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US is engaging with the Taliban on Afghanistan flights

Detailed News On Page-08

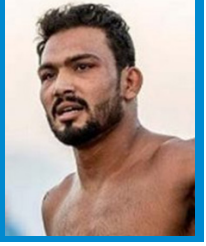
PAF prepared to defend Pak sovereignty

Detailed News On Page-04



Inam Butt aims back to back medals

Detailed News On Page-06



Taliban unfurl 'not all-inclusive' govt

Hasan Akhund to lead the 'acting' govt; Baradar will be deputy leader; Sirajuddin gets interior minister portfolio; Zabihullah dismisses allegations of Pak support



Mullah Akhund, Prime Minister Mullah Baradar, Deputy Prime Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KABUL: The Taliban has announced the names of several acting cabinet ministers of a new caretaker government in Afghanistan led by Mohammad Hasan Akhund. Abdul Ghani Baradar will be the deputy leader and Sirajuddin Haqqani, son of the founder of the Haqqani network, has been named as interior minister, chief spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said at a press conference on Tuesday. Meanwhile, Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob, son of Mullah Omar, has been named as defence minister. Hedayatullah Badri will be the acting Minister of Finance. "It's also important to say that a lot of these names, the vast majority of them are actually Pashtun and are not taking into consideration, arguably critics would say, the vast ethnic diversity of this country. And it was interesting to hear his [Mujahid's] comments about the Panjshir Valley which we know predominantly has the Tajik ethnic minority," he added. "He said [Mujahid] had no problem with the Tajik people whatsoever, and their voices would be included in any future administration." Mujahid reiterated the cabinet was an "acting" government and that

Continued on Page 06

Pak among six states invited for oath taking

PM Imran summons high level meeting to discuss recognition issue

ALI FURQAN

ISLAMABAD. Taliban have invited their six international partners including Pakistan to participate in the oath taking ceremony of their newly formed government, it is learnt by Islamabad Post. According to sources, China, Russia, Turkey, Iran Qatar and Pakistan are invited to attend the inaugural ceremony, paving way by the Taliban as a first step into foreign policy formulation. Glimpsing their geopolitical alignment, Taliban extended invitations to these six countries to attend the oath taking ceremony even before the announcement of the new government in Kabul. The government formation ceremony is expected to be held this week in Kabul. Notably, these six are among the very few countries still operating their embassies in Afghanistan after the takeover by the Taliban. Although most nations are adopting a "wait and watch" policy before recognising this new administration in Afghanistan, the complete isolation of this new Taliban government is unlikely. Interestingly, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates were not asked to join this important event by the Taliban. It may be recalled that during the previous Taliban's government in 1990s only three countries Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and UAE have recognised. Today, the Taliban have forged new ties and made allies although most nations are adopting a "wait and watch" policy before recognising this new administration in Afghanistan.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan planting a tree after performing the groundbreaking of District Courts Complex. - DNA

Separate rules for poor and rich a tragedy: PM

PM blames the lack of rule of law for the state Pakistan is in today

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The tragedy of Pakistan is that there have been separate sets of rules for the poor and rich, believes Prime Minister Imran Khan. He expressed this belief during his speech at the groundbreaking of the Islamabad District Courts building on Tuesday. The prime minister spoke at length about the rule of law, speedy justice and development, highlighting where Pakistan went wrong. We used to see Pakistan moving forward and then it started moving backwards, Prime Minister Imran Khan said, recalling that

Continued on Page 06

'Will ensure transport facilities in Karachi'

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday while regretting that the past governments had neglected Karachi, the economic hub of Pakistan, resolved that the federal government would ensure transport facilities to the residents of country's largest city. The prime minister said it was amongst the government's top priorities to enable the labour class and manpower of Karachi to have an easy access to industries, so that they could earn their livelihood. The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with Minister for Planning Asad Umar who called on him to apprise the prime minister of the progress on different uplift projects in Karachi. The prime minister was further briefed that the approval process for initiation of New Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) would be completed soon. - DNA

Who is Mullah Hasan Akhund?

Akhund, who is on a UN sanctions list, hails from Kandahar, the birthplace of the Taliban

WEB DESK

KABUL: The Taliban have named Mullah Mohammad Hasan Akhund to lead their new interim government, nearly three weeks after the group seized control of the country. Mullah Akhund is the longtime head of the Taliban's powerful decision-making body Rehbari Shura, or leadership council. He was previously the foreign minister and then deputy prime minister during the Taliban's last stint in power from 1996-2001. Like many in the Taliban leadership, Mullah Akhund derives much of his prestige from his proximity to the movement's reclusive first leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar. Akhund, who is on a UN sanctions list, hails from Kandahar, the birthplace of the Taliban.

A UN sanctions report described him as a "close associate and political adviser" to Omar. Akhund is highly respected within the movement, especially by its supreme leader, Haibatullah Akhuzada, a Taliban source said. He is the author of several works on Islam.

High level postings in Pakistan Army

Lieutenant General Azhar Abbas has been appointed as the Chief of General Staff

NEHAL MIRAJ

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan army on Tuesday announced new postings and appointments in its ranks. In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that Lieutenant General Sahir Shamshad Mirza has been posted as the Commander Rawalpindi Corps and Lieutenant General Muhammad Chiragh Haider as the Commander Multan Corps. The ISPR said that Lieutenant General Azhar Abbas has been appointed as the Chief of General Staff. Similarly, Lieutenant General Muhammad Waseem Ashraf has been appointed as the Director-General Joint Staff Headquarters. In April this year, 37 brigadiers including two women officers of the Pakistan Army had been promoted to the rank of major-general,



al, the ISPR announced in a statement.

"Promotion board from Brigadier to Major General was held at General Headquarters. Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa presided

[the meeting]," the military's media wing said. On November 5 last year, six major generals of the Pakistan Army were promoted to the rank of lieutenant general, a statement issued by the ISPR said.

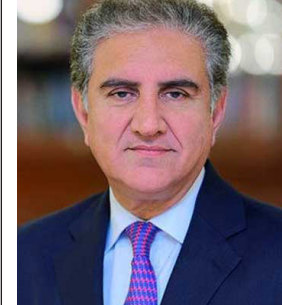
2 soldiers martyred

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Two Pakistan Army soldiers were martyred in an improvised explosive device (IED) attack in North Waziristan on Tuesday, the military's media affairs wing said. In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that security forces were conducting a clearance operation in the district's Dosalli area when the IED exploded. As a result, 25-year-old Sepoy Zia Akram and 20-year-old Sepoy Musawwar Khan were martyred, it said. Akram hailed from Muzafarabad while Khan was a resident of Bajaur, according to the ISPR. Pakistan Army troops immediately cordoned off the area to apprehend the terrorists who had planted the IED, the statement said. During intense exchange of fire, one of the terrorists, who were trying to flee, was killed, it added.

Romanian FM lauds Pakistan's support in Afghan evacuation

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi received a telephone call from Romanian foreign minister Bogdan Aurescu. Both the ministers discussed matters pertaining to mutual interest, particularly the Afghanistan situation. Romanian foreign minister appreciated Pakistani assistance in evacuating 49 Romanian citizens and an additional 156 Afghans from Afghanistan on the request of Romania. The Romanian foreign minister also lauded Pakistan's positive role for peace and stability in Afghanistan. It was further agreed upon to enhance the bilateral ties between the two countries in various fields.

PIA uplifts 5.9m doses from China

BEIJING: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) continues to uplift Covid-19 vaccines from China to Pakistan as its two special cargo flights transported a new batch of 5.9 million doses of vaccines from Beijing Capital International Airport to Islamabad. Special cargo flights - PK6852 and PK6853 took off from Beijing Capital Airport for Islamabad on Monday and Tuesday and transported 5.9 million doses, Qadir Bux Sangi, PIA Country Manager for China told APP here on Tuesday. One August 29, the national flag carriers airlifted around 12 million doses of anti-Covid-19 vaccines through its four special cargo flights. The PIA special flights PK-6852, PK-6853, PK-6854 and PK-6856 transported 12 million doses of Sinovac vaccine procured from China for vaccination of people under government's ongoing prevention and control drive against Covid-19 pandemic, he added. - APP

Covid-19 positivity below 7%

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan reported a coronavirus positivity rate of less than 7% for the seventh consecutive day, government data showed Tuesday morning. According to the NCOC, 52,314 COVID-19 tests were conducted across the country in the last 24 hours, of which 3,316 returned positive. The country has recorded less than 4,000 daily infections for nine out of 10 days since August 29. Per the official portal, the rate of positive cases during the last 24 hours was 6.33%. Since August 24, Pakistan's positivity rate has been under 7% on 13 out of 15 days. The number of deaths from COVID-19 in the country has risen to 26,330 after 98 people died from the virus.

Red list: several UK concerns removed

"We hope the British government will review its policy," Fawad Chaudhry says

Pakistan conveys its reservations to UK govt

ALI FURQAN

ISLAMABAD: The government has "removed" several reservations of the UK on the Pakistan's COVID data, Minister for Information Fawad Chaudhry said Tuesday, as the country seeks to exit Britain's travel red list. Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan spoke at length about Pakistan's coronavirus testing mechanism with Britain's chief medical scientist, Chaudhry said, as he addressed a post-cabinet meeting media briefing. "We hope the British government will review its policy," he added. Pakistan was retained on the red list, in the latest review of the country's travel ban, despite a diplomatic offensive by several top government officials. The British government said that it had decided to keep Pakistan on the travel ban red list because

the true number of COVID-19 cases are likely much higher than reported across the country, a leaked letter written by Britain's health minister revealed. A proposal was presented to the federal cabinet for non-Indian Punjabi films to be screened in Pakistan for the cinema industry's revival, the information minister said. The federal cabinet, giving its feedback, determined that permission to import all foreign movies except Indian should be given, the information minister said, adding that his ministry would present an amended proposal soon. "In the proposal, we will seek permission to allow foreign movies in Pakistan.

