



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, September 01, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Urgent steps needed to bring peace in Afghanistan: Imran

Detailed News On Page-01

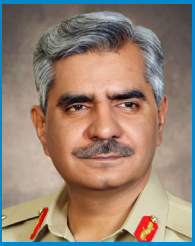
Germany to continue helping Afghans

Detailed News On Page-08



DG ISPR pays tribute to martyrs

Detailed News On Page-08



Briefs

PDM leaders meet again on Sept 08

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has called another meeting of the anti-government alliance in Islamabad on September 8, Geo News reported Tuesday morning, citing sources. Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif will also, according to the sources, attend this meeting via video link. The alliance will consult on speeding up its anti-government movement, the sources said, adding that the long march will also come under discussion.

Bilawal urges PDM to resign before long march

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday urged the opposition alliance, the PDM to tender resignations before starting the long march against the government. According to a private news channel, the PPP chairman addressed a press conference at Kashmir district and said he prayed for the success of the PDM because the PPP wanted to end Imran Khan's government quickly. Bilawal said it would be damaging for any political struggle against the government that a long march being announced every week and then the decision being taken back.

PIA flight to Mazar-i-Sharif honour

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information Farruk Habib said on Tuesday World Health Organisation's consignment was taken by special flight of Pakistan International Airlines to Mazare-Sharif, Afghan city. In a tweet, he said it was an honour and privilege for PIA to carry out its operations during such dire times for international organizations.

Peace in Afghanistan Pak, Germany pledge to work hand-in-hand

German Foreign Minister meets PM Imran Khan and Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas called on Prime Minister Imran Khan and German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas called on Prime Minister Imran Khan today. Views were exchanged on the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan-Germany bilateral relations. The Prime Minister recalled his conversation with Chancellor Merkel, in which the two leaders had fruitful exchange of views on the Afghanistan situation. The Prime Minister underscored that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan was vitally important for Pakistan and the region. The Prime Minister stressed that at this pivotal moment in Afghanistan's history, it was important for the international community to remain in support and solidarity with the Afghan people. The Prime Minister underlined that urgent steps were needed to stabilize the security situation, address humanitarian needs, and ensure

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Allegations of no calls to Islamabad, Kabul not credible

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: Brushing aside media reports that he did not speak to ministers in Afghanistan and Pakistan in the months preceding Kabul's fall to the Taliban, and the evacuation crisis that followed, UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab termed the allegations "not credible and deeply irresponsible". According to a report by Sunday Times, Dominic Raab had "shown no interest" in contacting the authorities in Islamabad and Kabul in the six months before the evacuation crisis.

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ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Morocco Muhammad Karmoune met with Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sidhu. – DNA

'Afghanistan is a free country now'

Taliban in talks with Qatar, Turkey

DNA/NEWS DESK

KABUL: In the early hours of Tuesday, hails of gunfire filled the skies above cities across Afghanistan as the Taliban celebrated the final withdrawal of foreign forces after a 20-year US-led occupation of the country. Taliban are in talks with

Continued on Page 06

Taliban has to earn legitimacy

WASHINGTON: The United States expects the Taliban to live up to their commitments now that US troops have pulled out of Afghanistan, but any legitimacy or support will need to be "earned,"



Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan. Germany ambassador is also seen in the picture. – DNA

Air chief says Pakistan has cordial ties with Morocco

Mohamed Karmoune commended the professionalism of Air Force

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Morocco . Mohamed Karmoune called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office today. During the meeting, both the dignitaries discussed matters of professional and mutual interest. Mohamed Karmoune commended the professionalism of PAF and acknowledged its rising indigenous capacity in aviation industry. The Air Chief said that Pakistan and Morocco had longstanding religious, cultural and historical bonds which were manifested through strong ties between Royal Moroccan Air Force and Pakistan Air Force. The Air Chief highlighted that both the countries enjoy cordial relations and reiterated his resolve to further enhance the existing bilateral cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

Highest single day doses inoculated

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Tuesday announced that the country administered over 1.4 million Covid-19 vaccine doses a day which was the highest ever target achieved since the vaccination campaign onset. The nerve center of the country in its fight against deadly contagious disease of coronavirus took to microblogging website Twitter to announce the major development.

Red list issue to be taken up with UK

The information minister says he hopes for peace to prevail in Afghanistan

'Shahbaz, Bilawal have not read PMDA'



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: In Pakistan's bid to exit from the UK's travel red list, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan will speak this week at

Continued on Page 06

Pak-Kazakhstan military drills end

The exercise was aimed to develop, strengthen and bolster military cooperation between the two countries

STAFF REPORT

JEHLUM: Closing Ceremony of Pakistan-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise "Dostarym III" was held today at National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC), Pabbi. The exercise was aimed to develop, strengthen and bolster military cooperation between the two countries in the face of emerging counter terrorism and counter-insurgency domains. Special Forces of both the countries took part in Hostage & Rescue, Compound clearance, Heli Rappelling and Close Qtr Battle (CQB) and exchanged the first-hand experience and ideas. The exercise focused on integrated synergy, interoperability, quick decision making and swift action at tactical level. The exercise furthered reinforce the mutual cooperation and understanding between the two states to effectively counter the threats. Major General Ahsan Gulrez, Director General Military Training graced the occasion as chief guest. Military officials of Kazakhstan were also present.

Chinese envoy meets army chief

Nong Rong appreciates Pakistan's sincere efforts for bringing peace



DNA

RAWALPINDI: Nong Rong, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ, today. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, developing Afghanistan situation and regional security were discussed in detail. COAS reiterated the resolve to thwart designs of spoilers of CPEC. Visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's sincere efforts for bringing peace and stability in the region, especially in the light of recent developments in Afghanistan and reiterated that China will continue to support Pakistan as a strategic partner.

Pak daily virus death toll jumps to 118

ZUBAIR AHMED

ISLAMABAD: Over 3,838 people tested positive for coronavirus in the last 24 hours in Pakistan. This was revealed by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Tuesday. Meanwhile, another 118 people lost their lives to the virus. As many as 3,838 people tested positive for the virus after 52,112 COVID-19 tests were taken, as per the NCOC's data. This brings the positivity rate to 7.36%. The positivity rate has been over 6% for the last nine days.

Japan provides US \$31.4 million grant to Pakistan

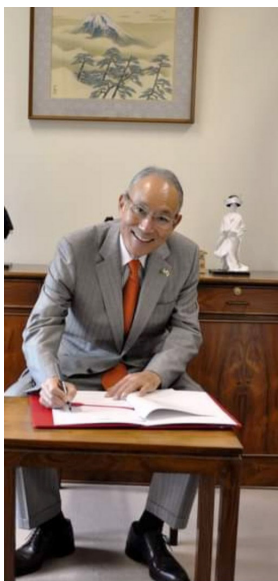
New Maternal and Child Health Center will be established under this project

STAFF REPORT /DNA

ISLAMABAD: Japan has extended a grant assistance of JPY3,445 million (approx. US\$31.4 million) to Pakistan for the extension of maternal and child health care facilities in Sindh. Notes to this effect were signed and exchanged between MATSUDA Kuninori, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan and Mr. Zulfiqar Haider, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, in Islamabad on August 31st, 2021. Subsequently, Grant Agreement was signed and exchanged between Mr. FURUTA Shigeki, Chief Representative of JICA Pakistan Office and Ms. Adeela Bokhari, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs. The project is scheduled

New Maternal and Child Health Center will be established Under this project, a new maternal and child health center will be established at Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences (LUMHS), Jamshoro, which is a public medical institution serving as the regional hub hospital in Hyderabad district. The maternal and child health center will have the departments of obstetrics and pediatrics, including a labor room, an obstetrics ward, a neonatal intensive care unit, a maternal and fetal intensive care unit, a laboratory and outpatient consultation rooms. In addition, around 120 items of medical equipment including newborn incubators and ultrasonic diagnostic device are to be installed. The project is scheduled

to be completed by August 2024. With the opening of the center, access to maternal and child health services in the area will be



substantially improved. For example, three years after completion, the maternal and fetal intensive care unit will have nearly 100



patients and the neonatal intensive care unit will have more than 400 patients annually. In addition, the annual number of deliveries and outpatients will also increase significantly. As a result, local patients will not have to travel a long distance to Karachi. Japan attaches importance to the health & medical sector in Pakistan. For decades, Japan has put a priority on the health sector in the economic and social development of Pakistan, such as enhancement of maternal and child health, polio eradication, routine immunization and counter-COVID-19 measures. In the last decade prior to the project in Jamshoro, Japan has implemented the following projects in Karachi and Islamabad in terms of maternal and child health:

- The Project for the Extension of Intensive Care at Maternal and Child Health Care Centre and Children's Hospital in Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) (April 23, 2019, approx.\$33 million)
- The Project for the Improvement of Child Health Institute in Karachi (December 21, 2012, approx. \$13 million)
Furthermore, Japan has been supporting the Polio Eradication program in Pakistan since 1996. The grant and loan contribution from Japan has amounted to \$226.37 million. As far as COVID-19 is concerned, Japan has extended a total of \$23.5 million in grant to Pakistan for supplementing its counter-COVID-19 measures as follows:

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World must help Afghans to form inclusive government
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Iran and Saudi expected to resume direct talks soon
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Pakistan to launch national 911 emergency helpline
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Briefs

Siwalik Hills as 'Fossil Park' requested

PESHAWAR: Prominent zoologist, Muhammad Sarwar has made a request for declaring two localities of Siwalik Hills as 'Fossil Park' for highlighting historical importance of the region at international level besides facilitating students and researchers in completion of their tasks.

Siwalik Hills straddle between Jehlum and Chakwal districts and were famous world over for presence of centuries old remains of animals and plants, he added.

Talking to APP here on Tuesday, Muhammad Sarwar who was doing PhD on Wolf said that Tatroot and Hasinoot localities of Jehlum and Chakwal districts be declared as Fossil Park because of the rich historical background of the areas. He also demanded construction of a library and a research center within the premises of Fossil Park for display of ancient remains of animals and plants discovered in the region.

These fossils were found in all the four provinces of Pakistan, but there presence in this region of Siwalik Hills was in abundance. — APP

Media-men visits technical training centres

DNA

QUETTA: Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Sector Support Programme has arranged a comprehensive media tour of the Technical Training Centres operating in the Balochistan region on Tuesday.

These Technical Training Centres have a vital role in providing industry-driven technical education and vocational training to the youth. The programme is being implemented by GIZ Pakistan and NAVTTC, which is being funded by the European Union and the governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and Norway.

These views were expressed by WTTTC and BTTC's principal during briefing to media at both the centres.

A group of senior journalists from leading media outlets was invited to tour the facilities and to get a first-hand experience of the learning environment of a Technical Training Centre that uses the Workplace-Based Training (WBT) approach to develop skilled human resource in-line with market demands and increasing graduates' chances of getting more employment opportunities.

When the media delegates arrived at the institute, the Principal of the Women's Technical Training Centre (WTTTC) Shabana Naaz gave a briefing session to provide a detailed overview of the institute's working progress and in-house training facilities provided by TVET Sector Support Programme.

Nehre-Khayyam gets attention by KMC

DNA

KARACHI: Administrator Karachi, Sindh Government Spokesman and CM Advisor on Law Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Tuesday said that Nehre-Khayyam Clifton is being paid full attention by Karachi Metropolitan Corporation.

The entire area around Nehre-Khayyam will be beautified, he said while visiting the canal. Karachi Water and Sewerage Board Managing Director Asadullah Khan, Civil Society representative Yawar Abbas and others were also present on the occasion.

The Administrator Karachi inspected the canal in detail and directed to solve the sewerage problems of the canal.

He said that the canal will be made more beautiful. Barrister Murtaza Wahab directed that the instructions issued for the improvement of Nehre-Khayyam should be fully implemented and all the works must be completed within the stipulated time.

Opposition rallies will increase coronavirus cases: Sarwar

On Afghanistan war, Governor Punjab says Pakistan had paid the largest price in the form of 70000 human lives in the Afghan war, adding that it was the worst cost of the war by any country

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said on Tuesday that protest rallies by the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) would only add to coronavirus surge in the country instead of destabilizing the government.

Responding to the media men during a press conference regarding Punjab Aab-e-Pak Authority (PAPA) at the Governor's House, he said the opposition would not achieve anything from its anti-government mantra, adding that it should sit with the government to promote national cause.

To a question, the Governor Punjab Sarwar said, "Let Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government complete constitutional tenure of five years and do away with the tradition of devising ways to

send the incumbent government packing the very next day it comes into power".

To a query, he said political parties already exist in the country, adding that there was need to end dictatorship and introduce democracy within the framework of these political parties in the country.

"There is also the need of fixing terms for a Prime Minister in the country, referring that a President could only rule for two terms in the United States (US)", he responded.

On Afghanistan war, he said Pakistan had paid the largest price in the form of 70000 human lives in the Afghan war, adding that it was the worst cost of the war by any country.

He said the US public and the government had admitted the mistake of Afghanistan adventure, adding that nothing had been achieved from the Afghanistan war.



'Afghan land should not be used for terrorism in Pakistan,' Sarwar demanded from the Afghan government in response to a query.

On free and fair elections, the Governor Punjab said the opposition should hold parleys with the government on the ways to ensure transparent

elections in the country, adding that party leaders should sit for a dialogue after a framework was devised on free and fair elections.

