



Islamabad POST

Monday, August 30, 2021

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A stable Afghanistan in everybody's interest, says Amb. Bilal Hayee

Detailed News On Page-07

Moeed demands newspaper to retract story

Detailed News On Page-08



All big fish to face the music, NAB Chairman

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Afghan peace to benefit all

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said that peace and stability in Afghanistan will benefit the entire region. In a statement on prevailing situation in Afghanistan, he said the neighbouring countries of Afghanistan are well aware of the situation there and cautioned that worsening situation in Afghanistan would affect them all. He said that Afghan people have been bracing the devastating impacts of decades of war and they want durable peace. Shah Mahmood Qureshi said the positive message from Afghanistan should be encouraged and if the country is left aloof, it would cause negative impacts upon all.

Bilawal to start drive from South Punjab

DNA

MULTAN: Former Prime Minister and Leader of Opposition in Senate, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani said that the Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari would start mobilization campaign of party workers in South Punjab from September 3. Talking to media persons at his residence here on Sunday, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani said that the schedule of the party chairman has been confirmed which was earlier postponed due to certain reasons.

PML-N will issue white paper: Ahsan

DNA

NAROWAL: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Secretary-General Ahsan Iqbal on Sunday said his party would issue a white paper against the poor performance of Imran Khan's government in the last three years. In a media briefing at his native city Narowal, Ahsan Iqbal said PMLN would expose the failure of the government on a political, diplomatic, and economic level.

Another drone strike against Islamic State

US says it targeted Daesh militants; Taliban react angrily over drone strikes; says after August 31 no such strike shall be allowed

AGENCIES

KABUL: US carried out air strike in Kabul on vehicle linked to Islamic State; military official The United States carried out a drone strike against a vehicle threatening the Kabul airport that had been linked to the regional Islamic State chapter, an American military official said Sunday. "US military forces conducted a self-defense unmanned over-the-horizon airstrike today on a vehicle in Kabul, eliminating an imminent ISISK threat" to Hamid Karzai International airport, said Bill Urban, a spokesman for the US Central Command (CENTCOM). "Significant secondary explosions from the vehicle indicated the presence of a substantial amount of explosive material," he said, adding that there were "no indications at this time" of civilian casualties. The US officials said they were citing initial information and cautioned it could change. Suicide bomb threats hung over the final phase of the US military's airlift operation from Kabul Sunday, with President Joe Biden warning another attack was highly likely before the evacuations end. More than 112,000 people have fled Afghanistan via the massive US-led evacuation since the Taliban movement swept back into power a fortnight ago, and the operation is winding down despite Western powers saying thousands may be left behind. What had already been a chaotic and desperate evacuation turned bloody on Thursday when a suicide bomber from the local chapter of the Daesh militant group targeted US troops stopping huge crowds of people from entering the airport.

Continued on Page 06

PDM to launch long march towards Capital

Shehbaz says govt is taking heavy toll on people

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: PML N President and leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Mian Shehbaz Sharif has criticized PTI government for abnormal price hike and increasing law and order situation in the country. Flanked by PDM Chief Maulana Fazl ur Rehman, Shehbaz Sharif said PDM will launch a long march towards Islamabad in order to register protest against price hike. The PML-N president was talking about the problems being faced by the people of Karachi during a meeting with a delegation comprising his party workers, leaders, and local people hailing from Karachi's NA-249 constituency. During his speech, Shehbaz got emotional and said that

Continued on Page 06



KARACHI: PML N President and Lead of the Opposition Shehbaz Sharif and Maulana Fazl ur Rehman during PDM rally in Karachi. - DNA

Bilawal vows to reinstate officials sacked by PTI

BUREAU REPORT

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has vowed to reinstate the employees sacked by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Continued on Page 06

Blinken says 300 US citizens left to be evacuated



NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: Only 300 American citizens still in Afghanistan are seeking to leave the country, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said, just days ahead of the US deadline for evacuations. "We are down to a population of 300 or fewer Americans who are still on the ground there, and we are working actively in these hours and these days to get those folks out," he told ABC. Some Americans, Blinken said, had chosen to stay beyond the August 31 deadline set to complete the evacuation, but Blinken said "they are not going to be stuck in Afghanistan". He said the US had "a mechanism to get them out".



KABUL: The last contingent of UK forces leaving Kabul. UK has completed troops' withdrawal however pull-out of civilians will continue even after August 31. - DNA

ISPR releases video to pay tribute to martyrs

The short documentary is based on a conversation between the three women

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR) on Sunday released the third video of its series ahead of Defence and Martyrs Day, highlighting how the families of the martyred soldiers are being supported by their fellow servicemen. The short documentary released by the ISPR is based on a conversation between the three women, one being an Air Force officer and her mother and their relative, regarding the support provided by the Air Force personnel after the martyrdom of the former's father.

Continued on Page 06

UAE govt resumes tourists' visas

The decision includes countries for which entry was previously banned

AGENCIES

ABU DHABI: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will resume issuing tourist visas to people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 from all countries from August 30 (tomorrow). The Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship (ICA) and the National Emergency Crisis and

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan to assist UN, WFP Food supply to Afghanistan

World Food Programme (WFP) David Beasley had visited Pakistan and met with PM Imran Khan

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations and World Food Programme (WFP) sought assistance from Pakistan to bridge food security in Afghanistan's capital Kabul and they have got a positive response. Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Human Rights Dr. Shireen Mazari on Sunday said

that Pakistan is the only country focusing on helping both Afghans and international community with a determined commitment, incomparable internationally, in last few weeks.

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Two jawans embrace shahadat

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Terrorists from inside Afghanistan across the international border, opened fire on a military post in Bajaur District. Pakistan Army troops responded in a befitting manner. As per intelligence reports, due to fire of Pakistan army troops, 2-3 terrorists got killed and 3-4 terrorists got injured. In exchange of fire, Sepoy Jamal (resident of Mardan, age 28 years) & Sepoy Ayaz (resident of Chitral age 21 years) embraced shahadat. Pakistan strongly condemns the use of Afghanistan soil by terrorists for activities against Pakistan and expects that existing and future setup in Afghanistan will not allow such activities against Pakistan.



Sepoy Jamal Sepoy Ayaz

Inside...

Young doctors give 24-hour ultimatum to take back NLE - Page 02

UNICEF hands over oxygen concentrators for patients - Page 03

Efforts on to set up first Asian Leopard reserve: Amin Aslam - Page 04

PTI: then and now - Page 05

All big fish to face the music, looted money to be recovered - Page 06

A stable Afghanistan in everybody's interest, says Ambassador Hayee - Page 07

UK govt slammed over Afghan exit as hundreds left behind - Page 08

NCOC extends Covid-19 restrictions

The SOPs underscored that there would be a complete ban on indoor wedding ceremonies whereas outdoor wedding ceremonies with 300 guests would be permissible

National tally of active cases recorded highest

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases was recorded 93,504 one of the highest during fourth wave of pandemic on Sunday with 3,909 more people testing positive for the deadly virus and 3,443 people recovering from the disease during the last 24 hours. Sixty-nine corona patients have died during past 24 hours, 62 of whom were under treatment in the hospitals and seven of them perished in their

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Sunday extended COVID-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs) to 27 cities across the country with higher disease prevalence and healthcare occupancy due to rising number of infections. The NCOC made the decision to continue implementation of COVID-19 SOPs in view of current pandemic situation and increasing pressure on Covid dedicated healthcare facilities. Earlier these SOPs were implemented in 13 cities of the country having high positivity ratio and disease spread. The 27 cities to ensure strict enforcement of COVID-19 restrictions and SOPs included Islamabad, 11 cities of Punjab (Khanewal, Mianwali,

Continued on Page 06

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Sindh issues new Covid-19 guidelines

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The government of Sindh has updated on Sunday its Covid guidelines keeping some restrictions in effect as they were while allowing some relaxations including 50 per cent indoor dining for those fully vaccinated people. The essential items will be available across the province 24/7 and same goes for the pharmacies and vaccination centers. All the trade activities and markets will be operational in Karachi and

Continued on Page 06

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Briefs

Experts
advise
cultivation
of fennel

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: The agriculture experts have advised growers to start cultivation of fennel (saunf) in September and complete it in October to get good yield.

According to a spokesman for the Agriculture (Extension) Department, fennel is full with healthy ingredients and plays a pivotal role in making the human beings healthy and sound. He said that it provides relief from anemia, indigestion, flatulence, constipation, colic, diarrhea, respiratory disorders, menstrual disorders, and remedies against eye and heart diseases too.

Therefore, farmers should cultivate this important crop which will also play an important role to lessen their financial problems as it has also an attractive value price in the market, he added. He also advised the growers to cultivate approved varieties of fennel as standard seed plays a vital role in enhancing production. The fennel can also be sown in fodder crops, he added.

FESCO
issues power
shutdown
notice

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD, Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) issued power shutdown notice for Monday due to necessary repair, maintenance and expansion of electricity lines.

According to the schedule, power supply from Bagaywala and Umar Garden feeders linked with 132-KV Nishatabad grid station, Fakharaabad and Lahore Road feeders linked with 132-KV Khurrianwala grid station will remain suspended from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. while Torianwala feeder linked with 132-KV Mureedwala grid station and Zafar Chowk feeder originating from 132-KV Manjhala-Bagh grid station will observe shutdown from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Monday (August 30).

Minister calls
for awareness
among cattle
owners

HYDERABAD: Sindh Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Engineer Abdul Bari Pitafi Sunday said for strengthening of livestock sector economically, it was imperative to create more awareness among the cattle owners in rural areas about the production and breeding of cattle and officers of the Livestock Department had to play important role in that regard.

This he said while addressing as chief guest at a ceremony held to distribute motorcycles among the staff on the completion of installation of Chiller Plants project in collaboration with the World Bank in Sindh at the office of Director General Livestock Hyderabad. He informed that under the project 149 chillers had been installed in the province so that the revenue of livestock owners could be increased and could earn money by transporting livestock production from one to another district. — APP

Young doctors give 24-hour ultimatum to take back NLE

The doctors alleged that the police used strong-arm tactics while handling their peaceful protest. During the clash with the police personnel, several doctors fainted and many others doctors fell ill

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Members of the Young Doctors Association while ending their protest in Lahore on Sunday gave a 24-hour ultimatum to the federal government to take back National Licensing Examination (NLE), otherwise, they will stage a protest sit-in outside the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) in Islamabad.

As things turned worse during the protest in Lahore on Sunday, the police pepper-sprayed the protesting doctors in a bid to stop them from marching towards the NLE examination centre site.

The doctors alleged that the police used strong-arm tactics while handling their peaceful protest. During the clash with the police personnel, several doctors fainted and many others doctors fell ill.



FDA to examine the draft of Faisalabad Master Plan



ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: On the directions of Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA) Director General Dr Faisal Azim, eight members "Faisalabad Master Plan Committee" has been constituted to examine the proposed draft of Faisalabad Master Plan 2021-2041 and the proposals/suggestions, complaints, grievances and applications received from parliamentarians, members governing body and other stakeholders relating to the proposed Master Plan being prepared by a private consult-

ant company under the supervision of Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA).

Director Town Planning I Asma Mohsin has been appointed as Focal Person/Convener of the committee while Director Town Planning II Mehr Ayub, Director Planning & Development Hasan Zaheer, Deputy Director Town Planning II Raheel Zafar, Deputy Director Planning I Iqra Murtaza, Assistant Director Town Planning II Ahmad Ibrahim, Assistant Director Town Planning I Faran Siddique, Assistant Director (GIS) Muhammad Abdullah have been included in the committee

as members.

According to the office order issued in this regard, the Faisalabad Master Plan Committee would perform all relevant tasks for fulfillment of all coral formalities under rules/policy and government instructions till the finalisation, approval and promulgation of Faisalabad Master Plan besides examining the public proposals/suggestions, complaints and applications received in connection with the Faisalabad Master Plan.

Moreover, the committee would furnish its report duly signed by all members on the said issues

to Director General FDA strictly under relevant rules/policy/government institutions before submission to consultant Osmani & Company Pvt Ltd for further consideration/incorporate in Faisalabad Master Plan or rebut with solid justification/reason/logic.