Continued on Page 06



Continued on Page 06

Inside...

ICCI ready to co-op with PBM for welfare of needy persons - Page 03

Consequences of marginalising the Taliban - Page 05

US praises Qatar's support in Afghan evacuations - Page 06

CPEC makes progress in areas including energy - Page 06

Briefs

CTP
committed
to improve
traffic flow

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) on the directives of Regional Police Officer (RPO) Rawalpindi Imran Ahmar is striving to improve flow of traffic on the city roads and was utilizing all available resources to remove encroachments. According to a CTP spokesman, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Traffic, New Town Circle Ali Rafique on Tuesday met with Chief Metropolitan Officer Ali Bukhari and representatives of the business community to improve the flow of traffic on Murree Road and Sadiqabad sector of New Town and eliminate encroachments. They discussed the complaints of the citizens about traffic congestion and encroachments in Sadiqabad sector and the proposal submitted on Pakistan Citizen Portal to close Naz Cinema U-turn.

Vice President Sadiqabad Haji Taj and General Secretary Rawalpindi Islamabad Business Union Arshad Usman Shami attended the meeting on behalf of the business community. They said that Naz Cinema U-turn should not be closed as the closure would increase the traffic pressure on Committee Chowk. They also assured the Chief Metropolitan Officer and DSP Traffic that the business community would cooperate fully with the traffic police and the metropolitan staff to improve the flow of traffic on Murree Road, Naz Cinema, Committee Chowk and Sadiqabad sector and eliminate encroachments. — APP

IBCC to
adopt E-filing
system

ISLAMABAD: Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC) has decided to implement E-office & E-filing system to make use of modern technology to expedite the office affairs at its Secretariat.

The decision was taken on the directives of Federal Minister for Education & Professional Training Mr Shafiqat Mahmood, during an important meeting of IBCC IT & Equivalence Team held here Tuesday.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Ghulam Ali Mallah, Secretary IBCC. While addressing the meeting, Dr Mallah said that it is an urgent need to adopt e-filing and office automation system to expedite the affairs of the organization. He added that the adoption of digital system would eliminate outdated office system and the new system would track the file which will lead to timely implementation of government policies and would also bring transparency in affairs of the organization. Dr Mallah appreciated the IT & Equivalence team for successful launch of IBCC web-portal & Mobile Apps for equivalence to facilitate general public. He directed the team to provide maximum assistance to the applicants for applying through IBCC web portal & Mobile App and resolve the issues related to digital payments. — APP

Three
pickpockets
arrested in
Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: Race Course police on Tuesday have arrested three who were allegedly involved in robbing passengers in public transport. According to a police spokesman, the accused namely Arif, Waris and Umair used to steal money and mobile phones from the passengers in public service vehicles. Police also recovered cash Rs 74,000 and a motorcycle from their possession, he said adding, they confessed to have committed crimes along with their accomplices. He informed that SHO Race Course and his team traced the accused with the help of modern technology and human intelligence. He said, their accomplices and facilitators would also be arrested soon. Superintendent of Police, Potohar said that those who deprive the citizens of their valuable assets cannot escape the law. — APP

PAF is prepared to defend
sovereignty of Pakistan: CAS

Air Chief paid tribute to all heroes of Pakistan Air Force who responded to the nation's call with unparalleled courage and put their lives ahead of others for a cause greater than life

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PAF observed 07 September as Martyrs' Day at all PAF Bases throughout the country. The day started with special Du'aa and Quran Khawani for the Shuhada of 1965 & 1971 Wars and those who laid down their lives in action since creation of Pakistan. Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force was the Chief Guest during a Martyrs' Day Ceremony held at Air Headquarters, Islamabad. During his address the Air Chief paid tribute to all heroes of Pakistan Air Force who responded to the nation's call with unparalleled courage and put their lives ahead of others for a cause greater than life. "PAF is alive to the evolving situation in the region and remains fully prepared to defend sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakistan, said the Air Chief.



On this special day, he extended reverence to the generations of Kashmiris who have laid down their lives fighting for freedom. He assured Kashmiri brothers and sisters of resolute commitment and steadfast moral, political and diplomatic support.

To pay homage to the martyrs, the Air Chief laid floral wreath at the Martyrs' Monument and offered "Fateha". Principal Staff Officers, officers, airmen and PAF civilians attended the ceremony.

Earlier in the day, a wreath laying ceremony was also held at the grave of Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed, (Nisahan-i-Haider) at Karachi.

Air Vice Marshal Zaem Afzal Air Officer Commanding, Southern Air Command, offered "Fateha" and laid floral wreath at the grave of the Shaheed on behalf of Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force. Similar wreath laying ceremonies were also held at the graves of PAF Martyrs all over the country.

RCCI urges for new trade
avenues and promoting trade

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) urged the Government to explore new trade avenues and strengthen regional trade ties. Pakistani products are in high demand in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. Acting President RCCI, Osman Ashraf in a statement said that "The country's exports can be increased by promoting regional trade. We need to find new markets". Pakistan can benefit from greater trade with Central Asian Republics (CARs) which are abundant in Oil, Gas and energy resources. There is a need to sign more transit and preferential trade agreements with these countries, he urged.



Half of the world's population lives in this region. Pakistan, Russia, China, Central Asian countries and SAARC countries can form a new economic bloc, he added. Acting President Osman Ashraf said that "Exports have been affected by the

lockdown, but we have to promote our products through virtual platforms". "In the current challenging situation, there is a huge opportunity for us to re-examine our market and products," he said. Through the virtual plat-

form, chambers can liaise with the government to identify different sectors and industrial zones, as well as sharing information of respective trade sectors with commercial consuls abroad. He said that the bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and CARs is less than a billion dollars and efforts can be put forth and we can double our trade volumes within the next couple of years.

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) offers great regional connectivity and integration from South Asia, Central Asia and beyond," he added. However, he urged that there was a need to improve the banking channel, transportation, road and rail network so that perishable goods could get more sustainability.

FDE prohibits
teachers from
wearing jeans

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) has introduced a new dress code for teachers, prohibiting the educationists from wearing jeans, tights and t-shirts during the duty hours, it emerged on Tuesday. In a notification, the FDE directed the teachers to wear teaching gowns in class and lab coats in the laboratory. The FDE has prohibited female teachers from wearing jeans or tights, while male teachers can't wear jeans and T-shirts. The FDE reasoned that research has proven that attire has an influence on people's perceptions and is more than just about something you are wearing.

"At first instance, the outlook imposes a very positive expectation subjective to the

likeness and behaviour pattern of the students," read the FDE notification.

For female teachers, a "simple and decent shalwar kameez/trousers shirt with dupatta/shawl" has been recommended by the regulatory authority.

Only formal shoes, which include pumps, loafers and mules, are allowed. But owing to long-standing hours during teaching, comfortable shoes like sneakers and sandals can be worn as well.

The teachers wearing headscarves will be allowed to wear scarves and hijab, it added.

Male teachers will not be allowed to wear shawls (chadars) during winter, but can wear sweaters, coats and jerseys. If a male teacher is coming in to work wearing shalwar kameez, he has to wear a waistcoat with it.

Govt releases
funds for
aviation
projects

ISLAMABAD: The government has released funds amounting 374.418 million in the current fiscal year 2021-22 so far to execute around 17 ongoing aviation sector projects under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP 2021-22).

According to Planning Commission, the government earmarked funds amounting to Rs 35,558.200 million for advancement of 17 ongoing Aviation sector schemes in the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP 2021-22).

As per the PSDP document, an amount of Rs11.077 million has been allocated for construction of double story Ladies Hostel/Barrack with provision of third storey along with Mess, Recreation Hall and allied facilities at Allama Iqbal International Airport, Rs37.581 million for construction 2X double storey Barrack with provision of third storey for Corporal to Inspectors and Assistant Director along with separate Mess and allied facilities, Recreation Hall at Quetta Airport, Rs20 million for construction of Barrack accommodation for ASF personnel along with Mess and allied facilities, Ladies Rest Room MT, Store, Kote Magazine, Quarter Guard and OC Accommodation/Room at Skardu Airport. — APP

PMDU
registers
3.4m citizens

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Delivery Unit (PMDU) has so far registered 3.4 million citizens from different areas of the country including local, overseas Pakistanis, and foreigners to provide better and swift assistance to redress civic complaints. According to three years, the performance of PMDU registered complaints by social segments; complaints of vulnerable segments of society were treated specially, special flags were used to distinguish them while protecting identity.

The complaints, registered pertaining to special citizens were 47 percent, minorities 47 percent, women 45 percent, and senior citizens 35 percent, were received from all the provinces of Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Islamabad, AJK, and GB.

The PMDU category wise complaints were registered comprised of municipal services 45 percent, Law and Order 56 percent, Education 46 percent, Transport, and Communications 45 percent, Energy and Power 44 percent, Health 47 percent, Land Revenue 32 percent, human rights 41 percent and Licenses certificates and registrations 62 percent.

PMDU highlighted the ratio of public registration on the portal at the local and abroad level, efficient complaint resolution and facilitation system and success stories of the complainants granted relief.

The success stories on various issues noted accounts of relief granted. — APP

NH&MP
to create
road safety
awareness

ISLAMABAD: Road Safety Awareness Unit of the National Highways and Motorway Police Headquarters Zone on Tuesday started drive to educate the masses about road safety measures.

In order to create awareness among public, the Motorway Police officials were visiting bus stand managers and drivers, factories, educational institutions, madrassas, mosques and various offices to impart complete awareness about road safety, said a NH&MP statement issued here.

NH&MP termed road safety awareness as a shared responsibility of entire society, parents, teachers and concerned institutions. Road Safety Unit is also conducting seminars and workshops at various higher educational institutions aiming to impart useful information about road safety.