"PTI has the culture of debate within the party while the other political parties of the country lack this culture", he responded, adding

that there are scores of Imran Khan in PTI but they need little grooming.

Earlier, talking about the meeting with NGOs collaborating with the PAPA, he said that provision of clean drinking water to the masses was his vision and passion, adding that Punjab Aab-e-Pak Authority had been working to ensure that people had access to the clean drinking water.

Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said 80 percent patients were victim of water-related diseases in Punjab, adding that clean drinking water would help overcome the water borne diseases. He said that engineers, NGOs, bureaucracy were on the same page regarding the working of the PAPA, adding that 1500 water filtration plants were under process while people were calling to donate to PAPA for installation of water

filtration plants in the far-flung areas of the province. He said multiple NGOs including the Al-Khidmat Islamic Aid, Water Aid, Akhuwat, Agahi, Abdul Alweem Khan Foundation, Sahara, Sarwar Foundation and others were working in close collaboration with the PAPA. He said UNICEF was also our partner and had donated 50,000 dollars to PAPA for provision of clean drinking water.

Sarwar said transparency and accountability were hallmark of the organization, adding that the previous government of Shehbaz Sharif installed a water filtration plant in Rs 15 to 20 million while the PTI government was installing a filtration plant in mere Rs 3 million. He asked the media to play its positive role and help PAPA ensure hundred percent transparency in the organization.

21 held with contraband

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Police claimed on Tuesday to have arrested 21 criminals and recovered narcotics and illegal weapons from their possession.

The police teams conducted raids in different areas and arrested a proclaimed offender and nine drug pushers after recovering 1.8 kg hashish and 530 liters liquor from them.

In another raid, police arrested seven gamblers with a Rs 9,760 stake money. In a crackdown against illegal weapons, police arrested four people and recovered four pistols and a large number of bullets from them. Further investigation was underway.

Sindh govt for mandatory vaccination of students

DNA

KARACHI: School Education and Literacy Department (SELD), Government of Sindh has declared COVID-19 vaccination mandatory for students of IX to XII. The notification said this which was issued here on Tuesday. The SELD has directed its regional directors to extend full cooperation to the District Health Officers (DHOs) regarding the vaccination of students from grade IX to XII, it stated. Officials were also directed to provide space and necessary facilities to the team of health department.

SAU donates saplings to Edhi Foundation

DNA

HYDERABAD: Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tando jam Tuesday donated over 150 saplings to Edhi Foundation for tree planting campaign at Edhi Home at M-9 near Hyderabad.

According to university spokesman, the Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Marri handed over 150 saplings to Mairaj Ahmed, the In-charge Edhi Foundation Hyderabad office. Addressing the ceremony, Dr. Fateh Marri said that the University was in technical liaison with various institutions in the capital of Sindh for tree planting and urban forest to curb the growing pollution in Karachi. He said that SAU management wanted joint research to plant mango and other fruit trees in the city.



FAISALABAD: Vice Chancellor University of Agriculture Prof Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan leading an awareness walk organized by Institute of Home Sciences to mark World Breastfeeding Week. — APP

Close liaison urged between industries and academia

This E-Conference was organized by Textile Institute UK, GARA Global Malaysia and CCN Varsity while researchers from USA, Turkey, China, Malaysia, Czech Republic, Zambia participated in it

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Innovation and value addition is prerequisite for the sustained growth of the textile sector at the global level and in this connection close liaison between industrialists, academia and researchers must be promoted through concerted efforts.

Addressing an E-Conference on "Nascent Drifts in Industry-2021 (NDI-2021)", Governor Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar said that growth is a continuous process and it must inculcate latest technologies and emerging trends to meet the fast changing

global needs. He said that textile is the mainstay of Pakistan economy and the Government was doling out best facilities to this foreign exchange-earning and job intensive sector. Governor Punjab particularly appreciated the efforts of Dr. Hafsa Jamshid and Dr. Allah Dad to bring all stakeholders on one platform and hoped that their efforts would not only bring positive improvements around the world in this specific sector but also help Pakistan to double its textile exports.

Dr. Abdullah Rasheed, Education Minister of Maldives said that Pakistani exporters should understand the fast changing global trends

in the textile sector and accordingly produce their exportable surplus in abundance to remain an active player of the global textile chain. He said that Pakistan must develop new technologies in collaboration with the international community to improve its quality and enhance its production with limited resources.

Mr. Kanwar Usman Director General Textile Wing Ministry of Commerce said that value addition is the only solution to ensure speedy growth of the textile sector and in this connection, the Government is focusing on extending the best possible facilities.

Dr. Hafsa Jamshid said that

the garment and fashion garment sector has potential to revolutionize the textile sector and our focus should be on this sector. She said that the breakout of Covid-19 has made direct links difficult between global textile players, however virtual conferences may be an effective and efficient alternative to physical exhibitions and meetings.

This E-Conference was jointly organized by Textile Institute UK (Lahore Section), GARA Global Malaysia and CCN University Bangladesh while researchers from USA, Turkey, China, Malaysia, Bangladesh, UK, Czech Republic, Zambia participated in it.

GB development top priority

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Shaikat Tarin said on Tuesday that development of the Gilgit-Baltistan was the top priority of the present government.

During a meeting with the Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan, Khalid Khursheed here, the minister said all possible steps would be taken to ensure timely provision of funds for progress and development of Gilgit-Baltistan through mega projects.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister apprised the finance minister about the strategic importance of Gilgit-Baltistan and stressed the need for socio-economic and territorial development of the area, according to statement issued by the finance ministry.

NAB EBM held at NAB headquarters

The NAB chairman said that NAB values the services of the business community for the development of the country

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) Executive Board Meeting held at NAB headquarters on Tuesday with Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB in the chair.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Hussain Asghar, Deputy Chairman NAB, Syed Asghar Haider, Prosecutor General Accountability (PGA), Zahir Shah Director General Operations, Irfan Naeem Mangi Director General NAB, Rawalpindi and other senior officers of the bureau attended the meeting. It is a yearlong policy of NAB to share the details of EBM with the public which does not aim to hurt anyone as all inquiries and investigations are initiated on the basis of allegations, which are not final. NAB decides to go ahead with case after assessing the merits of the cases and after knowing flip side of the coin.

NAB is human friendly organisation and it is firmly believe in respecting every accused.

The EBM accorded approval to conduct some 17 inquiries against various accused including public office holders in fake bank accounts scam, ten inquiries against legal persons and others, public office holders, relevant



staff owners/ directors of sugar mills in Omni group in fake bank account scan and others, officials/officers of OGDCL, Imran Saleem, Inspector Punjab Police, Muhammad Naeem Akbar, Amir Ishaq Malik, Citi Housing Scheme, Private Limited, Captain Ejaz Haroon, former Managing Director, PIA, Ali Tahir Qasim, Chief Commercial Officer, PIA, Tariq Mehmood, CEO, messer Air International Pvt, limited and others, Akbar Nasir Khan and inquiries are also approved against former chief operating officer, Punjab, officers/officials of Safe Citi Authorities,

The EBM authorised investigations against management of Oil and Gas Development Authority (OGDCL). The EBM authorised conducting investigation against officials, Sandak metals, limited, and others, owners/ directors and others of Nirala MSR Foods, limited Lahore, inquiry against Management of SECP, national testing services to concerned Department, while EBM approved referring inquiry against Messer Adult / HRL JV and others to Civil Aviation Authority for further proceedings.

NAB Chairman Honourable Justice Javed Iqbal said that all available re-

sources are being utilised to take mega corruption cases to logical conclusion. Top most priority of bureau is to conclude to punish accused involved in different scams including sugar, flour, money laundering, fake accounts, abuse of Authority, assets beyond means, illegal housing societies, modaraba scam.

For more than three years, the NAB has brought to justice those who could not have been held accountable. The NAB has recovered Rs. 535 billion directly and indirectly from corrupt elements in the last three years, which is a record achievement.

The NAB chairman said that NAB values the services of the business community for the development of the country.

NAB chairman met the business community leaders at NAB headquarters besides Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad and not only took immediate steps to resolve their issues but also referred the cases of income tax, sales tax and under winning to the FBR. Instead, a special desk headed by a director was set up at the NAB headquarters in Islamabad to address the problems of the business community, for which the leaders of the business community thanked the Chairman NAB, Justice Javed Iqbal.

INVITATION TO BID FOR SUPPLY OF POL PRODUCT

Bids are invited from reputed international suppliers for supply of Jet A-1 as mentioned below:

S.No	Product	Period	Mode
01	JET A-1	22 nd - 31 st October 2021	CFR

	DATE	TIME AND VENUE
TENDER DOCUMENTS COLLECTION (THROUGH SAP AIRBA) DATE & TIME	Up to 30 th September 2021	09:30 AM TO 04:30 PM
BID SUBMISSION (THROUGH SAP AIRBA) END DATE & TIME	01 st October 2021	UNTIL 10:00 AM
BID OPENING (THROUGH SAP AIRBA) DATE & TIME	01 st October 2021	10:30 AM ONWARDS

Tender Fee: Any supplier interested in participating in any of the tender(s) may send its request for tender documents in the following manner:

- Scanned copy of the duly signed and stamped request on official letterhead of the bidder shall be uploaded on SAP Airba Portal. In the subject request letter, please mention "Tender Documents Collection Request - Tender No. _____" (Please mention the relevant Delivery Period and Product).
- Request shall be accompanied by scanned copy of the following:
Evidence of deposit of Rs. 2,000/- as Tender Fee (separate for each product and period) in the following bank account:
Title of Account - PAKISTAN STATE OIL COMPANY LIMITED
IBAN: PK30 HAB8 0007 8640 3245 3217
Account No. 0786-40-3245-3217 Branch code 0786
HBL Plaza Branch, J.I. Chundrigar Road, Karachi.

Bid documents will be available and should be submitted through SAP Airba Portal only

Tender advertisement is also available at PSO website: www.pso.pk and PPRA website: www.ppra.org.pk

Please note that interested vendors not having Airba Network ID are requested to register themselves on SAP Airba Portal by clicking on the link below to access and participate in upcoming PSO tenders.

<https://pso.pk/en/about-us/business-partners/sap-airba>

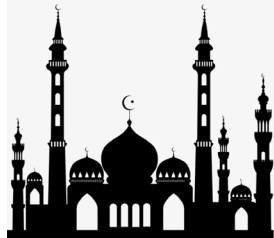
The bidders are urged to visit PSO & PPRA websites regularly for any further changes that may be updated by the Company, from time to time, keeping in view the ongoing situation caused by the Corona virus (COVID-19).

PAKISTAN STATE OIL COMPANY LIMITED

2ND FLOOR, PSO HOUSE, KHAYABAN-E-IOBAL, CLIFTON, KARACHI TEL: 111-111-PSO

PID (K) 559

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr..... 04:14 am
Zohr..... 12:08 pm
Asr..... 04:44 pm
Maghrib.....06:35 pm
Isha..... 08:01 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15
Bomb Disposal.....15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance..1122 & Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police.....9266044
Motorway Police..9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

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



Complaints

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....0331-5022125

ICCI founder group announces candidates for annual election

ICCI founder group will resolve business community’s problem on top priority: Akram Farid

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: M. Akram Farid, Chairman Founder Group Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry, said that the Group will traditionally clean sweep the Chamber’s forthcoming elections with land sliding margin. Continuous and consecutive victory of the group for over two decades speaks of quality of services rendered to business community, Mr. Farid said. He was addressing during the inaugural ceremony of the Election Offices for 2021-22 elections in Blue Area and I-9 Sector of Islamabad. The meeting was attended by a large number of members and candidates for Associate and Corporate Membership.

M. Akram Farid said that Islamabad Chamber has built spacious Building, Exhibition Hall, infrastructure facilities and a state of the art Auditorium. The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry has become a business hub for the region as well as for the country as a whole, he added. The Chairman apprised that the Chamber has established separate facilitation desks for ICT administration, FBR, Police, Pakistan Customs and FTO to help out



its members in resolving their issues with these departments. Capital Development Authority (CDA) has allowed the manufacturing sector four additional trades including Information Technology. Moreover the floor

area of industrial plots was increased, that will enhance business activity, he added. The Chairman Founder Group said that the Group has always come up with enterprising, energetic and competent candidates. It is

our endeavor to nominate young entrepreneurs for leading the business community in accordance with contemporary business community needs. Mian Akram Farid called for the members to vote for the

candidates of the Founder Group in the best business community interest. This graceful gathering was attended by former presidents Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry Khalid Javed, Tariq Sadiq,

Khalid Iqbal Malik, Mian Shaukat Masud and Abdul Rauf Alam. It was also attended by Vice President the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry Nasir M. Qureshi, Chaudhry Waheed-ud-Din, Co-Chairman Founder Group Election Campaign Ejaz Abbasi, Co-chairman Sheikh Amir Waheed. The Founder Group announced its candidates for the forthcoming elections for the year 2021-22. Hamayun Kabir, Chaudhry Javed Iqbal, Sheikh Muhammad Ejaz, Fahad Farid, Shahbaz Majeed Sheikh, Amir Hussain, Muhammad Umer Riaz and Muhammad Azhar-ul-Islam Zafar were nominated for CM Class. While Akhtar Hussain, Muhammad Shabbir, Chaudhry Muhammad Ali, Muhammad Fahim Khan, Jamsheed Akhtar Sheikh, Khalid Mehmood, Raja Muhammad Imtiaz and Fasihullah Khan were nominated for the AM Class as well. Co-Chairman Founder Group Election Campaign Ejaz Abbas and Amir Waheed Sheikh, in their concluding remarks, said that the group has resolved many issues with CDA and other Government Departments and showed his commitment to leave no stone unturned for serving the business community at large.

Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi calls on IIUI President

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister’s Special Assistant on religious harmony, Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi Tuesday called on Dr. Hathal Hmoud Aotabi, President, International Islamic University (IIU). During the meeting, issues pertaining to mutual interests were discussed. Hafiz Ashrafi hailed the services of IIU and also thanked KSA for endowment of a grand mosque at the university. Appreciating the hard work of the President IIU, he hoped that the university would progress with double pace in his leadership. He said Pakistan believed that the solution to the problems of Muslim Ummah lied in solidarity of entire Muslim world and universities of Muslim countries could play pivotal role in that regard. The IIUI president apprised him of the university’s vision, newly approved strategic plan and goal of academic excellence. He said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were the countries had longstanding fraternal ties and IIUI was a true example in that regard.

ITP launches safety first campaign

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has launched Safety First Campaign; 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. SSP Traffic Syed Karar Hussain has said that strict action would be taken during campaign against those involved in lane violation, not fastening seat belt, using mobile phone during driving and not wearing helmets during bike ride. Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Syed Karar Hussain said he would himself monitor this campaign. He said that the purpose of this campaign is to ensure better traffic discipline through cooperation of citizens and create traffic sense among them. ITP is striving hard for safety of its citizens and to overcome the traffic accidents by ensuring safe road environment in the city.

NEPRA holds session with power generation companies

ISLAMABAD: In continuation to NEPRA’s vision of zero tolerance on power industry safety accidents, an interactive session of National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) Authority with the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and Managing Directors (MDs) of power sector licensees (Generation, Transmission and Distribution Companies) was held here Tuesday. The session was presided over by Chairman NEPRA, Mr. Tauseef H. Farooqi along-with Members of the Authority, Mr. Rehmatullah Baloch and Engr. Magsood Anwar Khan, said a press release. A comprehensive discussion was held for the implementation of overall safety of the power sector to achieve zero accidents by adopting the most effective and proactive Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) practices in Pakistan. The NEPRA Authority also directed the licensees to establish Safety/HSE Directorate in their respective organizations, arrange effective training programs for their field staff, digitalize the safety systems, and ensure effective supervision at job sites so that all the employees and consumers stay safe. – APP

Senate body passes narcotics bill 2020

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senate Standing Committee on Narcotics Control on Tuesday unanimously passed “The Control of Narcotics Substances (Second Amendment) Bill 2020”. The committee met here at Parliament House under the chairmanship of Senator Ejaz Ahmad Chaudhary. Committee considered the bill titled “The Control of Narcotics Substances (Sec-

ond Amendment) Bill 2020” as passed by National Assembly and referred to the Senate Standing Committee on Narcotics Control by the House in its sitting held on 13th July, 2021 for consideration and report. The committee members were briefed by Secretary Ministry of Narcotics Control regarding the proposed amendment. The bill was passed unanimously after due deliberations. The chairman congratulated the committee members for reaching consensus.

ICT Police hold 4th digital kutchery

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police on Tuesday held fourth ‘digital kutchery’ in the city with an aim to resolve public complaints and address their issues by ensuring justice to them at their door step as per vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan. IGP Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman listened to the problems of citizens in this ‘digital kutchery’ and assured to resolve public problems on merit. Senior police officials of Islamabad including AIG (Operations), SSP (Operations), SSP (Investigation), SSP (Traffic), citizens from various cities connected with Islamabad participated in this digital kutchery. IGP Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman said that Islamabad police have the responsibility

to serve the people and this responsibility will be ensured with commitment. He said that these open kutcheries are being arranged to ensure justice and resolve public complaints on merit. More than 50,000 people online participated in this program while several citizens gave their opinions for improving policing affairs including traffic, investigation, registration of cases and end land occupation and drug peddling activities. The participants of this ‘digital-kutchery’ appreciated the role of Islamabad police in creating awareness among citizens against COVID-19 besides maintaining law and order. The IGP said that effective action was underway against criminal elements and entire force was committed to curb activities of anti-social elements.

Police have taken measures to maintain law and order

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: SSP (Operations) Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer has said that Islamabad police have taken measures to maintain law and order besides controlling crime in the city. He was addressing a press conference at Rescue-15 here on Tuesday. He said the police, during the past two weeks, arrested 28 criminals associated with 12 gangs and recovered looted valuables worth over 25 million from them. He said these criminals were involved in house burglary, snatching, extortion, and vehicle snatching. He said the police arrested 227 accused in July and August and also recovered 11 Kalashnikovs, 7 guns, 196 pistols, 8 daggers and 1799 rounds from

their possession. He told the media that a woman was shot dead by unknown assailants on the evening of August 25 in Tarnol area. He said it was a blind murder however, the police traced the culprits while investigating the case on modern technical lines. He said the police raided for the arrest of the accused but he opened fire on the police team and fled from the scene. Later, he said, the accused was arrested from sector C-17. He said the accused has been identified as Usman Khan Son of Habib Gulam Khan, a resident of Bannu. Raids are being carried out to arrest the co-accused who will be arrested soon, said the SSP further. He said the accused has also confessed to having committed 5 robberies and is being interrogated.

Similarly, the SSP said, Sabzi Mandi police have arrested a four-member gang of robbers. The accused include Habibullah alias Kachkul son of Ghani Khan, Nangiala alias Garu son of Qadeem Khan, Abdullah Khan Son of Bulbul, Noor Agha son of Farooq. The accused committed crime at the IJP Road, Kashmir Highway and Sabzi Mandi areas, according to the SSP. He said during the interrogation, the accused have confessed to having committed more than 10 incidents of robbery. The police have also recovered 10 motorcycles, 3 mobile phones, 4 pistols from the possession of the accused. He further said that the police have also arrested a criminal Waqas Hussain, a resident of Hashtnagri Lahore Gate Darakhshan Plaza,

Peshawar and the police was conducting raids for the arrest of his accomplices. He said the accused along with his accomplices had stolen a Grandi Corolla from Sector I-8 Islamabad. The police acted on the information and chased the accused. The stolen vehicle was recovered later, the SSP said. He said the accused used to come to Islamabad from Peshawar in a vehicle daily and stole up-model vehicles. The accused has so far confessed his involvement in 7 incidents and further investigation is underway. He said Ramna police arrested a gang of robbers consisting of five persons who had gathered for the purpose of robbery. The accused include Arbaaz Iftikhar alias Bachi, Kamran Nazir Sabir, Mohammad Shakeel, Hassan Ali and Danish.

COMSTECH, LRBT to open eye camps in Africa

LRBT will select a team of highly qualified and experienced eye surgeons to conduct the eye camps, whereas COMSTECH will help in coordination between LRBT and local Health authorities of Gambia and Niger

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) and Layton Rahmatulla Benevolent Trust (LRBT) entered into an agreement to carry out wide-spread outreach programs for the prevention of blindness in the African region of OIC member states. Both organizations agreed to organize eye camps to conduct about 200 surgeries in Banjul, Gambia and 400 surgeries in Niamey, Niger. LRBT will select a team of highly qualified and experienced eye surgeons to conduct the eye

camps, whereas COMSTECH will help in coordination between LRBT and local Health authorities of Gambia and Niger, and would reimburse the cost of medicines and consumables along with their transportation to Banjul, Gambia. Visa arrangements, visa fees, vaccination and the cost of lab tests and token of appreciation to the team members will also be provided by COMSTECH. Islamic Development Bank, under its Alliance to fight avoidable blindness program, will support air travel along with medicines and consumables for eye camps in Niamey, Niger. The local travel and hospitality for the entire visiting team will be the responsibility of local hosts.



COMSTECH was established by the Third Islamic Summit of OIC held at Makkah, Saudi Arabia in January 1981. The core mandate

of COMSTECH is to strengthen cooperation among OIC member states in science and technology, and enhance their capabilities through training in emerging areas, undertake follow-up-actions and implementation of the resolutions of the OIC, and to draw up programs and submit proposals designed to increase the capability of the Muslim countries in science and technology. LRBT is an organization committed to prevent the suffering caused by blindness and other eye ailment in Pakistan. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, COMSTECH and Mr. Najmus Saquib Hameed, Chairman, LRBT signed this agreement in Karachi.

Briefs

IHC adjourns
Gilani's case

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday adjourned hearing till September 28, on an intra court appeal of Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani challenging rejection of his seven votes in chairman senate elections.

The counsel for presiding officer for elections, Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif did not appear before the court and his associate lawyer requested the bench to adjourn the case till next hearing. He said that the senior counsel could not attend this day proceeding due to sickness.

However, Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani's lawyer Barrister Ali Zafar, Gilani's counsel Farook H. Naek appeared before the court.

A division bench comprising Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri heard the ICA filed by Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani.

A single member bench had already dismissed the petition of former prime minister Yousaf Raza Gilani and declared it as non maintainable. The court stated that it had no powers to interfere into the proceeding of Parliamentary affairs. — APP

PSX
continues
with bullish
trend

ISLAMABAD: The KSE 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 54.04 points, with a positive change of 0.11 per cent, closing at 47,419.74 points against 47,365.70 points on the last working day.

A total of 378,832,096 shares were traded during the day compared to the trade of 382,645,112 shares the previous day whereas the price of shares stood at Rs14,023 billion against Rs12,331 billion the previous day. As many as 524 companies' transacted shares in the stock market, 248 of them recorded gain and 244 sustained losses whereas the share price of 32 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Telecard Limited with a volume of 41,617,500 shares and price per share of Rs18.80, Ghani Glo HOI with a volume of 32,742,500 and price per share of Rs40.05 and Bypc Petroleum with volume of 21,733,500 and price per share of Rs10.03.

Unilever Foods witnessed maximum increase of Rs849 per share, closing at Rs 18849. Rafhan Maize was runner up, share prices of which increased by Rs249, closing at Rs10499. Philip Morris Pak recorded a maximum decrease of Rs 72.39 per share, closing at Rs912.51 followed by Blessed Tex, the prices of which declined by Rs32 per share, closing at Rs418. — APP

DC for completion
of cantt LB polls
arrangements

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Muhammad Ali on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to complete all the arrangements for cantonment board local bodies elections to be held on September 12.

Chairing a meeting held here to review preparations for cantonment board elections 2021, he directed the district administration officers to finalize all the arrangements including security. He said that the district administration had offered unconditional support to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for upcoming local government elections.

He informed that there were five cantonment boards in Rawalpindi district where the registered voters are about 700,000. As many as 583 polling stations were being set up for September 12 elections for which 350 buildings would be used, he said adding, besides all the arrangements, additional security of the polling station would also be ensured.

Regional Transport Authority, Rawalpindi had also arranged vehicles to facilitate the election staff, he added. He directed the author-

ities to determine the responsibilities of all the departments concerned and a follow up meeting should also be organized during next week to get updates about all the arrangements from all the departments.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Capt (r) Qasim Ijaz, Secretary, Regional Transport Authority Rashid Ali, District Election Officer Muhammad Salman, Shaheen Khan and other officers concerned.

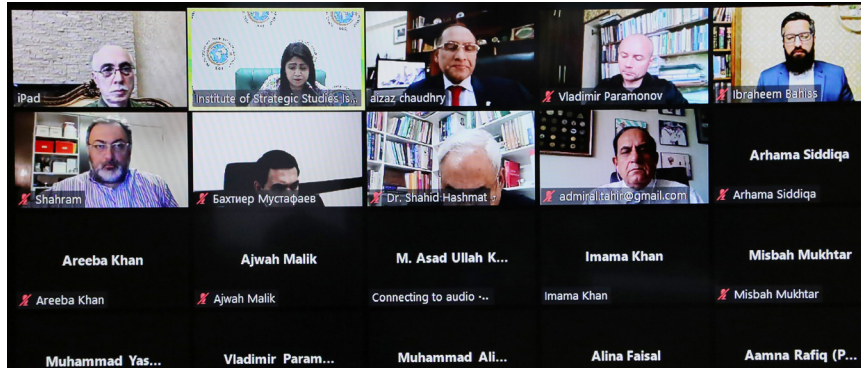
The DC said that transparent conduct of local bodies elections was essential for the security and development of the country. Therefore, it was more a social responsibility than a professional one to implement Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) effectively. All-out efforts should be made to ensure that the continuity of democracy was strengthened as a result of these elections, he said while issuing instructions to the Assistant Commissioners and Municipal Officers. All possible steps should be taken to ensure that the Code of Conduct issued by ECP for transparent and impartial elections was implemented in letter and spirit, he added. — APP

Conversations held on
Uzbek role in Afghanistan

There are some signs of resistance in the Panjsheer areas, by and far all political Afghan factions appear to be willing to work with the Taliban in an inclusive framework

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) had a Panel Discussion on 'Conversations on the Afghan Peace Process: Uzbekistan's Role in Afghanistan' which is the fourth in a series of conversations CAMEA will be having on Afghanistan – under its Conversations on the Afghan Peace Process series. The distinguished speakers included: Mr. Ibraheem Bahiss, Consultant with Crisis Group's Asia Program, Dr. Baktyor Mustafae, Deputy Director of the International Institute of Central Asia Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Dr. Akram Umarov, Senior Research Fellow - The University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Tashkent, Dr. Vladimir Paramonov, Director / Founder, Central Eurasian Analytical Group, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Ambassador Masood Khalid, Former Pakistan Counselor to Uzbekistan from 1995-98, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, and Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG, ISSI, also took part in the discussion. During her opening remarks, Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA said since the Taliban takeover, with the exception of terrorist attacks by the ISKP, followed by the US drone strikes against the group, the transition process has been relatively smooth. So far, the Taliban have presented a mod-



erate face, where they have allowed the re-opening of schools and return of women to work – moreover, there have been talks of forming an inclusive government.

