaders in Singapore on supply chain issues, including the global microchip shortage, before heading to the Vietnamese capital, Hanoi.

'India has no business in Afghanistan'

FROM PAGE 01

He said the Pakistan International Airlines had so far facilitated evacuation of over 1,500 people from Kabul. Pakistan was also taking steps to open its borders for evacuating of foreign nationals from Afghanistan, he added. He said the government had been in contact with the opposition on EVMs and granting voting right to overseas Pakistanis. Terming PML-N as an obstacle in carrying out electoral reforms, he said the party never came to the power without rigging. He alleged that opposition parties were conspiring to deprive over 9 million Pakistani expatriates from the right of vote, adding steps being taken by the government for transparent elections, were in line with the judicial commission recommendations formed after the PTI's demand for opening of four constituencies after 2013 elections. About Pakistan's relations with the United States, he said US Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken had spoken to Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi three times, while Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa was in contact with American Central Command's Chief. Close consultation process between the Pakistan Army leadership and Pentagon and Defence Department was underway, he added. At the moment, there were two tracks underway with regard to Afghan peace process. He said Pakistan was regional power and its involvement in Afghanistan peace process was crucial.

Pakistan-China mull strategy...

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Responsibility as claimed by the Balochistan Liberation Army, a separatist group that has also launched similar attacks in the past. Masood Khalid, former Pakistani ambassador who serves in Beijing said that China is concerned about the recent attack on Chinese but the statements by the Beijing doesn't mean that neighbouring country is angry with Pakistan. He said that two divisions are raised in the army for the protection of CPEC projects and consider the joint strategy by both countries a good development. Pakistan should secure Chinese working for CPEC projects he added. Masood Khalid said that the terror attacks on Chinese wouldn't achieve their aims so far because China and Pakistan know which forces are behind these attacks.

Taliban urges US to stop...

FROM PAGE 01

Zabihullah Mujahid said the focus was on clearing up and improving security. Mujahid said the crowds of Afghans thronging Kabul airport seeking a flight out of the country could go home and urged them to help rebuild their country. "We need their expertise," he said, adding that once security was re-established, women would be able to return to work as normal. He also denied reports that Taliban patrols were conducting house to house searches to find targets for reprisals, saying: "We have forgotten everything in the past." Mujahid repeated that the Taliban wanted good diplomatic relations with other countries and wanted foreign embassies to remain open. The Taliban spokesman said any extension in the August 31 deadline of US troops and foreign nationals, if being considered, is "unilateral". "The extension was unilateral by the United States. It was a violation of the agreement. We want them to evacuate all foreign nationals by the 31st of August. And we are not in favour of allowing Afghans to leave," the interpreter said, in response to a question by a journalist asking if the deadline can be reconsidered under any conditions. In response to another question, Mujahid said he "cannot confirm" if Taliban co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar met CIA chief William Burns. He also said the movement wanted dialogue to resolve the situation in the province of Panjshir, where forces loyal to Ahmad Massoud, son of the former anti-Soviet commander Ahmad Shah Massoud, had gathered.

Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games open



DNA

TOKYO: Japanese Emperor Naruhito declared the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games open on Tuesday evening at Tokyo's Olympic Stadium. A record number of 4,403 athletes from 162 delegations have been confirmed to take part across 22 sports at the Tokyo Paralympics which runs through September 5. China, which is participating in the Summer Paralympics for the 10th consecutive time, has sent a delegation of 251 athletes, 132 female and 119 male, with the oldest athlete being 56 years old and the youngest 16 years old. They will compete in 20 of the 22 sports. International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach is among the very few invited spectators at the opening ceremony. As the coronavirus situation has worsened in Japan in recent weeks, the Paralympics will also take place generally without spectators, as was the case with the Olympics.

Two Pakistani athletes to take part in Paralympic

TOKYO: Two athletes from Pakistan will take part in Tokyo's 2020 Paralympic Games, starting from today with a glittering opening ceremony. Haider Ali and Anila Baig will represent Pakistan in the discus throw event. Anila will be seen in action on August 29 while Haider Ali on September 3. Ali hails from Gujranwala and is representing Pakistan in the Paralympic Games for the third time. Anila is from Faisalabad. She had qualified for a mega-event after finishing fourth in the World Para Athletics Championship in 2019 in Dubai. - DNA



Azadi Cup Tenpin Bowling starts from today

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Azadi Cup Tenpin Bowling Championship will start from today (Wednesday) at Leisure City Bowling Club, Jinnah Park, Rawalpindi. President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sadar Yasir Ilyas Khan will be chief guest in the opening ceremony of the Championship. According to President, Pakistan Tenpin Bowling Federation, Ijazur Rehman, all arrangements of the tournament have been finalized by the organizing committee and players from all over the country will participate in the nine events including Singles Masters, Doubles, Deaf, Team event, women, Inter University, Inter School, Amateur and Media. He said that the semi finals and finals will be played on August 29 and August 30, respectively. The concluding and prizes ceremony will be held on August 30, at 6 pm. Trophies, Medals and certificates will be delivered to the players.

