

Samana

Thursday, August 26, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

President Arif Alvi lauds Pakistan Army's services for Pakistan

Detailed News On Page-01

Talks with Taliban must continue

Detailed News On Page-07



Pakistan-Iran desire peace in Afghanistan





Free media priority, says Fawad

ZUBAIR AHMED



the government firmly believes in the fundamental and democratic right of freedom of expression. Extending his felicitation to the newly elected office bearers of Islamabad Union of Journalists, he said an independent and vibrant media is imperative for a strong democracy and promotion of democratic norms. The Information Minister expressed the confidence that the newly elected office bearers of the Journalists' union will fully play their role for welfare of their community.

Massoud vows 'no surrender'

AGENCIES



resistance movement to Taliban vowed neve

but is open to negotiations with the new rulers of At ghanistan, according an interview published by Paris Match on Wednesday. Ahmad Massoud, the son of legendary Afghan rebel commander Ahmad Shah Massoud, has retreated to his native Panjshir valley north of Kabul along with former vice-president Amrullah Saleh. "I would prefer to die than to surrender,' Massoud told French philosopher Bernard-Henri Levy in his first interview since the Taliban took over Kabul

Misbah tests positive for Covid-19

BUREAU REPORT



Pakistan cricket Mis team bahul Hac

has tested positive for the coronavirus ahead of his return to Pakistan from Jamaica, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said on Wednesday.In a statement, the PCB said that Misbah, who is asymptomatic, will undergo a 10-day quarantine in Jamaica before returning to Pakistan.

Inside.

DC holds open court on MCO, public complaints - Page 02

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Putin, Xi agree to jointly combat Afghanistan 'threats Page 07

KOICA provides USD 12m for Havelian drinking water project - Page 08

Briefs Islam provides panacea for all problems

The Prime Minister Imran Khan blames rise of sex crimes on the negative side of the use of mobile phones

President lauds Army's

services for Pakistan

President meets COAS, discusses regional

developments and matters of national security

the Chief of Army Staff

(COAS) General Qamar

Javed Bajwa at the Gener-

al Headquarters (GHQ) in

Rawalpindi, a statement

from the Inter-Services Pub-

lic Relations (ISPR) said.

During the meeting, both

leaders discussed regional

developments and matters

of national security, the mil-

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese called on

Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the

Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force. – DNA

itary's media wing said



BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday said it "pained" him to see the Minar-e-Pakistan incident in which hundreds of men assaulted a woman on Independence Day, and called it a source of "shame" for the country. "The Minar-e-Pakistan incident, when I saw it, I was ashamed, it pained me to see it. "No one could have imagined such an

Continued on Page 06

NEHAL MIRAJ

RAWALPINDI: President

Arif Alvi on Wednesday

acknowledged the army's

unparalleled contribution

and sacrifices rendered to-

wards the external and in-

ternal security of Pakistan.

The president's comments

came during a meeting with

PM displeased with police perforamnce

A sister publication of **CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency**

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Prime Minister Imran Khan while expressing displeasure over delay in police respones on Minar-e-Pakistan incident on Independence Day has directed the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Punjab to take immediate steps to prevent such incidents. Chf Secretary Punjab Jawad Rafique Malik and Inspector General of Police Punjab Inam Ghani Tuesday called upon Prime Minister Imran Khan and briefed him about the overall law and order situation in the province.

Continued on Page 06

The president was apprised

of the army's operational

preparedness and a brief-

ing on cyber security by the

Communication and Infor-

mation Technology Branch

was also given to him, the

ISPR said. The ISPR's

statement mentioned that

the president commended

Continued on Page 06

DUSHANBE: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in a meeting with President of

FM discuses Afghan issue with Tajikistan President

President Emomli says he is looking forward to receive Prime Minister Imran Khan at SCO Summit in September

News Desk /DNA

DUSHANBE: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi called on President of Tajikistan Emomli Rahmon today in Dushanbe. The meeting took place in the Palace of the Nation. A wide range of issues related to the development and further expansion of bilateral cooperation of mutual interest were the main items on the agenda. Preparations for the upcoming official visit of the Prime Minister of the Islamic Re-

Qureshi meets Uzbek counterpart

News Desk

TASHKENT: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov, in Tashkent. Foreign Minister Qureshi exchanged views on ways and means with his Uzbek counterpart to intensify bilateral relations in all areas. The two Foreign Ministers agreed that in view of recent frequent high level exchanges, bilateral relations have transformed into a strategic partnership. It was decided to followup closely the implementation of decisions, taken

Continued on Page 06

Khan to Tajikistan was also touched upon.

Officials also paid special attention to certain pressing items on the international and regional agenda, in particular the current situation in Afghanistan. Today, one of the major threats to regional security is the current situation in Afghanistan, which is on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe as a result of the withdrawal of coalition forces. The dangerous situation that has developed in this country in recent

Continued on Page 06

Italian envoy calls on Air Chief

public of Pakistan Imran

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office. The visiting dignitary lauded professionalism of PAF personnel exceptional progress made by PAF over years, especially through indigenization.

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan, Kazakhstan military exercises start

The exercise is aimed to develop and bolster coordination between the two armies

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Opening Ceremony of Pakistan-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise "Dostarym III" held today at National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC), Pabbi. The exercise is aimed to develop and bolster coordination between the two armies in counter terrorism domain. Special Forces of both countries will take part in hostage



rescue, compound clearance, heli rappelling and Close Quater Battle (CQB) drills & procedures. The exercise will focus on integrated synergy, interoperability, quick decision making and swift actions at tactical level.

Continued on Page 06

The Taliban phenomenon; some musings

OPINION

Ansar Mahmood Bhatti



THE way Taliban has made gains in Afghanistan during last few weeks has left all and sundry nonplused. The fast evolving situation in the war-torn coun-

fallacy of the allied forces claims to have trained and equipped the Afghan forces on modern lines and on another it tells a story of Afghan nation's disliking of alien interventions no matter such interventions are made for the ultimate good. So, one can safely say that history has proved once again that no foreign interference can conquer the Afghan nation by force. But to reach this conclusion the allied forces and especially the Americans had to undergo colossal losses. Kev facts are very alarming that since 9/11, US squandered \$6.4 trillion on 'war on terror' including \$2.2 trillion in Afghanistan alone. It is almost \$100 billion on 300,000 'strong' Afghan Army and Air Force which roughly means spending \$100 billion every month on the Afghan War for the last 20 years. US had 25,000 military casualties in Afghanistan including 2,448 deaths, about

250,000 Afghans lost their lives. Much has already been spoken and written on the subject ever since the Taliban took over control of Afghanistan. From

neighboring countries point of view the situation in Afghanistan is challenging and from Pakistan and China's point of view dangerous as well. Pakistan, as we know has born the brunt of onslaughts of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in the past and when Pakistani armed forces launched a full-scale operation against them, they fled to Afghanistan. It is believed that around 4,000 TTP men are still hiding in Afghanistan and after rise of Taliban these men are likely to re-surface. That is the most worrying factor for Paki-

to the stance it adopted in the case of Osama bin Laden. However, it will make it sure that these men do not do anything against Pakistan or any other country while sitting in Afghanistan.

During his press conference on August 24, 2021, the Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujhaid declined to comment on a question about the role of Pakistan's former President and military dictator Pervez Musharraf. It was during Pervez Musharraf time that most of the Taliban leadership was captured and either handed over to Americans or poisoned in

was here in Islamabad few days ago to win Pakistani support in order to get a sizeable share in the future Afghan set up. The following events such as start of resistance in the Panjshir Valley suggest that the Northern Alliance did not get positive signals from Pakistani authorities mainly because Pakistan's own relations with Taliban are in a state of to be or not to be.

Pakistan faces another problem after emerging Taliban factor in Afghanistan. Various religious factions that have always been at odds with the state on a variety of issues including impositions

Chinese are equally worried about TTP factor for in the past the TTP people had targeted Chinese nationals and various project sites. The East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) is yet another hard nut to crack for the Chinese" of Shariah laws in Pakistan may get an

A catch-22 situation may arise when Pakistan asks Taliban to handover these people and Taliban refuse. We have seen in the case of Osama bin Laden that how Americans were given a cold shoulder response by the Taliban when they demanded handing over of Osama. In fact what transpired in Afghanistan later was a direct consequence of Taliban's refusal. As we have learnt from reports that this is a changed Taliban. So if that is the case, it may heed to Pakistani demand when it is made and wanted men are handed over. Nevertheless chances of this to happen are quite dim as Taliban is likely to stick Pakistan. I remember the Afghan ambassador in Islamabad Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef was arrested from the embassy and handed over to the US and later shifted to Guantanamo Bay detainment camp. This arrest had invited wrath of the Taliban but they could not do anything at that time. During the press conference Zabihullah said they remember who did what with them and will sort out with those countries and individuals at a proper time. Till writing of this piece, hitherto there

hasn't been any formal contact between

the Taliban and Pakistani officials at any

level. A group of Northern Alliance people

inspiration from Taliban's victory and therefore think about a similar movement in Pakistan. But as a matter of fact all such movements need to be supported by people or groups from abroad in order for them to succeed. If Taliban is able to make sure that the Afghan soil is not used against any other country, then the local Pakistani groups may find it difficult to fulfill their designs.

Chinese are equally worried about TTP factor for in the past the TTP people had targeted Chinese nationals and various project sites. The East Turkistan Islamic

to crack for the Chinese. China has recently asked the U.S. to tone down frictions, re-impose the ban on Xinjiang's Uygur militant group — in return for cooperation to stabilise Afghanistan after the Taliban seized power in Kabul. ETIM is said to have worked in the past in close cooperation with TTP so after Taliban takeover Chinese fear resurgence of ETIM.

In the present circumstances Chinese are said to have more clout over Taliban than any other country. Taliban does want China to be partner in country's development. China in fact happens to be the only country so far getting such an invitation from the Taliban leadership. Beijing therefore is all agog to capitalize on this goodwill and thus extracting guarantees from the Taliban against the potential threats.

Taliban have announced to form government once the troops withdrawal process completes. Meanwhile, they have started talks and made some appointments as well. Smaller groups such as Northern Alliance of Abdullah Abdullah, Hizb-e- Islami of Hekmatyar and Hamid Karzai faction are demanding a bigger share than their actual size. Resistance by the Northern Alliance in the Panjshir valley in fact turns out be an attempt to get a better bargain. Things are likely to remain fluid till the time Taliban finally unfurl their future plans and form a government. Only then it can be predicted which way the wind is going to blow during the second Taliban rule.

Thursday, August 26, 2021

Plan

reviewed for Cantonment

board polls

Election Commission (PEC)

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sharifullah Marwat Wednesday

visited different districts of the province and reviewed arrangements for the up-

coming cantonment board elections to be held in seven districts of the province on

During his visit to Nowshera.

Mardan and Abbottabad the

PEC was informed that train-

ing of polling staff was un-

derway, while district police

officer briefed him about the

District Deputy Commis-

sioners, District Police

Officers and Returning Of-

ficers and district election

commissioners Abbottabad

It was informed that canton-

ment board elections would

be held on general seats in

33 wards of 11 cantonment

The Returning Officer said

that a systematic logistics

plan, security plan and com-

munication plan for election

equipment and polling staff

including ballot papers is

being finalized in collabora-

tion with the district admin-

istration police and other

He directed that in order to

make the elections transpar-

ent and fair in all respects, the instructions of the Elec-

tion Commission should be

He further said that polling would be held on Septem-

ber 12, from 8 am to 4 pm.

He appealed to all voters, especially women, to go to

their polling stations fear-

lessly and exercise their

right to vote in the Canton-

The PEC had already visited

Nowshera, Mardan, Kohat,

Bannu and DI Khan and re-

viewed the preparations for

the elections and finalized

Imran new

RPO of

Faisalabad

DNA

FAISALABAD: The newly

the arrangements. - APP

ment Board elections.

concerned agencies.

implemented.

boards of seven districts

security arrangements.

attended the meeting.