While there are some signs of resistance in the Panjsheer areas, by and far all political Afghan factions appear to be willing to work with the Taliban in an inclusive framework. However, with the US withdrawal, the real test for Taliban has only just begun.

It is imperative for the Taliban to engage with Afghan stakeholders and form a government that is inclusive and representative of all Afghans. Bewildered by instability in Afghanistan, regional actors have come to the forefront to play a more prominent role, and one such country is Uzbekistan, which has played an important role in the Afghan peace process, by engaging with all sides as well as hosting initiatives to help

achieve a negotiated settlement. Moreover, Tashkent and Islamabad have a close and coordinated approach towards Afghanistan. Ambassador Aizaz said that regional countries can play a key role in Afghanistan and Uzbekistan is one such country. He raised four important questions pertaining to the Taliban; will the Taliban be able to establish stability in Afghanistan?, will the world recognize the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, how will the Taliban run the country and lastly, what will be the role of regional countries. While talking about Uzbekistan, he said that under the dynamic leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev a new era of economic prosperity has opened for Uzbekistan, under which the country can play a key role in the prosperity, peace and stability of Afghanistan. Mr. Ibraheem Bahiss believed that there is

unity among international players as well as regional countries when it comes to ensuring that Afghanistan does not become a safe haven for terrorist organizations. All the neighboring countries are concerned with the peace and stability of Afghanistan. At this stage, the Taliban should satisfy regional countries that they will not face any threats from Afghanistan. A viable strategy for the Taliban is to try and satisfy regional countries instead of trying to satisfy all actors, since the demands of regional countries are lesser than the West and regional countries primarily want to ensure that Afghanistan is not used by terrorists.

With regard to the challenges being faced by the Taliban, Mr. Bahiss said that the Taliban-led regime in Afghanistan will face various challenges like the formation of a government, its structure and their ability to run the country. Along with this another internal challenge which Taliban might face will be satisfaction of Afghans and their acceptance for the new regime.

Dr. Baktyor Mustafae said that Uzbekistan considers Afghanistan as an integral part of Central Asia. With the changing dynamics in the region, new opportunities for regional connectivity are emerging. The recently held conference in Tashkent in July discussed the various opportunities for regional connectivity of Central and S. Asia. Peace and stability in Afghanistan are essential for regional connectivity and it is only possible through intra-afghan reconciliation.

Deadline for
USAT registration
extended

ISLAMABAD: The deadline for registration to appear in the Undergraduate Studies Assessment Test (USAT), conducted by Education Testing Council (ETC), has been extended till September 1, 2021.

Keeping in view the problems faced by students while registering and considering the tremendous interest garnered by USAT, the deadline has been extended. The test will tentatively be conducted, as announced earlier, on September 12, 2021.

The universities may freely choose to accept USAT result card as valid for their respective admissions by announcing it for their prospective undergraduate can-

didates. Being a universal test gauging the ability of a student, it can be used by all universities if they so desire. The test is however not intended for the candidates applying for MBBS/ BDS programmes. The standardised admission test USAT offered by ETC is a competitive product that intends to carve out its own niche based on quality tests. USAT is developed from a standardised question bank with quality, equity, reliability, and validity of the product as well as integrity of the processes involved ensured at all levels of development, administration, grading and result reporting. Its validity will hold for a year. — APP



ISLAMABAD: German Foreign Minister planting a saplings at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — DNA

Sherry grills PTI govt over rising public debt

SHUJAAT HAMZA



with a crippling reality of soaring inflation putting pressure on meeting daily expenses. At the same time public debt soared to Rs 39.9 trillion with

an increase of Rs 15 trillion in the last three years, exceeding the FRDL Act of 2005 limit which is set to 60% of the GDP – while as it stands the current debt makes up for a whopping 84% of the GDP."

"After leaving the economy on the ventilator, the PTI government is further planning to borrow a whopping \$16 billion to run the country. With a firm denial of parliamentary oversight on foreign loans, there is no check on either borrowing or spending.

This is the same government which vowed not to borrow to run the country but to instead return all loans," added the Senator.

Addressing the overall economic performance of the country she said, "The public debt is one of the many indicators of this government's failing policies. With inflation at an all-time high, price hikes in electricity, gas and oil; compounded with 68% of Pakistan's living under food insecurity, the living standards of the people

of this nation are falling fast under this Government."

"Last fiscal year, the PTI government omitted key statistics in the debt report to hide incompetence and serial mismanagement. Information on external debt and liabilities were nowhere to be seen. How long will this government present dubious statistics to mislead the nation?" questioned the Senator.

She added, "Pakistan's food import bill is not any different – soaring by a massive 53% due to record-breaking

sugar and wheat imports this year. With rising food imports, our trade deficit touched a massive \$3 billion just for the month of July. This will have a devastating impact on the livelihood of countless farmers across the country."

The senator concluded by saying, "PTI's governance has fallen short of every single promise, with unemployment, inflation, food insecurity and poverty on the rise, all signs point towards a collapsing economy.

CDA
Master Plan
Commission
holds meeting

DNA

ISLAMABAD: CDA's Master Plan Commission has decided to preserve and safeguard green areas of Zone-III and IV of the capital. The Commission met here with Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Aamir Ali Ahmed in the chair and decided to protect green areas of the federal capital.

The Commission was set up to specify possible changes in the Master Plan of the federal capital.

The Commission decided to meet every Saturday with condition of 51 percent attendance as its quorum. It has decided to preserve and safeguard green areas of Zone-III and IV of the federal capital.

Omni Group's
head moves
IHC for
interim bail

ISLAMABAD: Omni Group's head Khawaja Anwar Majeed and his son Khawaja Abdul Ghani Majeed on Tuesday approached the Islamabad High Court (IHC) to obtain pre-arrest bail in a NAB case.

The petitioners including Mustafa Zulgermain had adopted the stance that they had received a call up notice from National Accountability Bureau (NAB). The bureau had summoned them on September 3, adding that there was risk of their arrest on appearance before it.

The petition prayed the court to stop NAB from arresting them and grant them pre-arrest bail. It may be mentioned here that the NAB had summoned the three accused in case pertaining to receiving loans on the name of front companies of Omni Group. — APP

Police arrest
seven for
possessing
illegal weapons

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police in their crackdown against illegal weapons, drugs and bootleggers rounded up seven persons from different areas and recovered 2325 grams charras, five liters liquor, a Kalashnikov, a 30 bore pistol and one 12 bore rifle from their possession, said a police spokesman on Tuesday. He informed that Murree Police conducted a raid and arrested a drug peddler namely Zeeshan Abbasi on recovery of 1500 grams charras. City police held Noshad Ali with 325 grams charras while Kahuta police rounded up Muhammad Ramzan and recovered 500 grams charras. Gunjmandi police apprehended Suleman Jameel for having five liters liquor. — APP

احساس تعلیمی وظائف

احساس کفالت کے
مستحق گھرانوں کیلئے
تعلیمی وظائف کا اجراء
نرسری سے بارہویں جماعت تک

اندرج کا طریقہ کار:

- ▶ پروگرام میں اندراج کے لیے احساس کے منتخب خاندانوں سے گزارش ہے
- ▶ بچوں کے گھرانہ کا اندراج نام / شناختی کارڈ اور تعلیمی ادارے میں داخلہ نام کے ہمراہ نزدیکی احساس دفتر پیش کرنا ہے۔
- ▶ وظیفہ پانے کے لئے ہر بچہ کی سکول میں کم از کم 70 فیصد حاضری ضروری ہے۔
- ▶ مزید تفصیلات کے لیے اپنے قریبی دفتر کا پتہ یہاں دیکھئے۔

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یہاں سے ٹول فری نمبر **080026477** پر رابطہ کریں۔

وظائف کی رقم		
کلاس	لڑکیوں کا وظیفہ	لڑکوں کا وظیفہ
پرائمری	2,000 روپے	1,500 روپے
سیکنڈری	3,000 روپے	2,500 روپے
ہائر سیکنڈری	4,000 روپے	3,500 روپے

پرائمری تعلیم مکمل ہونے پر ہر بچہ کو 3,000 روپے کی ریجنیشن پیش بھی دیا جائے گا۔

PID(1)302-21

Turbulent Forecast

THE spillover of violence from Afghanistan continues as two soldiers embraced martyrdom in a clash that occurred after terrorists from Afghanistan opened fire on a military post in Bajaur district on Sunday. Pakistani Army troops responded in a befitting manner as they eliminated three terrorists, however the loss of security personnel is extremely unfortunate. The internal security situation is certainly of concern given the regularity with which attacks are taking place in the borderlands. Officials have rightly condemned the use of Afghan soil by terrorists for activities against Pakistan and have made it clear that the existing and future setup in Afghanistan must clamp down on such militants. Meanwhile, Afghan Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid has stated that it is up to Islamabad, and not Afghanistan, to address issues related to the TTP. Unless the essence of the statement being reported was lost in translation, remarks from the Taliban leadership will have to be more confidence inspiring, and their words will need to be backed up with concrete actions if the group is to earn credibility at a regional and international level. To discuss the evolving situation next door and the internal security matters along with Kashmir, the country's military leadership gave a briefing to three parliamentary committees on Monday at the General Headquarters (GHQ). This meeting continues the trend of an earlier convening that took place in July to apprise parliamentarians of strategic challenges and shifting external environment which could have repercussions for the country. Consultations of such a nature are extremely important at this critical juncture so that there is an internal consensus on matters of national security and that the messaging emanating from Islamabad is consistent. Additionally, divisive rhetoric should be avoided when it comes to such sensitive national issues and politics should be restricted to governance and related political matters. Considering the turbulent forecast, we will need to cope with upcoming challenges in a united fashion to weather the storm.

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Consensus Required

THE decision to replace members of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) after retirement has been a lingering issue in ensuring the transparency body is representative. The system of replacement is such that the constitution requires that the Prime Minister and opposition leader reach a consensus and appoint the officials within 45 days. Despite the intense rivalry that ensues between PTI and PML-N, it is good to see PM Imran Khan take the initiative to write a letter to Shehbaz Sharif proposing six candidates for the vacancy. With three days left for the deadline to lapse, it is reassuring to see that at least some progress is being made. The ECP is a body that is supposed to maintain its neutrality to uphold the sanctity of the electoral process and eliminate any chances of bias or influence seeping in. That is precisely why it is imperative for both, the government and the opposition to sign off on who becomes a member of the body. While there may be too much heat between the two leaders for an in-person meeting, an indirect consultation for who to appoint for the vacant positions is good enough as long as it gets the job done. Now, the onus is on Mr Sharif to voice his opinions and address any concerns about the PM's selections—namely Mr Ahsan Mahboob, Raja Amer Khan, Dr Syed Pervaiz Abbas, Justice (retd) Ikramullah Khan, Mr-Faridullah Khan and MrMuzammil Khan—through the same route taken by the PM, and that too urgently. If replacement names have to be sent, it must be done without politics. It is also important to note that in case there is a disagreement on the candidates, there is a viable system in place whereby the opposition leader would have to propose three names for each of the two slots available. Then, the matter would be sent to the parliamentary committee which would make the final decision. Thus, proactive participation in the process is vital for the ECP to remain truly representative for both the government and the opposition.