Meanwhile, a meeting was held with the Director General FDA in the chair to review the proposed draft of master plan. FDA Additional Director Engineer Azim Malik, Chief Engineer Shahid Mehmood, Director Planning and Development Hasan Zaheer, Directors Town planning Mehr Ayub, Asma Mohsin and other officers participated in the meeting. The Director General director for making the departmental measures result oriented to frame the master plan foolproof in all respect.

He emphasised upon examining the proposals/suggestions and complaints of stakeholders minutely to achieve the real objectives of framing Faisalabad Master Plan for the multidimensional advanced development of Faisalabad in lines with the future requirements.

CM orders for remaining alert in rain

NEWS DESK

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has directed all the departments concerned to remain alert due to heavy rains in Rawalpindi.

According to handout issued here on Sunday, the Chief Minister directed the administration, Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and Rescue-1122 to make all necessary arrangements to deal with any untoward situation. Usman Buzdar further di-

rected to use all possible resources for the immediate drainage of rainy water from low lying areas. He said that people should not face any difficulties in this regard.

Negligence in drainage works would not be tolerated, he warned, adding that officers concerned should go out in the fields instead of sitting in offices and monitor the drainage work.

The Chief Minister further directed that implementation of the plan chalked out for water extraction should be ensured.

15 shopkeepers
booked over
profiteering

MUZAFFARGARH: The price control magistrates booked 15 shopkeepers and imposed fine on various others for selling commodities on high rates during a crackdown launched across the district on Sunday.

In line with special directives of DC Engineer Amjad Shoaib Tareen, the price control magistrates launched

a crackdown across the district and checked various shops at Khangarh, Muzaffargarh, Shahjamaal and Chowk Qureshi. During the checking of prices of commodities, 15 shopkeepers were found involved in selling commodities at high rates.

The officers got registered FIRs against the shopkeepers for profiteering. — APP

Drivers halt
Lahore's
Metro Bus in
protest

LAHORE: The drivers of Lahore's Metro Bus have once again brought the service to a halt as a mark of their protest on Sunday. The drivers were protesting against the non-payment of gratuity, bonus and allowances. They also stopped buses at 2pm on Saturday to register their protest. The drivers also staged a protest on Sunday outside the Metro Bus Depot. A spokesman for the bus drivers vowed that the service will remain shut until Punjab CM gives them assurance about the payments. — DNA



FAISALABAD: State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib listening the complaints during an open court at his office. — APP

2021 policies of Pakistan towards a 'New Pakistan'

Pakistan being a third-world country with a lot of internal political instabilities, also faced an economic punch. Before COVID-19, Pakistan had a workforce of 55.7 million which has reduced to 35.7 million from 2020 to 2021

HUMA ARSHAD

THROUGHOUT the world creating jobs is one of the major challenges after COVID-19 when businesses are going down and people are suffering from the health crisis. According to the Harvard Business Review, in one of the articles, every big business will take almost seven years to again stand on its feet. Worldwide people are struggling with the change or with WFH (Work from Home) strategies. As problems are not stopping signs but are the guidelines. Following this rule, the world automatically or forcefully adopted new techniques and strategies to cope up with the economic and financial gap caused by the pandemic. Pakistan being a third-world country with a lot of internal political

instabilities, also faced an economic punch. Before COVID-19, Pakistan had a workforce of 55.7 million which has reduced to 35.7 million from 2020 to 2021. Employees lost their jobs and small entrepreneurs faced a great loss in their businesses. Pakistan is the fifth most populous country. So creating new opportunities in the form of jobs and small businesses became the major target of Imran Khan's Government with the arrival of the Covid 19 pandemic. According to Finance Minister, Mr. Shukat Tarin, Pakistan is aiming to start big infrastructure projects up to 40% to yield more jobs and businesses. That will enhance economic productivity and stability. The Government is giving main priority to creating employment for the youth of the country. National Youth Development Framework (NYDF) is one of the steps

towards it. The NYDF is based on three major principles or 3 Es including Education, Employment, and Engagement. The Prime Minister's Kamyab Jawan program is another milestone towards better job opportunities. KJP is a youth entrepreneurship program for young entrepreneurs between the age of 21-45 years and starts from 18 years for the IT sector. This programme is designed to offer subsidized financing via 21 commercial, Islamic, and SME banks under the guidance and supervision of the State Bank of Pakistan. Directly from the State Bank of Pakistan a new system by the name of "Raast" or "direct way" is started working by 2022. This programme is developed through a long association and collaboration between Pakistan Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation with the help of the World Bank, UK, and the United

Nations. Raast has the vision of enhancing and promoting women in the main economy. Raast is a low-cost business model that will make digital payments more affordable and easy for consumers of different socio-economic backgrounds. This payment system is considered an integral part of the National Payment System Strategy as well as the National Financial Inclusion Strategy that is seeking to both enable the delivery of financial services digitally and also broaden the financial inclusion to 50% of the adult population. According to Mr. Shukat Tarin, the Federal Government is going to spend 900 billion rupees for development expenditure in the coming year. At this time of political chaos in our neighboring country Afghanistan and dealing with pandemic simultaneously; Pakistan is still

working hard to make the ends meet when it comes to SMEs or creating new opportunities for employment in the country. According to NCOC Recently Pakistan has crossed the landmark of 50 million doses of different COVID vaccines since the country's vaccination drive began this year in February. Which is a hopeful sign of working towards a better economy. "Healthy Pakistan means a Wealthy Pakistan." On the other hand on an International level recently Italy shows its importance to its relation to Pakistan. Pakistan and Italy shook hands to enhance bilateral trade, economic ties of \$ 5 Billion. Italian ambassador Mr. Andreas Ferrarese, in his recent visit to Pakistan, promised to help Pakistan to enhance the business-to-business contacts as well as trade relations between the two nations.

KPK chief
minister
services
hailed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ex candidate PK 113 and Provincial General Secretary Insaf students federation KPK, paid glowing tributes to chief minister KP Mahmud Khan for bringing about development in South Waziristan, especially in health, education, public health and other sectors.

He said that the chief minister is taking keen interest in the development of south Waziristan and in this connection, he had spread the network of roads and health centers. He said that for the first time, the chief minister has recruited medical staff including doctors and paramedical staffs in an outnumber to provide best health facilities to the public of South Waziristan and other merged areas. He said that the next government will be of PTI for bringing about positive changes and development works in KPK.

PCCI's
founding
president vows
to service

PESHAWAR: Founding President of Peshawar Chamber and prominent businessman Ahtesham Haleem Sunday expressed the resolve of continuing his service for betterment of business community of the country through resolution of their problems.

He expressed these views while speaking at a luncheon he hosted in honor of office bearers of Ramdas Bazar Traders Union. Senator Haji Hidayatullah was chief guest on the occasion while the gathering was also attended by prominent traders including Mujeer Rehman, Haji Shaikat Ali, Musharraf Khan, Muhammad Atif Haleem, Zafar Khattak and others.

Trader leader Rehman Gul has won the elections of Ramdas Bazar Traders Union consecutively for 21 times due to his popularity and sincere efforts for resolution of problems of business community of the area. Ahtesham Haleem said Peshawar Chamber is built by his late father, Shaheed Haji Haleem Jan and he will continue to strive for fulfillment of his mission.

He also welcomed Rehman Gul and his cabinet members for making record victory of winning elections. He expressed the hope that Rehman Gul will continue to work with same dedication and zeal for betterment of businessmen of the city. — APP



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

FOR CONSULTANCY ENGAGEMENT OF
INTERNAL AUDIT FUNCTION OF GEPCO

1. Gujranwala Electric Power Company Limited (GEPCO) seeks Request for Proposal (RFP) from Chartered Accountancy Firms fulfilling the following criteria, for Consultancy Engagement of Internal Audit Function of GEPCO as per scope defined in the RFP of GEPCO under "Single Stage - Two Envelope Method of Procurement".

i) Audit Firm should be enlisted in category A and B of the panel of auditors issued by the State Bank of Pakistan vide latest BPRD circular available on the website of SBP and should have recent satisfactory QCR rating by ICAP.

ii) The Chartered Accountant Firm must be Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue and the relevant Revenue Authority.

iii) Affiliation with any international accounting / auditing Firm.

2. The "Request for Proposal (RFP)" containing terms of reference, evaluation criteria and other related information can be downloaded from GEPCO website (www.gepcoco.com.pk), free of cost. Further this advertisement and RFP are also available at the PPRA website (www.ppra.org.pk).

3. The bids prepared in accordance with the instructions contained in the RFP should reach at the address given below, on or before 20-09-2021 at 01:30 P.M. and the Technical bids will be opened publicly on the same day at 02:00 P.M.

4. GEPCO reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids as per PPRA rules.

Note:- The procurement process initiated for the captioned "Consultancy engagement" vide advertisement dated 05-08-2021 PID/L/308/C shall stand cancelled/scrapped. The revised RFP for the same can be downloaded from the official websites of PPRA / GEPCO.

DIRECTOR GENERAL (HR&ADMN)
GUJRANWALA ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY LIMITED (GEPCO)
GEPCO HQ, Room # 04, 565-A Model Town, G.T. Road, Gujranwala
Landline: 055-9200513 / Fax No. 055-9200122
Email: dghr@gepcoco.com.pk

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	04:12 am
Zohr.....	12:09 pm
Asr.....	04:46 pm
Maghrib.....	06:37 pm
Isha.....	08:04 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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Emergency

Rescue (Police).....	15
Bomb Disposal.....	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.....	1122 & Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police.....	9266044
Motorway Police.....	927060120
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....	9222596
Rawalpindi.....	927060120



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....	115
PIA Flight Info.....	114
PIA Cargo.....	9280979
Railway Inquiry.....	117
Railway Exchange.....	92708315
WASA Rawalpindi.....	5555489
CAA.....	9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

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



Complaints

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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UNICEF hands over oxygen concentrators for patients

UNICEF has so far provided a total of 3065 Oxygen concentrators to the government of Pakistan

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has handed over 1000 Oxygen concentrators and related accessories worth USD 1.4 million to the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (MoNH, R&C).

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health, Dr. Faisal Sultan received the life-saving medical devices used for treating patients suffering from coronavirus infection, birth asphyxia and complicated pneumonia, from the UNICEF Representative in Pakistan, Ms. Aida Girma, said a press

release issued here on Sunday.

"The Delta variant has contributed to the current wave of Covid-19 in Pakistan and with a resultant inflow of hospitalized patients," the SAPM said.

"UNICEF's timely contribution will supplement the Ministry's continuous efforts to augment the health-care system and provide the best possible care to all patients. We value our partnership with UNICEF, which actively participates in various aspects of Pakistan's pandemic response," he added.

The 1000 Oxygen Concentrators which have been procured by UNICEF with funds provided by the Government of Canada's global contributions Accelerator Sup-



plies Financing Facility, will be distributed by the MoNH, R&C to 289 health facilities in four provinces and the federal areas. The UNICEF commended the government of Pakistan's enduring efforts to fight the recurrent waves of coronavirus in the country and

was determined to continue its support to national response, including through the procurement and delivery of COVID-19 vaccines or life-saving medical equipment, such as Oxygen Concentrators, said Aida Girma.

"With the fourth wave of COVID-19 and the new Delta variant causing yet another spike of infections across the country, under the leadership of the Ministry of Health, we are campaigning hard for all men and women above 18 years of age, to get vaccinated while continuing to strictly adhere to precautionary measures, such as social distancing, wearing of facial mask, frequent hand-washing with soap to mitigate the spread of

COVID-19 pandemic," she added. Including the latest consignment, the UNICEF has so far provided a total of 3065 Oxygen concentrators to the government of Pakistan, during the last twelve months. Earlier, the UNICEF had provided 525 Oxygen concentrators from its own funds, 220 from funds received from the Asian Development Bank and 1320 from the World Bank's Pandemic Emergency Funding.

To date, the UNICEF has delivered over 14 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Pakistan on behalf of the COVAX facility and another 11 million doses are in the pipeline expected to arrive by next month.

ICT admin establishes 25 mobile shops in ICT

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A total of 25 mobile shops have been set up in various areas of the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) to provide essential items to the people at cheaper rates, an official of the ICT administration told APP. In a brief chat, he said the ICT administration has deputed some 14 assistant commissioners and magistrates in various localities to check prices of various commodities. He said the local administration was closely monitoring the hoarding of essential food items. He said the shopkeepers were strictly directed to display the price list at prominent place of their shops.