Young motorcyclists should always wear a safety helmet while riding for their own safety. — APP

Experts hold discussion on Afghan peace
process, highlight Russia's role in Afghanistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) had a Panel Discussion on 'Conversations on the evolving situation in Afghanistan: Russia's Role in Afghanistan,' fifth in a series of conversations CAMEA is having on Afghanistan - under its conversations on the evolving situation Afghan series. The distinguished speakers included: Ambassador Omar Samad, Nonresident Senior Fellow Atlantic Council; Dr. Alexander A. Kornilov, Prof. Dr. at Lobachevsky State University of Nizhni Novgorod, Head of Region Studies of Foreign Countries; Dr. Nigel Gould-Davies, Senior Fellow for Russia and Eurasia at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS); Ambassador Qazi M. Khalilullah, Executive Director Center for International



Strategic Studies Sindh (CISSS) & Former Ambassador of Pakistan to Russia; Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI, and Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG, ISSI, also took part in the discussion.

During her opening remarks, Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA, said that with the US withdrawal, the real test for Afghanistan has only just begun. It is imperative for the Taliban to engage with Afghan stakehold-

ers and form a government that is inclusive and representative of all Afghans. This is a historic opportunity for all Afghans to come together and work for the future of Afghanistan. Despite previous differences, regional stakeholders, including Russia are coming out of the woodwork to assume a more substantive role in the future of Afghanistan. Pakistan, Iran, Russia, China, and the Central Asian nations appear to have a common (regional) vision for the future of Afghan-

istan, which entails regional ownership, recognition of a negotiated settlement with the Afghan Taliban as a key component, inclusive political set up, as well as curbing transnational terrorist group, the illegal flow of arms and trade. Needless to say, in such trying times, Russia's role has been revitalized as a supportive regional actor highlighting Moscow's keen involvement in the peace process and its desire to showcase itself as a leading player and advocate for peace and stability in the region.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad said that Russia has been striving hard for a peaceful Afghanistan and we see quite a bit of congruence between Russia and all regional countries in their approach towards amnesty in Afghanistan. Though the Taliban have given assurances, the challenges have however, only begun and we have yet to see to what extent will the Taliban live up to their commitments. It appears that

at the moment all regional countries, including Russia are in a wait and see mode. Dr. Alexander A. Kornilov said that Afghanistan cannot be conquered and cannot be won. Russia is not interested in the disintegration of Afghanistan. Officials in Russia have made it clear that if the Government in Afghanistan partners with regional countries, it will be able to counter all external and violent threats within the country.

The sooner the Taliban form a government, the easier it would be for the group to communicate with other countries. Hence, in this regard, they should make a framework that ensures regional security. He also pointed out that Qatar and Turkey will now be actively and deeply involved in the process in Kabul. He said that the future government must be representative and inclusive, which will be sustainable for a certain period without facing any major internal political threat.

Armed Forces are our strength: Bakhtawari

DNA

RAWALPINDI: On the occasion of Pakistan Defence Day, a function was organized by the Pakistan Cultural Forum at the Punjab Arts Council Rawalpindi to pay tribute to the martyrs & Veterans of the Pakistan Armed Forces. Poets, writers and intellectuals from all walks of life participated in the event.

Addressing the function, Chairman Pakistan Cultural Forum Zafar Bakhtawari said that Pakistan Armed Forces is our strength. Scientists and engineers as well as Pakistan Armed Forces have an important role to play in making Pakistan a nuclear power. The ideology of Allama Iqbal not only gives Armed Forces a new spirit and the aspirations of a greater Pakistan, but it also shaped their vision, as a result of which today a new Pakistan, a dignified Pakistan, is emerging throughout the region. He further said that The end of Afghan war will establishment regional peace and prosperity through roads and railways connectivity, which will also make Pakistan a regional power. He paid homage to the services of Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa and DG ISI General Faiz Hameed in

establishing peace in Afghanistan. He said on the occasion of Pakistan Defence and Martyrs' Day, that we should not only remember the martyrs and veterans but also their families in the true sense of the word. We should also brought

their families forward as long as The mission of the martyrs will not be able to reach its full potential in our society.

Addressing the writers and poets present at the event, Zafar Bakhtawari said that there are only those

states remembered in the history which were based on intellect, philosophy and ideology so we have to bring forward writers, poets and intellectuals to shed light on their thoughts and ideas. We should build a society that respect our

civilization and culture throughout the region and has an impact on the world at large.

Today, the poets who have paid homage to the martyrs and veterans with their poetry has done a great job through which an ideal societies can be formed.

Addressing the function, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that we are fortunate to be breathing in the open air and it is because of our brave army that we are save in great Pakistan. He further said that we should remember our martyrs and veterans through such events.

The speeches delivered at today's event are commendable. Speaking on the occasion of Martyrs' Day, renowned poet and member of finance CDA Shakeel Jazib said that we are proud of our martyrs and veterans through whom we can look at enemy eye with bravery. We should keep enlighten about the sacrifices to the nation of martyrs forever.

Prominent poets Ali Akbar Abbas, Naseem Sehar, Hassan Abbas Raza, Mehboob Zafar, Rana Saeed Doshi, Dr Junaid Azar and Shahbaz Chauhan also paid homage to the martyrs and veterans with their poetry on Defence Day Of Pakistan.



RAWALPINDI: Zafar Bakhtawari Chairman Pakistan Cultural Forum is speaking at a function to mark Defence Day of Pakistan at Rawalpindi art council. Sardar Yasir Ilyas President ICCI, Shakeel Jazib Member Finance CDA, Ali Akbar Abbas and Naseem Sahar are also present at the stage. — DNA

War is over, but questions remain

THE United States rushed the final chapter of its two-decade occupation of Afghanistan in a chaotic, fraught and even bloody departure, leaving the war-ravaged country in the hands of the enemy, Taliban. Years from now, two images will remain etched in the history books that define what most American analysts describe as 'humiliating defeat in Afghanistan'. The image of Major General Donahue, taken by a Pentagon photographer with night-vision lenses, as he boarded the final flight, a military C-17 aircraft, out of Kabul and the image of Taliban fighters firing in the air to celebrate taking full control of the Hamid Karzai International Airport will be the seminal images of this war. America for years has sought an honourable way out of its 'forgotten' and longest running war in Afghanistan. But few expected its exit would be hasty and humiliating, leaving the Taliban to declare victory over "a great power", as noted by Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, who described final retreat by the US forces as "historical day and a historical moment." The Taliban spokesman may have overshot here but the reality is that it was unexpectedly a uniquely bizarre end to a war that took the lives of nearly 2,500 American soldiers and 240,000 Afghans, and cost around \$2 trillion. It was a brazen failure overseen by one man who should expect a harsh unforgiving judgment from history as well as from the American public opinion: President Joe Biden. His defenders may claim that the president, who campaigned in the 2020 election on his strength in foreign affairs, inherited a 20-year losing war from his three predecessors and his decision to leave was basically to cut US losses and save lives. But the fact is that his administration failed – in the end – to even organise a pullout that was supposedly years in planning. The administration failed to understand the military situation in a country it had occupied for 20 years, underestimated the ability and swiftness of Taliban's takeover of major cities and overestimated the capabilities of the Afghan government and army. In his statement late Monday, President Biden said his decision to end the US presence in Afghanistan was based on "unanimous recommendation of the Joint Chiefs and of all of our commanders on the ground to end our airlift mission as planned." He said the US had achieved its objectives in Afghanistan "long ago" – mainly ousting the Taliban and preventing Al Qaeda to use Afghanistan as a base for further terror attacks. Biden will of course face many questions in the coming days and years, from the American public and disappointed allies. They need to know why he botched a supposedly long planned exit, leaving Afghanistan in the hands of a stronger, empowered Taliban.

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Lessons from India's farmer protests

IF there was really a way for the Modi government to negotiate an end to the farmer protest that has paralysed Delhi, then protesting farmers wouldn't be encamped just outside the capital since November. Therefore it is a little difficult to understand just what the Indian government means by implying that it is ready to talk to the farmers; even this late in the day. The protesters have simply rejected the legislation that deregulated the entire sector and gave it to corporations to enhance efficiency and cut losses, because they see it as more like throwing them to the wolves because big companies wouldn't think twice before tossing a very large number of them out of work just to protect their bottom lines. This has become a pretty big problem because about a two-thirds of India's huge 1.3 billion population draws its livelihood directly from farming which means that there, just like here, this sector has the most families associated with it. And most of them struggled to survive even with government support; which explains the abnormally high number of farmer suicides in that country. One would have thought that the government would be a little sympathetic to the plight of the segment of society that gives the whole country its food, regardless of rain or sunshine, but it turns out that the Modi administration is far more concerned with pleasing powerful corporations that underwrite many of its election campaigns. But the farmers must be given credit for their tenacity because they have simply refused to budge from their position regardless of the kind of pressure the government has tried to put on them; with includes everything under the sky including very harsh police action, on more than one occasion. Now the government itself is in a fix. It's obvious that it cannot shove the new rules down the farmers' throats, even though it's proper legislation, and it can't just back down and lose political credibility as well as its clout with powerful corporations whose money it needs every few years. Plus with crucial elections coming up in the country's most populous state Uttar Pradesh, home to 200 million people and governed by the ruling BJP, it could find itself firmly stuck between a rock and a very hard place. But the ruling party has only itself, and its dictatorial mindset, to blame for its present impasse. It will have to water down its anti-farmer legislation. The only question is how long it will take before realising it.

