



# Islamabad POST

Saturday, September 04, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

### Pakistan, UK vow to work closely for Afghan peace

Detailed News On Page-01

### China to help Pakistan revive tourism sector

Detailed News On Page-08

### Haider bags Paralympics gold medal

Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

### Pak wants stable Afghanistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said on Friday that Pakistan wanted the situation in Afghanistan should remain stable. In a statement, the minister said that Pakistan's proposal on Afghanistan had not been paid heed in the past. He said that Prime Minister Imran Khan had suggested that Ashraf Ghani should not hold elections in the country. He said that Ashraf Ghani did not accept the proposal of the Prime Minister and the situation was in front of everyone today. He said that so far Afghan refugees have not entered Pakistan. The minister said that presently the situation in Afghanistan did not warrant the people to leave. He said that Pakistan had influence on Taliban but no control. He said that Pakistan was trying for reopening of Kabul Airport as soon as possible.

Inclusive govt only option: Qureshi

## Pak, UK vow to work for Afghan peace

### Taliban have made some serious vows but we have to see who they fulfill their vows and commitments: Dominic Raab

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Dominic Raab Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom has said that we do understand the problems created by Pakistan's being on the red list and Britain is closely monitoring the way Pakistani authorities have been dealing with the pandemic. No one wants to see Pakistan on the red list including myself and therefore rest assured we will do everything to settle this issue. He expressed these views during a news conference on Friday. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi also spoke on the occasion. He said he has appointed a new envoy to Afghanistan as we accord importance to the country and the region. We have allocated a special grant especially for the neighboring countries as well so that they could handle the people coming from across

### Raab apprised of Kashmir situation

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab also called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. Views were exchanged on the latest developments in Afghanistan as well as bilateral matters and regional and international issues. The Prime Minister sensitized the UK side on the gross human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), including the inhuman snatching away of the mortal remains of Syed Ali Shah Geelani, the senior Kashmiri leader. Recalling his telephonic conversation with Prime Minister Boris Johnson,

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ISLAMABAD: British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan. - DNA

## Pakistan has no threat from Afghanistan

### Zabihullah Mujahid says the extension of CPEC corridor, that links it with Afghanistan, "is very important"

### Afghan govt announcement likely today

KHAYAM ABBASI



ISLAMABAD: Spokesperson of the Taliban, Zabihullah Mujahid, on Friday said that Pakistan can rest assured it will "not have any threat from Afghanistan". Speaking online at an international conference hosted by the Pak-Afghan Youth Forum titled "Rebuilding Afghanistan Together", at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts in Islamabad, Mujahid said Afghanistan hopes Pakistan's help to the Afghan nation will continue "in terms of its peace efforts and increasing the bilateral trade and commerce", according to a statement issued after the event.

### Panjshir falls to Taliban: Reports claim

NEWS DESK

KABUL: The last resistance to the Taliban in Afghanistan - Panjshir Valley - has reportedly fallen to the Taliban. However, the resistance fighters are denying this claim. Afghanistan's former Vice President Amrullah Saleh has fled to Tajikistan amid growing pressure from the Taliban against the last hotbed of resistance Panjshir valley, reports say. The Taliban are already preparing to name Haibatullah Akhundzada as its supreme leader. This comes days after the United States fully withdrew its troops and ended two decades of war.

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### Italian FM to arrive on Sunday

### Minister Di Maio will meet Pak leadership

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio is expected to arrive in Pakistan on Sunday for bilateral talks. The Italian foreign minister during his visit is scheduled to meet with the high level Pakistani officials. The Italian minister's visit takes place in wake of recent

Continued on Page 06

## 'US is no longer a world superpower'

### UK Defence Secy comments are not first time. Wallace has attacked the US policy many times

NEWS DESK

LONDON: UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace appeared to claim the US is no longer a superpower following Joe Biden's catastrophic withdrawal from Afghanistan. In thinly veiled remarks taking aim at the US President, the senior minister said the failure of a country to see through its military missions was



a sign of the demise of a superpower. Government ministers have been left angry and shocked at the US's actions behind the scenes,

but the comments by Mr Wallace are the closest a member of the Cabinet has yet come to publicly attacking the White House. Prime Minister Boris Johnson previously said staying in the region was impossible once the US withdrew, but did not criticise the decision. In an interview with the Spectator magazine, Mr Wallace was asked if

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### Japanese envoy felicitates Haider Ali

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: MATSUDA Kuninori, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, extends congratulations to Mr. Haider Ali, Pakistan's premier para-athlete, for showing his great talent by winning the Gold Medal in the final of Men's Discus throw (F37) competition in the Tokyo Paralympics and conveys best wishes for his future endeavors. "I am truly delighted to see Pakistani athlete's success in the Tokyo Paralympics. My sincere congratulations to Haider Ali, his family and the people of Pakistan for this amazing success to achieve the Gold Medal. I believe that you have made your country proud and won many hearts back home for your brilliant performance in the world's mega event," said the Ambassador.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi exchanging views with Mohamed Karmoune, Ambassador of Morocco to Pakistan. - DNA

## New Covid-19 curbs in Capital, elsewhere

### Intercity transport has been restricted in the cities having a high percentage of Covid cases

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre has decided to impose a new set of restrictions in the federal capital from September 4 till September 12 in order to contain the spread of coronavirus. The NCO meeting - headed by

Continued on Page 06

## US donates 6.6 mn doses of Pfizer vaccine

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to help Pakistan mitigate the fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States has donated another 6.6 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine to Pakistan. Taking to Twitter, the US Embassy in Islamabad announced that the tranche of the vaccines has already been shipped to Pakistan,

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### Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday. - Editor

### Inside...

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Ukraine envoy hosts colorful event to mark 30 years of independence - Page 03

US embassy announces 700 addl. Graduate Scholarships - Page 04

Afghan angst erodes America's global standing - Page 05

Air Chief Zaheer Ahmed Baber elected President PSF - Page 06

China will be 'main partner' to rebuild Afghanistan: Taliban - Page 07

PM Imran vows to assist construction sector - Page 08

## Taliban: Then and Now (Part-2)

### The Taliban have won the war, but can they lead the peace?

EXCLUSIVE

ISHTIQ AHMAD



The New Face M E A N - WHILE, the fate of the Afghans is once again in the hands of the Taliban. For the nations in the region and beyond, their return to power has also caused serious alarm. We are well aware of their conduct in power at home and in relations beyond the last time around. Can we expect the Taliban to act differently this time? There are two opposite perspectives on the expected conduct of the Taliban once again in power, one motivated by political interests and another by humanitarian concerns. The first one is offered by some official circles and seconded by the so-called embedded journalists or scholars. It holds that the Taliban have learned their lessons from the long war and will not repeat the mistakes made during their previous stint in power.

"Kabul has changed significantly during the last 20 years, not least because of the demographic explosion that has created a vibrant urban and educated middle class that has tasted the fruits of freedom, development and democracy"

The 'change' argument is grounded in the Taliban's pronouncements from Kabul that they are not seeking to monopolise the government and are ready to share power

with other Afghan parties and minority groups; that they have no objection to women at workplace or girls at schools as long as Islamic principles are being observed; and

that they will not allow the use of Afghan soil by the Al-Qaeda or any other terrorist group for terrorist activities against neighbouring countries and the world.

However, the facts on the ground, as reported by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Human Rights Watch and major media outlets, confirm the veracity of the alternative perspective on the expected conduct of the Taliban while in government again. It is that the Taliban have already committed war crimes and ruled with fear in the areas under their occupation: executing captured soldiers, persecuting unarmed civilians,

Continued on Page 06



Ishtiaq Ahmad is the former Vice Chancellor of Sargodha University and Pakistan Chair at Oxford University. In his previous career as a journalist, he reported the rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan in the mid-1990s. This is his exclusive write-up for The Islamabad Post

### Indian diplomat summoned

### 'India's actions were a "blatant violation" of int'l laws'

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday summoned the Indian charge d'affaires to the Foreign Office to condemn India's "shameless snatching" of veteran Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani's body from his family and disallowing his burial to be held in accordance with his will. "The Indian charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office today and conveyed Pakistan's strong demarche on Indian occupation forces' callous and inhuman handling of the mortal remains of the iconic Kashmiri leader and freedom fighter Syed Ali Shah Geelani," the FO said in a statement. It was also conveyed to the envoy that India's actions were a "blatant violation" of international humanitarian laws and all tenets of civil and human rights, the FO added.



## Briefs

## Pashto singer Kifayat Bacha killed

DNA

SWABI: Unidentified people killed well-known Pashto singer Kifayat Shah Bacha and a child when they were entering a mosque in Swabi for offering Friday prayers.

The local police said that the singer was shot dead by the unknown assailants at the entrance of the mosque. The police said the assailant was following the singer from his house and when he reached the mosque, opened fire.

Singer Kifayat died on the spot while a child sustained bullet injuries, the police said adding that the injured child was shifted to the hospital for treatment where his condition was being observed out of danger.

The police said that some rivals of the singers had already killed his son last year. The Swabi police had collected evidence and started investigations.

## SSWMB declares emergency

STAFF REPORT

KARACHI: Managing Director Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB), Zubair Ahmed Channa, on Friday declared an emergency in wake of the recent spell of rains.

On the direction of MD SSWMB, the staffers carrying out drainage works with brush and broom while work is also underway to remove water from some places through de-watering machine, in East, South, Malir, Kemari and West districts.

The MD Solid Waste has directed all the officers and in-charge of the Complaints Center to forward the complaints regarding garbage and rain water to the concerned officers to ensure timely redressal of the complaints.

He asked citizens to contact the Complaints Centers Head Office on WhatsApp number 03181030851 to register their complaints. Citizens can also register their complaints on mobile application "SSWMB Complaint Karachi".

## 7 candidates to contest HCB's elections

HAVELIAN: Local bodies' elections for the two wards of Havelian Cantonment Board (HCB) are scheduled to be held on September 12 where seven candidates are contesting belonging to different political parties.

The total number of registered voters in both wards of HCB is 10,522 where 5631 are male voters and 4909 are female voters.

For both wards, polling stations will be established at five places of the city where the voters of Ward No.1 from Mohalla Siali, Mohalla Mehboobabad, Mohalla Chakar, Mohalla Gujrat, Mohalla Kand Gujrat will exercise their right to vote at Patwar Khana near Havelian Railway station polling station.

Similarly, another polling station would be established at Government Federal High School for Boys and Government Federal Girls High School in POF Colony where separate polling booths for men and women will also be established.

The third polling station will be set up for voters in Lian Sharif and Benazir Colony. Meanwhile, two polling stations will be set up at Government High School for Boys Sultanpur and Government Girls Primary School Sultanpur for Ward No. 2.

The total number of registered voters in Ward No. 1 is 4244 out of which 2288 are male voters and 1956 are female voters while the total number of registered voters in Ward No. 2 is 6278 out of which 3325 are male registered voters and 2953 are female registered voters. — APP

## Faisalabad master plan entrusted to private Co.

FDA Director General informed the stakeholders that proposals were being considered to maintain the land use plan mentioned in Peri Urban Structure Plan 2015

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Development Authority Chairman Ch. Latif Nazir and Director General Dr Faisal Azim have explained that the Faisalabad Master Plan 2021-2041 is in draft shape yet which is not final and officially approved so far and is under consultative process.

They gave this explanation while talking to different stakeholders. They cleared that no planning or commitment by any one should be made on the basis of proposed and unapproved draft of Faisalabad Master Plan. They informed that the task of preparing of master plan had been entrusted to private consultant company (Osmani & Co) during the year 2017 and it was supposed to be completed within one year, however the concerned consultants conduct different surveys, did study and analysis for formulation of master plan.

They maintained that the master plan had been sent to concerned departments and institutions without making it public for inviting proposals/suggestions/objections/complaints from stakeholders which was about to final.

They told that now the proposed draft of



master plan has been opened for seeking proposals/suggestions and objections from general public and stakeholders.

They informed that the departmental eight members Master Plan Committee had

been constituted which would submit its recommendations after reviewing the public proposals. Giving some details, the FDA Chairman and Director General added that the consultative meetings had also been

held with the representatives of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, land developers/ builders and their proposals had been sent to Consultant Company for consideration.