AIOU Exams Commences from 1st Sep

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is commencing final examinations for ATTIC, Non-Credit Courses / Certificate in Literacy and Non-Formal Education, Matriculation, Icom, FA, F.Sc programs in semester spring across the country. Exams will start on September 1 and will continue till October 12. 750 examination centres have been set up across the country to ensure the participation of students in the examinations at the nearest places. Roll number slips have been dispatched to the students and have also been uploaded on the University website.

MoHR implemented NAP on vulnerable

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) has implemented the National Action Plan (NAP) during last three year on vulnerable groups such as women, children, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and minorities. These groups were required special attention with respect to progressive realization of their rights, said a data revealed by Ministry. Due to socio-economic structural impediments and overall social fabric of the society, vulnerability of these groups increased manifold with respect to progressive realizations of their rights. - APP

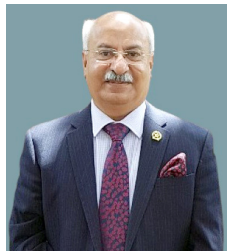
RAWALPINDI: Provincial Minister of Punjab for law and Parliamentary Affairs Muhammad Basharat Raja addressing press conference along with President Chamber of Commerce and Industry Muhammad Nasir Mirza at RCCI. - DNA



RAWALPINDI: Provincial Minister of Punjab for law and Parliamentary Affairs Muhammad Basharat Raja addressing press conference along with President Chamber of Commerce and Industry Muhammad Nasir Mirza at RCCI. - DNA

Property exhibition on Sept 17, says Barlas

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Property Exhibition and Convention will be held on 17-19 September 2021 at Islamabad Serena Hotel. In this three-day exhibition, good and big developers and builders from all over Pakistan will display their projects. Virtual Conference, Physical Conference to be held under the name "Invest in Pakistan", Diplomatic and Chamber Conference will also be held in this three-day exhibition. Business community of Rawalpindi Islamabad should participate in large numbers with their families. And people from abroad will join online. Chairman Pakistan International Property Exhibition and Convention Khurshid Barlas while talking to media said that the move by the government of Pakistan to further develop the construction industry after the terrible wave of COVID 19 is very good. As a result of which millions of jobs have been restored. This is the best opportunity for Pakistan International Property Exhibition and Convention to bring together builders, developers and property buyers. - DNA



Government employees barred from using social media

The reasoning behind the step is to "prevent the disclosure of government information and documents"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In an attempt to prevent leaks of government information and documents, the federal government has decided to restrict its employees from using social media platforms. A notification issued by the Establishment Division states that no government employee will be allowed to use any social media application - including Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and Twitter - without seeking permission from the govt. The reasoning behind the step is to "prevent the disclosure of government information and documents". The statement further directed the government employees to abide by Government Servants Rules 1964 under which government employees are barred from expressing their opinions or making any statements.

Pak students asked to apply for YES scholarships by Sep 15

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani students desirous to study in the high schools of the United States of America (USA) have been asked to apply online for fully funded Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Programme for academic year 2022-23, by September 15. The one year duration K-L YES programme is a high school exchange programme sponsored by the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and

Cultural Affairs and is implemented by a consortium of organizations led by American Councils for international education, said an authentic source.

Female students, students with physical disabilities and students from non-elite and government schools, who meet the criteria are strongly encouraged to apply.

It covers all costs of the selected candidates, including Air fare, room, meals, health insurance and stipend, said authentic sources. Since 2003, the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange

and Study (YES) program has provided scholarships to 1,351 high school students from all over Pakistan, according to the website, www.yesp.org

The program provides high school students from countries with significant Muslim populations the opportunity to spend an academic year as an exchange student in the United States, attending high school and living with an American host family.

The selected students would be enrolled for a full academic year of high school study in the US.

Experts call authorities to tighten noose around violators

"I am happy that the youth is well aware, social media is playing a phenomenal role in this awareness, yet a large population of our country is unaware of the drastic effects of plastic bags"

ISLAMABAD: The citizens on Sunday urged the civic authorities to initiate strict administrative drive against the violators of ban on plastic bags in the federal capital as its use has again revived since the outbreak of the deadly Covid-19 pandemic.

CEO of Zero Plastic Dr. Ansir Rajput told APP on Friday that the Islamabad Capital Territory Administration (ICT) should pay serious attention towards the enforcement of plastic bags ban. Despite, the urban flood threat the use of plastic bags was common in the federal capital's leading markets and urban centers except some branded outlets, he regretted.

Dr. Rajput said the use of plastic was highly injurious both to the human health and environment. "Plastic bags are one of the main reasons for chok-

ing the drains and leading to urban flooding and directly pose threat to biodiversity including bird life, animals and aquatic species," he noted.

It merits mention here that the single-use plastic bags have been banned in Islamabad since August 14, 2019. With the implementation of the ban the citizens saw a coercive enforcement by the civic forces, but due to the Covid-19 lockdown the use of plastic bags in Islamabad resurrected.

Citizen have shown their discontent regarding this matter, they believe not only the road side vendors but large grocery shops have resumed its use.

Zoya Naeem a resident of Islamabad when asked said, "I am very much disappointed by the pace of this ban being enforced, the world needs every country to play its part to put an end to

this environmental catastrophe."

Ali Gul an environmentalist showed utter discontent and said, "I wish Pakistan to get Plastic free, but this pandemic has spoiled everything as since the outbreak of the contagion enforcement of the ban remained low."

Mr. Gul summed it up, "I am happy that the youth is well aware, social media is playing a phenomenal role in this awareness, yet a large population of our country is unaware of the drastic effects of plastic bags." Mr. Saeed a senior citizen of the capital suggested, "the civic bodies should not remain silent over this issue rather come up with some strategy to contain use of plastic bags. There are reusable cotton and jute bags available in the supply which should be opted by the shopkeepers." - APP

Lockdown to be enforced in parts of Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad administration has decided to seal several streets in the federal capital under smart lockdown policy owing to rising COVID-19 cases. The district administration has decided to impose smart lockdown in several sectors of the capital city on the recommendation of the district health authorities. Following streets have been advised to seal: Street No. 54, 56 in sector G-7/2, Street No. 1 in sector G9/2, Street No. 34, 52 in sector G9/1, Street No. 12 in sector I-10/4, Street No. 2, 8, 10, 70 in sector G-9/3. The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration earlier this month had reimposed restrictions to control the fourth wave of coronavirus. According to a notification, all businesses in the capital will stay open until 8pm. A complete ban was imposed on all types of indoor gatherings, including those related to cultural, musical and religious. However, outdoor gatherings with a maximum limit of 400 individuals will be allowed with Covid-19 protocols. The administration had banned indoor weddings with effect from August 8. However, outdoor weddings will be allowed to take place with a maximum limit of 400 guests and strict implementation of Covid-19 SOPs. Indoor dining has also been banned as only outdoor dining will be allowed until 10pm. All amusement parks and swimming pools have been closed except for public parks which will remain open under the government-mandated SOPs. - DNA

Usman appeals to youth for reaping KJP's benefits

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Youth Affairs Muhammad Usman Dar on Sunday appealed to the youth for reaping benefits of the government's flagship initiative of Kanyab Jawan Programme (KJP). In a news statement, he said the KJP has helped thousands of young people to fulfill their dreams for gainful employment. Every young person can take benefit of

such unprecedented assistance from the government. The KJP is aimed at providing gainful employment and meaningful engagement to the youth through different schemes such as Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES), Hunarmand Pakistan (Skill for All), and several others. Dar asked the youth to apply for soft loans in the KJP's partnered banks after preparing a business plan. He said loan disbursement process under KJP had been expedited to achieve the set target.



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For further information please contact the following.

Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman
Mobile: 0300 8553342

Briefs

TW to screen play titled "The Stained Dawn"

ISLAMABAD: Theatre Wallay (TW) would organize screening of English version of play titled "The Stained Dawn" on September 4. Talking to APP, an official of Theater Wallay, Fizza, said that TW created a play based on real life stories of partition survivors, as part of a project known as Voices of Partition, adding that TW team members interviewed survivors of the 1947 partition and then dramatizing some of the stories. She said that the resulting play then toured the major cities of the country (Urdu version) and the East Coast of the United States (English Version). Fizza said that screening will be followed by a Question & Answer session with senior members of Theater Wallay, who were part of the voices of partition project and performed in the plays. All the necessary protocols of Covid-19 would be adopted at the premises. Hand Sanitizers and face masks will be available, and social distancing will be practiced. — APP

RDA directs authorities to complete projects

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Chairman, Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA), Tariq Mehmood Murtaza has directed the officers concerned to complete the ongoing projects within shortest possible time frame. The Chairman asked the authorities to make all possible efforts to provide relief to the citizens. He instructed the RDA officers to spread awareness about legal and illegal housing societies and work hard with dedication to address grievances of the general public. The Chairman asked Metropolitan Planning and Traffic Engineering Directorate (MP&TE) to continue crackdown on illegal and unauthorized constructions and encroachments without any discrimination. He instructed the RDA officers to formulate a plan within shortest possible time frame to utilize vacant plots of RDA. He said, the development project should be completed on fast track and quality of construction work must be ensured. He directed the Engineering Directorate to work hard to complete the ongoing projects as soon as possible. "We should increase the working hours and make efforts to alleviate the hardships of the common people," he added.

ZTBL raises minimum wage to Rs 20,000

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Zarai Taraqiati Bank Limited (ZTBL) has increased minimum wages of unskilled workers to Rs20,000, which would benefit more than 2,000 unskilled workers of Kissan Support Services Limited (KSSL), a wholly owned subsidiary of ZTBL. The workers, earlier had a fixed monthly salary of Rs17,500 and KSSL Board of Directors, in its 63rd meeting held under the chairmanship of President and CEO ZTBL Muhammad Shahbaz Jameel increased salaries of over 2,000 KSSL employees to Rs20,000 with effect from July 1, 2021, said a press release issued by the bank. The workers thanked President ZTBL for timely implementing the decision of federal government regarding increase in minimum wages. President ZTBL Muhammad Shahbaz Jameel addressing the worker said that that prosperity of the institutions was directly linked with the social and economic wellbeing of its human resource, adding that the bank has registered outstanding turnaround in its lending and recovery performance due to hard work and dedication of its employees.

Efforts on to set up first Asian Leopard reserve: Amin Aslam

"Efforts are being made to hammer out a viable action plan for controlled, well-monitored and safe mobility into the Leopard Reserve inside the park area through information guides and staff to stave off any human-wildlife encounter"

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam on Friday said that the all-out preparations have been made to establish country's first-ever Asian Leopard reserve soon in the Margalla Hills National Park, according to a press release issued here from the climate change ministry. Spanning over 17,386 hectares and ranked as the third-largest national park in the world the scenic national park is a national park situated in Islamabad Capital Territory that includes the Margalla Hills, which form the foothills of the Himalayas, along with Shakarparian Park and Rawal Lake.

The park is home to rich biodiversity comprising around 600 plant species, 402 bird varieties, 38 mammals and 27 species of reptiles. Speaking to the participants of monsoon tree plantation event held here at a picturesque Pak Farid Park on Saturday, the PM's aide said the Margalla Hills National Park is a protected area and has now become a permanent new habitat of the wild cats that previously would move to the park area and roam around its lower reaches during winter months and retire to a higher altitude during



ISLAMABAD: Malik Amin Aslam giving shield to Ambassador of Italy. — DNA

summer months. "Efforts are being made to hammer out a viable action plan for controlled, well-monitored and safe mobility into the Leopard Reserve inside the park area through information guides and staff to stave off any human-wildlife encounter," Amin explained. Earlier, the PM's aide Malik Amin Aslam also inaugurated the tree plantation event by planting a sapling of pine tree at the Park amid presence of the Pak Steel officials and members of civil society or-

ganisations and general public. During the event, around 300 saplings were planted by the participants of the event during the day-long plantation activity. Aslam lauded the Pak Farid Park for its role in promoting afforestation activities, saying the corporate entity is the only public-private partnership initiative being implemented to fight environmental degradation through public participation. It was the only Park that remained open and accessible

to the public for recreational activities, jogging and physical exercises throughout the Covid-19 lockdown, he highlighted. Malik Amin highlighted that the private sector is a key stakeholder of the government, as it has corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds and capacity to timely implement projects with the positive outcomes. He also spoke on the climate risks as pointed out in the recently-launched UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Re-

port 2021, saying that around 14,000 scientists worked on that report and warned of the rapidly unfolding climate change-induced disasters if forests are not protected and brought new areas under trees. "Today, the world has recognized in the scientific findings that forests are the greatest, cheapest and the most effective way to fight deleterious fallouts of social, economic, environmental and health impacts," Malik Amin Aslam stated. "However, Prime Minister



ISLAMABAD: Amin Aslam planting a tree. — DNA

Imran Khan's world-acclaimed Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme of the has been launched as a viable and affordable way forward for Pakistan as the most effective mechanism to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change on the country's very important sector of agriculture, water, energy, health and education," he elaborated. During his address at the event, Italian Ambassador Andrea Ferraris also appreciated the PM's aide Malik Amin

for successfully executing the Prime Minister's remarkable Clean Green Pakistan and Ten Billion Tree Tsunami programmes. "I am a staunch supporter of public-private affinity for achieving environmental sustainability and friendly relationship between Italy and Pakistan." The Italy's ambassador remarked, adding, "He is also working to boost collaboration between public and private sectors of both countries, where the latter's response has been very encouraging inspiring.