Provincial

PESHAWAR:

September 12.

Briefs

Construction of two emergency towers approved

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has approved the construction of emergency towers at Services and Jinnah hospitals to provide latest facilities to the patients. While chairing a meeting at his office, which was attended by Provincial Health Minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid, secretary Health, CEO IDAP and others, the CM directed to take steps for completion of both the projects

in minimum time period. The meeting also dilated on the proposal of building a cancer hospital in Taunsa. The CM termed the universal health coverage program an inventive initiative to provide quality healthcare facilities for free. The past government neglected far-flung areas while the PTI-led government was providing the best medical facilities to the people at their doorstep, he asserted and directed to expedite work on mother and child hospitals.

POA to clarify its position at meeting: Secy POA

PESHAWAR: General Secretary Pakistan Olympic Association, Khalid Mahmood Wednesday said that Association has written a letter to Prime Minister Imran Khan seeking suitable time for a meeting to clarify the performance of Pakistan hockey players in Tokyo Olympics.

"We have made a request for meeting time to the Prime Minister in which we want to clarify our position and certainly the position of the Pakistan Olympic Association regarding the poor performance of Pakistan in recent Olympics held in Tokyo, Japan," Khalid Mahmood said, while addressing a press conference here at a local hotel on Wednesday.

"All matters will be cleared soon and the allegations leveled against us will also be answered," Khalid added.

Senior Vice President Syed Aqil Shah, Chairman Pakistan Rowing Federation Rizwanul Haq, President Pakistan Handball and Secretary General Asian Handball Federation Muhammad Shafiq, Chairman Pakistan Handball and Vice President POA Abid Qadri of Pakistan Archery Federation Secretary General and Associate Secretary of Pakistan Olympic Association Zulfigar Butt were also present during the press conference

He said "POA is fulfilling its responsibilities well. "Our iob is to ensure the participation of the players in international competitions and also to organize all the international events," he added.

"The government's job is to provide facilities and coaching to the players according to its resources, he informed. The government should take steps to solve the economic problems of

the players," he said. In response to a question, he said, "it is very difficult to bring medals in Olympic competitions till there is no longer a duration training camp, good coaching, best facilities and big budget." – APP

Eight women appointed as members DRC: DPO

DNA

PESHAWAR: District Police Officer (DPO) Nowshera Iqbal Khan Wednesday said that for the first time eight women were appointed as members of Dispute Resolution Council (DRC) to resolve women related issues. In a statement issued here DPO said that on the directives of IGP Moazzam Jah Ansari the women members were included in DRC team to resolve women related issues on priority basis as maximum incidents of killing were either related to women or involve the wom-

en as victims. He said the newly included eight women would take oath on August 26.

DC holds open court on MCO, public complaints

DC appreciated the performance of Saddar AC Umar Maqbool and said that implementation should be continued as per the government's vision for public welfare and regional construction and development

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Commissioner Muhammad Ali spent a busy day in Tehsil Saddar and had a detailed meeting with Tehsil officers on revenue matters in the Municipal Committee Office. Additional Deputy Commissioners Fazal Rabi Cheema, Afifa Shajia, Assistant Commissioner Saddar Umar Maqbool and other officers were also present. Deputy Commissioner said that the quality of services of the Revenue Department should be further improved and speedy services should be provided to the applicants in the field of revenue matters.

He also took briefing on the ongoing progress on public welfare development projects. Deputy Commissioner held an open Court at Muncipal Committee and listened the various issues of the citizens and urged



the concerned officers to take immediate action and provided relief to the applicants. He said that teh-

sil officers should realize their responsibilities and citizens should refrain from frequent visits to their offic-

es. Meanwhile, the deputy commissioner also checked the construction quality of the road being constructed in Diikot while he visited the Higher Secondary School and inspected the administrative and teaching matters. He inspected the cleanliness and implementation of anti-corona and dengue in the school.

He also visited the classroom and talked to the students about the curriculum. The Deputy Commissioner also inspected Rural Health Center Djikot and 136 G.B Health Center and reviewed the medical facilities provided to the patients.

He checked the attendance of doctors and paramedic staff and checked the sanitation situation. He also checked the availability and record of medicines and directed to keep vigilance in administrative matters. Deputy Commissioner appreciated the performance of Saddar AC Umar Maqbool and said that implementation should be continued as per the government's vision for public welfare and regional construction and development. AC gave briefing on administrative matters.

Recompense demanded for miners killed in Balochistan

PESHAWAR: Hundreds of protestors Wednesday demanded arrest of killers and payment of compensation to bereaved families of two miners killed by unknown assailants in Marwaar Top, Balochistan province.

The protestors staged a sitin at Alpuri Square, district Shangla accompanied by the coffins of the deceased miners while the traders of Alpuri bazaar expressed solidarity with the victims by closing their shops. The protesters said that 65 percent of miners belonging to district Shangla were working in different coal mines across the country. They demanded the government to provide appro-

appointed Regional Police Officer (RPO) Faisalabad Imran Mehmood took over the charge of his office here on Wednesday. priate security to miners A smartly turned out conand said that mine owners tingent of police saluted should be bound to arrange the RPO when he reached private security inside the his office. Later, he had an mines. - APP introductory meeting with police officers and directed

> ances of people on top priority basis. He said the first and foremost duty of police officials was to provide protection to the life and property of all police officers and offi-

them to redress the griev-

masses. In this connection, cials should perform their duties honestly, dedicatedly and diligently. He also directed the police officers to chalk out a comprehensive strategy to

weed out crimes from their respective areas and in this connection, no lethargy, negligence and delinquency would be tolerated at all. Later, the RPO laid a floral wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhda. Meanwhile police and district administration rushed

to the spot and dispersed the protestors peacefully after holding negotiations.

Abbottabad CB elections preparations in full swing

DNA

ABBOTTABAD: Preparations for holding the local bodies election for the three Cantonments boards (CB) of district Abbottabad was in full swing where all major political parties have nominated their candidates for the elections to be held on September 12. According to the Provincial

Election Commission, cantonment boards, the Local Government election 2021 would be held on September 12 where Abbottabad Cantonment Board (ACB) has the largest 10 wards in KP while Havelian Cantonment Board (HCB) has two wards and Kalabagh Cantonment Board (KCB) one.

the candidates for all three district cantonments of Abbottabad by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Iamait-e-Islami and other political parties' candidates have started their door-to-door campaign.

After allotment of tickets to

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi cutting a cake during a ceremony in connection with National Minorities' Day

celebrations, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. - APP

FESCO issues notice to MD WASA for payment

BUREAU REPORT

FASIALABAD: Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has issued final notice to Managing Director (MD) Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) for payment of the 80 million dues till 30 August 2021. In case of nonpayment of defaulting amount till due date, electricity connections of Water and Sanitation Agency would be disconnected.

On the directive of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Faisalabad Electric Supply Engr. Bashir Company Ahmed special campaign for recovery from the governmental departments is at full pace and final notices are being served to the defaulting departments.

In this connection different offices of Water and Sanitation Agency including GM Abad are liable to pay the Rs.80.4 million, Deputy Director Construction WASA Pump No.3 is defaulter of Rs.75.4 million, Assistant Director Water and Sanitation Agency pumping station No.27 is Rs.2.4 million, Deputy Director Construction No.3 is Rs.0.7 million, SDO Public Health Disposal is Rs.0.6 million, Assistant Director Water and Sanitation Agency Gulberg is Rs.0.6 million, Deputy Director FDA Dildar colony is Rs.0.3 million, SDO Public Health Faisalabad Rs.0.2 million, Assistant Director WASA Rs.0.1 million while Assistant Director Water and Sanitation Agency is defaulter of Rs.61 thousand.

Tehsil Council team demolishes illegal housing structures

The occupation mafia had set up illegal constructions on govt lands and built a housing society which was demolished

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: The team of Tehsil Council Saddar demolished illegal housing society structures in Chak 31 J.B Aminpur Bangla. Deputy Tehsil Officer Regulation / Enforcement Officer Tehsil Council Saddar Azmat Firdous supervised the operation.

Informed that the occupation mafia had set up illegal constructions on government lands and built a housing society which was demolished with heavy machinery. She said that those occupying government lands would be dealt with severely and no one would be allowed to occupy them.



SC bench not authorised to hear journalists' case

"Appointment of a government servant as a registrar amounts to obstructing the promotions of judicial officers," Justice Isa opined

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan judge Justice Qazi Faez Isa has objected to the apex court bench constituted to determine the jurisdiction of suo moto notice.

In a letter written to Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Gulzar Ahmad, Justice Isa has complained that the two-member bench formed to hear the case of harassment of journalists was not informed prior to the formation of a five-member bench.

"There is no mention in the constitution of a power of the apex court to start monitoring its own bench matters," he wrote, adding in case such thing happens the entire edifice of justice will come

crashing down. "Truth of the matter is that the

newly constituted bench is not empowered to hear the case. And if the five-member bench goes ahead with the hearing of the case, it will be the violation of the constitution," reads the letter.

Justice Isa wrote that in the past, former CIP Justice Sagib Nisar had removed one of the judges from his bench during the hearing of a case and formed a new bench instead. "Later, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah issued a new order," he added.

The SC judge wrote that the apex court had not yet pondered over the former CJP's conduct. "Some CIPs have a desire that they have 'unbridled' powers, and that none could dare say a word against them," he alleged.

He was of the view that CJPs did not have the authority to decide which bench would take up which case. "When I was the chief justice of Balochistan High Court, I had never issued the proposed 'Cause List'. Appointing a government servant as a registrar Supreme Court is against the constitution,"

"Appointment of a government servant as a registrar amounts to obstructing the promotions of judicial officers," Justice Isa opined. The SC judge wrote it was unfortunate that while other officers who worked at the apex court on deputation had left, one was allowed to work as a registrar. "He is the same person who had earlier served at the Prime Minister's office. It appears that the SC has hired his services for free."

He went on to say that another reason for appointing a government official as apex court registrar was to make sure that the cases of government's liking were fixed for hearing early, and those it disliked could be put in cold

storage. "By penning down a note against my bench, the registrar not only wanted to 'protect' the interests of the government but he also his friends and acquaintances," Justice Isa alleged.

He reminded that a nine-member bench of the Supreme Court had already given the verdict in the suo moto notice case. "The bench has made it clear that Article 184 (3) has extraordinary jurisdiction. Hence the newly formed five-member bench cannot overturn the verdict given by the nine-member bench," he argued.

The letter further reads that once a suo moto notice was taken of a WhatsApp message received from an unknown number. "That cost the national exchequer the loss of Rs100 billion."

Justice Isa further wrote that Supreme Court Bar Association President had once said there was that he was subjected to criticism because he was performing his duties diligently and honestly. It is further written in the letter

a split in the judiciary. He alleged

that Justice Maqbool Baqir and I were separated from the bench formed to hear prime minister's development funds case. "The decision in the case, which was given in haste, was unconstitutional so much so that the CJP had to leave the bench," the SC judge wrote. And despite the fact that I was not allowed to give my opinion in the case, I still maintain cordial relations with my fellow judges, Justice Isa said, and while referring to him, added, "Who can deny the fact that one of the SC judges is being persecuted?"

Towards the end, Justice Qazi Faez Isa appealed to the CJP to upload a copy of the letter on the Supreme Court's website.



