



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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UN Secretary General calls for international aid for Afghanistan

Detailed News On Page-07

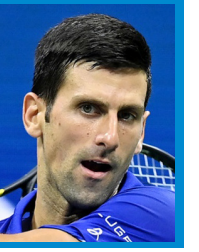
China urges for inclusive Afghan political setup

Detailed News On Page-08



Novak Djokovic: 1st step toward calendar slam

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

DG ISPR pays tributes to martyrs, ghazis

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Director General Inter Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Major General Babar Iftikhar on Wednesday 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 Twitter to share a special tribute video depicting the martyrs and their families showing insurmountable resolve to defend the country at all costs which was the sixth one in the series showing different life accounts of the families of martyrs and ghazis.

Gill rules out selected accountability

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Political Communication, Dr Shahbaz Gill on Wednesday said there was no selected accountability rather across the board accountability was being carried out in the country. In response to the statement of Shahid Khagan Abbasi, the SAPM said there was across the board accountability for all in new Pakistan but the corrupt opposition was giving impression that only they were being made accountable.

Maryam slams govt performance

STAFF REPORT
ISLAMABAD: PML-N Vice-President Maryam Nawaz Wednesday lashed out at the incumbent government and described its past three-year performance as "nothing short of 'destruction'". Speaking to the media after appearing for a hearing of the Avenfield reference case, the PML-N leader said reconciliation was out of the question. "One should not even hold talks with these people [government]," she said, adding that except for the PTI, all political parties should unite and think about the welfare of Pakistan.

Qatar set to take control of Kabul airport

Qatari aircraft landed in Kabul; sources say negotiations with Turkey are also going on, US says working with Turkey and Qatar

SPECIAL REPORT
DOHA: Qatar is all set to take control of the Kabul airport. After withdrawal of the US forces, the Kabul airport was abandoned. The air traffic controller office was also shut due to which the flights had to face difficulties in landing and takeoff. A Qatari aircraft landed in Kabul Wednesday carrying a technical team to discuss the resumption of airport operations after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, according to a source with knowledge of the matter. "A Qatari jet carrying a technical team has landed in Kabul earlier to discuss the resumption of operations in the airport," the source a news agency. A video that circulated on social media showed the moments a Qatar Airways-branded plane landed at the facility following the completion of the troop withdrawal on 31 August. Earlier, Turkey has also shown interest in managing the Kabul airport however

Taliban parade to show off plundered US hardware

WEB DESK
KANDAHAR: Taliban fighters stood aboard captured Humvees as they prepared for a parade Wednesday of plundered US military hardware, including possibly a Black Hawk helicopter, in their southern Afghan spiritual heartland. A long line of green vehicles sat in single file on a highway outside Afghanistan's second-biggest city of Kandahar, many with white-and-black Taliban flags attached to aerials, according to an AFP journalist. Fighters manned the controls of the multi-purpose trucks - used by US,

PPP will form the next govt, claims Bilawal

"People were drowning in the tsunami of inflation but rulers had no feeling for it", says Bilawal

DNA
GHOTKI: Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Wednesday that his party wants poor people to prosper and his party will form next government. Addressing an event at Ghotki Degree



ISLAMABAD: Newly arrived Ambassador-designate of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov in a meeting with Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul. Both Azerbaijan and Turkey enjoy excellent brotherly relations. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: PM Imran Khan inaugurating "Ehsaas Education Stipends" programme. - DNA

New envoys to present credentials on 9th

The ambassadors include Ambassadors of Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, and Thailand

STAFF REPORT
ISLAMABAD: The newly arrived ambassadors and high commissioner of various countries are scheduled to present their credentials on Thursday September 09. These envoys will present credentials to the President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi. The ambassadors who will present credentials include Ambassadors of Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, and Thailand. The President will receive separately all the ambassadors and hold brief discussions with them on bilateral issues. Smartly turned out contingent of forces shall present salute to the newly arrived envoys.

Taliban surrounds Panjshir fighters

KABUL: A senior Taliban leader Wednesday on said the group has surrounded the only remaining province resisting their rule, calling on the rebels to negotiate a settlement with them. Since the fall of Kabul on August 15, mountainous Panjshir has been the only province to hold out against the group, although there has also been fighting in neighbouring Baghlan province between Taliban and local militia forces. Under the leadership of Ahmad Massoud, son of a former Mujahideen commander,

Govt incentivizing education sector

Prime Minister says educated woman could contribute more positively towards the society

SHUJAAT HAMZA
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday said the government was focused on providing education to all children across the country and giving incentives to prevent dropouts from schools. Addressing at the launch of Ehsaas Education Stipends programme here, the prime minister said as over 20 million children in the country were out of schools,

CJCSC: War game exercise promote coordination

Gen Nadeem lauds efforts of Pak Navy for conducting exercises

STAFF REPORT
RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Nadeem Raza said that the war game exercise would promote coordination and greater interoperability amongst all services, thus offsetting any physical threat to territorial integrity. The CJCSC on Wednesday attended the de-briefing session of war game "SHAMSHEER-E-BAHR-VIII" as Chief Guest at Pakistan Naval Ship Base Jauhar, Karachi where he was given a detailed briefing on the aim and objectives of the exercise, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) media release here received. This exercise was aimed at tri-services operational drills and maneuvers against traditional and non-traditional threats with emphasis on improving synergy and jointness in

20 cities vaccinate over 40% population

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiative, Asad Umar on Wednesday said some 20 out of 24 cities met the target of vaccinating 40 percent population of 18 years and above. "We had set a minimum target of 40% of 18 plus population being partially vaccinated by end August for 24 large cities. Out of these 20 met the target," he said in a series of tweets. The cities that missed the target included Hyderabad, Mardan, Nowshera and Quetta. The minister who is also head of the COVID monitoring body said, the vaccination targets for 24 large cities by end September had also been set as 60 percent (partial vaccination) and 40 percent (full vaccination) of eligible population. "These are tough targets, specially for full vaccination but achievable with a focused effort and high quality execution Insha Allah," he added.

- Inside...**
- Pakistan-Indonesia friendship vital for both countries - Page 02
- Nepal ambassador discusses literary co-op with PAL chief - Page 03
- Pak keen to expand agri cooperation with Kazakhstan - Page 04
- Taliban, the Afghan state and rule of law - Page 05
- Qatar urges Taliban to ensure 'safe passage' - Page 06
- AIR LINK to go public with 'biggest ever' IPO - Page 07
- Abandoning Afghanistan: FM cautions West of consequences - Page 08

'US Afghanistan campaign ended in tragedies'

The result is only tragedies, only losses for those that did it - for the US - and even more so for the people who live on Afghan territory

MONITORING DESK
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that the United States' 20-year campaign in Afghanistan ended in "only tragedies, only losses." The Russian leader has a track record of criticizing Western countries for trying to impose their values on non-Western nations. Moscow has regularly slammed the US policy in Afghanistan, which is now controlled by the Taliban after their takeover this month ahead of the American pullout on August 31. Putin said Wednesday that the US army tried to "enrain their norms" in war-ravaged Afghanistan for two decades, which he characterised as a futile exercise. "The result is only tragedies, only losses for those that did it - for the US - and even more so for the people who live on Afghan territory," he said. It is "impossible to impose anything from outside," he said. He was speaking at a meeting with teenag-



ers in the Russian far eastern city of Vladivostok to mark the start of the school year. Last week Putin said Russia would not interfere in Afghanistan and that Moscow had learned from the Soviet occupation of the country. He has also complained about Western countries trying to place Afghan refugees in Moscow-allied Central Asian states. Moscow has been cautiously optimistic about the new leadership in Kabul, saying it would not meddle in domestic affairs.

'Taliban has to do a lot amidst crumbling economy'

NEWS DESK
KABUL: The Taliban has been celebrating the withdrawal of US-led NATO forces after 20 years of war, but for millions of Afghans, life remains difficult and uncertain amid a crumbling economy. The Taliban, which seized control of the country for the second time, celebrated their victory, saying that Afghanistan is finally a "free and sovereign" nation. US President Joe Biden on Tuesday said that the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan was the best available option for him to end to country's longest military campaign. Government employees have not been paid salaries for months and banks are barely functional as the country has been cut off from the international fi-

Dr. Qadeer Khan shifted to hospital

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's nuclear scientist Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan was shifted a couple of days ago to a hospital's coronavirus ward due to his critical condition. According to his spokesman, Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan was admitted at KRL hospital on August 26 after he tested positive for Covid-19. Dr AQ Khan is considered the father of Pakistan's nuclear programme and is revered at home as a hero for building the Muslim world's first atomic bomb.

Briefs

ANP suggests EVM for CBE to check efficacy

DNA

PESHAWAR: Awami National Party (ANP) provincial spokesperson Samar Bilour Wednesday urged the government to opt for Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) in Cantonment Board elections (CBE) in order to test the efficacy of the machines. Addressing a press conference at Peshawar Press Club, she said that the EVM project would require at least Rs 75 billion and if the government wanted general elections 2023 through EVM, then it would have to start manufacturing of 3,000 machines on a daily basis with immediate effect. She further said that implementation of EVM would require training of at least 3 to 5 hundred thousand officials other than the technical staff while additional amount would be spent on maintenance of machines and training of staff. Samar Bilour said that eight democratic countries out of a total 134 states of the world were holding elections through EVM. She was of the view that ANP would resist the EVM use until reservations of all the stakeholders were addressed by the government. Quoting the Federal Minister Shibli Faraz, she said the minister claimed polling results within 45 seconds after completion of the polling process. She suggested that data storage needed transparency and it would be imperative to connect the data with CNIC to ensure transparency in the polling process.

FG schools system holds 2 day master training camp

DNA

PESHAWAR: In order to introduce the world's number one education sports scrabble in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Directorate of Sports, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Scrabbles Association jointly organized a successful Scrabble Master Training Camp at FG Schools System Peshawar here on Wednesday. Students of FG Schools System, principals and teachers also participated in the two-day camp. All the participants termed Scrabble Game as a game changer. The game proved to be a great platform for the students to advance in their studies through learning well out of the Scrabble Game. Taking full advantage of the game, instead of wasting precious time in other activities, one will devote all his or her attention to reading and correctly spellings through Scrabble Game. Declared the most necessary, Waqar Ahmad, Secretary KP Scrabble Games said that Scrabble Game was truly a world class educational activity which provides tremendous help and facilities to all the students in their studies which was essential for securing and building their educational future.

Pakistan-Indonesia friendship vital for both countries

Dr. June Kuncoro Hadiningrat shared that "as you know, Indonesia and Pakistan have enjoyed friendship even since the early days of our independence"

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: To foster people-to-people relations between Indonesia and Pakistan youths that focuses on culture, education, tourism, exchange programs, the Indonesian Consulate in Karachi is going to launch the first Indonesia - Pakistan Youth Forum (IPYF). This was announced by Dr. June Kuncoro Hadiningrat, the Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia in Karachi during a reception hosted by him for journalists at his residence here. This limited reception was held to commemorate the 76th Anniversary of the Republic of Indonesia with Chief Editor, CEO, Director, and Senior Journalists from a number of media houses in Karachi. Reception was attended by Consul General officials, namely Mr. Djumara Supriyadi, Consul for Trade and Economics, Mr. Hidayat

Zakaria, Consul for Protocol and Consular, Mr. Ibnu Sulhan, Consul for Information and Socio-Culture, Mr. Soemarjanto, Head of Chancery, Mr. Anggara Pranashakti, Treasurer, and a small number of journalists with strict COVID-19 SOPs. During his remarks, Dr. June emphasized the importance of the month of August for both Indonesia and Pakistan, as it is the month of independence anniversary for both countries (17 August 1945 and 14 August 1947). Furthermore, the Indonesian Consul General encouraged all media to continuously cover news about Indonesia, especially regarding the friendship between the two countries, as well as Indonesia's various potentials in the fields of trade, investment, and tourism. Speaking to the guests, Dr. June Kuncoro Hadiningrat shared that "as you know, Indonesia and Pakistan have enjoyed friendship even since the early days of our independ-



ence. In 1947, some 600 then British-Indian army soldiers from this land were sent to fight Indonesia in campaign of the colonial powers to retake Indonesia.

However, upon arriving, these soldiers decided to instead join hands with Indonesia, refusing to fight fellow Muslim brothers. Some of the survivors of these soldiers returned to Pakistan, during a repatriation

program in 1953, and served together with our then Embassy, now Consulate in Karachi, even one of their children are still working here with us." Reciprocally, Indonesia have also greatly assisted Pakistan with military support during India-Pakistan war in 1965. Adding further on bilateral brotherly relations between the two countries he said; "our former president

Sukarno even had the opportunity to visit Pakistan four times, in 1950, 1958, 1963 and 1964". During the event, he also announced plans for the upcoming launching of the Indonesia - Pakistan Youth Forum (IPYF), on August 31, 2021, as part of the Consulate's efforts to strengthen friendship and collaboration among the youth of the two countries. Furthermore, he also informed that the Consulate, in cooperation of the Ministry of Education of Indonesia, have successfully launched the first Indonesian Language Course in Karachi back in June 2021, where the first batch was completed on 31 August 2021, and second batch will be opened soon. Extending his appreciation to the media, he said; "I would like to extend my gratitude for your efforts in covering various news about Indonesia in local media. Through you, the Pakistani public are aware about what's happening in Indonesia."



