



# Islamabad POST

Saturday, September 11, 2021

**Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily**

Price Rs. 20

**Pakistan and Spain  
resolve to jointly work  
for Afghanistan peace**

Detailed News On Page-01

**UK Muslim  
MP condemns  
Islamophobia**

Detailed News On Page-08


**Nabi named  
Afghanistan  
new captain**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

### NSA dismisses allegations

#### MONITORING DESK

ISLAMABAD: National Security Adviser (NSA) M o e e d Yusuf dismissed on Thursday allegations of Pakistan extending support to the Taliban in Panjshir – the last holdout Afghan province where the group defeated resistance forces earlier this month – linking the accusations to a “fake news network” created by India and a “bogey” by previous governments in Kabul. Yusuf was asked about these claims during an appearance on CNN’s Connect the World, where journalist Becky Anderson referred to the accusations by anti-Taliban forces in Afghanistan and Iran’s foreign ministry condemning “foreign interference” in the war-torn country. “It’s preposterous is all I can say,” replied Yusuf. The NSA pointed out that Pakistan had been saying that “project Afghanistan” was failing because of the country’s internal problems, some of which he attributed to a corrupt government.

### Taliban govt not inclusive

#### DNA

WASHINGTON: The interim Taliban government does not reflect what the international community and the United States hoped to see, US State Department spokesperson Ned Price said in a news conference Thursday. “We have spoken about our reaction to the initial caretaker government. You have heard us say that the lack of inclusivity, the track records, the backgrounds of some of the individuals involved, are a cause for concern. It certainly does not reflect what the international community and what, as a part of that, the United States hoped to see,” Price told reporters. He said that the US noted that this is an initial caretaker government.

#### Holiday Notice

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

## Swati hurls charges at ECP

# Govt wants CEC to resign

Fawad says the chief election commissioner has been acting as the “mouthpiece of the Opposition; all institutions must abide by the law



#### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry on Friday said that it seems the Election Commission of Pakistan has “become the headquarters for Opposition parties and the chief election commissioner is acting as their mouthpiece.” Speaking during a press conference in the federal capital alongside Minister for Railways Azam Khan Swati and Adviser to the Prime Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Babar Awan, Fawad said that no one is satisfied with the ECP because “it comes up with strange logic.” Fawad said that the PT-led government had promised to make the ECP free, fair, and transparent, and to that end, a commission for reforms – headed by Justice Nasirul Mulk – was also formed. However, the ECP remains surrounded by controversies due to its “strange logic.” The minister said that the PTI government had asked the Opposition to come forward and participate in discussions related to electoral reforms. “The government wanted to incorporate technology in the electoral process [to ensure transparency], however, it seems like the ECP has become the headquarters for

## PDM announces boycott of joint session

#### KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Opposition’s Pakistan Democratic Movement on Friday announced a boycott of the joint parliamentary session due next week. The announcement followed a meeting of the PDM’s steering committee. Hafiz Hamdullah spoke to the media following the meeting. “PDM stands with media organisations and will continue to stand by them,” he said, adding that the government’s proposed Pakistan Media Development Authority (PMDA) has been rejected by the PDM, and that it is in actuality a media “control” authority. He said that what had occurred earlier in the day during a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs was “non-parliamentary” and “non-democratic.” “Babar Awan and Azam Swati has insulted the Election Commission and the Parliament,” Hamdullah said.

Opposition parties.” The minister said that all institutions of the country, including the ECP, must abide by the law. Fawad said that the election process was thoroughly inspected and it turned out that the chief election commissioner has been acting as the “mouthpiece of the Opposition.”

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# Military top brass discusses Afghanistan

COAS expresses satisfaction over efficacy of the comprehensive border management regime

#### ALI FURQAN

RAWALPINDI: 243rd Corps Commanders’ Conference chaired by General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) held at GHQ. The participants took comprehensive review of global, regional and domestic security environment. Forum was apprised on prevalent situation in Afghanistan, especially security along Pak - Afghan Border and effective safeguards in place against various threats. COAS expressed satisfaction over efficacy of the comprehensive border management regime due to which Pakistan’s Borders and Internal Security remained intact amid

Continued on Page 06

## Qatari FM meets COAS

#### STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the state of Qatar His Excellency, Mr Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani on Friday called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa. According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), matters of mutual interest, regional security situation especially current situation in Afghanistan and cooperation in various fields came under discussion during the meeting. On the occasion, the COAS reiterated shared resolve of extending humanitarian assistance for Afghans. He said that Pakistan remains committed to working with its international partners for peace in the region and ensuring a stable and prosperous future for people of Afghanistan. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan’s role in successful evacuation operations from Afghanistan, efforts for regional stability and pledged to play their role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares Bueno calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan. – DNA