What Afghanistan means for Russian-Iranian detente

Dr. Mohammed Al-Sulami

Russia and Iran will also benefit from the Taliban's professed pledges to vanquish Daesh-Khorasan, curb Al-Qaeda's movements, crack down on drug trafficking, and secure its borders. These pledges form part of the Taliban's efforts to rehabilitate and rebrand themselves with a new positive image, different to the one of the past, both domestically and internationally. The group wants to gain international legitimacy and recognition in order to avert another confrontation similar to the one that took place in 2001 following the 9/11 attacks. This is essential for the Taliban to win the international community's confidence and for the latter to release financial aid to reconstruct Afghanistan

THE political developments unfolding rapidly in Afghanistan since the Taliban forcibly seized power in the country reveal convergent positions between Russia and Iran on the militia's takeover. Moscow and Tehran are among the few capitals in the world that did not express deep concern about the Taliban sweeping across Afghanistan's cities. The two countries have kept their embassies in Kabul open and have not rushed to evacuate their citizens. It seems that the two countries have concluded that the Taliban takeover is a reality that they must engage and deal with. Russia has already sent warm signals to the Taliban by rejecting the Western narrative about the group, as well as adopting supportive positions at international forums, especially the UN. This may be a message to the Taliban that Moscow could provide it with an umbrella of international protection, just as it has done with Bashar Assad's regime in Syria. Iran — which previously had bitter enmity with the Taliban — is following in Russia's footsteps, with the formerly mutually antagonistic parties going from yesterday's foes to today's friends almost overnight. In reality, this apparently sudden, dramatic shift in the two countries' policies toward the Taliban is not a spur-of-the-moment move at all. It coincides with Russian-Iranian rapprochement and joint coordination on multiple regional issues and an opportunistic attempt by both countries to exploit the geopolitical opportunities created by Washington's disengagement from several areas and its withdrawal from Afghanistan, despite occasional conflicts of interest between Tehran and Moscow. The Taliban have returned the favors bestowed on them by Russia and Iran with diplomatic rhetoric that allays their worries. The militia cannot forget the Russian and

Iranian military support that played a pivotal role in enabling it to take back control of the country, let alone the two countries' political support, which appeared evidently in their attempt to create a channel of negotiations to settle Afghanistan's internal disputes under Moscow's patronage, like the Astana process related to the Syrian crisis — a path that once again excludes the US. The foregoing, in addition to the two countries' efforts to weaken the former Afghan government, which had always been viewed as pro-Western and pro-American, helped smooth the way for the Taliban's return to power. There is no question that the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan serves Russia's and Iran's key strategic objective, which is the basis of their rapprochement: Defeating the US in this arena. This is a geostrategic victory for both countries, as their most powerful rival has withdrawn from their immediate and nearby boundaries, leaving a vacuum that provides them with an opportunity to enhance their clout and presence. America's humiliating departure is also somewhat pleasing to Moscow considering the fact that it has not forgotten its US-backed defeat in Afghanistan during the Cold War, which represented its greatest geopolitical calamity of the past century. Russia also sees that the ongoing developments in Afghanistan offer it a historic opportunity to settle its Cold War-era scores with the US and NATO. For Iran, meanwhile, the US departure is no less important, as Tehran bases its regional policy on keeping America away from its vital spheres of influence. Russia and Iran will also benefit from the Taliban's professed pledges to vanquish Daesh-Khorasan, curb Al-Qaeda's movements, crack down on drug trafficking, and secure its borders. These pledges form part of the Taliban's efforts to rehabilitate and rebrand themselves with a new posi-

tive image, different to the one of the past, both domestically and internationally. The group wants to gain international legitimacy and recognition in order to avert another confrontation similar to the one that took place in 2001 following the 9/11 attacks. This is essential for the Taliban to win the international community's confidence and for the latter to release financial aid to reconstruct Afghanistan and provide the Afghan people with much-needed relief. Despite all this, however, Russia and Iran could still lose their bets in Afghanistan. Just because the US has withdrawn does not mean that Washington will cede the country to its rivals. Some suggest that the US withdrawal from Afghanistan is part of a deliberate strategy to pivot American military resources to the east, encircling Russia and China on the ground and at sea. In light of this US pivot, Afghanistan could turn into a source of disasters, crises, terrorism and drug trafficking affecting both Iran and Russia. On balance, at this moment in time, Tehran and Moscow have rather tension-free relations in Afghanistan, unlike in the Syrian arena, where they periodically engage in heated military clashes. In Syria, Russia has supported Assad in order to rebuild the Syrian state, including its army and security forces, while Iran has worked to maintain the current state of disintegration and chaos, which allows it to carry on, untroubled, with achieving its basic interests in Syria. In contrast, both Russia and Iran probably want to see a stable Afghan government in Kabul to avoid potentially destabilizing security consequences. Additionally, the two countries want to reshape the regional structure in order to serve their political and economic interests in light of the unprecedented regional and international competition for influence in Afghanistan.

— *Courtesy Arab News*

The Afghanistan imbroglio

Abdul Rashid Shakir



The domino effect kicked in when US also abandoned its major ally in Afghan jihad (1979-1989), Pakistan, by slapping Pressler Sanctions in 1990. The lethal blowback of Pakistan siding with the US in Afghan Jihad was felt by Pakistani society in the form of gun culture and sectarian violence in 1990s, and influx of around 3 Million Afghan refugees

TRUE to a wise Chinese saying, 'A close neighbor means more than a distant relative', US has abandoned the war-torn Afghanistan this time too. Dusting off annals of US military intervention in Afghanistan reveals that it was in 1989 when, backed by US military support, Afghanistan realized the American dream of being world's sole super power by disintegrating Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) into Russian Federation and independent Central Asian Republics (CARs). After achieving its strategic foreign policy objective of defeating Soviets in Afghanistan, US abandoned Afghanistan instead of helping it to rebuild, rehabilitate and stabilize its economy. The domino effect kicked in when US also abandoned its major ally in Afghan jihad (1979-1989), Pakistan, by slapping Pressler Sanctions in 1990. The lethal blowback of Pakistan siding with the US in Afghan Jihad was felt by Pakistani society in the form of gun culture and sectarian violence in 1990s, and influx of around 3 Million Afghan refugees straining the already-fledgling Pakistan's economy at that point in time. These fault lines are further accentuated when we witnessed the rise of Tehreek-e-Nifaz-e-Shariat-e-Mohammadi (TNSM) in early 2000s and Tahrir-I-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in the late 2000s. Then came the fateful event of 9/11 in the US in 2001. US and its NATO allies invaded Afghanistan in October 2001 to topple down Taliban Regime to destroy safe havens of Al-Qaeda, an organization of world-acclaimed mujahideens against Soviets in Afghanistan a couple of decades ago. Pakistan was again asked to 'be with us or against us'. Through convincing statements

like, 'We won't abandon Pakistan this time', and some brazen threats like, 'We would bomb you to stone age', US managed to stitch Pakistan as its major non-NATO ally in this two-decade long military campaign against terrorism in Afghanistan. Pakistan again felt tremendous shocks and fatal blowback. Fangs of terrorism and suicide bombings ripped the peace and stability of our social order apart. Economy crippled, business and investment came to a grinding halt, and Pakistan's law and order system was rattled to the core. Terrorist and subversive activities sponsored by Indian consulates across Pak-Afghan border spoiled the peace of our society. When factored in all these developments in the overall business ecosystem, capital flight and brain drain appeared to be quite logical corollaries. Since 9/11 in 2001 until Doha Agreement in February 2020 when US announced withdrawal of its forces from Afghanistan by 31 August 2021, Pakistan has paid a huge price in terms of man, money and material. More than 70,000 Pakistanis including civilians and security personnels have lost their precious lives. Thousands have either received injuries or have been rendered crippled. More than 2 Million were internally displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's newly-merged tribal districts due to Operation Black Thunderstorm in 2009, and many lost their abodes altogether. Pakistan has also incurred a massive economic cost to the tune of more than 150 Billion USD compared to 'peanuts' it received in economic, development and military support under Coalition Support Fund (CSF) and Kerry Lugar Bill since it joined US war in Afghanistan as a frontline state in 2001.

But quite unfortunately, instead of acknowledging Pakistan's so much sacrifices and recognizing plethora of problems it faced, just because it supported US and its allies in their war in Afghanistan, it is being made a scapegoat for what the greatest military might of US and its NATO allies could not achieve in Afghanistan after spending trillions of dollars over the course of 20 years. Massive carpet bombings, lot of drone strikes, countless counter-insurgency and Intelligence Based Operations (IBOs) could not materialize their declared objective of subduing Taliban and lending peace and stability to Afghanistan by eliminating safe havens of terrorists and insurgents. Now that the fully-trained and well-equipped Afghan National Army (ANA) has melted and Taliban are back in Kabul, it is high time that the international community should support efforts for the formation of an inclusive and broad-based government to ensure peace and stability in Afghanistan. Pakistan is doing all it can to avert civil war like situation in Afghanistan by trying to take on board all possible stakeholders in the country. Pakistan is also engaged with all regional and international countries to reach at a mutually-acceptable solution of the whole crisis. Pakistan is in active liaison with China, Russia, Turkey, Iran, UK and EU for a peaceful settlement of Afghan crisis by bringing all parties on the table to form an inclusive government. US should also play a more responsible role in acknowledging the ground realities and supporting the formation of an inclusive government to ensure peace, stability, rehabilitation, and development in Afghanistan.

— *The writer can be reached at arshakir.pmo@gmail.com*

Briefs

Pak, Germany
pledge to
work hand-
in-hand

FROM PAGE 01
economic stability in Afghanistan. These would require sustained engagement with Afghanistan, he added. The Prime Minister underscored that both Pakistan and Germany should work closely for the promotion of shared interests relating to regional peace and stability. Foreign Minister Heiko Maas conveyed cordial greetings of Chancellor Merkel. While sharing Germany's viewpoint on the evolving situation in Afghanistan, he thanked for Pakistan's support and facilitation for Germany's evacuation endeavours from Afghanistan. Foreign Minister Maas also highlighted the celebration of 70th anniversary of establishment of Pakistan-Germany diplomatic relations during 2021. The two countries are holding a series of events to celebrate this milestone in a befitting manner. Meanwhile, Heiko Maas, Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, overall regional security situation including latest developments in Afghanistan and bilateral cooperation in various fields were discussed. COAS said that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Germany and expressed desire for enhanced mutually beneficial bilateral relations. The German dignitary acknowledged Pakistan's continuous efforts for peace and stability in the region and thanked the COAS for assistance rendered by Pakistan during evacuations from Kabul.

Allegations
of no calls to
Islamabad..

FROM PAGE 01
Raab had thought of Afghanistan as "yesterday's war" which no one wants to fight anymore, the news paper reported, citing a Pakistani official. The foreign secretary insisted, however, on Tuesday, that there had been a "team effort" across the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office to communicate with the two countries. The foreign secretary maintained that he had spoken to Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on August 22 and 27, adding that so far, they have successfully evacuated over 17,000 people from Afghanistan since April 2021. Minister for South Asia Lord Ahmed was responsible for talks with Pakistan and Afghanistan, said Dominic Raab.

'Afghans are
free now'

FROM PAGE 01
Qatar, Turkey to manage Kabul airport. Just after midnight local time, US Central Command Commander, General Kenneth McKenzie, declared, "Every single US service member is now out of Afghanistan." With those 10 words, McKenzie brought an official end to Washington's longest-ever foreign incursion. As the final US military plane departed Kabul's Hamid Karzai International Airport, the Taliban looked on in triumph. Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, took to Twitter, writing: "The last American occupier withdrew ... at 12 O'clock and our country gained its full independence, praise and gratitude be to God." Members of the group spent the rest of the early morning hours of Tuesday in an ecstatic state of revelry, firing round after round into the pitch-black sky. They had defeated the foreign forces that had hunted them for 19 years. By sunrise, though, it became clear to the Afghan people that the dawn had brought with it an uncertain future. After two decades of foreign occupation, the nation, currently being led by the Taliban, will be left to face the security threat of the Islamic State in Khorasan Province, ISKP (ISIS-K), an armed group, and potential economic insolvency with no indication of foreign assistance.

World must help Afghans to
form inclusive government

We are also seeing the restoration of commercial traffic," he said pointing out that the situation was by and large close to normal in all the major cities of Afghanistan

WASHINGTON: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Asad Majeed Khan, has urged the international community to facilitate the Taliban and other Afghan parties to come to a common understanding and form an inclusive government in a bid to stabilize the situation in Afghanistan.

"This is really the time an opportunity for international community to come together and I think we owe it to the people of Afghanistan," he said, adding that that was the best way to prevent

deterioration of the situation and a civil war in the country. The Taliban were themselves anxious to restore normalcy and order there, he said.

The Pakistani envoy, who was responding to questions from British media, said some reports in the international media about violations of human rights might not be true.

"We are hearing that things are returning to normal; we are also seeing no Afghan refugees on border crossings," Ambassador Khan said. "We are also seeing



the restoration of commercial traffic," he said pointing out that the situation was by and large

close to normal in all the major cities of Afghanistan.

Replying to a question, the ambassador said Pakistan did not control the Taliban and had even lost whatever leverage it had over the group.

Successive Afghan governments, he said, had made allegations about Pakistan's involvement with the Taliban in an attempt to shift the focus on their corruption and failures, and "our detractors in the region" also used Kabul's accusations to malign Pakistan.

Pakistan, he said, did have link-

ages with the Taliban like several other countries. The United States too had been having talks with the group.

Ambassador Khan said Pakistan was doing its part to evacuate diplomats, representatives of international organizations and Afghans wishing to leave Afghanistan. But, he said, Pakistan, which already had 3.5 million refugees, would not accept more refugees.