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chairs a meeting on Higher Education. — DNA

Punjab to hold revenue Awami Khidmat Services

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Punjab Govt has decided to hold Revenue Awami Khidmat Services on two consecutive days of every month now in this regard the second Revenue Awami Khidmat Katchri will be held on Thursday 2 September at DC Complex. This was informed by Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad to media men after listening the problems of public regarding revenue. Divisional Commissioner Saqib Manan also reached in Katchri and along with Deputy Commissioner listened the public complaints regarding revenue matters and directed the revenue officers for speedy solution of the applications. ADCR Fazal Rabi

Cheema, ACs Umar Maqbool, Syed Ayub Bukhari, Revenue Department officers, Assistant Director Land Record City and the Sadar, Tehsildar, Niab Tehsildar and Patwaris were also present. Deputy Commissioner said that the delay in the matters of public would not tolerated and responsible revenue officer and staff would accountable. He said that the Department of Revenue was at the forefront of public service and holding Revenue Awami Public Service would not only solve the problems of the people but also increase their confidence therefore Govt has decided to hold two katchries in every month. He said that citizens can approach the concerned Tehsil Office on the first and Second working day of every month for resolving revenue related issues.

Punjab highway patrol vows to eradicate crime

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Prevention of crime is cardinal objective of Punjab highway Patrol. SSP Punjab Highway Patrol, Region Faisalabad Mirza Anjum Kamal said while releasing monthly performance report of August, 2021. As per detail, total 413 cases were registered under different sections and 413 criminals were arrested in the drive against hardened criminals. While talking with media, SSP told that 2 Rifles 12 Bore, 6 pistols 30 Bore, with 33 bullets and 3 cartridges were recovered. Further-

more, total 38 liter liquor and stolen goat worth Rs- 37000/- was recovered. As many as 2 proclaimed offenders were arrested and put behind the bar. As many as 221 cases were registered against reckless drivers U/S 279 PPC and 223 violators were apprehended. Moreover, 4 lost children were found and reunited with their relatives. Help rendering were extended to 1868 commuters. As many as 37 temporary encroachments were removed for free flow of traffic. Motorcycle is widely used during robbery/Dacoity, in order to prevent road robbery, total 71 Motorcycles and 5 tractors were impounded U/S 134 PO, 115 MVO and 550 Cr. P.C. However, talking about the patrolling mechanism to curb the crime, SSP said that the time of occurrence of crime is most crucial one to develop a strategy. Moreover, the lists of stolen/snatched vehicles, proclaimed offenders and bad elements of the area are kept in the official vehicles. Furthermore, the patrolling officers are continuously in contact with control room. In case of any emergency and accidents, official vehicle rushes towards the spot and responds as per SOP. Further, he said that the help line of PHP is 1124.

More centres for rehabilitation of addicts announced

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar Wednesday announced establishment of more centres to rehabilitate the addicts, saying such centres would be established in every division. He was talking to Director General (DG) Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Maj-Gen Ghulam Shabbir Narejo, who called on him at his office. Both agreed to take coordinated steps to eliminate the menace of drugs from society and said that drug-peddlers

deserved no leniency. The CM termed the drug-peddlers offenders of humanity and said that jail was the best place for those involved in drug-trafficking outside educational institutions. Such elements would be surely checked and police and excise departments would extend full cooperation to the ANF, he promised. "No one will be allowed to play with the lives of young generation and the Punjab government will collaborate with the ANF for establishment of a hospital for treatment of the addicts," he added.

JSMU dental students begin house job

STAFF REPORT

KARACHI: Jinnah Sindh Medical University's Sindh Institute of Oral Health Sciences (SIOHS-JSMU) welcomed its pioneering batch of 2016, as they began their house job, starting from September 1. The Vice Chancellor Professor Shahid Rasul described the occasion as a manifestation of University's steady progress, said the statement issued here on Wednesday. He expressed hope that the house officers shall uphold the standards of professionalism and ethics as taught to them during their studies at JSMU. Principal SIOHS-JSMU Professor Zubair Ahmed Abbasi briefed the batch of 47 house officers about the rules and advised them to adhere to the University policies, including the SOPs advised by the government.

Secy Environment inspects plantations

PESHAWAR: Secretary Environment and Forests, Is-lamzaib Khan Wednesday inspected plantations under 10 billion trees afforestation project in Khyber tribal district. He inspected block plantation at Tauda Mila near Ali Masjid area and directed the field staff to expedite plantation. The secretary was told that plantation under 10 BTAP was successfully underway in the district having 90percent survival rate. The secretary said 10BTAP was a flagship project launched by the government to counter challenges posed by climate change. — APP

National Bank of Pakistan

LOGISTICS, COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING GROUP LAHORE OFFICE
AUCTION OF BANK'S OWN VEHICLES

The General Public is informed that the following Bank's own vehicles will be publically auctioned on 17-09-2021 at 10:00 AM at National Bank of Pakistan, Regional Headquarter Building, Lahore "ON AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" on the terms and conditions mentioned below. The vehicles can be inspected during office hours on 13-09-2021 & 14-09-2021 in the premises of NBP, Regional Headquarter Building, 26-Mclagon Road, Lahore.

DETAILS OF VEHICLES WITH STATUS OF DOCUMENTS ARE AS UNDER: -

Sr.No.	Regd No.	Make	Model	Status of Documents
1	BBG-478	Toyota Corolla XLI	2014	Original Registration Book & File available
2	LEJ-16-444	Toyota Corolla Altis	2016	Original Registration Book & File available
3	BEL-519	Toyota Corolla Altis	2015	Original Registration Book & File available
4	LEJ-14-707	Toyota Corolla XLI	2013	Original Registration Book & File available
5	LEJ-11-222	Toyota Corolla XLI	2011	Original Registration Book & File available
6	LEJ-16-700	Toyota Corolla GLI	2015	Original Registration Book & File available
7	LEJ-12-4444	Suzuki Cultus	2012	Original Registration Book & File available
8	VRJ-12-12	Suzuki Cultus	2012	Original Registration Book & File available
9	LZH-9437	Toyota Corolla XLI	2004	Original File not available
10	LEC-09-2773	Suzuki Cultus	2009	Original File not available
11	CTJ-1001	Suzuki Cultus	2010	Original File not available
12	LZK-117	Suzuki Cultus	2004	Original File not available
13	DGJ-10-1020	Suzuki Cultus	2010	Original File not available
14	BRJ-11-1050	Suzuki Cultus	2011	Original File not available
15	DGJ-12-11	Suzuki Cultus	2011	Original File not available
16	MHJ-11-1006	Suzuki Cultus	2011	Original File not available
17	DGJ-12-10	Suzuki Cultus	2011	Original File not available
18	SAJ-10-1004	Daihatsu Cuore	2010	Original File not available
19	LEJ-12-1381	Daihatsu Cuore	2012	Original File not available
20	MHJ-12-100	Daihatsu Cuore	2012	Original File not available
21	LYD-5455	Daihatsu Cuore	2009	Original File not available
22	SLG-1015	Daihatsu Cuore	2009	Original File not available
23	BRJ-10-1017	Daihatsu Cuore	2010	Original File not available
24	MNA-08-3910	Daihatsu Cuore	2008	Original File not available
25	MHJ-10-1008	Daihatsu Cuore	2010	Original Registration Book not available
26	LEJ-11-555	Daihatsu Cuore	2011	Original Registration Book not available
27	DGA-09-1080	Suzuki Cultus	2009	Original Registration Book & File not available
28	RNJ-10-1010	Daihatsu Cuore	2010	Original Registration Book & File not available
29	BRM-111	Daihatsu Cuore	2006	Original Registration Book & File not available
30	GAU-3053	HONDA 125	2005	Original Registration Book available
31	KSJ-12-1003	Yamaha 100	2012	Original Registration Book & File available
32	LEV-12-3865	Yamaha 100	2012	Original Registration Book & File available
33	GAL-7335	Yamaha 100	1999	Original Registration Book available
34	LEJ-12-1110	Yamaha Motor Cycle	2012	Original File not available

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

1. All intending bidders will have to deposit CDR of the following amounts as earnest money per vehicle favoring of National Bank of Pakistan before the auction proceedings start.

a) Toyota Corolla	Rs. 100,000/-
b) Daihatsu Cuore / Suzuki Cultus	Rs. 50,000/-
c) Motor Cycle	Rs. 5,000/-

CDR of Un-successful bidders will be returned.

- Successful bidders will deposit CDR of balance amount of the final bid price in favour of NBP within 5-days from date of auction. In case of non-payment the earnest money will be forfeited in favour of the bank. Every bidder will bring original CNIC and One photocopy of the same with him.
- Income tax on sale price of auctioned vehicle will also be charged from the purchaser @ 10% Filer and 20% the Non-Filer respectively as per FBR rules/rates.
- The successful bidders will arrange by their own the payment of tax, arrears / dues if any / registration / documentations fee etc. of the vehicle purchased.
- Employees of National Bank of Pakistan are also allowed to take part in the open auction.
- Bank Management / Auction Committee reserve the right to reject any or all offers without assigning any reason.

VP/ In-charge Logistics,
National Bank of Pakistan,
Logistics, Communications & Marketing Group,
4th Floor, RHQ building Lahore.
Phone No. 042-99211205, 042 99212246



CTO warns govt to withdraw cruel tax policies of FBR

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: The Central Traders Organisation (CTO) has given the ultimatum to the government for withdrawal of the cruel tax policies of FBR by September 27 otherwise the traders of all over Pakistan including Azad Kashmir would stage protest and sit in before the FBR office Islamabad. This announcement was made during the meeting of central council of traders held here at local marquee. President Central Organisation Traders Muhammad Kashif Ch. was the chief guest in the meeting while patron in chief and president Anjum Tajran City Khawaja Shahid Razaq Sikka presided over the meeting and a large number of traders across the country participated in the meeting. Addressing the gathering of traders and business community, president central organisation of traders, Muhammad Kashif Ch. said that the government was celebrating the jubilation on its three year performance but the business community is very disap-

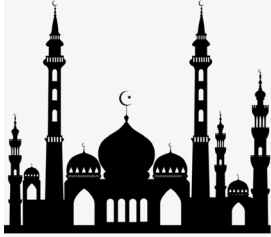


pointed and irritable on the anti-traders tax policies of FBR.

He expressed grave reaction and resentment over the increase of taxes and unjustified price hike and said the FBR should correct its direction other trader's community would take drastic step of agitation and responsibilities of consequences would be held on the concerned officers of the institution which are drawing heavy salaries and taking other benefits. He urged upon the PTI government for fulfilling its promises and trader's friendly policies should be introduced for boosting the

national economy. Chairman Central Organisation of Traders Khawaja Suleman Siddiqi said that we had tolerated a number of cruelties of FBR and now we were not able to bear more hardships in this regard. He opposed the enforcement of GST on small traders and said that FBR is full of corrupt elements who were harassing the businessmen through sending unjustified tax notices and Prime Minister Imran Khan had also identified and endorsed such an ugly condition of FBR.

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	04:15 am
Zohr.....	12:08 pm
Asr.....	04:44 pm
Maghrib.....	06:33 pm
Isha.....	08:08 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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Emergency

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



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....	115
PIA Flight Info.....	114
PIA Cargo.....	9280979
Railway Enquiry.....	117
Railway Exchange.....	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....	5555489
CAA.....	9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

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



Complaints

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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Nepal ambassador discusses literary co-op with PAL chief

Nepal ambassador requested PAL for Nepalese literature translation in Urdu

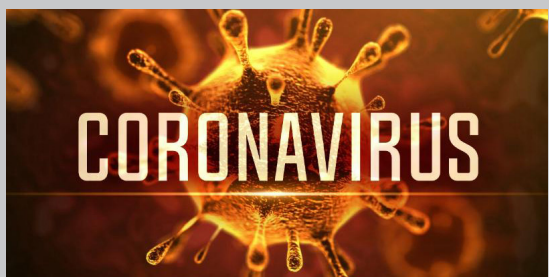
STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Nepal Tapas Adhikari Adhikari had a meeting with the Chairman of Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) Prof. Dr. Yousuf Khushk in Islamabad. During the meeting, they exchanged the views to enhance cooperation in the field of literature between Nepal and Pakistan. They also discussed on the possibility of Nepali and Pakistani literary exchange to further enrich mutual understanding between Nepal and Pakistan.

The ambassador requested the PAL to translate Nepali literature into Urdu and other Pakistani language that could be helpful to reach Nepali literature into Pakistani people. Since Nepal and Pakistan have been enjoying close and friendly relationship, we also discussed on the need to include Nepali and Pakistani literature in our education system for better understanding of contemporary literature of neighborhood. During the meeting, I handed over Urdu translated copies of Sardar Rudra Raj Pandey's "Roopamati" to Prof. Khushk, the ambassador said in a statement. PAL is a national academy of Pakistan under the Government of Pakistan with main focus on Pakistani literature and related fields. It is the largest and the most prestigious learned society of its kind in Pakistan. The Academy was established in July 1976 by the Government of Pakistan to promote literary activities in the country.



Covid-19 claims 5 lives with 192 new infections



STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: As many as 192 patients were reported during the last 24 hours in the district with 174 belonged to Rawalpindi and 18 from other districts while five people had lost their battle of life. According to the daily situation report issued by the District Corona Management centre on Wednesday, among the new cases, 29 belonged to Rawal Town, 45 from Potohar town, 42 from Rawalpindi Cantt, 17 from Kotlissattian, 14 from Gujjar Khan, 13 from Kalar Syeda, eight from Taxila, five from Islamabad, four each from Attock and Kahutta, three each from AJK and Chakwal, two each from Mianwali and Murree while one case was reported from Faisalabad.

"Presently 19 Coronavirus confirmed patients were admitted in Holy Family Hospital, 23 in Benazir Bhutto Hospital, 92 in Institute of Urology, 44 in Fauji Foundation Hospital, seven in Bilal hospital, two each in Hearts international hospital and Akhtar Memorial Trust hospital while one each were admitted two each in District Headquarter and Attock hospital."