Consequences of marginalising the Taliban

Hujjatullah Zia

The Taliban could also have been consulted in the constitution-drafting process. In fact, their representatives would not have stood out that much in the Loya Jirga that passed the constitution since there were a number of conservative figures and religious clerics, including Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, Burhanuddin Rabbani, and Skeikh Asif Mohsini in attendance, who were also insisting on their conservative interpretations of Islamic law. In their defeat, the Taliban leaders may have been more likely to be flexible on certain issues and more likely to engage in dialogue to resolve disagreements

AS the world is coming to grips with the sudden change of regime in Afghanistan, it is important to reflect on what led to this point. So far analyses have focused on the corruption and weakness of the Afghan state set up after the US-NATO invasion of the country in 2001 and on the disarray in the Afghan armed forces. But it is important to consider another aspect of the story – the Taliban's refusal to negotiate with the Afghan government, which it saw as illegitimate and its determination to wipe it out. Why was the group so relentless on this? Much of it has to do with decisions that were made mainly by the invading Western forces and their Afghan allies in the 2000s to exclude the Taliban from the nation-building experiment they launched. In December 2001, a few weeks after the Western forces and their Afghan allies took Kabul from the Taliban, a conference was held in Bonn, Germany to set up the new Afghan government. Attendees included the Northern Alliance, which fought alongside the Western allies, the Peshawar Group of Pakistan-exiled Afghan Pashtuns, the Rome Group of royalists, and the Cyprus Group of Afghans with ties to Iran. The Taliban, however, was not invited and decisions about the first steps of building the Afghan state were taken without it. Then in 2002, an emergency Loya Jirga (grand national assembly) was convened, where a transitional government led by Hamid Karzai was elected. The Taliban once again was not invited. In 2003, a Constitutional Commission was set up to start the constitution drafting process, including public consultations, but again the Taliban was excluded from these proceedings. The constitution was passed by a Loya Jirga in 2004, with its provisions guaranteeing women's fundamental rights and liberties, reflecting democratic principles and expressing the commitment of the new government to the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The consequences of the Taliban's exclusion from the post-2001 power arrangement have been significant. The Taliban could neither tolerate this marginalisation from the social and

political decision-making in Kabul, nor reconcile its hardline ideology with constitutional rights and liberties. Feeling sidelined at the national and international level, the Taliban regrouped and relaunched offensive attacks against the Afghan government and its Western allies. In the following years, the Taliban inflicted heavy casualties and unnecessary pain and suffering on the Afghan people. It showed no signs of moderating its hardline position on religion.

One could argue that the inclusion of the Taliban in the Bonn Conference would have been problematic and the Northern Alliance would have sought to block it, while families of Taliban victims would have protested it. Taliban presence in the Loya Jirga deliberating the constitution could also have been a barrier to approving the provisions granting women their rights and liberties and protecting human rights in general. Nonetheless, it is possible that the inclusion of the Taliban in the 2001 administration in some form would have been viable and that would have had a positive impact. The US and its NATO allies could have pressured the Northern Alliance to accept it, conditioning their financial support on the establishment of an inclusive government – the way they are doing now with the Taliban. The Taliban could also have been consulted in the constitution-drafting process. In fact, their representatives would not have stood out that much in the Loya Jirga that passed the constitution since there were a number of conservative figures and religious clerics, including Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, Burhanuddin Rabbani, and Skeikh Asif Mohsini in attendance, who were also insisting on their conservative interpretations of Islamic law. In their defeat, the Taliban leaders may have been more likely to be flexible on certain issues and more likely to engage in dialogue to resolve disagreements. The whole inclusion process may have moderated their religious views and politics and made their stance less stringent. It may also have reflected on their supporters within the Afghan population, which would not have felt as excluded and marginalised by the new Afghan administration.

Some officials have already expressed regret for not making the Taliban part of the political transition in Afghanistan. As Zalmay Khalilzad, the US special envoy for Afghanistan, wrote in his book, *The Envoy*: "The delegates represented Afghanistan's diversity, but the Taliban were not present. In retrospect, some have suggested that we erred in not encouraging the Taliban to participate in the Emergency Loya Jirga." Unfortunately, no serious efforts were made to reach out to the Taliban until it was too late. Having made spectacular territorial gains in the past five years, the Taliban negotiated from the position of strength, not of weakness in the US-Taliban and intra-Afghan talks, and its leadership was, therefore, much more uncompromising. After returning triumphant to Kabul 20 years after being expelled by a foreign force, the Taliban is now approaching other factions from the position of power. One of the Taliban's main negotiators is Anas Haqqani, a leader of the Haqqani Network, which is still on the US list of terrorist groups. Haqqani is a headline figure and is unlikely to make compromises on the application of a conservative interpretation of Islamic law. Apart from the hardliners in the leadership, who are pressing for Islamic law, the group's rank and file, as well as supporters among the civilian population, are also expecting a religiously conservative regime to be established. Not doing so would risk alienating a lot of these people, which is not something the Taliban leadership can afford to do at the onset of its government in Afghanistan. The only course of action left for the US and its Western allies is to try to pressure the Taliban by withholding international recognition or financial assistance. How successful that would be remains to be seen. However, it is for now clear that women's and minority rights as well as democratic principles will suffer a setback in Afghanistan. Afghans have paid a heavy price for the miscalculations and failed policies pursued by Kabul and Washington in the past two decades. This is the sad outcome of the Taliban's exclusion from the post-2001 administration.

– Courtesy Al Jazeera

How many Palestinians must die for Israel's 'security'?

Ramzy Baroud



The emphasis on "killing" in response to any form of Palestinian protests seems to be the common denominator between Israeli officials, military leaders and even ordinary soldiers. The latter, who are purportedly behind the social media campaign, appear to be enjoying their time at the Gaza perimeter. Israeli snipers, according to their own testimonies

A LARGE Israeli army campaign is taking social media by storm. The unstated aim of what is known as the "#Untie_Our_Hands" initiative is the desire to kill, with no accountability, more Palestinian protesters at the Gaza perimeter fence. The campaign was motivated by the killing of an Israeli sniper, Barel Hadaria Shmueli, who was reportedly shot from the Palestinian side of the barrier on Aug. 21. An immediate question comes to mind: What do Israeli soldiers want, considering that they have already killed over 300 unarmed Palestinian protesters, and wounded and maimed thousands more at the Gaza fence during what Palestinians referred to as the "Great March of Return" between 2018 and 2020? This "march" is now being renewed, though it often takes place at night, with frustrated Palestinian youth gathering in their thousands, chanting anti-Israeli occupation slogans and, at times, throwing rocks at Israeli forces. Months after the Israeli onslaught on Gaza – a relatively brief, but deadly, war from May 10-21 – the stifling status quo in the besieged enclave has not changed: The hermetic Israeli siege, the snipers, the occasional nightly bombardment, devastating unemployment, closures, and a lack of vital supplies from clean water to cement to even cancer medication. So it should be no surprise that Palestinians in Gaza, especially the youth, desperately seek a platform to express their justifiable rage at this continuing misery – thus, the renewed mass protests at the fence. Israeli politicians and media intentionally exaggerate the "threat" posed by Gaza protesters to Israel's security. They speak of "incendiary balloons" as if these were 500-pound bombs dropped by fighter jets. They are terrified by the prospect of Gaza youth "breaching the border," with reference to fences that Israel has arbitrarily established around Gaza without respecting any ceasefire demarcations as recognized by the UN. This fear-mongering is now back with a vengeance, with the killing of the Israeli sniper offering Israeli

politicians the opportunity to present themselves as defenders of the army and champions of Israeli "security." A political witch hunt quickly followed regarding those who are supposedly "cuffing the hands of our troops." This same assertion was made by Naftali Bennett in 2019 before he became the country's prime minister. "The high court is cuffing the hands of Israel Defense Force troops," Bennett said, vowing to "free the IDF from the high court." A year earlier, Bennett offered more details on how he intends to end Palestinian protests at the Gaza barrier. Responding to a question during an Israeli Army Radio interview on what he would do if he were the country's defense minister, he replied: "I would not allow terrorists to cross the border from Gaza every day, and if they do, we should shoot to kill. Terrorists from Gaza should not enter Israel. Just as in Lebanon, Syria or anywhere else, we should shoot to kill." The emphasis on "killing" in response to any form of Palestinian protests seems to be the common denominator between Israeli officials, military leaders and even ordinary soldiers. The latter, who are purportedly behind the social media campaign, appear to be enjoying their time at the Gaza perimeter. Israeli snipers, according to their own testimonies, keep track of the number of Palestinians they shoot, try to break each other's records, and cheer on video when they document a "clean shot" of a Palestinian protester, demonstrating the horrific violence meted out against Palestinian youth. Israeli snipers at the Gaza border wall work in pairs. A third person, known as the "locator," helps the snipers locate their next target. Eden, an Israeli sniper who gave testimony to the Israeli newspaper Haaretz, in March 2020, revealed his pride at the grisly milestone that he and his team achieved. "On that day, our pair had the largest number of hits, 42 in all," he said. "My locator wasn't supposed to shoot, but I gave him a break, because we were getting close to the end of our stint, and he didn't have knees. In the end you want to leave with the feeling that you did something, that you

weren't a sniper during exercises only. So, after I had a few hits, I suggested to him that we switch. He got around 28 knees there, I'd say." Such testimonies are further validated by video footage of Israeli snipers celebrating after shooting Palestinian youth at the perimeter. In April 2018, a video of cheering soldiers, along with dialogue that indicates that some Israelis have no regard for Palestinian lives whatsoever, was leaked to international media. Even CNN reported on it. This violent phenomenon is not confined to Gaza. The debate on Israel's "shoot-to-kill" policy in the occupied Palestinian territories has been raging for years. In 2017, Human Rights Watch linked the increased number of Palestinians killed at the hands of trigger-happy soldiers to the violent discourse emanating from the Israeli government itself. HRW "has documented numerous statements since October 2015, by senior Israeli politicians, including the police minister and defense minister, calling on police and soldiers to shoot to kill suspected attackers, irrespective of whether lethal force is actually strictly necessary to protect life," the report read. This issue was highlighted by the execution of an incapacitated Palestinian, Abdel Fattah Al-Sharif, in the occupied city of Al-Khalil, Hebron, in March 2016, and by the killing of Ahmad Erekat at a military checkpoint in the West Bank in July 2020. Not only did Erekat pose no immediate threat to the lives of the occupation soldiers, but according to a statement by 83 Palestinian and international NGOs, he "was left to bleed to death for an hour and a half while the Israeli occupying forces denied him access to medical care." Considering the disproportionate number of Palestinian casualties, it is difficult to understand what Israeli soldiers, army generals and politicians want when they speak of "untying their hands." Far more bewildering is the international community's apathy while Israelis debate how many more Palestinians ought to be killed.