CHAKWAL: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social safety, Senator Dr. Sania Nishtar visits an Ehsaas Kafaalat beneficiary family in Talagang and asks them to enroll their children under EHSAAAS Education stipends. — APP

Authorities directed for New Zealand team arrangements

SHAHEEN HANIF

RAWALPINDI: Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC) General, Rawalpindi Capt. (R) Qasim Ijaz has directed the authorities concerned to finalize best arrangements including security for New Zealand cricket team scheduled to reach here during second week of September. He directed the authorities concerned to finalize best possible security and other arrangements to facilitate

the New Zealand cricket team. Qasim Ijaz said that the New Zealand team would visit Rawalpindi during the second week of September and the entire team would remain in quarantine for three days after their arrival. He said that best security arrangements would be made for the practice session of the foreign cricket team and for three One Day International (ODI) matches which would start from September 17.

Exhibition 'New Odyssey' for graduates opening

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of Arts is honoured to host a National Art Exhibition 'The New Odyssey' opening on September 1 (Wednesday) of the top graduating students from different art universities across Pakistan. PNCA is very excited to promote upcoming national artists. An official of PNCA Masroor Shah told APP, that the exhibition will provide an opportunity for fresh talented Bachelor in Fine Arts graduates to showcase their works at the esteemed Pakistan National Council of Arts. He said this will not only broaden their vision about the art industry but will also help them gain exposure towards the national art scene as PNCA is heavily visited by a very unique crowd including patrons from all walks of life, foreigners, government departments,

NGO's etc. as well as get them connected with the media and press. He said our primary focus is to promote the young talent and give them a compelling platform in these stressful times of COVID-19. PNCA is dedicated to promote Pakistani Art on Local and National scale. Our elevate and unique programs that present the traditional and contemporary art practices we reflect upon the excellence and cultural diversity of Pakistan as well as supports professional development of the artist. PNCA is committed to promoting significant aspects of the country and encourages community participation in gallery activities, fostering curatorial practice to artists own understanding of their work and encourages a healthy and sustainable local arts industry, he added.

Court adjourns Noor Mukadam murder case hearing till Sept 11

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: A local court on Saturday adjourned Noor Mukadam murder case hearing till September 11 after extending judicial remand of a co-accused for 14 days. Prime accused Zahir Jaffer's gardener Jan Mohammad, a co-accused in the case, was presented in court after completion of his judicial remand. He was sent back to jail for further 14 days' extension in

his judicial remand after signing attendance. Judicial Magistrate Mian Azhar Nadeem after hearing adjourned the case till September 11. Islamabad police finalised the interim charge-sheet in Noor Mukadam murder case yesterday. The interim charge-sheet is likely to be submitted on Monday. Along with prime suspect Zahir Jaffer, his parents, the Therapy Works' owner and an employee have been charged in the murder case.

Overall 12 suspects were nominated in the police charge-sheet, whereas, DNA test report of five accused will be received after two weeks. The police will submit the final charge-sheet to the court after receiving the DNA report. On July 20, in a grisly murder, Noor Mukadam had been put to death allegedly by her friend Zahir Jaffer, in the vicinity of Islamabad's Kohsar police station. In the previous development, the father of the mur-

der victim had challenged bails granted to six co-accused in Noor Mukadam murder case in Islamabad High Court (IHC). Shaukat Mukadam, the father of Noor Mukadam, had filed a petition in the high court against bails granted to Therapy Works CEO Tahir Zahoor and five employees in his daughter's murder case. A court of the Additional Sessions Judge had approved bail petitions in the high profile murder case.

PHA plants over 150,000 saplings in monsoon drive

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi on the directives of Advisor to the Chief Minister Punjab and Chairman PHA Rawalpindi, Asif Mehmood has planted over 150,000 saplings in different city areas, Murree and alongside new Islamabad Airport Road. According to Director Horticulture PHA, Sheikh Tariq Mahmood, the authority was carrying out mass plantation under ongoing monsoon plantation campaign and the target of 200,000 plants, given by the Punjab

government to the authority would be achieved before September 15. Solid steps were taken by the PHA to complete the tree plantation drive in Rawalpindi city. Various types of saplings were being planted at a distance of 8 to 10 feet by the authority alongside new Islamabad Airport Road, he said adding, the plantation was being carried out with the help of various private institutions. PHA had planted over 120,000 saplings on new Islamabad Airport Road. The Adviser had directed the authorities concerned to complete the plantation target as soon as possible, he added.

PMC successfully conducts first NLE

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Medical Commission's (PMC) National Medical Authority (NMA) has successfully conducted and concluded the first National Licensing Examination (NLE) across the country. According to Executive Member of the National Medical Authority Dr. Syed Moin Ali, the NLE Step 1 for medical graduates was held in five centres located in Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta, and Karachi. He said that the examination, which is mandated by law, is a prerequisite for medical and dental graduates to attain full licenses to practice in Pakistan. A total of 1,470 students participated in the NLE Step 1 out of which 1,160 students passed the examination representing a 78.9 % pass percentage. Dr. Syed Moin Ali congratulated all the qualifying graduates and on becoming the first batch of NLE graduates in Pakistan which represents a milestone and the first step on the road to ensure long-term excellence in the medical profession. Out of total students, 1,164 were foreign graduates and 306 were Pakistani medical graduates with 903 foreign medical graduates passing representing a pass percentage of 77.6% and 257 Pakistan medical graduates passing and representing a pass percentage of 84 %.

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Kabul attack and aftermaths

THE attacks on the Kabul airport which took the lives of 170 Afghan people and 12 US troops were expected to instigate a sharp response by the US. US President Joe Biden, who addressed his nation on Thursday evening, had vowed to punish the perpetrators saying, "We will not forgive. We will not forget. We will hunt you down and make you pay." That response has come in the form of a confirmed drone strike. The US military alleged that it carried out a drone strike at an ISIS-Khorasan (ISIS-K) group in eastern Afghanistan, and claimed that the strike resulted in the killing of a "planner" of this week's terrorist attack at Kabul airport. The situation in Afghanistan and its future are now mired in even more uncertainty and danger because of attack. It remains to be seen whether this was the US' swift reaction to save face, or whether it is treading down its old path of drone strikes in the region. The US has not presented any independent evidence that identifies whether the target was indeed one of the planners of the attacks. The militant Islamic State (IS) group claimed responsibility for the killings but the motives are unclear. So far US representatives have only stated that "initial indications" are that the target has been killed.

Does this also mean a return to the old policy of drones on targets? US statements have indicated that this could be the first of many reprisals at ISIS-K targets for the terrorist attacks at the Kabul airport. This will further change the geopolitics of the region—it is now in both the Afghan Taliban's and the US' interest to target ISIS-K. In order to weed out this new source of terrorism, it will be in diplomatic benefit for all to coordinate in order to bring long-sought stability in Afghanistan—unfortunately, if drone strikes are continued, it seems the long-suffering Afghan civilians are bound to suffer instability for an indefinite time. The Taliban on the other hand has reacted cautiously on the issue of drone attack and said it will not allow any such happening after August 31, when all foreign forces leave Afghanistan.

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Moderna vaccine stopped in Japan

OKINAWA prefecture has halted Moderna vaccinations after unknown materials were found in a vial of the drug. The move comes after Japan pulled 1.6 million Moderna doses from a different batch over contamination concerns. Black substances were discovered in syringes and a vial, while unidentified pink substances were spotted in a different syringe with a Moderna vaccine dose, according to Japan's public broadcaster, NHK. Okinawa's government said in a statement on Sunday that it was suspending the use of Moderna vaccines after "foreign substances were spotted in some of them." 2 people die in Japan after receiving Moderna Covid-19 shots from batch that was withdrawn due to foreign material in some vials 2 people die in Japan after receiving Moderna Covid-19 shots from batch that was withdrawn due to foreign material in some vials. Takeda Pharmaceutical, Japan's domestic distributor of the Moderna shot, is expected to probe whether the suspected contamination occurred during production and will consult with the health ministry on the matter, NHK reported. The discovery comes just three days after Japan suspended the use of more than 1.6 million Moderna doses that had been distributed to 863 vaccination centers around the country. The doses were temporarily pulled from circulation as a precautionary measure after foreign material was discovered in some vials. Some of the doses were reportedly contaminated with metal particles. The newly discovered contaminated doses in Okinawa are from different vaccine lots. While the issue is still being investigated, Japan's Health Ministry revealed on Saturday that two people who had received their second Moderna doses from the vaccine lots withdrawn earlier this week had died. The ministry said it was investigating what killed the two victims, both men in their 30s, and that it was currently unknown if the vaccine played a role. The vials from the pulled batches, which were manufactured by a Moderna contractor in Europe, are currently undergoing laboratory analysis. The results will be available early next week, Moderna and Takeda said in a joint statement released on Saturday. On Friday, Taro Kono, the minister in charge of Japan's immunization campaign, disclosed that more than 500,000 vaccinations had already been carried out using the doses from the vaccine lots in question. So far, there doesn't appear to be any "serious safety issues" identified, Kono said. The European Medicines Agency (EMA) has launched its own probe to determine if the EU's Moderna supply suffers from similar contamination problems.

PTI: then and now

Fahd Husain



The economy would be revived through the injection of tax revenues whose volume would be three times more than the previous numbers. Overseas Pakistanis would flood the country with precious dollars and foreign investment would flow in like a gushing river cascading down the mountain. The leader would inspire trust that would generate so much money that the supply of jobs would outstrip demand

FOR years and years, as he roamed the political wilderness and drew sustenance from the media's oxygen, Imran Khan had kept on insisting he aimed at changing the fundamentals of governance. His political DNA was fuelled not by incremental ambitions but by transformational aspirations. It was a new Pakistan he promised, not just a better Pakistan.