Afghan women footballers evacuated by Australian government after plea

KABUL: The Australian government has evacuated more than 50 women footballers and athletes and their dependents from Afghanistan following an appeal by world bodies Fifa and Fifpro. A statement by the international footballers' federation Fifpro expressed gratitude to Australia. Following the retaking of Kabul by the Taliban, many Afghan sportswomen went into hiding. The statement said work was still needed to settle the women abroad. "These young women, both as athletes and activists, have been in a

position of danger and on behalf of their peers around the world we thank the international community for coming to their aid," Fifpro said of an evacuation that was for more than 50 people according to news sources including ABC. "We urge the international community to make sure that they receive all the help they need. There are also many athletes still at risk in Afghanistan and every effort should be made to offer them support." Afghanistan's former football captain Khalida Popal described the evacuation of the group, which included members of the Afghanistan national women's football team and their youth team, as "an important victory". However, she cautioned that more work was still needed in saving others from an uncertain fate. "The women footballers have been brave and strong in a moment of crisis and we hope they will have a better life outside Afghanistan," said Popal, 34. "Women's football

is a family and we must make sure everyone is safe." Fifpro general secretary Jonas Baer-Hoffmann said evacuating the women was "an incredibly complex process for everyone involved", adding: "Our hearts go out to all the others who remain stranded in the country against their will." Last week, football's world governing body Fifa joined Fifpro in writing to governments around the world requesting assistance, as players feared for their lives. "I have not been able to sleep, I have been crying and feeling helpless," Popal said. When the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in the late-1990s, girls were prevented from attending school after the age of 10 and many forced into child marriage. Under the oppressive rule, which ended in 2001 after a military campaign spearheaded by US armed forces, women could not leave home alone and were forced to wear the burqa.

Tolerant or turbulent? Taliban 2.0

AYSHA J KHAN

AFGHANISTAN, a war ravished and one of poorest countries in the world is bleeding yet again. The month of August has everyone hanging by a thread not just in Afghanistan but the whole region. The swift and tactful, capture of the country by Taliban has startled the world. The fall of Kabul was most unexpected this soon and fast. Taliban took up the baton and secured the city without any bloodshed. Taliban claim to have reinvented themselves, the eloquent press



conferences, educated and presentable men, social media savvy with English proficiency, slight foreign accents and also promises of compassion and leniency has the world perplexed since horrors of the 1990s Taliban rule is engraved on hearts of afghans especially the women who suffered the most due to them. Kabul is in turmoil, with chaos on some parts and business as usual in other parts of the city, the Airport being flash point showing images of bewildered afghans and foreigners in thousands trying to escape in sloppy haphazardness. Situation in rest of Afghanistan is not a pretty picture either. There is also fighting going on in the Panjshir valley which is the home ground of Ahmed Massoud son of late Ahmed Shah Massoud leader of Northern alliance who refuse to

give up to Taliban. In all this madness, if the American troops lingers on their deadline of 31st August 2021 once again, and decide to stay longer, this will surely aggravate Taliban since their pact will again be broken by USA and there is a big chance of face off which can result in a bloodbath. Surely both sides should avoid this situation by all means available. Afghans have a capricious relationship with Pakistan too, on our part Pakistan has opened its Chaman (Baluchistan) border with Afghanistan as well as the Embassy is robustly facilitating all people and all nationalities who contact to be evacuating from Kabul. If all this isn't enough to keep common afghans terrified of their future, \$9 billion dollars Afghan aid has been frozen by interna-

tional organizations to pressurize Taliban into submission, This shall have devastating backlash on Afghan economy. The country will starve, Sanctions is not the answer. The 38 million afghans, majority living below poverty line should not suffer due to Taliban. My appeal to western nations is to rethink the outcome of this decision. In order to bring whole Afghanistan together and create some harmony, is it all that bad to give Taliban a chance to prove themselves if they walk the talk of their tall claims of having a rebirth and adheres by the international laws and freedom to women, religious, cultural rights to all citizens and comply with power sharing of all stake holders, they're not going away anytime soon anyway. The world will eventually acknowledge their presence sometime in

future if not now. Why must whole Afghanistan suffer due to Taliban? Russia, China, Qatar are already in talks with them. Pakistan has reiterated to work with Afghanistan and pledged support with whoever afghans choose as their government. Afghanistan deserves peace and stability like any other nation in the world. Time to give them tools to stand on their own feet. Their country has been depleted by world powers and regional stakeholders to play out their global and national agendas since a longest time. Afghanistan must be given a chance to breathe again and normalize. The least, the world and USA/NATO in particular can do is not to abandon nor sanction Afghanistan but advance and rehabilitate in accordance with their covenant 20 years ago.

