



# Islamabad POST

Monday, September 20, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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### 2023 polls only after electoral reforms

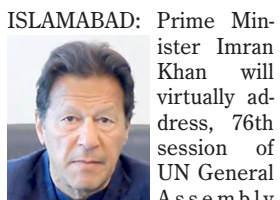
Detailed News On Page-08



## Briefs

### PM to virtually address UNGA

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan will virtually address, 76th session of UN General Assembly (UNGA), the world's biggest diplomatic gathering, on September 24.

Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN, Munir Akram said Pakistan will actively participate in the General Assembly session. It is pertinent to mention that the UNGA's session will be held in hybrid mode, starting Tuesday in New York.

Afghanistan, climate change and coronavirus crises will dominate discussions at the high-level debate, in which a large number of world leaders are set to participate in person and virtually.

### Govt to amend constitution for EVMs

NEWSHERA: Minister for Defence, Pervez Khattak has said that Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf government would bring constitutional amendment to ensure the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) for transparency and impartiality in the general elections of 2023.

Addressing a reception hosted to celebrate victory in recently held Cantonment Board elections in Nowshera, he said the opposition parties have been exposed before the people as they did nothing except looting and plundering of the national exchequer.

### ECP should 'punish' ministers

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: PML-N spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb called for the ECP to "punish" federal ministers speaking out against it. She said that the ministers are "blackmailing ECP on the orders of Prime Minister Imran Khan", adding that pressure is being mounted on the institution so that a favourable ruling can be obtained in the "illegal foreign funding case" against the PTI.

## Submarine Deal

# 'Australia, US lying over security pact'

### French Foreign Minister Darian accuses both countries of duplicity, a major breach of trust and contempt

NEWS DESK/DNA

PARIS: France's foreign minister has accused Australia and the US of lying over a new security pact that prompted Paris to recall its ambassadors. Jean-Yves Le Drian also accused the countries of "duplicity, a major breach of trust and contempt". The pact, known as Aukus, thwarted a multibillion-dollar deal France had signed with Australia. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said he had acted in the country's national interests. He insisted the French government "would have had every reason to know that we had deep and grave concerns" that the \$37bn (£27bn) deal signed in 2016 - for France to build 12 conventional submarines - "was not going to meet our strategic interests". "Of course it's a matter of great disappointment to the French government, so I understand their disappointment," he said. "But at the same time, Australia like any sovereign nation must always take decisions that are in our sovereign national defence interest." The Aukus agreement - which also includes the UK - will see Australia being given the technology to build nuclear-powered submarines as a way of countering China's influence in the contested South China Sea.

"The fact that for the first time in the history of relations between the United States and France we are recalling our ambassador for consultations is a serious political act, which shows the magnitude of the crisis that exists now between our countries," he

## UK FS defends agreement

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Newly appointed UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss defended the agreement in an article for The Sunday Telegraph, saying it showed Britain's readiness to be "hard-headed" in defence of its interests. The pact means Australia will become just the seventh nation in the world to operate nuclear-powered submarines. It will also see the allies share cyber capabilities, artificial intelligence and other undersea technologies. As he left Canberra on Saturday, French Ambassador Jean-Pierre Thebault called Australia's decision to unilaterally scrap the deal a "huge mistake". China meanwhile has accused the three powers involved in the security pact of having a "Cold War mentality". A White House official has said the Biden administration will engage with France in the coming days to resolve their differences.

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## Malaysia raises concerns over Nuclear subs deal

### Australian Prime Minister called Malaysian Prime Minister and told about the submarine deal with the US: Senior Malaysian Minister

NEWS DESK

KUALUMPUR: The Senior Minister of Defence of Malaysia has said that Prime Minister of Malaysia received a phone call from his Australian counterpart, informing Malaysia on the newly formed trilateral partnership between Australia - United Kingdom - United States known as AUKUS. One of the initiatives under this partnership is the acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines by Australia. 'I share YAB Prime Minister's concerns regarding this new development as the addition of nuclear-powered submarines and warships especially in the South China Sea could disrupt the peace and stability in the



Southeast Asia region'. All parties must refrain from using military actions deemed provocative that could potentially escalate tension and spark conflict in the area.

As a member of ASEAN, Malaysia will always stand with our principle to maintain the Southeast Asia region as a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN). Malaysia also reiterates its unwavering position with the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free

Continued on Page 06

## German envoy lauds Pak role for Afghan peace

### The ambassador expressed confidence that Islamabad would continue playing a very constructive role in Afghanistan in future



ISLAMABAD: Germany has appreciated the positive role played by Pakistan in bringing about the Doha Process for stability, peace and prosperity in Afghanistan. In an exclusive interview with Radio Pakistan, German ambassador to Pakistan Bernhard Schlagheck said it has been acknowledged by the United States, the world community and Germany also recognizes this very positive role of Pakistan, said a press release issued on Sunday. The ambassador expressed confidence that Islamabad would continue playing a very constructive role in Afghanistan in future. He said that the government of Pakistan and armed forces were quite engaged in trying to convince Taliban to bring about an inclusive government in Afghanistan, adding that Pakistan was aware of its potential importance and role in the whole of region. The German envoy said an inclusive government in Kabul was critical for peace and

stability of that country. To a question about role of Afghanistan's neighbours, the German ambassador said none of them wanted instability in Afghanistan as it was a recipe of political disaster. There was a genuine understanding that peace and stability in Afghanistan was of vital interest to the region, Schlagheck remarked. On terrorism, the German Ambassador said the menace emanating from Afghanistan and spreading to region was of very much importance. When asked about the recent visit of German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas to Pakistan, he said the visit was focused on bilateral relations and the evolving regional situation, including Afghanistan. Schlagheck said Afghanistan was one of the major issues of discussion in meetings of the German Foreign Minister with