Namaz Timings

гајг	04:09 am
Zohr	12:10 pm
Asr	04:50 pm
Maghrib	06:42 pm
Isha	08:10 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines......8494949



Emergency

Rescue (Police)15
Bomb Disposal15
Fire Services Rawalpindi,
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance1122
& Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police9270601-20
Women Police Stations
Islamabad9222596
Rawalpindi9270601-20



Edhi Ambulance	115
PIAFlightInfo	114
PIACargo	.9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange9	270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.	.5555489
CAA	9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Bo	oard 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-12,9266316 Wapda Islamabad....9217579 Wapda Rawalpindi 111-309-309

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation3203224
Potohar Town9209224
RawalTown5773343

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....0331-5022125

ISSI works to promote research, dialogue, provides policy input

DG ISSI deliberated on key foreign policy trends influencing Pakistani foreign policy such as US-China competition, an aggressive India under Modi, navigating Saudi-Iran tensions, projecting Kashmir dispute, and managing changes in Afghanistan

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosted Youth Delegation from South Asian Strategic Stability Institute (SASSI), on August 25, 2021. The SASSI delegation was led by Dr. Maria Sultan, Director General SASSI.

Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC, welcome the delegation and gave a briefing on the functioning of the Institute. He highlighted aims

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: PPP Parliamentary Leader

in the Senate, Senator Sherry Rehman has

grilled the PTI government for once again

increasing the price of life-saving medi-

cines. "Instead of providing relief in times

of extreme inflation and high unemploy-

ment, the PTI government has hiked the

prices of essential medicine by a whopping

150%. This is the 10th increase in medicine

prices since 2018." "While other countries

are making lifesaving drugs for free, the PTI

government is busy playing politics during

Minister

Minister

greets new

office bearers

of RIUJ

News Desk

for Information and Broad-

casting Minister Chaudhry

Fawad Hussain on Wednes-

day congratulated newly

elected office bearers of

Rawalpindi Islamabad Un-

ion of Journalists (RIUJ). In

a statement, the minister

said that election of newly

elected office bearers of

RIUI was manifestation of

the trust of media commu-

nity in their leadership. The minister reiterated that the

government fully believed in freedom of expression.

He said that independent, free and active media was

prerequisite strengthening

democracy and promoting democratic values. He ex-

pressed the hope that newly elected office bearers

of RIUJ would play their

role for welfare of journal-

ists' community. President

Shakeel Ahmed, Secretary

General Siddique Anzar,

Finance Secretary Ayaz

Akbar Yousufzai, Joint Sec-

retary Umar Jatt and other

office bearers were greeted

by the minister.

ISLAMABAD:



and objectives; work of five Centers of Excellence; and activities of the Institute. He noted that "ISSI works to promote research, dialogue and provides policy input." He also shed light

Sherry slams PTI Govt for

hiking medicine prices

last year the Drug Regulatory Authority of cine prices. The PPP rejects this move.'

on the institutional linkages of ISSI with national and international think-tanks. Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry Director General ISSI delivered a talk on Pakistan's foreign policy

Pakistan (DRAP) hiked the prices of 253

life-saving drugs by a massive 25%-35%," the

"It is DRAP's job to make sure that phar-

maceutical companies do not hike medicine

prices without any scrutiny. It is alarming

that there is no price regulating mechanism

for medicines under this PTI government.

If this is not incompetence, then what is?",

Commenting on the back-to-back hike in

medicine prices under the PTI government,

the Senator added, "in June - 2020, the

federal government had amended the Drug

Pricing Policy 2018, allowing pharmaceutical

companies to increase prices of medicines

up to 10% without any scrutiny. Similarly, the

PTI government allowed the pharmaceutical

companies to increase the prices of 45,000

medicines by up to 15% in 2019. Overall, the

prices of at least 463 hardship medicines

were increased by a whopping 200% - the

Vice President PPPP, Senator Sherry Reh-

man concluded by saying, "globally, govern-

ments are focused on improving healthcare

systems, but the PTI government has clear-

ly bowed down to pharmaceutical compa-

nies while the poor and vulnerable suffer.

Record breaking inflation, hikes in electrici-

highest increase in the last 40 years.'

added the Senator.

and regional outlook. He deliberated on key foreign policy trends influencing Pakistani foreign policy such as US-China competition, an aggressive India under Modi, navigating Sau-

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts

Council (PAC) in collabora-

tion with the National Hor-

ticulture Society of Pakistan

launched a tree-plantation

drive and planted saplings

of various types at PAC lawn

Chairman National Horti-

culture Society of Pakistan

Iftikhar Awan while speak-

ing on the occasion said

that the present govern-

ment was well aware of the

dangerous consequences of

global warming and there-

fore emphasis was being

Director Arts Council Wagar

Ahmed said that planting

trees was a charity and

trees were a guarantee of

mental and physical health

The event was attended by

from various walks of life

for future generations.

laid on tree plantation.

here on Wednesday.

di-Iran tensions, projecting non-traditional issues.

Kashmir dispute, managing changes in Afghanistan, and responding to emerging This was followed by an

interactive session, where

questions about Pakistan's foreign policy, regional and global issues. In the end, Dr. Maria Sul-

tan, DG-SASSI delivered a

delegates raised pertinent

Tree **COMSTECH** course plantation campaign launched at PAC





ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH in collaboration with Interna-

The course was designed to address the interest of scientists and research scholars working in various fields of

The course comprised on lectures and hands on training sessions covering overview of plant tissue culture and its applications, equipment and media used, explant selection, sterilization, initiation, multiplication, shooting and rooting. Prof. Dr. M. Igbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, COMSTECH welcomed the participants of the course and highlighted the importance of plant tissue culture techniques and its contribution to economic development of Muslim world.

Dr. PejmanAzadi, Deputy Director General for Technology, Agricultural Biotechnology Research Institute of Iran, Dr. Muhammad Yusuf Zafar, Former Chairman, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, and Dr. Muhammad Usman, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, conducted this course online. The course was attended by 120 scien-

on basic plant tissue culture techniques



SHAHEEN HANIF

tional Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences and Pakistan Biotechnology Information Center Karachi organized online certificate course on "Basic plant tissue culture techniques", on Wednesday.

plant biotechnology, genetics, and molecular biology.

tists and students online from OIC member states.

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Ahmed Immediate past President Islamabad Chamber and Malik Sohail Hussain Secretary General United Business Group called on Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq Chairman FBR and congratulated him on assuming the Charge of Chairman FBR. - DNA

ICCI, NUTECH ink MoU for academia-industry linkages

The NUTECH with the support of ICCI will produce a highly capable and efficient industrial workforce by providing them international quality skills education and indigenously developed competency based training

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National University of Technology (NUTECH), Islamabad to promote academia-industry linkages and produce demand-driven graduates for the industry. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Dr. Syed Adnan Qasim, Registrar, National University of Technology signed the MoU in a ceremony held at NUTECH, Islamabad. Fatma Azim, Senior Vice President ICCI, Mian Akram Farid, Chairman ICCI Founder Group, Engr. Khalid Asghar, Rector, NUTECH and others were present at the occasion.

By signing MoU, ICCI and NUTECH have agreed to work jointly for promoting applied research in academia and indigenous industrial knowledge, new technologies &innovations in industries in order to help the industrial sector in producing imports

substitutions, value-addition of products and exports enhancement. Both institutions will establish long-term and

sustainable partnerships to find innovative and cost effective solutions to industrial problems. The NUTECH with the support of ICCI will produce a highly capable and efficient industrial workforce by providing them international quality skills education and indigenously developed competency based training that would help in enhancing industrial efficiency and productivity. ICCI and NUTECH will also create different collaborative forums besides creating joint working groups to work on various initiatives including periodic review of curriculum and industrial research works.



scrutiny of NUTECH industry projects and apprenticeship programs etc. They will work jointly to identify the required technical, vocational skills and competency standards for the local industry, locate industrial processes and systems that need technology and skills upgradation, identify research & development projects for NUTECH for value addition of industrial products.

Speaking at the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President ICCI said that the advanced countries have achieved phenomenal economic growth by promoting strong academia-industry linkages and there is a great need to replicate this model in Pakistan for promoting speedy industrialization. He said that linkages between universities and industries in Pakistan can play an important role in finding optimum solutions of industrial problems and making progress towards sustainable economic growth of the country. He hoped that the MoU inked between ICCI and NUTECH is a right move in that direction and would go a long way in developing academia-industry collaborations.

charge of molestation

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police Wednesday arrested an accused allegedly involved in molestation of a 15-year old girl. According to the police spokesman, RattaAmral police through scientific methods traced and arrested the accused Sohail. He said police had registered a case against him on the complaint of the victim's mother while the victim's family was a tenant in the accused house. Meanwhile, City Police Officer Muhammad Ahsan Younas appreciated the performance of the officials adding violence against women and children would not be tolerated.

He directed the officials to produce Sohail in the court of law with sufficient evidence so that he could be brought to justice.

bans entry of shady heavy transport

ICT admin

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration on Wednesday banned the entry of unauthorized Heavy transport in the federal capital due to security reasons and traffic problems, causing loss to precious lives and damage to property. Notification issued by Deputy Commissioner Islamabad said "all heavy transport including trucks, dumpers, tankers, and pickups shall enter the ICT, after due permission and endorsement from 11:00 PM to

07:00 AM only". The heavy vehicles will not use Srinagar Highway and they use IJP road, Murree road and Expressway. Oil tankers shall use IJP road via Faizabad and thereafter they shall proceed to their respective points via 9th Avenue. Iinnah Avenue and Margalla Road. Traffic police must ensure strict compliance by verifying the documents.

All vehicles carrying construction material shall enter Islamabad Chowk via IJP Road and thereafter they shall proceed to their respective points via 9th Avenue, Jinnah Avenue and Margalla Road.

It must be ensured that vehicles carrying construction material should be allowed after scrutiny and record should be maintained i.e Name of Driver, CNIC, Registration number, model/make, details of goods, start and destination points and permission letter by Secretary ITA with due endorsements in the Offices of Secretary ITA, SSP Operations Islamabad or SSP Security Islamabad as the case may be and SSP Traffic Islamabad.

PHA directed to make proper security arrangements

RAWALPINDI: The authorities concerned of all the Parks and Horticulture Authorities (PHAs) of Punjab have been directed to make proper security arrangements at parks to ensure safety of the citizens. Advisor to Chief Minister Punjab and Chairman Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi Asif Mehmood, on Wednesday chaired a joint meeting of all PHAs of Punjab and directed the authorities concerned to provide all possible facilities to the citizens in the parks. Chairmen and Director Generals of all PHAs attended the meeting. The Advisor was briefed in detail on the ongoing projects across the province and their completion time frame. He instructed the authorities to install CCTV cameras particularly in all major parks of the province, besides repairing all faulty cameras at the earliest to ensure security of the visitors.

The meeting also decided to hire services of the security companies for the parks. The Advisor instructed the authorities to set up central control room to monitor security arrangements of the parks. It was also decided at the meeting that appropriate arrangements would be made for the training of the guards so that the security of the citizens could be ensured. The meeting decided to allocate all the community parks only for families. - APP

Thursday, August 26, 2021

Emirates

relaxes Rapid PCR test rule

ISLAMABAD: Emirates Air-

lines has relaxed rules for

Rapid PCR test for travellers to Dubai from Pakistan

ing valid UAE residence visa can take Rapid PCR test six

hours before their departure. Earlier all passengers

were required to take Rapid

PCR test 4 hours prior to

"All passengers with a valid

UAE residence visa are al-

lowed to travel to and through

Dubai from Pakistan, India,

Nepal, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and

Uganda must conduct Rapid

PCR test within 6 hours prior

to departure," said a state-

ment on Emirates Airlines

"Rapid antigen test will not

be accepted," the statement

"Apart from Rapid PCR test

passengers must have a

valid COVID-19 test certifi-

cate issued within 48 hours

between the time of sample

collection and scheduled

flight departure," the state-

"Only COVID 19 PCR test

reports from certified labs

that issue a QR code linked

to the original report will be

"Dubai visa holders must

apply for pre entry approval

through General Directo-

rate of Residency and For-

eigners Affairs (GDRFA).