They pointed out that a five member Committee was also being constituted pertaining the two member each from Chamber of Commerce and land developers while a member would be included from District Bar Association while would present recommendations after consulting the concerned private institutions and organisations.

FDA Director General informed the stakeholders that proposals were being considered to maintain the land use plan mentioned in Peri Urban Structure Plan 2015 while road network work would also be remained intact.

He told that the master plan draft prepared by constant company had been displayed on FDA website and details of the same can also be obtained from FDA office.

He asked the stakeholders and other school of thoughts to submit their proposals and objections earliest for consideration and assured the genuine objection would be removed and feasible proposals would be made part of master plan for making it more comprehensive and transparent.

## 98 suspects in TikTok's molestation acquitted

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: A court in Lahore on Friday acquitted 98 suspects arrested in connection with the 'molestation' of TikToker Ayesha Akram Beg at Greater Iqbal Park on August 14. All of them will be released from the jail by today evening.

Similarly, another court in Lahore on Friday extended the interim bail granted to two suspects in TikToker's 'molestation' case till September 14. Usman Aziz Sheikh and Shehroze Saeed had filed petitions in the court, seeking pre-arrest bails in the case. Additional Sessions Judge Muhammad Saeed, who heard the petitions, also sought from police complete record of the case.

Nazim Shehzad Chaudhry Advocate, who appeared on behalf of both the suspects, told the court that his clients wanted to cooperate with police in the investigation. "And since both of them feared arrests, therefore, it is prayed to the court to order the police not to arrest them," he implored.

Lorry Adda police will present six men in the district court later on Friday, whom TikToker Ayesha had identified as 'culprits', and demand their physical remand. The suspects are Shehryar, Mehran, Abid, Arsalan, Sajid and Iftikhar.

## Farmers told to prefer Cubota harvester

DNA

MULTAN: Agriculture experts advised farmers on Friday to prefer Cubota harvester to harvest their paddy crops and then apply deep plough/Disc Harrow and Rotovator to prepare the land for the next crops.

According to a statement issued here, agriculture spokesman said that those who would like to apply combined harvester to harvest paddy should then sow the next crop, most probably wheat, by Happy Seed Drill to save time and resources.

And to cut the roots from harvest, farmers should use Rice Straw Chopper. Experts also warned farmers against burning the remains of paddy or any other crop to keep environment safe and prevent smog adding that violator would face legal action.

They said that mixing remains of crops in soil improves soil fertility and advised farmers to do the same to lessen their reliance on chemical fertilizers.

## Schools, Colleges closed in 8 KP districts

STAFF REPORT

PESHAWAR: All educational institutions have been closed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) eight districts having high Covid-19 infection rate.

The cities where schools, colleges and universities will remain closed from Sept 4 to 11 include Peshawar, Swabi, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Malakand, Swat, Haripur, and D.I.Khan.

"With the persisting situation of covid-19 across the country, NCOG decided to close schools in areas where covid is on a consistent rise," Minister for Elementary and Secondary Education Shahram Khan Tarakai tweeted.

In a briefing to Prime Minister Imran Khan earlier today, Planning and Development Minister Asad Umar, who also heads the NCOG, said the new restrictions will be imposed in cities where Covid-19 cases have risen lately.



HYDERABAD: A beautiful view of Al Manzar Jamshoro, where boats are standing. — DNA

## Azeri envoy meets Kazakhstan ambassador

Yerzhan wishes the new head of the Embassy of Azerbaijan every success in his noble endeavors and implementation of outlined plans



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov called on the Ambassador of Ka-

zakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin. During the conversation, the sides briefed each other on the state of play and topical issues of the bilateral agenda for cooperation with following the meeting, the Heads of diplomatic missions

agreed to hold regular consultations.

In conclusion, Y. Kistafin wished the new head of the Embassy of Azerbaijan every success in his noble endeavors and implementation of the outlined plans.

## Trade between in Pak-Afghan to increase

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Former President of FPCCI and President of United Business Group (UBG) Zubair Tufail has said that formation of Taliban government in Afghanistan is welcome for Afghan people and Pakistan. He expressed hope that with the establishment of government in Afghanistan trade between Pakistan-Afghanistan will increase in coming days.

Zubair Tufail said that the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan will improve condition in Afghanistan and Pakistani products will go not only to Afghanistan but also to Central Asian countries.

"I hope that in the days to come, there will be peace and development in Afghanistan," he said. The eyes were fixed, but now the incoming Taliban government can use these resources for the development and prosperity of Afghanistan.

## DC reviews sanitation situation

HYDERABAD: Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Amir Hussain Panhwar visited different areas of Nawabshah City including Kuchehry Road Taj Colony and over viewed situation of sanitation and drainage disposal. DC instructed officials of related departments to improve the sanitation of city roads, streets particularly Taj Colony and ensure drainage of stagnant water accumulated in city streets. — APP

## CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Landscape Division  
Directorate of Parks (East), Environment Wing

## TENDER NOTICE

Scaled tenders are hereby invited on percentage basis from contractor having valid license by PEC in relevant category for the under mentioned works on the date and time mentioned below:-

S.No.	Name of Work	NIT Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Date & Time of Receiving Tender	Date & Time of Opening Tender
1	Development of Pakistan Flag Monument Park at Islamabad Highway green belt sector H-8, Islamabad.	Rs.-5,632,072/-	Rs.-168,962/-	20.09.2021 11.30 A.M	20.09.2021 12.00 Noon
2	P/L of marble tiles and granite marble for Pakistan Flag Monument Park at Islamabad Highway green belt sector H-8, Islamabad.	Rs.-9,281,183/-	Rs.-278,435/-	20.09.2021 11.30 A.M	20.09.2021 12.00 Noon

## Conditions:

- Detail of Tender Notice can be seen on CDA website [www.cda.gov.pk](http://www.cda.gov.pk) and PPRPA website [www.pprpa.org.pk](http://www.pprpa.org.pk)
- Tender application should accompany with earnest money in shape of deposit at call in favor of Dy. Director Landscape Division, CDA issued from any scheduled local bank against firm's account. Name of firm should be clearly mentioned on instrument (Deposit at call). Tender documents shall not be issued without earnest money.
- In case of total bid amount is less than 10% below the NIT amount, the bidder shall submit additional call deposit as performance security equal to the difference between NIT amount and total quoted amount less 10% of NIT amount. The additional performance guarantee (Call Deposit) shall be submitted along with bid. Bids having rates below 10% of NIT without additional call deposit will be rejected. The performance security of the Successful bidder shall be released after completion of project.
- Tender documents can be obtained from the office of Dy. Director Landscape Division, Environment Wing CDA located at Mehran Gate No.01, Fatima Jinnah Park, Directorate of Parks (East), CDA, Islamabad on cash payment of **Rs.5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand) Per Each Set** -(Non-Refundable) during working hours on any working day before date of opening against written request which should be on letter head pad having Name, Address, Telephone (Land line) Numbers and signature of the contractor along with attested copies of NTN Certificate, valid Professional Tax Certificate, Sole proprietorship/partnership deed, Valid PEC license in relevant category, Moreover General/Special Power of attorney may be attested through respective court, The attorney holder may not be the employee of any Government, semi Government institute./That Only legitimate attorney holder may be allowed to get tender documents. No tender will be sold on the date of opening of the tender. **Tenders will be sold upto 12:00 Noon on 17-09-2021.**
- The bid security of all bidders would be deposited in the CDA Bank account and same may be returned after the acceptance of the contract with the successful bidder. The eligibility criteria of the firm with the relevant experience i.e. at least three number of works in last two financial years may be observed/fulfilled before issuance of tender documents.
- No tender will be issued without showing the required documents in "ORIGINAL".
- Tender bids will be received and opened on above date and time in the office of Director Parks (East), Environment Wing, CDA located at Mehran Gate No.01, Fatima Jinnah Park, Islamabad.
- Tender rate on percentage basis should be filled in figures as well as in words.
- The tender documents must be accompanied with non-relationship certificate, NTN Certificate, Non-Judicial Stamp Paper worth of Rs.50/- or above and. No tender will be entertained without these documents.
- CDA reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tenders as per PPRPA Rules. No conditional tender will be entertained.

Muhammad Aalim Ujjan  
Dy. Director Landscape  
Directorate of Parks (East)  
Ph: - 051-9261606

PID (I) No. 1410/21

## Ignite-funded project Walee raises \$2.7 million

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Influencer marketing platform, Walee, based in Islamabad has raised \$2.7 million in seed funding from Z2C, a Pakistani communications company. Walee had been funded as a technology R&D project by Ignite National Technology Fund during 2017-19. The project has successfully developed comprehensive consumer profiles to help businesses improve their allocation of limited marketing budgets to enhance the overall returns on their spending. The solution is Pakistan's first cloud-based Big Data and Artificial Intelligence driven Consumer

Profiling SaaS Platform (software as a service).

The Artificial Intelligence/Data Science Martech platform is helping businesses effectively and engaging them with potential targets by mining multi-dimensional consumer matrices in real-time and what influences them. The Martech platform had been launched in July 2019 for businesses and influencers knows as "Walee", which has now become Pakistan's largest and fastest growing Influencer network. Users can earn online from anywhere using brand campaigns and Walee Shops. The startup has a network of over 50,000 influencers with a combined reach of 100 million followers. The

website also notes that Walee has registered more than 5,000 brands to date.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO Ignite, Asim Shahryar Husain, stated that "It is really heartening to see the fruits of Ignite's funding and support to multiple technology R&D projects over the past decade. Many of Ignite-funded projects such as Byonyks, Bakhbar Kissan, and Knowledge Platform have commercialized their products/services and have even raised investment. Ignite will continue powering the innovation ecosystem in Pakistan through its funding of its growing network of National Incubation Centers and technical R&D projects."



## SERVICES



### Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	04:17 am
Zohr.....	12:07 pm
Asr.....	04:42 pm
Maghrib.....	06:31 pm
Isha.....	07:57 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.....	9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....	9222596
Rawalpindi.....	9270601-20



### Enquiry

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PIA Cargo.....	9280979
Railway Inquiry.....	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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## Ukraine envoy hosts colorful event to mark 30 years of independence

Ambassador Markian Chuchuk hosted a ceremony in the PNCA. Artists perform Pakistani and Ukrainian live music



## Number of IT companies increased up to 60 percent

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Information Technology (IT) sector has made measurable and quantifiable progress due to the strong focus of the present government on the growth of the IT industry and the number of IT companies increased up to 160 percent during the last three years. The number of IT companies has increased from 1762 to 4641 during the last three years, said an official of the Ministry of Information Technology. He further said, that the telecommunication sector has also shown tremendous growth in the last years and the licenses of Cellular Mobile Operators were awarded for a period of 15 years and while three of these licenses (Jazz, Zong, and Telenor) were due for renewal by PTA in 2019. Sharing the achievements of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), he said that it has deposited USD 862.22 million with the government, received against 50% of total License Renewal Fee and first installment of the same from three CMOs. With the amount of the second installment received from two CMOs now, the total receipts on this count have become USD 965.39 million, which is a landmark achievement of the federal government.

## Plastic exports witnesses increase

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The exports of Plastic materials during the first month of FY 2021-22 grew by 59.28 percent as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year. During the period from July 21, Plastic materials worth US \$ 30,100 were exported as compared to the exports of US \$ 18,897 of the same period of last year. According to the data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the exports of Chemicals and Pharma products were increased by 61.37 percent, worth the US \$ 121,152 were exported as compared to worth the US \$ 75,078 of the same period last year. Meanwhile, the exports of Onyx manufactured increased by 118.47 percent, worth the US \$ 627 thousand were also exported in the current financial year as compared to the exports of valuing the US \$ 287 of the same period of last year. During the period under view, other chemicals exports increased by 111.13 percent as worth US \$ 66,760 were exported in the current fiscal year as compared to the exports of valuing the US \$ 31,620 of the same period of last year.

## PAL for seminar on literary relations

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) would organize a seminar titled "75 years of literary relations between Pakistan and various countries" on September 9. Federal Secretary National History and Literary Heritage Syed Asif Hyder Shah will be chief guest on the occasion. The seminar will be presided over by Prof. Dr. Asghar Nadeem Syed and Prof. Dr. Moinuddin Aqeel, said a press release issued here. Eminent Scholar Prof. Rubina Tareen will be guests of honour on the occasion. Chairman PAL Dr. Yousaf Khush will present a welcome and introductory remarks on the occasion. The national and foreign eminent scholars will shed light on the role of Pakistani universities, literary institutes and relations with foreign countries. The seminar would be moderated by Dr. Asma Naveed.