"We are already overburdened by the refugees, and it is beyond our capacity to host any more refugees," he added. - APP

Nasir wins PSF-Combaxx
sports Squash Championship

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan number one Nasir Iqbal has stormed back into contention with a resounding win against top seed and world number 44 Tayyab Aslam to win the PSF-Combaxx Sports squash championship at Mushaf Squash Complex Islamabad on Tuesday. Air Marshal Aamir Masood Senior Vice President Pakistan Squash Federation graced the closing ceremony as Chief Guest and distributed trophies and prizes

to the finalists along with CEO Combaxx Sports Omer Saeed and Pakistan Squash Federation secretary Wing Commander Armghan Aziz were also present during the ceremony. The five days event was organized by with the collaboration with Combaxx Sports

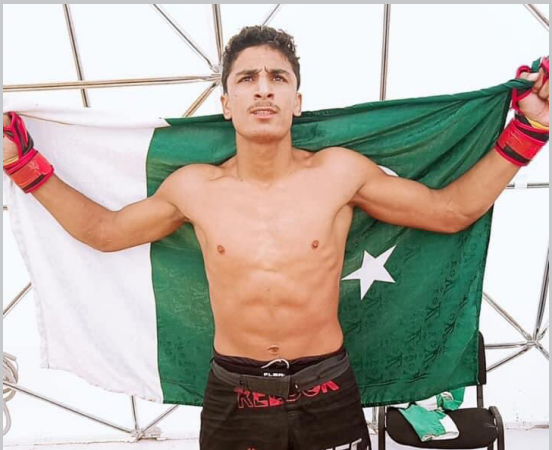
Nasir fought back from two games down to beat Tayyab Aslam by 8-11, 10-12. The match lasted 49 minutes: It was all going well for Tayyab as he was dictating terms right from the beginning, by winning first two games in style, he was

seen handling court well and making full use of Nasir's raw shorts but it was Nasir who found his momentum entered into the third game. A closed third game saw Nasir making full use of abilities, sending in some rasping winners to upstage Tayyab. World Number 44 on the other hand found going tuff as he was losing battle against stamina and it was seen conceding points easily twice he fell down in the court after colliding with Nasir. Tayyab was seen more engage in physical context rather than

engaging in a game battle. On the other hand Nasir playing with the more authority sending in one winner after another to turn the game in his favor. Nasir scooped up his first major title in a while by winning last three games by 11-8, 11-5, and 11-4. Speaking on the occasion Air Marshal Aamir Masood hoping that the players will focus on their fitness to win the major international events, adding that Pakistan Air Force and Pakistan Squash Federation will provide all possible facilities to all players in this regard.

Luis Suarez to miss
World Cup qualifiers

MADRID: Atletico Madrid striker Luis Suarez will miss Uruguay's forthcoming World Cup qualifying matches due to injury. Atletico Madrid have confirmed that the striker, who scored his first goal of the season in Sunday's 2-2 draw at home to Villarreal before being substituted in the 70th minute of the game had "serious pain" in his left leg. "Luis Suarez finished the game with serious pain in the back of his left leg. He will undergo tests in the coming hours to determine the extent of these problems," explained the Atletico Madrid website. The tests have shown "a moderate swelling at the back of the left knee" due to inflammation and the Atletico Madrid medical services have informed the Uruguayan Football Federation that Suarez will not be able to play in their games against Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador, although it is thought he will be fit for Atletico's next league game. - APP

Gold medal for
Pakistan in Asian
MMA Championship

NUR-SULTAN: Pakistani Mixed Martial Arts fighter Shahzaib Khan has secured a Gold Medal at the Global Association of Mixed Martial Arts (GAMMA) Asian MMA Championships 2021 held in Kyrgyzstan from August 24 to 28. Khan, who hailed from Sindh, qualified for the final by defeating the Indian fighter in the semi-final. The young blood defeated the Kyrgyz fighter within a minute in final match and set a new record by clinching a gold medal for the South Asian country. As Shahzaib won gold, Liaquat Ali secured silver and Allah Gul Afridi bagged bronze medal to make Pakistan proud. "I watched some footage of the tournament and Shahzaib has the potential to be something very special," Professional MMA player Bashir Ahmad. He said the Pakistani MMA scene has a "new contender to keep your eye on." - DNA

Dale Steyn
retires
from cricket

JOHANNESBURG: Dale Steyn has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, closing the curtain on a 20-year career in which he became South Africa's highest wicket-taker in Tests and arguably the country's greatest ever fast bowler. Steyn retired from the five-day game in 2019 but had been available for limited-overs cricket and hoped to play at the Twenty20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates later this year, though he had not featured in the team since February last year. Steyn is a bowler with a reputation of being able to take wickets in all types of conditions, his raw pace, accuracy and ability to get movement both ways being his key weapons. "It has been 20 years of training, matches, travel, wins, losses, strapped feet, jet lag, joy and brotherhood. Today I officially retire from the game I love the most. Bittersweet, but grateful," Steyn said in a statement. - DNA

Japan provides US \$31.4
million grant to Pakistan

FROM PAGE 01
- Feb 2020: Delivery of diagnostic kits
- Apr-May 2020: Disbursement of a total of \$7.41 million to UNICEF, IOM, IFRC, UNHCR and UNOPS for providing hygiene items, training health workers, providing alternative learning opportunities etc.
- Dec 2020: Grant Assistance of \$9.5 million to NDMA for procuring medical equipment.
- Mar 2021: Grant Assistance of \$6.59 million to UNICEF for improving vaccine cold-chain.
In addition to the above, Japan and Pakistan agreed on debt deferral amounting to 40 billion (approx. \$370 million) for making fiscal space to fight COVID-19 in Pakistan. Through JICA projects, personal protective equipment and masks were provided to PIMS, WHO Polio Laboratory (Islamabad), and immunization project workers in KP province. Ambassador MATSUDA add-

ed, "Provision of health and medical service is the most basic human necessities in every country across the world. Among them, women and children are still in a vulnerable position, which is reflected in the high maternal and infant mortality rate in Pakistan. Japan will continue to provide assistance that will directly benefit vulnerable people in Pakistan." Mr. FURUTA also remarked, "A number of care facilities to treat mothers and babies with complications is very limited in Sindh. As a result, patients are concentrated in advanced medical facilities. This project will not only alleviate the pressure of tertiary hospitals in Karachi and Hyderabad, but also open up opportunities for families from all over southern part of Sindh, with improved accessibility and better chances of saving lives." Japan provides aid in human capitals On the same day, the Notes and grant agreement for the project of the Human Resource Development

Scholarship (JDS) was also signed so that the fourth batch of the project to be commenced. The aforementioned grant aid is worth JPY312 million (approx. US\$2.9 million) which allow maximum 20 Pakistan Government officers to study in Japanese Universities to obtain Masters' or Doctoral Degree. The purpose of JDS is to strengthen the Government officers' administrative capacity through the study in Japan and to build a solid friendship as well as diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan. The project started in 2018 in Pakistan and 51 persons in total have joined the project and started the Japanese Universities. JDS fellows are studying in the field either (1) Public Administration and Finance, (2) Energy policy, (3) Industrial Promotion, Investment climate and Trade, (4) Agriculture, Water Resources and Rural Development, and (5) Disaster Management.

Red list
issue to be
taken up...

FROM PAGE 01
length about Pakistan's coronavirus testing mechanism with Britain's chief medical scientist. This was announced by Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry on Tuesday during his post-cabinet meeting media briefing. Chaudhry said that Prime Minister Imran Khan had spoken to his British counterpart Boris Johnson, who believed that deliberations should be held over the testing mechanism in Pakistan. "We are putting in all our efforts to have Pakistan moved out of UK's red list, as it affects numerous Pakistani families," the information minister said. Pakistan's name, in the latest review of the country's travel ban, was retained on the red list, despite a diplomatic offensive by several top government officials. The British government said that it had decided to keep Pakistan on the travel ban red list because the true number of COVID-19 cases are likely much higher than reported across the country, a leaked letter written by Britain's health minister revealed. The information minister said he hopes for peace to prevail in Afghanistan, hours after the last United States troops left the war-torn country, leaving the Taliban in charge. The Taliban celebrated their total return to power on Tuesday with gunfire and diplomacy. US' long military conflict drew to a close on Monday night when its forces abandoned Kabul's airport, where it had overseen a frenzied airlift that saw more than 123,000 people flee life under the Taliban.

Taliban fighters then quickly swept into the airport and fired weapons into the sky across the city in jubilation - an astonishing return after US forces invaded in 2001 and toppled them for supporting Al Qaeda. Meanwhile, the information minister wished for the "sad tales" of the Afghan people to come to an end, as he promised on behalf of Pakistan that it would do all it can to provide relief to them. Speaking about evacuations, he said 10,302 people belonging to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) were brought to Pakistan and 9,032 of them have departed to their respective countries. "As many as 1,229 people who came from Afghanistan are present in Pakistan and they will leave within a day or two," the information minister said, adding that of the 1,229, 545 are Afghan nationals, while 684 are foreigners. The information minister added that of the 155 evacuees from the United States, only 42 are still present in Pakistan.

The information minister said the federal cabinet wants to make the COVID-19 booster shot, which currently costs Rs1,270, free for labourers. The cabinet has decided to start vaccinating people aged 17 and below in stages, said Chaudhry, while praising the National Command and Control Centre for Pakistan's response to the virus and its roll-out of vaccines.

Taliban
has to earn
legitimacy

FROM PAGE 01
US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Monday. America's top diplomat, speaking just hours after the final US evacuation flights left Kabul, said Washington has suspended its diplomatic presence in Kabul as of Monday and shifted its operations to Qatar. "Our troops have departed Afghanistan," Blinken said. "A new chapter of America's engagement with Afghanistan has begun. "It's one in which we will lead with our diplomacy. The military mission is over; a new diplomatic mission has begun." Blinken said the United States was committed to helping every American who wants to depart Afghanistan to leave the country. He said a small number of US citizens remained in the country - "under 200" but likely closer to just 100 - and wanted to leave. Blinken said the Taliban would need to live up to their commitments to provide freedom of travel, to respect the rights of women and minorities and to not allow the country to become a base for terrorism. "Any legitimacy and any support will have to be earned," Blinken said.

Ronaldo seals contract to complete United return

"I have no doubt that he will continue to impress us all and his experience will be so vital for the younger players in the squad. Ronaldo's return demonstrates the unique appeal of this club and I am absolutely delighted he is coming home to where it all started," commented the coach

DNA

LONDON: Cristiano Ronaldo says he is "back where I belong" at Manchester United and has dedicated his return to the club to former boss Sir Alex Ferguson. United have paid an initial 15m euros (£12.85m) to sign the 36-year-old from Juventus, a decade after he left the club to join Real Madrid. He has signed a two-year contract, with the option to extend for another year. "Everyone who knows me, knows about my never-ending love for Manchester United," he wrote on Instagram. "The years I spent in this club were absolutely amazing and the

path we've made together is written in gold letters in the history of this great and amazing institution. "I can't even start to explain my feelings right now, as I see my return to Old Trafford announced worldwide. "It's like a dream come true, after all the times that I went back to play against Manchester United, and even as an opponent, to have always felt such love and respect from the supporters in the stands. "This is absolutely 100% the stuff that dreams are made of!" "He's an absolute genius" - The inside story of Cristiano Ronaldo at Man Utd Five-time Ballon d'Or winner Ronaldo signed off: "I'm right here! I'm back where I belong! Let's make it happen once again!



PS - Sir Alex, this one is for you..." Ferguson was United manager during Ronaldo's first spell at Old Trafford, when he scored 118 goals in 292 appearances before leaving for Real Madrid in 2009. He is believed to have spoken

to Ferguson prior to his return to United, which could also cost the club a possible 8m euros (£6.85m) in add-ons. Current Red Devils boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said: "You run out of words to describe Cristiano. He is not only a marvellous player, but also a great human being. "To have the desire and the ability to play at the top level for such a long period requires a very special person. "I have no doubt that he will continue to impress us all and his experience will be so vital for the younger players in the squad. "Ronaldo's return demonstrates the unique appeal of this club and I am absolutely delighted he is coming home to where it all started." Ronaldo had been linked with

Manchester City but opted to return to United, where he spent six years and won three Premier League titles, one Champions League, two League Cups and one FA Cup - as well as the FIFA Club World Cup and Community Shield. Ronaldo could be available to Solskjaer for the home game against Newcastle United on 11 September, which is the club's first match following the international break. Ronaldo wore the number seven shirt in his first stint at United but that is currently held by Edinson Cavani and, even if the Uruguay striker was willing to hand over the shirt number, Premier League rules prevent a mid-season swap except in the most extreme circumstances.

Briefs

Ilham Aliyev
congratulates
Uzbek
President

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has congratulated his Uzbek counterpart Shavkat Mirziyoyev on Independence Day. "On my own behalf and on behalf of the people of Azerbaijan, I am happy to extend my sincerest congratulations and best wishes to you and through you to all your people on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Independence Day of the brotherly Republic of Uzbekistan, he said. Aliyev hailed the significant achievements in the socio-economic development and other spheres in Uzbekistan under Mirziyoyev's leadership over the past period. "The current state of Azerbaijan-Uzbekistan relations, based on mutual trust and support, is pleasing. These relations are characterized by a high level of development of our political, economic, and cultural ties," Aliyev noted. He expressed confidence that the Azerbaijani-Uzbek joint efforts made towards the further deepening of bilateral and multilateral cooperation will continue to serve the prosperity of the two nations. The Azerbaijani leader wished brotherly everlasting peace and prosperity.

Sri Lanka
declares food
emergency

FOREIGN DESK

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka has declared a state of emergency over food shortages as private banks run out of foreign exchange to finance imports. With the country suffering a hard-hitting economic crisis, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Tuesday said he has ordered emergency regulations to counter the hoarding of sugar, rice and other essential foods. The regulations give wide powers to officials to seize food stocks held by traders, arrest people who hoard essential food and for the government to fix controlled prices. Rajapaksa has named a top army officer as Commissioner General of Essential Services to coordinate the supply of paddy, rice, sugar and other consumer goods. The move followed sharp price rises for sugar, rice, onions and potatoes, while long queues have formed outside stores because of shortages of milk powder, kerosene oil and cooking gas despite the country being under a 16-day curfew until next Monday due to the increase in COVID-19 cases. Trade Minister Bandula Gunawardena said some traders were hoarding stocks, resulting in shortages of food items and causing inconvenience to the public. The government has increased penalties for food hoarding but the shortages come as the country of 21 million battles a fierce coronavirus wave that is claiming more than 200 lives a day.

