



Islamabad POST

Friday, September 10, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

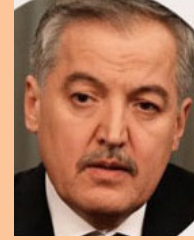
Price Rs. 20

Qatari Deputy PM acknowledges Pakistan role for regional peace

Detailed News On Page-01

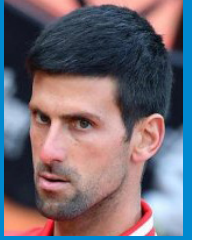
Tajikistan will accept inclusive Afghan govt

Detailed News On Page-08



World No.1 Djokovic inches closer to history

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

US 'violating' the Doha agreement

MONITORING DESK

KABUL: Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid on Thursday said that a continued blacklisting by the US of the Haqqani family is a "violation" of the Doha agreement. "Latest US position regarding blacklist is a violation of Doha Agreement," wrote Mujahid on Twitter, while issuing a statement on the matter. The statement noted that Pentagon officials have remarked that some cabinet members of Afghanistan or the family members of Jalaluddin Haqqani "are on the US blacklists and still targets".

Al-Qaeda may seek comeback

WEB DESK

KUWAIT CITY: US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Thursday the al-Qaeda extremist group that used Afghanistan as a staging base to attack United States 20 years ago may attempt to regenerate there following an American withdrawal that has left the Taliban in power. Austin spoke to a small group of reporters in Kuwait City at the conclusion of a four-day tour of Persian Gulf states. He said the United States is prepared to prevent an al-Qaeda comeback in Afghanistan that would threaten the United States. "The whole community is kind of watching to see what happens and whether or not al-Qaeda has the ability to regenerate in Afghanistan," he said.

Rahimullah Yousafzai passes away

PESHAWAR: Renowned journalist, an expert of Afghanistan Affairs and Resident Editor Daily The News International, Rahimullah Yousafzai passed away due to protected illness here Thursday. According to his family sources, the funeral prayer of the deceased will be held at 11am on Friday in his native village Inzargi, Ghundo in Katlang subdivision of Mardan district (near Katlang interchange on Swat expressway).

Key decisions for national security taken

PM chairs meeting of Apex Committee of NAP; National Crisis Information Management Cell to be set up; fool-proof security for Chinese / foreigners

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chaired a meeting of Apex Committee of National Action Plan, which reviewed progress made so far on various components of the National Action Plan. The meeting took into account the latest developments especially situation in neighbouring Afghanistan and its possible implications for the country. The meeting was attended by Federal Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Defence, Finance, Interior, Information, COAS, DG-ISI, NSA, CMs of the provinces including Gilgit-Baltistan, PM AJ&K, Federal Secretaries, Chief Secretaries, IGs and other senior civil and military officials. The Committee reviewed short-term, medium and long-term targets of the revised National Action Plan and deliberated upon role and responsibilities of all stakeholders including federation, provinces and law-enforcement agencies. It was decided that tangible key performance indicators would be

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Pakistan, Qatar to continue assisting Afghanistan

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has called upon the international community to stand in solidarity with the Afghan people, engage positively, and create incentives to ensure sustainable peace, stability and economic development in Afghanistan. He was talking to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, who called on him in Islamabad on Thursday. The Prime Minister emphasized that it is vital to stabilize the security situation, prevent a humanitarian crisis, and stabilize the economy. He said Pakistan has and will continue to play its role for

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan. - DNA

Saudis hope Afghan govt can bring stability

KSA believes the new govt will reject violence; extremism

WEB DESK

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia hopes the advent of a caretaker government in Afghanistan will help it to achieve stability and overcome violence and extremism, the kingdom's foreign minister said on Wednesday at a ministerial meeting devoted to the Afghan crisis. Prince Faisal bin Farhan also affirmed Saudi support for "the choices the Afghan people make regarding the future of their country, away from external interference." Saudi state news agency SPA reported. Riyadh hopes the formation of the caretaker administration will be "a step in the right direction towards achieving security and stability, rejecting violence and extremism, building a bright future in line with these aspirations," he added.

PDM leaders meet today

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Heads of the parties forming Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), an opposition parties' alliance, will meet at Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) office in Islamabad today (Friday) with alliance President and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman in the chair. Quoting sources, a private television channel Thursday reported that as per the meeting's agenda, PDM leaders will discuss the strategy to be adopted by the opposition during the presidential address to the joint session of the parliament.

Play real opposition; Bilawal slams PDM

PPP chairman urges the opposition to have courage and support PPP to send the govt packing

STAFF REPORT

RAHIM YAR KHAN: Hitting out at the other major opposition party in the country but without naming it, Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has asked Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) parties to either play the role of real opposition or declare themselves facilitators of the government. Addressing a public gathering in Rahim Yar Khan, he said, Bilawal Bhutto said

Continued on Page 06

'PDM rejected the deal Bilawal was offered'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said Thursday that the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari were offered the same deal but the alliance refused to accept it. Fazl, speaking to a private news channel, blamed Bilawal for PDM's fallout and claimed the PPP chairman had struck a deal with the government and the establishment. "PDM suffered setbacks as we had Mir Jaffars and Mir Sadiqs among our ranks," Fazl said, referring to traitors in the alliance. Maulana Fazl said the option to resign from the assemblies was mentioned in PDM's manifesto and had Bilawal listened to the PDM leadership, the incumbent government would have been ousted and elections would have taken place. "We are aware of several things, but we do not want to initiate a war, if we do that, then nothing will be left," Fazl warned. Last month, Fazl had said PPP had "stabbed the PDM in the back".



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa exchanging views with Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Joseph Burns. - DNA

CIA chief lauds Pak role for Afghan peace

Meets Army Chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa

ALI FURQAN

RAWALPINDI: Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Joseph Burns held a meeting with Pakistan Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa Thursday and discussed the evolving situation in Afghanistan, a statement from the military's media wing said. Intelligence (ISD) Director General Lt Gen Faiz Hameed was also present during the meeting, which

focused on the Afghanistan situation and regional security after the US withdrawal and the formation of the Taliban government in Kabul. "It was reiterated that Pakistan remains committed to cooperate with its international partners for peace in the region and ensuring a stable and prosperous future for [the] Afghan people," the ISPR said. The CIA chief appreciated Pakistan's role in Afghanistan, including the successful evacuation operation, efforts for regional stability

and pledged to play a role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels. Before coming to Pakistan, the US intel chief had visited New Delhi, where he met Indian National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval. Last month, in a phone call to Army Chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin had conveyed Washington's interest in continuing to improve the US-Pakistan relationship, the Pentagon said.

Ambassador of Iran lauds PAF's professionalism

Pakistan and Iran enjoy longstanding religious, cultural and historical bonds: Air Chief



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini called on Air Chief Marshal Zaeher Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office on Thursday. During the meeting, both the dignitaries discussed

Continued on Page 06

First flight leaves Kabul since withdrawal

AGENCIES

KABUL: Americans and dozens took off on a Qatar Airways flight bound for Doha on Thursday, the first time a civilian international flight will depart the Kabul airport since the US withdrawal from Afghanistan last month. "We managed to fly the first plane with passengers just an hour ago," Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani said, thanking the Taliban for helping reopen the airport.

Spanish FM due today

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Minister of Spain, Jose Manuel Albares, will visit Pakistan on 10 September 2021. During talks between the two Foreign Ministers, views will be exchanged on the latest developments in Afghanistan. Bilateral relations will be part of discussions during the delegation-level talks. Pakistan and Spain enjoy cordial relations, bilaterally as well as in the context of EU and multilateral fora. Spain is the 3rd largest trading partner of Pakistan within the European Union. Spain is home to one of the largest Pakistani diasporas in Europe. The visit of Foreign Minister Albares will help reinforce close cooperation between the two countries to strengthen mutual coordination on regional and international issues.

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- World lawmakers at forefront of terrorism prevention - Page 06
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- Pakistan to do trade with Afghanistan in Pak Rupee - Page 08

New envoys present credentials to President Alvi

Pakistan greatly values ties with all countries: President Dr. Arif Alvi

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan attaches great importance to the promotion of trade, business and commercial cooperation with friendly countries under its new "geo-economics" policy. He added that Pakistan wanted to promote connectivity, and regional peace and development by further expanding bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, economy, culture and tourism. The President made these remarks while talking to the Ambassadors-designates of Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Azerbaijan, Kingdom of Thailand, and the High Commissioner-designate of Nigeria, who made separate calls on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Earlier, the Ambassador-designate of Kyrgyzstan, Mr Totuiaev,

Ulanbek Asankulovich, Ambassador-designate of Kazakhstan, Mr Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador-designate of Azerbaijan, Mr Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador-designate

of Thailand, Mr Chakkrid Kraichaiwong, and High Commissioner-designate of Nigeria, Mr Abioye Mohammed Bello presented their credentials to President

Dr Arif Alvi at a ceremony. Congratulating the newly-appointed envoys, the President expressed the hope that they would play their role in further strengthening

political, economic and cultural relations with Pakistan. While talking to the envoys separately,

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors-designate of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador-designate of Thailand, Chakkrid Kraichaiwong, Ambassador-designate of Kyrgyzstan, Ulanbek Totuiaev, Ambassador-designate of Azerbaijan, Khazar Farhadov, and High Commissioner-designate of Nigeria to Pakistan Abioye Mohammed Bello presenting their credentials to President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. - DNA

Briefs

PCMEA for reviewing Domotax exhibition entry fee

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Carpets Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) and Carpet Training Institute (CTI) Thursday urged the government to review entry fee for Pakistani participants in Domotax exhibition to be held in Germany. PCMEA Senior Vice Chairman and CTI Chairperson Pervez Hanif said that due to the coronavirus pandemic, the carpet manufacturers were not in a position to pay full fee to participate in the aforesaid exhibition. He said Domotax was the world's biggest body in terms of promoting Pakistani handmade carpets in the international market. He also appealed that in view of the financial crunch facing the Pakistani Carpet industry a formula of 80/20 expenditure be implemented so that maximum number of Pakistani carpet traders could attend the mega event at the global market where India was the largest exporter and main competitor against Pakistan. He also called for granting special subsidy to the carpet exporters. In the current situation, a number of carpet exporting companies would be unable to participate in the exhibition while new carpet traders would hardly join the exhibition. He said government should encourage Pakistani traders enabling them to establish maximum stalls to grab good business for Pakistan.