## Pottery making exhibition opens at Lok Virsa

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A 10-days 'Pottery Making Exhibition' started here on Friday at the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (NIFTH) aiming to promote traditional pottery making, create awareness among the masses about this centuries' old craft tradition, and provide a platform for artisans to use their livelihood for their families. At the opening of the exhibition Executive Director Lok Virsa Talha Ali said it is an important opportunity for people, especially youth to visit the exhibition and learn about the process involved from the respective master artisans who will not

only demonstrate their work in front of visitors but will also sell their products at the occasion. He said it may be mentioned here that traditional pottery has been a source of attraction for many local and foreign tourists due to its decorative nature and attractive designs, engravings reminding the lost glory of the past culture of centuries-old heritage. Adding he said Pottery, one of the oldest and most widespread of the decorative arts, consisting of objects made of clay and hardened with heat the objects made are com-



monly useful ones, such as vessels for holding liquids or plates or bowls from which food can be served. He said there were various types of pottery including Earthenware, Stoneware, and Porcelain dating back to nine hundred old centuries these require increasingly more specific clay material and increasingly higher firing temperatures. All three are made in glazed and unglazed varieties, for different purposes this may also be decorated by various techniques. He further highlighted the

working of 'Pottery' is basically the process of the products of forming vessels and other objects with clay and other ceramic materials, which are fired at high temperatures to give them a hard, durable form. Major types include earthenware, stoneware, and porcelain. Adding he said the place where such wares are made by a potter is also called a pottery (plural "potteries"). Turning is the process of finishing the greenware (unfired ware) after it has dried to leather hardness the technique is used to smooth and finish foot rings on wheel-thrown wares or undercut places on molded or jiggered pieces. It is usually done on the potter's wheel or jigger as the ware revolves, he added.

## Over 42,000 youth opened business through KJP

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Youth Affairs Muhammad Usman Dar on Friday said that over 42,000 youth have opened their own business through the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES) of Kamyab Jawan Programme (KJP). The government has accelerated the efforts to provide maximum employment to the youth under the KJP. In a meeting with Usman Dar, the Country Director of World Bank has indicated his support to Pakistan for the Kamyab Jawan Programme. The Country Director of World Bank expressed satisfaction over the loan disbursement and providing employment to the youth under the Prime Minister's Kamyab Jawan programme. The Head of KJP Usman Dar briefed the World Bank's team on the loan distribution among youth and latest statistics of Kamyab Jawan Programme. He said that the awarding of loan and skill scholarships made possible for youth to find decent employment. The World Bank official has appreciated the participation of more than 42,000 entrepreneurs in the job market. The World Bank officials expressed desire to work together for the welfare of the youth.

## AIOU introduces course to meet teachers' shortage

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has introduced a six-month certificate course for teachers of literacy and non-formal education to meet the shortage of trained teachers in non-formal education in the country. This course will help to provide employment opportunities in informal and literacy institutions, enhancing professional skills and familiarity with informal teaching methods, etc. The last date for admission to this certificate course is 18th October. According to Dr. Muhammad Ajmal, Chairman, Department of Distance, Non-Formal and Continuing Education, candidates with at least a Matriculation / Secondary School Certificate (Second Division) will be eligible for admission. However, an applicant with higher qualifications can also benefit from this course. Prospectuses are available on the University website www.aiou.edu.pk. Students willing to take admission can register online at http://online.aiou.edu.pk. Admission Fee can be deposited at any branch of Allied Bank, Muslim Commercial Bank, First Women Bank, and United Bank. For more information, please contact the Regional Offices of the AIOU, or Helpline 051-111-112-468, or the Department of Distance and Non-Formal Education at 051-9057246. - DNA

## QAU ranked No. 1 by Times World Ranking 2022

ISLAMABAD: Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) Islamabad has achieved another wonderful milestone as it has been ranked No 1 university of Pakistan by The Times World Ranking agency. According to the latest ranking of The Times World Ranking, the Quaid-i-Azam University has been declared No 1 in Pakistan and among 501-600 in the world university rankings 2022. It is worth mentioning that QAU significantly improved its teaching, international outlook and industry income in addition to quality research performance. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Editor Daily Islamabad POST Ansar Mahmood Bhatti presents a copy of the newspaper to the Ambassador of Spain Manuel Duran, during a meeting. - DNA

## Eurasian legal framework study cell established

The Eurasian Legal Framework Study Cell will help developing the soft component of regional economic and political integration by making efforts for harmonizing and coordinating the regional legal regimes

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Eurasian Legal Framework Study Cell has been jointly established by Centre for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad, Area Study Center (Russia, China & Central Asia), University Of Peshawar and Mian Abdul Rauf Law Associates, Islamabad. The vision of Eurasian Legal Framework Study Cell is to equip the coming generation with the requisite knowledge and producing experts in terms of Eurasian trade, commerce and investment laws and cross border regulatory framework. The Eurasian Legal Framework Study Cell will help developing the soft component of regional economic and political integration by making efforts for harmonizing and coordinating the regional legal regimes. The



Study Cell will also help synchronize the law fare among the relevant institutions in Eurasian region. The cell will also facilitate in exchange programs of scholars and legal experts. It will also conduct research on aligning national laws/regulatory framework with the SCO legal framework. On this occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding was also signed between Centre for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad, Area Study Center (Russia, China & Central Asia), University Of Peshawar and Mian Abdul Rauf Law Associates, Islamabad. The MoU was signed by Mian Abdul Rauf, Former Advocate-General Islamabad & Prosecutor-General of Pakistan under the Protection of Pakistan Act, Prof. Shabir Ahmad Khan Director Area Study Center, University of Peshawar and Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram, Executive Director CGSS on behalf of their respective organizations.



## Briefs

## Chairman UBG condoles death of Geelani

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman United Business Group (UBG) Iftikhar Ali Malik Friday paying glowing tributes said Syed Ali Shah Geelani was an icon who symbolized the struggle for freedom in occupied Jammu and Kashmir fearlessly. In an emergent condolence meeting he said the Ummah has lost her bravest freedom fighter who stood like a rock before the adversity and even the adversity could not withstand the courage and character of this great man, said a press release issued here.

Syed Ali Geelani was a light which lit the hearts of millions of youth and was an integrity that brought conviction in the minds of millions to face the lethal, obnoxious malicious propaganda of Indian government. President UBG Zubair Tufail said his presence brought a spiritual dimension in the life long struggle for independence and even the fascist govt of Modi could not budge him an inch.

Gillani was a visionary and any allurements, enticement, fear, oppression or a threat to life did not deter him from pursuing his compulsive mission to break the shackles of Indian illegitimate rule and occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. — APP

## Senate body briefed about NHA projects

ISLAMABAD: Senate Standing Committee on Communications on Friday was briefed regarding the National Highway Authority (NHA) projects completed and ongoing from June 2008 to June 2021.

The committee met here at Parliament House in chair of Senator Prince Omer Ahmadzai.

Members of the committee including Senators Umer Farooq, Saifullah Abro, Kamil Ali Agha, Danesh Kumar, Manzoor Ahmed Kakar, Shamim Afridi, Ahmad Khan and Muhammad Akram attended the meeting. The meeting was also attended by Additional Secretary Ministry of Communications and other senior officials.

The committee was informed that NHA had already completed 81 mega projects out of total 105 projects from June, 2008 to June, 2021. While work is in progress on 23 mega projects and one project is under litigation. The committee also discussed public petition regarding conversion of the Quetta to Jacobabad, road into Motorway, referred by the Chairman Senate on August 5 for consideration.

The committee was informed that National Highway Authority (NHA) had already planned upgradation and widening of Quetta-Dhadhar Section (118.322 km) being most critical and hilly terrain of National Highway N-65 between Quetta and Jacobabad. — APP

## Prices of tomatoes, potatoes, rice go down

ISLAMABAD: The prices of various food items went down during the week ending on September 2, as compared to the previous week, the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) data released by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) Friday revealed.

According to the data, the prices of food items that witnessed decrease included bananas, prices of which decreased by 5.35 per cent whereas prices of tomatoes declined by 1.57 per cent on Week-on-Week (WoW) basis. Likewise, the prices of Moong pulse, potatoes and rice (Basmati broken) declined by 1.43 per cent, 0.55 percent and 0.39 per cent. Among non-food items, the prices of LPG decreased by 2.74 per cent, high speed diesel by 1.32 per cent and petrol by 1.25 per cent.

On Year-on-Year basis the prices of potatoes decreased by 28.01 per cent whereas that of tomatoes and Moong pulse declined by 27.42 per cent and 20.39 per cent respectively.

On the other hand, the food items that witnessed increase in prices on WoW basis included chicken, the prices climbed up by 13.17 per cent whereas the prices of onion went up by 6.64 percent. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Founder and CEO of Monal Group Luqman Ali Afzal gets prestigious award from President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi. Luqman got the award in the field of hospitality and social work. Monal group employs over 3,000 employees and has branches in all major cities of Pakistan. Luqman Ali Afzal has also got Presidential Pride of Performance award. — DNA

## US embassy announces 700 addl. Graduate Scholarships

USAID has increased the number of scholarships and allocated 50 percent of all scholarships to women to increase gender parity and access to higher education for women

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The United States Embassy in Pakistan announced it will award an additional 700 graduate-level scholarships to Pakistani women in partnership with the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC).

These two-year scholarships, which begin this year and last until 2023, will be awarded to outstanding women to earn master's degrees in agriculture, business, engineering,

health sciences, and social sciences. Since 2003, the United States has granted 5,300 merit- and needs-based scholarships to financially disadvantaged, but academically successful students throughout Pakistan. Through the partnership with the HEC, the U.S. Agency for International Development's Merit- and Needs-Based Scholarship Program (MNBSP) awards scholarships to academically talented and financially disadvantaged students for university study. The program targets young people from remote and rural areas of Pakistan, especially

northern Sindh, Balochistan, southern Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas. Since 2013, USAID has increased the number of scholarships and allocated 50 percent of all scholarships to women to increase gender parity and access to higher education for women. Today's announcement brings the total of MNBSP scholarships awarded to Pakistani students to 6,000. "These additional 700 fully-funded graduate-level scholarships will be awarded to some of the most talented Pakistani women

to help meet their higher education goals," said USAID Deputy Mission Director Michael Nehrbass. Dr. Sania Nishtar, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection, and the Executive Director of the HEC Dr. Shaista Sohail thanked USAID for expanding the MNBSP and acknowledged that the investment made in women's scholarships and their recruitment are important steps to further women's empowerment and their access to higher education, a shared objective of HEC.

## Kazakh ambassador meets with FBR senior official

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin held a meeting with a member of the Federal Board of Revenue of Pakistan Mr. Tariq Huda, during which issues of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries were discussed. Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin noted the importance of establishing cooperation between the customs services of the two countries in order to exchange information and experience. Tariq Huda, for his part,



supported the Ambassador's proposal, expressing interest in signing a corresponding agreement with the authorized departments of Kazakhstan.

## SECP conducts webinar on digital onboarding

ISLAMABAD: While continuing with its outreach efforts to facilitate start-ups and promote innovative solutions in the financial market, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) in collaboration with the National Incubation Center (NIC), organized a webinar on "Digital Onboarding of Investors". The webinar highlighted SECP's new regulatory regime that transformed the existing practices and KYC requirements for opening of trading accounts in the capital market, said a press release issued here. Local investors who have bank accounts can open trading accounts with brokers by sharing of KYC information through respective

banks with the Centralized KYC Organization. The facility of Sahulat account is also available for low risk customers, where they don't have to fulfill KYC requirements. Moreover, non-Resident Pakistanis (NRPs) may also open their accounts digitally with KYC information available with the banks where they are presently maintaining (RDAs). A number of measures have been taken by the SECP to facilitate NRPs in opening of accounts which include removing requirement of physical submission of documents, allowing verification of documents through Counsel General of Pakistan or from Notary Public of respective country. — APP

## Plantation drives continue in capital

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Welfare Division of the Dawat-I-Islami in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change is still continuing monsoon tree plantation drive. Talking to this scribe Friday, an enthusiastic worker of Dawat-I-Islami, M Asad Abbas said that the management aims to plant two million saplings in the current July to September monsoon season, adding it will be engaging other religious organizations to join hands as well.