Passengers must complete a COVID 19 PCR test on ar-

UAE Nationals are exempt-

ed from the above require-

ments but subject to COVID

19 PCR test on arrival in

ment said further.

accepted."

rival in Dubai.

Dubai. – **APP**

cautioned passengers.

their departure.

website.

and five other nations. Now all the passengers hold-

Briefs

Contaminated water issue prevails in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Council of Research of Water Resources (PCRWR) found 20 out of 29 sources of potable water with regard to toxicity levels as unsafe for use in Pakistan.

The people are drinking water immersed with high levels of iron, arsenic, fluoride and even brain-eating amoeba, said an official working at PCRWR here on Wednesday.

He said a numner of times the issue of water contamination has been discussed during proceedings of the Parliament; now there is a dire need that all authorities including federal and provincial governments should 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.

Pharmacies sealed for selling drugs illegally

RAWALPINDI: The District Health Authority has sealed and challaned pharmacies for selling unregistered and expired medicines in various areas of the district here on Wednesday.

According to details, the district drug controller team headed by Dr Naveed Anwar conducted surprise raids on medical stores in the city and sealed One Ten pharmacy for selling unregistered therapeutic goods.

The team also seized huge quantity of empty bottles, caps and repacking of medicines on the spot while the dealer failed to provide Form-7 essential for selling drugs. Meanwhile, during another raid, the drug inspector Misbah Noreen sealed the Medipak distribution for not having a Drug sales license and was selling medicines

without a warranty.
The drug controller team also challaned Be Well Pharmacy for not having a valid record.

The authority sent the cases for further proceedings to District Quality Magistrate for violating Drug Act 1976 and DRAP Act, 2012. – APP

Quiz Contest held at AIOU

ISLAMABAD: A quiz competition was organized by the Directorate of Student Advisory and Counseling Services at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on the theme of 'Tehreeke-Pakistan' among the children of AIOU's emaleures

ployees.
The children participated enthusiastically and showed their full potential by proving that the new generation is aware of the independence movement and the sacrifices made by the founders of Pakistan. Rana Tariq, Director of Student Affairs, the host of the event, said that purpose of the quiz competition was to create awareness among the children about Tehreek-e-Pakistan and to arouse the passion for patriotism.

He said that such competitions are necessary to highlight the mental capabilities of the young generation. Other speakers said that our forefathers have sacrificed a lot for the achievement of Pakistan and it is the young generation now who has to take care of this motherland, everyone should consider it as their home and protect it. The speakers further urged the new generation to free themselves from this modern style of slavery and focus on education to play a role in the development of the country. - APP

Dutch envoy thanks Pak for evacuating stranded foreigners

In a meeting with Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Information and Broadcasting Raoof Hasan, the envoy also appreciated Pakistan's role as a facilitator during the Afghanistan crisis

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Netherlands to Pakistan Wouter Plomp on Wednesday extended gratitude to the Pakistani authorities for their cooperation and support in evacuating stranded foreign nationals from Kabul.

In a meeting with Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Information and Broadcasting Raoof Hasan, the envoy also appreciated Pakistan's role as a facilitator during the Afghanistan crisis. The meeting was also attended by First Secretary Political Affairs and Defence Attache of Embassy of the Netherlands and representative of the ministry's External Publicity Wing, said a news release.

Matters relating to regional developments, specifically the evolving situation in Afghanistan, were discussed during the meeting.

SAPM Raoof Hasan apprised the Ambassador about Pakistan's position on the current developments in Afghanistan.

The Defence Attache Netherlands informed the SAPM that they have received excellent cooperation from the Pakistan government and authorities (in evacuation of its nationals).

Youm-e-

Haya to be

observed

on Friday'

ISLAMABAD: Youm-e-Haya

(Chastity Day) would be ob-

served across the country

on upcoming Friday to edu-

cate men and women about

their socio-religious obliga-

tions towards each other,

Special Representative to

the Prime Minister Hafiz

Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi

Addressing a news con-

ference, he said in Friday

sermons the prayer leaders

would educate people about

the consequences of harass-

ment and other inappropri-

ate acts in the light of the

teachings of Islamic Sharia.

He called for speedy trial

and punishment in public

of those who indulged in

heinous crimes and im-

moral activities. Obscenity

and nudity were complete-

Ashrafi stressed the need

of taking immediate steps

to eradicate obscenity and

nudity, besides awarding

to keep check on heinous

Referring to recent inci-

dents of child abuse in a

seminary of Rawalpindi, he

punishments

ly prohibited in Islam.

exemplary

crimes.

said Wednesday.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Netherlands to Pakistan His Excellency Wouter Plomp called on the Special Assistance to the Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting Raoof Hasan. – DNA



ISLAMABAD: MD Pakistan Bait-Ul-Mal, Malik Zaheer Abbas and Turkey's ambassador Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul having lunch with the beneficiaries in Panahagah at G-9/4. – DNA

30,734 Covid patients recovered in district

"Presently 213 confirmed patients were admitted to various city facilities

RAWALPINDI: Around 30,734 COVID-19 patients have been recovered so far in the district out of which 28, 218 belonged to Rawalpindi and 2516 from other districts.

districts.

As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here Wednesday, as many as 1417 people had lost their battle to life so far in the district while 190 more cases were tested positive during the last 24 hours including 45 from Rawal Town, 42 from Potohar town, 43 from Rawalpindi Cantt, 28 from Gujar Khan, 13 from Kahutta, four from Murree, three each from Taxila and Islamabad,

two each from Kalar Syeda and Kotli Sattian, while one each reported from Abbottabad, AJK, KP, Bhakkar and Chakwal.

"Presently 213 confirmed patients were admitted to various city facilities, counting 45 in Holy Family Hospital,31 in Benazir Bhutto Hospital,91 in Institute of Urology,38 in Fauji Foundation Hospital,4 in District Headquarter Hospital,2 in Hearts international hospital and one each in two in Akhtar Rukhsana Memorial trust and Bilal hospital while one patient lost his life during the last 24 hours," the health authority report said. - APP

Police held 4 for possessing illegal

weapons

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police in their crackdown against illegal weapons rounded up four persons from different areas and recovered four 30 bore pistols, ammunition and other items from their possession, said a police spokesman on Wednesday.

He informed that Westridge, Mandra, Rawat and Kalar Syedan police held Allah Wasia, Bilal Nazir, Adeel Ullah and Husnain Ali and recovered four 30 bore pistols, ammunition and other items from their possession.

Separate cases have been registered against all the accused while further investigation was underway.

He said that the police were conducting operations against criminals on regular basis without any discrimination. – APP

PAC examines audit report of LNG, RLNG

ISLAMABAD: Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Wednesday examined the audit report for the year 2020-21 of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Re-gasified LNG, Ministry of Petroleum Division.

The committee met here at Parliament House with member national assembly Rana Tanveer Hussain, in chair.

Members of committee, Members National Aaaemblies (MBAs) including Riaz Fatyana, Raja Riaz Ahmad, Muhammad Ibrahim Khan, Munaza Hassan, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Sheikh Rohale Asghar, Hina Rabbani Khar, Shahida Akhtar Ali, Iqbal Muhammad Ali Khan, Malik Muhammad Aamir Dogar and Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed also attended the meeting.

Senator Sherry Rehman also attended the meeting via video conference.

Secretary Petroleum Division briefed the committee about the background of LNG/RLNG market, Global spot of LNG market, gas supply to economy and LNG market value chain and challenges.

He informed the committee that LNG was being imported by two entities Pakistan State Oil (PSO) and PLL, adding that PSO imports an average of six cargoes per month.

He added that challenges of

Pakistan's LNG market in-

cluded relationship between Petroleum and Power Divisions which is not on Take-or-Pay basis, adding that Annual Delivery Plan was based on assumption of stakeholders but fluctuates continuously. The ministry official said trading in LNG futures required financial guarantees which Pakistan State Oil (PSO) and PLL were not able to provide, (Circular Debt issues). – APP

Hybrid event of MoFA, Swiss embassy on agriculture held

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with the Embassy of Switzerland on Wednesday held a hybrid event on agricultural technologies-related innovation for sustainable agriculture.

The event brought together, physically and virtually, nearly 100 science and technology-related stakeholders from Pakistan and Switzerland.

It also featured an exhibition of startups related to agri-bio and agri-tech in Pakistan, showcasing a diverse range of products and services.

In his address, the Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Syed Fakhar Imam, welcomed the interface between local innovation stakeholders and potential international partners. He emphasised the need to incorporate recent innovations such as precision agriculture to increase the productivity of the agricultural value chain.

In this context, he also lauded the efforts of the local start-ups that are transforming the agricultural sector and affiliated industries in the country with the full support of the Government of Pakistan.

The Director General (United Nations/Science Diplomacy) highlighted the role of technology in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, in-



cluding those related to food security and climate change.

He added that Pakistan and Switzerland's friendly relations will be further strengthened through science diplomacy related engagements that can create scientific linkages and technological collaboration between the two countries.

The Swiss Chargé d'Affaires echoed similar sentiments and underscored the necessity of scientific cooperation to help tackle the multifaceted issues of climate change and food security. He also highlighted that sustainability is an important element for Swiss companies and one of their prioritized agenda for international partnerships. The event included technical talks, institutional offerings and a panel discussion focused on the agriculture and green technological related landscape in both countries, as well as potential areas of collaboration.

The participants from Pakistan included representatives from Special Technology Zones Authority, Higher Education Commission, National Science and Technology Park, National University of Science and Technology,

Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture, Geneva Science Diplomacy Anticipator, Swiss Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, along with some major Swiss start-ups working in the clean technology sector. The event was held under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Science Diplo-

and SUPARCO. Representation from

the Swiss side included experts from

try of Foreign Affairs' Science Diplomacy Initiative, one key objective of which is to provide local S&T stakeholders a platform to showcase their innovations for pursuing international partnerships.



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad launching Tree Plantation Drive at Mal Pur in collaboration with "Save the Children". – APP

13 new Ehsaas Panagahs opening soon

ISLAMABAD: "Thirteen new Ehsaas model Panagahs will be established in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan to provide shelter to the destitute and helpless people".

This was revealed by the newly formed Panagah Advisory Council during its first meeting held Wednesday at Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) Headquarters.

The new Panagahs to be established included three in Rawalpindi, Lahore and Gujranwala districts of Punjab; four in Peshawar, Kohat, Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan districts of KP; three in Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur districts of Sindh; and three in Washuk, Noshki and Kharan

districts of Balochistan.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection, Senator, Dr. Sania Nishtar chaired the meeting on Prime Minister's special directives.

In line with PM's instructions, a sixteen-member Advisory Council of Ehsaas Panagahs has recently been

formed under the umbrella of

The Advisory Council has been assigned the mandate to provide valuable oversight on policy and strategic direction, institutionalization of audit and accountability systems, improving the quality of delivery, scalability, and sustainability of Ehsaas model Panagahs. – APP

G7 and Taliban

T speaks volumes about the world that a US president was more worried about the Taliban looking weak than about his western allies. Britain, France and Germany asked Joe Biden to continue evacuating civilians from Kabul past his self-imposed deadline of 31 August. But the US rejected these requests. Mr Biden wanted to end the chaotic TV scenes from Afghanistan that hurt his domestic poll ratings. But he also accepted that Kabul's new rulers could not afford to look weak in front of their rival Isis, which is looking for an opportunity to embarrass its Taliban peer.