Efforts urged to combat curse of corruption

MONITORING DESK

QUETTA: Director National Accountability Bureau Balochistan Muhammad Rafique Memon has called upon the students and teachers to come forward and join the NAB in its fight against menace of corruption. He expressed these views while addressing a seminar titled "Role of students in eradication of corruption" organized by NAB in collaboration with Balochistan University of Information Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS) here on Thursday. Vice Chancellor BUIITEMS Ahmed Farooq Bazai, faculty members and students attended the seminar. Director NAB expressed his gratitude and acclaimed the efforts of Mr. Ahmed Farooq Bazai VC BUIITEMS, Quetta and the management for organizing the awareness session for students. He said that he can see the shining face of students who in the near future will be in practical life and they hold the command and responsibility of this country. He stressed that this is time they should make loud noise against the curse of corruption so would help them in future in their practical life. He said that students can be bearer against the evil of corruption. He asked the energetic students to come forward and join the character building societies which already constituted in their university and made their voices loud and clear against corruption.

Over 9.2m people vaccinated in South Punjab

MULTAN: Over 9.2 million people have been inoculated against corona pandemic in 11 district of South Punjab so far. In a statement issued here on Thursday, Secretary Health South Punjab, Ajmal Bhatti said that mobile teams were vaccinating masses at their doorsteps besides establishing 222 fixed corona centres where one could visit for vaccination just after showing one's CNIC without any prior schedule. He informed that over 1.2 people have been tested for COVID-19 so far adding ratio of the virus is 6.5 PC in the region. Bhatti urged upon masses to strictly follow Corona SOPs to avoid the disease and return of life to normalcy. — APP

MoMP, FCCI to develop database for local products

Senior VP FCCI Chaudhary Talat Mahmood says that armed forces have to make imports to meet its requirements by spending huge foreign exchange

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Directorate of Indigenous Resources (Ministry of Military Production) is ready to collaborate with Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) to develop a comprehensive and readily available database of different products manufactured locally in order to discourage its imports by Pakistan armed forces, said Brigadier Kamran Adil Director Military Procurement. During a meeting with Senior Vice President FCCI Chaudhary Talat Mahmood, he said that armed forces have to make imports to meet its requirements by spending huge foreign exchange. He said that under a well-considered policy, the army now prefers indigenization to save precious foreign exchange. He said that our industrial sector was already producing a large number of products which were imported by the army. "We want to develop a database in collaboration with the business community so that the army could make its maximum purchases from the domestic market", he said and added that due to the lack of information, Pakistan is importing products which are manufac-



tured in Pakistan. He hoped that the Pakistan army could fulfill its 90-95% requirements from the domestic market through this database. He further said that his department could also extend financial assistance to encourage manufac-

turing of alternate imported products. He also invited FCCI members to visit Islamabad and have close liaison with his department so that indigenization policy could be implemented in its true spirit. Earlier Chaudhary Talat Mahmood Senior Vice President

FCCI appreciated the policies of the Directorate of Military Procurement and said that Faisalabad based industrialists are already manufacturing a variety of products which are used by the Pakistan army. "They have skills to manufacture imported products

locally and the army should avail from their potential", he said and requested Brigadier Kamran Adil to provide FCCI a list of NOCs issued by his directorate during last year for the import of different products. "It will help him to compile a list of industrial units that are already manufacturing these products locally", he said and added that our industrialists have capacity to manufacture shoes and sleeping bags to be used by the Pakistan army at high altitude. He said that Chenab Engineering and many other organizations are already working with the Pakistan army. He said that although textile is the iconic identity of Faisalabad but now this city has excelled in many other sectors. He assured the Directorate of Defence Production to provide comprehensive and easily accessible data of the manufacturers of various products used by the Pakistan army. Vice President Ayub Aslam Manj, Engineer Ahmad Hassan, Rana Ikramullah and Khawaja Shahid Razak Sikka were also present during this meeting while Engineer Ahmad Hassan former vice president presented a copy of the second edition of his book "CPEC-Opportunities & Challenges".

Digital literacy program to start in KP

DNA

PESHAWAR: Minister for Education, Shahram Khan Taraki Thursday said that Elementary and Secondary Education Department would start digital literacy programme in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa schools soon. The digital literacy programme would start in 1170 schools in which 655 are boys and 515 are girls schools. The minister said that 250,000 children would be trained to develop IT skills through this programme. He said that IT teachers would also be trained by the master trainers, one for each school. "I wish to make every child go to school. Naya Pakistan is not just new infrastructure or reforming, but also human development that comes only with educating people," he said.

Govt for best healthcare facilities to people

STAFF REPORT

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Works and Services Syed Zia Abbas Shah has said all possible steps are being taken to provide best healthcare facilities to the people at their doorstep. In order to further improve the health sector in current financial year, he said that 18 ongoing projects should be completed as soon as possible while the necessary administrative steps required to launch 10 new projects should also be completed at earliest. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting to review the construction work of ongoing development schemes in the health sector under the Department of Works and Services.

On the occasion, Chief Engineer Provincial Building Circle Karachi Akhtar Dawach informed the minister that a total of 18 projects of the Health Department are underway in Karachi while 10 more projects have been approved in this year. The minister said in the ongoing projects, the central building should be constructed on priority basis so that the people could get immediate benefit from it while work on the residential building could be started thereafter. He said within a week, the latest photographs, videos and location coordinates of the ongoing projects should be provided so that the situation could be assessed. Zia Abbas Shah said the contractors using delay tactics should be blacklisted. He said that liaison with the concerned officers of the health department should also be made more effective and strong so that the delayed projects could be completed on time. The minister said no delay would be tolerated in this regard. The meeting was also attended by Superintendent Engineer Asadullah Sheikh and relevant Executive Engineers.

GB govt to keep prices of food items stable

GILGIT: Senior Minister Gilgit Baltistan Col (retd) Ubaidullah Baig Thursday said that the provincial government was trying to keep the prices of food items stable and took practical steps to control the price hike. He said that the steps taken by the district administration for this purpose were encouraging and hoped that the people would continue the cooperation with district administration in curbing the sale of gran. He visited different supermarket, stores, vegetable and fruit shops, bakeries and grocery stores in Jotial. Assistant Commissioner, Administrator Municipal Corporation and Chairman Price Control Committee Gilgit Amir Timur also accompanied by the minister. He directed Chairman Price Control Committee Amir Teymour to continue crackdown against self-imposed rise in food prices and impose heavy fines. It was the responsibility of government to provide relief to the people, he added. — APP

HEC emphasizes Varsities to serve as "Think Tanks"

STAFF REPORT

PESHAWAR: Secretary Higher Education Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Daud Khan Thursday emphasized on all public and private universities of the province to promote research culture and serve as "Think Tanks" for the country. Addressing as a chief guest during a tree plantation drive launched here at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University (SBBWU) under the Prime Minister's Ten Billion Trees project, he said that universities should have to focus on

research work and groom the students accordingly besides providing them higher education. Appreciating the VC Dr Razia Sultana and administration of SBBWU, he said that the varsity has achieved a prominent place among other public sector universities of the country, adding that being a women university it was highly laudable. He said that he last visited SBBWU in the year 2017 as Secretary IT and now after four years he felt so much positive changes in the varsity which was a result of the leadership qualities of its VC Dr Razia Sultana.



PESHAWAR: Iona Thomas OBE, Political Counsellor at British HC called on Atif Khan, Provincial Minister of KP for Science and Technology to discuss situation in Afghanistan. — DNA

Role of NDMC, PN, KPT appreciated

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: President, Employers' Federation of Pakistan, Ismail Suttar, appreciated the role of National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC), Pakistan Navy, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, and Karachi Port Trust (KPT) for their timely cordoning off of the Panama-registered ship that had anchored near Manora on 11th August 2021. Ismail stated that effective response prevented a huge disaster and if the oil had spilled into the sea then our valuable fish resource would have gotten severely affected, and with it our exports too. The EFP president said that people should not take the Ministry of Mari-



time Affairs for granted as it was purely the responsibility of the owner of the ship and the contractor in managing the rescue operations. Mr. Ismail emphasized that Pakistan needs to have a properly dedicated salvage sector equipped with powerful tugs and low draft to ensure better management of cargo transportation affairs in the sea.