Islam not only directs us to plant new trees but also to take care of the existing ones, he added. The monsoon plantation drive was officially inaugurated by Premier Imran Khan, who launched the campaign by planting an avocado sapling at F-9 Park in recent days. Some workers of the organization were seen planting saplings at Sector G-11 along Srinagar Highway. A worker Muhammad Arsalan, during planting saplings, said that he himself has become part of such activities as it is 'sadaqa-e-jaria' for his eternal life.



ISLAMABAD: A group photo of Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Mr Farrukh Habib with the team analysts after the session "Rebuilding Afghanistan Together and Life Beyond War" program at PNCA in the Federal. — APP

## FBR may propose licenses for real estate agents

Money laundering is a major concern and Pakistan has one year to clamp down on it. Real estate is one sector where money laundering is rampant as people park their black money in plots

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The government is thinking of tightening the noose on who can do property deals by introducing a license system for real estate agents in Pakistan.

The move is a part of Pakistan's efforts to exit the gray list of Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an inter-governmental body that combats threats to the international financial system. The gray list refers to countries or jurisdictions under increased monitoring because of strategic AML and CFT deficiencies. After being placed on the gray list in June 2018, Pakistan had developed an action plan with the FATF to address those deficiencies. This includes demonstrating that Designated Financial Businesses and Professions like real estate agents

are being monitored for compliance with proliferation financing requirements and that sanctions are being imposed for non-compliance.

Money laundering is a major concern and Pakistan has one year to clamp down on it. Real estate is one sector where money laundering is rampant as people park their black money in plots. But now the government is working on a system to ensure that only registered and licensed dealers will be able to do transactions related to property.

At a meeting between property dealer representatives, the FBR and FATF cell officials in Islamabad last month, it was decided that property dealers would not transact property with 4,500 people on the UN terrorist list. They will also inform the government if the people on the list contact them for property. The participants of the meeting were

informed that an app is also being developed as a way to confirm if property is being cleanly bought or sold. Property dealers were told to compile records of all property transactions.

A follow-up meeting is scheduled in Islamabad in the next few days with the following agenda: a review of the registration of property dealers, the purchase and sale data form and the proposed app for the verification of buyers and sellers.

According to Zubair Baig, the president of the Defense and Clifton Association of Real Estate Agents, they had discussed a licensing procedure for real estate agents so that only official ones can do transactions.

Baig told a private television channel Money that about 50,000 real estate agents file taxes but non-filers are double that number. Some of them work in liquor stores, some in gen-

eral stores and some open shops and work as property dealers. There is no licensing system for property dealers in Pakistan which causes problems, he said. According to him, at the last meeting, the FBR said it was working on changing this.

The FBR is registering tax-filer real estate agents under the Designated Financial Businesses and Professions, according to which 22,000 filer property dealers have been registered so far. At the same time, the FBR is looking for people whose income comes out of the tax net through property transaction records. While commenting on these developments, property dealer Mansoor Moneem said that he believed that real estate agents should be registered and their service charges should be adjusted. The capital used in the property should also be declared. There is nothing wrong with

that, but the tax rate should be lower because business conditions are not so good. In its latest review, which happened in June 2021, the FATF decided to keep Pakistan on its gray list. "The Pakistani government has made substantial progress in making its counter-terrorist financing systems stronger and more effective. It has largely addressed 26 out of 27 items on the action plan it first committed to in June 2018," the forum's president, Dr Marcus Pleyer said at the time.

Pakistan has made progress, but still fell short of fully complying with the FATF's action plan. It needs to exit the gray list because a potential downgrade to the blacklist has serious implications for the country. Being on the blacklist means the country's banking system will be regarded as one with poor controls over AML and CFT.

## Weather to remain hot, humid during next few days

ISLAMABAD: The weather will remain hot and humid in most parts of the country especially plain areas during the next few days, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD). Spokesman PMD, Zaheer Ahmad Babar talking to APP said that the weather will remain hot and humid in country's most parts of the country during the next three to four days. There were no significant chances of rain in the country during the period however there were only few chances of rain-wind-thundershower at isolated places in lower Sindh, northeastern Punjab, Potohar region, Kashmir. The synoptic situation indicated that monsoon currents were penetrating lower southern and north-eastern parts of the country. The spokesman said that there were chances of more rains during the monsoon period which lasts till end of September.

The rainfall recorded during the last 24 hours was Punjab: Mandi Bahauddin 10 mm, Gujranwala 09, Kasur 06, Sialkot 04, Lahore (Nishtar Town 22, Johar Town 20, City, Airport 04, Wasa Office, Gulberg 03, Upper Mall 01), Sindh: Islamabad 50, Badin 27, Karachi (Saadi Town 41, University Road 30, Surjani, North Karachi 28, Faisal Base 23, DHA, Model Observatory 22, Jinnah Terminal 21, Masroor Base 19, Surjani 18, Kemari 13, Nazimabad 11, Quidabad 02), Nagar Parkar 15, Diplo 14, Mithi 03, Balochistan: Barkhan 5, 0, Lasbela 04, Sibbi 02, Kashmir: Rawalpindi 02mm. — APP

## Police arrest son over killing his mother

RAWALPINDI: Taxila police have arrested a boy in few hours after the crime who allegedly killed his mother. According to a police spokesman, on the complaint of second husband of Suraya Begum, a murder case was registered against Atif Ilyas, son of Suraya Begum, who called his mother and shot her dead.

The preliminary investigation revealed that a case of murder of the victim's ex-husband namely Elias was registered against the victim and her current husband in 2011 in which the accused were sentenced to death but, later acquitted from the High Court.

The victim later married Muhammad Hafeez, accused of killing her first husband which irritated her son and he shot her mother dead. The case against the accused was registered on the complaint of Muhammad Hafeez, the second husband of the victim.

Taxila police team traced the accused with the help of modern technology and human intelligence and arrested the alleged killer within a few hours.

SDPO Taxila said that merit would be ensured by investigating the case from all angles. — APP

## ANF seizes over 1465 kg drugs; arrests 20 culprits

ISLAMABAD: Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan has seized 1465.142 kg narcotics worth US\$77.763 million in international market, arrested 20 culprits including a woman during 31 counter-narcotics strikes throughout the country. According to ANF spokesman, the seized drugs comprised 3.29 kg Heroin, 1046.81 kg Hashish, 408 kg Opium, 0.484 kg Methamphetamine (Ice), 0.547 kg Cocaine, 20 Intoxicant tablets, 514 Ecstasy Tablets (0.234 kg) and 5.777 kg weed.

ANF Balochistan recovered 670.609 kg drugs in nine operations while arrested seven accused including an Afghan national, one woman and seized four vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 370.37 kg Hashish, 300 kg Opium, 20 Intoxicant tablets and 514 Ecstasy tablets (0.234 kg).

ANF Punjab recovered 785.154 kg drugs in 13 operations while arrested 10 accused and seized seven vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 1.84 kg Heroin, 674.84 kg Hashish, 108 kg Opium and 0.474 kg Methamphetamine (Ice). — APP



## Against harassment

THE recent repeated incidents of harassment and violence against women were too horrendous to not invoke strict action by the government. The government cannot be still and take no legislative step when a woman was assaulted at Minar-e-Pakistan by 400 men, or when another woman was sexually harassed while sitting in a rickshaw, or when there are countless cases of women and minors being raped and murdered. The authorities have responded to these disturbing incidents by taking a number of initiatives to curb some violence and offer more protection to women. Punjab Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Inam Ghani on Monday has mapped out a plan for setting up an anti-women harassment and violence cell. The cell will ensure a response is given to women's complaints within 15 minutes. This first step, of a quick response, is aimed at prevention. Apart from this, DIG Investigation Shariq Kamal has been directed to ensure that such cases would entail prompt investigation and timely submission of challans to courts so that justice could be speedily served. These initiatives are designed to counter a number of problems. Speedy trials and more importantly convictions can prevent the issue of habitual offenders; some of the many people behind these crimes are those who have had a similar accusation against them, but were free because of delay and neglect of investigation and trials. Another important step is the inclusion of female police officers, as well as having Victim Support Officers, who would liaise with the affected women and be present with them during the investigation and trial hearing. One of the biggest issues is under-reporting of rape cases, which lowers the deterrence for the crime. Making the police station a safer and sympathetic place for women can go a long way.

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## Widening trade gap

ONE of the biggest stumbling blocks to bringing Pakistan's economy back on track is the widening gap between trade inflows and outflows. The current account balance of our trade deficit has also been an issue for the sitting government, which has tried to resolve this. In the 2019-2020 budget, heavy taxation on imported goods and the decreasing value of the currency were policy measures taken by the government that looked to rectify this—and it looked like this strategy was working for a while. Exports remained stagnant (they were not being directly targeted) while imports dropped dramatically. But this change was only temporary. Once the economy got back on track, there was an immediate increase in imports and the current account balance went into deficit once again. The government should learn its lessons and realise that focusing on decreasing imports will not be as helpful as increasing exports; perhaps it already knows this but is looking for a quicker fix. The long term solution is the one that will work. In fact, the only area where imports can be curtailed to the benefit of the country, is in raw materials. One of the biggest burdens in the import balance is the inflow of crude oil, used for transport and other industries, but also a major input in the generation of power through oil-fired plants. Moving towards more sustainable energy will help reduce this burden. Ironically, many of our major exporting industries—agriculture and textiles—also import raw materials heavily. If these raw materials were to be produced here at home, the balance would improve with a multiplier effect; all exports would count more positively on the balance, and their imported inputs would also stop taking a toll on our current account. There is no quick fix to decrease the trade deficit. This is why the government must take its time, but target industries that target raw materials. Trying to curtail luxury imports is not a battle that the government can win—because once it gets the economy to grow, those with increased purchasing power will spend a lot of their incomes and profits on commodities that are still not produced here at home.

## Afghan angst erodes America's global standing

Andrew Hammond



In China, for example, the Communist Party's Global Times newspaper wrote that "the fall of Kabul marks the collapse of America's international image and credibility." An editorial in the same outlet forecast that the Afghan withdrawal contains an "omen of Taiwan's future fate" in that "once a cross-straits war breaks out, while the mainland seizes the island with forces, the US would have to have a much greater determination than it had for Afghanistan, Syria and Vietnam if it wants to intervene

WITH the end of the US-led airlift from Kabul, many searching questions are being asked about what the chaos in Afghanistan means for US military power amid claims that the "American era" of leadership is drawing to a close. It is too early to definitively answer such questions, but much clearer is that US soft power and moral credibility have taken a significant short-term hit with allies from Asia-Pacific to the Americas. This is troublesome for US President Joe Biden as he seeks to rebuild the country's global reputation after the travails of the previous era. While Biden claims he has no regrets about the handling of the US pullout from Afghanistan, key mistakes were made. The US president is correct that not all Afghan forces distinguished themselves on the battlefield in recent weeks, but that only raises the question of whether a slower-paced, calibrated US withdrawal might have forestalled such a precipitous victory by the Taliban. Inevitably, this is heightening concerns about the credibility and reliability of the US as an ally, particularly in nations such as Taiwan and Ukraine. It is also emboldening US rivals, and not only global terror groups such as Daesh. In China, for example, the Communist Party's Global Times newspaper wrote that "the fall of Kabul marks the collapse of America's international image and credibility." An editorial in the same outlet forecast that the Afghan withdrawal contains an "omen of Taiwan's future fate" in that "once a cross-straits war breaks out, while the mainland seizes the island with forces, the US would have to have a much greater determination than it had for Af-

ghanistan, Syria and Vietnam if it wants to intervene." While Biden has few strong defenders of his Afghan policy, it is noteworthy that he is framing his actions in the context of wider US national security interests, arguing that "if you are sitting in Moscow or Beijing, are you happy we left? They'd love nothing better than for us to continue to be totally occupied with what is going on there." Far from being the end of the US era of global power, this points to the Afghan withdrawal being a key enabler, rather than impediment, of US overseas engagement, especially in the Asia Pacific. However, even some of Biden's allies acknowledge that the events of recent weeks, including the chaotic Kabul evacuation, might now mean that the US will not — in the short term — fully recover from the soft power nadir of the last administration. A Pew poll during the previous presidency, for instance, found that around three quarters of the thousands surveyed internationally had little or no confidence in the previous administration's global leadership and policies. That is significantly less support than George W. Bush enjoyed at the height of his own foreign policy travails after the controversy of the Iraq invasion in 2003. Biden now will seek to course-correct US foreign policy not only by re-embracing alliances and multilateralism but also by becoming a voice of conscience and moral clarity again — a complicated position in the eyes of many in the wake of the Afghan withdrawal. Yet, while the challenges ahead are huge, the US president is persuaded by the importance of soft power. That is, the ability

to achieve goals by attracting and co-opting others, rather than by coercing. At a time when Washington is facing a series of complex foreign policy challenges, Biden recognizes that his administration will benefit from more engaged, strong and supportive allies. The president is also trying to learn from the successes and failures of Barack Obama's presidency in this area. Coming into office in 2009, Obama confronted a situation in which anti-US sentiment was at about its highest level since at least the Vietnam War amid the unpopularity of the Bush administration's policies. During the Obama years, there was a substantial increase in people outside the country regarding the US as the most admired country in the world again. Yet, while Obama made progress with global public diplomacy, the scale of the challenge meant that he had left much undone eight years later. Some international observers, for instance, were disappointed by his failure to close Guantanamo Bay, which still remains open for about three dozen inmates, and which Biden hopes to close during his presidency. In the wake of the Afghan withdrawal, the Biden team now will seek to make a sustained, significant push on these issues in order to turn around the spike in anti-US sentiment that occurred during the previous administration. Despite the recent chaos in Kabul, there is still significant upside opportunity in the next three and a half years as the White House seeks to create a more fertile environment for international covert and overt policy cooperation and information sharing with US officials.