– Courtesy: Arab News

Briefs

Taliban unfurl 'not all-inclusive' government

FROM PAGE 01
the group will "try to take people from other parts of the country". The Taliban, who swept to power last month, had been expected to announce a government since the US-led evacuation was completed at the end of August. They have promised an "inclusive" government that represents Afghanistan's complex ethnic makeup - though women are unlikely to be included at the top levels.

It was not clear what role in the government would be played by Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada, the Taliban leader, who has not been seen or heard in public since the collapse of the Western-backed government and the takeover of Kabul by the Taliban in August. In response to questions about the Taliban's handling of protests, Zabihullah said that illegal demonstrations would not be allowed. He said protesters must observe the rules during the current emergency in the country. He dismissed the claims by protesters about Pakistani interference in Afghanistan, saying they were rumors that had been circulated for two decades.

Pak among six states invited for...

FROM PAGE 01
Sources told Islamabad Post that it is being considered at the highest level that who will represent Islamabad. Most probably foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi would represent Pakistan in the inaugural ceremony. PM Imran has also summoned a high level meeting on Wednesday to discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

Red list: several UK concerns...

FROM PAGE 01
In the 70's we had 780 cinemas which have been cut down to 78, so if we don't take immediate steps for the film and cinema industry's revival, it will collapse." The information minister said practical steps had been taken and a package for the film and cinema industry would be announced next week.

Briefing the media about other decisions taken during the cabinet meeting, he said the price of Remdesivir - a drug used to treat patients with COVID-19 - had been lowered from Rs5,680 to Rs3,967. Chaudhry said a detailed discussion was held on electoral reforms, with Adviser to the Prime Minister on Parliamentary Affairs Babar Awan, Federal Minister for Science and Technology Shibli Faraz, and Minister for IT and Telecom Syed Amin ul Haq giving detailed briefings to the cabinet in this regard.

The information minister reiterated the claim that "no sitting government" had proposed electoral reforms, and PTI is the "first" to do so. "Nawaz Sharif's PML-N has never won an election without rigging, which is why they are not interested in changing the system."

If the system fails and becomes neutral then the Sharif family has "no future" in politics, he added. "[PML-N Vice-President] Maryam Nawaz and [PPP Chairman] Bilawal Bhutto Zardari can become the prime ministers in case Pakistan's fortunes take a turn for the worst or there is intense rigging - there is no other way for them to become prime ministers," he said.

The information minister said no Opposition member has held talks with the government over electronic voting machines, nor have they reviewed the bills in this regard. "Sitting at their homes, they reject all electoral reforms saying 'we don't accept it'," he lamented, adding such an "inept" and "incompetent" Opposition had "never existed" in Pakistan.

The information minister said PML-N and PPP leaders' politics revolved around getting extensions in the hearings of their cases, so the court does not decide against them, as he continued to slam them for not paying heed to reforms and policymaking.

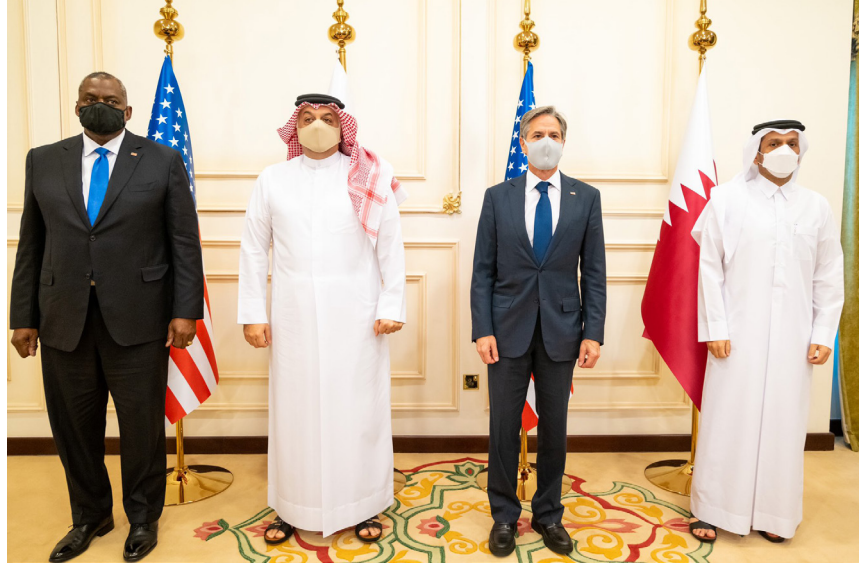
US praises Qatar's support in Afghan evacuations

Blinken and Austin's visit came after the Taliban on Monday claimed total control over Afghanistan, saying it won the key battle for the Panjshir Valley, the last remaining holdout against its rule

AGENCIES

DOHA: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin have met with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and other top Qatari officials in Doha for talks on Afghanistan - shortly after the Taliban claimed to have taken full control of the country. Blinken and Austin are the most senior US officials to visit the Gulf since the Taliban's lightning seizure of Afghanistan in August. Qatar, which hosts a major US airbase, has been the gateway for 58,000 people airlifted out of Afghanistan, nearly half the total number evacuated by US-led forces after the Taliban's takeover, Blinken said on Tuesday. In a meeting with Qatar's Emir on Monday night, Blinken thanked the Gulf state ruler for "Qatar's extraordinary support in facilitating the safe transit of US citizens, our partners, and other Afghans at risk" during the US's chaotic military pullout from Afghanistan, according to a Department of State readout.

On Tuesday, Blinken and Austin met with Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani and defence chief Khalid bin Mohamed Al Attiyah. Blinken said Washington would continue to work with Qatar and other regional partners to evacuate US citizens and vulnerable Afghans from Afghanistan. "Many countries



have stepped up to help the evacuation and relocation efforts in Afghanistan, but no country has done more than Qatar," Blinken said in a joint news conference with Austin and their Qatari counterparts on Tuesday. "The strongest relationship that we and Qatar have built through this evacuation and relocation effort I know is going to pay continued dividends across these so many other key areas in the months and years ahead," Blinken said. "What Qatar has done here - for Americans, for Afghans, for citizens of many other countries - will be remembered for a long, long time," he added. Qatar's foreign minister, meanwhile, said Qatari teams were continuing to work towards re-opening Kabul international airport, which the Taliban took control of when US troops left on August 30. "We have already dispatched our teams

there to provide technical assistance that is required to bring the airport and make it up and running again," he said. "We have fixed a lot of the elements over there and we are about to get everything operational very soon."

However, he added: "We didn't reach yet an agreement on how to manage or to run the airport. We are continuing the humanitarian support and we are chartering, almost on a daily basis, flights with humanitarian aid and also receiving supplies from different countries with humanitarian aid". The US officials were not due to meet any of the Taliban's Doha representatives, but State Department official Dean Thompson said Washington would continue to engage with the group "to ensure our messaging with them is clear". Blinken is set to depart Qatar on Wednesday for the US airbase in Ramstein, Germany. Austin is scheduled to travel to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Kuwait.

Qatar has been uniquely positioned as an interlocutor between various interest groups as the situation in Afghanistan deteriorated. The Gulf country hosts the Taliban's political office in Doha, which opened in 2013, and subsequently hosted talks between Washington and the group that concluded in 2020 with a troop withdrawal agreement. It was followed by direct negotiations between the Taliban and the Afghan government.

Pakistan conveys its reservations to UK govt

FROM PAGE 01
Dominic Raab responded that Pakistan's suggestions would duly be considered and responded back in next week. Following the British Foreign Secretary's assurance the Prime Ministers special assistant on health Faisal Sultan talked to his counterpart and discuss Pakistan's coronavirus testing mechanism. Sources in the British embassy in Islamabad told Islamabad Post that the COVID-19 data provided by the Pakistan was not scientifically accepted by their medical scientists. He says that their is big gap between the COVID-19 patients ratio and the number of deaths in Pakistan which is scientifically difficult to accept.

Separate rules for poor and...

FROM PAGE 01
The country was moving towards development in the sixties, but then things gradually started going downhill. Comparing Pakistan with other poor countries like India and Bangladesh, he said we were far behind and that these countries have taken the lead. The premier blamed the lack of rule of law for the state Pakistan is in today. "We have been left behind due to lack of rule of law," he said, highlighting that the powerful and influential segments of society always want to be above the law. PM Imran Khan said former military ruler General (retired) Pervez Musharraf had no right to promulgate the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) under which cases against many politicians, political workers and bureaucrats were withdrawn. "The biggest injustice Gen Musharraf did to the country was giving NRO," the premier said, adding that Musharraf didn't have a right to give NRO to the powerful because the looted money was not his but the nation's. "Only a society that upholds the rule of law is prosperous," Prime Minister Imran Khan said. The weak want justice and the strong want to be above justice, PM Imran Khan said, assuring to extend every possible cooperation to the judiciary in dispensing speedy and inexpensive justice to the common man. The PM noted that supremacy of law is important to take forward to uplift the society. The provision of justice to the masses is our priority, he said. The premier said he was proud of being part of the 2007 lawyers' movement which was aimed at strengthening democracy and ensuring rule of law. He called it a "historic" struggle. The premier, however, regretted that the movement could not achieve its desired results.