Suicide may be treated as mental morbidity: CM Sindh

DNA

KARACHI: The Government of Sindh has taken concrete steps to address the issue of mental health morbidity and mortality. The Sindh Mental Health Authority, established through an assembly act, has undertaken various policy and service measures to address the challenges posed during current times of COVID-19. World Health Organization (WHO) has dedicated 10th September as the World Suicide Prevention Day. Sindh Mental Health Authority (SMHA), working as a health regulatory body, has endeavored since its inception in August 2017 to the advancement of mental health. The primary and one of the most important tasks accomplished by SMHA is the

registration of all the Psychiatrists, Trainings, awareness Seminars, Researches and other relevant mental health care providers in the Province of Sindh. Recently three surveys were conducted through SMHA in the province to gather scientific data related to suicide trends. In the first quarter of this year (2021), Sindh Mental Health Authority published a report: "A Study of Registered Cases Of Suicide between 2016 – 2020 across the Province of Sindh" conducted in collaboration with the provincial Home and Health departments. The findings of the study were informative in terms of unique socio-cultural, psychological and anthropological risk factors operating in the community. This was a unique, one of its kind survey, carried out only in

Sindh. No other province in the country has taken the initiative to address this human catastrophe. The findings from initial survey, which included 767 cases from 2016-2020, showed that the District of Tharparker reported 79 suicidal deaths, highest in 2020, with 48 females and 31 males victims, followed by districts Badin, Dadu, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, Umerkot, Tando Allahyar and Tando Muhammad Khan. Malir was ranked highest in Karachi division with 24 suicide cases during the said period, out of total 75 suicide deaths reported between 2016 and 2020 in Karachi. After the publication of report on suicide rates in last five years across the province, Sindh Mental Health Authority (SMHA) was asked to explore the

root causes to establish facts on scientific basis. Sindh Mental Health Authority, working with reputable institutions of Psychiatry, Psychology, Sociology, and corporate sector supporting health care sector, framed the issue for an in-depth inquiry. Sindh Mental Health Authority conducted "Psychological Autopsy" of registered cases of suicide at District Tharparker in collaboration with Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS), Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS), Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Center Karachi (JPMC), Sir Cowasji Jahangir Institute of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Hyderabad (Sir CJIP&BS), University of Sindh (UoS) and Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) Thar foundation (TF).

Experts urge to address climate change issue

Pro-VC Dr. Anas Sarwar Qureshi says that UAF being the first agricultural university in the subcontinent has rendered immense services for agricultural production and livestock

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Medical doctors, agricultural and environmental scientists are encouraged to work together to address the issues of diseases, plants and environment in order to combat diseases issue, ensure food security and a better environment. This was stated by the speakers while addressing third National One Health Symposium organized by the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, University of Agriculture Faisalabad. National University of Medical Sciences Vice Chancellor, Lt. General (Retd) Syed Muhammad Imran Majeed said universities play an important role in developing the economy of any country through their research and academia-industry linkages. Pakistani scientists will have to work hard in the field of research to solve local problems and having an eye on international research in order to uplift country's economy, food security and disease. He said that Nature has created all living beings for a purpose but human beings have distorted the balance for their own benefit which is causing diseases and climate change and hinder human development. He

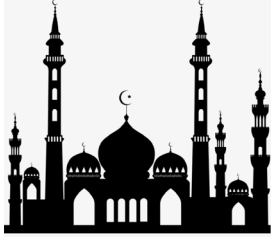


said that agricultural, medical and environmental experts would have to come up with a plan of action to balance biodiversity. University of Agriculture, Faisalabad Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan said that UAF, in collaboration with the University of California, had launched projects under One Health a few years ago meant to cope with human, plant, animal and environ-

mental health. Faisalabad Medical University Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zafar Ali Chaudhry said that joint efforts would be made with the experts of the UAF on One Health. Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. Anas Sarwar Qureshi said that UAF being the first agricultural university in the subcontinent has rendered immense services for agricultural production and

livestock. Chairman Parasitology Dr. Sohail Sajid said that due to climate change, the nature of diseases was changing and practical steps are needed to control them. Prof. Dr. Wasim Akram said that Punjab was badly affected by Victor Bone Disease in 2011 which affected 22,000 people in just 72 hours. He said that UAF have played an important role in controlling dengue in Punjab. Dr. Kashif Salimi said that the number of HHC tumors has been gradually increasing for many years. Dr. Faqir Muhammad said that xenobiotics in milk and meat above MRL which can result in the health hazard. Dr. Allah Rakha said that UAF is the first institution to start degree program in nutrition which has now been adopted by many other universities. Maghiz Azaz Alvi, Mohammad Saqib, Dean Food Nutrition and Home Sciences Prof. Dr. Masood Sadiq Butt and Dr. Mohammad Jalal Arif, also addressed the gathering. Vice Chancellor NUMS Syed Muhammad Imran Majeed along with UAF Vice Chancellor UAF Prof. Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan, Faisalabad Medical University Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zafar Ali Chaudhry and Principal Officer Estate Management Dr. Qamar Bilal also planted a sapling.

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	04:22 am
Zohr.....	12:05 pm
Asr.....	04:35 pm
Maghrib.....	06:23 pm
Isha.....	07:47 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

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



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Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....	9209224
Potohar Town.....	9209224
RawalTown.....	5773343

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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Pakistan participates in SCO business council meeting

The President FPCCI raised the issues of economic, trade and investment liberalization within the powerful bloc of SCO

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Representing Pakistan, Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo, President FPCCI & Chairman SCO Business Council Pakistan, has addressed the Board Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Business Council held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The meeting was attended by the Presidents/Chairmen of all members countries i.e. India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, China, Russia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan etc. The President FPCCI raised the issues of economic, trade and investment liberalization within the powerful bloc of SCO. He also highlighted the economic and commercial potential of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) & Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Gas Pipeline Project. FPCCI Chief appreciated the bilateral, regional and multilateral linkages and connectivity being developed by SCO Business Council to tap the true potential of regional trade through economic blocs; which various economic blocs have achieved over the past few decades and SCO is all geared up



to maximize the gains. He also appreciated the organizer for organizing the multilateral high-profile event and bringing eight countries of the bloc together. Veteran Business Leader and Convener International Forums at FPCCI, Mr. Amjad Rafi, appreciated the efforts of Tajikistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry discussed Global Challenges of Migration Processes in

the context of the COVID-19 pandemic within the SCO: Problems and Prospects in International Conference on Migration. On the sideline of the other events like International Conference on Cooperation & Exchange of Experiences between the Leading Cities/Capitals of SCO under Smart City held where Mr. Shahid Ahmed Khan, Director FS&R (Pvt) Ltd gave presentation on

Smart City of Pakistan (Lahore and Islamabad) which are ECO Friendly Venture in the Future. While in Round Table was centered on supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in SCO, Mr. Zubair Hyder Sheikh, President & CEO Lumina Consulting Services Pvt Ltd gave a presentation on Issues of support and development of Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises within the SCO. All meetings and conferences within the program were centered on tangible economic and social cooperation between the member countries of SCO. Round Table was centered on supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in SCO and it was suggested that MSMEs in the member countries may be promoted through support mechanisms in the realms of access to finance, regulatory protections and cooperation among the member countries; as MSMEs are the real engine of growth coupled with employment generation. FPCCI is looking forward to enhanced trade and investment within SCO and forging a formidable economic alliance for mutual prosperity and development of the member nations.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of UAE to Pakistan, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Al-Zaabi called on Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Syed Amin ul Haque. – DNA

Experts discuss methods of protein structure

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: COMSTEC organized a webinar on "Advanced methods for structure determination of proteins and their complexes: drug discovery for motor neuron disease to COVID-19", online on Thursday. Dr. Samar Hasnain, Molecular Biophysicist, delivered this webinar. He talked about advanced methods for determining structures of proteins and their complexes. He gave a comprehensive overview of protein structure determination, steps of producing recombinant protein and protein purification. Dr. Hasnain discussed crystallization of protein and its role in the drug discovery and development. He informed that one drug

to treat COVID patients is under trial, and it will complete by summer 2022. He gave a comprehensive account of the history of crystallography, current developments and future prospects. Dr. Christian Betzel, University of Hamburg, introduced the speaker to the audience, whereas Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhry, Coordinator General, COMSTEC gave the background and talked on the importance of the webinar. A large number of audience – scientists, students, and researchers – from OIC member states attended the webinar. Samar Hasnain, PhD in experimental Physics, from University of Manchester is a structural biologist with over 45 years of synchrotron radiation experience.