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ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Switzerland Bénédict de Cerjat visited Faisal Mosque and interacted with the students. He visited various parts of the mosque. He also met with the scholars. - DNA

## France calls off meeting with Swiss president

### Bern's decides to purchase US, not French jets

GENEVA: A long-planned meeting between the Swiss president and his counterpart in Paris has been called off due to French anger about Bern's decision to purchase US, not French, fighter jets, media reported

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## Involvement in Punjshir fight Claims of involvement of Pakistan are false

DNA

### Blast targets Taliban truck

PANJSHER: The claims regarding the involvement of Pakistan in Afghanistan's Panjshir fight are false. According to an article published by The New York Times, a widely shared video claiming Pakistani

KABUL: A pickup truck carrying Taliban fighters was the target of a bomb in the Afghan city of Jalalabad Sunday, local media reported, a day after at least two people were killed in a series of blasts. Witnesses told media that several wounded Taliban fighters were taken to hospital, which one journalist said happened near an interchange for transport to and from the capital. - APP

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# Encourage your child to read... start with a newspaper

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## 25<sup>th</sup> September

### National Newspaper Readership Day

Read a Newspaper today and every day





Admin for provision of washrooms at fuel stations

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Gulzar Hussain Shah has directed the Deputy Commissioners of the Division to ensure provision of neat and clean washrooms at all the petrol pumps. The Commissioner instructed the DCs to ask the owners of the petrol pumps particularly of national highways, main district and tehsil roads to ensure provision of clean washrooms at petrol pumps. He said that the existence of separate washrooms for men and women is essential for all the petrol pumps and it should be clearly written on all petrol pumps that separate washroom facility is available for men and women. In addition to cleaning the washrooms, the availability of the air fresheners should also be ensured to facilitate the customers.

Police Officers check security of Churches

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Division Superintendents of Police (SPs), SDPOs and SHOs on Sunday checked security of the Churches in their respective areas. According to a police spokesman, Rawalpindi District Police on the directives of City Police Officer, Rawalpindi Muhammad Ahsan Younas have enhanced security at Churches. The police officers also briefed the police personnel deployed there. He informed that Rawalpindi District police made tight security arrangements to ensure security of the Christian community at Churches. The cops were also directed to ensure implementation of Corona Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for protection of the citizens. Police Officers said that all possible precautionary measures should be adopted to contain spread of the coronavirus.

255,000 youngsters to be vaccinated in RWP

RAWALPINDI: As many as 255,000 youngsters in the age group of 15 to 17 years would be jabbed against the coronavirus from Monday. District Health Officer for communicable diseases Dr. Waqar Ahmed while talking to APP said that an effective micro plan has been devised to cover the maximum number of young people under the drive. He informed that under the campaign around 131,000 students enrolled at 192 schools and colleges across the district would be given anti-covid doses in order to protect them from this virus while the remaining 124,000 youngsters aged between 15 to 17 years would get themselves vaccinated at the 26 vaccination centers operating in the district. Dr. Waqar said the district health authority has constituted 18 teams which would visit the educational institutions twice to complete the task of immunization as government had allowed only 50 percent attendance at schools and colleges. The health official informed that "Free of cost Pfizer vaccine will be given to teenagers while Form-B of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) would be mandatory for jobs," he added. He asked the youngsters to send their Form-B number on 1166 through SMS and get their registration number for vaccination. He said adolescents would be able to get vaccination certificates from Nadra's website just like people with computerized national identity cards (CNICs). - APP

PTA refutes 'major' DDOs attack

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has refuted reports that Pakistan suffered a major distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack Saturday night. "It was reported on social media that last night Pakistan suffered a major DDoS attack on national level which affected internet services," the telecommunication regulator said in a post on its official Twitter handle. "Such reports are incorrect and no evidence was found. Users are requested not to spread such unverified information." In April 2021, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) had blocked all social media sites in the country for four hours. A temporary ban was imposed on Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, WhatsApp, Instagram and YouTube.

# Construction of Tourism Expressway to start soon

The road would be an alternative route from Rawalpindi to Murree for tourists and to reach new tourist destinations that would pass through four Tehsils of Rawalpindi district

ZUBAIR AHMAD

RAWALPINDI: The government, under its efforts to promote tourism in the region, was going to start construction work of Tourism Expressway and the project would be completed in two years. According to Chairman Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) Tariq Mehmood Murtaza, surveys and study of the project had been completed. The total cost of the project had been estimated as Rs 4.5 billion and the first tranche of Rs 1.5 billion had been released, he informed. The road would be an alternative route from Rawalpindi to Murree for tourists and to reach new tourist destinations that would pass through four Tehsils of Rawalpindi district. 123 kilometers long existing 12 to 13 feet wide road would be reconstructed and widened further up to 24 feet under the Tourism Highway project.