— Courtesy: Arab News

## Syed Ali Shah Gilani's legacy

Muhammad Akhter



Syed Ali Shah Gilani was born on September 29, 1929. He was also a member of Jamaat-e-Islami Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Later he formed his own party under the name of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat. He was also the Chairman of All Parties Hurriyat Conference. He was always considered a strong opponent of IOJK and a powerful voice of oppressed Kashmiris

VETERAN Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Gilani passed away at the age of 92. Demise of Syed Ali Shah Gilani is a huge loss, but being a Muslim we firmly believe that we all belong to almighty and will return to him. Moreover, He was a name of ideology and resistance. The Veteran Hurriyat leader was an uncompromising campaigner against the Indian illegally occupation in Jammu and Kashmir. Today, he left us behind, but his legacy is the guiding light for the youth of Kashmir. He was very courageous more than many young men in the world. The Legendary Hurriyat leader spent his huge proportion of life in House-arrest, because he always raised his voice against the oppression of the Indian forces. Syed Ali Shah Gilani's voice was a symbol of freedom movement for Kashmiris, he himself chanted slogans of freedom all his life, he warmed the blood of the youth, kept challenging the Indian forces. Syed Ali Shah Gilani is no longer with us, but the message of freedom and enthusiasm he has given to the younger generation will remain in the veins of Kashmiri youth. The harvest of the freedom movement that he has sown will surely bring the fruit of freedom for

future generations of Kashmiris. He was a man of high courage, determination, love of freedom and understanding the value of freedom. Seeing him, it never seemed that he was old, he always saw the glow of freedom in his eyes, peace and contentment on his face. He was a truly historic figure. On August 14, 2020 Government of Pakistan conferred him with the highest civil award of the country, "Nishan-e-Pakistan" in the account of his noteworthy services and sacrifices for the oppressed people of IOJK. Syed Ali Shah Gilani was detained by the Indian Army, but his voice could not be silenced, his thinking could not be restricted, his views could not be imprisoned, his passion for freedom could not be severely curtailed. Today, he is out of breath, but he has added a new chapter of life to the Kashmiris' freedom movement. Syed Ali Shah Gilani was born on September 29, 1929. He was also a member of Jamaat-e-Islami Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Later he formed his own party under the name of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat. He was also the Chairman of All Parties Hurriyat Conference. He was always considered a strong opponent of Indian occupation in Jammu and Kashmir and a powerful voice of oppressed Kashmiris.

He was considered the bright face of the Kashmiris freedom movement and the true voice of freedom. Syed Ali Shah Gilani has spent his entire life in the struggle for Freedom. He could not see Kashmir become accession to Pakistan, but he educated the Kashmiris with the true meaning of freedom. He was considered a symbol of the freedom movement in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. God willing! Kashmir will be free, Syed Ali Shah Gilani's dream will come true. He could not see the freedom of Kashmir in his life, but the destination that has been set for his youth, Kashmiris will surely sooner reach this destination. No power on the earth can restrain the freedom of Kashmiris. It is pertinent to mention here, Indian atrocities on Kashmiri leadership are more than common Kashmiris, and Kashmiri leadership is still stands steadfastly its ground and raising the slogan of freedom with more courage than before. May Allah Almighty bless him eternal peace and elevate his ranks in Jannah grant Kashmiris' with the blessing of freedom. (Ameen)

— The Writer is a Freelance Columnist. He can be reached at @MAkhter\_



## Briefs

## Pak, UK vow to work...

FROM PAGE 01 the border efficiently. He said Taliban have made some serious vows but we have to see who they fulfill their vows and commitment made to the international community. We may not fund directly the Taliban govt however we would continue supporting the humanitarian agencies engaged in Afghanistan. Raab said the Taliban take-over took everybody by surprise by taking over the control at a very speed, no one was expecting. He added, Britain had a constructive dialogue with the Taliban and it was after this dialogue that we were able to get over 15000 people out of Afghanistan. He said Britain, like the other countries, wants an inclusive government in Afghanistan. Likewise we hope there would not be any terrorist acts committed from the soil of Afghanistan. Regarding Kashmir he said Britain maintains principled positions on Kashmir and wants both Pakistan and India to sit together and find a solution. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said Afghanistan is a country that represents various ethnicities. We have asked the Taliban to adopt an inclusive approach. When we deal with Afghanistan we have to deal with certain compulsions. For example we have to face a number of border crossings. Now the question is can we block these crossings.

## Raab apprised...

FROM PAGE 01 the Prime Minister shared Pakistan's perspective on the evolving situation in Afghanistan. The Prime Minister underlined the importance of a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan for Pakistan and regional stability. The Prime Minister noted that it was critical to stabilize the security situation in Afghanistan, take steps to consolidate peace, and preclude any mass exodus. In this context, preventing humanitarian crisis and stabilizing the economy were the urgent needs. The Prime Minister stressed that the international community should stand in solidarity with the Afghan people, undertake positive engagement, and create incentives for ensuring a peaceful, stable and inclusive polity. The Prime Minister also cautioned against the role of "spoilers", both inside and outside Afghanistan, which could destabilize the situation.

## Italian FM to arrive ...

FROM PAGE 01 developments in Afghanistan. The minister will ostensibly discuss the emerging Afghan scenario with the Pakistani authorities. The visit of the foreign minister will further strengthen bilateral relations between Pakistan and Italy.

## Air Chief Zaheer Ahmed Baber elected President PSF

The President PSF asked all member associations to generate further resources to meet the challenging tasks through an improved system

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber has been elected as President of Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) in the 48th Annual General Meeting of Pakistan Squash Federation was held here at Air Headquarters Islamabad on Friday. The 48th annual general meeting in which the election for President PSF was also conducted for next term in top slot of PSF. The house elected Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber as President PSF who later on, presided over the meeting. Besides squash legends, representatives from provincial squash associations, affiliated members and Pakistan Sports Board were also present during the meeting. Addressing the general council members, President Pakistan Squash Federation thanked all participants for their participation and of-



ferred whole hearted support of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) as well as PSF for the promotion of squash. While showing his satisfaction over revival of international squash in Pakistan, he emphasized that there was still need of collective efforts by the provincial squash associations and affiliated depart-

ments like Pakistan Army, Navy, Wapda, SNGPL, PIA, etc to jointly work together and support the national cause of glorifying Pakistan squash at highest levels. He urged the players to focus on the game and further improve on the physical and mental strength. Besides assuring support by PAF,

the President PSF asked all member associations to generate further resources to meet the challenging tasks through an improved system. He also directed the member associations to promote squash and increase the pool of players to thousands and also ensure age verification at association level.

He also stressed upon the implementation of a comprehensive training strategy to further groom the skills of our players. He emphasized on the role of associations and departments in generating adequate funds from Provincial Government and corporate sector to sponsor their players and events at

national and international levels. He also directed all associations and affiliated departments to conduct maximum number of tournaments events every year. The performance evaluation of provincial association for the year 2020 was also carried out by the General Council. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Squash Association was awarded Winner's Trophy for Pride of Performance by the General Council. The President PSF presented trophy to the representative of provincial association and appreciated them for making their efforts despite the COVID-19 pandemic situation. While he emphasized that PSF would continue to sponsor best men and women players in international events. He also directed the associations to generate adequate funds and sponsor all their respective players for national and international events to afford them adequate exposure.

## Pakistan has no ...

FROM PAGE 01

The spokesperson said that Afghanistan "appreciates the longstanding contributions of Pakistan towards the Afghan people". In his remarks at the conference, Mujahid also spoke of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), saying that the extension of the corridor, that links it with Afghanistan, "is very important".

## 'US is no longer...

FROM PAGE 01

the exit from Afghanistan demonstrated the limits of British power on the world stage. "It is obvious that Britain is not a superpower," he said before appearing to turn his attention to Mr Biden. He added: "But a superpower that is also not prepared to stick at something isn't probably a superpower either. "It is certainly not a global force, it's just a big power." The comments are not the first time Mr Wallace has attacked the US for its Afghanistan policy. Last month, the Defence Secretary criticised Donald Trump's peace deal with the Taliban signed in 2020. He described it as a "rotten deal" and a "mistake". "At the time of the Trump deal with, obviously the Taliban, I felt that was a mistake to have done it that way.

## New Covid-19...

FROM PAGE 01

Federal Minister for Planning, Development, Reforms, and Special Initiatives Asad Umar — gave a briefing to Prime Minister Imran Khan about the new restrictions. According to the NCOC, all indoor and outdoor gatherings and events have been banned in the city. However, only outdoor wedding events are allowed to be organised with a maximum of 300 guests. Educational institution have also been closed. In addition to this, inter-city public transport has been restricted in the cities having a high percentage of coronavirus cases. Indoor gyms will also remain closed. Meanwhile, Islamabad Deputy Commissioner Hamza Shafiqat announced that the increasing COVID-19 cases have increased the pressure on hospitals, therefore, new restrictions had to be imposed.

## US donates 6.6 mn...

FROM PAGE 01

adding that it would help the country inoculate young and at-risk citizens. Per the tweet, the latest donation brings the total number of COVID-19 vaccines donated by the US to the Pakistani people to 15.8 million. "The United States is the single largest contributor supporting COVAX efforts toward global COVID-19 vaccine access," it said. On August 26, the US had donated 3.7 million doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to Pakistan under the COVAX programme.



ISLAMABAD: Mountaineer Sirbaz Khan along with Hussain Odhwano talking to media about his upcoming expeditions. DNA

## Haider bags first-ever Paralympics gold medal

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's discus thrower, Haider Ali made the nation proud as he claimed the first-ever gold medal for the country in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games on Friday. Haider bagged the medal with a 55.26 metres throw in his fifth attempt out of the total six, according to information received here. His first two throws were adjudged ineligible, almost costing him a spot in the contest. He nailed his

third attempt with a throw of 47.84 meters, while the fourth throw was a foul. But his fifth attempt was a classy throw that helped him earn the medal in the coveted event. Ukraine's Zhabnyak with a 52.43 metres throw finished second to win a silver medal, while Brazilian Teixeira de Souza with a 51.86 throw ended third to take bronze. Overall, this is Haider's third medal in the prestigious event. Earlier, he has earned two medals for Pakistan - a silver in Beijing 2008 and a bronze in Rio 2016 in the long jump event. Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Friday said that para athlete Haider Ali made the nation proud by winning gold medal in discus throw event in Tokyo Paralympics. In a tweet, he said that players like Haider Ali who

became the first Pakistani to win a gold medal in paralympics by a throw of 55.26-metre were asset of the nation. He said flag of Pakistan would fly high with the grace of Allah Almighty. Minister for Information and

Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad-Hussain on Friday congratulated para athlete Haider Ali who won gold medal in discus throw at Tokyo Paralympics. "Thanking Haider Ali over his great achievement", the minister

said in tweet that the nation was proud of him. Haider Ali won the gold medal in the fifth round with a throw of 55.26. It is worth mentioning here that Haider Ali has become the first Pakistani to win a gold medal in the paralympics.