Briefs

Turkey rolls out national AI strategy

FOREIGN DESK

ISTANBUL: Turkey revealed a national road map for the field of artificial intelligence (AI) on Tuesday with a ceremony in the country's northwestern province of Kocaeli. AI is estimated to contribute between \$13 trillion and \$15 trillion to the global economy by 2030, along with 13-14% of global growth, Industry and Technology Minister Mustafa Varank said in his speech at the ceremony rolling out National Artificial Intelligence Strategy. With the coronavirus pandemic having accelerated digital transformation efforts globally, he said, the market size of these technologies totaled \$50 billion in 2020 and is expected to double within five years. Varank underlined that though some projections forecast a rise of unemployment due to AI in almost every sector, they miss that many more creative and knowledge-based jobs will be created via the new technologies that emerge. "Instead of resisting technological transformation, adopting and managing it is the most rational way. Our duty here is to ensure the realization of this transformation in the most beneficial way for our society," the minister highlighted.

Azerbaijan boosts natural gas production

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan increased gas production and export while decreasing oil production and export during the period of January-July 2021, the Ministry of Energy reported on August 24. In January-July 2021, Azerbaijan produced 24.1 billion cubic meters of gas, which is 1.7 billion cubic meters or 7.8 percent more compared to the same period last year. Of the total natural gas production, the Azeri-Chirag-Guneshli block of fields accounted for 7.5 billion cubic meters and Shah Deniz for 12 billion cubic meters of produced gas. In the meantime, SOCAR has produced 4.6 billion cubic meters of gas. The country's gas export increased by 35 percent year-on-year reaching 10.4 billion cubic meters in January-July 2021. Some 5.2 billion cubic meters of gas have been exported to Turkey, 4 billion cubic meters to Europe and 1.1 billion cubic meters to Georgia during the reported period. Some 58.4 million cubic meters of gas have been supplied to the Baku-Tbilisi-Jeyhan pipeline system and more than 3.2 billion cubic meters of gas transported to Turkey via TANAP pipeline during this period.

Turkey, Uruguay tout bilateral ties

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: Turkey and Uruguay on Tuesday touted their longstanding ties, as the foreign ministers of both countries signed pacts for establishing a political consultation mechanism and cooperation in academies for diplomats. Speaking at a joint news conference with his visiting Uruguayan counterpart Francisco Bustillo in the capital Ankara, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said relations between the two countries have gained new momentum. Telling how relations between Turkey and Uruguay were discussed "comprehensively" in meetings on Tuesday, Cavusoglu described the relations as "positive" and "hopeful." Asked about Ankara's evacuations from the Afghan capital Kabul, Cavusoglu said Turkey has evacuated over 1,400 people from Afghanistan with about 200 more in line to leave. Of the evacuees, he said, "1,601 of them are our citizens and others are nationals of other countries." He also noted that there are about 4,500 Turkish citizens total in Afghanistan. "We have contacted each of our citizens, called them one by one," he said.

Azeri, Uzbek economies have good preconditions for interaction

The ministry stressed that Uzbekistan is interested in the development of investment and industrial cooperation with Azerbaijan

DNA

TASHKENT: The economies of Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan have much in common and complement each other, which creates good preconditions for intensive interaction, the Uzbek Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade told Azeri media. The ministry stressed that Uzbekistan is interested in the development of investment and industrial cooperation with Azerbaijan. "It is also encouraging that Azerbaijani business circles are showing great interest in cooperation with Uzbek partners. This can be judged by the number of joint ventures created and operating in Uzbekistan (about 200). They are mainly employed in such areas as trade, mechanical engineering, and metalworking, finance and insurance, real estate, energy, services, jew-

elry production and repair, food industry, light industry," added the ministry.

The ministry stated that over the past three years, within the State Investment Program in Uzbekistan, about \$30 million of direct Azerbaijani investments have been spent, two-thirds of which fall on 2020. The Uzbek ministry also said this year it expects an even greater inflow of investments from Azerbaijan, adding that both countries have great prospects for joint development of the markets of other countries.

"Opportunities are available in the electrical, mechanical engineering, textile, leather, and footwear, pharmaceutical and food industries, the agricultural sector, as well as in the field of transport communications. During the eleventh meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Commission, it is planned to discuss in detail all the above areas of



cooperation and determine plans for the near future," the ministry noted.

The ministry further said that recently, the development of cooperation between Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan took place amid the COVID-19 pandemic, but despite this, relations between the countries continue to progressively develop and strengthen.