The report updated that 11 patients were on ventilators in critical condition, 77 stable and 103 on oxygen. 2,067,411 people including 39,415 health workers and 2,027,996 other citizens aged above 18 years have jabbed themselves so far against the lethal coronavirus while the positivity ratio during the past 24 hours was recorded at 13.24 per cent in the district, it added.

IHC seeks arguments in Avenfield apartment appeals

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Wednesday instructed the lawyers to give arguments on September 8, in appeals of Vice President Muslim league Nawaz (PML-N) Maryam Nawaz and her husband Cap (ret'd) Muhammad Safdar against their conviction in Avenfield Apartment reference. Earlier, the bench expressed displeasure over absence of Maryam Nawaz and her husband. During hearing, Justice Farooq inquired about the presence of appellants and asked that should this court pass a strict order on accused absence.

The court observed that Maryam Nawaz's lawyer Amjad Pervaiz should also have not filed the application for adjournment of today's hearing.

The court observed that these appeal were partly heard and now on every date a new application for adjournment was filed. This court had even decided appeals of 2019-20 in other cases and it was still pending. National Accountability Bureau (NAB)'s Prosecutor also requested the court to cancel the bails of the two accused over disappearance from today's hearing. The bench was told that Capt. (ret'd) Safdar was inside the mosque to offer prayer while Maryam Nawaz was reaching the court in few minutes. Later, the bench expressed unhappiness over 'loudly speaking of Maryam Nawaz' as she arrived in the courtroom and remarked that the accused deserved for bail cancellation as she didn't know how to respect the court. Meanwhile, PML-N's leader Atta Tarar Advocate arrived at the rostrum and apologized on the matter. After this, the court adjourned hearing on the case till next date. Justice Farooq asked Atta Tarar to tell lawyer Amjad Pervaiz to avoid further delay in hearing. The court further instructed the lawyers to give arguments on next hearing.

It may be mentioned here that Maryam Nawaz's lawyer Amjad Pervaiz had filed an application to the court on last day requesting it to fix another date after September 3, for hearing on appeals. He adopted the stance that he was on leave from August 16, to September 3, and thus could not appear before the court.

A two-judge bench comprising Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani heard the case. Maryam Nawaz was announced a seven year jail along with heavy fine by the accountability court Islamabad while her husband Capt. (ret'd) Safdar was awarded one year imprisonment in the case.

CDA awarded Rs 1.4b contract for construction of Judicial Complex

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has awarded contract of Rs 1.40 billion to the FWO for the construction of a judicial complex in the Federal Capital. The lowest bid received by the Capital Development Authority for the construction of a Judicial Complex in the Federal Capital Territory was by FWO, which was approved by the CDA administration and awarded the contract to FWO at One billion and forty crore rupees. The proposed design and layout plan of the complex includes separate washrooms for men and women, separate rooms for women and under-18 offenders, canteens and facilities for car Parking. In addition, the construction and design of the Judicial Complex has been approved keeping in view of the future needs and with the possibility of expansion. It should be noted that the cost of construction of the Judicial Complex will be born by the CDA, but after the completion of the project, the Federal Government will reimburse all the expenses to the CDA. The project will be completed in a short period of six months. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with a delegation of the Haripur Chamber of Commerce and Industry, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. - DNA

RCCI calls on commissioner IL Revenue

RAWALPINDI: A delegation led by President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce Nasir Mirza called on Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue Dr. Khalid Mahmood Lodhi. The delegation included Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, President Anjuman-e-Tajirran Cantt. Sheikh Hafiz. RCCI President Nasir Mirza apprised of the problems and concerns regarding the installation of POS system in Cantt. Area and Furniture Market. He said that the business community was not against tax collection however, there should be no harassment on the account of registration and tax collection. - DNA

Ashrafi for immediate release of Dr Aafia Siddique

Terming educated human resource a great asset for a nation, he said it was important to provide educational opportunities to both boys and girls

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Special Aide to Prime Minister on Interreligious Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Wednesday demanded early release of incarcerated Dr Aafia Siddique, a US citizen of Pakistan origin. Addressing Ulama Convention, he said there was no cogent reason to put Dr Aafia behind bars following the end of Afghan war. Ashrafi said Dr Aafia should be repatriated to Pakistan, adding the government was also making efforts to provide solace to Dr Aafia. The convention titled 'Pakistan Stability Ulama and Mashaykh Convention' was organized by Pakistan Ulama Council. He said Ulama-Mashaykh and leading religious scholars of different religious schools of thought asked

world powers to cooperate with 'Amarat-e-Islamia Afghanistan' for restoring peace and stability in the war-torn country. Ashrafi said the convention had issued a joint declaration, in which the religious scholars, Ulama emphasized that Afghanistan must not be left alone in the current situation. The peace in Afghanistan would strengthen regional countries besides enhancing trade, economy, he added. Ulama-Mashaykh Conventions will be held in December 2021, Fifth International Message of Islam Conference will also be held, which will be attended by leadership of Muslim World, Ashrafi said. The scholars lauded government's Afghan policy and urged world leadership to not leave Afghanistan alone in current situation. They assured the government and security agencies their optimum support in thwarting Indian conspiracies being hatched to fan

sectarian hatred in the country. They said that after failure in Afghanistan, India was still conspiring to ignite sectarian violence to create chaos and anarchy in Pakistan. To thwart such conspiracies, Ulama, religious and political organizations would support government, they said, adding Pakistan Army and Pakistan's security agencies were frustrating Indian nefarious designs. "India should be prevented from spreading instability in the region through the connivance of international terrorist organizations," said the scholars. The Ulama vowed thwarting all such conspiracies with joint efforts as peace in Afghanistan was imperative for stable and peaceful Pakistan. By practicing norms of Islam, and unity, anti state elements could be reined in, they added. The ulama welcomed Taliban's declaration of general amnesty and

their resolve to establish a strong and stable national government. They lauded government's evacuation efforts of foreigners from Afghanistan and hoped that the country would continue playing similar role in promoting peace in the region and especially strengthening Pak-Afghan relations. The joint declaration asked Saudi Arabia to summon the session of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for devising a Muslim Ummah's joint strategy on Afghan issue. They urged fellow Ulama to forge unity among their ranks for achieving lasting peace in the region. The Ulama-Mashaykh appealed to the scholars, preachers and Zakirs to fully abide by 'Paigham-e-Pakistan' Code of Conduct. The convention condemned persistent attempts to attack Pakistan's border checkpoints from Afghan side since last one week and suicide bombing at

Afghan airport. The Ulama condemned incidents of abuse and harassment against women and gave their consent to the proposal of Prime Minister of Pakistan to form a committee for a permanent solution. The Ulama also stated that the trial of 10 cases including Noor-e-Muqaddam, Lahore Minar-e-Pakistan should be expedited and decisions to give public punishments should be made. All pornography and nudity websites and social media sources fanning obscenity should be closed, said the declaration. Islam commanded women to wear 'hijab' and men to keep their eyes down, so all aspects should be taken into consideration, they added. The Ulama appealed to clerics and preachers from all over the country to observe, upcoming 'Jumua Al-Mubarak' as 'Unity of Ummah Day'.

DG RDA reviews project progress

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Director General (DG) Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) on Wednesday visited Ammar Chowk project and reviewed the construction work progress. On this occasion, the project team gave a detailed briefing to the DG on the project.

The DG was informed that the project was conceived nearly 12 years ago but its construction work could not be started. The incumbent Punjab government released the funds and the project is being completed under the supervision of RDA and Station Headquarters. The DG was apprised that the construction work on the project is in full swing and the FWO is making all out efforts to complete the project within shortest possible time frame.

In view of the growing population and heavy traffic load, some significant changes were made in the project. All the power cables including low tension and high tension were laid underground. Twin underpasses are being constructed to ensure smooth flow of traffic. All the surrounding area of the project would be made lush green as per the vision of the Prime Minister. The DG was briefed that all-out efforts were also being made to ensure smooth flow of traffic during construction period.

AIOU declares PhD, MPhil results

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has announced the results of PhD, M.Phil. / MS, MSc, MBA / MPA and BS programs offered in the spring semester 2021. PhD programs include English, History, Library and Information Sciences, Business Administration, Iqbaliyat, Agriculture Extension, Islamic Studies, Chemistry, Education and Statistics.

M.Phil. programs include Pakistani Languages, Pakistani Studies, English, History, Urdu, Islamic Studies, Library and Information Science, Chemistry, Mass Communication, Physics, Special Education, Mathematics, Statistics, Education and Arabic. The results of MS Nutrition Health and Nutrition, 1.5 & 2 years MBA (New Scheme) and MBA / MPA Executive (New Scheme) have also been released. MSc programs include Physics, Agriculture Extension, Mathematics, Statistics, Rural Development, Chemistry, Microbiology, Environmental Science and Botany. BS (Chemistry), BS (Statistics), BS (Botany), BS (Mathematics), BS (Microbiology), BS (Environmental Science), BS (Physics), BS (Biochemistry) and BS (Computer Science GPA) results are also announced. The results of all the Programs have been uploaded on the University website. Result cards are being dispatched to students. Students can also check their results from the university's website. - APP

45 students complete internship with ITP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As many as 45 students of Capital University of Science and Technology (CUST) completed their internship with Islamabad Traffic Police and were educated about traffic rules and road safety measures. Following the directions of IGP Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman, Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) is acquainting citizens and students about traffic rules through various programs. Following one of such programs, the 11th batch of CUST students completed their internship with ITP and they were educated about traffic rules, road safety measures and functioning of various departments. Addressing the concluding ceremony, the SSP (Traffic) Syed Karar Hussain said that efforts are underway as per directions of IGP Islamabad to promote friendly policing in the city.

Briefs

Tarbela dam reaches its maximum storage

TARBELA: Tarbela Dam reservoir Wednesday reached its maximum storage limit of 1550 feet while power production reduced to 2025 megawatts. The water level of Tarbela Dam reached its maximum limit of 1550 feet while the power generation of the dam was reduced to 2025 megawatts where 12 power generation units out of 17 were working with low capacity to produce electricity and five power production units were shut down. According to the Tarbela Dam officials, owing to the decreased inflow in the Tarbela Dam reservoir the position of water inflow was 124000 cusec feet and outflow was 90000 cusecs feet which increased the water level of the dams to 1550 feet. It was also disclosed that 800 cusec feet of water were released for Pehr High-Level Canal (PHLC) to supply water for some areas of KPK for irrigation. — APP

Efforts afoot to make Islamabad safest city

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Syed Mustafa Tanweer on Wednesday said efforts were afoot to make Islamabad the safest city as it was foremost priority of the federal capital police. He said that, during last 24 hours Islamabad Police arrested 10 accused from different areas of the city. According to the details, Industrial-Area police arrested accused Asif and recovered one 30 bore pistol along with ammunition from him. Shahzad Town police arrested accused Armghan and recovered a dagger from him. Koral police arrested accused Sultan and recovered one 30 bore pistol from him. Ramana police arrested accused Aamir and recovered stolen car from him, while police arrested accused Tamoor involved in theft. Lohibher police arrested four accused Hanif Khan, Aziz Khan, Arshad Ali and Waseem Akhter involved in theft. Cases have been registered against these nabbed persons and further investigation is underway from them. During special crackdown against absconders, Islamabad police nabbed two proclaimed offenders and court absconders from various area of the city. DIG (Operations) Afzaal Ahmed Kausar and SSP (Operations) Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanweer have appreciated the performance and directed all Station House Officers for effective crackdown against that involvement in criminal's activities.

Pakistan keen to expand agricultural cooperation with Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan ambassador meets Minister Fakhar Imam; both resolve to strengthen cooperation agriculture, other sectors

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yezhan Kistafin called on Federal Minister of National Food Security and Research Fakhar Imam in his office in Islamabad. The meeting was also attended by the Vice Chancellor of Quaid-e-Azam University M. Ali and Director General Islamic Research Institute, International Islamic University, Dr. M. Zia-ul-haq. Federal Minister for National Food and Security Fakhar Imam said that the trade between the two countries is approximately \$60 million. He said that the trade between the two countries has huge potential and can be increased significantly. He said that Prime Minister Imran Khan has put high priority on the development of high tech, construction and agriculture sector. Minister said that technological exchange between Kazakhstan and Pakistan can enhance the agricultural



sector of the country. The two dignitaries discussed agricultural trade between the two countries. Fakhar said that Pakistan has immense agricultural capacity which can allow Pakistan to increase its exports. Minister said that in the last 40 years,

2 million Chinese students have attended foreign universities which has become the backbone of the rise of the Chinese economy. He said that Pakistan needs to focus on its human resource if it wants to successfully tackle the challenges

of the day. Fakhar said that the business community of the two countries should have direct linkages which can lead to transfer of relevant technologies and can lead to increase in FDI in the country as well. Fakhar Imam said that coop-

eration amongst countries at every level needs to be increased if the world wants to move towards sustainable and nature friendly development. He further stressed that the future is in the hands of the youth and hence their quality of education needs to

be at par excellence. Fakhar welcomed and appreciated the 200 scholarships offered by Hungary to the Pakistani students. Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr. Yezhan Kistafin extended an invitation to Fakhar Imam to attend the "KazAgro/KazFarm-2021". He said that KazAgro is a major exhibition of modern technologies, equipment, tools and services for the production/storage/processing/logistics of agricultural products in Kazakhstan. Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Yezhan Kistafin said that the agricultural bilateral trade between the two countries has immense potential. He said exchange of agricultural technologies can enhance the productivity of agriculture in Pakistan and thus should be a primary area of focus. Both dignitaries agreed to enhance trade and exchange of technologies in the agriculture sector.