There's a difference. This difference is measured not just in scale, but in fact in the very essence of change. 'Better' means improving on the old; 'new' means out with the old. The tempered iconoclasm ingrained in his promise of absolute change fanned doubts among the hardened cynics — of whom there is no shortage in the republic — but it also triggered an avalanche of hope and expectancy among those who were hungering for a country glimmering with idealism. Pakistan could be fixed. Not just tinkered with, or modified — but fixed. Fixing meant identifying the most intractable problems — the real deep-rooted ones — and taking a surgeon's scalpel to them. Not an aspirin, or an ointment, but a razor-sharp scalpel that could slice through dead tissue and deader morale. The PTI under Imran Khan did just that, and did it repeatedly and loudly till there was no doubt left what he and his party stood for: not just a slightly better Pakistan, or a marginally improved Pakistan, but a naya Pakistan. The broad sweep of the promised reform — transformational reform — has shrunk to tinkering with an already broken system. And what would constitute this naya Pakistan? The promised reform agenda took one's breath away. One look at it and you could visualise a beautiful country for your children and grandchildren. This then was the promised land; a castle of dreams forged in the image of the founding fathers, envisioned as a home for generations upon generations of Pakistanis imbued with the spirit of idealism. PTI sketched this dream on a bland tapestry of hope, and draped it across the imposing presence of Minar-e-Pakistan for the whole nation to gaze upon. The police would be transformed from the broken, corrupt and brutal institution that most

citizens perceive it to be, into an efficient, service-oriented and humane force. This would be a transformation unimaginable in a society groaning under the weight of a colonial institution and accepting it as fate because no government — civil or military — could ever dare attempt such a change. But Imran Khan could. And would. An education emergency would be declared in the country so that every single child would be enrolled in schools that would impart quality education uniformly across all sections of society. Education would be the PTI government's highest priority which would mean the entire political, administrative and financial weight of the government(s) would be brought to bear upon this reform. This would be a transformation so colossal, and so spectacular, it would pivot Pakistan towards a genuine strategic re-orientation. No government — civil or military — could ever attempt this change. But Imran Khan could. And would. A dragnet of accountability would be cast wide, and without discrimination, to bring to justice all those who had committed crimes against the nation through corruption. No man or woman, regardless of his or her status, office or party affiliation, would be spared. None. For a society used to being trampled upon by the powerful and the privileged, this was a promise so wondrous, it felt like a dream. No government — civil or military — had the courage or the audacity to even consider this revolutionary change. But Imran Khan could. And would. The economy would be revived through the injection of tax revenues whose volume would be three times more than the previous numbers. Overseas Pakistanis would flood the country with precious dollars and foreign investment would flow in like a gushing river cascading down the mountain. The leader would inspire trust that would generate so much money that the supply of jobs would outstrip demand. Corruption would be uprooted in 90 days and those billions of rupees looted by corrupt politicians would be brought back, and when ploughed into the economy, would be sufficient to resolve all our financial woes. For a nation battered by the

rigours of a struggling and debt-burdened economy, this was the turnaround always promised but never delivered. No government — civil or military — had the vision or capacity to revamp the economy into a regional powerhouse. But Imran Khan could. And would. **That was then. This is now.** Now it's a struggle to keep the head above water; a struggle to save the situation from collapsing; a struggle to maintain — at the very least — the status quo. It is, in fact, a struggle to grapple with the fundamentals of governance, a struggle to grasp the elemental execution of administrative functioning — unsuccessfully managing commodity prices and supplies — and a herculean struggle to control spiraling inflation as it eats through the monthly budgets of citizens. The broad sweep of the promised reform — transformational reform — has gradually shrunk to what can, at best, be termed as tinkering with an already broken system. What was supposed to be foundational police reforms have been reduced to reshuffling of IGs and SHOs; what was supposed to be an education emergency heralding the dawn of a new Pakistan, has degenerated into the controversial Single National Curriculum whose promised dividends continue to divide the nation; what was supposed to be a bold and daring process of across-the-board accountability trumpeting the accession of a genuine rule of law, has mutated into a conventional, good old witch-hunt; what was supposed to be an unleashing of economic dynamism — pumping revenues and hope through its veins — has shriveled into a desperate bid to emulate the old cycle which starts from the IMF programme, goes through predictable stages of slowdown, recovery, imports sans exports, growth budget, widening deficit, massive spending and finally back to the IMF. And reform? What reform? So yes, it is fine to sing, dance and celebrate surviving three whole years, but some in the PTI — and among its supporters — might want to ask themselves one simple question. Who has changed more: Pakistan or PTI? **Twitter: @fahdhusain**
First published in DAWN

A best candidate for next IUCN presidency

Munir Ahmed



Malik believes that ours is the generation which has witnessed the conservation challenge exponentially surge to the limits and, paradoxically, ours is also the generation which possesses the solutions, has an opportunity and probably the only chance, to correct this ongoing warpath with nature. IUCN, with its unique convening power and depth of scientific knowledge

ON the directions of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the chief minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) has scrapped 300 licenses issued by the provincial mining department for power stone crushing in the province. The mining department had referred the case to the provincial environmental protection agency for examining the impact after civil society and environmentalists had shown strong resentment against the ill-initiative. The scribe had also written a piece on the rising stone crushing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and its impact titled "Stoning the environment to death", published in Daily Times on June 24, 2021. It was well taken by the Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) Malik Amin Aslam by bringing it to the notice of the prime minister in the cabinet meeting. A detailed report was sought then. Mr. Malik put up the stone crushing licenses case in the cabinet meeting last Tuesday as well. Having known the severe implications on the environment, the Prime Minister directed the chief minister KP to immediately undo the licenses. Thank you Malik Amin Aslam for some good work. The Sustainable Development Report 2020 has already declared Pakistan the first country complying with the Climate Action, the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-13), ten years earlier than the target year 2030. The report was written by a group of authors led by Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, President of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). Published by Cambridge University Press. The annual independent publication outlines the performance of countries against the defined key indicators and parameters by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). After a long time, Pakistan is in the centre of the eye for good reasons. As SAPM in Pakistan, Malik Amin Aslam has changed the policy regime in the context of climate change and ecosystem conservation. Many federal initiatives are taking up final shape that would bring best climate smart practices in the region. They can be the role model policies and practices for South Asia and other countries across the map. Not only in Pakistan, Malik Amin Aslam's global contribution for ecosystem conservation and sincere

efforts for implementation of UN Conventions and Treaties as the IUCN vice president has also been monumental. It has been well noticed by the IUCN member states, environmental and climate think tanks, non-governmental organizations, and civil society around the world. Malik is well described as one of the few leading global technocrats having relevant education, flair for action research, vigor for climate smart policy regimes for ecosystem conservation and restoration, and the management capacity for large and diverse initiatives. The IUCN members will be having elections for their president next week. A much hyped propaganda campaign is run by the candidates who could not make a difference in their home countries, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United States of America (USA). Malik Amin Aslam has been shy and very late to start communicating with the IUCN members about his monumental work in Pakistan and globally as the IUCN vice president. We can bet on his genuine and dedicated leadership and vigorous management skills. He has the passion to reignite IUCN to balance humans' relationship with nature, push forward the nature based solutions, and to enhance IUCN's global relevance. Malik believes that ours is the generation which has witnessed the conservation challenge exponentially surge to the limits and, paradoxically, ours is also the generation which possesses the solutions, has an opportunity and probably the only chance, to correct this ongoing warpath with nature. IUCN, with its unique convening power and depth of scientific knowledge, was designed to lead this corrective conservation movement. However, while it has undeniably been the forging catalyst for global nature-based conservation it now critically needs to reignite — harnessing the collective passion, commitment and strengths of its membership. His vision is to ensure that IUCN continues to lead the conservation movement towards a world that truly values and sustainably conserves nature. Over the years, the IUCN has lost its leadership role in research and conservation efforts. Many of its in-



Malik Amin Aslam, SAPM Climate Change

itiatives have died down while some other intergovernmental organizations have taken up the role the IUCN was envisaged and mandated to play. The core reasons have been numerous including weak leadership and absence of passion, knowledge and vigor, and zeal to fight with the mafias. The IUCN like intergovernmental organizations have turned to be the backyard dump of mostly retired and retarded "professionals" to fit and work with the governments. Do we really need the IGOs behaving like maids and keeps of the governments? Surely not, so we shall globally support Malik Amin Aslam, as he envisioned, to regain and enhance global relevance of the IUCN's science based knowledge power coupled with its unique convening power across divisive fault-lines, has to be more fully capitalized in order to regain its global influence; strategic governance focusing on the needs to rise from the micro to the macro level and so energized to deliver global directions and solutions. His approach to IUCN membership engagement and innovative financing could turn around the organization. — **The writer is a freelance journalist and broadcaster, Director Devcom-Pakistan, an Islamabad-based policy advocacy and outreach think tank. He can be reached at devcom.pakistan@gmail.com and tweets @EmmayeSyed**

Briefs

Another drone strike against Islamic State

FROM PAGE 01
More than 100 people died in the attack, including 13 US service personnel, slowing down the airlift ahead of Biden's deadline for evacuations to end by Tuesday. The Pentagon said Saturday that retaliation drone strikes had killed two "high-level" Daesh militants in eastern Afghanistan, but Biden warned of more attacks from the group. "The situation on the ground continues to be extremely dangerous, and the threat of terrorist attacks on the airport remains high," Biden said. "Our commanders informed me that an attack is highly likely in the next 24-36 hours." Al Jazeera reported the Taliban are "particularly concerned about the south entrance of the airport, which is the main entrance protected by the armed group, as well as the northwestern corner of the airport". "The Taliban said they were incredibly worried about this [Daesh] threat. They had pushed people back, they had put barbed wire across the road to try and stop anybody getting close and trying to disperse the crowds."

Bilawal vows to reinstate...

FROM PAGE 01
He said the incompetent and illegal government of Imran Khan had been imposed on the country and it robbed the people of their just rights. But, he said the PPP stands by the people and it will continue its campaign to protect public rights. Bilawal said Imran Khan's government has ruined the national economy. He said, Imran Khan initially vowed to give 10 million jobs to the people but after coming in power, he just made 16,000 people jobless. He announced the PPP after coming to power undo the PTI act of making the people jobless. The PPP chairman said Imran Khan promised to build five million houses for the poor and the homeless but he (the PM) did not keep his word. He said his party would not allow anyone to snatch people's rights. Bilawal said the federal government has been adding to Sindh's water woes and blamed the mess on Irsa. He renewed his resolve to continue the campaign for due water share.

ISPR releases video to...

FROM PAGE 01
The ISPR has been releasing videos to pay tribute to the families of the martyrs ahead of the Defence and Martyrs Day observed on September 06. On Saturday, ISPR released the second such video, paying tribute to the martyrs who laid down their lives to safeguard the homeland. DG ISPR Major General Babar Iftikhar also lauded the families of the armed forces who he said courageously face difficulties as their loved ones serve and guard the nation. He said that a father who serves the nation in deep waters is no less than a superhero for his son. It was on September 06 in 1965 that the Indian forces crossed the international border in the darkness of night to attack Pakistan but the nation foiled nefarious designs of the enemy.

UAE govt resumes...

FROM PAGE 01
Disasters Management Authority (NCEMA) Saturday jointly announced the decision. The decision includes countries for which entry was previously banned. Tourists will also need to do a mandatory rapid PCR test at the airport, with the previous requirements remaining valid for non-vaccinated groups. In addition, fully vaccinated tourists can also register their vaccination certificates through the ICA platform or Al Hossn App to enjoy the advantages granted to vaccinated people. This move comes in line with the UAE's strategy aiming to create a balance between public health and various vital sectors and will support national efforts to achieve sustainable recovery and revive the economic sector.

All big fish to face the music, looted money to be recovered

NAB authorised 4,654 investigations out of which 4,358 were concluded. During this period, NAB has received Rs. 822 billion directly and indirectly and deposited it in the national exchequer, which is a record achievement

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB has said that NAB has not only apprehended big fish first time in its history but brought to justice as per law. The references against them in the learned Accountability Courts speak louder than words and also ample evidence of the excellent performance of NAB during the present management of NAB for the last more than three years. He said that NAB is determined to logical conclusion of mega corruption cases by utilising all its resources as per law. The initiatives taken by the present management of NAB has started yielding excellent results resulted in enhanced credibility of the NAB from the previous years. He said that NAB has received 496,460 complaints since its inception, out of which 487,124

complaints have been disposed of. He said NAB has approved 16,093 complaint verifications, and completed verification of 15,378 complaints. The bureau has approved some 10,241 inquiries - out of which 9,275 were completed. NAB authorised 4,654 investigations out of which 4,358 were concluded. During this period, NAB has received Rs. 822 billion directly and indirectly and deposited it in the national exchequer, which is a record achievement. He said that NAB has filed 3,754 references of corruption in various accountability courts - out of which decisions of 2,477 references have been pronounced by the honourable accountability courts. Right now some 1,273 corruption references worth Rs 1305 billion are in various learned accountability courts. He said that NAB has devised a comprehensive anti-corruption strategy to eradicate corruption



through zero tolerance policy which includes awareness, prevention and enforcement. The bureau is focal organisation of Pakistan under United National Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). NAB is a role model not only for Pakistan but also for entire SAARC countries as NAB had been unanimously elected as Chairman of SAARC Anti Corruption Forum which was great achievement of

Pakistan due to NAB's efforts. Chairman said that the anti-graft watchdog has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with China to oversee China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects being completed in Pakistan. NAB has also introduced a new system of Combine Investigation Team (CIT) in order to benefit from the experience and collective wisdom of senior supervisory officers with the aim to improve standard of investigations. The establishment of first Forensic Science Lab (FSL) has further improved quality of inquiries and investigations. The FSL is equipped with facilities of Digital Forensics, Questioned Documents and Fingerprint Analysis which is lending quality and solid evidence in conduct of inquiries and investigations. He said that youth is our future and NAB has signed a MoU with the Higher Education Commission to make

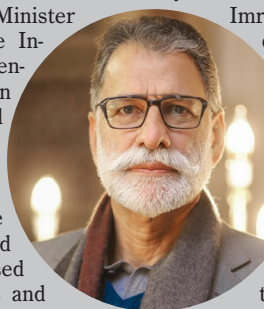
the youth aware of the ill effects of corruption at their young age. NAB has set up character building societies (CBS) in various educational institutes. NAB has set up Prevention Committees in consultation with the concerned federal and provincial governments to prevent corruption and identify shortcomings. According to Gillani and Gallup survey 59 percent people had appreciated NAB's performance in eradicating corruption. Reputed international institutes including The Transparency International (TI) Pakistan, the World Economic Forum (WEF), Global Peace, Canada, PILDAT, and Mishaal Pakistan have also appreciated NAB's overall performance in eradication of corruption and corrupt practices. NAB has devised a comprehensive Quantified Grading System in order to further improve the performance of NAB Headquarter and all Regional Bureaus.