"We should especially note the contacts at the highest level, which set the vector for

the development of bilateral cooperation. In particular, on October 14, 2019, on the sidelines of the meeting of the Council of Turkic-speaking States, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev held a working meeting, during which priority tasks were identified for the further development of mutually beneficial cooperation in promising areas," the ministry also noted.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's new Ambassador to Switzerland Aamir Shaukat in a meeting with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. – DNA

US, allies can't evacuate all Afghans by Aug 31: Germany

Allies must therefore plot out how they can keep getting people out of Afghanistan even if the military operation ends as scheduled

FOREIGN DESK

BERLIN: Western allies will not be able to fly every Afghan who needs protection out of Kabul before the United States' planned August 31 withdrawal deadline, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said on Tuesday.

"Even if (the evacuation) goes on until August 31 or even a few days longer, it will not be enough to allow those who we, or the United States, want to fly out," Maas told Bild TV.

Allies must therefore plot out how they can keep getting people out of Afghanistan even if the military operation ends as scheduled.

G7 leaders are due to hold talks later Tuesday on the crisis triggered by the Tali-



ban's return to power, and European partners have urged Washington to push back the timeline on ending their deployment in Afghanistan.

If the August 31 deadline is kept, then the Americans "will certainly need two days to fly out their own military alone", said Maas, thereby possibly bringing forward the last day for the civilian evacuation flights.

Germany has so far flown out

around 3,800 people from Afghanistan in an operation described by the defence ministry as highly risky.

But Chancellor Angela Merkel's government has come under heavy fire for misjudging the Taliban's lightning advance, and for failing to evacuate Afghans who worked for its NATO deployment in the country early enough. On Tuesday, Marcus Grotian, a German army officer heading the relief group Sponsorship Network for Afghan Local Forces, accused the government of using "bureaucratic tricks" to trim the number of Afghans who should qualify for protection.

Among the hurdles that local employees of German agencies had to clear was a

requirement that they had worked in a German organisation in the last two years to get protection.

While the timeline was later extended for those who worked for the German army or security forces, it kept out others employed by other German agencies. "Local employees are rejected because they worked for the wrong ministry at the wrong time," he said, citing the case of a female worker for the development ministry who made it to Kabul airport but who was turned away by German soldiers.

"We are overwhelmed and bitter to a degree that it impossible to put in words," said Grotian.

"We are morally wounded by our own government, and that is shameful."

Kyrgyzstan warns about terrorist 'sleeper cells'

FOREIGN DESK

BISHKEK: Dormant groups of terrorists could be hiding quietly in Central Asia, bidding their time and planning attacks, the Kyrgyz foreign minister declared, just days after Russian President Vladimir Putin gave a similar stark warning.

Speaking as part of an interview with RIA Novosti published on Tuesday, Ruslan Kazakbayev said that he believes Islamic militant organizations like Al-Qaeda and ISIS could be operating sleeper cells in the region as part of efforts to "promote their ideology."

However, the diplomat added, the rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of US forces won't necessarily have a destabilizing impact on the region. "When we talk about sleeper cells, then this is not about the Taliban," he said. "The leadership of the Taliban has



previously stated more than once that it is focused only on the internal agenda and has no plans for expansion outside the country."

Also on rt.com Putin warns terrorists & Taliban fighters 'disguised as refugees' could be flowing out of Afghanistan amid chaos of US withdrawal ISIS, Al-Qaeda and the Taliban are all designated as terrorist organizations and banned in Russia. On Sunday, speaking to members of the governing United Russia party, President Vladimir Putin cautioned that fighters could be hiding among the exodus of desperate people fleeing Kabul.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Portugal Paulo Neves pocinho meets Federal Minister for Science and Technology Senator Shibli Faraz. – DNA

Azeri Deputy defence chief attends Int'l Army Games

DNA

MOSCOW: Azerbaijani Deputy Defence Minister Nizam Osmanov took part in the opening ceremony of the International Army Games-2021 on August 23, the Defence Ministry has reported.

The deputy defence minister also met the Tank Biathlon contestants at the Alabino military training ground and wished them success in the competition.

In the pavilion representing Azerbaijan at an exhibition organized in the House of Friendship within the framework of the International Army Games, Osmanov familiarized himself with the presented literature and various exhibits reflecting national and spiritual values and wished the creative team every success.

Azerbaijani servicemen, are to join the Sea Cup and the Masters of Artillery Fire contests in Iran and Kazakhstan respectively as part of the International Army Games - 2021.

The Azerbaijani armed forces have taken part in the International Army Games since 2015. Since then the Azerbaijani army has participated in the Tank Biathlon, Sniper Frontier, Military medical relay race, Field Kitchen, Masters of Artillery Fire, Sea Cup competitions.