## Taliban: Then and Now (Part-2)

FROM PAGE 01

shutting down schools for girls, restricting women's movement public, levying heavy taxes, so on and so forth. Kabul has changed significantly during the last 20 years, not least because of the demographic explosion that has created a vibrant urban and educated middle class that has tasted the fruits of freedom, development and democracy. Therefore, for now, the Taliban have been careful in not enforcing their strict Shariah edicts on the public at large. However, there have been isolated incidents of repression by Taliban gunmen. The private media, including major TV outlets, have chosen to adapt to the new normal under the Taliban through self-censorship. The Taliban have also reportedly not kept their end of the bargain in the February 2020 agreement with America: that they will not allow the use of Afghan soil by Al Qaeda or any terrorist group or individual against the security of the United States and its allies. Since then, the UN Sanctions Monitoring Committee has twice reported to the Security Council about the Taliban's persisting nexus with the Al Qaeda and its affiliate, the Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent. As the recent bombing at the Kabul airport by Islamic State Khurasan Province (ISKP), which killed 13 US soldiers and several dozen Afghan civilians, suggests, the Taliban do have an ideological transnational Islamic rival in Afghanistan. No US soldier had died in Afghanistan since the US-Taliban accord in February 2020. Hence, this was indeed a departing salvo to the US military in the last days of its evacuation from Kabul. It is also most likely that the US was able to kill two ISKP leaders, including the alleged planner and facilitator, with the help of intelligence provided by the Taliban. Hence, at least in the case of ISKP, we can expect the Taliban to cooperate with the outside world to eliminate this relic of the ISIS.

Currently, the Taliban are in the process of forming a government, which they claim will be inclusive and based on power sharing. They have already stated clearly that the new political setup will not be democratic, as there will be no elections. It will be run by a leadership council, a jirga of sort, which the Taliban already have as a governing body of their movement. In their agreement with the US, the Taliban had made no commitments on human rights, knowing very well the US was simply seeking face saving through this accord. Their pronouncements on preserving women rights or media freedom, though in accord with Shariah law and Afghan values, will be fully tested only once the government they lead comes into practice on the ground. If my afore-cited recollection of the time spent with the Taliban leaders in their infancy, even if most of them are dead now, suggests anything, it is that the Taliban are Taliban, old or new doesn't matter. How can Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada, their current Emir-ul-Momineen, be better than earlier two Emirs? Ultimately, the Taliban remain a militant movement, rooted in religious bigotry, seeking to impose its brand of Islam on the Afghan people and desiring that the fellow Muslim nations shall replicate the same. The legitimacy of the Afghan Taliban movement lies in its ideological purity, which the Taliban leaders will try to uphold at all cost. Otherwise, they will lose their key public support base. If left alone, the Taliban will do exactly what they did to the people before on the basis of religion, gender and ethnicity. If left unchecked, sooner or later, they will play host to Al Qaeda or other terrorist groups, once again jeopardising regional peace and international security. In any case, their wholesome victory in Afghanistan already seems to serve a glimmer of light for the world of extremism and political Islam. **The Current Challenge** Therefore, the current dilemma facing the out-

side world in dealing with the new rulers of Afghanistan is extremely acute. The key challenge will be to ensure that the Taliban strictly comply with their commitments on women and minority rights, freedom of speech and relations with the world. The Taliban-led regime will be in dire need of international financial support, which must also be made conditional on its internal conduct and external behavior. The danger is that if the Taliban-led regime was ostracised by the outside world, it will most likely revert to the same puritanical venture as before, with deadly consequences for the Afghan people and the nations beyond. The US has frozen around \$10 billion Afghan foreign exchange reserves, and it still has the final say in decision of the IMF, World Bank and other international financial and donor organizations. Thus, the Taliban have inherited a country that is not to only difficult to government due to pent up expectations of the youthful urban population in urban spaces like Kabul, but is currently short of cash even to meet basic needs of the people. Thus, the fear is that, after having been defeated and humiliated in Afghanistan, the US may try take revenge against the Taliban by squeezing the economic capacity of Afghanistan, by denying what is its due. The question is, will the US allies in Europe again bandwagon with Washington to worsen the economic challenge for the Taliban-led government? All these countries must be aggrieved for also have been humiliated by band wagoning with the US in the 20-year fruitless war as members of NATO. So, ultimately, the international engagement, especially of the countries in the region, with the Taliban-led Afghanistan remains the only viable option. China and Russia abstained in the UN Security Council, as it resolved on August 30 to hold the Taliban responsible if they dithered on their public commitment to respect human rights and allow the safe passage of the remaining foreigners and Afghans desiring to leave the country.

Now the mantle is on China, Russia and European powers to prevent the economic collapse of the post-American socio-political order in the war-ravaged nation. They must prevail in the UN-led global decision making to prevent the imposition of the Afghan state under the Taliban, which will surely taking us back to the 1990s and lead to the repeat of the deadly events that harmed the Afghans, the nations of the region and ultimately hit the symbolic pillars of US financial and military power: the destruction of World Trade Centre in New York and the damage to the Pentagon building in Washington, DC, on 9/11. In the end, the 20-year war ended by damaging the leftover of American credibility as a global power as well as its moral standing in the world, if we also add the images of the Afghans clinging desperately to the sides of the US military planes and meeting their unfortunate fate after falling from the sky; or if we take into account the appeals on social media being made by the Afghan enablers left behind by the US and British armies as they cut and ran from Kabul to complete the withdrawal a minute before midnight of August 30. The departing forces of the US have also left an additional expression of their recklessness behind, as they destroyed not just the military and civilian planes at the Kabul airport but also smashed its control tower and everything else that is need to regulate the air traffic. Of course, the Qatari and Turkish engineers may overtime be able to operationalize the airport, but this sort of behaviour cannot be expected from a country that claims to champion democracy and human rights the world over. **The Future Ahead** We can only hope that the Biden administration will build upon its correct decision to take the US out of an unwinnable war, by prevailing upon the "special interests" inside the US — the war machinery built upon the deep nexus between the

Pentagon and CIA, and the defence contractors, the so-called military-industrial complex — not to punish the government of Afghanistan led by the force that defeated the US war machinery and exposed the "Special interests" in the manner never seen in recent history. Through the international financial institutions and human rights organisations, the outside world can keep a constant tab on the Taliban way of governance, tightening the screws each time Taliban leaders waver from meeting global expectations. This is the point that China, Russia, Afghanistan's other regional neighbours and the European powers can make in the ensuing international debate on Afghanistan's future so as to ensure a working relationship and a healthy engagement with the upcoming Taliban-led political order in Afghanistan. It is also important to underline another point about the regionalization of post-America Afghanistan: the country lies at the confluence of Central, West and South Asia. International efforts for the economic integration of these adjoining regions in the past couple of decades has been hostage to persisting Afghan insecurity. Therefore, one way of taming the Taliban-led regime is to revive these efforts, especially the gas pipeline agreement between Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India (TAPI), which has been pending implementation since 2010. The TAPI project offers a win-win solution by seeking to link the energy-rich Central Asia with the energy-starved South Asia, with Afghanistan providing the most crucial corridor. Ultimately, such regional integration projects bind the participating nations in a chain of interlocking economic interests, thereby ensuring that their regimes stay focused on economic progress at home and strive for peace in the region. The Taliban-led Afghanistan should not be an exception. **The author can be reached at ishtiaq11a@gmail.com/Twitter: @ahmadishtiaq**



## Briefs

## Syria 'shoot down' Israeli missiles over Damascus

## AGENCIES

DAMASCUS: Syrian air defences have shot down missiles fired by Israel in the skies over the capital, Damascus, SANA state news agency said early on Friday. "At around 1:26 am today, the Israeli enemy carried out an air aggression from the direction southeast of Beirut, targeting some points in the vicinity of the city of Damascus," a Syrian military source was quoted as saying in a statement carried by SANA.

Syrian TV showed scenes of air defences shooting at targets over the city. "Our air defence confronted the aggressor's missiles and shot down most of them, and the losses were limited to materiel," the statement said. The sound of the roaring Israeli planes flying at a low altitude over the areas on the outskirts of Beirut was heard at dawn on Friday, witnesses said.

The UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors violence in Syria, confirmed the attack. It said the Israeli attack targeted a Syrian government forces' site used by pro-Iranian militias to develop weapons in Barzeh and Jamraya, rural areas near Damascus.

## 'Russian warplanes attack Idlib

## FOREIGN DESK

IDLIB: A child was killed and two civilians were injured following airstrikes by Russian warplanes in Syria's northwestern Idlib province, according to Syria Civil Defense on Friday.

Firas Khalifa, the media officer of Syria Civil Defense, or White Helmets, told Anadolu Agency that the air bombardment killed a child and injured two civilians in the village of Kansafra. He added that many small cattle also perished in the attack as the area was an animal shelter.

In a statement on its social media account, the opposition's plane observatory group said the Russian warplane "took off at 10:02 a.m. (0702GMT) from the Khmeimim Base in Latakia province, (and) carried out an airstrike on Idlib's southern village of Kansafra at 10:24 a.m. (0724GMT)."

In a separate incident, Bashar al-Assad regime forces shelled artillery on the villages of Fattire, Binin, and Shinan in the Jabal Zawiyah region.

There have been no reports of casualties so far. The latest attacks are in breach of a truce reached in May 2017 between Turkey, Russia, and Iran when the trio agreed to establish a de-escalation zone in Idlib, as part of the Astana meetings on the Syrian crisis.

## UK to send four million vaccine doses to Australia

## AGENCIES

SYDNEY: Britain will send four million Covid-19 vaccine doses to Australia, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced Friday, as his country raced to halt a deadly virus outbreak. The Australian leader said the planes delivering Pfizer vaccines were "on the tarmac" in the UK and would deliver "four million doses of hope" within weeks.

A first batch 292,000 doses will be shipped "shortly", the British government said in a separate statement.

Several of Australia's largest cities are in lockdown and case numbers and deaths are steadily rising, as the highly transmissible Delta variant spreads throughout the country. Australia has a steady supply of the locally produced AstraZeneca vaccine, but residents have been hesitant to take it due to rare but highly publicised instances of the vaccine causing blood clots. About 40 percent of Australian adults are fully vaccinated, well behind most rich nations, and the last 18 months have been marked by on-off restrictions.

## China will be 'main partner' to rebuild Afghanistan: Taliban

US and its allies have closed their diplomatic missions and conditioned any recognition of a Taliban govt – as well as economic aid that propped up the previous govt

## DNA

KABUL: The Taliban says China will maintain diplomatic relations with Afghanistan and the new rulers in Kabul will rely on Beijing for economic support after the withdrawal of U.S.-led international forces. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told the Italian newspaper La Repubblica that China was the group's "main partner" to halt an economic collapse and rebuild the country. The Taliban has pledged to be more moderate since they toppled Afghanistan's Western-backed government on August 15, promising to protect some human rights and refrain from reprisals against old enemies. Radio Free Europe reported. The United States and its allies

have closed their diplomatic missions and conditioned any recognition of a Taliban government – as well as economic aid that propped up the previous government – on the group's actions. In particular, Western powers are calling on the Taliban to allow people to leave the country, enable access of humanitarian aid, make a complete break with international terrorist organizations, and respect human rights, especially for women. Without aid, humanitarian organizations have warned of catastrophe as severe drought and war have forced tens of thousands of families to flee their homes. The U.S. government has also frozen Afghanistan's Central Bank reserves, helping to fuel a banking and payments crisis.