Six militants
sentenced
to death in
Bangladesh

AGENCIES

DHAKA: A court in Bangladesh has sentenced six members of a banned group to death and acquitted two others in connection with the murder of two LGBTQ rights activists five years ago. Xulhaz Mannan was the editor of Bangladesh's first and only gay rights magazine, Roopban. Mahbub Rabbay Tono was his friend and associate. The two were hacked to death at their apartment in capital Dhaka on April 25, 2016, by the men belonging to Ansar al-Islam, a group banned by the Bangladesh government the previous year. Officials say the group is a local affiliate of the al-Qaeda in Dhaka. Amid tight security on Tuesday, Judge Md Majibur Rahman of the special anti-terrorism tribunal pronounced the verdict in the presence of four of the eight accused in a packed courtroom in Dhaka.



ISLAMABAD: Federal minister for Finance and Revenue, Shaukat Tarin chairing the meeting of economic coordination committee of cabinet. – DNA

Iran and Saudia expected to resume direct talks soon

"The Saudi counterpart said we're waiting for the new government in Iran to be situated and we will resume our communications," said Amirabdollahian

NEWS DESK

TEHRAN: Iran and Saudi Arabia appear to be ready to resume direct talks hosted by Iraq in the near future, Iranian state media reported. Iran's new Foreign Affairs Minister, Hossein Amirabdollahian, said during a late-night interview on state television on Monday that he had spoken with his Saudi counterpart, Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, at the regional summit hosted by Baghdad on Saturday. "The Saudi counterpart said we're waiting for the new government in Iran to be situated and we will resume our communications," said Amirabdollahian. The two regional rivals began secret talks hosted by Baghdad in April but the discussions were temporarily halted pending the



formation of President Ebrahim Raisi's administration. Raisi's cabinet gained a sweeping vote of confidence from Iran's parliament days before last week's Baghdad summit, which marked Amirabdollahian's first trip as foreign minister. Iran's envoy to Baghdad also confirmed on

Monday that a fourth round of talks with Saudi officials will be held soon. "Iran has expressed its readiness for dialogue and peace and has extended its hand of help and assistance toward neighbours and countries in the region," Iraj Masjedi said. The meeting, aimed at rallying support

for Iraq was also a significant indicator of regional efforts to de-escalate tensions, marked the first time in more than five years that senior officials from Iran and Saudi Arabia attended the same event. Riyadh and Tehran cut diplomatic ties in early 2016 after the kingdom's embassy in Tehran was stormed by a mob following the killing of a renowned Shia cleric in Saudi Arabia. Tensions escalated after Saudi Arabia said it would support former US President Donald Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign of harsh sanctions against Iran after his unilateral withdrawal from the country's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. In 2019, US and Saudi officials said Iran was responsible for a missile and drone attack on the kingdom's main oil facilities, which temporarily knocked out half of its crude oil output.

EU inflation surges 3% in August

BRUSSELS: Consumer prices in the eurozone are projected to rise in August to 3% higher than the European Central Bank's 2% target, the bloc's statistics office announced on Tuesday. Among the main components of euro-area inflation, energy is expected to have had the greatest annual rate in April with 15.4%, compared to 14.3% in July, according to the flash estimate by Eurostat. This was followed by non-energy industrial goods (2.7%, compared with 0.7% in July); food, alcohol, and tobacco (2%, compared with 1.6% in July); and services (1.1%, compared with 0.9% in July). In August, the highest complete set of harmonized indices of consumer prices (HICP) rate was posted by Estonia at 5%, while Malta saw the lowest with 0.3%. – Agencies

ECC approves funds for RHC liabilities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet here on Tuesday approved funds to meet emergent liabilities of the Roosevelt Hotel Corporation (RHC) including payment of local taxes and utilities. The summary for funds was presented by the Aviation Division before ECC, the meeting of which was presided over by the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Shaukat

Tarin, according to press statement issued by the Finance Ministry. According to the statement, PIA-IL requested the ECC to utilize US\$10 million available with the National Bank of Pakistan to clear the immediate financial liabilities. The ECC approved the summary with a direction to exercise due diligence in meeting emergent liabilities and submit utilization report, before the forum, regarding funding support by the government duly verified by the external auditors of the entity.

Pakistan, Azerbaijan to increase educational relations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Online meeting was held between Baku State University of Azerbaijan and Lahore University of Pakistan. Rectors of Baku State University of Azerbaijan and Lahore University of Pakistan and Azerbaijan Ambassador to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov, Pakistan Ambassador to Azerbaijan Bilal Hayee were also present at the occasion. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Universities at the end of the meeting. Azerbaijan's Ambassador to Khazar Farhadov appreciated this effort and hope that these type of initiatives will increase cooperation between both countries. "I was delighted to participate in the meeting and to be part of this important ceremony. I am confident that it will contribute to the further strengthening of the educational ties between Azerbaijan and Pakistan, ambassador tweeted.



3,890 Azerbaijanis missing as a result of Armenian aggression

DNA

BAKU: A Baku-based joint conference held by the Foreign Ministry, the State Commission on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing People, and ADA University on August 30 focused on Azerbaijanis who went missing as a result of Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan. Some 3,890 persons (3,171 servicemen, 719 civilians) from Azerbaijan are still missing as a result of Arme-

nia's aggression. The event was attended by the heads of the Foreign Ministry's structural divisions and the heads of diplomatic missions accredited in Azerbaijan. At the opening ceremony, the participants commemorated with a minute of silence those who were martyred as a result of the Armenian aggression. In his opening speech, ADA University's Vice-Rector Fariz Ismayilzade stressed the events organized by the university in connection

with Karabakh's post-conflict rehabilitation and revival and the IDPs' repatriation to their lands. He underlined the importance of the conference in terms of drawing the international community's attention of the problem of missing people. In his speech, Deputy Foreign Minister Elnur Mammadov informed that through its aggressive policy, Armenian had grossly violated the principles of international humanitarian law. Mammadov also spoke

about Armenia's widespread use of the practice of captivating civilians, as well as the servicemen, its systematic policy of killing captives, legal aspects of issues in connection with missing people and cooperation in this context with international organizations. Secretary of the State Commission on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing People Ismayil Akhundov noted that Armenia committed such crimes against humanity as genocide and ethnic cleansing.

Kazakhstan appoints new Minister of Defense

DNA

NUR-SULTAN: Murat Bektanov has been appointed the new Minister of Defense of Kazakhstan. By order of the head of state, Kasym-Zhomart Tokayev, Bektanov Murat Karibayevich was relieved of his post as First Deputy Minister of Defense of Kazakhstan and appointed Minister of Defense of the republic. The President of Kazakhstan earlier on Tuesday accepted the resignation of Defense Minister Nurlan Yermekbayev. Yermekbayev resigned after explosions at an ammunition depot in the Zhambyl region, which resulted in human casualties. The explosion took place in a military unit of the Zhambyl region in the south of Kazakhstan on August 26. The area of the fire was almost 700 square meters. More than 500 tons of TNT were stored on the territory of military warehouses, about 1.2 thousand people were evacuated from the fire zone. As a result of the emergency, 15 people were killed, about 100 more were injured, most of them were rescuers, military personnel, employees of the prosecutor's office and the Ministry of Emergency Situations.

PNP launched in China to boost imports from Pak

FOREIGN DESK

URUMQI: A "VR Pakistan National Pavilion" was launched at the ongoing 2021 Online (China) Eurasia Commodity and Trade Expo (EACT EXPO 2021) to showcase Made-in-Pakistan products to the globe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. According to its operator UNI International Business Consultancy Co., Ltd., the VR pavilion is a permanent online pavilion which includes 3 theme areas, namely, Theme Area For The 70th Anniversary Of The Establishment Of Diplomatic Relations Between China And Pakistan, Theme Area For Cooperation Between China And Pakistan, and Theme Area For Pakistani Speciality. "This national pavilion is connected with many e-commerce platforms and an offline national pavilion," explained Badar U Zaman, Commercial Counselor of Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing. Ma Xiaoyan, Chairman of UNI International Business Consultancy Co., Ltd. and Senior Consultant to Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry, noted that by visiting the online pavilion, enterprises and individuals from all around the world, especially Chinese, can truly understand the unique charm of Pakistani products and spot opportunities in Pak-China cooperation and trade.

Azerbaijan, OSCE eye post-war situation

FOREIGN DESK

BAKU: Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov and the OSCE Minsk Group's newly-appointed Russian co-chair, Igor Khovayev, have discussed the post-war regional situation and normalizing Azerbaijani-Armenian ties, the Foreign Ministry reported on August 30. At the meeting held in Baku on August 30, Bayramov congratulated the new co-chair on his appointment. Khovayev noted that his visit was of a familiarization nature. The Azerbaijani foreign minister briefed the Russian co-chair about the current regional situation, steps taken by Azerbaijan in the post-conflict period, the possibility of normalizing relations with Armenia on the basis of international law with the elimination of the occupation factor. He said that the revanchist position displayed by Armenia had no prospects. Bayramov stressed the importance of the parties taking advantage of the opportunities for cooperation.

Global reading festival held in Beijing

There is a saying in Pakistan that we can give up gold, but not China-Pakistan friendship. I believe that friendship derives from close contact between the people, it holds the key to sound state-to-state ties

DNA

BEIJING: With Pakistan as the Country of Honor, an online "Global Reading Festival" held here, featuring short videos, live streaming and reading activities. With the support of the Pakistani Embassy in China, the organizers from Beijing International Book Fair (BIBF) also launched "Pakistani Night" themed event, aiming to explore stories behind the country's books, movies and music. During the two-hour event, Professor Kong Julian from Peking University introduced several Urdu books which reflect the development of Urdu language and literature in different periods. Tang Mengsheng, Director of Pakistan Research Center at Peking University, briefed the historical development and cultural origin of Pakistan. "China and



Pakistan are true friends who share weal and woe. Our special friendship is a historical choice, and is deeply rooted in the hearts of the two peoples," Tang said. "There is a saying in Pakistan that we can give up gold, but not

China-Pakistan friendship. I believe that friendship derives from close contact between the people, it holds the key to sound state-to-state relations. So, I hope the two countries can strengthen the study of their cultural works and people-to-people

exchanges," said Professor Tang. Pakistani educationist and Urdu language expert Dr. Arfa Sayeda Zehra introduced her homeland Lahore in a video and invited more Chinese visitors and researchers to come and experience the charm of the city.

For "Pakistani Night," Chinese Urdu poet Zhang Shixuan listed some poems of Pakistani poet Faiz Ahmad Faiz, and read relevant fragments, immersing readers in the mysterious charm of Urdu poetry. Dr. Zhang Jiamei from Peking University shared a book Grandhara's Smile which illustrates the tour of cultural relics in Pakistan. Zulfiqar Ali, Second Secretary of Pakistani Embassy in China, Chinese writer Shi Yifeng, and Urdu professor Zhou Yuan from Beijing Foreign Studies University also participated in the event. BIBF is one of the major Asian events in the publishing industry. The 28th event is co-hosted by the National Press and Publication Administration, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Beijing municipal government and China National Publications Import and Export (Group) Co., Ltd.

Briefs

PM launches
NADRA
mobile App.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday launched the National Database and Registration Authority's (NADRA) "Pak-ID" mobile application which will capture biometrics and scan documents using smartphones.

According to a press release by NADRA, the mobile app is meant to facilitate citizens applying for the National ID card, using the Pak-ID portal.

The prime minister applauded Chairman NADRA Tariq Malik's innovative idea of the mobile app which is a step towards implementing the PM's vision of inclusive registration and a digital Pakistan, the press release added.

The statement further said that with the introduction of the NADRA Pak-ID app, Pakistan has become a trailblazer in the ID Management Industry.

The app captures biometrics — fingerprints, facial recognition — and scans documents needed for the processing of citizens' ID cards and documents.

Drone
attack on
KSA wounds
several
*Pakistan MoFA
condemns attack*

DNA

RIYADH: A bomb-laden drone has targeted an airport in southwestern Saudi Arabia, wounding eight people and damaging a civilian plane, Saudi state television reported, the latest assault on the kingdom amid its grinding war in neighbouring Yemen.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack on Tuesday, the second such strike on Abha airport in the last 24 hours.

The earlier attack, blamed on Yemen's Iran-backed Shia Houthi rebels, scattered shrapnel across the tarmac but caused no casualties.

The Saudi-led military coalition fighting the Houthis in Yemen did not elaborate on the assault or provide details about those hurt, beyond saying that its forces had "intercepted" the explosive drone.

The attack comes just days after missiles and drones smashed into a key military base in Yemen's south, killing at least 30 Saudi-backed Yemeni troops and marking one of the deadliest attacks in the country's years-long civil war. No one claimed responsibility for the strike, which bore the hallmarks the Iranian-supported rebels.