Wanted PKK terrorist arrested in Istanbul

AGENCIES

ANKARA: A wanted PKK terrorist was arrested in an anti-terror operation in Istanbul, the Interior Ministry said on Monday.

As part of coordinated efforts by police in Istanbul and eastern Bingol provinces, the terrorist – identified as Sonuc Gurdegir, code-named Rodi Cevlik – was found to be hiding at a residence in the Atasehir district, the ministry said in a statement.

Gurdegir, a senior PKK member in charge of the eastern Erzurum province, is on the orange category of the Interior Ministry's wanted list, the statement added.

Somalia is walking in Afghanistan's footsteps

The foreign-led nation-building experiment in Somalia will collapse, just like in Afghanistan, unless a different approach is taken

PATRICK GATHARA

IN his 2010 memoir *Decision Points*, former United States President George W Bush explained his rationale for the decision to invade Afghanistan in the following words:

"Afghanistan was the ultimate nation-building mission. We had liberated the country from a primitive dictatorship, and we had a moral obligation to leave behind something better. We also had a strategic interest in helping the Afghan people build a free society... because a democratic Afghanistan would be a hopeful alternative to the vision of the extremists."

After two decades of Western occupation, however, there seems to be little sign of the "hopeful alternative" Bush predicted, at least judging from the desperate scenes at Kabul airport, where people have been scrambling to leave the country following the extraordinarily swift Taliban takeover of the country. This is despite the lives and treasure the West has poured into rebuilding Afghanistan's institutions and economy, and into training and equipping the Afghan army and police.

There are important lessons to be drawn from Afghanistan's fate by those engaged in the fight against extremist groups in

Somalia where a similar nation-building experiment is being carried out by the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM). For the past 14 years, African countries, with the support of the West, have deployed troops, drawn from Uganda, Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya and Ethiopia, to battle the al-Qaeda-affiliated terrorist group, al-Shabab, and to prop up Somalia's feeble government. AMISOM also has civilian and police components aimed at helping rebuild civilian institutions. Yet despite years-long efforts and the expenditure of some \$900m annually, the government in Mogadishu remains weak and divided with little popular legitimacy. And though pushed out of most urban areas, the Islamist insurgency remains in control of much of the countryside and able to carry out devastating attacks in the capital at will. Like Afghanistan, Somalia has seen some economic growth since al-Shabab was driven out of Mogadishu and many towns, with the World Bank estimating an annual GDP growth rate of 5-6 percent in 2015 and 2016. But the growth has mainly been urban-based, consumption-driven, and fuelled by donor support and remittances from the Somali diaspora.

Employment is concentrated in low-productivity agriculture with private sector development and diversification constrained by insecurity, political instability, weak institutions, inadequate infrastructure, widespread corruption and a difficult business environment. Last year, the country ranked at the very bottom of the 2020 Doing Business survey.

The similarities with Afghanistan do not end there. In December 2006, following an ill-advised declaration of holy war against Ethiopia, the Union of Islamic Courts was driven from power by a US-backed Ethiopian invasion, bringing to an end what some called a six-month "golden era" during which Somalia caught a fleeting glimpse of tranquility.

The UIC, a coalition of Islamic courts backed by the country's business leaders, had previously kicked out the warlords notorious for indiscriminate violence and instituted a Taliban-like strict interpretation of Islamic law, banning music, cinema and sports, and pressuring women to wear veils. But they also brought some semblance of normality with fewer guns in the streets of Mogadishu and relatively free movement. The airport was reopened and basic needs were generally provided for.

However, this ended with the Ethiopian invasion, with the armed wing of the UIC morphing into the al-Shabab insurgency which, by the time the Ethiopian army withdrew in 2009, had swept across the country and restricted the internationally-backed Transitional Federal Government to a few blocks within the capital, protected by a few thousand Ugandan and Burundian troops. In a recent op-ed for the *Financial Times*, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari stressed that the lesson for Africa from the Afghanistan debacle is that military force is not enough to defeat extremists or guarantee the transformation of societies. "Although sheer force can blunt terror," he wrote, "its removal can cause

the threat to return".

He argued that what Africa needs in order to eliminate terror is "not swords but ploughshares", economic partnerships that deliver real benefits, such as jobs, to the masses. "The boots we need on the ground are those of constructors, not the military." While there is profound truth in what he wrote, it is not the whole truth. Economic growth, even broad-based economic growth, and investments in building up the security infrastructure of troubled states may be necessary, but it is not sufficient. A fundamental component of what is lacking both in Afghanistan and Somalia is government legitimacy based on the population's participation in government creation and decision-making and the ability to hold it accountable for its failures – in short, real democracy.