China, however, is unlikely to make aid and political ties contingent on human rights issues, preferring instead hard economic, political, and security interests. "China is our main partner and represents a fundamental and extraordinary opportunity for us because it is ready to invest and rebuild our country," Mujahid told La Repubblica. Mujahid said the Taliban are interested in the Belt and Road Initiative, China's global infrastructure and resource development plan designed to tighten economic and political ties across dozens of countries. "We own rich copper mines, which, thanks to the Chinese, will be modernized. Finally, China represents our ticket to the markets around the world," Mujahid. Another Taliban spokesman said on September

2 that China has promised to keep its embassy in Afghanistan open and "beef up" relations as well as increase humanitarian aid. Abdul Salam Hanafi, a member of the Islamist group's political office in Doha, Qatar, "held a phone conversation with Wu Jiahao, Deputy Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China," spokesman Suhail Shaheen tweeted. "The Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister said that they would maintain their embassy in Kabul, adding our relations would be up as compared to the past... China will also continue and increase its humanitarian assistance especially for treatment of COVID-19," he wrote.

Close ties between China and the Taliban could undermine the Western strategy of using economic leverage to pressure the new rulers in Kabul. Russia, as well, has maintained its diplomatic mission in Kabul. Relations with Russia are "mainly political and economic. Russia continues to mediate for us and with us to create the conditions for international peace," Mujahid said. In a report, Fitch Solutions said on September 2 that it expects Afghanistan's economy to collapse as international money that funded the previous government dries up. "The highly disruptive manner in which the U.S.'s security forces left the country and the Taliban takeover will mean that the economic pains for the country will be felt acutely over the short term," said the research arm of credit ratings agency Fitch Group.

## Ambassador Sajjad meets with the Director BISR

## DNA

MINSK: Ambassador Sajjad Haider Khan met with the Director of the Belarusian Institute for Strategic Research (BISR), Mr. Oleg Makarov. The meeting was also attended by Deputy Director, Mr. Vitaly Stakhovskiy, and Expert, Mr. Yury Yarmolinsky. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the possibilities of cooperation between the leading think tanks and research centers of Pakistan with BISR. The Ambassador confirmed his readiness to contribute to the establishment of stronger ties between the think tanks of Belarus and Pakistan and the possibility of his personal further participation in round tables and events organized by the experts of the Institute.



## Karabakh to open for tourists in near future

## DNA

BAKU: Tourists will be able to visit Karabakh, which has historical, natural, and cultural resources, in the near future, Florian Sengtschmid, Executive Director of the Azerbaijan Tourism Bureau, said, speaking at the session on "Restoration of Southeast, West and South Asia as tourist destinations" topic of the PATA Travel Mart 2021 international tourism exhibition, Trend reports. Sengtschmid voiced proposals on ecotourism, spoke about the measures taken to ensure the health and safety of tourists, development of digital platforms, as well as the tourism opportunities of

Azerbaijan's territories liberated from Armenian occupation [in the 2020 second Karabakh war].

The CEO noted that thanks to the opening of air transport ties with more than 29 countries and the successful vaccination process [against COVID-19], the tourism industry is gradually recovering in Azerbaijan. Visitors to the virtual exhibition, annually organized by the Asia-Pacific Tourism Association, got acquainted with the tourist monuments of Azerbaijan included in the UNESCO World Heritage List, items of cultural heritage, health and recreational opportunities, national cuisine, as well as winemaking traditions and modern wineries.

## Iran ready to send more fuel to Lebanon

TEHRAN: Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said that if Lebanese traders and government need more fuel, Iran is ready to provide it for them. Amirabdollahian made the remarks on a phone call with Gebran Bassil, the previous minister of foreign affairs and emigrants of Lebanon, according to a report from Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman's office on Friday. Bassil thanked Iran for selling and sending fuel to Lebanon and also congratulated Amirabdollahian for his appointment as the minister of foreign affairs of Iran. Criticizing those who intend to starve the Lebanese people to reach their political goals, Bassil called for all-out expansion of ties. – Web Desk

## Bandar Abbas, KCCI to hold virtual meeting

## DNA

KARACHI: A virtual meeting of the Chambers of Commerce of Bandar Abbas and Karachi, Pakistan will be held soon with the aim of deepening trade and economic interactions, especially cooperation between the business communities of the two countries' provinces. Hassan Nourian, Iranian Consul General in Karachi, the capital of Sindh province met with the chairman and members of Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Friday and discussed opportunities for increasing provincial cooperation between the two countries. While emphasizing the increase of trade exchanges between Iran and Pakistan, the two sides called for the use of each others' experiences in the fields of investment and

joint projects. The meeting agreed to hold a webinar of the heads and members of the Bandar Abbas and Karachi Chambers of Commerce in the coming weeks on how to develop trade relations between the two states. Welcoming the development of relations between the two countries' chambers, particularly the cooperation between the Iranian and Pakistani business communities, President of Karachi Chamber of Commerce, Shariq Vohra, said the Karachi business community desires to enter the Iranian market and expand investment cooperation. The Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, with more than 900 km of land and water border, have a high capacity for trade, transportation and transport, especially in the transit and rail sectors.

## Worst Tripoli fighting in a year tests Libya ceasefire

## AGENCIES

TRIPOLI: Fighting broke out in Tripoli early on Friday between rival armed forces, witnesses said, the heaviest clashes in the Libyan capital since the conflict between eastern and western factions paused a year ago. A resident of the Salah al-Din district in southern Tripoli said the shooting began at about 2:30am (00:30 GMT) and continued through the morning with medium and light weapons. There was no immediate report of casualties. Conflict in Tripoli between the armed groups who vie to control both territory and state institutions would further undermine the prospect of December elections as part of a plan to end a decade of chaos, violence

and division. Despite a ceasefire and the progress earlier this year towards a political solution to Libya's crisis, there has been no movement towards integrating its myriad armed groups into a unified national military. Libya is a leading oil producer and though it has been able to maintain output over the past 10 years, disputes have sometimes shut down exports, including for months last year. The new fighting pitted the 444 Brigade against the Stabilisation Support Force, two of the main forces in Tripoli, a witness said. It follows major clashes last month in the city of Zawiyah, west of Tripoli, and smaller incidents of friction or clashes inside the capital including a gunfight this week at a state institution.

In eastern Libya, controlled by renegade military commander Khalifa Haftar's Libyan National Army (LNA), there have also been shootings and other incidents of violence in recent months. Libya has had little peace since the 2011 NATO-backed uprising that overthrew longtime ruler Muammar Gaddafi, and in 2014 it divided between the warring eastern and western factions. However, they agreed to a ceasefire last year and a new unity government that both sides backed was installed in March to prepare for national elections in December. However, moves seen as the best chance for peace in years. The Tripoli-based unity government has, however, struggled to unify state institutions or prepare for elections, with the east-

ern-based parliament rejecting its budget and failing to agree on a constitutional basis for a vote.

Wolfram Lacher, of the German think-tank SWP, said although there was the possibility of further escalation, a mediated solution was likely to resolve the fighting in the short term.

However, "similar clashes are bound to recur in Tripoli and elsewhere", he added. Meanwhile, Morocco's foreign minister has called on the Libyan parties to arrange for presidential and legislative elections in a timely manner, adding that the country's stability depends on it. Nasser Bourita's remarks came during a joint news conference with Libya's Parliament Speaker Aguilah Saleh on Thursday, following a meeting in the Moroccan capital, Rabat.



KARACHI: Hassan Nourian, Iranian Consul General posing for a group photo with the chairman and members of Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry. – DNA

## Pakistan urges int'l effort to help Afghanistan

"There will be inflation. The prices in Afghanistan will rise further. The poverty level will rise"

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is urging the international community to adopt a three-pronged approach to Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover - quickly deliver aid to 14 million people facing a hunger crisis, promote an inclusive government and work with the Taliban to counter terrorism in the country. Pakistan's ambassador to the United Nations Munir Akram laid out the vision of the government of Pakistan for a future international role in Afghanistan in an Associated Press interview on Thursday, saying Pakistan had been in contact with regional countries and

the broader global community on working together on the three priorities. He stressed that humanitarian help must be the top priority and called it "very unhelpful" for Afghanistan's assets to have been frozen, by the United States and others, because this leaves the Taliban with no access to dollars or foreign exchange to buy food or import oil. "There will be inflation. The prices in Afghanistan will rise further. The poverty level will rise," Akram warned. "You will then have a refugee crisis which is exactly what the West

is afraid of." He called his country's influence on the Taliban "exaggerated", though he said Pakistan had "a fairly relaxed policy" towards the



three million Afghan refugees on its soil. "We know better than others that you cannot force the Afghans to do anything, and I think the experience of the last 40 years has indicated that nobody actually from the outside can dictate to the Afghans," he said. "So, persuasion, yes. Talks with them, consultations, yes. But it's very difficult to persuade the Afghans." Pakistan initially brought the Taliban to the negotiating table to get them to stop the onslaught and go back to talks. Akram said Pakistan's prime min-

ister and army chief went to Kabul to talk to former Afghan president Ashraf Ghani and invited the leadership to Pakistan. But Ghani "remained intransigent about reaching a political settlement with the Taliban" and the Taliban also had "a very strong" position against negotiations, he said. With the Taliban now in control of the country, Akram said Pakistan hopes its leaders "will listen to a sincere friend in trying to form an inclusive government" where all the ethnic groups and minorities including Tajiks, Hazaras and Shiite Muslims are represented. – APP

## UAE sends plane carrying aid to Afghanistan

## FOREIGN DESK

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates has sent a plane carrying "urgent medical and food aid" to Afghanistan, according to the official WAM news agency, nearly three weeks after the Taliban took over the control of the country. The "assistance comes within the framework of the humanitarian role being played by the UAE to provide full support to brotherly Afghan people in such current circumstances", WAM said on Friday. The UAE foreign ministry confirmed to the AFP news agency that "this is the first [Emirati] aid flight since the recent events in Afghanistan". The Gulf country was one of the only three countries in the world to recognise the Taliban during its previous rule between 1996 and 2001.

Taliban fighters celebrated with gunfire on Tuesday, hours after the last US forces abandoned Kabul, closing a frenzied airlift operation that saw more than 123,000 foreign nationals and Afghans flee.

The United States invaded Afghanistan and toppled its Taliban government in 2001 in the wake of the 9/11 attacks by al-Qaeda group, which had sought sanctuary in the country.

## Nepal landslides kill at least 10 people

## WEB DESK

KATHMANDU: At least 10 people have died and one more remains missing after torrential monsoon rains triggered landslides in a mountainous district in Nepal on Friday.

Several houses were destroyed in three villages in the Parbat district, some 250 kilometers (155 miles) from the capital Kathmandu. The victims were members of three families, according to Omkala Pandey, a spokeswoman for Nepal's Home Ministry.

"Five family members were killed when a landslide hit their house on Friday morning," she said. The fatalities include a 38-year-old woman and her six-year-old son, a 40-year-old woman and her three-year-old son, and another 50-year-old woman.

A 70-year-old woman is still missing, Pandey said, adding that rescue teams have started operations in the affected villages. Nepal, a landlocked country in the foothills of the Himalayan mountain range, is vulnerable to natural disasters. Landslides and flooding sparked by heavy rainfall claim hundreds of lives in the country every monsoon season, which runs from June to September.

## Greece under fire over deportations

ATHENS: The Council of Europe rights body warned Greece on Friday that a proposed law aimed at speeding up migrant deportations will imperil the "life-saving work" of NGOs in the Mediterranean.

The organisation called on Greek MPs to reconsider the bill, which will boost the power of police to order deportations and detain undocumented migrants while strictly regulating the activities of NGOs and volunteer groups.

Greece is still a major hub for migrants trying to reach the European Union, though arrivals are far lower than they were during the peak of the migrant crisis in 2015.

The Greek government has defended the tough proposals as necessary to protect its borders. "Greece will not accept, as in the period 2015-19, to be the gateway to Europe for illegal immigration flows," Migration Minister Notis Mitarachi told parliament earlier this week when he presented the bill, which MPs will vote on later on Friday. However, the Council of Europe's rights commissioner Dunja Mijatovic said the plan "would seriously hinder the life-saving work carried out at sea by NGOs, and their human rights monitoring capacities in the Aegean". – APP



**Briefs**

**Turkey further eases quarantine rules for Pak travelers**

AGENCIES

ANKARA: Turkish Government has further eased quarantine regulations for Pakistani nationals intending to travel to Turkey. Announced on 2nd September, these regulations will become effective from 4th September. Irrespective of vaccination status, all passengers will submit a negative PCR test result that should be made at most 72 hours before their entry into Turkey. As per the new regulations, passengers arriving from Pakistan who will have documentary proof of COVID-19 vaccination will be exempted from quarantine. Such vaccination should be of two doses approved by the World Health Organization (except for Johnson & Johnson which is a single dose). Quarantine exemption will be applied to those vaccinated whose last dose was administered at least 14 days before their travel. Pakistani travellers who cannot provide a proof of vaccination will be quarantined in their residences or addresses that they will declare, tourists will quarantine at their booked hotels. They will be PCR tested on the 10th day of the quarantine period and in case of a negative result, quarantine application will be terminated.