SARGODHA: GOC-III Air Defense Maj. Gen. Asif Mahmood Goraya and Divisional Sports officer Tariq Nazir in a group photo with the winning team after a friendly hockey match between Maj. Shabir Sharif Shaheed hockey team and Maj. Aziz Bhatti Shaheed hockey team to mark the Defence Day of Pakistan played at hockey stadium. - DNA

Tributes pour in for Geelani at references held in Canada

DNA

OTTAWA: Syed Ali Shah Geelani was a towering personality who used his unwavering courage, resoluteness and steadfastness to wage a lifelong struggle for the cause of freedom and self-determination for the people of Kashmir, and inspired generations of freedom-loving Kashmiris, Pakistanis and the Muslims around the world in the process. This was the crux of thoughts and feelings

expressed by speakers and human rights activities at two back-to-back virtual condolence references arranged respectively by the Pakistan High Commission in Canada and the Salam Pakistan Canada to pay homage to the great Kashmiri leader who breathed his last on Wednesday. In the first reference hosted by Consul General of Pakistan Toronto Mr Abdul Hameed, former AJK President Sardar Masood Khan led the tributes to late Syed Ali Geelani whom

he described as a towering personality who suffered persecution all his life but did not flinch back in the path of freedom. The most outstanding aspect of Geelani sahib's personality was the absolute and unqualified trust Kashmiris of all schools of thought reposed in him, he said. Pakistan's High Commissioner-designate to Canada Mr Ameer Khurram Rathore extolled virtues of integrity, character, and charisma as being the hallmark of Syed

Ali Geelani's personality. He also lauded late Geelani for his ability to mobilize millions of Kashmiris and a clear vision he always exhibited to see through the fog of confusion manufactured by various so-called initiatives for diverting Kashmiris from their real objective of self-determination. Former Pakistan ambassador Mr Karamatullah Ghori eulogized Syed Ali Geelani for dedicating all his life to the goal of freedom and self-determination.

Qatar hands over Kuwait the Arab League presidency

His Excellency reiterated Qatar's firm and supportive stance for the Palestine cause and the rights of the brotherly Palestinian people

CAIRO: The Permanent Representative of Qatar to the Arab League Ambassador HE Salem Mubarak Al Shafi handed over the presidency of the Arab League at the delegate level to Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the Arab League Ambassador HE Ahmad Abdul Rahman Al Baker during the 156th session of the Arab League on Tuesday, in preparation for the Arab League's meetings at the level of foreign ministers scheduled for Thursday. In a speech before handing over the presidency, Ambassador Al Shafi said that Arab nations are going through rapid developments, the effects of which are certainly reflected on all its vital issues, foremost of which is the Palestine cause, which still represents the first Arab issue that cannot be circumvented or undermine its status and symbolism among the Arab people. His Excellency reiterated Qatar's firm and supportive stance for the Palestine cause and the rights of the brotherly Palestinian people, foremost of which is their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on the borders of June 4, 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the Arab Peace Initiative and the foundations on which it was based, foremost of which is the two-state solution. - Agencies



Inam Butt aims back to back medals for Pakistan



ROME: In a video message on Twitter, Inam thanked the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB), Foreign Office, and Pakistan embassies in Italy and Greece for helping him participate in the next stop of the World Beach Wrestling Series.

"I would like to thank PSB, Foreign Office, and both the Pakistani embassies in Italy and Greece for making it possible for me to participate in World Beach Wrestling Series in Greece," he said. "I will try my best to continue the winning streak and win yet another medal for my beloved country," he added. "I need your prayers and wishes for my next challenge," the wrestler concluded. It must be noted here that Inam remained unbeaten in the Italy leg of the World Beach Wrestling Series and won Gold by beating Ukrainian counterpart Oleksii Yakovchuk in the final of 90Kg category. - DNA



ڈیجیٹائزیشن آف لینڈ ریکارڈز

وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے وژن کی عملی تعبیر

جیوگرافیکل انفارمیشن سسٹم کے ذریعے وفاقی دارالحکومت کی مکمل کیڈ سٹرل میپنگ



حکومت پاکستان

- اوریز پاکستان کی املاک کا تحفظ / آن لائن معلومات تک رسائی
- شہری و دیہی علاقوں میں حدود کا تعین / اتمام خسره جات کی مکمل نشاندہی
- یکسٹرنل ہاؤسنگ سوسائٹیز اور دیہی و کچی آبادیوں کا مکمل سروے
- اراضی ملکیت و املاک کے حوالے سے قانونی پیچیدگیوں اور سرخ فیتے سے نجات
- قبضہ مافیاء کا تدارک

مسواہیوں کی بجائے اب آن لائن نشاندہی ممکن / درست قیمتوں کا تعین / سروس ڈیلیوری سینٹرز کا قیام

Briefs

Turkey confirms first cases of Mu variant

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: The Mu variant of COVID-19 has been detected in at least two people in Turkey, the country's health minister said on Tuesday. First identified in Colombia this January, the Mu strain has been found in 39 countries so far and was recently classified as a "variant of interest" by the World Health Organization.

The variant accounted for less than 0.1% of infections worldwide, but its prevalence in Colombia and Ecuador has been rising and stood at 39% and 13%, respectively, by the end of August, according to the WHO. Speaking to journalists, Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said Turkey is monitoring the situation and no new measures are being considered at the moment.

He said the Delta and Delta plus strains currently account for over 90% of cases in Turkey, but the figure is expected to gradually decline as more people are vaccinated.

"It is essential that we continue to comply with mask, social distancing, and hygiene rules until herd immunity is achieved," he stressed.

EU-Uzbek round table on business takes place

NEWS DESK

TASHKENT: The First Business Round Table "EU-Uzbekistan", organized by the Association of European Businesses (AEB), the European-Uzbek Association for Economic Cooperation ("EuroUz") and the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade of the Republic, was held in a hybrid format Uzbekistan.

The event became a platform for the exchange of views, ideas and proposals on finding new points of sustainable development and expanding investment and trade and economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and European countries.

The round table was attended by Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade, Co-Chairman of the EU-Uzbekistan Business Council S. Umurzakov, Chairman of the Board of AEB Johan Vanderplaetse, Chairman of Mangold Consulting - Co-Chairman of the EU-Uzbekistan Business Council K. Mangold, Director for Russia, Eastern Partnership and Central Asia Countries of the European External Action Service L. Devin, as well as the management of the Direct Investment Fund under the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade, Schneider Electric (Germany), Siemens Energy (Germany), Beeline Uzbekistan, Pietro Fiorentini (Italy), SACE and other entrepreneurs.

Russia 'not ready' to recognize Bitcoin

WEB DESK

MOSCOW: Russia is not ready to recognize Bitcoin as an official payment means, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday.

Equating "quasi" (pseudo) currencies with traditional monetary resources cannot cause anything but harm to the financial and economic system, Peskov told reporters in Moscow. "Russia is definitely not ready for such steps, and so far there is not the slightest reason to take such steps. Equating such quasi-currencies with monetary assets cannot cause anything but harm to the financial and economic system, if we are talking about the full recognition (of Bitcoin) as a means of payment," he said.

Bitcoin is the most famous digital or cryptocurrency invented in 2008 by an unknown person or group of people using the name "Satoshi Nakamoto."

National values, patriotism basis for Azerbaijani education

Aliyev underlined that the Youth and Sports Ministry has a great responsibility to keep this glorious history alive, to protect it, and educate the youth on the basis of the said principles

DNA

BAKU: President Ilham Aliyev has described national values and patriotic spirit as the basis for the education of the Azerbaijani youth, Azertag has reported.

He made the remarks in a video-format meeting with newly-appointed Youth and Sports Minister Farid Guliyev on September 7.

"Azerbaijani values, our national values are the main principle for us, and the young generation must be educated in this spirit, in the national spirit, in the spirit of patriotism," the head of state said.

He stressed that the younger generation must be free of all negative external influences, and there should be educational work to achieve this.

"Young people must be educated, knowledgeable and, at the same time, they should be attached to our national culture. They must understand our national values, keep them alive, and very serious work must be done in this direction. Because there are processes of globalization in the present-day world, and in some cases, foreign circles choose young people as a target. In other



er words, efforts are being made to deceive and mislead young people," he added.

Aliyev urged efforts to prevent this tendency. He added that the young generation should grow up as representatives of a victorious nation.

"The feelings of patriotism must come to the fore in this. Of course, our bright and historic victory in the Second Karabakh War must play a key role in educating young people. Every single day of the 44-day war is dear to us. The memory of our martyrs who gave their lives for the homeland is dear and

sacred to us, and young people should be educated on the basis of these examples. Our young people will grow up as representatives of a victorious nation," he said.

Aliyev underlined that the Youth and Sports Ministry has a great responsibility to keep this glorious history alive, to protect it, and educate the youth on the basis of the said principles.

The president lauded the achievements of the national sportsmen in the latest major international sports events.

"Our athletes have made us happy at the world, European, and

other international competitions. Although we won fewer medals in the last Summer Olympics than in the Rio Olympics, I still think that our athletes showed good results. In terms of the number of medals, Azerbaijan ranks 33rd, 20th among European countries and fourth among Muslim countries. True, our athletes did not win a gold medal this time, but they came very close... Our Paralympians made us very happy and won many medals, including many gold medals, showing great skill, professionalism and dedication. Of course, this is a very important

event, and we are rightly proud of our Paralympians," Aliyev said.

However, the president stressed that shortcomings in the sports sphere must be seriously investigated and analyzed.

"In particular, work in some federations was unsatisfactory in the run-up to the Olympic Games. So the situation in all federations needs to be seriously analyzed. Special attention should be paid to the training process and training camps," he added.