Pakistan has strongly condemned the recent attempt by the Houthi militants to target Abha International Airport in Saudi Arabia, which was intercepted by the Coalition forces.

In a statement on Tuesday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said unfortunately the incident caused several injuries and damage to a civilian plane. We wish speedy recovery to those injured in the incident. He said we call for immediate cessation of these attacks that violate the international law and threaten peace and security of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the region. The Foreign Office Spokesperson said Pakistan reaffirms its full support and solidarity with the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia against any threat to its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

PAF releases
documentary

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Air Force has released a documentary comprising eight short episodes in connection with Defence Day. The documentary is a tribute to the bravery and courage of the valiant air warriors of PAF who, during the air battle of 1965, displayed unparalleled professionalism and bravery to defend the homeland.

Pakistan to launch national
911 emergency helpline

PM Imran directed the authorities concerned to remove all obstacles in the commencement of service as soon as possible to curb crime in the country, according to the Prime Minister Office

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to curb crimes in the country and ensure a timely action against the criminals, the government is all set to launch Universal Pakistan Emergency Helpline (PEHEL) -911 in the first week of October 2021.

Presiding over a meeting on the establishment of Universal Pakistan Emergency Helpline (PEHEL) -911, PM Imran directed the authorities concerned to remove all obstacles in the commencement of service as soon as possible to curb crime in the country, according to the Prime Minister Office.

The meeting was attended by Home Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, SAPM Dr Shahbaz Gill, Home Secretary, Chairman Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Chairman Nadra, Chief Commissioner Islamabad, DG National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC), DG National Information Technology Board (NITB) and other officers concerned attended.

During the meeting, the prime minister



was apprised of the update on the establishment of PEHEL -911. The prime minister was informed that all necessary work including inter-provincial liaison has been completed and the helpline will be ready for regular opening by the first week of October 2021.

PM Imran stressed that the protection of life and property of the people is the primary responsibility of the government. He hoped that the launch of this helpline would help ensure peace and security in

the country as it would enable timely action against crime.

It 'pained' him to see Minar-e-Pakistan incident: PM Imran

Earlier on August 25, Prime Minister Imran Khan had said it "pained" him to see the Minar-e-Pakistan incident in which hundreds of men assaulted a woman on Independence Day, and called it a source of "shame" for the country.

"The Minar-e-Pakistan incident, when I saw it, I was ashamed, it pained me to see it," he said.

"No one could have imagined such an incident taking place [in Pakistan] when I was growing up," PM Imran Khan had said, during an event in Lahore, where he stressed on educating the country's youth in line with Islamic teachings.

"The downfall that we are witnessing is because our children are not being educated in the right manner. This is not a part of our culture and neither of our religion," he had said, referring to the behaviour that was displayed by the mob, at the Greater Iqbal Park in Lahore on August 14.

Shehbaz says
national govt
idea was his
'personal
view'

NEWS DESK

KARACHI: Shehbaz Sharif, the opposition leader in the National Assembly, has clarified that the idea of a national government was his "personal view", and not of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), according to his party's spokesperson.

Shehbaz on Monday floated the idea of a national government to steer the country out of troubled waters because no single party could single-handedly take on the challenges faced by Pakistan. He was speaking during a meeting with the representatives of media bodies in Karachi.

PML-N spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb said in a statement that Shehbaz Sharif had made a "passing remark" that if the people of Pakistan again elected the PML-N to power in the next elections, "in his personal view he would not mind inviting other political parties, excluding PTI, to contribute towards solving the massive crisis created by the Imran Khan government over their disastrous tenure in government".

Germany ready to support the
Afghan people: FM Maas

Foreign Minister Qureshi warns against repeating mistakes of the past saying abandoning Afghanistan is not an option

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas has expressed his gratitude to Pakistan for playing a significant role in evacuation of foreign nationals including Germans from Kabul.

Addressing a joint news conference in Islamabad on Tuesday along with his Pakistani counterpart after delegation level talks, he said Germany stands ready to support the neighboring countries of Afghanistan experiencing the impact of Afghan situation.

He said his country will not abandon them in facing the challenges. He said we have already provided one hundred million euros in humanitarian assistance and five hundred million euros have also been pledged for various projects in neighboring countries of Afghanistan. He said Germany is closely coordinating with Pakistan on Afghan issue as well as bilateral relations.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi urged the world community to stay engaged with Afghanistan for peace and stability there. The Foreign Minister warned against repeating mistakes of the past saying



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Ministers of Pakistan and Germany posing for a picture at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — DNA

abandoning Afghanistan is not an option as it will have serious consequences.

Shah Mahmood Qureshi said the world should remain vigilant of spoilers in Afghanistan. He said the international community has to discern between those standing for peace and the spoilers.

The Foreign Minister said Pakistan has been hosting over three million Afghan refugees for decades. We have been

providing them with education and health care facilities as well as livelihood opportunities. He emphasized the need for creating such an environment in Afghanistan so that the need for another exodus does not arise again.

Commenting on the collapse of Ghani government, Shah Mahmood Qureshi said they were not speaking the truth on the actual situation in Afghanistan. He said Ashraf

Pakistan to open
consulate in Munich

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Tuesday announced to open the country's consulate general in Germany's city Munich.

"We will soon inaugurate the Consulate General of Pakistan in Munich and are working to establish Iqbal-Goethe Center in Heidelberg," the foreign minister said in a tweet, following his announcement at a joint press conference with Foreign Minister Heiko Maas.

Foreign Minister Qureshi said, "Bilaterally, we deeply value our longstanding relations with Germany, now in our 70th year of friendship." He said Pakistan attached high value to its relations with Germany and underscored the resolve to comprehensively upgrade the overall relationship. The year 2021 marks the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Germany. — DNA

Ghani finally fled along with his aides and colleagues.

Shah Mahmood Qureshi said recent statements made by the Taliban are encouraging and positive. He said they will have to act on the pronouncements and respect the human rights and international norms.

As regards bilateral relations, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi expressed the desire to further deepen relations with Germany in different fields.

He said both the countries have planned a number of activities to celebrate seven-

ty years of establishment of diplomatic relations this year.

He pointed out that Germany has been an important investor in Pakistan and there are opportunities to further enhance trade and promote relations in the areas of renewable energy, Information Technology, Housing, electric vehicles etc. He said there are also opportunities for German investors in Special Economic Zones being established under the CPEC.

The Foreign Minister also expressed satisfaction over the defense cooperation between the two countries.

People traveling abroad can
get COVID booster jab

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of National Health Services has said that individuals travelling abroad can get a COVID booster jab across Pakistan from tomorrow.

According to the eligibility criteria, issued by the National Command and Operation Centre, every individual of 12 years and above, with the mandatory requirement of a specific vaccine, will be able to get additional dose(s) after showing valid travel documents and evidence of the intended travel.

The individuals will be required to sub-

mit a copy of this evidence at the relevant vaccination centre. The criteria also covers the categories of travellers which may be inoculated with the booster jab.

These categories include workers going abroad for employment, students going abroad for enrolment at educational institutes, Pakistani citizens who reside in other countries and require evidence of specific mandatory vaccine for their return to the country of residence, those who travel for business or official purposes, and tourists and Hajj or Umrah pilgrims.

As per the guidelines, the fee of the booster dose of vaccines is Rs1,270 per dose, which can be deposited at

any National Bank of Pakistan branch. "The cost, Rs 1,270 per dose, will be deposited in NBP (as specified by M/o NHR&C) in the Head of Account; C-Non-Tax Revenue, C02-Receipts from Civil Administration and other functions, C027-Community Services, Receipts; and C02721-Sale proceeds of sera and vaccines," read the guidelines.

The guidelines further state that dedicated vaccination centres will be nominated in major cities for the administration of booster doses only. Travellers present in Islamabad can get the vaccine booster shots from the vaccination centre at Rural Health Center Tarlai.

Erdogan holds call
with UAE leaders

ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has spoken by phone with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) de facto ruler, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, in a new sign of improving ties between the regional rivals.

A statement released by Erdogan's office on Tuesday

said: "Relations between the countries and regional issues were discussed in the talks".

The UAE's state news agency WAM said both leaders discussed "the prospects of reinforcing the relations between the two nations in a way that serves their common interests and their two peoples".

The statements came two weeks after the Turkish president said, during a rare meeting with UAE NSA Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan, that the two countries had made progress in improving relations. — Agencies

UNODC hands over victim facilitation center to FIA

Funded by the Ministry of Justice, Government of Norway, this facility has assisted the FIA in handling thousands of deportees — being handed over by the Iranian authorities from time to time

STAFF REPORT

TAFTAN: UNODC Country Office Pakistan (COPAK) handed over the newly constructed building of a Victim Reception and Facilitation Centre (VRFC) to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in Taftan. The facility was handover to Mr. Abdul Hameed Bhutto, Director FIA Balochistan by Mr. Altaf Bajwa on behalf of Dr. Jeremy Milsom, Representative UNODC COPAK. Mr. Bajwa has been supervising this project as the lead engineer since the construction began in 2019.

Funded by the Ministry of Justice, Government of Norway, this facility has assisted the FIA in handling thousands of deportees — being handed over by the Iranian authorities from time to time. These include the victims of human trafficking and migrant smuggling



(HTMS), who illegally cross into Iran, in their quest to migrate to Europe via Turkey. This project had evolved consequent to signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the FIA and UNODC COPAK during 2016. The VRFC has also enhanced capacity

of the FIA to assist the victims of HTMS as per international best practices focusing human rights and gender sensitivities. The facility encompasses accommodation for housing of 100 deportees and their referral to service providers in Quetta for further assistance.

Another important aspect of the VRFC Taftan is that it embeds a conference room of the Counter-narcotics (CN) Border Liaison Office (BLO), under funding support by the Government of Japan. Establishment of a CN BLO in Taftan had been agreed between the

Governments of Pakistan and Iran, under the framework of UNODC-facilitated Triangular Initiative (TI). Hence, its establishment has paved the way for promoting domestic and regional CN cooperation against drug trafficking — that emanates from Afghanistan and heads towards Europe, with Pakistan and Iran as the main transit countries.

UNODC COPAK is supporting the Government of Pakistan, in addressing various existing and emerging transnational organized crime (TOC) under its broad-based Country Programme in Pakistan (2016-2021). This construction project has been completed under the framework of UNODC COPAK's Subprogramme 1 (Illicit Trafficking and Border Management), that supports the Pakistani border LEAs in improving their integrated response against illicit HTMS, drug trafficking and other TOC.

7 Taliban
killed in
Panjshir
clashes

DNA

KABUL: A spokesperson for National Resistance Forces, a group loyal to Ahmad Massoud, says fighting occurred on the western entrance to the valley where the Taliban attacked NRF positions.

Taliban forces have clashed with militia fighters in the Panjshir valley north of the Afghan capital Kabul, with at least seven killed, two members of the main anti-Taliban opposition group said.

Fahim Dashti, a spokesman for the National Resistance Forces, a group loyal to local leader Ahmad Massoud, said the fighting occurred on Monday night on the western entrance to the valley where the Taliban attacked NRF positions.

He said the attack, which may have been a probe to test the valley's defences, was repulsed with eight Taliban killed and a similar number wounded, while two members of the NRF forces were wounded.

"Last night, the Taliban attacked Panjshir, but were defeated with 7 dead and several wounded," Bismillah Mohammadi, a member of the resistance movement who served as a minister under exiled President Ashraf Ghani, said in a tweet.

"They retreated with heavy casualties."

Since the fall of Kabul on August 15, the Panjshir has been the only province to hold out against the Taliban, although there has also been fighting in neighbouring-Baghlan province between Taliban and local militia forces. It was not immediately possible to reach a Taliban spokesman for comment.

Massoud, son of the former anti-Soviet mujahideen commander Ahmad Shah Massoud, has established himself in the Panjshir valley with a force of several thousand, made up of local militias and remnants of army and special forces units.

DG ISPR
pays tribute
to martyrs

ISLAMABAD: Director General Inter Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Major General Babar Iftikhar on Tuesday paid tributes to the martyrs, ghazis and their loved ones for indomitable national spirit, patriotism and valour for rendering sacrifices to safeguard the motherland.

The DG took to microblogging website Twitter to share a special tribute video depicting the martyrs and their families showing insurmountable resolve to defend the country at all costs which is the fifth one in the series showing different life accounts of the families of martyrs and ghazis with the title "Defence & Martyrs' Day."

He wrote on his official account, "Salute to the martyrs, ghazis and all of the relatives belonging to them. Martyrs of Pakistan, our pride." The tweet was followed by hashtags #6September #ShuhadaKoSalam. Earlier, the ISPR DG in his news conference announced that this year's Defence and Martyrs' Day theme was "Our martyrs our pride, salute to all the relatives belonging to the ghazis and shaheeds." He said the ceremony for this year would be held under strict COVID-19 protocols with full national zeal and fervour. — APP

UN
committed
to staying in
Afghanistan

GENEVA: UN humanitarianians have reiterated that they fully intend to stay and deliver to those in need in Afghanistan, as mostly Western governments completed their pullout from the country.

Spokesperson Jens Laerke from the UN humanitarian affairs office (OCHA) said on Tuesday that operations were continuing, and that the UN had already helped eight million people this year alone.

But he warned that the \$1.3 billion funding requirement had not been met and that there was a lack of supplies in the now Taliban-controlled nation. — APP