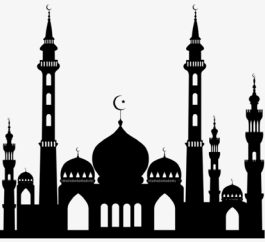


It's a Public Sector Development Project and approved by the PM Imran Khan to promote tourism in the region and the project to be executed by Communication and Works Department, Punjab, he added. He informed that the federal government had released Rs 1.5 billion for the construction of 123 km long tourism expressway from Rawat Pandori Chowk to the four hilly tehsils of Rawalpindi - Kahuta, Kotli Sattian, Kalar Syedan and Murree.

He said construction work of the project would be started soon and the project would be completed in two years. He said, the expressway would be 24 feet wide and would pass through the dense forest of Panjar. This

road would be an alternative route from Rawalpindi to Muzaffarabad and pass through Kotli Sattian, Kahuta, Kallar Syedan and Murree. He said the area on both sides of the expressway would have commercial buildings, plazas, factories, markets, hospitals and educational institutions while large parks would also be set up along the road. Tariq Murtaza told that they also had chalked out a plan to plant 300,000 fruit, flower and shade trees on both sides of the expressway.

## SERVICES



### Namaz Timings

Fajr..... 04:20 am  
Zohr..... 12:05 pm  
Asr..... 04:50 pm  
Maghrib..... 06:15 pm  
Isha..... 07:30 pm



### Hotels & Restaurants

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



### Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



### Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15  
Bomb Disposal.....15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16  
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CAA.....9281092



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MH.....5611116  
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DHQ.....5556311-4  
RGH.....9290301-7  
Holy Family.....9290322-7  
PIMS.....9261170-79  
Polyclinic.....9218300-09  
Shifa International.4603666



### Departments

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



### Complaints

Water Tanker Service  
E-7, F-10 & F-11.....9204654  
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8.....9203883  
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8.....9266316  
Wapda Islamabad.....9217579  
Wapda Rawalpindi 111.309.309

### Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation

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

### Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....0331-5022125

## PCMs directed to visit markets on daily basis

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Gulzar Hussain Shah has directed the Price Control Magistrates (PCMs) to visit markets and mandis on daily basis so that the people could be provided relief and get rid of artificial price hike.

According to a Commissioner Office spokesman, the Commissioner has instructed that all-out efforts should be made to control prices of daily use items. He directed the officers to ensure that fruits and vegetables are sold in open markets with difference of 20 percent from Mandis.

Action in accordance with the law should also be taken against profiteers and hoarders without any discrimination. He informed that Chief Minister Punjab Usman Buzdar had directed the authorities concerned to ensure effective implementation of the price control mechanism to provide necessary relief to citizens. The CM had directed the administration to ensure quality control as well as strict monitoring of prices of essential items in markets. He said those creating artificial price hike should be dealt with iron hands and the administration should continue with its indiscriminate action against hoarders and profiteers.

## 'Abbasid Caliphate remained a period of discovery'

-NIHCR webinar on Medieval Muslim history and historiography during Abbasid period

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Abbasid caliphate remained an Islamic period of discovery as well as the golden age, observed Prof Emeritus Aslam Syed while responding to a question during a Webinar on Medieval Muslim History and Historiography here on Saturday. The guest speaker Prof Emeritus Aslam Syed has been serving at the Center for Religious Studies, Ruhr Universitat, Bochum, Germany. He remained Chairman, Department of History, Qaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad and served the NIHCR as its Director.

"The Abbasids conceived an Islamic polity based on religious affiliation rather than nationality or race. This made it easier for people of differing cultural, racial, and intellectual heritages to mingle and exchange ideas as equals," Prof Syed responded to a question. The Webinar was arranged online by the National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research (NIHCR), Centre of Excellence, Qaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, attended by over 1000 participants ranging from students, teachers and researchers to have greater insights into the valuable views of the guest speaker. During the discourse, the NIHCR Director Dr. Sajid

Mahmood Awan was of the opinion that under the Abbasid caliphate, the focal point of Islamic political and cultural life shifted eastward from Syria to Iraq which functioned as the cultural and commercial capitals of the Islamic world. During this period, a distinctive style emerged and new techniques were developed that spread throughout the Muslim realm and greatly influenced Islamic art and architecture, he said. Supplementing Dr. Awan's observation, Prof Syed said Abbasid leadership cultivated intellectual, cultural and scientific developments in the Islamic discovery as well as golden age. During this period, Abbasid rulers enabled Islamic scholars to easily write manuscripts; saved classic works of antiquity by translating them into various languages; assimilated the scientific knowledge of the civilizations they had overrun, including the ancient Greek, Roman, Persian, Chinese, Indian, Egyptian, and Phoenician civilizations, Prof Syed recalled. "Muslim scientists advanced the fields of algebra, calculus, geometry, chemistry, biology, medicine, and astronomy. Many forms of art flourished during the Islamic Age of Discovery including ceramics, metalwork, textiles, illuminated manuscripts, woodwork, and calligraphy," Prof Syed said.

## Chinese culture center plans a series of events

During this period, some exciting event previews and highlights will be launched for viewers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Mid-Autumn Festival is an important traditional festival of the Chinese nation. With ancient legends and touching stories, it embodies mankind's vision for a harmonious and happy life. From September 18 to October 6, 2021, hosted by the Bureau of International Exchange and Cooperation of China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and jointly organized by the Network of International Cultural Ink Entities, overseas China Cultural Centers and China Tourism Offices, the "Mid-Autumn Festival: A Moon moment to Remember" Large Scale Brand Activities will be launched for people around the world.