The head of state urged the serious examination of activities of about 50 sports and Olympic centers in regions as Azerbaijan created those centers to enhance the popularity of sports and to train professional athletes.

"Given that young athletes failed to win medals at the Tokyo Olympics, this needs to be scrutinized. The situation in sports clubs should be analyzed as well. In other words, we must draw the right conclusions. We can, of course, be proud of our victories, but there are also shortcomings that need to be addressed. Transparency in this area must be fully ensured and all unpleasant situations must be seriously dealt with," he said.



BAKU: Azerbaijan Minister of Foreign Affairs Jeyhun Bayramov received a delegation led by State Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar Soltan bin Saad Al-Moraikhi. - DNA

Amb. Sajjad meets director BISR Belarus

DNA

MINSK: The Ambassador Sajjad Haider Khan met with the Director of the Belarusian Institute for Strategic Research (BISR), Oleg Makarov. The meeting was also attended by Deputy Director, Vitaly Stakhovsky, 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.



Azeri defence chief inspects Pak-Azeri-Turk drills site

FOREIGN DESK

BAKU: Defence Minister Zakir Hasanov has inspected the venue for the upcoming Three Brothers - 2021 international drills by Azerbaijani, Turkish and Pakistani servicemen, the Defence Ministry reported on September 6.

The drills will be conducted in Azerbaijan with the participation of the three countries' special force units.

Along with Hasanov, other senior military officials visited the area, where the military exercises will be conducted and familiarized themselves with the created conditions.

The minister gave relevant instructions to organize and hold the exercises at a high level. These joint exercises aim to contribute to the creation of the necessary environment for the preparation of military personnel of friendly states and partner



countries for operations in peace and wartime, as well as the exchange of knowledge and experience. During the 44-day war with Armenia in 2020, Pakistan was among the first countries voicing political support for Azerbaijan. Pakistan also supports Azerbaijan in the restoration of the country's liberated territories. In the winter of 2014, during the fifth meeting of the

working group on military cooperation between Azerbaijan and Pakistan in the city of Islamabad, the countries signed an agreement on mutual military cooperation.

Over the past decade, Pakistani military experts trained about a hundred Azerbaijani military units. Azerbaijan is holding talks with Pakistan to purchase JF-17 Thunder multirole fighter

aircraft. In October 2016 President Aliyev and PM Sharif confirmed plans to carry out joint military exercises. Furthermore, the parliaments of Azerbaijan, Turkey and Pakistan have signed the Baku Declaration on cooperation. The document was signed following the trilateral meeting held by speakers of the three countries' parliaments on July 27, 2021.

ADB reaffirms support for Uzbekistan

NEWS DESK

TASHKENT: Asian Development Bank (ADB) Vice-President for Private Sector Operations and Public-Private Partnerships Ashok Lavasa met with senior government officials and key stakeholders in the past week in Tashkent, reaffirming ADB's support for Uzbekistan's reform agenda and efforts to strengthen the private sector.

Mr. Lavasa met with Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade, and ADB Governor Sardor Umurzakov; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister

of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Jamshid Kuchkarov; and other government and private sector partners to discuss ADB operations in the country.

"The Government of Uzbekistan has made remarkable progress in developing public-private partnerships in the past few years, particularly given the huge challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic," said Mr. Lavasa. "ADB reaffirms its comprehensive and integrated support to Uzbekistan including through policy advice, capacity building, transaction advisory support to prepare bankable PPP projects.

International forum "Smart City" takes place

FOREIGN DESK

TASHKENT: An online forum "Cooperation and exchange of experience between leading cities and capitals of the SCO countries under the Smart City program" on the topic "Prospects for the application of digital economy programs and smart technologies in business "Smart city" took place.

The purpose of the forum, initiated by the Republic of Tajikistan, is to familiarize the participants with the possibilities of modern information technologies and their influence on the development of infrastructure in the capitals and big cities of the SCO countries. The forum was attended by members of the delegations of the SCO member states, representatives of state authorities, business circles and experts from Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Pakistan and Tajikistan, as well as observer countries and SCO dialogue partners. From the khokimiyat of Tashkent, employees of the Department of Digital Development took part in the forum. They presented to the participants the developed geoport of the capital and the Situation Center, which is being prepared for launch.

During the discussion, the participants got acquainted with the achievements of digitalization of large cities of the SCO countries.

Azerbaijan to host Turkic Business Forum

DNA

BAKU: The 10th meeting of economy ministers of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States will be held in Baku on September 10, Azerbaijan's Economy Ministry has reported. The meeting will discuss opportunities for expanding economic cooperation between the Turkic-speaking countries. On the sidelines of the meeting, the awarding of the 2nd Turkic Council Business Prize will take place.

Moreover, a business forum will be held dedicated to the role of Turkic business organizations in the restoration of Azerbaijan's liberated Karabakh region.

Furthermore, TurkicWorld reported that Turkic Council Secretary-General Baghdad Amreyev, Kazakh Trade and Integration Minister Bakhyt Sultanov, Kyrgyz Economy and Finance Minister Akyzbek Zharapov, Uzbek Investment and Foreign Trade Deputy Minister Badryddin Abidov, Hungarian Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Minister Peter Szyarto and Turkish Trade Minister Mehmet Mush will attend the forum.

Iran closes border crossings with Iraq

AGENCIES

TEHRAN: For the second year in a row, Iranian pilgrims have been barred from traveling by road to neighboring Iraq for the annual Arbaeen pilgrimage. Officials in southwestern Khuzestan province have announced that no Iranian pilgrims would be allowed through Chazabeh and Shalamcheh border crossings into Iraq this year.

Likewise, local authorities in western Ilam province have also closed the busy Mehran border crossing point. Each year, millions of pilgrims converge in the Iraqi cities of Najaf and Karbala on Arbaeen, which marks the 40th day after Ashura, the day Prophet Muhammad's grandson was killed in 680 AD.

A large majority of these pilgrims travel from Iran, which shares multiple borders with Iraq. The coronavirus pandemic, however, has disrupted the annual religious event, which will start in two weeks.

In 2019, some 14 million pilgrims attended the event, according to official figures, which dropped significantly in 2020 after the Iraqi authorities allowed only 1,500 pilgrims per country.

Pak could not afford any instability in Afghanistan

Qasim Khan Suri is currently on an official visit to Vienna for participation in the 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament. The event is being attended by the Speakers and Parliamentarians of more than 100 countries

DNA

VIENNA: The Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Qasim Khan Suri is currently on an official visit to Vienna for participation in the 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament. The event is being attended by the Speakers and Parliamentarians of more than 100 countries.

During the interactive general debate on agenda item titled "Achieving sustainable development requires more attention on human well-being and environmental preservation than on economic growth", the Deputy Speaker emphasized that sustainable development required comprehensive policy efforts in order to devise a common course towards environmentally sustainable and socially equitable growth without affecting human well-being.

He underlined the environment friendly policies of Pakistan which are bringing positive impact on the environment of not only Pakistan but the region as a whole. He also

highlighted the "Green Economic Stimulus Initiative" of Pakistan as part of its efforts to resiliently recover from the adverse economic impact of the pandemic.

He said that under the green Pakistan programme, focus of his government was not

only on planting 10 billion trees but also on renewable energy resources. Electric vehicles were also introduced to prevent environmental degradation.

While talking about efforts of the government to uplift the poor and deprived



Briefs

Moeed warns of Indian destabilizing policies

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: National Security Adviser (NSA) Dr Moeed Yusuf on Tuesday said the world would pay a heavy price if it continued to ignore India's destabilizing policies, where its consequences were to go well beyond the region.

The National Security Adviser took to the social networking site of Twitter to slam the so-called Indian media orchestrating false news and disinformation against Pakistan. Dr Moeed on his official handle wrote, "It is not a surprise that Modi's fascist regime's fake news industry has been caught peddling lies yet again."

The NSA shared two screenshots in his tweet comprising of UK Defence Journal and BBC news debunking the Indian news channel Times Now that broadcast a Wales based video clip of a US F-15 aircraft as a full fledged Pakistani invasion of Afghanistan.

The fake news industry, he said, set up and patronized by Govt of India, was one critical reason for the world being duped into blaming Pakistan rather than looking at internal failures in Afghanistan and India's role in perpetrating terrorism in Pakistan.

Taliban fires shots to disperse protests

FOREIGN DESK

KABUL: The Taliban on Tuesday fired shots into the air to disperse hundreds of people who had gathered at several rallies in Kabul — the latest signs of defiance by Afghans against the hard-line movement which swept to power last month. Afghanistan's new rulers have yet to form a government, but many in the capital are fearful of a repeat of the Taliban's previous brutal and repressive reign between 1996 and 2001.

At least three rallies were held across Kabul in a show of resistance that would have been unthinkable during the Taliban's last stint in power — when people were publicly executed and thieves had their hands chopped off.

Videos posted on social media of a separate rally showed more than a hundred people marching through the streets under the watchful eye of armed Taliban members.

Australian PM defends trip during lockdown

WEB DESK

CANBERRA: Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison hit back at criticism over his decision to travel to Sydney on Father's Day during COVID lockdown.

In an interview aired Tuesday, Morrison said there was a lot of "misinformation" doing the rounds and that there was no exemption required for him to travel to Sydney. "I can understand people's frustration, but I do think there has been a lot of misinformation about this," Morrison said.

"I live in Sydney. I often have to be here [in Canberra] for work, there was no requirement to get an exemption to go to Sydney," he added. "The exemption I require is to come back here to the ACT (Australian Capital Territory) and, as prime minister, of course I need to come back to the ACT."

Opposition leader Bill Shorten had said Morrison's decision to travel showed "appalling judgement." The prime minister responded by saying, "Well it's a bit of a cheap shot to be honest. I mean Bill knows full well what these rules are... in fact he took advantage of them. He went home and spent the last three weeks there rather than being in Parliament."