The west's airlift will therefore be over by next Tuesday. It is the Afghan people who will pay the highest price for the west's defeated ambitions for their country. They now face living under Taliban rule for a second time. There is no guarantee that a grinding civil war is over. Afghanistan faces a series of crises that would tax the most able technocrats. Yet at the country's helm is the world's most obscurantist leadership. Covid has a long way to run in Afghanistan, but only 2% of the population has been vaccinated. The Taliban have no experience of legislating within a sophisticated political and legal framework, especially one of the kind modelled on western democracies. When they last ran the country, a cash economy did not exist. The west's economic model for Afghanistan was, at best, a work in progress. The country has become dependent on international assistance, while poverty rates have increased from a third of the population to more than a half. Unless something extraordinary happens, foreign aid will dry up, leaving the Taliban not only unable to pay for government salaries but also without the resources to cover Afghanistan's import bill.

Afghanistan's complexity - its patchwork of ethnicities, traditions and minimal governance - makes it hard to understand. The G7 might be able to use a carrot-and-stick approach with the Taliban. It could offer cash in return for the group respecting human rights or threaten sanctions if Kabul breaks promises. The world, ultimately, will have to adjust to American interest in Afghanistan assuming more conventional proportions. Washington, in the future, will monitor jihadist threats from afar and seek to preserve political balance in Kabul. What has disappeared is the latest attempt to impose a new Afghan society on top of an old one.

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Birth registration

N a meeting with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Dr Yasmin Rashid highlighted the objective of the government to improve immunisation coverage for children through a more proactive birth registration process. For now, Punjab is the target province of the change in policy but soon, other provinces must follow suit. Pakistan is home to over 60 million nameless children who go about their lives without existing within the official records. They do not possess a NAD-RA-issued birth certificate, a Form B and are neither listed on the Family Registration Certificate. Theoretically, their right to being, citizenship and identity is absent.

Not only is this a problem in and of itself but, the ramifications are such that it becomes incredibly hard to create a mechanism through which their vaccination status, schooling and traceability can be monitored. One result of all this is the fact that various health problems continue to persist in the country and amongst children, despite the fact that the antidote is easily available. From infancy to the age of 15, children are supposed to be immunised against diseases like Hepatitis A and B, Polio, Rotavirus, Influenza, chicken pox, measles, malaria, smallpox, HPV and more. Improper coverage as a result of a lack of registration entails that they become more vulnerable to transmission and often develop life-threatening ailments. The only solution is for the government to step in instead of tolerating the uncertainty and stress that comes from a lack of action on the part of parents.

Through establishing direct links with public and private hospitals, midwives-particularly from the Lady Health Workers programme—and NADRA, some progress can be made on this front. All members of staff of hospitals and midwives should be legally bound to report any birth or subsequent death, at least via SMS, so that the registration process can be initiated digitally. Hospitals should even offer registration and immunisation services within labour wards to make the process easier. These may seem like strict steps but they are important if we are to protect the future generations of the country.

Afghanistan: Post-Taliban challenges for the region

Munir Ahmed



Pakistan's interior ministry knows exactly how many mosques were captured by the students of the Lal Masjid, and taking any action against their headquarters in the centre of the city will flare up the situation in different parts of the federal capital. Tribal belts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan are ever active fault lines of extremism and terrorism though much significant has been done to eradicate the banned outfits

ALIBAN'S brisk takeover of Afghanistan has shocked in particular the geometrical ghanistan has shocked in particular the geopolitical security experts across the world. Many questions are being asked to the US about their huge spending there in the last two decades. What went wrong with the capacity and vigor of the Afghanistan army that was built with the taxpayers' money?

Key facts are very alarming that since 9/11, US squandered \$6.4 trillion on 'war on terror' including \$2.2 trillion in Afghanistan. It is almost \$100 billion on 300,000-strong Afghan Army and Air Force which roughly means spending \$100 billion every month on the Afghan War for the last 20 years. US had 25,000 military casualties in Afghanistan including 2448 deaths, about 250,000 Afghans lost their lives. According to the UN Security Council report of July 26, 2021, there are 12,000 foreign terrorists in Afghanistan, with the largest contingent of 6500 from Tehreek e Taliban Pakistan. World's largest US embassy in Kabul sprawling 15-acre compound and having 4000 staff including 1400 Americans along with NATO and other allies could not build a modern and contemporary Afghanistan with the funds spent there.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed speaking to a webinar organized by the Devcom-Pakistan has termed the current situation in Afghanistan as "monumental failure" of the US policy in Afghanistan. The US incompetence to plan, organize and implement even the airlift of its remaining staff from Kabul just because of the abrupt withdrawal of the remaining 2500 US troops through a self-imposed deadline, and then reversing that decision by bringing about 5200 US troops for securing the disorganized exodus of Americans and their staffers. It

self-serving Kabul Elite which had no roots in the Afghan masses and whose leader fled at the first sign of trouble.

The situation in Afghanistan has become worrisome for the neighbouring countries too as the Taliban's videos coming up show the same brutal behaviour with the natives despite many positive announcements. Perhaps they did not reach their own armed men roaming around the streets across all parts of Afghanistan. The savage and brutal spillover is expected to the neighbouring countries. Pakistan would be the main and easy target to fuel up the similar situation once again. In Islamabad, the Lal Masjid administration has already hoisted the Taliban's flag while the District Management has failed to take any action.

Pakistan's interior ministry knows exactly how many mosques were captured by the students of the Lal Masjid, and taking any action against their headquarters in the centre of the city will flare up the situation in different parts of the federal capital. Tribal belts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan are ever active fault lines of extremism and terrorism though much significant has been done to eradicate the banned outfits.

Lt. General Retd Muhammad Asad Durrani has advised the state institutions and government to take into confidence the Taliban's like minds in Pakistan before we see the spillover from Afghanistan's present situation.

In the given circumstances, the neighbouring countries core interest in Afghanistan shall be to strengthen unity among themselves and among different factions in Afghanistan. It is vital for the stability, territorial integrity and independence of Afghanistan. Pakistan, Iran, China, Russia and Turkey shall put every effort in has propped up a narrow-based corrupt to facilitate the formation of a rationally

inclusive and broad based government in Afghanistan through political consensus. They shall also ensure that Afghan territory should not be used for cross-border terrorism against Pakistan, or to harm the strategic and economic interests of other countries as was the case in the recent past. It is a good sign that Taliban are behaving more mature this time and talking to the neighbouring countries in their language. They have a more rational approach towards their own people from different segments of the society with exception to some brutal incidents.

Taliban's brisk takeover of the country without any strong resistance from the Afghan army shall not be taken as their wide acceptance in Afghanistan. Taliban's smooth sailing through all the parts could have been a planned conspiracy of some external forces to create chaos in the region against China's aggressive economic moves.

However, we shall believe that only infrastructural and economic development in Afghanistan would lead to peace and prosperity in the region. All the neighbouring countries should support the government in Afghanistan that is acceptable to the natives and different political factions. It is possible only if the countries in the region forge a regional policy with China, Russia, Iran and Turkey at the core, plus Central Asian neighbors of Afghanistan including Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Call a conference of these countries inviting the USA too for a comprehensive plan for peace and stability in the region.

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

US had no decent reason to stay in Afghanistan

Michelle Goldberg

Ryan Crocker, Barack Obama's former ambassador to Afghanistan, criticised the administration's lack of "strategic patience" in a guest essay in The New York Times. "Mr. Biden's decision to withdraw all US forces destroyed an affordable status quo that could have lasted indefinitely at a minimum cost in blood and treasure," he wrote. In The Washington Post, Condoleezza Rice wrote, "We — and they (Taliban) - needed more time." The argument for "patience" or "more time" assumes that the American presence in Afghanistan was doing more good than harm

N 2019, air strikes in Afghanistan killed some 700 civilians, more than in any other year since the war's start, according to the Costs of War Project, a group working to tally the human toll of America's post-9/11 conflicts. US and Nato air strikes declined in 2020 after Donald Trump's withdrawal agreement with the Taliban, but

strikes by the Afghan air force increased. "As a consequence, the A.A.F. is harming more Afghan civilians than at any time in its history," Neta C. Crawford, chair of the political science department at Boston University and co-director of the Costs of War Project, wrote last year. I don't know the name or background of any of these civilians as I know the name of Zaki Anwari, the 17-year-old member of Afghanistan's national youth soccer team who fell to his death after clinging to a US military plane evacuating people from Kabul. But America is as responsible for them as it is for the Afghans who will die because of our mismanaged withdrawal. Amid the wrenching scenes of the war's denouement, that's easy to forget, especially when commentators pretend that the conflict Joe Biden inherited could have been maintained at little price.

There are two primary critiques of Biden's Afghan policy. The first, which is valid, blames the administration for not clearing bureaucratic obstacles that kept Afghan allies waiting for visas, possibly stranding tens of thousands of people who deserve to be evacuated. The second, which is absurd, blames Biden for defeat in a war that was lost years ago.

Rvan Crocker, Barack Obama's former ambassador to Afghanistan, criticised the administration's lack of "strategic patience" in a guest essay in The New York Times. "Mr. Biden's decision to withdraw all US forces destroyed an affordable status quo that could have lasted indefinitely at a minimum cost in blood and treasure," he wrote.

In The Washington Post, Condoleezza Rice wrote, "We - and they (Taliban) - needed more time." The argument for "patience" or "more time" assumes that the American presence in Afghanistan was doing more good than harm. For some Afghans, particularly in the capital, this was undoubtedly true. Keeping a contingent of US troops in Afghanistan might well have protected those who will be most hurt by Taliban. But for America to remain in Afghanistan, Biden would have had to renege on Trump's deal with the Taliban. More US troops would be required, and fighting, including US air strikes, would almost certainly ramp up. That would mean more suffering, and more

death, for many Afghan civilians. Crawford told me that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan began releasing data on civilian casualties in 2008. Most years, she said, the Taliban, al-Qaida and Daesh were responsible for the majority of civilian deaths, but not every year. "What we've seen overall is an increase in the number of civilians who've been killed since 2008," she said. There were about 3,000 civilians killed in 2020, and before the Taliban takeover, she said, 2021 was on track to be as bad or worse. Now, even though the Taliban has free rein, she thinks civilian deaths could decline. "Given the collapse, or the withdrawal, of the Afghan national forces, military and police, I actually think we're not going to reach what we were on track for, because some of these areas, peo-

ple won't be contesting for land. There won't be air strikes, which kill a lot of people. There will be less shelling."

As the journalist Azmat Khan wrote on Twitter, "Many young people in rural battlefields have never experienced life without war, without US bombings, Taliban attacks, night raids by Afghan forces, kidnappings." Hard as it is to understand, "some youth feel they have a shot at a future now." Maybe American violence in Afghanistan could be justified if it were improving the average Afghan's life. But often we seem to have made people's lives harder.

The most recent report from the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction paints a damning picture of two decades of American efforts in Afghanistan: "US officials often empowered power brokers who preved on the population or diverted US assistance away from its intended recipients to enrich and empower themselves and their allies. Lack of knowledge at the local level meant projects intended to mitigate conflict often exacerbated it, and even inadvertently funded insurgents." Speaking of those who think Americans could have stayed in Afghanistan long-term simply to avoid losing, Crawford said, "What most of the conversation seems to be assuming here is that the level of civilian misery is taken out of the equation, and all that matters is who controls Kabul."

Taliban control of Kabul, of course, will also inflict civilian misery, and some youth will feel they've lost a shot at a future. There was never a decent way to leave the country, which is why we fought a futile war for 20 years. But there also wasn't a decent way to stay.

- Courtesy: Gulf News

Thursday, August 26, 2021

FM discuses

Afghan issue with...

From Page 01

days is not only the problem of the Afghan people,

but also one of the most pressing regional and global issues today. Taliban's rise to power has further

complicated the geopolitical process in the region.