The theme of this activity is based on traditional Mid-Autumn Festival culture, focusing around four major sections



which include "Mid-Autumn Festival Classics", "Food Delicacies of Mid-Autumn"

"Mid-Autumn Ode to Music", "Mid-Autumn Poetry and Chorale", promoting

culture and tourism through virtual exhibitions, online concerts, food workshops, short videos, mini training classes and other forms of rich and colorful activities. The festival will promote Chinese traditional festivals and cultural customs in a comprehensive and three-dimensional way, convey the value of "family harmony, social harmony", and express the best wishes for "reunion, harmony and health".

Let us meet the clouds, across time and space, beyond the country, standing on the same planet, looking at the same round moon, telling the stories of the heart and spending a colorful Mid-Autumn Festival together!

During this period, some exciting event previews and highlights will be launched for our viewers. For more details on upcoming exciting events, stay tuned and follow China Cultural Center in Pakistan on social media platforms.



Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 02 Issue: 116

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## Rising unemployment

THE Labour Force Survey published their latest report through the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) according to which the country's unemployment rate increased to 6.9 percent from 5.8 previously. Considering our economic performance even before the pandemic—riddled with crippling debt, a constant trade deficit and overwhelming inflation—this was expected. However, it does not mean that this is acceptable. The government must address and resolve the concerning reasons behind rising unemployment.

According to the data received, 0.92 million people looking for work were jobless during 2018 to 2019 alone. This is mainly due to the fact that these people entered the market at a time when it was already shrinking. The subsequent outbreak of the pandemic is bound to produce statistics that are much worse for the next financial year but, considering the pace at which these reports are released, it will be too late for the authorities to act. While we expect the government to propose solutions, bodies like the PBS should also be proactive with their output so that retrospective analysis can be carried out for prospective solutions in the future.

We must realise that behind these statistics are real humans who are suffering to make ends meet on a day to day basis. The government must be given the opportunity to cater to its people within their term. Meanwhile, attention can be paid towards amplifying the number of jobs in the manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade which are the lowest recruitment rate currently. Systematic change will only come about if the economic performance of the country improves through effective coordination between bodies, the government and the people themselves.



## Amnesty

THE government has—in separate interviews with first the President and then the Foreign Minister—alluded to a potential amnesty being provided to militants if they were to surrender arms and give up on violence. The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) was specifically mentioned in this context, and the outlawed terrorist group has now responded by rejecting this proposal and stating that the only way for a cessation in violence is through imposing their own brand of Sharia Law in Pakistan.

There is theoretically no problem in pardoning deradicalised former militants, but the time and place for such an offer has to be chosen very carefully. Two days after seven of our soldiers lost their lives—a potential deal with those that orchestrated this loss does not really make much sense. We have seen terror incidents with a frequency that was common in bygone years. Ever since the interim Taliban government has taken over in Afghanistan, the threats to Pakistan have only compounded; the TTP has reportedly claimed 70 attacks since the change in Kabul. This rise of terrorism is observable and extremist mindsets have once again begun to target both security agencies and members of the general public.

This past week has seen Jamia Hafsa in Islamabad flex its muscles once more. A Shia procession was shut down when protesting women from Maulana Abdul Aziz's mosque and seminary started shouting slogans against the community right next to the procession. The demonstrators were prepared enough to have brought loud speakers and created enough of a situation where the police asked the minority group to wrap up their religious ceremonies in order to avoid a law and order situation. Just yesterday, Maulana Abdul Aziz and his supporters refused to remove the Afghan Taliban's flags off their mosque and willingly set themselves up against the police to ensure that the only way to do so would be through confrontation.

These are dangerous signs and the government should take note. Our narrative against extremism has to be unequivocally stern. Dangerous outfits such as the TTP and individuals such as Abdul Aziz do not want amnesty, nor will the country be best served by offering this to them. The messaging on this must be clear. Red lines must be drawn, and those on the other side must face the full force of the law.

# The int'l community should support Afghanistan

Abdul Rahim Saqib

The US government and the international community have no option but to engage with the Taliban as it leads the effort to build peace and stability in Afghanistan. The fighting is over in Afghanistan and it is time for the Afghans to rebuild their devastated country. But they need help. If the international community really wants Afghans to live a prosperous life and to have a developed country, then they should continue providing financial aid and assistance to the Taliban government as they did to Ghani's.

THE Taliban has complete control over Afghanistan right now. The US and its allies fought against the movement for the last 20 years and tried hard to root it out. They spent more than two trillion dollars and more than 3,000 foreign soldiers lost their lives.

In spite of all this war effort, the Taliban are ruling Afghanistan once again.

The Taliban was victorious not because of its military might, economic strength and technical expertise but because of the religious and social weight that it has in Afghan society. Former President Ashraf Ghani and his allies did not enjoy such popular support, which is why their government collapsed within days of the Taliban offensive pushing closer to Kabul, despite the fact that the US government and the international community backed them.

On February 29, 2020, after the signing ceremony of the peace agreement between the Taliban and the US government, then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo remarked: "A comprehensive, inclusive, durable peace can only be secured by the Afghan people themselves."

The US government and the international community have no option but to engage with the Taliban as it leads the effort to build peace and stability in Afghanistan. The fighting is over in Afghanistan and it is time for the Afghans to rebuild their devastated country. But they need help.

If the international community really wants Afghans to live a prosperous life and to have a developed country, then they should continue providing financial aid and assistance to the Taliban government as they did to Ghani's.