"The Taliban are inheriting a different country than they left 20 years ago," US Congressman Jake Auchincloss, a Marine veteran who led patrols through Afghanistan, said in a recent interview. "The literacy rate has doubled, the infant mortality rate has halved, access to electricity has tripled or quadrupled, there are ten times as many kids in school as there were 20 years ago, 40 percent of whom are girls. The Taliban are inheriting a country in which real progress has been made."

The question for Western policymakers should not just be whether, as Auchincloss asked, the Taliban will maintain this progress, but why, despite it, the country still fell.

The idea that populations can either be

frightened into compliance by the prospect of a return to anarchy or their allegiance bought by economic growth and token participation in the form of voting in non-credible elections is the mainstay of international interventions which tend to appease, engage and empower corrupt elites, while doing little to deliver accountability. But this has been proven wrong in Afghanistan. As detailed by former journalist Sarah Chayes in a scathing reflection on the US occupation, "Afghans could not be expected to take risks on behalf of a government that was as hostile to their interests as the Taliban were ... For two decades, American leadership on the ground and in Washington proved unable to take in this simple message." During that time "cronyism, rampant corruption, [and] a Ponzi scheme disguised as a banking system" flourished, she wrote.

The Faustian bargain which trades real investment in accountable institutions for pliable, properly Westernised individuals promising gains in security and the economy has a short shelf life. And when interventions install, tolerate and protect rulers who manipulate elections and build superficial regimes characterised by impunity, they entrench fragility rather than stability and become part of the problem rather than a vehicle for solutions.

That is the true lesson of Afghanistan. And it is one that those working to help Somalia should pay heed to.

(Communications consultant, writer, and award-winning political cartoonist based in Nairobi)

Briefs

Shehbaz to lead PML-N in PDM's rally

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Vice President Maryam Nawaz has decided not to participate in Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM's) upcoming Karachi rally scheduled on August 29.

According to sources, PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif would lead the party in the upcoming public gathering of PDM as preparations regarding his visit to Karachi have been finalized by PML-N.

According to a schedule, Shehbaz Sharif will land in Karachi on August 27 on a three-day visit. During his visit, the PML-N president will chair important party meetings in Karachi and will meet several political leaders.

During his three-day stay in the port city, Shehbaz Sharif will also meet the business community and visit different areas of the metropolis. Shehbaz Sharif will also visit residence GDA chief Pir Paghara, Jalal Mehmood Shah and Ameer Bux Bhutto for condolences.

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief and Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) head Maulana Fazlur Rehman while addressing a press conference along with Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President and Opposition Leader in the National Assembly, Shehbaz Sharif on August 11 had announced PDM will hold a public gathering in Karachi on August 29.

Pak, Australia FM's discuss Afghan situation

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The foreign ministers of Pakistan and Australia on Tuesday held a telephonic conversation and discussed the current situation in Afghanistan.

In a call received from the Australian FM Marise Payne, Foreign Minister Qureshi shared Pakistan's perspective on the inclusive political settlement in Afghanistan.

Qureshi stressed that it was essential for the world community to support the people of Afghanistan to address humanitarian situation and help for the economic sustenance.

He highlighted Pakistan's efforts to facilitate evacuation of the diplomatic personnel and staff of international organizations and others from Afghanistan. In the bilateral context, he said Pakistan highly valued its relationship with Australia, having several strands of collaboration including political, economic and cultural.

Expressing satisfaction at the current level of engagement, the two foreign ministers agreed on enhancing high-level interactions between the two countries. The Australian foreign minister appreciated the government of Pakistan for its support and facilitation extended to the countries in evacuation from Afghanistan.

Over a million Covid vaccines administered

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Tuesday informed that the country regained its momentum of inoculating over a million Covid-19 vaccines a day after a slight dip. The nerve center of the country in its fight against Covid-19 pandemic took to Twitter to announce that the total vaccines administered to the eligible masses were 1,051,651 during past 24 hours.

The cumulative number of doses administered included both partially and fully vaccinated people where the total vaccines administered so far were 47,802,106, it wrote in the tweet. — DNA

Full vaccination by Oct 15 must for entering schools

He said full vaccination by September 30 was declared prerequisite for all those working inside and outside schools and no one would be allowed to work without complete vaccination within provided time lines

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Tuesday called upon the parents of all school going children of 17 years old and above to ensure their complete vaccination by October 15, to protect them from COVID-19 Pandemic.

He said at least single dose of vaccine for all students of 17 years and above by September 15 and full vaccination by October 15 would be prerequisite for entering school premises. He added that after the given time frame, no student would be allowed to enter into the school without complete vaccination.

Addressing a press conference along with Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health, Dr. Faisal Sulten, he said strict measures were being taken to ensure full compliance of on-going vaccination campaign to protect masses from the 4th wave of COVID-19 as well as for lifting restrictions and bringing life back to normalcy.