ITP issues 10,566 fine tickets over major violations

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has issued 10,566 fine tickets to road users over four major violations during the last week. According to police spokesman, ITP has launched 'Safety First Campaign' last week in order to ensure safe road environment and traffic discipline in the city. The campaign has been formally launched following directions of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Qazi Jamil Ur Rehman. He said action was taken against 2,365 road users over lane violation, 1,401 motorists for not fastening seat belt during drive, 526 motorists for using mobile during drive, 4,073 motorcyclists for not using helmets and 2,201 persons over violations of miscellaneous nature. He said special campaign is underway to check violations while vari-



ous teams headed by Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Syed Karar Hussain said Islamabad Traffic Police personnel have been directed to ensure implementation on traffic rules and regulation irrespective of status and rank and demonstrate patience and politeness while issuing traffic violation tickets to the road users. He said the Islamabad Traffic Police is utilizing all available resources to facilitate the general public. The force issues traffic violation tickets not as a punitive measure but the purpose is to ensure safe road environment in the Capital and secure the lives of the people, the SSP (Traffic) added.

Pakistan's new industrial policy to uplift economy

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, said that Make in Pakistan policy will affect the lives of all Pakistani's and will likely improve it

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a webinar titled "Make in Pakistan: Pakistan's New Industrial Policy," on September 9, 2021. Dr. Salman Shah, Advisor to CM Punjab, was the Keynote Speaker on the occasion. Other speakers for the webinar included Mr. Humayun Akhtar Khan, Dr. Usman W. Chohan, Ms. Nazish Afraz and Dr. Liaquat Ali Shah. Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director CSP/ACDC at the ISSI, moderated the Talk. Mr. Mustafa in his introductory remarks said that the manufacturing share in GDP is decreasing along with its share in Exports. This is due to many reasons like poor trade agreements. Make in Pakistan initiative is aimed to improve the situation. Dr. Shah in his keynote address said that the demographics of Pakistan could make it a production



hub and a factory of the world. The working labour age needs to be fully utilized in production and industry. Furthermore, Pakistan is the fastest urbanizing country in the world and clusters of manufacturing are forming around major cities in Pakistan, especially Punjab. In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, said that Make in Pakistan policy will affect the lives of all Pakistani's and will

likely improve it. The new industrial policy will increase employment. However, there are many obstacles in its way like attitude towards industrialists, facilitation of SEZs and lack of regulations. Mr. Khan said that Pakistan needs export diversification as it has low value-added products. To move towards new industrial policy a commitment of the top leadership and long-term vision. Pakistan's focus should be on industries of exports, with increasing levels of technology

and value addition. Dr. Chohan in his remarks said that in Pakistan the role of manufacturing has declined and the rate of growth lags far behind neighbors. Pakistan is deindustrializing prematurely and not integrated well into global value chains. If a strong industrial policy is implemented a strong industrial base will help, ensure national economic sovereignty. Ms. Afraz said that the Make in Pakistan policy needs a concrete

formulation at the policy level. Value-added production is necessary for the industrial growth of Pakistan. Also, the types of incentives given to the industry will determine the objectives it will achieve. In his concluding remarks Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, said that focus should be given to environmentally friendly policies in manufacturing and emerging technologies should be looked at to improve exports.

ICT schools sealed for violation of corona SOPs

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) team along with Assistant Commissioners Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) on Thursday visited various areas of the city to check the compliance of COVID-19 Standards Operating Procedures (SOPs) in educational institutions. NCOC team along with concerned Assistant Commissioners visited the areas including Badia Mera G-15, G-11, H-8, and Bhara Kahu. ACs concerned sealed and imposed fines on the private sector schools in various areas for opening their institutions despite clear closing instructions. AC Shalimar sealed and imposed fine on a welfare trust school where severe violation of SOPs was observed. The civic administration team also visited the area of Bhara Kahu where several public and private schools were checked and sealed. Heavy fines were also imposed on schools for violation of SOPs. Major educational institutions were strictly following the SOPs as they were taking classes from home online.

HEC gives clarification for approved madaaris

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan has clarified that it will issue equivalence certificates against the Sanad of Shahadatul Aalmiyah awarded by newly approved Madaaris/Boards, provided these students are enrolled after the date of their recognition from Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training. In addition, prior requirements for admission to a certain level should also be fulfilled as per the approved mode of study. HEC has rejected a media report that HEC has refused to accept and equate the Asnad of newly established Madaaris/Boards. The list of all approved individual Madaaris and Wafaq (Boards) along with the date of notifications and details about the mode of study is available on HEC website at <https://hec.gov.pk/english/services/students/Equivalence%20Degree%20Issuance/Pages/Downloads.aspx>.

DC for strict adherence to SOPs

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Hamza Shafiqat Thursday urged the public to strictly adhere to COVID-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs) in the wake of increasing number of infections in the federal capital during the fourth wave of COVID-19. "The prevailing wave of COVID-19 is rapidly spreading that has increased burden on the hospitals," he told journalists here. "COVID-19 is a deadly virus but we can control it just as we controlled it by following the SOPs during the previous wave. We can save precious lives including those of our near and dear ones by taking preventive measures," he asserted. He appealed the masses to wear mask, maintain social distance, wash hands with soap frequently and avoid crowded places. He asked the people to limit gatherings, if necessary than take all precautions by following the SOPs. By demonstrating seriousness towards the situation people could defeat COVID-19, he added. The civic administration, he said was enforcing National Command and Operation Center guidelines in letter and spirit across the city, encouraging people to protect themselves and others from the virus by adhering to the SOPs. To a query, he said the positivity ratio in federal capital was 8 per cent and it would start declining after full vaccination of the capital dwellers.

ECP's objections

THE Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has submitted a document to the Senate Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, in which it has outlined 37 objections against the plan to introduce electronic voting machines (EVMs) for the upcoming general elections. In principle, the idea of using technology to further streamline the process and iron out existing kinks in the system is great and much needed. However, the implementation of such processes on a mass level requires a lot of planning and deliberation; it is encouraging to see that a conversation has started among the key stakeholders on this matter.

One of the core concerns has been surrounding security and how machines could be tampered with, or that the software could be hacked. Just the digitisation of a process does not necessarily make it better compared to the previous one. Concerns relating to security are understandable considering how countries like Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland, Italy and Finland had abandoned the use of EVMs due to a lack of security.

Another issue raised by ECP has been regarding the implementation timeline. The ECP has argued that there is not sufficient time for a large-scale procurement and deployment of EVMs before the next general elections. There are several prerequisites that will need to be factored in before such a technology can be used in such consequential elections. These would include training for machine operators, political consensus among parties and amendments to the constitution, infrastructure development, risk assessments and a disaster recovery plan among others.

The objections raised by ECP certainly hold a lot of weight. This is a big decision which should not be taken in haste without considering the concerns that are being raised by several stakeholders. Perhaps it would be better to pilot such a system multiple times in local elections, address the shortfalls—of which there will be plenty—and then bring it into use for general elections. The ultimate aim is not just the introduction of technology in and of itself, instead, it is ensuring free, fair, credible and transparent elections as per the Constitution.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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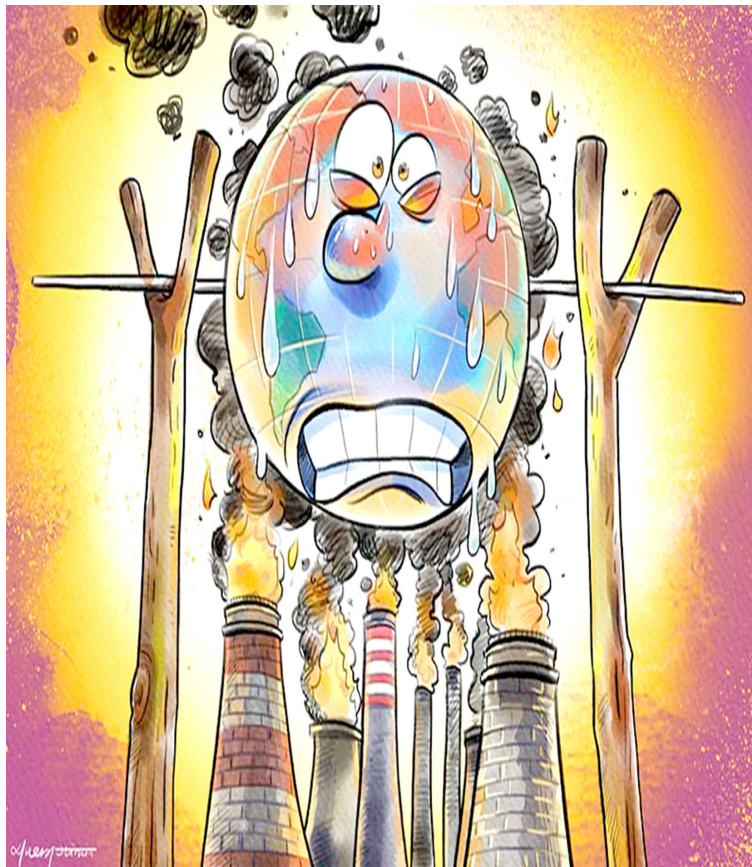
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Red list

BACK in April, the UK chose to keep Pakistan on its red list claiming that the transmission rate was too high to allow intercountry travel. It further promised that the ban would be temporary and would be reassessed keeping in mind the country's progress. Currently, our positivity rate is below 7 percent and vaccinations are being rolled out in millions. One may question then, why are we still on the red list?