E-Sports market gains momentum

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan after enjoying a celebrated reign in the sports arenas with one of the phenomenal expressions of passion and sportsmen spirit has gained promising momentum in E-Sports being played online with intricate minds. Gone are the days where cricket and hockey attracted Pakistani youth, the recent trends show Pakistani youth attraction towards the E-Sports industry that is considered as new Hollywood due to the sponsorship and organizations involved in it, said a study published during Covid-19 lockdown in 2020. The research journal focusing on market trends "Market Watch" narrated that following the footsteps of Europe and American markets, Pakistani youth is thrilled to add E-Sports culture to the Pakistani market. Information Technology (IT) sector is fast growing in Pakistan with a contribution of 1 percent about 3.5 million USD to the GDP of the country. With the induction of the E-Sports ecosystem this net gross is expected to boost by a sizeable margin, it said. E-Games like Players Unknown Battlegrounds (PUBG), Free Fire, DOTA, Call of Duty (COD), and Valorant is the new craze among Pakistani Gaming Community. With over 10 million active users PUBG has revolutionized the E-Sports culture in Pakistan followed by COD, Free Fire, and Valorant. The competitive E-Sports that have been introduced by these games have allured the organizations and sponsors. Dew gamers arena 2020 offered a prize pool worth Rs3.2 million to the participants, recently concluded PUBG Mobile Club Open (PMCO) Pakistan region had a prize pool of US\$29,200, PUBG Mobile National Championship (PMNC) held earlier in August had a prize pool of US\$30,000, Free Fire Pro League Pakistan (FFPL) held in July had a huge prize pool of Rs10 million. — APP

UNEP chief congratulates PM Khan for holding most popular WED 2021: Amin

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam on Wednesday said UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen congratulated Prime Minister Imran Khan for hosting the most popular World Environment Day 2021. Addressing a news conference here, the PM's aide on Climate Change told media that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was the highest forum at the UN and global level leading climate change mitigation and environmental conservation that first time selected Pakistan for hosting World Environment Day (WED) 2021. Amin said it was the highest forum level appreciation for Pakistan to successfully

host WED 2021 celebrations and acknowledgment of Prime Minister Imran Khan's Clean Green agenda which was practically enforced on ground. The UNEP head, he said, wrote a letter to Prime Minister Imran Khan and congratulated Prime Minister Imran Khan for hosting the most popular World Environment Day 2021. Addressing a news conference here, the PM's aide on Climate Change told media that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was the highest forum at the UN and global level leading climate change mitigation and environmental conservation that first time selected Pakistan for hosting World Environment Day (WED) 2021. Amin said it was the highest forum level appreciation for Pakistan to successfully



1.5 mln masses. "Ms Inger Anderson has called the WED 2021 hosted by Pakistan as the most successful celebration ever made," he added saying it was held under strict Covid-19 protocols. The SAPM mentioned that Pakistan's clean green vision was very clear with on ground efforts for ecosystem restoration. Amin Aslam opened up his presser with the English saying,

"When you invest in nature you are doing God's work." After three years of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, the entire country was leading green vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, first implemented in the form of Billion Trees' Plantation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that generated some 5,00,000 jobs, he said. He announced that the first 1.5 billion trees target under Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Plantation Project (TBTP) to be achieved by end 2021. "Our government have augmented existing national parks from 30 to 45 with 15 new national parks launched during Covid-19 lockdown under Protected Areas Initiative," he added. The SAPM said US \$ 120mln were received for Green Stimulus launched by the Prime Minister to support

Covid-idled masses through daily-waged employment in plantation and ecosystem restoration endeavours. "The funding will be used from October this year with all provinces on board. It includes massive and innovative plantation projects particularly billion tree olives, billion tree honey, mangroves plantation and Electric Vehicles induction under the Policy is also part of it," he underlined. Amin said a target to generate some 200,000 jobs was set to be achieved under the Green Stimulus, adding, "We are initiating the stimulus with complete planning and mechanism." Amin highlighted that tree plantation was also the advice of the Prophet (SAW) and his sunnah as trees pray for the one who grew and protected them.

Theatre Walay begins Tabla classes

ISLAMABAD: The training classes for the classical soul and emotion-provoking instruments of 'Sitar and Tabla' began at the Farm (Banigala) which was organized by Theatre Walay to provide a professional environment and encouraging platform for imparting musical skills to the interesting art and melody lovers. A Theatre Walay official Fizza Khan told APP that Sufi musician, composer, and writer, Wajih Nizami played the plucked string instrument Sitar who was conducting the classes. "Mr. Nizami is famous as the most well-known contemporary musician and a brilliant performer of classical musical instruments," Khan said. She said there was no cut date for the admissions as registration for these music classes was continued and people might contact Theatre Walay to confirm their admission. — APP

EPA launches awareness campaign to end plastic bags pollution

ISLAMABAD: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has launched awareness campaign in educational institutes against use of non-degradable plastic bags polluting the natural environment in a bid to turn Balochistan free from polythene or plastic bags. Director Technical EPA Balochistan Engineer Muhammad Khan Utmankhail on Wednesday told APP that the Authority has started its awareness campaign against polythene bags at school and college level in the province. The awareness campaign against polythene bags was started in August and will continue till November this year. "The used plastic shoppers are notorious for choking sewer, open drainage system spoiling sanitation and creating overall unattractive view of the environment, he said, adding the practice of burning it on street sides at dump sites produces dioxins and furans," Engineer Khan noted. In connection with the quarterly awareness campaign, he said that various programmes were being organized in different educational institutes of Quetta city. — APP

Tehran-Taliban ties have entered into a reconciliation mode: Farid

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The relationship between Tehran and the Taliban was still evolving and the recent engagements were seemed to be a 'makeshift arrangement' said Prof. SM Farid Mirbagheri of Iran, adding that both Iran and Taliban remained at ideological odds on the issue of understanding and implementing the Islamic Sharia and the recent change in Iran's policy towards Taliban can be attributed to its domestic as well as foreign policy

concerns. Mr. Mirbagheri was speaking at a webinar organized by the Institute of Regional Studies on 'Iran's Foreign Policy in the post-withdrawal Afghanistan.' Iran's entry into Afghanistan as an active player was being viewed as Tehran's attempt to earn greater negotiation leverage in the coming nuclear talks, said Prof. Mirbagheri. An element of insecurity with the rise of Taliban was also said to be a factor in transforming Iranian attitude towards Taliban, he added. Talking about Iran's nu-

clear negotiations, he said that the future was uncertain as Iran was looking to revive the same deal but on the other hand the new agreement was aiming to include Iran's missile program. The missile program was indeed a cause of concern for US, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and possibly some others and if 'there was no agreement and Iran refused to new terms that P5+1 want to incorporate, this would carry a risk of Israel's military strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities', he added. Such attacks

would certainly provoke Iran, and the consequences for the region would be dangerous if this happened to be a case, he opined. Iran didn't want an agreement that limits its nuclear policy in the long run and said Prof. Mirbagheri, adding that Iran was not interested to have a kind of agreement that was again subject to US' veto. He said that 'the nuclear agreement had nothing to do with the nuclear weapons sanction imposed by the US, however, the agreement would be a lifeline for Iran.'

'Truck art' exhibition to start from September 17

ISLAMABAD: A 10-day "Artisans-at-work in truck art" exhibition would be starting from September 17 till 26 aiming to promote folk crafts arts to create awareness among the masses about traditional skills and provide a platform to artisans to earn livelihood for them and their families. Talking to APP, Executive Director National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (NIFTH) Talha Ali said the exhibition would be displayed at National Heritage Museum, Lok Virsa. He said it was important opportunity for people, specially youth to visit the exhibition and learn about the process involved from the respective master artisans who would not only demonstrate their work in front of visitors but would also sell their products on the occasion. — APP

ICCI, IIUI sign MoU to promote research

IIUI students would conduct research studies to identify the challenges being faced by the local industry and make presentations to meet these challenges before joint sittings of IIUI and ICCI

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) to promote industry-academia linkages and applied research projects, which could help resolve problems of industry. The MoU was signed by Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, ICCI and Prof. Dr. Hathal Houmoud Alotaibi, President, IIUI at a ceremony held at ICCI. Fatma Azim Senior Vice President, Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI, Executive Members Aslam Khokhar, Saeed Khan, Muhammad Shkir, Shaikat Hayat Khan, Naem Paracha as well as Khalid Chaudhry and other members of business community were also present at the occasion. Both sides agreed to cooperate for encouraging industry-oriented final year projects



for students in order to produce demand-driven human resources for industry and work jointly on initiatives that could facilitate industrial efficiency and bring down production cost. Both would conduct joint activities like conferences, seminars, workshops, job fairs, research projects, awareness sessions and other professional training programs of mutual interest. Both would cooperate to hold vocational and skills development programs for

training and promote a culture of entrepreneurship in students. ICCI would nominate relevant experts to the university's Board of Studies and Industrial Advisory Boards as required by the Pakistan Engineering Council. Both sides would cooperate for creation of internship and training programs for students to give them hands-on experience of working with experts in industry. IIUI students would con-

duct research studies to identify the challenges being faced by the local industry and make presentations to meet these challenges before joint sittings of IIUI and ICCI. IIUI would also provide a 10 percent discount in tuition fee to students of ICCI members on merit as decided by the University. IIUI may grant complete waiver in tuition fee to three deserving students every year through its various scholar-

ship schemes for any program as recommended by ICCI and as per criteria of Donor agency. ICCI would arrange joint meetings of industry representatives and IIUI faculty & students to discuss the opportunities of fostering entrepreneurship in youth. ICCI would pass on information to IIUI about different trainings being organized by it or government organizations for capacity building of faculty and students in different areas. ICCI would also identify opportunities of internships for IIUI students in industry and facilitate the placement of internees in industrial units, trading and corporate business houses. Speaking at the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President ICCI said that the Chamber was working actively to promote strong industry-academia linkages by signing MoU with various universities, which are very important to promote skills development, knowledge economy and entrepreneurship culture.

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Market & Road Maintenance North

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are hereby invited on percentage basis dully filled in figures as well as in words from contractor of civil works registered with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in relevant Category for 2021 as per details given below.

(Amount in Rs)				
S. No	Name of works	NIT cost	Earnest Money	Tender Fee
1.	Improvement of Nullah at Nazim-ud-Din Road F-6/1 Islamabad.	Rs. 7,418,989/-	Rs. 222,600/-	Rs. 3,000/-

CONDITIONS:-

- Tender documents can be obtained on Non-refundable cash payment of Rs.3000/- (Rupees Three thousand & Two thousand only) per set.
- Tenders/Bids will be received up to 11:30AM and open on above mentioned date and time in the office of Director (Market & Roads Maintenance), CDA located in Room No. 39 Old Navel Head Quarter G-6 Markaz Islamabad.
- Application for Issuance of tender documents will be received on 17-09-2021 (09:00 AM to 04:00 PM). No Application will be entertained / received after given date and time. Tenders will be issued on 20-09-2021 and will be open on 21-09-2021.
- Earnest Money in the shape of deposit at call in favor of Deputy Director (Market & Road Maintenance North), CDA must accompany with tender application. Cash/Cheque will not be accepted. No tender document will be issued without showing deposit at call.
- The authority (CDA) may reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of the bid or proposal. The authority (CDA) shall open request communicate to any supplier or contractor who submitted a bid or proposal, the grounds for its rejection of all bids or proposals, but is not required to justify those grounds.
- Authority letter in favor of the person deputed by the contractor to submit the application and collect the tender documents along the CNIC (original) to be provided.
- Detailed terms & conditions can be seen from CDA web site www.cda.gov.pk & PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Market & Roads Maint-North, CDA
Phone # 051-9202319.

PID (I) No. 1326/21

Countering extremism

MERCILESS targeted killings and unprompted attacks from non-state elements is a phenomenon that North Waziristan has unfortunately faced many times in recent years. Since last January, 42 lives have been lost outside of the five individuals that were shot dead within the last 48 hours alone. In response to the worsening situation, the KP government finally approved the legislation for establishing the Centre of Excellence to Counter Violent Extremism in the hopes that an effective solution may be produced by experts. Considering that the centre is research-based, there are certain standards of quality that the authorities will have to uphold. Pre-requisite requirements entail that field specialists are hired to produce the comprehensive level of specific research needed to understand the issue and propose viable solutions for the province specifically. Additionally, the government will also have to equip the centre with the necessary technology and provide access to international informational platforms. Only then can a conducive environment really be created. It is equally as important to understand that the issue of extremism varies from region to region and the specific causes and effects suffered by the people of KP are unique to their society. As such, the research must be holistic in nature and incorporate the views of victims, on-ground fighters and the perpetrators alike. It must also dive into how and why the narrative of hatred against Pakistan fuels terrorism, what activities perpetrators carry out, what the cause of extremism, radicalism and intolerance is. Furthermore, it must also investigate the organisations' fund generation processes as well as unearth the root cause of the problem. A multifaceted approach is the only way a complex issue like extremism will be understood and tackled. For the KP government, there is no doubt that the first step to take is to improve law enforcement to stop the killings. However, this is just the start, the mind-set must be understood and corrected through this research, which should be peer reviewed before the annual performance report is presented to the assembly. If we are going through this route, we must do it the right way.

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Profit in public goods

THE first reading of the statistics pertaining to the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Peshawar indicates disaster. The BRT Peshawar faced a deficit of Rs1.882 billion during the last financial year, 2020-21, while a deficit of Rs2.79 billion was estimated for the current financial year, 2021-22, according to official sources. This amounts to a total deficit of over Rs4.673 billion during the last two years, a deficit that is being covered by government subsidies. However, the utility of a project is not reduced to a simple model of profit and deficit. Public services are not to be judged on surplus and loss statements, but the number of people reached out to and that can access this service. The incorporation of a public good has several benefits not factored in the financial statements; for example, Peshawar BRT and similar public transport facilities like the Orange Line aim to curb pollution and climate change; thus saving the costs that environmentally bad policies like overreliance on private vehicles cause. Anyone that questions the profitability of either project while ignoring its benefits is quite clearly only looking to gain political points. TransPeshawar, the government-owned company that operates the BRT, launched an initiative in 2019 to buy up decades-old, emissions-spewing buses to cut traffic congestion and carbon emissions. These initiatives are a way to cut the future estimated costs the government will have to make to inevitably tackle smog and air pollution. Apart from the environmental benefits, public goods contribute to a better standard of life, which leads to a trickle-down effect in many other spheres, which might not be immediately visible, but lead to the development of the city. This does not mean that the profitability of the BRT project and similar initiatives like Orange Line should not be assessed or criticised; but there ought to be a more comprehensive report on public services, calculating all the benefits that they bring to the people.