LAHORE: A view of Women National Hockey Championship being played in Lahore. - DNA

AJK PM seeks UN's quick role for Kashmir issue with agreed resolutions

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi Sunday appealed to the United Nations (UN) to play its role for resolving the long-standing Kashmir dispute in accordance with its agreed resolutions for establishing lasting and durable peace in the region. Talking to a 13 members delegation of APHC who called on him at Jammu and Kashmir House in the federal metropolis, he expressed his resolve to turn the state into a real base camp of the liberation movement and added that the Indian repressions will be exposed at international level under the dynamic leadership of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan. He said the Indian Prime Minister has intensified the reign of terror in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) and has jeopardized the pace of South Asia. The AJK prime minister said that India had crossed all the limits of the entire IOJK and has turned into a big jail. Top Kashmiri leadership have been put behind the bar to crush the freedom movement launched by the people of IOJK for attaining their fundamental right to self determination. Referring to the problems of the people hailing from areas of the line of control, the AJK prime minister said that he himself was hailing from the same and fully understands the plight of the people living close to the line of control and assured that he would utilize all resources to redress their grievances. He said the problems of the Jammu and Kashmir refugees will be addressed on priority basis and the government would take all possible steps for their rehabilitation and provisions of basic amenities of life to them. - DNA



Govt. unmoved by Opp protest, committed to country's progress

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said on Sunday the government was unmoved by the call for protests and rallies by the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and it is committed to putting the country on the path to progress and prosperity. Talking to Provincial Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Raja Muhammad Basharat, who called on him at the Governor's House, he said the opposition parties had threatened the government with protest movements on scores of occasions in the past also, but they failed to create any



trouble for it. He advised the opposition to adopt democratic practices instead of resorting to undemocratic measures to destabilise a democratically elected government. The governor said the opposition should play its constructive

role inside and outside the parliament and wait for the next general election in 2023. "The opposition should support the government on the issue of electoral reforms to make the upcoming elections completely transparent," he said, adding that masses in the country as well as Pakistanis living abroad stand by the government on the issue. Ch Sarwar said it was the power of ballot which would form the next government after the general elections, adding that political victimisation was out of question under the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government. "The government has a clear policy that the rule of law will prevail and practical steps are being taken for institutional reforms for the first time in the country's history," he said. He said the government was making all-out efforts for development and prosperity of the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

NCOC extends Covid-19 restrictions

FROM PAGE 01

Sargodha, Khushab, Bahawalpur, Multan, Gujranwala, Rawalpindi, Lahore and Rahim Yar Khan). It also included Hyderabad and Karachi in Sindh, Muzaffarabad and Mirpur in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit and Skardu in Gilgit-Baltistan, whereas the cities from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were Peshawar, Swat, Hari-

pur, Mansehra, Lower Dir, Swabi, Abbottabad, Swat, and Chitral Lower. The COVID-19 SOPs to be enforced noted that all commercial activities (except essential services) to be closed at 8 p.m. Moreover, all markets would be closed two days a week whereas the determination of off days would be at the discretion of the provinces. The restrictions on indoor dining in restaurants would be maintained while outdoor dining to be allowed at 10:00 pm. However, the takeaway service would remain open 24 hours a day. The SOPs underscored that there would be a complete ban on indoor wedding ceremonies whereas outdoor wedding ceremonies with 300 guests would be permissible which would be

until 10:00 p.m. Furthermore, devotee visits to the shrine would continue to be banned alongwith restrictions to cinemas to be maintained. The ban on contact sports like karate, boxing, martial arts, rugby, water polo, kabaddi and wrestling would continue to be banned. "Only vaccinated people will be able to go to the indoor gym," it added.

All square at Anfield, Man City deepen Arsenal's woes

AGENCIES

LONDON: Liverpool and Chelsea drew 1-1 on Saturday, although Chelsea defender Reece James was sent off on the stroke of halftime. Chelsea took the lead in the 22nd minute through Kai Havertz's looping header, but Liverpool hit back and Joel Matip hit the bar before James cleared Mohamed Salah's shot off the line with his hand. After James' red card, Salah leveled from the penalty spot. Both the Egyptian and Virgil van Dijk had shots well saved by Chelsea keeper Edouard Mendy after the break as Liverpool strived for a winner. Former Manchester City assistant coach Mikel Arteta suffered a miserable return to the Etihad Stadium as his Arsenal team lost their third consecutive league game. Arsenal were hoping to get a turning point after they made a 6-0 Carabao Cup win away to West Brom during the week, but it was soon dispelled with Ilkay Gundog-an heading past Bernd Leon in the seventh minute. Ferran Torres doubled Man City's lead in the 12th minute and things

went from bad to worse for Arsenal when Granit Xhaka was sent off for a two-footed tackle 10 minutes before halftime. Gabriel Jesus added a third after good word from Jack Grealish two minutes before the break and Rodri

made it 4-0 early in the second half after a typical City passing move. Torres then headed his second of the game to make it 5-0 in the closing minutes to complete Arsenal's humiliation and after another display in which his side was total-

ly outclassed and had less than 20 percent of possession. Arteta must now be worrying about his job. Goals from Demarai Gray and a penalty from Dominic Calvert-Lewin saw Everton stop Brighton's winning start to the season



with a 2-0 away victory that gives Rafael Benitez seven points from nine on his return to Merseyside. West Ham's 100 percent record also ended as Conor Gallagher scored Crystal Palace's first two goals of the season in a 2-2 draw at the London Stadium. Brentford remain unbeaten in their debut Premier League season after a 1-1 draw at Aston Villa after Ivan Toney put Brentford ahead in the seven minutes before Villa's record signing Buendia Stati equalized six minutes later. Norwich lost their third game in three as they went down 2-1 at home to Leicester, who have Jamie Vardy and Marc Albrighton to thank for their goals, while Teemu Pukki's penalty on the stroke of halftime give his side hope. There was late drama in Newcastle where Southampton equalized thanks to James Ward Prowe's 96th minute penalty after the VAR spotted a trip on Adam Armstrong. The game kicked into life after a goalless first half when Callum Wilson put Newcastle ahead only for Mohamed Elyounoussi to cancel it out. It looked as if Allan Saint-Maximin's 90th minute goal would give Steve Bruce's men three vital points, but the VAR had the final word.

PDM to launch long march...

FROM PAGE 01

Karachi had been receiving a "step-motherly treatment," from the Centre, adding that the entire country's development is linked with that of Karachi. "If given a chance in the next election, the PML-N will change the fate of Karachi," vowed Shehbaz, adding that the PML-N will solve all the problems of the port city.

National tally of active ...

FROM PAGE 01

respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest update issued by the National command and Operation Centre (NCOC). Most of the deaths occurred in Punjab followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Out of the total 69 deaths occurred, 31 of them died under treatment on ventilators.

Sindh issues new Covid-19...

FROM PAGE 01

Hyderabad until 8 pm, the new guidelines said. For Karachi, the two days of mandatory trade holidays are Friday and Saturday. For Hyderabad, it's Friday and Saturday. Also, the CNG stations across the province will be open 24/7. Those willing to dine indoors in restaurants will have to keep their vaccination cards, Sindh home department guidelines said. Indoor weddings still maintain the ban across Karachi and Hyderabad while open-air weddings are allowed 300 guests only. For the tombs and shrines in Karachi and Hyderabad, they will remain closed until further notices.

'Pakistan lauded on helping...

FROM PAGE 01

In a series of tweets, she said "While blame games on Afghanistan being played out by everyone trying to hide their failures, Pakistan, despite limited resources, is the only country focusing on helping both Afghans and international community with a determined commitment, incomparable internationally, in last few weeks", adding that "But Pakistan will not allow itself to be scapegoated for the blunders and failures of a collapsed regime and its security forces and of those who occupied Afghanistan for 2 decades".

Food supply to Afghanistan

FROM PAGE 01

granted "conditional permission" to fly planes from Peshawar to Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul for food supply. To supply the food to Kabul, the UN will use planes and helicopters and for this six people will carry food in M-18 helicopters from Peshawar to Kabul Airport. The CAA notification reads that WFP has to pay the set fee for the flying operation. Earlier World Food Programme (WFP) David Beasley visited Pakistan and met with Prime Minister Imran Khan. He thanked Prime Minister Imran Khan for his leadership and said, "Thank you, Prime Minister, Imran Khan and leaders of the #Pakistan government for the productive meetings. Your leadership is critical to bringing peace, stability, and hope to the people of #Afghanistan. Afghan families need our support now more than ever." Millions of Afghans face the risk of starvation and a "catastrophe on top of a catastrophe" the head of the United Nations' World Food Programme had warned, saying the agency needs \$200 million by the end of the year to continue its operations in Afghanistan following the Taliban's takeover on August 15. WFP Executive Director David Beasley made these remarks on Tuesday while touring a compound in Doha housing more than 500 refugees who fled Afghanistan.

Briefs

Turkey confirms 17,912 daily Covid cases

AGENCIES

ANKARA: Turkey on Sunday reported 17,912 new COVID-19 cases, raising its tally of infections to 6,329,549, according to its health ministry. The death toll from the virus in Turkey rose by 245 to 55,958, while 12,175 more people recovered in the last 24 hours. A total of 290,186 tests were conducted over the past day, it said. Turkey started mass COVID-19 vaccination on Jan. 14 after the authorities approved the emergency use of the Chinese Sinovac vaccine. More than 47.67 million people have received their first doses of vaccines, while over 36.52 million had their second doses. Turkey has so far administered over 92.71 million doses including third booster jabs.