According to Minister of Information, Fawad Chaudhry, the federal government has done well in employing a solution to problems like testing, vaccinations and limiting transmission which were stated to be the reasons for why Pakistan was placed on the travel ban. However, it seems as though the UK government may not be satisfied as it promises that another review will determine the fate of the country—a rather arbitrary approach that pushes the issue forward instead of dealing with it head on. Pakistan needs a clear explanation as to why we may be retained on the list again and what exactly is expected from us.

There are attempts by the federal government to ensure that travelling is safe. With the positivity ratio back to single digit figures and the immunisation campaign thriving, the situation seems to be getting better. Additionally, booster shots have also become available for those who want to travel internationally. Rapid testing is available at all airports and only after a thorough process of document verification are individuals allowed to travel.

This is the most that can be done and the UK government must acknowledge that. Given that we maintain recent developments, if not improve upon them, the next review must indicate a green light for travelling between both countries for the sake many in the diaspora that are left stranded.

How 9/11 and war on terror changed the world

Mohamed Chebaro



The lexicon of the era was rife, with talk of a “clash of civilizations” and debates on whether Islam and democracy were compatible. What was supposed to be a short, sharp campaign to root out terror expanded into a full-blown occupation and nation-building endeavor

I was waiting to board a flight at Heathrow Airport in London on Sept. 11, 2001, when I received a call from my editor asking me to change my plans and take the first flight heading to the US, Canada or even Mexico. I succeeded in boarding a flight heading to Canada, but it taxied for hours and then we were deplaned, like many millions of others who had their flights canceled after US airspace was closed due to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

A few days later, I was standing in a queue at a Starbucks in Washington. It was early morning and it was time to scan the newspapers. Two guys standing in the queue behind me asked, “Are you with us or against us?” I hesitated for a fleeting moment, thinking of the sporadic attacks on people who looked Muslim, including black Africans, Indians and Sikhs, that were underway in the US, fueled by an emotional yet ignorant minority's attempt to avenge the 3,000-plus killed in Al-Qaeda's Afghanistan-planned attacks. My reply was swift: “With you, of course, and against all forms of terror.” I took my coffee and settled for work trying to cover the aftermath of the attacks and their impact on the stability and prosperity of the world, not realizing that I was living through dramatic events that would change the world we knew forever.

Days later, I found myself in Munich, joining queues of journalists, adventurers and military veterans boarding a flight to Turkey, then Tajikistan, and from there by land to northern Afghanistan. I was there when carpet bombing and cruise missiles started to strike so-called “terror bases,” Al-Qaeda terror training camps, and Taliban “infrastructure, communication and control assets” to soften the ground ahead of the ground opera-

tion, or invasion, to “weed out Al-Qaeda.”

My first stop en route to Kabul was a dust-beaten little town under the control of the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance forces. It was squeezed into the most northeastern part of the country, sandwiched between Tajikistan, Pakistan and China. For days, we traveled from one front line to another, watching the preparations of so-called warlords, readying rag-tag fighters for a ground assault to dislodge the Taliban and Al-Qaeda. I recall hours and days spent in vehicles crisscrossing the land between outposts, preparing for the push forward and meeting hesitant commanders observing maneuvers of tanks that had no batteries powerful enough to start their aging Soviet engines.

Then a miracle struck in the shape of the appearance of a more professional Afghan fighting force, made up of former refugees in Iran and mainly sporting headbands and banners resembling propaganda diffused by the Iranian revolution. This coincided with news of unmarked helicopters carrying US dollars landing in various provinces, preparing the human assets needed to remove the Taliban. I recall once seeing such flights landing close to where I was filming anti-Taliban armored units not far from Khoja Baha-uddin in Takhar province.

As the front lines started to shift in the battle between “good and evil,” we started our trip south toward Kabul, passing through Taloqan and then Kunduz, Baghlan and Charikar. After negotiating treacherous mountain passes, roads, rivers and even old minefields, we emerged five days later in the famous Panjshir Valley and then entered a Kabul free of Taliban forces, which had retreated

toward Kandahar and Jalalabad, later Tora Bora, where we were told the “evildoers” had taken refuge.

The lexicon of the era was rife, with talk of a “clash of civilizations” and debates on whether Islam and democracy were compatible.

What was supposed to be a short, sharp campaign to root out terror expanded into a full-blown occupation and nation-building endeavor that was cautiously welcomed in the country. Skeptics were sidelined, while those with multi-layered answers to any problem were shut out and easy answers to complex, age-old questions were sought. Attention to history and its precedents were neglected. Fast forward 20 years and the world has learned a lot, but not enough, it seems, to fathom the reason why regime change and nation-building efforts are often frustrated; not only in Afghanistan, but also in Iraq, Libya and maybe Syria and Yemen, to mention just a few countries.

While the talk of an “axis of evil” has waned to try and co-opt Iran into dropping its nuclear ambitions – but not its continued meddling through proxy extremist groups in many countries in the Middle East – the West finds itself trying to contain the fallouts from franchised terrorist violence in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya, with Afghanistan's Daesh-Khorasan an emerging example, leading to waves of migrants everywhere. All this, of course, while trying to weather the changing economic landscape and its shift east toward China, which is getting more assertive politically, and a more aggressively disruptive Russia, which has rendered old methods of international diplomacy and cooperation obsolete.

Courtesy: Arab News

The PAF Hospital

Basharat Khokhar

Over the last 40 years, no government hospital has been established in Islamabad. Though many private hospitals have been established over the past years, but none of them is provided with staff trained well-enough to properly serve the needs of the patients. In contrast, trained under the supervision of armed forces' institutes, PAF Hospital has qualified paramedical and nursing staffs which is the first and foremost requirement in any good hospital for serving the patients efficiently

hospitals round the globe due to these “compulsions”, be it Great Britain's Queen Mary Hospital, Mekkah's Al Noor Hospital, Dubai's American Hospital or Tehran's Imam Zimni Hospital, or some other. However, last week an ailment drove me to a comparatively new hospital recently opened in Islamabad, which happened to be a good experience. This hospital is one newly constructed by Pakistan Air Force, situated in all it's architectural magnificence opposite F-9 Park on Margalla road. It is kept as clean and tidy inside as it is from outside. Constructed in highly modern infrastructure, it is well-equipped with latest digital systems and technical apparatus. Having a well-facilitated emergency section and a dutiful, disciplined and cooperative staff, the hospital is truly a blessing for its' patients.

Over the last 40 years, no government hospital has been established in Islamabad. Though many private hospitals have been established over the past years, but none of them is provided with staff trained well-enough to properly serve the needs of the patients.

In contrast, trained under the supervision of armed forces' institutes, PAF Hospital has a qualified paramedical and nursing staff which is the first and foremost requirement in any good hospital for serving the patients efficiently.

One of the reasons I came to this hospital were the easy route, which is not the case in other hospitals including PIMS where the new traffic rules and signal-free system complicate the way in an emergency situation. In contrast, in case if PAF, even if one comes from Peshawar or opposite way round from Lahore, the route is easy, for there hardly occurs a traffic block on this road. In addition, the high security of PAF gives the patients a sense of protection.

Like CMH and AFIC in Rawalpindi where among the army civilians are also allowed to avail the hospital facilities, here too, civilians are allowed to benefit from the advanced treatment facilities at reasonable charges.

The PAF hospital is actually a teaching hospital and is affiliated with PAF Medical College. For this reason, all the departments of the hospital have expert and well-trained doctors who teach at the medical college as well as stay available 24 hours a day to treat the patients in the hospi-



tal. Not only the army doctors, but other famous, skilled and internationally acknowledged doctors of Islamabad are also hired here to provide the quality treatment to all the patients. These doctors examine the patients at minimum possible fees. With 600 highly advanced patient beds, the hospital initially has Medicine, Surgery, Gynaecology, Dermatology, Paediatric, E.N.T., Eye, Psychiatry, Dental, Orthopaedic, Neurology and Cardiac departments. In the hospital, recently a successful knee and brain surgery took place. Besides, there's also a department of plastic surgery, where along with the traditional medical procedures, the treatment of obesity by weight reduction is also introduced.

As per my own experience in the hospital, I went for treatment and got admitted in the hospital several times, and it is fairly just to say that the establishment of this hospital has provided the citizens of the Capital with a hospital of international standards, at the best and aptly peaceful location of the city. This hospital is truly a blessing for the citizens of Islamabad who earlier had to visit the army doctors in the far corner of Rawalpindi, passing through the heavy traffic. For now, they have the accessibility to the expert army doctors at a few minutes' drive. A reason for this trust

and reliance on army doctors is their availability, for in army hospitals there are no strikes like the government hospitals, and the doctors and all the staff is readily available to serve the patients.

Last but not the least, diseases and ailments are a part of life. Though healing and cure to them depends upon the will of Allah, however treatment is a compulsion and a way for applying this will of Allah through the doctor's treatment and the medicines. I myself have many ailments and for this reason, I stay in search of some hospital providing good medical treatment at least charges. With PAF hospital, my this search has come to an end and as per my experience so far, it is the best of all the hospitals of Islamabad. Only a patient can understand the needs of the other patients. So by sharing my experiences through these lines, I wanted to bring the excellence and expertise of PAF hospital to the knowledge of all the citizens of the capital, so that they might be able to avail the treatment facilities at minimum rates, with satisfaction that they are in safe hands and being taken care of in the best possible way. In the end, I would like to invite you all to pay a visit to this hospital next time when needed, I assure that you will opt it for the medication without a second thought.