Taliban, the Afghan state and rule of law

Haroun Rahimi

The recent horrendous attack at Kabul airport challenged this narrative, but the group blamed it on the US and the mishandling of its withdrawal from Afghanistan. The Taliban leadership seem to think they have, at the very least, the security part of governance figured out

THE Taliban took over Afghanistan with great ease that few expected. Now that all foreign troops have withdrawn, the group faces the more difficult task of governing the country. Will it be able to cope? The heartbreaking images of Afghans dying as they tried to catch a flight out of the country, as well as a general sense of anxiety and fear that many Afghans who remain in the country express to friends and the media, suggest that there are serious doubts about the Taliban's ability to govern. The Taliban leadership, on other hand, have been expressing confidence they are up to the task, touting the group's ability to stop crimes and maintain security in the country. "We do not have any crimes happening at the moment", said Abdul Qahar Balkhi, a Taliban official, during a recent interview for Turkish channel Habertürk. Meanwhile, pro-Taliban social media accounts continue to share footage of alleged thieves being paraded around Afghan cities, or alleged robbers shaking in fear after arrest. The recent horrendous attack at Kabul airport challenged this narrative, but the

group blamed it on the US and the mishandling of its withdrawal from Afghanistan. The Taliban leadership seem to think they have, at the very least, the security part of governance figured out. However, I argue that the Taliban have a flawed understanding of what it means to provide security for a nation. People can only feel safe if they feel protected not only against criminals and terrorists but also against abuses by the state and those in power. The latter safeguard can only be achieved if the society is governed by the rule of law. Although the term "rule of law" is widely used, there is no agreement on a single definition. In its wider meaning, it can include good governance and human rights guarantees, but here I will use a more practical definition. Society is governed by rule of law if: first, the laws are clear, easily accessible, and non-retroactive, second, all public institutions, including members of the ruling power, are accountable to the law and, third, independent, impartial judges apply the laws. If Afghans are not clear on what the laws are and cannot be sure that future laws will not be applied to their past actions, they will not feel safe. They will live in constant fear of state-sanctioned violence. The Taliban is yet to either confirm that the existing laws of the country will remain in force or to lay out a new legal system. They often make general statements that suggest "Sharia" will be the law but anyone familiar with Fiqh, the human understanding of Sharia through which it is applied, knows that such statements raise more questions than they give answers. The Taliban needs to clarify the basic rules in domains Afghans care most about as soon as possible to calm the nation and curb the exodus of citizens and capital flight. Sadly, the opposite seems to be happening. The Taliban has postponed answers on important questions, such as Afghan women's rights, to an uncertain time in the future when its fighters are "trained" to deal with women. If Afghans cannot be reasonably confident that those in power are constrained by transparent rules and that there are consequences for violations, they cannot feel safe. Right now, a person holding a gun who looks a certain way has the power to brutalise, abuse, humiliate and possibly kill Afghans. Afghan social media is filled with exam-

ples of this. How can everyone, including those in power, be made accountable to the laws? First, achieving this objective requires the separation of power. If the power to make rules, enforce rules and adjudicate disputes is in the hands of a narrow group or those who are tasked with these functions are appointed, controlled, and loyal to a narrow group, then it is unlikely that the powerful will be held accountable. This means that different state powers should be vested in different institutions to enable them to maintain a system of checks and balances. There should also be a certain degree of decentralisation of power to local authorities as well as direct political participation of the people via elections. Having Afghans elect local and national officials would ensure that power is distributed among different constituencies. This would provide meaningful constraints on the power of the state over its citizens. Scholars have disagreed about the rule of law throughout Muslim history. Some have argued that Islam contains the perfect example of rule of law and separation of power since Fiqh is not under the control of the ruler but rather it is developed by the ulama, an independent class of Muslim scholars. Others have argued that the ulama and Muslim rulers were often allied to protect their own interest: to fend off heterodoxy, in order to preserve the position of the ulama and clamp down on political dissent to maintain the power of the ruling elite. In the Afghan context, there is very little evidence that the ulama would be able to act as a constraint on the group. In the past, the Taliban simply ignored, or at times targeted, those ulama who did not align with it. In addition to the separation of power, due process of law and judicial independence also need to be observed. Whenever the state or its representative makes a decision that could potentially adversely affect a person, due process of law must be observed. That means there must be a transparent process where the potentially affected party can challenge a decision by the state and the behaviour of state agents and feel reasonably confident that their challenge would be seriously considered by an impartial judge following rules that the challenger can understand.

The judge must be able to provide effective remedy should a violation be proven, and judgments must be enforced against the state or those in power. No single person presiding over a case as a judge should have the final say on important matters. The unsatisfied party must have the right to appeal. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan suffered from a lack of judicial independence in politically important cases as both Afghan presidents and their close allies nurtured a self-serving constitutional theory that the president as the head of state has oversight power over all three branches of the state, including the judiciary, and holds any residual powers not explicitly allocated under the constitution. The Taliban, in the past, also did not adopt institutional measures to protect the judges from political influence. Following an understanding of the role of the judge in classical Fiqh, which treats it as an extension of political rule, and a judge as the agent of the ruler, the Taliban generally did not consider the need to protect the institution of the judiciary and the individual judges from the ruling power. The Taliban has not shown an appetite for governing through institutions. It has tended to consider rule and governance personal and allegiance to the ruler a requirement. Its leadership tend to assume that good governance only requires the right people, which they understand to be those who are aligned with their ideology and have their trust. That is why they have been staffing state institutions almost exclusively from within their ranks as they try not only to take control of the state and improve governance. Not enough attention is paid to the institutions of governance. The only way the Taliban can govern Afghanistan to convince those Afghans, who want to leave, to remain and contribute to its development is by establishing the rule of law, due process and working to create good institutions. For people to feel like their lives, property, and honour are protected, it is not enough for criminals and terrorists to be punished; it is equally, if not more, important for the state and those in power to be held accountable. The power must be constrained with institutional mechanisms of control such as separation of power, local and national elections, and due process of law.

— Courtesy AlJazeera

New understanding of Afghanistan is a must

Ramzy Baroud



The US-Western propaganda, which has afflicted our collective understanding of Afghanistan for the last 20 years, has been so overpowering to the point that we are left without the slightest understanding of the dynamics that led to the Taliban's swift takeover of the country. The Taliban are presented in the media as if they are entirely alien to the socioeconomic fabric of Afghanistan

FOR 20 years, two dominant narratives have shaped our view of the illegal US invasion and occupation of Afghanistan, and neither of these narratives would readily accept the use of such terms as "illegal," "invasion" and "occupation." The framing of the US military intervention in Afghanistan, starting in October 2001, as the official start of what was dubbed a global "war on terror" was left almost entirely to US government strategists. President George W. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and an army of spokespersons, neoconservative "intellectuals," journalists and so on championed the military option as a way to rid Afghanistan of its terrorists, make the world a safer place and, as a bonus, bring democracy to the country and free its oppressed women. For that crowd, the US intervention in an already war-torn and extremely impoverished country was a just cause; maybe violent at times, but ultimately humanitarian. Another narrative, also a Western one, challenged the gung-ho approach used by the Bush administration, argued that democracy cannot be imposed by force, reminded Washington of Bill Clinton's multilateral approach to international politics, and warned against the "cut and run" style of foreign policymaking, whether in Afghanistan, Iraq or elsewhere. Although these two narratives may have seemed at odds, at times they both accepted the basic premise that the US was capable of being a moral force in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Whether those who refer to themselves as "antiwar" realize this or not, they subscribe to the same notion of American exceptionalism and manifest destiny that Washington continues to assign to itself. The main difference between these narratives is that of methodology and approach, not whether the US has the right to intervene in the affairs of another country — whether to "eradicate terrorism" or to supposedly help a victim population that is incapable of helping itself and is desperate for a Western savior. However, the humiliating defeat suffered by the US in Afghanistan should inspire a whole new

way of thinking — one that challenges all Western narratives, without exception, in Afghanistan and throughout the world. Obviously, the US has failed in Afghanistan, not only militarily and politically, but also in terms of state-building and every other way. The US-Western narratives on Afghanistan were also a failure themselves. The mainstream media, which has reported on the country with a palpable sense of moral urgency for two decades, now seems befuddled. US "experts" are as confused as ordinary people regarding the hasty retreat from Kabul, the bloody mayhem at the airport and why the US was in Afghanistan in the first place. Meanwhile, the humanitarian interventionists are more concerned with Washington's "betrayal" of the Afghan people, of "leaving them to their fate" as if they are irrational beings with no agency of their own or as if they called on the Americans to invade their country or elected US generals as their democratic representatives. The US-Western propaganda, which has afflicted our collective understanding of Afghanistan for the last 20 years, has been so overpowering to the point that we are left without the slightest understanding of the dynamics that led to the Taliban's swift takeover of the country. The Taliban are presented in the media as if they are entirely alien to the socioeconomic fabric of Afghanistan. This is why their ultimate victory seemed not only shocking but extremely confusing too. For two decades, the very little we know about the Taliban has been communicated to us through Western media analyses and military intelligence assessments. With the Taliban's viewpoint completely removed from any political discourse pertaining to Afghanistan, an alternative Afghan national narrative was carefully constructed by the US and its NATO partners. This promoted the "good Afghans," we were told; those who dress in Western-style clothing, speak English, attend international conferences and, supposedly, respect women. These were also the Afghans who welcomed the US occupation of their country, as they benefited greatly from Washington's generosity.

If they truly represented Afghan society, why did their army of 300,000 men drop their weapons and flee, along with their president, without a serious fight? And if the 75,000 poorly armed and, at times, malnourished Taliban seemed to merely represent themselves, why then did they manage to defeat formidable enemies in a matter of days? There can be no argument that an inferior military power, like that of the Taliban, could have possibly persisted with and ultimately won such a brutal war over the course of many years without substantial grassroots support pouring in from the Afghan people in large swaths of the country. The majority of the Taliban recruits who entered Kabul on Aug. 15 were either children or were not even born when the US invaded their country all those years ago. What compelled them to carry arms, to fight a seemingly unwinnable war, and to kill and be killed? And why did they not join the more lucrative business of working for the Americans? We are just beginning to understand the Taliban narrative, as their spokespersons are slowly communicating a political discourse that is almost entirely unfamiliar to most of us — a discourse that we were not allowed to hear, interact with or understand. Now that the US and its NATO allies are leaving Afghanistan, unable to justify or even explain why their supposed humanitarian mission led to such an embarrassing defeat, the Afghan people are left with the challenge of weaving their own national narrative; one that must transcend the Taliban and their enemies to include all Afghans, regardless of their politics or ideology. Afghanistan is now in urgent need of a government that truly represents the people of that country. It must ensure the right to education and protect minorities and political dissidents, not to acquire a Western nod of approval but because the Afghan people deserve to be respected, cared for and treated as equals. This is the true national narrative of Afghanistan that must be nurtured outside the confines of the self-serving Western mischaracterization of Afghanistan and her people.

— Courtesy Arab News

Briefs

Qatar set to take control of Kabul airport

FROM PAGE 01
the Turkish side wanted security control as well while Taliban said that they will not give the security control. Sources say negotiations with Turkey are also going on but they believe it is more likely that Taliban would like Qatar to manage the airport. Meanwhile, the United States is working together with Turkey and Qatar on Afghanistan's Kabul Hamid Karzai International Airport. White House press secretary Jen Psaki said, "We stress on the Taliban the issue of freedom of movement and that there be safe passage for people to leave and enter if they so wish," Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al Thani told a press conference after a meeting with his Dutch counterpart, Sigrid Kaag. "We hope to see these commitments fulfilled in the near future when the airport begins operations again and that it happens smoothly, with no obstacles for anyone wanting to leave or come to Afghanistan." US officials have said Kabul airport is in a bad condition, with much of its basic infrastructure degraded or destroyed. Taliban fighters celebrated with gunfire on Tuesday after the last US forces abandoned Kabul fol-

PPP will form the next govt...

FROM PAGE 01
College on Wednesday, he said that the PPP believes in public service and worked for the public welfare. "We have to fight against poverty, adding that the whole of Pakistan will progress if women make progress." The PPP chairman said that women from FATA to Gwadar are getting financial assistance, people were in trouble due to unemployment and inflation in incumbent government's tenure. "The Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) introduced by the former president and PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari was ridiculed but the world has appreciated the Program," he added. "They were being taunted by rivals to make voters baggers in the name of the BISP but factually the whole world appreciated it," said Bilawal. He said former premier Nawaz Sharif for placing his picture on the card of the BISP and now Imran Khan had removed Benazir Bhutto Shaheed's name from this program and renamed it as "Ehsaas Program". Bilawal went on to say that the PPP will form next government in federation, adding that Prime Minister Imran Khan promised to build 5 million houses but the houses of the poor were demolished. Bilawal said people were drowning in the tsunami of inflation but rulers had no feeling for it. He announced that he would run the BISP properly after coming in power. "During the tenure of incumbent government people are in trouble due to unemployment and inflation, he said. Bilawal said Prime Minister Imran Khan had not given anything new but imitating his party in welfare projects for the masses.