UK records another 32,406 corona cases

LONDON: Another 32,406 people in Britain have tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the total number of coronavirus cases in the country to 6,698,486, according to official figures released Sunday. The country also reported another 133 coronavirus-related deaths. The total number of coronavirus-related deaths in Britain now stands at 132,376. These figures only include the deaths of people who died within 28 days of their first positive test. The latest data came as thousands of people are flocking to UK music festivals this weekend as prevalence of virus in England rises to 1 in 70. Earlier this month, about 4,700 people have tested positive following the Boardmasters Festival in Newquay, with 800 thought to be living in Cornwall, but cases are spread across Britain. "Music festivals provide an opportunity to import the virus from around the country, as appears to have happened in Newquay with the Boardmasters Festival recently. But they also allow it to be spread further afield when everyone eventually goes home," said Dr Simon Clarke, associate professor in cellular microbiology, University of Reading. Meanwhile, a new study carried out by Public Health England (PHE) and Cambridge University suggested people infected with the Delta variant are twice as likely to be admitted to hospital compared to those with the Alpha variant. — APP

Serbian film wins top prize at Czech festival

WEB DESK

PRAGUE: As Far As I Can Walk, a film by Serbian director Stefan Arsenjevic, won the Crystal Globe award at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival in the Czech Republic ending late Saturday, organisers said. The film co-produced by Serbia, France, Luxembourg, Bulgaria and Lithuania tells the story of two African migrants in Serbia. English actor Michael Caine received the Crystal Globe for his outstanding contribution to world cinema at the beginning of the festival, the most influential in Central and Eastern Europe. American actor Ethan Hawke and Czech director Jan Sverak, known for his Oscar-winning film 'Kolya' from 1996, also received a prize for their contribution to cinema. American actor Johnny Depp was another special guest at the festival held on August 20-28. Postponed from July because of Covid-19 restrictions, the festival registered 111,203 tickets sold, down from almost 140,000 in 2019. The festival was cancelled last year because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

A stable Afghanistan in everybody's interest, says Ambassador Hayee

Pakistan has suffered from terrorist attacks by TTP and Daesh from the Afghan side in the last several years

AGENCIES

BAKU: Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Azerbaijan Bilal Hayee gave an interview to APA. Here are excerpts from his interview. - Mr. Ambassador, a terrible terror act was committed in Kabul Airport. First of all, we want you to comment on the incident... - Pakistan severely condemns the treacherous terror attack in Kabul Airport, which resulted in the death of numerous people including children. In general, Pakistan is always against all forms and manifestations of terrorism and condemns them. We extend condolences to families of the killed people, share their sorrow, pray for quick recovery of the wounded. - In the mid-1990s, only three countries formally recognized Taliban's control over Afghanistan - Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. But now what we see is that Pakistan is in no rush to recognize Kabul's new rulers. For everyone, it is interesting that this time how Islamabad will react to the change in the neigh-

boring country. How can regional countries including Pakistan contribute to the lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan?

- We are mindful that people of Afghanistan have suffered immensely due to four decades of conflict. It is also a fact that after Afghanistan, the country that has suffered the most due to prolonged conflict is Pakistan. Pakistan has suffered over 80,000 casualties and more than \$150 billion in economic losses. Therefore, Pakistan has high stakes in the stability of Afghanistan.

Pakistan's objectives in Afghanistan are aligned with the international community. We want to see an inclusive government where all shades of Afghans have a role to play for peace and development of their country. We are working with the international community including the regional countries to ensure that the long conflict in Afghanistan ends through a political settlement among the Afghans.

Foreign Minister of Pakistan just concluded a trip to several regional countries including Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Iran to consult with their



Bilal Hayee, Ambassador of Pakistan to Azerbaijan.

leaders regarding Afghanistan. - As we know thousands of people are trying to flee Afghanistan after the Taliban took control of the country. One of the countries is Pakistan which faces the refugee flow. How does the Pakistani government plan to deal with this situation? - Being the immediate neighbor with a long border, Pakistan has always been affected by spillover of instability in Afghanistan. We are already hosting over 4 million Afghan refugees and there is possibility of more refugees coming to Pakistan along with other

countries. The ideal solution is to ensure that international community works with the Afghans inside Afghanistan to create conditions which would reduce the mass exodus of refugees. Pakistan would do all it can to help those coming to our borders for shelter. - There is a view among political experts that nationalist establishment in Afghanistan at the next door is a kind of challenge for Pakistan. According to my knowledge, the Afghan Taliban is against the Durand Line, thus a new conflict can appear between

Afghanistan and Pakistan?

- In my view, at this stage, it is not very relevant to talk about the juridical and historical connotations of Durand Line which is a settled issue. Pakistan has always emphasized that movement between Pakistan and Afghanistan whether of people or goods should be regulated just like other international border crossings.

- There's no guarantee that Afghanistan wouldn't once again become a safe haven for terrorists. For preventing it, as a regional country how can Pakistan cooperate with the international community?

- During the last several years, Pakistan's greatest concern has been the ungoverned spaces from where many terrorist organizations used to orchestrate terrorist attacks inside Pakistan. Pakistan has been on record in highlighting these concerns to the international community including the UN. Now with the departure of foreign forces, it should be the responsibility of those in control of Afghanistan to ensure that Afghan soil is not used against any other country. We have noted some statements from the Taliban in this regard.

Let us all hope that such statements are implemented. The international community also has a role to play in helping those in control in Afghanistan to enable them fulfill those promises. Some of the important steps could be to provide necessary financial assistance to wean away the Afghans from the war economy to a legal economy. The gains in human development index in the last 20 years should not be allowed to reverse.

- There is a kind of assumption that the ascendance of radical religious groups in Afghanistan will embolden radicals in the neighboring country - Pakistan. If this is the case, how will Pakistan deal with this and prevent it?

- This is an apprehension that is also being expressed in many circles in Pakistan. Only time will tell how things unfold. Pakistan has suffered from terrorist attacks by TTP and Daesh from the Afghan side in the last several years. These attacks were being sponsored by Pakistan's enemies. Over the years, Pakistan has taken several steps to secure our border with Afghanistan including fencing and better monitoring of movement.

MoU signed between RCCL and Bloomfontien



RAWALPINDI: Virtual meeting and MOU signing ceremony between RCCL with Bloomfontien Chamber, Nasir Mirza, Pakistan's High Commissioner to South Africa Mr. Mazhar Javaid, Commercial Counselor Ms. Humaira Israr, Khurshed Barlas, Fahad Barlas and other seen in the picture. — DNA

Pak Afghan trade has \$8bn-\$10bn potential

DNA

LAHORE: President SAARC chambers of commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday said Pak-Afghan bilateral trade has a vast potential of \$8bn-10bn annually which can not only be achieved comfortably during the new regime of Taliban but could surpass conveniently if all hurdles impeding the smooth flow of trade were removed by either sides with mutual consultations.

Talking to a delegation of exporters led by Ms Ayesha Shafique he lamented earlier Afghanistan government ignoring Pakistan without any plausible reasons was inclined towards India and now the situation is altogether changed. He said joint ventures in various sectors of economy will restore the confidence of local and foreign investors. He said Taliban soon after taking control lowered the domestic taxes on 153 products including food items to boost the morale of Afghan people. He said it's good omen that Taliban regime also abolished tax of Afghani Rs 40000 per Pak truck entering Afghanistan and also made easy clearance to boost trade between two Muslim states besides stamping out menace of corruption at all border crossing points.

Iftikhar Ali Malik said Pak export to Afghanistan fell 5.5 percent from \$790 m to \$746m during the last nine months of fiscal year 2021 which he added will now shoot up because trade with India is so far banned. He said number of scanners at the Torkham border crossing needs to be doubled from two to expedite goods handling. He said poor trade infrastructure at border crossing points is also upgraded on modern scientific lines to ensure uninterrupted flow of trade volume.



Pak's value-added dates better prospects for export

The agreement focuses on date research and platform building, under which a 100-mu demonstration farm was built to carry out comprehensive control of pests

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's value-added dates could have better prospects for export, said Tang Minmin, Associate researcher, Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences, according to Gwadar Pro. In China, there's a kind of Chinese date, which has developed a mature production model and increased the added value of products. As Pakistani dates and Chinese dates show similarity in some ways, Chinese date's marketing can be a good lesson for the Pakistani variety. "For the Chinese date, value-added products like date concentrated juice, date vinegar, date jelly, oral liquid with a health care function, and Bordeaux, are gradually recognized by the market," Tang said, adding that Pakistani dates producers can learn from Chinese expertise, and develop some high

value-added products based on their dates' characteristics. High value-added products may be a way out. But apart from deep processing, Tang told Gwadar Pro that efficient cultivation and pest control are also potential areas for cooperation between the two countries, where Chinese scientific research institutions can provide technical support. "We have some technical skills especially in deep processing and pests control, and for Pakistan, there's space for improvement in these regards. We have signed an agreement with the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. The agreement focuses on date research and platform building, under which a 100-mu (7 hectares) demonstration farm was built to carry out comprehensive control of pests," Tang said. "We have 4-5 types of dates. In them, Aseel is on the top. We have Karbala. There is

one from Kurma Zaidi, Iran. We also have Chuwara. It is also made of Aseel. The date of this area is the best," Sajjad Ahmed, a dates shopkeeper in Khairpur, told Gwadar Pro. Sajjad's hometown, Khairpur district in southern Sindh province, is the main region for date cultivation in Pakistan. Especially in the months of Shaban and Ramadan, Aseel date, the most famous date of Pakistan, is transported everywhere throughout Pakistan from here. "The rate depends on season. Generally, the rate is 150-200 rupees per kilo. There is also a 100 rupees per kilo depending on the category," said Sajjad. Aside from the domestic market, dates businessmen are also seeking foreign markets. "From here, we send Aseel date to different countries, like America, Italy, France. We also export it to China," he said. Pakistan is one of the top

date producers and exporters in the world, with annual date production of more than 535,000 tons, data from the Trade Development Authority shows. Yet dates are not exported to China in large quantities. In the last financial year, the export of dates, figs, pineapples, avocados to China altogether totaled \$115,000, according to the State Bank of Pakistan. Similarly, in Kajor Market, Sakhar, Market President Hub Ali Jatoti said that now date product is stocked too much, thus they are also seeking export. "Now most dates products go to India, Dubai, America, and China. China has a very big market, we may have stalls there and introduce our quality." "To sell dates on a large scale in China may require us to target the consumption habits of Chinese people and make the dates into a product in line with Chinese consumers' taste.

Morocco registers 6,175 new Covid cases

NEWS DESK

RABAT: Morocco registers 6,175 new COVID-19 cases Morocco announced on Saturday 6,175 new COVID-19 cases, taking the tally of infections in the North African country to 849,532. The total number of recoveries from COVID-19 in Morocco increased by 7,163 to 773,619. The death toll rose to 12,361 with 93 new fatalities, while 2,516 people are in intensive care units. Meanwhile, a total of 18,204,563 people have received their first vaccine shots against COVID-19 in the country, while 14,337,280 have taken two doses.

The North African country launched a nationwide vaccination campaign on Jan. 28 after the arrival of the first shipment of China's Sinopharm vaccine.

France fine-tunes business aid

FOREIGN DESK

PARIS: France will turn off the fire-hose of aid to help businesses through the Covid-19 pandemic, instead directing funds where most needed, the government's accounts chief said on Sunday. "It's the end of whatever it takes", Minister for Public Accounts Olivier Dussopt warned. The government wants to "look at what is really being lost, rather than just what is being said". He added that not all industries or regions were suffering equally, and that even within some Covid-hit sectors, there were businesses that were thriving. "We are ready to help the sectors that really need it," Dussopt told Radio J ahead of a meeting with leaders from industries still suffering from the pandemic, including tourism, small businesses and culture. He said that any aid "will be a necessarily transitional, very sector-focused approach". As an example, Dussopt cited the restaurant trade: "In some regions, the number of visitors is the same as before; it is even higher than in July and August 2020, which were months that were not affected." Companies must also take responsibility for their own operations and for finding solutions to their problems, he said. Instead of simply complaining about the difficulty they face hiring, he said, employers "have an interest in making the careers they offer more attractive" — by increasing salaries, for example. The state had made great efforts, he said. Moreover, economic growth is forecast at six percent this year, with the government hoping for four percent in 2022.

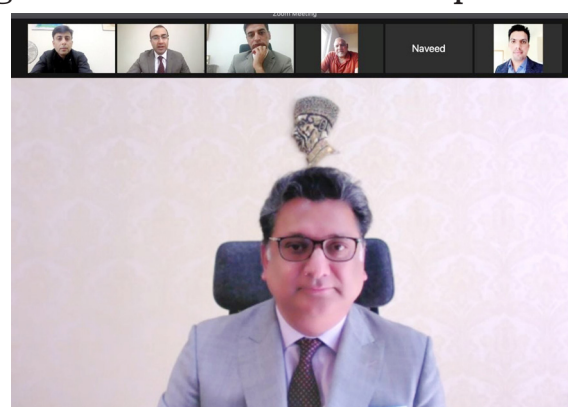
Pak EU envoy holds e-Katchery on Afghan situation

Ambassador Janjua briefed the participants about the evolving situation in Afghanistan. He stressed that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan was of critical importance for Pakistan and the region

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Pakistan to the European Union, Belgium, and Luxembourg Zaheer A. Janjua Saturday held 8th monthly virtual Khuli Katchery with Pakistani diaspora in Belgium and Luxembourg. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Janjua briefed the participants about the evolving situation in Afghanistan. He stressed that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan was of critical

importance for Pakistan and the region. He emphasized that Pakistan would continue to play a constructive role for an inclusive political settlement in Afghanistan. The ambassador noted that Pakistan remained in close contact with regional and international partners. Elaborating on the recent high level exchanges, he said that Prime Minister Imran Khan received calls from the President European Council, Charles Michel and Prime Minister of Belgium, Alexander



De Croo. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi also held calls with the EU

High Representative, Josep Borrell and the Deputy Prime Minister and For-

eign Minister of Belgium Sophie Wilmes. Ambassador Janjua highlighted Pakistan's efforts to facilitate the evacuation of diplomatic personnel and staff of international organizations, journalists and others from Afghanistan. He also appreciated and thanked the Pakistani community for their participation in the Independence Day celebrations held at Pakistan Embassy in Brussels. Appreciating Pakistani diaspora, Ambassador Janjua highlighted that remittanc-

es from Pakistani diaspora in Belgium grew by 18.3% to 27.5 million in the first month of the current financial year compared to the same period last year. The event was organized in line with the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, to maintain close engagement with the Pakistani diaspora and to provide seamless services. The virtual interaction was attended by diaspora members from different walks of life who appreciated the embassy's outreach efforts.