HOSPITALS are a place where no one pays a visit by deliberate wish or desire, instead, it is necessitation, for example illness, that forces the people to visit a hospital for medication. Today's human is burdened with these “compulsions”. The growing amount of ailments has made hospitals a basic need for maintenance of life. I was made to visit various

Briefs

Fire alarms sound at International Space Station

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: The crew of the Russian segment of the International Space Station (ISS) have reported smoke and the smell of burned plastic as fire and smoke alarms went off. Russia's space agency Roscosmos said the incident took place at 01:55 GMT on Thursday in the Russian-built Zvezda module as the station's batteries were being recharged.

According to Roscosmos, the crew activated air filters and returned back to their "night rest" once the air quality was back to normal. The crew will proceed with a spacewalk scheduled for Thursday as planned, the agency noted.

The incident is the latest in a string of problems that have raised safety concerns over conditions in the Russian segment.

"A smoke detector was triggered in the Zvezda service module of the Russian segment of the International Space Station during automatic battery charging, and an alarm went off," Roscosmos said in a statement.

French astronaut Thomas Pesquet said "the smell of burning plastic or electronic equipment" wafted to the US segment of the station, Russian state news agency RIA Novosti reported, citing a NASA broadcast.

Machines not missiles at North Korea parade

SEOUL: North Korea put tractor-towed artillery, fire engines and health personnel in orange hazmat suits on show at a parade in Pyongyang early Thursday, rather than the more usual tanks and ballistic missiles. Pyongyang has continued to pursue its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes - for which it is internationally sanctioned - during the diplomatic engagement of recent years and often uses military parades to show off its latest developments. At the last one in January - days before Joe Biden's inauguration as US president - submarine-launched ballistic missiles rolled through Kim Il Sung Square in front of a grinning Kim Jong Un, with the official KCNA news agency describing them as the "world's most powerful weapon".

But Thursday's "paramilitary and public security forces" event was significantly less assertive, including detachments from the railways ministry, Air Koryo and the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex, according to KCNA. - APP

Mirziyoyev presents election program

DNA

TASHKENT: President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev presented the election program "Strategy of New Uzbekistan". The strategy was presented at the X Congress of the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan's largest political party has approved the nomination of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev as its candidate for the October 24 presidential election - a formality since no serious opponents will be in the running. The Liberal Democratic Party, or UzLiDeP, approved the candidacy at an extraordinary plenum of its central council on September 9. "The delegates at the congress unanimously supported the proposal ... to nominate Shavkat Mirziyoyev as a presidential candidate," an UzLiDeP spokesman said. Mirziyoyev won the election with 90 percent of the vote in 2016 and is likely to romp to a similarly comfortable victory on this occasion, despite the economic hardships caused by COVID-19. Among the main directions of the program are the preservation of peace, the strengthening of friendship and harmony in society, the protection of the rights and freedoms of all residents, regardless of nation, language and religion, poverty reduction, social protection of the needy and others.

Pakistan keen to strengthen ties with Egypt: Amb. Sajid

Ambassador expressed these views at a seminar titled 'Pakistan's Engagement with Africa - the Continent of the Future', held in the Egypt's capital Cairo. The event organized by embassy of Pakistan in Cairo marked the 'Pakistan-Egypt Friendship Day'



DNA

CAIRO: To boost its engagement with African region, Pakistan is keen to consolidate ties with Egypt in areas of mutual interest particularly politics, economics, commerce and defence. Pakistan's ambassador to Egypt Ambassador Sajid Bilal expressed these views at a seminar titled 'Pakistan's Engagement with Africa - the Continent of the Future', held in the Egypt's capital Cairo. The event organized by embassy of Pakistan in Cairo marked the 'Pakistan-Egypt Friend-

ship Day' that gathered speakers from the Egyptian government, the Egyptian Federation of Chambers of Commerce (FEDCOC) and the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Cairo and the think-tank community, says a message received here from Cairo. Ambassador Bilal underlined the progress made in strengthening Pakistan's bilateral relations with Egypt as part of the government's Engage Africa policy. He highlighted Pakistan's shifting focus from geo-politics to geo-economics. "The new Pakistan offers itself as a melting pot for positive global interests by providing enhanced connectivity and economic bases

as development strategy," he stressed. The video message of Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi was screened at the occasion dilating upon the Engage Africa Policy. The embassy's Trade and Investment Attaché, in her presentation, highlighted trade and investment potential of Pakistan as well as the business-friendly initiatives and reforms undertaken by the present government. The panelists shared their perspectives about Pakistan's 'Engage Africa' Policy and Pakistan-Egypt bilateral relations with particular focus on the available win-win trade

and investment opportunities. The Assistant Foreign Minister for African Organizations and Communities, in her remarks welcomed the timely initiative of the Embassy to hold the seminar on Africa, as the Continent is poised to provide opportunities for economic cooperation and investment. The students of the Pakistan International School in Cairo performed on Pakistani and Egyptian music, followed by a luncheon. A cross-section of Egyptian society representing the government, think tanks, academia, journalists, businessmen, civil society and the diplomats attended the event.



Pak exports to China register 109% YoY growth

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's exports to China shot up to \$197.27 million in August 2021 against \$94.4 million in August 2020, Gwadar Pro reported.

According to the statistics shared by Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan's exports to China grew by 109% on year-over-year basis. It said that China had become the second largest exports destination for Pakistan.

During the month, Pakistan saw exports growth to the U.S., UK, Holland, Germany and Spain as well, but exports to China registered the highest growth. Exports to the U.S. and Spain grew by 60% each, while Holland imported 46% more goods and services from Pakistan during the period.

Pakistan's exports to China are steadily going up after Beijing granted several concessions to Islamabad under the upgraded Free Trade Agreement (FTA-II), effective since January 1, 2020. Under FTA-II, China eliminated tariffs on 313 major export items from Pakistan. Impact of the upgraded FTA between the two Iron Brothers is evident from the fact that Pakistan's exports to China are continuously surging despite the pandemic.

Transport system in Tashkent to be revised

WEB NEWS

TASHKENT: The public transport system in Tashkent will be radically revised. This was stated by the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, speaking at a session of the UzLiDeP party in Tashkent. In addition, 3,000 kilometers of internal roads will be modernized and 10 modern bridges will be built, he said. According to him, the sewage system of Tashkent will be moved out of the city, and a new sewage treatment plant will be built on the basis of a public-private partnership.

In the next five years, a phased implementation of the project for the construction of a new city of Tashkent will be launched. The national project "Green Space" will be implemented throughout the country. At least 200 million seedlings are planted in the regions annually.

In addition, "green gardens" will be built on at least 50 hectares in the Republic of Karakalpakstan and regional centers.

In addition, public parks will be created in cities and regional centers for every 50-100 thousand people.

NZ reports 13 new cases of Covid Delta variant

WELLINGTON: New Zealand reported 13 new community cases of Delta variant of COVID-19 on Thursday, all in the largest city Auckland, which brought the total number of cases in the country's community outbreak to 868.

Of the current community cases, 31 cases are in hospital, including five cases in intensive care units (ICUs) or high dependency units (HDUs), Director-General of Health Ashley Bloomfield told a press conference.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said more than a quarter of a million additional doses of the Pfizer vaccine are on their way from Spain to New Zealand. The additional doses will arrive in Auckland on Friday to help meet the current surge in demand for vaccination. "We're vaccinating well ahead of plan and these additional vaccines will ensure we can continue to ramp up our vaccination program," Ardern said, adding that the Spanish shipment is in addition to New Zealand's regular weekly delivery from Pfizer vaccine which is also expected this weekend.

The prime minister said the government is expected to make a further announcement about an agreement to buy additional Pfizer vaccines from a second country next week. - APP

Pakistan pavilion opens in China

NANNING: Pakistan Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque on Thursday formally inaugurated the Pakistan Pavilion established at the China-Singapore Nanning International Logistic Park to promote Pakistani products in China and other ASEAN countries. Speaking at the plaque unveiling ceremony, the ambassador said that the pavilion would play a key role in promoting the trade ties between China and other ASEAN countries.

He said that Pakistan is participating in Chi-

na-ASEAN Expo as a special partner country for the second time which is indeed an honour. "Pakistan and China are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations this year and both countries are organizing different events to further promote their bilateral relations and friendship," he added. About the China-ASEAN Expo scheduled to start on Friday, he said that it has a great importance as it is one of three premier expos in China. - DNA



MECCA: Chairman Senate, Sadiq Sanjrani performing umrah along with his delegation. - DNA

Baku slams Armenia's damages on Azerbaijan's infrastructure

DNA

BAKU: Baku has slammed serious destructive damages that Armenia has inflicted on Azerbaijan's education infrastructure over 30 years of its aggression and urged Yerevan to investigate respective war crimes by Armenian troops. On September 9, the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry made the remarks in a statement on the International Day to Protect Education from Attacks. "More than one thousand educational facilities, including kindergartens, were totally destroyed. Hundreds of thou-

sands of Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced children were only able to realize their right to education under the shadow of serious challenges and danger stemming from Armenia's military aggression," the statement said. The ministry underlined that Armenia indiscriminately attacked educational institutions in Azerbaijan, leaving schoolchildren and education personnel under great threat.