It should be clear by now that the Taliban today is very different from the Taliban of 1996-2001. In the 1990s, TV channels were banned and women were not allowed to work. By contrast, after the arrival of the Taliban in Kabul, media outlets continue to operate. The Taliban has reactivated the Radio Television of Afghanistan (RTA) and women are able to work as journalists; they are even conducting interviews with the Taliban leaders.

Schools, universities and other education centres are open for both male and female students, teachers and lecturers. Some NGOs that were working in Kabul in the past are carrying out their daily activities as before.

All government employees have been asked to return to work. There is no threat posed to anyone that would compel residents of Kabul to flee to other countries. The only incident that took place after the arrival of the Taliban to Kabul was the suicide attack carried out by the Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKAP) at Kabul airport, which caused many casualties. The attack, however, was directly linked to the mismanagement of evacuations by US soldiers at the Kabul international airport.

In fact, it was with the goal of securing the Afghan capital that the Taliban entered on August 15. When former President Ghani decided to flee Kabul – a reflection of his lack of popular legitimacy – chaos erupted in the city. This necessitated the Taliban's intervention to prevent insecurity and instability from wreaking havoc.

Since then, the situation has been under control and stable; there is nothing that should cause fear among Kabul residents. The Taliban has also provided proper protection to the embassies of China, Russia, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan and other countries. Afghans should not seek to leave the country and the US and other countries should not encourage them to do so. The reason is clear: These Afghans are part of the well-educated strata of the society and their experience and abilities are very much needed for Afghanistan's future development.

It is also worth highlighting that senior officials of previous governments who decided to stay, including former President Hamid Karzai, former Vice President Abdullah Abdullah, Senate Chairman Fazal Hadi Muslimyar and others, are living in peace. The Taliban treated them in a very respectful manner, which has also been reflected in national and international media outlets.

Afghanistan has been suffering from conflict for the last four decades, which has created a war mentality among Afghans. Therefore, whenever one side gets the upper hand, the other side is worried about being targeted for revenge. However, the Taliban has decided to put an end to this violent cycle by announcing amnesty to all their enemies in Afghanistan.

One of the greatest examples of this amnesty was demonstrated on August 18, when Taliban official Annas Haqqani went to Muslimyar's house to meet him. Haqqani hugged him in a brotherly manner, despite the fact that Muslimyar had previously called for his execution.

Afghans are peaceful people and they have the courage of defending their country and religion. Though the Afghans fought three superpowers in the last three centuries, they have never attacked others. They only fought to defend their own country, which is their legitimate and legal right.

For the first time in the past four decades, Afghanistan has come under a united leadership. Afghans have suffered a lot in the last four decades. Now it is the time to cure the wounds and solve the urgent problems of the nations. As a member of the international community, Afghanistan needs international assistance.

Now it is the time for the US government and the international community to interact with the Taliban in a peaceful and diplomatic way. This will not only pave the way for both sides to have friendly relations but will also allow the world to experience the friendship of the Taliban, which will have a positive outcome.

If the international community ignores Afghans, they will remain in isolation. Such isolation will have bad consequences, which will not be in anyone's interest. The international community should engage with and help the Afghan Taliban.

(The writer is a member of the Taliban's political office)

—Courtesy: Al Jazeera

# Indian war crimes in IIOJK

Muhammad Akhter



Pakistan has repeatedly provided evidence to the international community of India's state terrorism, which the international community and international organizations have done nothing but issue condemnatory statements. There are also decades-old UN and Security Council resolutions that have yet to be implemented.

ON January 5, 1949, the United Nations' Commission passed a resolution guaranteeing free and fair plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir so that the Kashmiri people could use their right to self-determination. But, on the contrary, since seventy two years the people of Jammu and Kashmir still await the implementation on it. Kashmiris are being subjected with atrocities by Indian occupational forces under Influence of Hindutva ideology.

Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) has become one of the most militarized zones in the world, where the Indian occupying forces have been committing massive human rights violations, which is a questionmark on the credibility of the united nation. Whereas, these violations have been documented in the international media as well as in two reports by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2018 and 2019. In this regard, once again Pakistan released a comprehensive dossier; which is an eye opener for the champions of world justice and human rights.

The part of Jammu and Kashmir that is illegally occupied by India is one of the areas in the world whose inhabitants have been longing for decades to breathe in the open air. The occupied forces of India have inflicted such atrocities on them that once they are thoroughly investigated and the facts come to light, the oppressed people of the occupied valley will face the worst form of state terrorism.

Pakistan has repeatedly provided evidence to the international community of India's state terrorism, which the international community and international organizations have done nothing but issue condemnatory statements. There are also decades-old UN and Security Council resolutions that have yet to be implemented. Seeing all this, it seems that the international community is not serious about resolving the Kashmir dispute, otherwise India is not strong enough to

stand firm in front of the whole world.

To show the world the real face of India, Pakistan has once again exposed the evidence of Indian war crimes committed in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. In this regard, Pakistan has witnessed large scale war crimes, genocide of Kashmiris, use of chemical weapons, enforced disappearances, human rights violations, five training camps of ISIS, and fake encounters by Indian occupying forces in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The dossier contains comprehensive evidence of fake flag operations and desecration of women.