Evidence clearly shows that

the Taliban are abandoning

their previous promises to

form an interim government

with the broad participation

of other political forces in the country and are prepar-

ing to establish an Islamic

emirate. Tajikistan strong-

ly condemns all forms of

lawlessness, murder, loot-

ing, and persecution of the

Afghan people, especially

Tajiks, Uzbeks, and other

national minorities. The of-

ficials stressed that Afghan-

istan should not be dragged

back into the whirlpool of

As a close neighbor, Tajik-

istan has always supported

the restoration of lasting

peace and stability in Af-

ghanistan and remains com-

In order to urgently address

the political and security

problems of the neighbor-

ing country, it is necessary

to establish an inclusive government with the par-

ticipation of all national mi-

norities, especially Tajiks in

Afghanistan, who make up

more than 46% of the pop-

ulation. The state structure

in this neighboring country should be determined by

referendum and taking into

account the position of all

Tajikistan will not recognize any other government that

is formed in this country

through oppression, with-

out taking into account

the position of the entire

Afghan people, especially

all its minorities. They also

stressed that Tajiks have a

worthy place in the future

government of Afghanistan.

Taiikistan calls on the inter-

national community to take

urgent measures to ensure

peace and stability in Af-

ghanistan and to stabilize its

difficult political and securi-

ty situation through negoti-

The international communi-

ty's indifference to the cur-

rent situation in Afghanistan

could lead to a protracted

civil war. Tajikistan is com-

mitted to the restoration of

peace, stability and security

in the neighboring Afghani-

stan as soon as possible, and believes that the United Na-

tions should play a key role

in advancing this process. On

the basis of the experience of

civil war, peace, and national unity of Tajikistan, President Rahmon has proposed a

number of ways to the Pa-

kistani side for ensuring

peace, stability, and further

sustainable development of

President

lauds

Army's...

From Page 01

the army's prowess in the

field of information tech-

nology and coordination

mechanisms with other

stakeholders. Earlier, upon

arrival at the GHQ, the

army chief had received

President Alvi, where he

was later presented guard

The president had also laid

a floral wreath at the Mar-

tyrs Monument and offered

of honour, the ISPR said.

the neighboring country.

ations as soon as possible.

citizens of the country.

mitted to this position.

bloody imposed wars.

Briefs

Islam provides panacea for all problems

FROM PAGE 01 incident taking place [in Pakistan] when I was growing up," PM Imran Khan said, during an event in Lahore, where he stressed on educating the country's youth in line with Islamic teachings. The premier said he has travelled across the world, and while he was growing up, he had observed that Pakistanis respected women much more than the Western world.

"The downfall that we are witnessing is because our children are not being educated in the right manner. This is not a part of our culture and neither of our religion," he said, referring to the behaviour that was displayed by the mob, at the Greater Iqbal Park in Lahore on August 14. The prime minister said "sex crimes" in Pakistan were on the rise, and blamed it on the negative side of the use of mobile phones. "In human history we never witnessed the kind of exposure to things that children have nowadays," he said.

He noted that to curb such incidents, "there is only one way". "Children must be taught about the life Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)," he said, adding that he was the "greatest human being, the likes of which will never again be seen" The prime minister said people read about successful people to learn of the secrets of their success - and no one in history is as successful as Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). "Which is why we have been told in the Holy Quran to learn from his life.' "[The children must be taught] how he brought about a historic revolution. What his qualities were. How he was honest and trustworthy – and how no person has become a great leader without these qualities," the prime minister said. The premier said Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and former president of the South African Republic Nelson Mandela were regarded as honest and trustworthy even by their rivals. "So these qualities, which made him so great, should be taught to our children in schools.

PM Imran displeased with police..

From Page 01

Chief Minister Puniab Sardar Usman Buzdar was also present during the meeting. The prime minister was apprised of the steps taken for the protection of women. The prime minister directed for strict and immediate steps for ending incidents against women and for their protection. Immediate measures must be taken to ensure stringent nunishment to the culprits, he added. The prime minister also directed for ensuring steps for the protection of lives and properties of the citizens. During the meeting, the prime minister was also briefed over the administrative steps taken against land grabbers, price hike and hoarding in the province.

Qureshi meets Uzbek counterpart

From Page 01 during the recent visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Uzbekistan. During the meeting, regional security situation, particularly the evolving situation in Afghanistan came under discussion. Emphasising Pakistan's support for an inclusive political setup, the Foreign Minister remarked that peace in Afghanistan would bring stability in the region, promote trade and facilitate people to people linkages. It was therefore important that neighbours of Afghanistan coordinate closely on the situation in Afghanistan.

Welcoming the Foreign Minister, the Uzbek Foreign Minister, the Uzbek Foreign Minister highlighted upward trajectory in the bilateral relations. Foreign Minister Kamilov termed Foreign Minister Qureshi's visit important and timely in terms of close coordinated approach on Afghanistan. The two FM agreed to continue consultations to advance shared objectives of a peaceful, prosperous and connected region.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food and Security Syed Fakhar Imam welcomed the Hungarian Charge d'affaires, Tivadar Takacs at his office. – DNA

Stakeholders to play their active role in sports: Sanjrani

"These budding youngsters need support from all stakeholders. Talented players are important asset of the country. Provinces should also play their positive role by providing sports opportunities to youth"

Afzal Javed

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Mohammad Sadiq Sanjrani has said that government is keen to promote sports, calling on all the stakeholders to play their active role for the betterment and development of Olympic sports in the country. He expressed these views on Wednesday during meeting with Rawalpindi-Islamabad Sports Journalists Association (RISJA) delegation at Parliament House Islamabad.

The delegation was led by chairman RISJA Abdul Mohi Shah and President Ayaz Akbar Yousafzai while Deputy Chairman Senate Mirza Muhammad Afridi was also present in the meeting. The Chairman Senate discussed differ-



ent issues confronting Pakistan sports. "There is need to spread sports facilities all around the country. Being a keen follower of the game of soccer, I would like to see football grounds in every corner of the country. We also need such facilities for other sports." Chairman Senate Mohammad Sadiq Sanjrani said that the role of sports federations in uplifting the system was important, "Media has to play their positive role for sports promotion and development in the country." Chairman Senate said that sports talent was in abundance in the country. "These budding youngsters need support from all stakeholders. Talented players are important asset of the country. Provinces should also play their positive role by providing sports

Pakistan down West Indies in second Test to level series

SPORTS DESK

JAMAICA: Pakistan's Shaheen Shah Afridi took 10 wickets in the match as the tourists bowled West Indies out on Monday to win the second test at Sabina Park and tie the two-match series. Shaheen claimed 4-43 to

of 6-51 in the first innings as West Indies were dismissed for 219 on the last day to give Pakistan victory by 109 runs.

The hosts were always up against it after resuming on their overnight tally of 49-1, 280 runs shy of the imposing target of 329, but with survival more

than chasing victory in mind.

But they lost four wickets in the morning ses-

But they lost four wickets in the morning session to slump to 113-5 at lunch with Hasan Ali ensuring top order batsmen Nkrumah Bonner and Royston Chase both departed cheaply.

Home captain Kraigg Brathwaite, 17 not out

overnight, lost his wicket in the second over after tea as he cut Nauman Ali straight to point to be dismissed for 39.

A 46-run partnership for the seventh wicket between Jason Holder and Kyle Mayers ended at tea with the Windies only temporarily prolonging the inevitable.



ISLAMABAD: To honour Pakistan's outstanding weightlifter Talha Talib for his exceptional performance in Tokyo Olympics 2021, General Manager at Pearl-Continental Hotel Lahore, Nadeem Riaz Chaudhry, on behalf of Hashoo Group presented Talha a cheque worth PKR. 1,000,000/-. – DNS

Serena withdraws from US Open due to torn hamstring

DNA

WASHINGTON: Serena Williams withdrew from the U.S. Open on Wednesday, pulling out of the major tournament and extending her latest break from the game that she once dominated. "After careful consideration and following the advice of my doctors and medical team, I have decided to withdraw from the US Open to allow my body to heal completely from a torn hamstring," Williams wrote on Instagram. "New York is one of the most exciting cities in the world and one of my favorite places to play — I'll miss seeing the fans but will be cheering everyone on from afar. Thank you for your continued support and love. I'll see you soon."

Williams, who is ranked 22nd on the WTA Tour at age 39, has not played on tour since retiring in the first set of her first-round match at Wimbledon on June 29 because of an injured right hamstring. Williams was in tears as she shook the hand of her opponent, Aliaksandra Sasnovich, and she stumbled as she exited Centre Court, receiving assistance to reach the clubhouse. She skipped last week's Western and Southern Open in the Cincinnati suburbs to allow herself more time to recover, and

said in a statement that she planned 'to be back on the court very soon." But she could not recover in time to play at the U.S. Open, where she has won six singles titles, including her first Grand Slam singles title in 1999 as a teenager. The tournament begins Aug. 30 in U.S. Open in New York. She last missed the 2017 during her break from the sport because of the birth of her daughter, Olympia. She returned to the tour in March 2018 and until now had participated in every Grand Slam tournament since her comeback. She lost the 2018 U.S. Open final to Naomi Osaka of Japan and the 2019 U.S. Open final to Bianca Andreescu of Canada.

prayers, the military's media wing added. Italian envoy calls on Air Chief

From Page 01
The Air Chief highlighted the cordial relations between the two countries and reiterated his resolve to further augment the existing cooperation between the two Air Forces. Various matters of mutual interest and professional cooperation also came under discussion during the meeting.

Pakistan, Kazakhstan military...

From Page 01
National anthems of both countries were played at the opening ceremony. Military officials of both countries were present on the occasion. The Joint exercise is being held as part of biennial exercise mechanism between two armies. The first Joint exercise was held in 2017 in Pakistan and 2nd in 2019 in Kazakhstan.

Erdogan calls on Muslims worldwide to oppose injustice

"Muslims struggling with conflicts, migration, poverty, and disease in a wide geography from Syria to Afghanistan, on the other hand, have to struggle with rising Islamophobia and cultural racism, especially in Western society," he said

DNA

ISTANBUL: Addressing a youth forum in Istanbul on Wednesday, Turkey's president called on Muslims to raise their voice on against injustices they witness. "Muslims should take responsibility for their own peace and well-being, as well as for the security and future of all humanity, and raise their voices against the injustices they witness," Recep Tayyip Erdogan said in his video message to the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICY-F)'s 4th General Assembly being. Noting that the world is witnessing one of

the most turbulent times in human history, Erdogan said that security problems, terrorist activities, and the coronavirus outbreak prevented longed-for peace.
"Muslims struggling with conflicts, migration, poverty, and disease in a wide geography from Syria to Afghanistan, on the other hand, have to struggle with rising

Islamophobia and

cultural racism, es-

pecially in Western

society," he said.

Citing one of his

disinjustice at every
Erdogan also cal
ple to ta
active
acade
merc
life.'
"I

bigger than five," in reference to the five permanent members of the UN Security Council in a call to reform the body, Erdogan said Turkey draws attention to global injustice at every opportunity. Erdogan also called on young people to take part "in very

long-held maxims that "the world is

active roles in politics, academia, sports, commercial, and social life."

"I expect you not

"I expect you not to allow anyone to come between us

Islamic Cooperation Youth strategy, youth development, economic empowerment, culture, arts, sports, networking, and environmental issues over the two-day assembly.

Founded in 2004 in Baku, the ICYF is an international, not-for-profit, non-partisan organization uniting leading umbrella youth organizations from the member

states of the OIC, as well as internation-

al youth organizations representing Mus-

lim minorities worldwide.

and divide you over ethnic, sectarian, or

countries will discuss the forum's

cultural differences," he said.

Representatives from 56

Azerbaijan

to develop new Covid

vaccine

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijani scien-

tists are conducting re-

search to develop a new COVID-19 vaccine, head of

The Management Union of

Medical Territorial United

(TABIB), Ramin Bayramli

wrote on his Twitter ac-

"For the first after many

years, cell structure studies

have been launched in our

country for the develop-

ment of a vaccine and new

measures, diagnostics and

chemotherapy to combat in-

fectious diseases, including

COVID-19," Bayramov said.