Asad Umar, sharing the decisions taken in the meeting of National Command and Operation Center said, single dose of vaccine by August 31, was declared necessary for all those working in and outside schools as well as people involved in transportation services

COVID-19 claims 91 more lives

ISLAMABAD: As many as 91 corona patients lost their battle of life in last 24 hours, touching the highest tally of deaths in a day due to the fatal virus during the forth wave of COVID 19. The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases was recorded as 91,046, on Tuesday with 4,075 more people were tested positive and 2,857 people recovered from the disease during this time span. 77 of the deceased were under treatment in the hospitals and 14 were perished in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). Most of the deaths were occurred in Punjab followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Out of the total 91 deaths occurred, 34 of them were on ventilators. There were 5,513 Covid infected patients under treatment in critical condition with 123 infected people admitted during past 24 hours in various Covid dedicated healthcare facilities of the country. The National Covid positivity ratio during past 24 hours was recorded 6.79 percent. The Covid positivity ratio is the percentage of actual positive cases appearing in every 100 tests performed to identify infected individuals. Some 59,943 tests were conducted across the country on Tuesday, including 18,495 in Sindh, 21,217 in Punjab, 10,003 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), 5,436 in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), 3,413 in Balochistan, 602 Gilgit Baltistan (GB) and 777 in AJK. — DNA

es for school children were also required to follow the deadline.

He said full vaccination by September 30 was declared prerequisite for all those working inside and outside schools and no one would be allowed to work without complete

vaccination within provided time lines. The minister further said domestic air travel was already banned without having single dose of vaccine.

It was also declared that full vaccination by September 30 would be compulsory for



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chairs a meeting of federal cabinet. — DNA

Sherry Rehman rejects the PMDA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Rejecting the PMDA, PPP Parliamentary Leader in the Senate, Senator Sherry Rehman said, "Pakistan Media Development Authority (PMDA) is yet another example of this government's crackdown on freedom of expression. The state of media and press freedom in Pakistan is already in shambles and now they want to control the media through this Authority which is unconstitutional and is a violation of Article 19 and 19A."

"The fact that they kept the final draft of the PMDA law and the entire drafting process secret, raises many questions about their intentions. The government clearly wants broad powers so that they can control the narrative and muzzle criticism. Instead of protecting media freedom, they are bringing back the draconian laws of Zia era," she added.

Rehman asked, "Why is the controversial PMDA bill being moved to the cabinet for approval when all the concerned parties have strongly rejected it? There should

have been consultations with the key stakeholders on this law. Why is the Information Ministry not working towards creating a more fair and independent media in Pakistan?"

"According to Human Rights Watch (HRW), the PMDA aims to bring all media in Pakistan; print, television, radio, films, and digital media, under one regulator. Through media tribunals, the government will now have the power to impose fines for those who violate its code of conduct or publish content it deems to be fake news. They will also get to appoint government officials on key positions. All these reeks of the government's ulterior motive to control the media, she added.

Vice President PPP Senator Sherry Rehman concluded by saying that, "We strongly reject this bill and demand that the government takes it back. The impact of this dictatorial law will be devastating for journalism and not to forget it is an infringement of our basic human rights".

China criticizes US' Afghanistan policy

FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: China has launched a scathing attack at Washington for its "selfish" Afghanistan policy, following accusations from US Vice President Kamala Harris that Beijing exerts aggression on countries situated in its southern seas.

Speaking at a regular press conference on Tuesday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin clapped back at Washington over its handling of the turbulent situation in Afghanistan. "What is happening in Afghanistan clearly tells people what the rules... the United States speaks of. The United States always tries to justify its selfish and bullying behavior with rules and order," the spokesperson remarked.

Wang further added that Washington "can freely intervene militarily against a sovereign country without being responsible for the suffering of its people; the United States can come whenever it wants, without consulting the international community... in order to safeguard 'America first'".

Pak, Egypt to establish joint Business Council

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Egypt here on Tuesday agreed to work on the idea of establishing a Pakistan-Egypt Business Council and forging closer collaboration between the ministries of finance of both the countries.

The agreement was made during a call on meeting of Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Tarek Mohamed Dahroug with Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Shaukat Tarin here at the Finance Division

on Tuesday.

They also explored the possibility of enhancing bilateral trade, with initial focus on rice and cotton, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, according to press statement issued by the finance ministry.

Both sides exchanged views on matters of mutual interests and agreed that the level of bilateral trade was not satisfactory and there was a need to work together to enhance it substantially.

While extending a warm welcome to the ambassador, the Finance Minister stated

that Pakistan and Egypt enjoyed brotherly relations and expressed Pakistan's desire to further strengthen economic and business cooperation between the two countries.

The minister further stated that Pakistan's close relationship with the Arab World warrants higher trade levels.