The 131-page dossier has three chapters. The first chapter deals with war crimes. The second chapter deals with false flag operations, while the third chapter deals with Security Council resolutions and India's efforts to change the demography of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The dossier contains 113 references, 26 of which were taken from international media and 41 from Indian think tanks. Of these, only 14 references belong to Pakistan. This is the most authoritative document in which 3432 cases are related to war crimes.

It should be noted here, While I was reviewing the information in the dossier then it was terrified to learn that, 8,652 mass graves were discovered in 89 villages of 6 districts of Indian illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir out of which 154 graves contained 2, 2 persons while 23 graves contained the bodies of more than 17 persons. Indian forces have set up 239 target cells. Since 2014, 30,000 people from the occupied valley have been subjected to severe torture. In Occupied Kashmir, 231 people were electrocuted. Chemical weapons were also used by India in occupied Kashmir.

Since, the Hindutva government came to power in India, human rights violations have increased in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The dossier presented to the media identified 1,128 people who were extra-judicially killed or

pellet guns were used against them. The dossier mentions the desecration of women and more than 100,000 properties that were burned which comes under Arson crime. It also mentions fake operations carried out to discredit Pakistan.

The UN Security Council should take note of the serious human rights violations and war crimes in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and investigate. Pakistan pledge that the sacrifices of Kashmiris will not go in vain.

Kashmiris are asking to the champions of the world justice. That what could be more barbaric than that? Therape was used by India as a weapon of war, but it was not reprimanded. European countries follow a double standard on it. Even, India was given the presidency of the UN Security Council at a time when it was committing serious human rights violations. It is pertinent to mention here that, the World community should keep in mind that today the situation has changed, there is no one to cover up India's crimes.

This is not the first dossier based on solid evidence and proof of the atrocities perpetrated by the occupying forces of India on the occupied valley and its oppressed people, but also Pakistan has repeatedly provided evidence that India is constantly committing state terrorism. Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir has been besieged for the last 777 days and the basic human rights of the oppressed Kashmiris are being denied but the world is not paying attention to it as it should.

In Conclusion, the international community should take seriously the fact that both Pakistan and India are nuclear-armed countries and India's policies could pose a threat not only to the region but also to the entire region. The atmosphere that India is creating in the region under its expansionist ambitions will not improve the situation. It will only get worse and it will hurt not only Pakistan but also the whole world.

(The Writer is a Freelance Columnist)





**Briefs**

**Pakistan sends 300-ton edibles for Afghans**

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Pak-Afghan Co-operation Forum (PACF), on behalf of the Pakistan government on Sunday dispatched 17 trucks loaded with 300 ton edibles to Afghanistan on the humanitarian basis. Briefing media at the at Pak-Afghan border Torkham, Chairman, Pak-Afghan Co-operation Forum (PACF) Habibullah Khan Khattak, said "Afghans are our Muslim brothers and neighbors and we have centuries old relations with them." He said that the 40 years long war in Afghanistan ruined the economy, agriculture and administrative infrastructure of the country and the sudden withdrawal of international aid agencies put the entire population at risk. Habibullah said, last year's drought also added to the miseries of Afghan people who were facing humanitarian crisis. The situation can result into a humanitarian catastrophe, if an immediate and effective steps are not taken, he added. Khattak further said that Pak Afghan Cooperation Forum is a Trust established to assist Afghan population in the hour of need. "We aim not only to provide immediate humanitarian assistance in form of food, medicine and non-food items to the people of Afghanistan, but to help them to stand on their own feet and make their homeland a peaceful, stable and responsible member of global community", Khattak added. "Our activities not limited to coordinate all humanitarian assistance but includes procurement, storage, transportation, and distribution of rations, medicine or shelter for the needy people of Afghanistan as well as interact with prospective donors and beneficiaries at organizational and individual levels and undertake any other such assignment that is helpful in rebuilding Afghanistan," said Khattak.

**India used US tech to spy on Pak, China**

DNA

LAHORE: A US company's tech was abused by the Indian government amid warnings that Americans are contributing to a spyware industry already under fire for being out of control, Forbes reported. Texas-based Exodus Intelligence believed India used its "zero-day", security vulnerabilities that hackers can use to attack systems, to spy on Pakistan and China. 37-year-old Exodus CEO and cofounder Logan Brown said that after an investigation, he believes India handpicked one of the Windows vulnerabilities from the feed-allowing deep access to Microsoft's operating system—and Indian government personnel or a contractor adapted it for malicious means. India was subsequently cut off from buying new zero-day research from his company in April, says Brown.

**Argentina plans to buy 12 JF-17 Thunder jets**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Argentina plans to buy 12 JF-17 Block III fighter jets from Pakistan, as per international media reports. According to media reports, the draft Argentine budget for fiscal year 2022 was presented to the National Congress, which included a request of US \$664 million for the acquisition of JF-17 Thunder Block III fighters. The draft made it clear that the Argentine Air Force has chosen Pakistan for purchasing its next supersonic fighter, discarding the offers from Russia, USA and India.