To date, 24 percent of the

population has been vacci-

nated against the coronavi-

rus in Azerbaijan with both

Azerbaijan started vaccinat-

ing citizens using China's

Sinovac on January 18, Vax-

zevria vaccine produced by

AstraZeneca on May 3, Rus-

sia's Sputnik V on May 18

and US-produced Pfizer on

June 7. The country started

offering COVID-19 vaccina-

tion to citizens aged over 18

The nationwide vaccination

is free and is implemented

on a voluntary basis in line

with the "Strategy of vacci-

nation against COVID-19 in

Azerbaijan for 2021-2022".

Due to the recent surge in

the number of infected peo-

ple with COVID-19, the gov-

ernment had to take preven-

tive measures in Azerbaijan. As of September 1, unvacci-

nated citizens will be barred

from entering large shop-

ping centers and catering

from May 10.

doses of the vaccine.

count recently.

Briefs

Turkish FM discuss Afghanistan with Blinken

WEB DESK

ANKARA: Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoglu and United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan in a phone call, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said early Wednesday. Çavuşoglu and Blinken also discussed the "continuing cooperation" in Afghanistan and efforts "to ensure the safe and orderly evacuation of our citizens, allies and partners," U.S. State Department spokesperson Ned Price said in a statement. "I spoke with Turkish Foreign Minister @MevlutCavusoglu today about joint efforts to ensure a safe and orderly evacuation from Afghanistan. Turkey is an important NATO Ally and an invaluable partner in the region," Blinken tweeted after the call. In a dramatic turn of events that brought an effective end to the 20-year war, the Afghan military collapsed in the face of the Taliban's lightning offensive and so did its govern-

fled the country. The armed movement's military victory prompted a chaotic and frenzied evacuation of all foreign nationals belonging to the U.S., the U.K. and NATO countries in Afghanistan with helicopters shuttling evacuees from embassies to the Kabul Hamid Karzai International Airport.

ment in Kabul under former

President Ashraf Ghani, who

Azerbaijan, Russia mull launching joint venture

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan and Russia are interested in launching a new joint venture, the Trade Representative of Russia in Azerbaijan reported on August 24.

The Trade Representative of Russia in Azerbaijan Ruslan Mirsayapov and the Trade Representative of Azerbaijan in Russia Ruslan Aliyev discussed the issue during a meeting with the delegation of the Kuban Cardboard Factory in Baku, on August 24.

The sides noted that the establishment of joint ventures for the processing of agricultural products, the utilization of secondary raw materials paper and cardboard, and the import of high-quality canned products from Azerbaijan are considered as new areas of cooperation between the Kuban Company and Azerbaijan.

The founder of the company, Mikhail Khomenkov expressed his willingness to expand the sales of high-quality products, namely corrugated packaging to Azerbaijan, since the Azerbaijani agro-industrial holdings are the main consumers of Krasnodar factory.

US to supply 1M vaccine doses to Vietnam

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: The US is supplying another 1 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Vietnam, the US vice president said on Wednesday. On an official visit to the Southeast Asian nation, Kamala Harris met Vietnam's Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh early Wednesday, the US Embassy in Hanoi said in a statement. The US has already sent around 5 million vaccine doses to Vietnam - making it the largest donor by far - as the country faces an intense wave of coronavirus.

"We are confident that these life-saving vaccine doses will contribute to Vietnam's fight against COVID-19. Together, we will defeat COVID-19," the embassy said. Washington's vaccine diplomacy comes after Chinh told Chinese Ambassador to Vietnam Xiong Bo on Tuesday that Vietnam "does not ally with one country to fight against another."

Chinh said his nation "consist ently pursues the foreign policy of independence, self-remulti-lateralization, and diversification of ties, proactive and active international integration, and being a responsible member of the international community."

Putin, Xi agree to jointly combat Afghanistan 'threats'

They also talked about a series of achievements of the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for the new era and the joint efforts in fighting against COVID-19

AGENCIES

MOSCOW: Chinese President Xi Jinping said Wednesday that China is willing to strengthen communication and coordination with Russia and the international community on the Afghan issue and stressed that China and Russia should deepen cooperation against interference in a phone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The top leaders of the two countries also agreed that given the complicated changes in the international and regional situation, it is important and necessary for the two sides to communicate on key bilateral and multilateral issues and stay in close contact.

They also talked about a series of achievements of the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for the new era and the joint efforts in fighting against COVID-19.

Xi stressed that China respects Afghanistan's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, insists on not interfering in its domestic affairs, and has always played a constructive role in promoting a political solution to the

Xi said that China is willing to



strengthen communication and coordination with the broader international community including Russia on the Afghan issue, and called for concerted efforts to encourage all factions in Afghanistan to build an open and inclusive political structure through consultation, implement moderate and prudent domestic and foreign policies, thoroughly dissociate from all terrorist groups, and maintain friendly relations with the rest of the world, especially neighboring countries.

Putin said that the current changes in the Afghan situation showed that outside forces' forcibly promoting its political models did not work in some countries and will only bring destruction and disaster to these countries. Russia and China share similar stances and interests on the Afghan issue.

Russia is willing to closely communicate with China and actively participate in a multilateral mechanism on the Afghan issue to promote a peaceful transition, crack down on terrorism, cut off drug smuggling, prevent the spillover of security risks from Afghanistan, resist interference and de-

Talks with Taliban must continue: Merkel

BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Wednesday called for talks with the Taliban to ensure that they do not reverse the achievements Afghanistan has made over the past 20 years. "One thing is clear. The Taliban now are a reality in Afghanistan," Merkel told lawmakers, during the parliamentary session. The chancellor favored diplomatic talks with the Taliban, but underlined that there won't be any unconditional agreements. "Our goal must be to preserve, as much as possible, the achievements of the past 20 years. For this, international community must have talks with Taliban," she said.

The Taliban seized control of Afghanistan after taking Kabul on Aug. 15, forcing the president and other top officials to leave the country

Following the departure of Ashraf Ghani, former President Hamid Karzai, veteran politician Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and top peace negotiator Abdullah Abdullah formed a council with an aim to ensure a smooth transfer of power. - Agencies

struction from outside forces and safeguard regional stability, Putin said. The conversation between the top leaders of China and Russia on Wednesday with a focus on the Afghan issue was a "strategic" exchange, which indicated China and Russia stand together in helping reconstruct peace, stability and development in Afghanistan on the basis of respecting the will and choice of the Afghan people, Yang Jin, an associate research

fellow at the Institute of Russian, Eastern European and Central Asian Studies under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times.

Yang believes the exchange between the top leaders of the two countries again showed that the two major powers are acting as responsible countries in helping address the chaos in Afghanistan and maintain the interna-

Iranian envoy meets **Pakistani** counterpart

KABUL: Ambassador of the Islamic Republic's of Iran in Afghanistan, Bahador Aminian on Wednesday met Paki stan's Ambassador to Afghan istan Mansoor Ahmed Khan at Pakistan Embassy in Kabul. The meeting besides discussing bilateral relations also discussed present situation in Afghanistan and formation of new government here.

for ensuring lasting peace.

Foreign Desk

Both the ambassadors said peace in Afghanistan would ensure progress and stabiliy in the region, expressing their willingness to support the process as neighboring countries. The Pakistani ambassador told his Iranian counterpart that Pakistan was in the favor of a peaceful Afghanistan and wanted to enjoy bilateral relations between the two countries based on common interests He added that Pakistan and the regional countries were in the favor of an inclusive government in Afghanistan

Climate protesters continue rallying

AGENCIES

LONDON: Hundreds of environmentalist protesters descended on central London Wednesday on a third day of mass protests planned across the British capital.

Protesters marched to the Picadilly Circus after gathering first in front of the Brazilian Embassy to rally for "indigenous peoples of Amazon rainforests," closing the main junction and disrupting traffic.

More than 100 people have been arrested during the first two days of the protests in central London's busiest spots, including Trafalgar Square, Leicester Square, Cambridge Circus, Whitehall, and Oxford Street.

On Tuesday, protesters blocked the entrance of the Selfridges building and briefly rallied on Oxford Street. causing disruption. Some protesters locked themselves to vehicles, some others glued them-

selves on shop windows. "Extinction Rebellion will take to the streets again, with plans to disrupt the City of London to target the root cause of the climate and ecological crisis - the political economy," a statement from the group said on protests.

AL, OIC decry Algeria-Morocco fallout

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: The Organisation

of Islamic Cooperation, the Arab League and Saudi Arabia called for "dialogue" Wednesday to resolve arguments between neighbouring Algeria and Morocco. Algeria said Tuesday it had cut diplomatic relations with Morocco because of "hostile actions", following months of resurgent tensions be-

rivals. The OIC "called for dialogue to resolve any possible differences", a statement from the Jeddah-based organisation Wednesday said.

tween the North African

Saudi Arabia called on both nations "to prioritise dialogue" to help "achieve security and stability," a foreign ministry statement read. Arab League Secretary-Gen-

eral Ahmed Aboul Gheit

urged "both countries to

exercise restraint and to avoid further escalation" in a statement late Tuesday. Algiers has long been at odds with Rabat - particularly over the Western Sahara, a former Spanish colony Morocco sees as an integral part of its territory.

Aliyev signs decree on social aid to war heroes

News Desk

BAKU: President Ilham Aliyev has signed a decree on improving the social and living conditions of the Second Karabakh War heroes and their family members, Azertag reported on August 25. The president instructed Azerbaijan's Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population to provide housing for the people entitled with "Hero of the Patriotic War", as well as for family members of those posthumously awarded with this honorary title. According to the decree, the apartments for the certain group of people will be provided by Azerbaijan's Mortgage and Credit Guarantee Fund.

Moreover, Azerbaijan's Cab-

inet of Ministers and other

relevant government bodies have been instructed to regularly inform the president on the work done in connection with the implementation of

the decree. Aliyev signed decrees on June 24 to decorate a group of military servicemen for the liberation of the country's Armenian-occupied Fuzuli, Khojavand, Zangilan, Jabrayil, Gubadly, Lachin, Aghdam regions, the historic Shusha city and Sugovushan settlement

in the last year's war. The servicemen were awarded with the medals for showing courage and bravery in combat operations to liberate Fuzuli, Khojavand, Zangilan, Jabrayil, Gubadly, Lachin, Aghdam regions, the historic Shusha citiy and Sugovushan settlement after three decades of Armenian occupation.

Pakistan to promote cross border commerce with SCO

The MoU inked at the Digital Commerce Conference of the 2021 China-SCO Forum on the Digital Economy Industry in China's tech powerhouse of CEN

Foreign Desk

TASHKENT: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in a meeting with Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz

Kamilov in Uzbekistan on Wednesday. - DNA

BEIJING: In a milestone move to promote collaboration among Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states in the digital economy, Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Building a Cross-border E-commerce Platform with nine trade organisations of SCO member states.

The MoU inked at the Digital Commerce Conference of the 2021 China-SCO Forum on the Digital Economy Industry in

China's tech powerhouse of Chongqing, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday.

Four areas of cooperation in cross-border e-commerce are highlighted in the MoU.

According to the MoU. online and offline conferences will be held to help build e-commerce platfor international trade facilitation, digital technology exchanges and experience sharing.

also Cooperation will cover joint e-commerce talent training. The organisations will engage colleges and universities.

professional training institutions, e-commerce enterprises and industry associations in cultivating

e-commerce talents.

The MoU said that the organisations will draw on e-commerce to promote the production and distribution of competitive products among SCO countries, and to facilitate production and marketing by providing enterprises with overseas public warehouse. logistics, payment and other services and support to reach cooperation.