CJCS: War game exercise...

FROM PAGE 01
operations at sea in a diverse maritime environment. Speaking on the occasion, CJCS highlighted the importance of war games in reviewing military strategy and refining its alignment with national security threats while exploring new concepts. Chairman JCSC lauded the participants and appreciated the efforts of Pakistan Navy in conducting the successful exercise in a befitting manner. Earlier, upon arrival Chairman JCSC was received by Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi.

'FBR to achieve...

FROM PAGE 01
same period last year. The FBR has exceeded its first two months target and pooled Rs850 billion at double the needed growth rate to hit the annual goalpost, strengthening the government's case in the eyes of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). But 55% of the total revenues or Rs458 billion were collected at the import stage, which is also becoming a reason for increasing prices of various commodities.

Qatar urges Taliban to ensure 'safe passage'

Qatar hosted negotiations between the Taliban and the United States in recent years and was a transit point for about 43,000 evacuees from Afghanistan

AGENCIES

DOHA: Qatar has urged the Taliban to ensure "safe passage" for people still wanting to leave Afghanistan after the deadly and chaotic US-led evacuations came to an end. More than 123,000 foreign nationals and Afghans fled the country in a frenzied airlift operation that wound up on Tuesday, but many more are desperate to depart. "We stress on the Taliban the issue of freedom of movement and that there be safe passage for people to leave and enter if they so wish," Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al Thani told a press conference after a meeting with his Dutch counterpart, Sigrid Kaag. "We hope to see these commitments fulfilled in the near future when the airport begins operations again and that it happens smoothly, with no obstacles for anyone wanting to leave or come to Afghanistan." US officials have said Kabul airport is in a bad condition, with much of its basic infrastructure degraded or destroyed. Taliban fighters celebrated with gunfire on Tuesday after the last US forces abandoned Kabul fol-



lowing a two-decade war. Qatar hosted negotiations between the Taliban and the United States in recent years and was a transit point for about 43,000 evacuees from Afghanistan. Touching on the pace of aid to Afghanistan post-Taliban, al Thani said there was no visible decline and vowed to deliver on its pledges of humanitarian aid to the country. "Under the right circum-

stances, the EU will be generous," with its help for refugees she said, warning that irregular migration was harming refugees. "We need to help provide assistance for sake of Afghans, not for the sake of any government or regime," Kaag said, adding projects are needed to ensure girls' education. Kaag said the two foreign ministers discussed the conditions of vulnerable religious

ethnic minority, women and girls under Taliban rule. She said the EU meetings in recent days will focus on what the bloc expects from the Taliban which has to translate to tangible steps, referring to the English saying, "the proof is in the pudding". Conditions the Taliban need to fulfil include inclusive political processes, respect for universal human rights and girls' and women's rights. "An extensive part

of the Doha negotiations centred on women," al Thani said. He shared that Qatar has asked the Taliban to reconsider and readress women's rights and to keep its promises. "Qatar as a Muslim country is an example" of women working, studying and partaking in society, he added. Kaag said the Netherlands will move its Kabul diplomatic mission to Qatar, following similar moves by the United States and Britain. "I've asked his excellency very kindly agree to the relocation of the Netherlands embassy from Kabul to Doha," Kaag told journalists. She also stressed "the importance of ensuring that Afghanistan no longer resumes becoming a base for terrorist organisations". "I've also asked (the Qatari foreign minister) to employ his influence and context to really help all parties in Afghanistan, to reach an inclusive political agreement that ensures stability and future prosperity." The US invaded Afghanistan and toppled its Taliban government in 2001 in the wake of the 9/11 attacks by Al Qaeda, which had sought sanctuary in the country. Western capitals fear Afghanistan could again become a haven for extremists bent on attacks.

Taliban parade to show off...

FROM PAGE 01

NATO and Afghan forces during Afghanistan's 20 years of war - while others clambered over the vehicles at Ayno Maina, a town on the outskirts of the city. Pick-up trucks laden with supporters rolled past the convoy of military vehicles, some armed with heavy weapons and machine guns. At least one Black Hawk helicopter has been seen flying over Kandahar in recent days, suggesting someone from the former Afghan army was at the controls as the Taliban lack qualified pilots. Kandahar is the ethnic Pashtun heartland of the Taliban where the hardline group was founded and from where it rose to power in 1996. By 2001, when US-led forces invaded, the Taliban had seized control of most of the country. At Kandahar Cricket Ground, white-bearded Taliban leaders waited in the shade in the players' dug-out, reclining on armchairs behind wooden coffee tables as they waited for the parade to start. Others sat crossed-legged on the grass, while hundreds more gathered in the terrace stand to watch. The Taliban's secretive supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada is living in Kandahar, the group said Sunday, after years in the shadows. Word had spread that he would make an appearance Wednesday, but he did not show up, leaving the city's new governor to address the crowd.

Government incentivizing education...

FROM PAGE 01

efforts were underway to ensure their inclusion in the educational mainstream. The Ehsaas Education Stipends programme was aimed at providing financial assistance to the deserving households for the education of their children at primary, secondary and higher secondary levels. Rolled out nationwide in 160 districts, the programme had been structured to give higher amount of stipend to girls as compared to boys. The prime minister said ensuring education for all was a priority of the government, adding that stipends as incentives would be a step to encourage parents for sending their children, particularly girls to schools. He said an educated woman could contribute more positively towards the society and lauded the policy of Ehsaas Stipends programme to give higher amount to girls. Terming educated human resource a great asset for a nation, he said it was important to provide educational opportunities to both boys and girls. He dismissed the impression in western world that Pakistanis did not want to educate their girls. He recalled that during his visits to different parts of the country, he found no such parents opposing the right of education for their daughters. However, he said the factors including distant schools or unavailability of female teachers could be a reason. Imran Khan said it was mainly the responsibility of the government to provide facilities of education to all.

Taliban surrounds Panjshir fighters

FROM PAGE 01

several thousand members of local militias and remnants of the army and special forces units have been holding out against the Taliban. In a recorded speech addressed to Afghans in Panjshir, senior Taliban leader Amir Khan Motaqi called on the rebels to put down their weapons. "The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is home for all Afghans," he said. The Taliban have declared an amnesty for all Afghans who worked with foreign forces during the past two decades but crowds fearing reprisals have continued to flock to the borders in an attempt to flee the landlocked country. Motaqi said the Taliban had made many efforts to negotiate with leaders of the opposition forces in Panjshir, "but unfortunately, unfortunately, without any result".



MINSK: Pakistan ambassador to Belarus Sajjad Haider Khan hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting defence delegation from Pakistan led by Major General Zahid Mahmood, Chief of the International Military Cooperation Office at the Joint Staff Headquarters. They held meetings with their Belarusian counterparts for expanding cooperation. - DNA

Djokovic takes first unsteady step toward calendar slam

SPORTS DESK

NEW YORK: Novak Djokovic took a first unsteady step toward completing the calendar-year Grand Slam on Tuesday as the Serb laboured into the second round of the U.S. Open with a 6-1 6-7(5) 6-2 6-1 win over dashing Danish teenager Holger Rune. On paper, the contest was a total mismatch - an 18-year-old qualifier making his Grand Slam debut against a player chasing a 21st major title. While the outcome was exactly what was expected, the effort needed by Djokovic to see off the fearless Dane, who battled to the end despite suffering a cramp, was not. "I started great. Playing a really, really good first set," said Djokovic. "After that, I don't know, I was 4-3 serving in the second set, everything was working well, but then I just lost the first serve. "I had until tonight tons of experience playing on this court, for him it was the first one. "Still you get nerves. You still are feeling a little bit rusty at the beginning." The match got underway amid a somewhat flat atmosphere inside Arthur Ashe Stadium but the crowd were chanting the little-known Dane's name after he stunned Djokovic to win the second set. Aside from that, it was a controlled effort from the 34-year-old Djokovic, far different from the Serb's last match on Arthur Ashe Stadium court which ended with him being disqualified after swatting a ball in frustration that struck a line judge.



Pakistani athletes meet COAS

DNA

RAWALPINDI: National sportsmen who represented Pakistan in Tokyo Olympics met General QamarJaved-Bajwa, chief of army staff (COAS). Chief of army staff, General QamarJavedBajwa appreciated olympians for their efforts. Your participation in Olympics has inspired Pakistani nation particularly youth, said General QamarJavedBajwa. Army has always supported sports. Representing Pakistan at international level is not only honour for you but it also brings pride to the nation, COAS emphasised. COAS also assured them of Pakistan army's complete support in their future endeavours. The national players Mr Arshad Nadeem (Javelin throw) Mr Talha Talib (weightlifting) Havaladar Muhammad Khalil Akhtar (Shooting) and sepoyGulfam Joseph (shooting) thanked COAS for interaction and recognition of their efforts.

Pakistan includes new faces for NZ ODI series

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Chief Selector Mohammad Wasim has announced 20-member squad for the three ICC Cricket World Cup Super League One-Day Internationals against New Zealand, which will be played in Rawalpindi on 17, 19 and 21 September. Former captain Sarfaraz Ahmed and middle-order batter SohaibMaqsood have been dropped while uncapped wicketkeeper Mohammad Harris, fast bowlers Mohammad Wasim and Shah NawazDahani, and wrist-spinner Zahid-Mahmood have been named in the squad. Middle-order batters Iftikhar Ahmed and Khushdil Shah have been recalled with Harris Sohail and Salman Ali Agha miss out. Babar Azam (C), Shadab Khan (VC), Mohammad Rizwan (WK), Mohammad Harris (WK), Abdullah Shafique, Faheem Ashraf,

FakharZaman, HarisRauf, Hasan Ali, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imam-ul-Haq, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Saud Shakeel, Shaheen Shah, Shah NawazDahani, Usman Qadir, ZahidMehmood Chief selector Muhammad Wasim: "The series against New Zealand is extremely important for Pakistan as the matches are part of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 qualification. While we have tried to put together a formidable and a balanced unit, we have continued to ensure that we give opportunities to high performing players while looking into the future so that we can develop a strong bench-strength. "ShahnawazDahani was unfortunate to miss the selection for the England matches as the squad was announced before the start of the remaining 20 HBL PSL 6 matches. Hence, he was a straightforward selection when we sat to discuss and finalise the

side for the New Zealand series. We have also given continued run to Mohammad Wasim, who impressed everyone in the T20Is against the West Indies. "Zahid Mahmood has been added to support Usman Qadir. While picking him, we took into consideration that he had excelled last time he played in a white-ball match in Lahore against South Africa. Although this time the format will be different, but in domestic 50-over competitions he has shown through his performances that he has the temperament to also perform in ODIs. "Mohammad Rizwan remains the first-choice wicket-keeper, as such, it has been decided to include 20-year-old Mohammad Harris in place of Sarfaraz Ahmed. This is not only to reward Harris for his outstanding domestic performances in the previous season, but also to give him a taste and flair of international cricket along with its rigours and demands.

Pakistan bets on peace in Afghanistan: Envoy

"Afghanistan and Pakistan not only share the longest border, they are also closely connected in many ways. We have the same religion on both sides of the border, we have the same culture, same language in many areas, and our people are very similar," the diplomat said during the no holds barred interview

AGENCIES

KARACHI: With the two-decade-long US occupation of Afghanistan over, Pakistan seeks a negotiated political settlement that leads to the formation of an inclusive administration in its conflict-ridden north-eastern neighbour. Contrary to the narrative being weaved against it by certain quarters, Pakistan's top diplomat in Kabul said Islamabad is committed to an inclusive political settlement in Afghanistan. "After decades of conflict, Afghanistan needs a comprehensive political settlement for lasting peace and stability," said Ambassador Mansoor Ahmad Khan. Reiterating Islamabad's stance, Ambassador Khan

stated: "Pakistan has always said that there is no military solution. There has to be a negotiated settlement that is widely accepted within Afghanistan." While the US and other western countries struggled with the final exit from Afghanistan on Tuesday, Pakistan continued to rescue Afghans and other nationals. According to Khan, who is one of the four ambassadors currently stationed in the Afghan capital, Islamabad has always stepped up to the challenge when it comes to Afghanistan, and that, he said, defines the special relationship between the two countries. "Afghanistan and Pakistan not only share the longest border, they are also closely connected in many ways. We have the same religion on

both sides of the border, we have the same culture, same language in many areas, and our people are very similar," the diplomat said during the no holds barred interview. Since the collapse of the Western-backed Ashraf Ghani government in Kabul more than two weeks ago, analysts in the US and elsewhere have been quick to blame Pakistan for the failure in Afghanistan.

Some, including a known Bush administration neo-conservative, John Bolton, aimed his guns at Pakistan in a recently penned op-ed piece. Bolton, who also served as Donald Trump's national security adviser went on to say that Pakistan has always been a supporter of the Taliban. In the piece, the Bush-era warhawk took several potshots at the government in Islamabad.

Ambassador Khan, however, rejects all such accusations against Pakistan. Responding to a question about Islamabad's role in Kabul, the diplomat, in a firm and unequivocal manner, said that a stable Afghanistan was in the best interest of Pakistan and the entire region. "Peace and stability in Afghanistan means peace and stability in Pakistan. It means, economic growth, economic engagement and interaction for both countries," explained Khan over phone from Kabul. The diplomat said Pakistan has suffered consistently during the decades long conflict in Afghanistan. "We have suffered the most from the Afghan conflict. Islamabad and Kabul will benefit once there is peace and when the dust settles on the

other side of the border." Optimistic about the ongoing efforts to form an inclusive government in Kabul, the ambassador said once lasting peace is achieved in Afghanistan, both nations could benefit from economic exchanges and greater connectivity. "Given the changing dynamics in the region, a peaceful Afghanistan can benefit more than an unstable Afghanistan," he added. Afghanistan. Ambassador Khan said, is standing at a crossroads. "We can collectively help Afghans, bring an end to the internal conflict through a participative process, through an inclusive political process that leads to the formation of a new political system, a new government, which has participation of all ethnic groups," explained Ambassador Khan.