Thus, during the last year's 44-day Second Karabakh War, 54 schools were damaged or destroyed, 10 students, aged 6-15 years, were killed and 16 students were

injured as a result of Armenia's grave violations of international humanitarian law norms and deliberate targeting of schools. Moreover, the ministry emphasized that Azerbaijan, being party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, as well as to the 1949 Geneva Conventions for the Protection of War Victims, has strongly and consistently supported international efforts aimed at ensuring effective protection for the rights of children and improving the situation of children affected by armed conflicts. "As we move for-

ward from the conflict, Azerbaijan is focused on ensuring that all of our children can enjoy their education and reach their potential in safety. We are working to rebuild the damaged schools in the liberated territories," the statement said.

"As we join the international community in marking September 9 as the International Day to Protect Education from Attack, it is important that we do not forget Armenia's responsibility for war crimes it committed with regard to Azerbaijani schoolchildren and the importance of respecting the right of children to receive an education safely," the ministry added.



VIENNA: Shazia Atta Marri, MNA of Pakistan presenting traditional Sindhi Ajrak to the IPU President Duarte Pacheco at the First Global Parliamentary Summit on Counter-Terrorism being co-hosted by IPU and Austrian Parliament. - DNA

Pak envoy hopes Taliban will uphold their vows

"If we are unable to win the peace in Afghanistan, frankly, it will be everyone's loss, and that's what we are working for," he said

WASHINGTON: Pakistan does not want to see the Taliban-ruled Afghanistan to act as a safe haven for terrorists, and will remain a key partner in the U.S. counterterrorism campaign, Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan said in an interview with The Washington Times published Thursday. "We are on the same side in Afghanistan," the Pakistani ambassador told the conservative newspaper. Given the "complex" dynamics in Kabul as the Taliban consolidate power and attempt to govern, he said, the world should give the Taliban a chance to uphold their leaders' vows to reject terrorism and respect basic rights. "What we hear very loudly and clearly is the repeated commitments that [Taliban leaders] have made of not allowing the Afghan territory to be used against any country by any terrorist group," the ambassador said. During the wide-ranging discussion on Wednesday, Times' correspondent Guy Taylor said that Ambassador Khan sought to downplay the notion that the Taliban takeover in Kabul amounts to a strategic win for Pakistan.

He said reports that Pakistani military forces deployed to neighboring Afghanistan to help the Taliban seize the country and that Pakistani military aircraft have assisted the militants in battling anti-Taliban holdouts north of Kabul are "bogus" and "laughable." Asked about the recent meeting in Kabul between Lt. Gen. Faiz Hameed, Director General of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), and Taliban leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Pakistani envoy said it was no less normal than the reported meeting last month in Kabul between CIA Director William Burns and Mullah Baradar. Pakistan was taken aback at how quickly the U.S.-backed government in Kabul fell to the Taliban, though the ambassador said "even the Taliban were surprised." But, he said any characterization of the group as a proxy for Pakistan would be inaccurate and "unfortunate." He pushed back against regional experts' claims that Pakistan has carefully played both sides of the war in Afghanistan to protect its own interests, saying the risks of blowback to Islamabad's interests and alliances are too great to have embraced



such a strategy. With Afghanistan's future deeply uncertain, the developments unfolding in Kabul are "not really a question of anyone's victory or anyone's loss." "If we are unable to win the peace in Afghanistan, frankly, it will be everyone's loss, and that's what we are working for," he said. "Victories, frankly, in Afghanistan can be temporary and transient if history is to be learned from, and therefore, I think it is only important that there is an inclusive government which represents the diversity of Afghanistan, and I'm sure Taliban are also mindful of that."

"If things unravel, it will be a loss for everyone. It will be foremost a loss for the people of Afghanistan," Ambassador Khan said. "A civil war will result in refugee outflows. It will be a loss for the region. And they are not going to just stay in the region. It's going to spread all across. So it's really not our or somebody else's victory or loss. It's really a question of whether we are able to put the conflict to an end, whether we are able to achieve peace in Afghanistan." How the U.S.-Pakistani relationship will be affected will depend on developments in Afghanistan, the ambassador said. Ambassador Khan told The Times that Islamabad is eager to enhance its "counterterrorism relationship" with Washington. "This has always been a key pillar," he said. "We have worked together in combating the terrorism threat, and there still are threats that we perceive as common threats, and we will continue to work together with the United States in combating those threats." With regard to Afghanistan, he said, "I think the U.S.-Pakistan interests are clearly aligned." "I am inclined to believe that the

United States wants to see peace in Afghanistan. We certainly want to see peace in Afghanistan. The U.S. doesn't want Afghanistan to act as a safe haven for terrorists," the ambassador said. "We definitely don't want to see Afghanistan act as a safe haven for terrorists." "The U.S. certainly wants to make it easier for the people of Afghanistan in terms of preserving the gains that have been made, in terms of the social progress that Afghanistan has made. We also would like the Afghan society to preserve the gains that they have made. We would also not like to see the situation in Afghanistan turn into a civil war or fall apart and avoid a refugee crisis. I think the United States has the same position on that." Beyond security, he said, the U.S. is Pakistan's largest export destination, is one of the top foreign investors in Pakistan and is the third-largest source of remittances to Pakistan. "The U.S. [also] is home to a very vibrant and influential Pakistani-American diaspora, and then, our military links, our educational links, our cultural links ... all these are very, very important contributors to why we should have a strong and close partnership with the United States." - APP

Briefs

Nawaz Sharif returning back this year: Javed

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader Javed Latif on Thursday said that Nawaz Sharif coming back to Pakistan and he will return this year. Latif, a PML-N MNA, was talking to media after visiting to the Joint Investigation Team of the NAB for a graft inquiry. "Those who had brought him third time, will allow Nawaz Sharif to be elected prime minister for the fourth time," Javed Latif said. "Those who had expelled him from government knowing that only he can guide the country out of the dire straits," PML-N leader said. Talking about his two-hour long visit for the National Accountability Bureau investigation, Latif said that his family has been in business since 1950. "Mian Flour Mills was being run by my family before my election as a member of the district council," he said. "How I misused my authority as a member," he questioned. "Same questions being asked today that were inquired earlier in year 2000," he said. "Didn't commit any wrongdoing. Facing this inquiry for last three years," he said. "An impression has been created that the People's Party being brought (to the corridors of power). We won't object if Bilawal comes into power with popular vote," Javed Latif said.

Suspects demand in-camera hearing in Noor case

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: An Islamabad court resumed on Thursday the hearing of the high-profile Noor Mukadam murder case. Prime suspect Zahir Jaffer, his parents and three others appeared before District and Sessions Judge Atta Rabbani. The court directed all the suspects, including Zahir Jaffer and his parents as well as Therapy Works CEO and five his employees, who are out on bail, to appear on next hearing on Sept 23 when they will provided copies of the case challan. The judge ruled that copies of the charge-sheet will be provided once all the suspects are in attendance. Advocate Raja Rizwan Abbasi informed the court that he would move a plea seeking an in-camera hearing of the case, to which the judge remarked that he would decide it as per law after it is filed. Zahir Jaffer has been found guilty in the case challan with his parents and Therapy Works CEO and employees as accomplices. 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.

'Pakistan had proposed UN intervention in Afghanistan'

ISLAMABAD: After 9/11, Pakistan had proposed an intervention by the United Nations in the conflict-hit Afghanistan instead of a military initiative to save the region from chaos, the former chief of Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) has said. "We proposed to the US administration at the highest level - the President, the Secretary of State, the director of the CIA and other US leaders - that there should be a UN intervention in Afghanistan," General (ret'd) Ehsan ul Haq said in an interview with Arab News published at its website on Thursday. General Ehsan ul Haq became director-general of the ISI in October 2001, just weeks after the attacks against the US. In early November 2001, soon after NATO forces entered Afghanistan, Pakistan mounted a little-known diplomatic effort to rescue the region from chaos and the Taliban from self-destruction, with the assistance of Saudi Arabia. - APP

Pakistan to do trade with Afghanistan in Pak Rupee

Finance minister says it would take a few weeks for Pakistan to know the effects of trade with the landlocked country

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance Shaukat Tarin said on Thursday that the government had decided that trade with Afghanistan would be done in Pakistani Rupee. Briefing Senate's Committee on Finance, which met in Islamabad with Senator Talha Mehmood in the chair, he said that situation in Afghanistan was being monitored on a daily basis, and Pakistan might send its team to the country to help the Taliban stabilise the economy which had suffered a major blow following international monetary organisations withheld the country's \$9 billion and also froze its financial assets. He said it would take a few weeks for Pakistan to know the effects of trade with the landlocked country. He further said the government planned to take the country's GDP growth which was currently 4 per cent to 4.8 per cent in the ongoing financial year (FY). Tarin said that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) had stopped issuing notices to the tax defaulters. "We have the record of over 15 million people who could pay sales tax," he said, adding that their data had been obtained from NADRA. "They will receive a message on their cellphones. If they reply to it, it will be ok. Otherwise, action will be taken against them," he disclosed.