**Ch. Sarwar vows to extend GSP Plus status for Pakistan**

He made these remarks at a dinner hosted by Zafar Bakhtawri Secretary General UBG in honour of Dr Gohar Ijaz' honorary Doctorate degree

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Governor of Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar has said that he had earlier managed GSP Plus to increase Pakistan's exports and would continue to do so with the same zeal for its five-year extension. For the development and prosperity of Pakistan, by providing access to Pakistani products in the European market will be made duty free. He made this remarks last night at a dinner hosted by Zafar Bakhtawri Secretary General United Business Group in honour of Dr Gohar Ijaz to celebrate the honorary doctorate degree in recognition of his social services by Punjab university. He said that for the first time in the 150-year history of Punjab University, an entrepreneur has been awarded an honorary doctorate degree for his social services and Of course, with such actions at the government level, the business community will play a greater role in social services. Dr. Gohar Ijaz, Patron in Chief of All Pakistan Textile Mills Association, said that there was a time when he was indebted to the tune of Rs. 10 billion and he started to spend 33% of his earnings on social services. When he started, Allah Almighty started helping him from the unseen and as soon as he started it, he reached at the present stage of spending in social sector SM Munir, Patron Patron in Chief UBG, said that Dr. Gohar Ijaz was providing food to 20,000 people daily in the hospitals of Lahore and in the days of corona, he was continuously providing rations to one lakh households. We must do things in life so that our marks will remain even after we leave and people will remember them because of such things. Zubair Tufail, President, UBG, said that Dr. Gohar Ijaz is one of the best and most successful businessmen in Pakistan and the way



he started his career as the Chairman of Jinnah Hospital Lahore The chain of services must move forward. Former LDA chairman SM Imran said that Pakistan's business community should unite and work out a plan of action to solve their problems and we can fulfill our demands from the government only with the power of unity. Mr Imran said that Prime Minister Imran Khan has been working sincerely to move Pakistan forward economically and by working continuously for the last three years he has taught people like us how to work. Zafar Bakhtawri, Secretary

General, UBG, said that Pakistan will not be able to become a prosperous and developed country unless the dignity of business person in this country is enhanced. He said that the policies of the country should be made in consultation with the business community. Pakistan will never be able to achieve the goals that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Muhammad Iqbal have dreamed of. Khalid Tawab, President, UBG Sindh, said that it is welcome that our second generation which includes Gohar Ijaz, SM Imran and

Ahsan Bakhtawari. Along with having a keen interest in business, they are also playing a role in social services. Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Secretary Information, UBG, said that the Prime Minister should include talented and successful businessmen in his foreign trips and only them such business forum abroad would achieve positive results. In his address, Mian Akram Farid, Chairman, Founder Group ICCI, said that parents should pay special attention to the training of their children so that we can make our children an

ideal businessman and an ideal Pakistani. Former Senior Vice President of FPCCI Hanif Gohar in his address said that Dr. Gohar Ijaz has set an excellent example by giving the share of deserving people from his profits according to Quran and Sunnah and the business community is proud of him. Sardar Yasir Ilyas, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce, said that Pakistan could be made a prosperous country by focusing on tourism and agriculture. Former Vice President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan

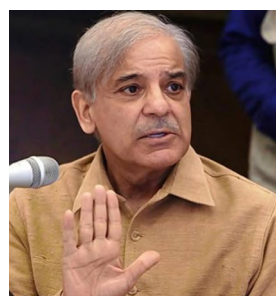
Zafar Bakhtawari in his address on the occasion said that Pakistan should work for the promotion of trade with its friendly countries in which Turkey, Azerbaijan and Central Asian countries republics are at the forefront. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhen Kistafin said that Pakistan is a great country of the region and our President has specially sent us to establish relations with Pakistan and his President will visit Pakistan this year.

(Detailed coverage in the coming issue of CENTRELINE magazine)

**Shehbaz for equitable distribution of resources**

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) President and opposition leader in National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif has emphasized that in order to strengthen the democratic dispensation, they need to take along all provinces. Shehbaz on Sunday visited the residence of Balochistan National Party (Mengal) Chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal in Karachi to console the demise of his father, Sardar Atta Ullah Mengal. Talking to media, Shehbaz said that he had a relationship of respect with Sardar Attaullah Mengal. "He struggled for the rule of law. He used to talk straight. He



had played a key role in the abolition of Article 52-B of the Constitution." "This is the true patriotism which may take this country forward," Shehbaz maintained. The PML-N president stated that all provinces should be given equal respect and people of all provinces should avail all kind of resources. "Look at Balochistan. It is fac-

ing crisis of water shortage. There is plethora of other problems engulfing this province as well," he added. Shehbaz held that if they had to realize the dream of Quaid-e-Azam then they would have to take all provinces along. Akhtar Mengal while talking to media said that he along with his family was grateful to Mr Shehbaz who came to his house to condole his father's passing away. Saying this, he uttered he would do no more media talk on this occasion. Earlier, Mr Shehbaz arrived in Karachi on Sunday to express his sorrow over the death of Sardar Akhtar Mengal's father. He will hold parleys with the party leaders and preside over a party meeting. Sardar Akhtar will stay in

Karachi for two days and important political and social personalities are visiting his house. Sardar Akhtar is an important political ally of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM). It is pertinent to note here that the political meetings at his residence have assumed special importance in the context of the Balochistan opposition's no-trust move against Chief Minister Jam Kamal. Sardar Akhtar will meet JUL-F Balochistan leader Maulana Abdul Wasay. Both the leaders would discuss the ongoing political situation in the province. They will also ponder over the number game to make no-confidence motion against CM Kamal successful.