He requested the ambassador to convey his best wishes to the Egyptian Finance Minister and to convey his sentiments that both countries should work together on economic front for mutual progress and prosperity.



Road accident kills 9 in Kyrgyzstan

AGENCIES

BISHKEK: Nine people died in a road accident in Kyrgyzstan, the country's Emergencies Ministry said on Tuesday.

The accident occurred when a Honda Stepwgn minivan and a Volvo truck collided on the Bishkek-Osh highway, which connects the northern and southern regions of the country, it said. Six women, two men and one child died on the spot, and another man was injured.

The cause of the accident was being investigated.

Cuba to supply local vaccine to Vietnam

WEB NEWS

ANKARA: Cuba will supply its homegrown vaccines to Vietnam as the Southeast Asian nation witnesses a surge in COVID-19 cases, battering the country's health infrastructure and economy.

Cuba's President Miguel Diaz-Canel, also the leader of the Communist Party of Cuba, told his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Xuan Phuc that Cuba will supply a large quantity of Abdala COVID-19 vaccines to Vietnam until the end of this year. He added Cuba is willing to send experts to "transfer vaccine production technology" to the Southeast Asian nation, daily Vietnam News reported on Tuesday.

In a phone call on Monday night, the two leaders discussed bilateral relations and cooperation amid the pandemic.

Earlier, Vietnam provided rice to help Cuba overcome difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vietnam has witnessed an unprecedented surge in coronavirus infections in the recent past, triggering strict restrictions. The country has reported 358,456 COVID-19 cases, including 8,666 deaths.

Thailand's exports expand 20 pct in July

WEB NEWS

BANGKOK: Thailand's exports expanded 20.27 percent year-on-year in July, reflecting continuous expansion for five consecutive months, the Minister of Commerce announced on Tuesday. Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit told local media during the press conference on Monday that the healthy growth momentum was driven mainly by the ongoing global economic recovery in Thailand's trading partners, principally the United States, China, and European countries. The customs-cleared exports value stood at 22.65 billion U.S. dollars, with imports increasing by 45.9 percent to 22.47 billion U.S. dollars, resulting in a trade surplus of 183.46 million U.S. dollars.

Algeria severs diplomatic ties with Morocco

DNA

ALGIERS: Algeria is cutting diplomatic relations with Morocco, Foreign Minister Ramdane Lamamra said on Tuesday at a news conference, accusing its neighbour of "hostile actions". Morocco and Algeria have had strained relations for decades, mainly over the issue of Western Sahara, and the border between the two countries has been closed since 1994.

"The Moroccan kingdom has never stopped its hostile actions against Algeria," he said.

Morocco's Foreign Ministry could not be immediately reached for comment. King Mohammed VI has called for improved ties with Algeria.

Taliban's treatment of women will mark 'red line'

"Human rights violations undermine the legitimacy of the perpetrators, both vis-a-vis the people, and also with respect to regional and international institutions and other states"

AGENCIES

GENEVA: The UN rights chief voiced grave concern Tuesday at the situation in Afghanistan after the Taliban swept into power, saying their treatment of women would mark a "fundamental red line".

Speaking before an emergency session on Afghanistan, Michelle Bachelet urged the Taliban to honour commitments to respect the rights of women and girls, and ethnic and religious minorities, and refrain from reprisals.

"The onus is now fully on the Taliban to translate these commitments into reality," she said.

"I strongly urge the Taliban to adopt norms of responsive governance and human rights, and to work to re-establish social cohesion and reconciliation, including through respect for the rights of all who have suffered during the decades of conflict," Bachelet told the council.

"A fundamental red line will be the Taliban's treatment of women and girls," she said, urging "respect for their rights to liberty, freedom of movement, education, self expression and employment."

"In particular, ensuring access to quality secondary education for girls will be an essential indicator of commitment to human rights."

Tuesday's meeting comes as US troops lead increasingly desperate efforts to airlift thousands of people out of Kabul after the Taliban



warned evacuations could continue only for another week.

Crowds continue to mass outside the airport, with many Afghans terrified of facing life under the Taliban.

The militants have repeatedly promised a different kind of rule to their brutal regime of the 1990s that saw women confined to their homes, most entertainment banned, and punishments including stonings and public executions.

But their rebranding is being treated with scepticism amid reports that Taliban fighters have been going door-to-door in recent days searching for opponents — in-

cluding journalists. Even before the Taliban takeover, the UN says Afghanistan saw a sharp increase in civilian casualties in recent months.

Bachelet said her office had received credible reports of serious violations in places that have been under Taliban control, including summary executions, restrictions of women's rights, blocking girls from attending school and recruitment of child soldiers.

"Human rights violations undermine the legitimacy of the perpetrators, both vis-a-vis the people, and also with respect to regional and international institutions and other states," she warned.