The organisations will also encourage and guide enterprises to participate in

spokesper-

ment and develop-

ment of media in

Pakistan.

and share e-commerce developments in international exhibitions and forums on the digital economy, and draw on such platforms to create business opportunities for enterprises.

Themed "Joint e-commerce cooperation for a shared future, the Digital Commerce Conference discusses the new trends in international e-commerce and is joined by officials of SCO member states including Pakistan, and ambassadors of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation countries in China, e-commerce

Pakistan rejects HRW's claim about PMDA

"Presently, over a half dozen outdated laws and set of rules are being implemented through multiple bodies to regulate media which do not match with the modern-day requirements of converged media"

Foreign Desk

WASHINGTON: A spokesperson of the Pakistani Embassy has brushed aside a report by Human Rights Watch (HRW), a New York-based watchdog body, about Pakistani government plans to set up the Pakistan Media Development Authority (PMDA) though an ordnance, saying the claim was "factually incorrect."

"There is no plan to introduce the regulatory body through an ordinance," Spokesperson Maliha Shahid said in a letter to HRW's Associated Asia Editor, Patricia Grossman, who has claimed that through such a body the government is seeking broad new pow-

ers to control the media. The spokesperson regretted that Ms. Grossman did not even bother to check violations in the emerging information the factual position from the concerned authorities "Presently, over a half dozen outdated laws and set of rules are

being implemented through multiple bodies to regulate media which do not match with the modern-day requirements of 'converged media'," Ms. Shahid said, adding that there was need to introduce holistic policy responses to the challenges of fake news, dis-

information, hate

issues, copyright

abusive

privacy

speech.

content,

and content services," the embassy son said. PMDA, she said, would ensure freedom, empower-

communication technologies. under the proposed media regulatory frame-"Hence, as per global best practices work," Ms. Shahid emphasized, pointing out an independent regulatory body that the government has been discussing Pakistan Media Development Authe proposed regulatory framework with all thority - is under consideration stakeholders for many months. for addressing challenges and re-In this regard, she said, a series of consulquirements for convergent media environment of the 21st century to make Pakistan as a major global center for multimedia information

tative meetings have been held with media owners, editors, working journalists, anchorpersons, press clubs, civil society etc. Further, according to the spokesperson, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain gave a detailed presentation to a joint meeting of Senate and National Assembly Standing Committees on information and Broadcasting as well as to the federal cabinet, "which negates the story that the proposed bill is being kept secret."

"No criminal liability is being considered



Islamahar POST



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Briefs

KSA allows vaccinated travelers from Pakistan

DNA

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has eased Covid-19 restrictions for fully vaccinated residents, allowing them to directly travel to the Kingdom from countries facing a travel ban, including Pakistan. According to a report by the Saudi Gazette, it is only applicable for those who have a valid residency permit (Iqama) and left the Kingdom on an exit and re-entry visa after taking two doses of the Covid-19 vaccine from

Saudi Arabia. Currently, the countries facing the travel ban are India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Egypt, Turkey, Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Lebanon, the report said.

It added that authorities had earlier allowed direct entry to Saudi citizens, foreign diplomats, and health practitioners and their families from countries facing the travel ban.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan embassy in Riyadh welcomed the decision by the Saudi authorities.

Pak envoy shares covid data with UK authorities



DNA

LONDON: Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK, Moazzam Ahmad Khan held a detailed meeting with Lord Bethel, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at Department of Health & Social Care UK on the Red listing issue. In his virtual meeting, he shared the latest data, Pakistan's COVID-19 response and Pakistan's expectations from the Review process.

The British government is set to announce its new travel review of dozens of countries including making a key decision whether to move Pakistani to amber list, out of the travel ban Red List, or continue its categorization.

Trusted Pakistani sources familiar with Pakistan's lobbying with the British government told media that the chances of Pakistan coming out of the Red List are "fifty, fifty".

KOICA provides USD 12m for Havelian drinking water project

Korean ambassador says, Korean Government would support addressing water issues for friendship between the two countries and this project will improve people's quality of life by improving health indicators, achieve UN SDGs, and the water supply situation

STAFF REPORT

PESHAWAR: KOICA provides USD 12 million for a safe drinking water supply system in Havelian, Abbottabad, KP Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Pakistan Office of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) KPK has signed a Record of Discussion (RoD) for a new grant aid project 'Gravity Based Safe Drinking Water Supply System in Havelian, Abbottabad, Khy-Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan' on 24th August 2021, in Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) KPK office.

KOICA is a grant aid agency of the Korean government and has implemented various water, energy, and rural development projects in Pakistan. Mr. Yang Seokwoong, Country Director of KOICA, and Mr. Zakir Hussain Afridi, Secretary of PHED the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, signed the Record of Discussion. Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Pakistan, His Excellency Mr. Shoukat Ali Yousoufzai Minister



of Labour and Culture, attended the signing ceremony

KOICA Provides USD 12 million for the project which is expected to benefit 74,000 community people by installing a water supply system with a water treatment plant, which will allow access to safe and clean surface water. The project will lead to the reduction of waterborne diseases and nutritional improvement and improve the capacity of the Government of Pakistan to achieve SDG 6.

To sustain the supply of safe drinking water to the Havelian people, KOICA will also support capacity building program to 15 officials of PHED KPK to ensure the operation and maintenance of the water supply system and strengthen research and policy capacity on water-related policy H.E. Mr. Suh Sangpyo, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea said

that Korean Government would support addressing water issues for friendship between the two countries and this project will improve people's quality of life by improving health indicators, achieve UN SDGs, and the water

supply situation. He added that the Korean government has approved two hydropower projects of 1.5 billion USD with the KP Government and Samsung electronics will set

up a mobile phone assembly line by this December which will produce around 3 million Samsung mobile phones in Pakistan. It was also said that the cooperation in agricultural technology for potato seed production and small agriculture machinery development is ongoing. He emphasized that the Korean Embassy in Pakistan would spare no efforts to facilitate the implementation of this project for

Mr. Shaukat Ali Yousufzai Minister of Labour, Culture, Human Rights & Parliamentary Affairs on behalf of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa deeply thanked, the Korea International Cooperation Agency for their generous support and cooperation in the shape of grant in aid of 12 Million USD for the project.

successful outcomes

KOICA has been continuously supporting water and sanitation projects in Pakistan, including the ongoing project for Enhancing Water Quality Monitoring System to achieve SDG 6 in Pakistan. KOICA will provide USD 7.42 million for the project which is implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Climate Change, PHED KPK, and PHED Punjab.

Taliban to let Afghans leave after Aug 31: Germany

WEB DESK

BERLIN: Germany said Wednesday it has received assurance from a Taliban negotiator that Afghans who have the right documents will still be allowed to leave Afghanistan after the United States' withdrawal deadline on August 31.

Germany's envoy Markus Potzel said on Twitter he had met with Taliban deputy chief negotiator Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai, who "assured me that Afghans with legal documents will continue to have the opportunity to travel on commercial flights after August 31".

Berlin has said that the current military operation carried out by NATO allies to evacuate Afghans in need of protection cannot continue once the Americans pull out.

But it wants to ensure that vulnerable Afghans, including human rights activists or former local employees of German agencies, will be given safe passage to the airport to be flown out of the country even after the August 31 deadline.

On Tuesday, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Berlin will seek to fly people out from the civilian part of the airport beyond that date.

Tehran, Islamabad desire peace in Afghanistan: Iran envoy

Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini in an interview said Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's visit is considered very important at this critical time

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan stressed the importance of the visit of Pakistani Foreign Minister to Tehran and its impact on strengthening joint regional cooperation, and said Tehran and Islamabad desire lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini in an interview with Iranian news agency said Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's visit is considered very important at this critical time because Iran and Pakistan as two main neighbors of Afghanistan have been exposed to the consequences of the 20year occupation of the country by the United States and its Western allies. He added Pakistan's foreign minister is visiting Tehran for the second time in less than six months and now Qureshi is the first high-ranking diplomatic official of the government to travel to Tehran with the beginning of the 13th government in Iran.

Hosseini said that Iran and Pakistan have had good coordination on Afghanistan in recent years and have always held close consultations with each other. The ambassador added Iran and



Pakistan, as the two main neighbors of Afghanistan understand the suffering of Afghans people. "Both countries have common and

close positions on Afghan peace and believe that the peace should be implemented without foreign interference and with the participation of all Afghan internal groups." He noted. He said Tehran and Islamabad are opposed to military solutions to resolve the crisis in Afghanistan and emphasize the formation of an inclusive and national government. The Iranian ambassador to Pakistan

added during Qureshi's visit to Tehran, in addition to reviewing a wide range of regional issues and developments in Afghanistan, bilateral cooperation, trade and strengthening border relations between the two countries will also be discussed. He said during the visit of the Pakistani Foreign Minister to Iran in May this year, the third official border between the two countries was inaugurated and Qureshi's current visit to Tehran is expected to have fruitful results for developing trade and economic relations, especially improving border cooperation.

Hosseini noted the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes the need for convergence and participation of all countries in the region, especially neighbors to achieve common goals of peace, prosperity, development and collective security.

The Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson yesterday stated that the Pakistani Foreign Minister will arrive in Tehran on Thursday.

In response to a question about the purpose of Qureshi's visit to Iran, Khatibzadeh said: This visit is at the request of the Pakistani Foreign Minister and the main agenda of the visit will be bilateral matters and Afghanistan.

Pak-Uzbek MoU finalized for religious tourism

The draft MoU was finalized in a meeting between Uzbek ambassador and Noor-ul-Haq Qadri

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sahibzada Noor-ul-Haq Qadri Wednesday said Pak-Uzbek Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been finalized to promote religious tourism between the two countries. The draft MoU was final-

to Uzbek ambassador to Pa-

kistan Aybek Arif Usmanov and the Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sahibzada Noorul-Haq Qadri. During the meeting, issues of mutual interest and development of bilateral relations were discussed in detail.

During the meeting, it was also decided that the religious scholars of both countries would hold detailed ized in a meeting between consultations to deal with menace of Islamophobia

and other issues. While the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) and Uzbek Dar-ul-Afta would maintain close contact and share benefit from each other's experiences.

Both the dignitaries also agreed to maintain close liaison in order to effectively deal with the menaces of terrorism and extremism. The Uzbek ambassador in vited the minister to visit



in a meeting with Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Noor-ul-Haq Qadri. - DNA

PM, Russian President discuss Afghanistan



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran and Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday exchanged views on the evolving situation in Afghanistan - as well as discussing the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Russia.

Minister Khan, Prime during the telephonic conversation, stressed that a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan was vitally important for Pakistan and regional stability. Besides ensuring safety, security and protection of rights of Afghans, an inclusive political settlement was the best way forward, he added.

The PM underscored that the international community must stay positively engaged in support of the people of Afghanistan, to help address humanitarian needs and ensure econom-

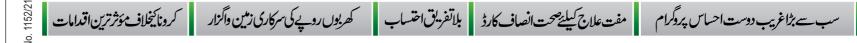
ic sustenance. Imran Khan underscored the importance of coordinated approaches in addressing the evolving situation and noted that Pakistan attached high importance to the role of the Troika Plus format.

PM Imran Khan pressed satisfaction at the upward trajectory of Pakistan-Russia relations, with increased high-level exchanges and growing cooperation in diverse fields. The Prime Minister reiterated the Government's resolve to strengthen trade relations as well as bilateral collaboration in the energy sector, including the early realization of the Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline Project.

The two leaders agreed to closely cooperate within the SCO for promoting regional peace and security. The premier reiterated his invitation to President Putin to visit Pakistan.



آج کا پاکستان، ترقی وخوشحالی کی منزلیں طے رتا ہوا، ایک قابل فخرمستقبل کی جانب بڑھ رہا ہے۔





سچى لكن، جنون اورانتهك محنت سے ہم بنارى بىيں ... كل سے بہتراتج اور آج سے بہتركل