**VA Faisal Rasul Lodhi appointed as Vice Chief**

ISLAMABAD: Vice Admiral Faisal Rasul Lodhi has been appointed as Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS). Vice Admiral Faisal Rasul Lodhi was commissioned in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1986. Admiral has an illustrious career with wide ranging Command and Staff appointments. His major Command appointments include Commanding Officer PNS TARIQ, Director Pakistan Navy Tactical School, Flag Officer Sea Training, Commander Coast and Commander Karachi. His major Staff appointments include Directing Staff at Pakistan Navy War college, Director Naval Warfare & Operational Plans at Naval Headquarters, Fleet Operation officer, Chief Staff Officer to Commander Pakistan Fleet, Liaison Officer US CENTCOM USA and Naval Secretary. Lately, he has been appointed as Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Operations) and Chief of Staff at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. The Admiral has also performed duties as Additional Secretary-III in Ministry of Defence. Vice Admiral Faisal Rasul Lodhi is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College Lahore, National Defence University Islamabad, Royal College of Defence Studies UK and Naval Command & Staff College Philippines. He also holds Master's Degree in International Security & Strategic studies from United Kingdom. In recognition of his meritorious services, the Admiral has been awarded Hilali-Imtiaz (Military).

**Punjab schools to be closed from Sept 6 to 11**

LAHORE: Punjab government has decided to close schools from September 06 to 11th due to deteriorating situation of coronavirus breakout. Provincial Minister for School Education Dr Murad Ras in a tweet here on Friday made the announcement that all public & private schools will be closed for six days. He urged people to stay home and strictly adhere to the standard operating procedures of the Covid-19 to protect themselves and others from infections. — APP



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi offering Fateha after offering Namaz-e-Janaza (in absentia), at Faisal Mosque. — DNA

**PM Imran vows to assist construction sector**

He was addressing the launching ceremony of ICCI's Property, Housing and Construction Expo 2021

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday kicked off the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry's (ICCI) Property, Housing and Construction Expo 2021. Addressing the launching ceremony in Islamabad, the premier said the construction sector was the biggest provider of job opportunities because it had numerous industries attached to it. "This is one way of providing employment, wealth creation, increasing revenues to meet expenses and repaying loans. We will repay loans when the economy grows and more than anything, it grows on the basis of construction," he said. The prime minister called upon the construction sector to fully try and depend less on imports, saying that "all raw material is available in Pakistan." "I assure you that we will fully help you. It is the government's job to manufacture more things in Pakistan," he added. According to Prime Minister Imran, a "construction boom" was coming to the country due to the great demand by the 220 million people for low-cost housing. He lamented that the common man, daily wage or government servants never had the opportunity in the past to build their

*China a role model for developing countries*

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday praised China for being a "role model" for developing countries in poverty alleviation. In a video message on the 20th anniversary of Juncao Assistance and Sustainable Development Cooperation, the premier said: "China is a role model for developing countries in poverty alleviation. China's remarkable growth has brought 800 million people out of poverty over the past four decades." He said the world at large, but particularly the global South, was grappling with "multiple challenges" including climate change, poverty and food insecurity. The prime minister added that extreme poverty had been steadily declining over the past two decades due to relentless efforts. "However, [the] Covid-19 pandemic triggered an economic meltdown which has slowed down global progress. Extreme poverty rose in 2020 for the first time in over 20 years," he said.

homes because of a lack of mortgage-financing options but that obstacle was now removed due to the government's efforts to pass the foreclosure law. "Banks will give money to people for mortgage financing and then this population of 220m of ours will become an asset because it will generate demand and then construction and related indus-

tries will start running." The premier told the event that he had called the chief of the International Monetary Fund to gain concessions for the construction industry during the Covid-19 pandemic. He also said that over the course of numerous meetings, "we realised... our entire system has evolved in such a manner that it puts obstacles instead of facilitating and

encouraging industry and wealth creation." When a society begins to decline, the premier said, its bureaucracy too devolves and becomes self-serving instead of encouraging growth and prosperity. "It takes time to change the system," he added. Prime Minister Imran said many meetings had been held to remove obstacles for the construction industry and while they hadn't been eliminated fully, there were more incentives for the industry than before and the government would continue increasing them. Speaking about problems within the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), he said the government was "continuously trying to bring reforms" in the body, pointing out that Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin hailed from the private sector and was familiar with its issues. He said the true potential of Pakistan's population would be realised when the industry, particularly the export industry, was encouraged. "It is necessary that we help ourselves, facilitate you and the government creates ease of doing business for you but then you too help the government by paying tax," he emphasised. He said until taxes were paid, the country's wealth wouldn't increase and the government wouldn't be able to facilitate the construction sector so "it is a two-way system."

**China to help Pakistan revive tourism: Moin**

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistan will revive its tourism through co-operation with China, Pakistan Ambassador to China Moin ul Haq said here on Friday. "Pakistan has recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on tourism with Chinese tourism associations and forged partnership with travel agencies," he said at the 2021 World Tourism Cities Federation (WTCF) Fragrant Hills Tourism Summit and World Conference on Tourism Cooperation and Development held here. "We are to launch a Chinese-language website called Discover Batie (also known as Discover Pakistan) to popularise Pakistan's rich repertoire of culture and tourism resources across China," he added. The theme of this year's WTCF Fragrant Hills Tour-



ism Summit and World Conference on Tourism Cooperation and Development 2021 is "Revitalizing World Tourism and Energizing City Development". The event conducted the in-depth analysis on the new demands, new changes and new trends brought by the Covid-19 pandemic on the development of world tourism and tourism cities, explore new opportunities, new agenda and new actions for the sustainable development of world tourism in the post-pandemic era, provide the support of concept, technology and model for the comprehensive recovery of world tourism.

**Ending fear, uncertainty, biggest challenge for IEA**

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: In the wake of complete US withdrawal, brain drain from Afghanistan is posing a serious threat to a return to normalcy as skilled and educated people, facing an uncertain future, are leaving their country in desperation. This warrants some immediate action by the Taliban's Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan to ensure predictability in governance so that the prevailing chaos engulfing the lives of millions of common Afghans can come to an end. This sentiment resonated at a roundtable titled 'Afghanistan: Post-US Withdrawal - Present and Future Challenges' which was organized by Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad (IPS). The roundtable was attended by academics, intellectuals, journalists, students, members of Pak-Afghan Youth Forum (PAYF), and Afghan delegates comprising politicians,



former Afghan government officials and journalists. The Afghan delegates included Maulvi Ataa-ur-Rehman Saleem, deputy chairman of National Peace Council, Ahmadullah Alizai, former governor of Kabul, Husani Mubarak Azizi, minister of transport, and Jamaluddin Badr, former governor of Nuristan province. Khalid Rahman, IPS chairman, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, IPS vice chairman, Brigadier Said Nazir, strategic affairs expert, Juma Khan Sufi, author and Afghan

affairs expert, Mahmood Jaan Babar, journalist, Dr Tughrul Yamin, dean Center of International Peace and Stability, NUST, Dr Mohammad Iqbal Khalil, chairman Institute of Regional Studies, Peshawar, Dr Haroon Khatibi, director, CSRS, and Salman Javed, DG PAYF participated in the roundtable deliberations. The speakers were of the view that the Taliban are a reality and acceptance of this can help in chalking out a pragmatic future line of action guaranteeing prosperity of Afghanistan. To achieve

this, all Afghan factions representing different political and ethnic shades need to sit together and engage with each other for the formation of an inclusive government. It was also felt at the session that the vacuum of a government structure in the existing scenario has given birth to political instability and uncertainty, resulting in fears and apprehensions among Afghans who want peace and stability so that business activities can resume and skilled people can find job opportunities.

**Curfew, restrictions continue in IIOJK**

DNA

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian regime continued curfew and strict restrictions across the territory on second consecutive day, today, to prevent people from conducting a march towards Hyderpora area of Srinagar to pay tributes to the icon of Kashmir freedom movement, Syed Ali Geelani. Syed Ali Geelani, who was under continued house arrest at his Hyderpora residence in Srinagar, got martyrdom on Wednesday evening. The occupation authorities have deployed thousands of Indian troops and police personnel in Srinagar and other cities and areas of the Kashmir Valley to forestall the march towards Hyderpora. The authorities have also suspended internet services on Thursday to prevent people from sharing information regarding the prevailing situation in the territory. The IGP said that restrictions would continue in Srinagar and other parts of Kashmir, today, Friday. On restoring the mobile phone connectivity, he said, decision to restore mobile communications in Kashmir will be taken in a review meeting scheduled to be held Friday evening.

**Japan's PM to step down amid Covid-19 censure**

AGENCIES

TOKYO: In a radical U-turn, Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga on Friday announced that he would not stand for his party's leadership, effectively giving up the premiership, after facing severe criticism over his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, local media reported. "I had planned to run, but dealing with both COVID-19 and the election would require an enormous amount of energy. I decided that there was no way to do both, that I had to choose," Suga told reporters in Tokyo. "I decided to focus on coronavirus measures," Kyodo News Agency cited him as saying. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will hold its presidential polls to choose Suga's successor on Sept. 29. The prime minister is currently also the president of the party, with his term to end on Sept. 30. Earlier, Suga had said he intended to run for a second term. Suga rose to party leadership last year after the sudden resignation of his predecessor Shinzo Abe, who stepped down as premier on health grounds. The elections come at a time when Suga's public rating is down, largely due to his administration's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic that has battered the health and financial infrastructure of the world's third economy.



**PML-N mulls schedule of 51 PDM rallies**

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: In order to give tough time to the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government, Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), an opposition parties' alliance, has prepared the schedule of 51 public gatherings across the country. Quoting its sources, a private TV channel reported that former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif has prepared the schedule while PML-N leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and PDM President as well as Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman would do the shortlisting. PDM has only recently held a public gathering in Karachi after a gap of several months as it considerably ran out of steam following the exit of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Awami National Party (ANP) from it.

**UNODC starts Case Management System for Sindh**

CMMS will help the assignment of complex cases to multiple experienced counsels, tracking of court proceedings as well as monitoring of the quality of prosecutions across Sindh province

STAFF REPORT

KARACHI: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in partnership with the Prosecution Department of Sindh launched a software-based Case Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) at an inauguration ceremony in Karachi on Friday. The CMMS which has been developed under the framework of Pakistan's Action to Counter Terrorism (PACT) and is designed to automate the Prosecution Department's administrative processes such as case assignment and tracking, streamlining the departments workflows, and create administrative efficiency in case management and adjudication. In particular the



CMMS will help the assignment of complex cases to multiple experienced counsels, tracking of court proceedings as well as monitoring of the quality of prosecutions across Sindh province. In order to maximize the operational efficiency of the CMMS, UNODC

through the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) has also provided Prosecution Department with essential equipment including laptops and computers. The inauguration ceremony was presided over by the Honorable Chief Justice of Sindh Justice Ahmed Ali

M. Shaikh and attended by EU's Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Androulla Kaminara, Country Representative of UNODC Mr. Jeremy Milsom, and key officials belonging to Sindh Police, Prosecution Department, and Judiciary. The Honorable Chief Justice of

Sindh lauded the initiative, as well as its promising impact on operational efficiency across Sindh's criminal justice system. "This is a valuable innovation that will generate a compounding positive impact with use over time that will not be limited to prosecution department alone." The European Union's Counter-Terrorism Counsellor in Pakistan Mr. François Zablot iterated EU's resolute support in preventing and countering terrorism and added that "CMMS was a crucial need of the hour to ensure transparency, accountability and oversight when dealing with anti-terrorism cases. I hope that with effective use of this tool, we are able to enhance the capacity of the prosecution department, leading to successful adjudications."