**CNS attends Sea Power Symposium**



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi was on an official visit to USA to attend 24th International Sea Power Symposium 2021. During the visit, the Naval Chief also had one-on-one meeting with Naval leadership of various countries. The International Sea Power Symposium is organized

biennially at USA Naval War College Newport. The Forum offers a unique opportunity for the world's maritime leaders to discuss common maritime challenges and promote/enhance international maritime security cooperation. This year the theme for the symposium was 'Strength in Unity' and delegations of over 80 countries including naval & coast guard leaders attended the conference.

**2023 elections will not be held without reforms**

Fawad Chaudhry accuses the CEC and Opposition of creating hurdles in the way of electoral reforms

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry has said that the 2023 general elections will only be held after electoral reforms take place. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Sunday alongside Minister for Science and Technology Sibli Faraz, Chaudhry continued his criticism of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja, saying that he should resign and join politics if he cannot steer clear of controversies. He also accused the CEC and Opposition of creating hurdles in the way of electoral reforms. "A campaign is being run against EVMs," he said, adding that the CEC and the Opposition "are speaking the same tongue". "The way the ECP raised objections on the EVMs, it reflects a particular mindset," said Chaudhry, going on to state that the CEC is against EVMs "under some agenda". The minister said that the objections raised on the use of electronic voting machines (EVMs) were raised "deliberately" and only 10 out of the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) 37 objections were related to the EVMs. He accused the ECP of "disap-



pearing" all points in its report that were in favour of EVM. Chaudhry also questioned the CEC's absence in meetings attended by the president, saying that "this is not a banana republic" for him to behave this way. "He doesn't bother about the Supreme Court, the president of Pakistan, National Database and Registration Authority, or anything, if he is not in a good mood," the minister alleged.

The minister said that it is the first time in Pakistan's history that the government is speaking about bringing election reforms, as in the past it was always the Opposition that talked about it. "The reforms introduced by the government have increased the people's trust in the voting process far beyond the previous 33% and everyone agrees that the current election system needs reforms," said Chaudhry. He reiterated that PTI has always supported

electoral reforms and EVMs because they want unbiased and fair elections. Chaudhry asked the Opposition and ECP to put forward their suggestions for reforms if they don't accept the ones introduced by the government. He added that the government will ask two members of the ECP to step forward and review the points raised by CEC Raja in the ECP report. Faraz, while addressing the conference, said that they government is not talking about EVMs alone but also about the role of technology. He said that the government wants to bring EVMs in order to make elections fair "but unfortunately the ECP itself is biased". "This will not be allowed that on the whim of one election commissioner, the country is taken off the path to progress," he vowed. The science minister said that the ECP "did not even bother to inspect the EVMs". "27 out of 37 objections raised by the ECP highlighted its own incompetence and were criticism against itself," said Faraz. He said that the ECP is "just passing time" but he wants to make clear that this matter will not go to 2028. He said that a bill will be passed for the electoral reforms in the joint meeting of the Parliament.

**Putin's party set to retain parliament majority**

AGENCIES

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin's party was set Sunday to retain a majority in parliament on the last day of three-day elections in which most Kremlin critics were barred from the ballot. The vote comes in the wake of an unprecedented crackdown on the opposition this year, with Russian authorities jailing Putin's best-known domestic foe Alexei Navalny and banning his organisations as "extremist". In the lead-up to this weekend's vote, all of his top allies were arrested or had fled the country, with anyone associated with his groups kept from running in the parliamentary and local polls scheduled to close at 8:00 pm Sunday. "These essentially aren't elections. People in effect have no choice," 43-year-old businessman Vladimir Zakharov told AFP in Russia's second city Saint Petersburg. The elections were also marred by claims of censorship and rampant ballot stuffing. As voting kicked off Friday, Apple and Google caused an uproar among Russia's opposition after they removed Navalny's "Smart Voting" app, which showed supporters which candidate they should back to unseat Kremlin-aligned politicians.

**Thailand resumes visa service for Pakistanis**  
*All passengers must follow the Thai gov't's SoPs*

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Thailand to Pakistan has resumed the visa and COE issuance for all types of visa categories traveling from Pakistan to Thailand starting from 20 September 2021. All passengers must follow the Royal Thai Government's procedures and measures, including mandatory quarantine requirement, for a period of 14 days with no exception regardless of vaccinated or non-vaccinated passengers as well as fulfill each visa's requirements and eligibilities. Please also be informed that travels to Phuket Sandbox, Samui Plus Sandbox, and other initiatives are subjected to the lists of eligible countries and port of departure, as officially announced by Tourism Authority of Thailand.

**Tri services' contingent participates in Egypt drills**

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Armed Forces' contingent comprising Army, Navy and Air Force troops participated for the first time since 2009 in Multinational Exercise Bright Star 2021 conducted at Mohamed Naguib Military Base, Egypt. The closing ceremony of the exercise was held at Mohamed Naguib Military Base with 20 participant countries including Egypt, United States, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Cyprus, Iraq, Bahrain, Sudan, Morocco, Kenya, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom, Greece, Kuwait, UAE, Tunisia, Nigeria, Tanzania and France, said an ISPR news release here received. Engineer-in-Chief, Lieutenant General Moazzam Ejazvatt ended the closing ceremony of the exercise. The two weeks long exercise was focused on the capability to counter regional hybrid threats, strengthen regional stability by fostering combined force interoperability, joint force integration and enhance maritime security operations. Egyptian Minister of Defence and commander-in-Chief, General Mohamed Zaki and military officials from 20 countries including USCENTCOM witnessed final phase of joint training that included live fire of different weapons including aircrafts, helicopters and tanks.