Indian hackers attacked FBR data centre, Tarin tells Senate body

ISLAMABAD: Federal Finance Minister on Thursday disclosed to a Senate body about a cyber attack that brought down the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) data centre. In a hearing of the Senate Committee on Finance, Shaukat Tarin said that the FBR system was hacked for seven days by a group of Indian hackers. Finance Minister said that the Indian cyber attackers had also hacked the FBR's data centre in year 2019. "Those needed to be punished for hacking of the system have already been punished," the minister said. "The IT system of the FBR being upgraded to counter any future attack," he said. It is to be mentioned here that the cyber attack on Pakistan's largest data centre run by the FBR, took place on August 14- the independence day of the country. The FBR submitted a report on the cyber attack based on technical inputs and initial findings to the finance minister. The hackers managed to bring down all the official websites operated by the tax machinery. - DNA

He claimed that the country's economy was improving which would further increase the growth rate. He, however, admitted that the country's import bill witnessed an increase in August. "There is a monthly review of the country's overall economic situation, including its imports and exports," he said, and added that the governments in the past used to turn to international money lending organisations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) because the economy in their times was not growing at a reasonable pace. He informed the

Senate body that Pakistan's trade deficit stood at \$4 billion. When he was reminded by the committee chairman that when he had taken over as the finance minister, the dollar rate was Rs153, which now had soared to Rs169, Tarin replied that the Exchange Rate was currently in the same position it was supposed to be. He informed that Kamyab Pakistan Programme would soon be launched. "We will launch the programme for the country's poor. Earlier, the IMF had raised objections to it. Therefore, the programme, for the time being, will kick off in Khyber Pa-

khtunkhwa and Balochistan only and will expand to the other parts of the country later," he said. Tarin was of the view that Pak Rupee's depreciation in 2018-19 took its toll on the economy. "Presently, the inflation rate is 8.4 per cent while the food inflation stands at 10.50 per cent," he said, and added, "The prices of food items is our biggest concern. There are times when prices of food items go up in the entire world. And we are passing through the same phase, and will control it." The finance minister said that ghee prices registered an increase of 90 per cent during the last year while pulses 40 to 50 per cent. "These are the items which we import from other countries," he clarified. He said it was the government's endeavor to give relief to the consumers in petroleum products' price under the head of the levy. He further said that the government would eliminate the 'middle man's role in order to control inflation. Tarin revealed that Indians had hacked the FBR's website recently. "They had done the same thing in 2019," he said, and added, "Therefore, the department's IT system is being updated." The minister said the government was reviewing the situation in Afghanistan on a daily basis and Pakistan might send its people to the country to help the Taliban government stabilise the economic situation.

Covid-19 infects 4,062 more people

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases was recorded 91,589 one of the highest during fourth wave of pandemic on Thursday with 4,062 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 4,136 people recovering from the disease during the last 24 hours. Eighty-four corona patients have died during past 24 hours, 80 of whom were under treatment in the hospitals and four of them perished in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCCO). Most of the deaths occurred in Sindh followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Out of the total 84 deaths occurred, 38 of them died were under treatment on ventilators.

Special passport for Expo Dubai launched

ISLAMABAD: A special passport for Expo 2020 Dubai was launched on Thursday to help visitors 'travel' around the world and explore over 200 participating pavilions. Priced at Dh20, the passport is now available for purchase. The mega event will begin its six-month run in just over 20 days. The passport will help visitors see as many pavilions as possible during the 182-day event. It will allow them to look back and relive the memories of their experiences. The special passport was first launched at the 1967 World Expo in Montreal. Since then, it has become one of the most popular Expo souvenirs for visitors as it gets a stamp from every pavilion they visit, Khaleej Times reported. "The Expo 2020 version (of the passport) is inspired by the UAE's heritage, linking the past with the present. Shaped like an official passport, the 50-page booklet contains designs and pictures of the three Thematic Pavilions (Mission Possible - The Opportunity Pavilion, Alif - The Mobility Pavilion and Terra - The Sustainability Pavilion), as well as Al Wasl Plaza - the crown jewel of the Expo site - plus other Dubai landmarks, such as the city's iconic skyline, and other elements relating to the UAE," the Expo team said. - APP



KABUL: Pakistan's ambassador to Afghanistan Mansoor Ahmed Khan handing over humanitarian assistance to Taliban representatives, at the Kabul airport. It was first tranche of the assistance sent by Pakistan for Afghan brothers and sisters. - DNA

China extends \$31 million in emergency aid to Afghanistan

China would also provide 3m vaccine doses to the country

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: China has pledged 200 million yuan (\$31m) worth of aid to Afghanistan, including food supplies and coronavirus vaccines. The aid comes as Beijing said it was ready to maintain communication with the Taliban government. It added that the establishment of the new interim government was a "necessary step to restore order" in Afghanistan. The Taliban's interim cabinet was announced last week, with the country declared an "Islamic Emirate". China has been quick to step in. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi announced the aid measures for Afghanistan at a meeting, with counterparts from several of Afghanistan's neighbours - Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and

PAF airlifts relief goods to Kabul

KABUL: A C-130 aircraft of Pakistan Air Force landed at Afghanistan's capital Kabul on Thursday, carrying relief goods for the people of the country. Pakistan's ambassador to Afghanistan Mansoor Ahmed Khan received the humanitarian supplies at the Hamid Karzai International Airport and handed over to the Afghan officials. Talking to media, the ambassador said the relief goods included around 10 ton of flour, 1.5 ton of ghee and a huge quantity of emergency medicine. "With first such flight, this is just a beginning of the humanitarian assistance for the people of Afghanistan, as more would be carried out in coming days," he said. Pakistan's ambassador to Afghanistan Mansoor Ahmed Khan speaks to media after handing over relief goods to the Afghan officials, at Hamid Karzai International Airport on Thursday. Khan said two more C-130 flights carrying relief goods would be arranged for Kandahar and Khost on Friday and Saturday, respectively. - DNA

Turkmenistan. He called on these countries to cooperate in helping Afghanistan, adding that China would also provide 3 million vaccine doses to the country. China has also been vocally critical about the US' withdrawal, saying its troops had "wrecked havoc" in Afghanistan. A state official said the US had inflicted "serious damage on the Afghan people from the very first day of its invasion to the last minute of its withdrawal". At the virtual meeting, Wang also said that the US and its allies were duty-bound to help Afghanistan, following the withdrawal of American troops. "The common view of the international community is that the end of military intervention by the US and its allies should be the beginning of them assuming their responsibilities," Wang said.

No decision on 1st woman SC judge

ZUBAIR AHMAD

KARACHI: Justice Ayesha Malik of the Lahore High Court (LHC) was not appointed as Supreme Court Judge as Judicial Commission Pakistan (JC) meeting could not agree on her name. The Judicial Commission Pakistan (JCP) meeting on Thursday ended without a

decision on Justice Ayesha Malik's appointment to the Supreme Court. If the JCP had endorsed, Justice Malik would have been the first woman Supreme Court judge in Pakistan. The Judicial Commission Pakistan meeting faced a stalemate as there was no agreement on Justice Ayesha's appointment to the apex court, sources said.

Three Rear Admirals of Pakistan Navy promoted



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Three Rear Admirals of Pakistan Navy have been promoted to the rank of Vice Admiral.

Those promoted include Vice Admiral Imran Ahmad, Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf and Vice Admiral Awais Ahmad Bilgrami. They have a vast experience of serving at various command and staff positions.

Tajikistan will accept an inclusive Afghan govt: FM Sirojiddin

Muhriddin also touched upon the ongoing fighting in Panjshir and said that the Taliban used aircraft in attacks on this province with the help of third countries, killing a large number of ethnic Tajiks

DNA

TASHKENT: Tajik Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Muhriddin, speaking at a virtual meeting dedicated to Afghanistan, said that Dushanbe will accept only an inclusive government in this country, Sputnik Tajikistan news agency reports today, September 9. Sirojiddin Muhriddin stressed that Tajikistan will support only the government, which will include all ethnic groups, including the Tajiks of Afghanistan. "The world community has not been able to restore order in Afghanistan for 20 years and has left tens of thousands of terrorists in this country as



H.E. SIROJIDDIN MUHRIDDIN

a "legacy". This country has become a hotbed of chaos. What should Tajikistan, which has a long and vulnerable border with this country, do in this situation?" the Foreign Minister added. In his speech, Sirojiddin Muhriddin also touched upon the ongoing fight-

ing in Panjshir and said that the Taliban used aircraft in attacks on this province with the help of third countries, killing a large number of ethnic Tajiks. In this regard, I call on the international community to influence the Taliban and help find a political solution to the current crisis," the Tajik minister said. The online meeting was initiated by the United States and Germany. It was attended by the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Bahrain, Canada, France, India, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Turkey, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, as well as the leaders of the EU, NATO and the United Nations.

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