CPEC makes progress in areas including energy

The Chinese FO spokesperson said that China was ready to work with different countries including Pakistan to build high quality Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to deliver more benefits and share more dividends

WEB DESK

BEIJING: A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Tuesday that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) an important priority project in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) had strongly promoted economic and social development in Pakistan and also played an active role in regional connectivity. "The CPEC is an important priority project in BRI. Since inception, it made progress in many areas including energy," Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing held here while commenting

over commercial operation of 660kV High-Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Matiari-Lahore Power Transmission Line Project. He emphasised that the BRI started from China but its opportunities and outcomes benefited the whole world. "So far, there are 140 partner countries that have signed cooperative documents and BRI has already become the largest international cooperation platform benefitting largest scale in the world," he added. The spokesperson said that China was ready to work with different countries including Pakistan to build high quality BRI to deliver more benefits and share



more dividends. It may be mentioned here that the flagship HVDC line project achieved its commercial operation date (COD) successfully last week. The 878-Kilometre 4,000 MW project has been completed by PMLTC (Pvt) Limited on Built-Own-Operate-Transfer basis for 25 years. The project will evacuate power from the new generating units located in the south, including Thar coal projects. The HVDC technology is a maiden addition to the national grid though it has been widely used for long time around the world. It fulfils the need for long-dis-

tance high-power transmission from generating stations in far-flung areas to the densely located load centres. Taliban had on Saturday described China as their "most important partner", saying Kabul looked to Beijing to rebuild the country and exploit its rich copper deposits as the war-ravaged country faced widespread hunger and economic collapse. Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid had said the group supported China's One Belt, One Road initiative that sought to link China with Africa, Asia and Europe through an enormous network of ports, railways, roads and industrial parks.

Tribute paid to Rashid Minhas on Air Force Day

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A tribute has been paid to Pakistan's national hero, Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed in connection with the Air Force Day Tuesday.

According to details, Air Vice Marshal Zaem Afzal and Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmad Babar laid floral wreath at the grave of Rashid Minhas. The martyred pilot's brother Anjum Minhas was also present on the occasion.

Rashid, who was born on February 17 1951, remains the youngest officer to receive the Nishan-e-Haider award and was the first recipient of the highest honour of gallantry for the Pakistan Air Force (PAF).

He got his early education from Karachi and upon reaching the tender age of 17, he joined Pakistan Air Force Academy in Risalpur as a Flying Cadet. In 1971, Rashid graduated from the academy as a general duty pilot and was posted to PAF base Masroor in Karachi's Mauripur area to hone his skills as a fighter pilot.

On August 20, 1971, as a pilot still under training, Rashid was taking out a T33 Jet trainer for take-off, when a Bengali pilot instructor, Flight Lieutenant Matur Rahman, forced his way into the rear cockpit. In mid-air Rahman knocked Minhas out, seized control of the aircraft and headed towards India.

Protester throws stones at Canadian PM Trudeau

NEWS DESK

TORONTO: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, seeking a third term in office in snap elections later

this month, has repeatedly faced off against angry protesters on the campaign trail. And now, one has even thrown stones at him. The incident happened on Monday as the Liberal Party leader was leaving an event at a microbrewery in London, a city southwest of Toronto in Ontario province. Someone in the crowd threw what appeared to be a handful of gravel at the prime minister, TV images showed. Trudeau, members of his security detail and journalists were reportedly struck. No one was injured. The incident drew condemnation from Trudeau's main rival, Conservative leader Erin O'Toole, and New Democratic Party leader Jagmeet Singh.

Registration of e-vehicles begins in Sindh

DNA

KARACHI: Sindh Excise Minister Mukesh Kumar Tuesday announced that the registration of electric vehicles and motorcycles has started.

The decision has been taken keeping in view the increasing demand from people buying electric vehicles and motorcycles, as these customers have been facing difficulties due to the delay in the registration process. Electric Vehicles (EVs) have already attracted the interest of large populations worldwide, and the Pakistani public is also excited about the prospect. Earlier in December, the government had approved the country's first five-year Electric Vehicle (EV) policy for cars to facilitate the auto industry in meeting the international standards of production and supply of electric vehicles.

In July, Prime Minister Imran Khan launched Pakistan's first-ever environmentally-friendly electric motorbike (E-bike). PM Imran Khan had said e-vehicles were important for Pakistan as they would help reduce environmental pollution.

Pak-Norway to strengthen bilateral linkages

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Senator Shibli Faraz and Norwegian Ambassador to Pakistan, Kjell-Gunnar Eriksen in a meeting held here Tuesday discussed avenues for strengthening bilateral linkages between the two countries in the field of Science and Technology. The minister called upon by Norwegian Ambassador, Kjell-Gunnar Eriksen. Speaking on the occasion, Shibli Faraz said "Pakistan and Norway have a history of friendly relations. Thus, we look

forward to cooperation and joint ventures in the field of Science and Technology." The ambassador opined that Norway was keen to reestablish cooperation in the field of Science and Technology. The ambassador said that there had been more than 50 years of Bilateral Development Cooperation between Pakistan and Norway.

"We look forward to proposals and sustainable development programs benefiting people of Pakistan". Moreover, the minister highlighted that the government was interested in doing sustainable projects to benefit people for a long duration.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Tajikistan Ismatullo Naserdin called on Federal Minister for Industries and Production Makhdum Khusrubakhtyar. — DNA

Malaysian envoy holds talks with PIA Chief
Malaysia to open for domestic tourists from September 16

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Chargé d'Affaires of Malaysia, Mr Dedy Faisal Ahmad Salleh met with CEO of PIA Air Marshal Arshad Malik. They discussed various topics of mutual interest related to the aviation industry and ways to further strengthen the trade cooperation between Malaysia & Pakistan businessmen. Apart from that the Chargé

d'Affaires also praised the opening of tourism in Malaysia. The Malaysian government has decided to reopen its tourism sector to fully vaccinated domestic travelers via the travel bubble programme, starting with Langkawi for local domestic tourists from September 16. This pilot project, if successful, will lead to reopening of the tourism sector to fully vaccinated foreigners in the future.



Will move SC if NAB chairman's term extended

He said it was hard to understand as to what had led to the govt's interest in seeking extension in the tenure of NAB Chairman

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister and senior Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said on Tuesday that he had been at a loss to understand for the last three years as to what was the exact nature of the case framed against him by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). Talking to the media outside an accountability court (AC) in Islamabad, he said it was hard to understand as to what had led to the government's interest in seeking extension in the tenure of NAB Chairman Justice (r) Javed Iqbal. "There is no provision in the law under which his term could be extended," he stated categorically, and warned

that if extension was granted to the present chairman, he would move the Supreme Court of Pakistan against it. He said only recently the NAB chairman had been defended by a statement made by PML-N leader Ahsan Iqbal. "And now I am afraid that the NAB might file new cases against him and other PML-N leaders merely because of some of their 'annoying' statements," he said. He was of the view that after paralyzing commercial activities in the country, the so called anti-corruption watchdog was now bent upon denting Pakistan's relations with other countries. Abbasi claimed that the last PML-N government had signed an agreement with Qatar for the import of cheapest Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), which had so far helped Pakistan



earn \$20 billion. "Now the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government is importing the gas at rates double than those had agreed between the two countries under the deal," he said, and asked, "Now who has minted money in this entire transaction?" Former prime minister said he was aware that the NAB would not launch an inquiry against the government for purchasing the

LNG at double rates. The PML-N leader said when he looked at the CV of incumbent NAB chairman, he found out that he had been the Supreme Court (SC) judge. "But ironically, he does not have least understanding of the law," he taunted. He challenged the government to show hearing of the cases filed against him and other opposition leaders live on television. "This will sift truth from falsehood," he claimed. He went on to add that the SC decisions were enough to prove what the NAB was up to. "The purpose of its formation was political engineering by changing loyalties of the politicians," he alleged, adding this interference in politics by the Bureau had jammed the country.

70th Anniversary: German Frigate visits Karachi

Ambassador Bernhard Schlagheck says "The visit of the Bayern is not only a visible sign of the increased importance of the Indo-Pacific for Germany but it also clearly reflects the multifaceted German-Pakistan relations

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of German-Pakistani bilateral relations, the frigate Bayern will visit Karachi from Sept. 8th to Sept. 12th. The partnership visit takes place within the framework of the German Navy's Indo-Pacific Deployment 2021.

During its six-months mission the frigate is scheduled to call at several ports — Karachi being the first one in the region. Ambassador Bernhard Schlagheck: "The visit of the Bayern — roughly one month after the PNS Zulfiqar berthed in the port of Hamburg — is not only a visible sign of the increased importance of the Indo-Pacific for Germany but it also clearly reflects the multifaceted German-Pakistan relations. It is truly a special event to kick off our celebrations for the 70th anniversary." After the arrival in Karachi on Sept. 8th, the ship's commanding



officer, Commander Tilo Kalski, and Consul General Holger Ziegler will lay a wreath in Mazar-e-Quaid, paying respect to the founder of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah. On Sept. 10th, the Chief Minister of Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, will receive the captain and a delegation from the Bayern for a formal greeting ceremony. After weeks at sea, the crew is also looking forward to discovering the picturesque city life and famous hospitality of its first port of call in Asia. On August 2nd, the frigate Bay-



ern left the German port of Wilhelmshaven for Asia. The ship with its crew of over 200 sailors will join in maritime monitoring of the UN sanctions against North Korea, dock at ports in partner countries and take part

in multilateral activities. Foreign Minister Heiko Maas commented on the frigate's departure: "The Indo-Pacific is where the international order of the future will be decided. We want to help shape it and to

take on responsibility for upholding the rules based international order. Its mission is to support us in upholding international law and improving security in the Indo-Pacific together with our partners."