Briefs

Indian schools reopen

DNA

NEW DELHI: More students in India will be able to step inside a classroom for the first time in nearly 18 months Wednesday, as authorities have given the green light to partially reopen more schools despite apprehension from some parents and signs that infections are picking up again. Schools and colleges in at least six more states will be reopened in a gradual manner with health measures in place throughout September. In New Delhi, all staff must be vaccinated and class sizes will be capped at 50 percent with staggered seating and sanitized desks. In the capital only students in grades nine through 12 will be allowed to attend at first, though it is not compulsory. Some parents say they will be holding their children back, including Nalini Chauhan, who lost her husband to the coronavirus last year. "That trauma is there for us and that is what stops me from going out. We don't go to malls. We don't go shopping. So why schools now?" she said. Life has been slowly returning to normal in India after the trauma of a ferocious coronavirus surge earlier this year ground life in the country to a halt, sickened tens of millions, and left hundreds of thousands dead. A number of states returned last month to in person learning for some age groups.

Rich countries urged to donate for vaccine

UNITED NATIONS: Rich countries must share their supplies of coronavirus vaccines quickly, in line with recommendations made earlier this year by an independent panel appointed by the World Health Organization (WHO), the former co-chairs said Tuesday. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia, and Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, expressed deep concern over the slow pace of vaccine redistribution from high-income to low-income countries.

The two former leaders served as co-chairs of the Independent Panel on Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPPR), launched by Geneva-based WHO in July 2020. Its final report was published in May. "The Independent Panel report recommended that high-income countries ensure that at least one billion doses of vaccines available to them were redistributed to 92 low and middle-income countries by 1 September, and a further one billion doses by mid-2022", they declared. "Ensuring that all those around the world most vulnerable to the impact of the virus, including health-care workers, older people and those with significant comorbidities, can be vaccinated quickly is a critical step towards curbing the pandemic." To date, the global solidarity initiative COVAX has shipped 99 million donated doses, they said. While 92 countries have received some 89 million vaccines, this is far short of the one billion called for in the report.

Pope to visit Greece, Cyprus and Malta soon

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis announced Wednesday he plans to visit Greece, Cyprus and Malta, in an interview on Spanish radio. The pontiff has already scheduled a visit to Slovakia September 12-15 after a brief stop in Hungary to celebrate a mass in the capital Budapest. Asked by Cope radio whether he may travel to Spain to coincide with the Holy Year in the northwestern city of Santiago de Compostela, the pontiff said he could not rule it out. "But my choice so far of travel to Europe is the small countries. First it was Albania and then all the countries that were small," he said. - APP

AIR LINK to go public with 'biggest ever' IPO

The firm also plans to venture into manufacturing and export of Chinese mobile phone brands, Muzaffar Piracha, CEO of Air Link says

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Lahore-based Air Link Communications, which assembles Chinese smartphone brands Itecl, Tecno, TCL and Alcatel, plans to raise over Rs 6 billion in equity through an initial public offering (IPO), the prospectus of the issue stated. The Air Link also distributes iPhone, Samsung, Huawei and Xiaomi handsets in Pakistan. JS Global Capital is the book runner to the IPO. In an announcement on social media over the weekend, JS Global CEO Kamran Nasir said that it will be the biggest ever IPO in Pakistan. In 2019, Faisalabad-based textiles manufacturer Interloop Ltd. raised Rs5.025 bil-

lion through the IPO. Air Link is offering 90 million shares, which will constitute 25% of the total post-IPO paid-up capital, at the floor price of Rs65, with a price band of 40% above the floor price, according to the prospectus. The IPO could value the firm at around Rs 25 billion, as per analysts. Book Building to the IPO will take place on August 30 and August 31, in which the investors will be eligible to subscribe 75% of shares. The remaining shares will later be offered to retail investors on September 6 and 7, according to the prospectus. Air Link has installed 8 assembly lines at its Lahore facility with a production capacity of 500,000 to 800,000 smartphones and



Muzaffar H Piracha

feature phone sets per month, as per details on the official website of the firm. The facility has employed over 1,000 engineers and skilled workers. The firm also plans to venture



into manufacturing and export of Chinese mobile phone brands, Muzaffar H. Piracha, CEO of Air Link says in a video on the company's website. Muzaffar further said he was grateful to everyone for their unwavering support and trust in Air Link Communication.

He also thanked Prime Minister Imran Khan and his team for providing a comprehensive policy that aims to incentivize local manufacturing of mobile phones in Pakistan.

In April this year, the prominent footwear exporter Service Global Footwear Ltd., raised Rs2.175 billion through an IPO to fund its joint venture with China's Long March Tyres. The IPO was oversubscribed by 5.8 times. The Air Link IPO is expected to attract institutional as well as high net worth individuals in huge numbers, JS Global CEO Kamran Nasir said.

The company intends to expand its sales outlets on over the rising demand for smartphones in the country.

Economy heading in right direction: President Alvi



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo with a delegation of the Haripur Chamber of Commerce and Industry, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. - APP

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that steps are being taken to improve the business environment of the country by providing various incentives and facilities to the business community. He added that the economy of the country was heading in right direction that reflected the confidence of the business community in the economic policies of the Government. The President expressed these views while talking to a delegation of the Haripur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI), led by

President HCCI, Mr Shahbaz Majeed Sheikh, that called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. President HCCI, Mr Shahbaz Majeed Sheikh, apprised President Dr Arif Alvi about the role being played by the chamber in the economic development of the country. The delegation also briefed the President about certain problems being faced by HCCI. Talking to the delegation, the President said that the business community played a significant role in the economic development of the country and a number of steps had been taken to facilitate them, particularly

during the COVID-19 pandemic. He added that the Government, despite tough financial constraints, had provided a financial stimulus package worth Rs 1.2 trillion to protect the business community and underprivileged strata of society from the adverse impacts of the pandemic. The President highlighted that the country's exports had also witnessed a significant surge which had reached \$25.3 billion during the last fiscal year. He expressed satisfaction over the economic performance of the country, saying that the collection of Rs. 850 billion by FBR, ex-

ceeding the target by Rs. 160 billion, during the first two months of the current fiscal year was a testament that the economic health of the country was improving. He said that the Government was focusing on creating optimum business environment and due to its efforts, Pakistan's rank in the Ease of Doing Business Index had improved from 136th to 108th position. The President also appreciated the role of HCCI and the business community in the national development and assured them of all possible support to help address their problems.

US thanks Azerbaijani peacekeepers

DNA

BAKU: The U.S. embassy has thanked the Azerbaijani peacekeepers who served in Afghanistan.

In a message posted on its Facebook page on September 1, the U.S. embassy said: "Thank you to the Azerbaijani peacekeepers who served at the airport in Afghanistan. We are grateful for their service in helping the U.S. and NATO partners keep the airport safe and supporting the evacuations of U.S. citizens. We are happy these peacekeepers have returned safely to Azerbaijan."

Azerbaijan's 120-member peacekeeper contingent returned to Baku after serving at the Kabul International Airport in Afghanistan on August 27. Earlier, they were evacuated from the country on August 26 at 0100 (GMT +4). Along with their weapons and military property, the peacekeepers were transported to Ankara by air. The Azerbaijani peacekeeping unit, which successfully fulfilled its tasks, performed its duties with high professionalism, ensuring the security of the airport together with the Turkish forces.

It should be noted that on November 20, 2002, the Azerbaijani army's 22-member peacekeeping unit began op-

erating in Afghanistan as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

On January 15, 2008, the number of Azerbaijani peacekeepers in Afghanistan reached 40. On October 2, 2009, Azerbaijan's parliament decided to increase the country's peacekeeping contingent in Afghanistan. In February of the same year, the Azerbaijani army's 90-member peacekeeping contingent started to take part in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) operations in Afghanistan as part of the Turkish armed forces battalion. The unit's personnel maintained the security of a television tower in Kabul, ISAF's central ammunition depot, and patrolled the area.

To increase the Azerbaijani Peacekeeping Forces' contribution to the NATO ISAF operations in Afghanistan, on October 5, 2010, Azerbaijan sent two military doctors and two fortification engineers, bringing the number of its peacekeepers to 94.

Since January 1, 2015, Azerbaijani peacekeepers have begun the NATO-led Resolute Support non-combat mission operations in Afghanistan under a six-month rotation plan. On January 9, 2018, Azerbaijan increased its staff from 94 to 120 in order to enlarge its contribution to the mission.

UK regulator warns of financial crime risks

LONDON: Britain's financial watchdog has urged banks to be vigilant about the risk of being used for criminal operations such as terrorist financing or money laundering in Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover.

Financial firms "should be aware of the possible impact" of recent events "when they assess risks related to particular customers and flows of funds", the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) said in a statement released on its website. Banks should "appropriately monitor and assess transactions to Afghanistan to mitigate the risks if their firm being exploited to launder money or finance terrorism," it added.

Any suspicious activity should be reported to the relevant UK authorities, the regulator said, reminding banks of their legal obligations.

The City of London is regularly accused by anti-corruption NGOs of not doing enough to combat money laundering, although banks argue that they comply with the law and that their industry spends billions of pounds a year fighting economic crime. - APP

Malaysia reports 18,762 new Covid cases

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia reported another 18,762 new COVID-19 infections, the Health Ministry said on Wednesday, bringing the national total to 1,765,016.

Health Ministry Director-General Noor Hisham Abdullah said in a press statement that five of the new cases are imported and 18,757 are local transmissions. Another 278 more deaths have been reported, bringing the death toll to 16,942. A total of 21,073 patients have been released after recovery, bringing the total number of cured and discharged to 1,482,800 or 84 percent of all cases. Of the remaining 265,274 active cases, 1,007 are being held in intensive care and 464 of those are in need of assisted breathing. The country reported 261,476 doses administered on Tuesday alone and some 60.5 percent of the population have received at least one dose and 46 are fully vaccinated. - APP

Azerbaijan, Georgia mull Karabakh rehabilitation

FOREIGN DESK

BAKU: Azerbaijan First Deputy Culture Minister Vagif Aliyev and Chairman of the Georgian State Agency For Religious Issues Zaza Vashakmadze have discussed prospects of cooperation between the two countries and the rehabilitation of cultural monuments in Azerbaijan's liberated lands. At a meeting held in Baku, Aliyev emphasized that the Azerbaijani-Georgian bilateral ties have a rich history and are successfully developing in various fields. He stressed the importance of a number of important global economic projects implemented as part of bilateral partnerships.

The Azerbaijani first deputy minister expressed gratitude to Georgia for its political support to Azerbaijan during the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

Aliyev briefed Vashakmadze about the looting of Azerbaijan's settlements, the destruction of the country's cultural institutions and historical monuments by Armenia for almost 30 years. He underlined that President Ilham Aliyev had set tasks to the Azerbaijani state agencies to carry out large-scale construction work on the liberated territories.

The Azerbaijani Culture Ministry is currently actively engaged in the rehabilitation of historical and cultural monuments and the construction of new cultural facilities that meet modern standards in the liberated lands.

At the same time, it is especially important to inform international organizations about the Armenian-committed crimes against the Azerbaijani nation's cultural heritage on these territories.

374 Pak enterprises participate in 2021 SSACEIF

BEIJING: "A total of 374 Pakistani enterprises participate in this year's South & Southeast Asia Commodity Expo, among which 262 are exhibitors and 112 are purchasers," said Ms Li, who is responsible for the participating enterprises at the Expo and Investment Fair (SSACEIF) held online and offline in China's southwest city of Kunming.

The 262 Pakistani exhibitors showcase 907 exhibits ranging from food, clothes, and motorbikes to handicrafts on the online platform, Ms Li told China Economic Net (CEN).

The platform shows that the top 10 most-viewed Pakistani enterprises cluster in the fields of food, handicrafts and clothes, with Shan Foods Pvt. Ltd, Ismail

Industries Limited, and Nadia Treasure topping the list. Launched in 2017, the SSACEIF has attracted more than 27,000 enterprises and provided the enterprises with services of the online exhibition, negotiation and signing over the years.

The Forum has also worked with the China-South Asia Expo to promote the economic and trade exchanges and friendly cooperation between China and South Asian and Southeast Asian countries. The 2021 SSACEIF was co-hosted by the China Chamber of International Commerce, the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, China-ASEAN Centre and the Secretariat of China-South Asia Expo. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi receives the Foreign Minister of Netherlands, Sigird Kaag at the Foreign Office. - DNA

UN chief urges Int'l aid for Afghanistan

Afghanistan was coping with a severe drought, and its citizens would have to face harsh winter conditions, underlining the need for supplies to be urgently sent to the country, the UN chief said

NEW YORK: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has warned of a looming "humanitarian catastrophe" in Afghanistan, calling on member states to contribute aid to support Afghan people in "their darkest hour of need."

In a statement released on Tuesday afternoon, the UN chief expressed his deep concern at the deepening humanitarian and economic crisis in the country and the threat of a total collapse in basic services.

"One in three Afghans do not know where their next meal will come from," he said. "More than half of all children under five are expected to become acutely malnourished in the next year. People are losing access to basic goods and services every day." "Now more than ever", Guterres said, "Afghan children, women

and men need the support and solidarity of the international community".

Afghanistan was coping with a severe drought, and its citizens would have to face harsh winter conditions, underlining the need for supplies to be urgently sent to the country, the UN chief said. Given this precarious outlook, Guterres called on all parties to facilitate safe and unimpeded humanitarian access for life-saving and life-sustaining supplies, supplies, as well as for all humanitarian workers, pointedly noting that this meant both men and women working in the field.