Briefs

William new US CG in Lahore

DNA

LAHORE: The U.S. Consul General in Lahore has announced arrival of new Consul General William "Wil" K. Makaneole. He is the 33rd American to lead the U.S. diplomatic presence in Lahore, where the United States has been strengthening ties with the people of Punjab since 1947. He previously represented the United States in Peshawar, Pakistan, and had prior diplomatic postings in the Middle East, Africa, and Washington, D.C.

Sanjrani thanks Arab Parliament

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Sunday thanked the leadership of the Arab Parliament for expressing solidarity with Pakistan over the loss of lives in factory fire incident in Karachi the other day. "Arab Parliament expresses regret over loss of lives due to factory fire in Karachi", he added. According to a press release issued here, the leadership of the Arab Parliament have expressed solidarity with Pakistan on the incident and extended sympathy for the victims. "We are grateful to the leadership of the Arab Parliament for remembering us in this difficult time", said Chairman Senate. He said the whole nation was saddened over the loss of lives in the Karachi incident. He said that Arab Parliament is an important forum for us and we would want to further promote institutional cooperation, coordination and support. — APP

Diamer Bhasha Dam to be top off by 2029

ISLAMABAD: The installed capacity of Diamer Bhasha Dam will be 4,500 Mega Watt (MW), which will generate 18,100 Gigawatt hours (GWh) power annually. The gross storage capacity of the project will be 8.1 Million Acre Feet (MAF) with live storage capacity of 6.4 MAF. The official information revealed that Diamer Basha Dam project is expected to be completed by April, 2029. Diamer Basha Dam is being constructed on River Indus - 40 kilometer downstream of Chilas town. The project is of paramount importance for water, food and energy security of the country. The total estimated cost of Diamer Basha Dam project is Rs.1406, 122 million which includes PCI (acquisition of land & resettlement Rs. 175,436 million, PCI (Dam Part Rs. 479,686 million while cost for PCI (Power Generation Facilities yet to be approved) is Rs. 751,000 million. — APP

UK govt slammed over Afghan exit as hundreds left behind

Foreign Minister Dominic Raab has already been strongly criticised for not immediately ending a beach holiday when the Taliban took control

LONDON: The UK government on Sunday faced a torrent of criticism after its hurried withdrawal from Afghanistan ended, leaving hundreds eligible for relocation behind. Prime Minister Boris Johnson hailed a mission "unlike anything we have seen in our lifetimes" after the UK airlifted over 15,000 people in the last two weeks. But current and former officials slammed government failings, suggesting many more Afghans could have been rescued. The Observer leftwing broadsheet cited a whistleblower as saying thousands of emails from MPs and charities to the foreign ministry highlighting specific Afghans at risk from the Taliban takeover went unopened. Foreign Minister Dominic Raab has already been strongly criticised for not immediately ending a beach holiday when the Taliban took control.

The Observer said it saw evidence that an official email account set up by the Foreign Office to receive such pleas regularly had 5,000 unopened emails last week. It said these included messages from minis-

Pakistan to remain in United Kingdom red list

DNA

LONDON: The British Government has said that it decided to keep Pakistan on the travel ban red list because the true number of COVID-19 cases is likely to be much higher than reported across Pakistan, a leaked letter written by Britain's health minister revealed Sunday. In the letter, Britain's Health Minister Lord James Nicholas Bethell and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Innovation from the Department of Health and Social Care explained in detail that Pakistan's testing and sequencing rates are relatively low (1.8 per 1,000 over the last seven days) and lower testing and sequencing mean it is not possible to know the full genomic makeup of their current wave. Therefore, they said that the true number of cases is likely to be much higher than reported.

ters' offices and the leader of the opposition Labour party, Keir Starmer.

"They cannot possibly know (how many people have been left behind) because they haven't even read the emails," the whistle-

blower was quoted as saying.

The Foreign Office responded that its crisis team worked 24/7 "to triage incoming emails and calls". Officials have given varying estimates of

how many eligible Afghans did not board evacuation flights, the last of which left Saturday, with the head of the UK armed forces General Sir Nick Carter putting this "in the high hundreds". The Sunday Times right-wing broadsheet quoted an unnamed minister as saying: "I suspect we could have taken out 800 to 1,000 more people".

The same minister slammed Raab, claiming he "did nothing" to build ties with third countries from which Afghans might enter the UK. Richard Dannatt, a former head of the British army, told Times Radio on Sunday that he was calling for an inquiry into why the evacuation "happened in such a haphazard and chaotic fashion".

Raab himself wrote in The Sunday Telegraph that the Afghan situation was a "bitter pill to swallow".

To deal with the Taliban regime, the UK must build a wider international coalition of regional powers and other United Nations Security Council members, including countries "with whom we have a difficult relationship", he wrote. — APP

Moeed demands newspaper to retract story

At no point did he state that the West should "immediately recognize" the Taliban

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: The Office of the National Security Adviser (NSA) on Sunday in a statement demanded "The Times" a clarification and retraction from its misleading and frivolous interpretation of NSA Dr Moeed Yusuf's interview with journalist Christina Lamb. The NSA in a media release issued here said it was compelled to state that a story titled "Work with the Taliban or Repeat the Horror of the 1990s, West Told," authored by Christina Lamb was published in The Times on August 28, 2021 which wrongly interpreted the interview of NSA Dr Moeed Yusuf.

The story's sub-title reads, "Risk a second 9/11 if you don't recognize Afghanistan's new leaders, Pakistan's national security adviser warns". This connotation was fabricated and total wrongly attributed to the National Security Adviser (NSA).

"It is a gross mischaracterization of the conversation that took place between Ms. Lamb and the NSA," it added. Ms. Lamb interviewed the NSA on record in his office in Islamabad on Friday, 27 August 2021. At no point did he state that the West should "immediately recognize" the Taliban, as the article states. Nor was there any "warning" of a second 9/11 linked to formal "recognition" of the Taliban.

This is a highly inflammatory mischaracterization of his remarks, one that smacks of unprofessional journalism.

Furqat Sidikov gets award

Furqat Sidiqov has served in Pakistan as Ambassador. During his tenure ties between Uzbekistan and Pakistan touched new heights

DNA

TASHKENT: On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of State Independence of Uzbekistan by the Decree of the President, Dylan Foreign Minister Furqat Sidiqov was awarded the commemorative medal "30th Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan." Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov distributed awards among the recipients. Other officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who put up an outstanding performance, also received the awards.

Furqat Sidiqov has served in Pakistan as well as Ambassador. During his tenure bilateral relations between Uzbekistan and Pakistan touched new heights. Ambassador Furqat facilitated a number of exhibitions in Pakistan showcasing various Uzbek products. Besides, he had



TASHKENT: Furqat Sidiqov Dy Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan received award from the Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov.

also facilitated various high level visits of dignitaries of both countries that sought to further deepen ties between Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

Pakistan rejects Indian defence minister's allegations

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday rejected Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's terrorism-related allegations against Pakistan as completely baseless. Pakistan has shared incontrovertible evidence with the international community of India's state sponsorship of terrorism and subversion against Pakistan. India uses terrorism as an instrument of state policy. This year alone, India has been involved in terrorist attacks in Johar Town, Lahore and against Chinese and Pakistani workers at Dasu. The ruling BJP-RSS com-

bine has a clear anti-Muslim and anti-minority agenda. They target Pakistan with false propaganda campaigns for both ideological reasons and political expediency.

India's so-called "surgical strikes" and ill-conceived misadventure in Balakot in February 2019 were exposed as based on nothing but lies and deceit. Pakistan restored the strategic balance in the region by retaliating against India in a measured and firm manner. The February 2021 reaffirming of 2003 ceasefire understanding only demonstrated that Pakistan is a responsible State that wants to maintain peace in the region despite ir-

responsible Indian behavior.

CAA allows UN team to travel to Islamabad

Around 1,500 passengers from Afghanistan have been issued on-arrival

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on Sunday allowed a United Nations (UN) delegation from Bangkok to land at Islamabad airport, easing travel restrictions on inbound passengers from countries in the third (C) category. The notification in this regard has been issued by the deputy director of air transport of the CAA.

After the ease in travel restriction, a five-member UN delegation will reach Islamabad from Bangkok on Sunday. "They will undergo a mandatory PCR test on their arrival, besides also being quarantined for seven to 10 days," the CAA said while emphasizing that the delegation would fulfill the mandatory COVID protocols. It further said that the

delegation comprising of citizens from the United States, Britain, Germany, Sweden and Thailand would also undergo a rapid antigen COVID test at the airport. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has revised its international travel list and removed 11 countries including India from Category C on August 14.

Pakistan has lifted travel restrictions on incoming passengers from 11 countries including India, Argentina, Bhutan, Maldives and Brazil. However, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq, South Africa, Nepal are among 11 countries that are still listed in Category C.

According to the aviation authority, Pakistani citizens will be allowed to travel back home from Category C countries, however, they will have to undergo COVID-19 tests 72 hours prior to the departure.

The new travel advisory will be effective up to August 31, said the CAA spokesperson. Meanwhile, the process of evacuation of foreigners, Afghans and diplomats from Afghanistan is underway and on-arrival visas are being issued to foreigners coming to Pakistan from Afghanistan.

It is learned that around 1,500 passengers from Afghanistan have been issued on-arrival visas by Pakistani authorities so far. "On-arrival visas have been issued to 80 travellers from Afghanistan Sunday," the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) officials said. It is clarified that foreigners were issued visas to stay in Pakistan for a period of one month. Pakistan has stepped up efforts to Afghan evacuation process and for this provinces administration took control of hotels and hostels in Islamabad.

Defeated people holding fruitless meetings: Farrukh

PDM parties had rejected EVMs without watching and understanding as they wanted to promote fraud and rigging

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib said on Saturday that defeated people have been holding fruitless meetings for face saving.

Giving his reaction to Pakistan Democratic Movement party heads meeting, he said that the announcement of PDM meetings and caravans will prove to be a hollow slogan like the past. He said that PDM has won a "World Cup" for failing in fulfilling promises, slogans and claims.

He said now none of the component parties was ready to host the party meetings that was why now the meeting was held after giving many dates.

Farrukh Habib said that hooliganism in the event was the manifestation that even the workers were not happy with the leadership. He remarked that electronic voting machines would indeed close the door of fraud in elections forever. He said that the PDM parties had



rejected EVMs without watching and understanding as they wanted to promote fraud and rigging. The RTS system, he said was developed by Nawaz League but after the defeat, they started opposing the RTS. Farrukh Habib said that tomorrow's public meeting of PDM would be against PPP's Sindh government. He said that those who ruined the PDM

should not talk about youth development. He asked the PDM leadership if they really wanted the supremacy of the Constitution and Parliament, they should come inside Parliament and raise issues.

The minister said that Pakistan Media Development Authority was meant for media development, and everyone knew who was hindering media development.

He said when Benazir Bhutto was the Prime Minister, Fazlur Rehman was strongly against the rule of women, but now his ideology appeared to have changed.

He recalled that the PPP had quit the PDM on the issue of resignations from the Parliament and now Zardari's son would not tender resignation, how could he expect others to do so.

He said that PDM which comprised 11 parties, now was reduced to 11 persons only who were currently visiting Karachi for enjoyment and tourism. — APP

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