"I urge all Member States to dig deep for the people of Afghanistan in their darkest hour of need," he continued. "I urge them to provide timely, flexible and comprehensive funding. I urge them to help ensure human-



itarian workers have the funding, access, and legal safeguards they need to stay and deliver." Meanwhile, spokesperson Jens Laerke from the UN humanitarian affairs office (OCHA) on Tuesday said operations were continuing, and that the UN had already helped eight million people this year alone. But he warned that the US \$ 1.3 billion funding requirement had

not been met and that there was a lack of supplies in the now Taliban-controlled nation.

The World Health Organization (WHO) also warned that despite Monday's delivery of 12.5 metric tonnes of medical supplies by a flight of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) would cover the basic health needs of more than 200,000 people, but was still "not enough". WHO spokesperson Dr. Margaret Harris said although the UN health agency was planning two more supply flights this week, it wanted "continual flights" to restore basic services.

She warned that before the Taliban takeover, some 12.2 million people were already projected to experience food insecurity and malnutrition; getting supplies into Afghanistan was "absolutely critical", she said.

Also briefing journalists in Ge-

neva on Tuesday, the UN refugee agency, UNHCR, repeated its call to neighbouring States to keep their borders open to those fleeing Afghanistan.

Around 3.5 million people were displaced within the country and many of those wishing to cross into countries such as Pakistan or Iran might not have the documents they need, said UNHCR spokesperson, Andrej Mahecic, who stated that while many of those crossing into Pakistan had not "expressed a clear intention to seek asylum" to border monitors, they "nevertheless have international protection needs" and "may not be able to cross without passports and visa documentation".

"Hence our call on the countries neighbouring Afghanistan to keep their borders open and allow those who may be at risk to seek safety." - APP

Briefs

Abdu Dhabi adds 22 countries in green list

Pakistan not included in the list; no quarantine for green list states

DNA

DUBAI: Abu Dhabi has updated its COVID-19 Green List of countries, adding 22 new countries to the travel list that exempts quarantine. Travelers will only be required to present a negative PCR COVID-19 test valid for a maximum of 48 hours before departure and undergo a PCR test upon arrival at Abu Dhabi International Airport. Vaccinated passengers from the updated Green List will take another PCR test six days after arrival, while unvaccinated travelers will also take a PCR test on days six and nine.

The full list includes Albania; Armenia; Australia; Austria; Bahrain; Belgium; Bhutan; Brunei; Bulgaria; Canada; China; Comoros; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Finland; Germany; Greece; Hong Kong (SAR); Hungary; Ireland; Italy; Japan; Jordan; Kuwait; Kyrgyzstan; Luxembourg; Maldives; Malta; Mauritius; Moldova; Monaco; Netherlands; New Zealand; Norway; Oman; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Romania; San Marino; Saudi Arabia; Serbia; Seychelles; Singapore; Slovakia; Slovenia; South Korea; Sweden; Switzerland; Taiwan; Tajikistan; Turkmenistan, and Ukraine.

Iran opens cases against six guards of Evin prison

NEWS DESK

DUBAI: Iranian prosecutors opened criminal cases against six guards at the country's notorious Evin Prison, the judiciary reported on Tuesday, after footage showing the widespread abuse of detainees at the facility leaked out last week. The judiciary's three-day investigation into mistreatment and grim conditions at Tehran's Evin Prison had landed "some" prison guards in detention, said judiciary spokesman Zabi-hollah Khodaeian. Authorities also summoned two guards and punished others, Khodaeian said, without elaborating on the penalties or identifying the suspects.

The revelation comes days after The Associated Press published parts of the videos and a report about the abuse at the facility in northern Tehran, long known for holding political prisoners and those with ties to the West whom Iran uses as bargaining chips. An online account, purportedly by a self-described hacker group, shared footage of the incident, as well as parts of other surveillance video it seized.

President signs Election Ordinance

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has signed Election Ordinance (Third Amendment) 2021, under Article 89 of the Constitution of Pakistan, binding the elected members to take oath within sixty days of the commencement of first sitting of the maiden session of legislature. The amendment was made to section 72 of the Election Act 2017. According to a press release on Wednesday, under the amendment, the members would have to take oath within forty days of the promulgation of this ordinance. In case of failure to take oath within the mandatory period, seats of elected members to Senate, Assembly and Local Government would become vacant. Meanwhile, the president also signed Pakistan Council of Research for Water Resources (Amendment) Ordinance 2021. The amendment was made under Section 16 of the Act 2007. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of European Union, Androula Kaminara planting a sapling during tree plantation drive at Punjab House Park. — DNA

Abandoning Afghanistan: FM cautions West of consequences

The foreign minister termed the initial statements from the Taliban leadership as positive and encouraging

MONITORING DESK

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi Wednesday cautioned the West of the serious consequences of abandoning Afghanistan which could result in civil war and economic collapse. In an interview with Sky News, the foreign minister stressed upon the West to engage with Taliban because otherwise, Afghanistan could descend into another chaos. He said: "It will give space to the organisations we all dread; the

international terrorist organisations that we do not want their footprint to grow in Afghanistan." "That's a dangerous option. That's an option of abandonment of Afghan people," he said, adding such mistake was committed during 90s. Qureshi urged the international community not to repeat the same mistake again. To a query regarding withdrawal of foreign forces, Qureshi said that there was a failure to listen to Pakistan's concerns as the withdrawal process was not "responsible or orderly". Pakistan was persistently empha-



sizing that peace and dialogue processes and withdrawal of foreign forces should be simultane-

ously carried out, he added. The foreign minister termed the initial statements from the Taliban leadership as positive and encouraging, adding the West should test them to make sure they were true to their word. He expressed the hope that Taliban would act responsibly. "They should have learned from their mistakes," he said, adding "And I think the attitude and the approach they are taking, is reflective of a different approach." "If they're sensible, they should, in my view, respect international opinion and international norms," he further added.

The minister opined that Afghans would need humanitarian and financial assistance, otherwise, there would be an economic collapse. The foreign minister to a question maintained that baseless allegations had always been leveled against Pakistan regarding Taliban. Taliban were present in Afghanistan, they were leading Doha talks and had been in control of forty to forty-five per cent of Afghanistan prior to their takeover, he added. Qureshi said Pakistan had been hosting millions of Afghan refugees on its soil for the last four decades.

Number of women journalists in Kabul has plunged

AGENCIES

PARIS: The number of female journalists working in Kabul has dwindled to below 100 since the Taliban took power, compared with 700 before, a media watchdog said Wednesday. Reporters Sans Frontières (Reporters Without Borders) said that as Taliban forces took over Kabul,

women journalists were increasingly told to stay home, harassed, prevented from going on reporting assignments, or even beaten. Last year, RSF said it had counted 108 media operating in the Afghan capital, employing 4,940 people, including 1,080 women of whom 700 were journalists. But of the 510 women employed by the country's eight biggest media groups

in 2020, only 76, including 39 journalists, are still working now, the watchdog said. These are in addition to journalists at smaller media outlets. The figures amount to "a quasi-disappearance of women journalists in the capital," RSF said. Despite assurances by the Taliban that press freedom would be respected and that female journalists would be able to work, RSF said:

"A new media landscape is emerging without them." The organization called on Afghanistan's new rulers to guarantee the freedom and the safety of women working in journalism. "It is essential that female journalists be able to return to work without being bothered, which is their most fundamental right," RSF Secretary-General Christophe Deloire said in a statement.

UK owes 'huge debt' to Afghan refugees: Boris

LONDON: Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday said Britain owed "an immense debt" to Afghans who worked with NATO forces as he announced "vital support" for those resettling in the UK. But his government is coming under fire after thousands of Afghans who helped NATO and are eligible to move to Britain under the "Relocations and Assistance Policy (Arap)" were believed to be have been left stranded in Afghanistan, where they are at the mercy of the Taliban. More than 8,000 did make it out, and the government announced on Wednesday that they will be given immediate indefinite leave to remain and that £15 million would be provided for additional school places and to support access to the health service. "We owe an immense debt to those who worked with the Armed Forces in Afghanistan and I am determined that we give them and their families the support they need to rebuild their lives here in the UK," Johnson said of the so-called "Operation Warm Welcome" measures. "I know this will be an in-

credibly daunting time, but I hope they will take heart from the wave of support and generosity already expressed by the British public." The government said the measures "will give Afghans the certainty and stability to rebuild their lives with unrestricted rights to work and the option to apply for British citizenship in the future." But current and former officials have condemned the government, suggesting many more could have been rescued. The Observer on Sunday cited a whistleblower as saying thousands of emails from MPs and charities to the foreign ministry highlighting specific Afghans at risk from the Taliban takeover went unopened. Foreign minister Dominic Raab has already been strongly criticised for not immediately leaving a beach holiday when the Taliban took control. An unnamed minister also told the Sunday Times that "I suspect we could have taken out 800-1,000 more people". — APP



ISLAMABAD: Japanese Ambassador Kuninori Matsuda calls on Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed. DNA

Biden defends Afghanistan withdrawal

I was not going to extend this forever war, and I was not extending a forever exit," he said. "The decision to end the military lift operations at Kabul airport was based on unanimous recommendation of my civilian and military advisers

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: Less than 24 hours after the last United States military flight left Kabul, President Joe Biden mounted a defiant defence of the withdrawal, saying it was "the right decision" to end the US's 20-year military presence in Afghanistan. Speaking in a firm tone from the White House on Tuesday, Biden said keeping US troops in control of the airport in the Afghan capital beyond an August 31 withdrawal deadline would have exposed them to heightened security risk. "Let me be clear: leaving August 31 is not due to an arbitrary deadline. It was designed to save Amer-

ican lives," he said. Biden cited his predecessor Donald Trump's deal with the Taliban that ensured the withdrawal, but took responsibility for the final decision to pull all US troops out of the country. "I was not going to extend this forever war, and I was not extending a forever exit," he said. "The decision to end the military lift operations at Kabul airport was based on unanimous recommendation of my civilian and military advisers." Members of the US Congress and Washington's European allies had urged the president to extend the evacuation operation at the airport past the end of the month. But Taliban officials had warned of "consequences" if the US military did not fully withdraw as



scheduled. After a virtual Group of Seven (G7) meeting last week, European Council President Charles Michel said the European Union stressed to Washington "the need to secure the airport as long as necessary to

complete the operations" — a call echoed by many US lawmakers, including several from Biden's own Democratic Party. "I'm certainly of the view that we maintain a military presence as long as it's necessary to get all US persons out and to meet our moral and ethical obligation to our Afghan partners," Adam Schiff, a Democrat who chairs the House Intelligence Committee, said earlier this month. The Taliban took over Afghanistan in a blitz earlier this month, reaching Kabul on August 15 as President Ashraf Ghani fled the country and government forces collapsed. Almost immediately after the Pentagon announced on Monday that the

last US flight had left Afghanistan, Republican House leader Kevin McCarthy rallied GOP veterans in Congress to rebuke Biden. Congressman Dan Crenshaw, a war veteran who fought in Afghanistan, accused the administration of surrendering the country to the Taliban against Washington's national security interests. "They love the slogan 'no more endless wars,'" he said. "We made foreign policy based on an emotional slogan, and it has made America less safe, not more safe." On Tuesday, Biden argued that the Afghanistan exit was in Washington's strategic interests as the US shifts its foreign policy to focus on global competition with China and Russia.

Prudent policies of PM, PTI bearing fruit

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Wednesday



said successful strategy of Prime Minister Imran Khan and his economic team were bearing fruit.

In a tweet, he said it was good omen that the tax collection has crossed the target from start of the financial year 2021-22.

He said Rs 434 billion revenue was collected in August 2021 which was 85 billion more than the target of Rs 349 billion, adding last year this amount was Rs. 300 billion August.

In July-August 2021, revenue of Rs 850 billion was collected whereas in July-August 2020, the amount was Rs 603 billion.

In the first two months of fiscal year 2021-22, tax collections has increased by 41 per cent, the Minister of State said.

Farrukh Habib said that during Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz era, refunds were withheld, advance tax was collected and artificial data was released to hood-wink the masses.

However, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) regime gave refunds of Rs 364 billion in the last financial year, the minister said. He said among other measures taken by the PTI government included prevention of smuggling which had also increased tax net. — APP

ECP rejects PML-N plea against PTI victory

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Wednesday rejected a plea filed from a Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) candidate against the victory of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in PP-38 Sialkot.

The two-member ECP bench comprising Nisar Ahmed Durrani and Shah Muhammad Jatoi announced the decision while rejecting a plea from PML-N leader Tariq Subhani. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) candidate Ahsan Saleem has emerged victorious in the PP-38 Sialkot by-election held on July 28.

According to an unofficial and unconfirmed count of all 165 polling stations, PTI's Chaudhry Ahsan Saleem Baryar came out on top with 60,588 votes, while PML-N candidate came in second place with 53,471 votes.

PTI has won the PP-38 Sialkot seat which was vacated after the death of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) lawmaker. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had established a control room in the ECP Secretariat to receive polling day complaints.

1m doses of Sputnik V vaccine reach Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: A consignment of Russian made Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine, purchased by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), has arrived in Islamabad, the authority's spokesperson confirmed Wednesday.

This is the first Sputnik V vaccine consignment to have reached Islamabad. It comprises one million doses and has been handed over to the Ministry of National Health Services, the NDMA spokesperson said. The Sputnik vaccine doses will be distributed among the country's provinces as per demand, a health ministry official said.

In June, the vaccine's developers said Sputnik V was around 90% effective against the Delta variant.

Pakistan received its first shipment of privately-imported Russian COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik V in March this year, at the Jinnah International Airport in Karachi. The country had imported 50,000 doses of the Sputnik coronavirus vaccine and all doses were given exclusively to major hospitals. — APP