# Warn against isolating Afghanistan Pakistan, Spain resolve to work for Afghan peace

Spanish agencies ready to help Afghan people, says Jose Manuel Albares

#### ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Spain on Friday pledged to work together for peace and stability in Afghanistan. Both the foreign ministers also resolved to help generate funds for the struggling Afghans thru various forums such donors conferences etc. The foreign minister made these remarks during a joint press stakeout at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi urged the world community to recognize the new reality in Afghanistan and engage with it for peace and stability. Addressing a joint news conference along with his Spanish counterpart Jose Manuel Albares after delegation level talks in Islamabad, he warned that isolating Afghanistan will have

## Int’l community must engage: PM

#### ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has called for positive engagement of the international community to ensure the stabilization of security situation in Afghanistan. Talking to Foreign Minister of Spain, Jose Manuel Albares Bueno, who called on him in Islamabad on Friday, he underlined the importance of a secure, stable and peaceful Afghanistan for Pakistan and the region. The Prime Minister said the changed reality in Afghanistan required a change in the world community’s outlook as well. He stressed that the well-being of the Afghan people has to be the utmost priority. The Prime Minister said urgent measures are required to address the humanitarian needs of the Afghan people and to ensure economic stability of the country. Foreign Minister Albares lauded Pakistan’s efforts to facilitate the evacuation of nationals and personnel of diplomatic missions and international organizations. The Prime Minister assured Pakistan’s continued support in this regard. On the bilateral plane,

serious consequences and will not be helpful for the Afghan people, the region and the world at large. He said the approach of intimidation, pressure and coercion has not worked and we got to adopt a new positive approach regarding Afghanistan. Alluding to the flight from Kabul to Doha, he said this safe passage is in sync with the demand of the Europeans. He said we need to encourage the Taliban to stay on course. The Foreign Minister regretted that the spoilers did not allow the intra afghan dialogue reach a conclusion. He said if there had been progress on talks things would have been calmer today. The Foreign Minister however said the world community should immediately focus on averting

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## Professor Miyawaki, a Japanese botanist passes away

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Dr. MIYAWAKI Akira, a Japanese botanist and expert in plant ecology passed away at the age of 93 in July this year. In Pakistan, He is known for “Miyawaki method,” tree planting approach

Continued on Page 06

# Taliban must stop targeting protesters, journalists: UN

“Firearms must never be used except in response to an imminent threat of death or serious injury”

#### NEWS DESK

GENEVA: The UN on Friday condemned the Taliban’s increasingly violent response to peaceful protests, including using live rounds that killed several people, and warned that nearly all Afghan households weren’t getting enough to eat. “We call on the Taliban to immediately cease the use of force towards, and the arbitrary detention of, those exercising their right to peaceful assembly and the journalists covering the protests,” said Ravina Shamdasani, spokeswoman for

## Afghanistan at risk of ‘total breakdown’

#### WEB DESK

NEW YORK: The United Nations has warned that Afghanistan is at risk of “total breakdown” of the international community does not find a way to keep money flowing into Afghanistan despite concerns over the Taliban government. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said in a report released on Thursday that about 97 percent of Afghanistan’s population may sink below the poverty line unless the country’s political and economic crises are addressed. Nearly \$10bn of Afghanistan’s central bank assets are currently frozen overseas and considered

Continued on Page 06

the United Nations human rights office. Her office said armed fighters had been using live ammunition and whips to disperse crowds, killing at least four people since mid-August. The Taliban who swept into power on August 15 have pledged a more moderate brand of rule than in their notoriously oppressive 1996-2001 reign. But they have shown clear signs that they will not tolerate opposition. Earlier this week armed Taliban dispersed hundreds of protesters in cities across

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Pak special partner country at CAEXPO opens in China  
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PM for urgent steps to check gap between imports, exports  
– Page 08



## Briefs

## Attempt to smuggle falcons foiled

DNA

PESHAWAR: Security officials on Friday foiled an attempt to smuggle endangered and expensive falcons at Torkham border.

According to details, Frontier Constabulary (FC) Chitral scouts personnel, upon searching a truck coming from Afghanistan at Torkham border crossing, seized two falcons and handed over to customs officials to complete legal formalities.

A custom official said that precious birds would be handed over to Wildlife Department to release falcons in natural environment.

The birds are listed as rare and endangered species and their trade is strictly banned.

## Sports complex to be built at Star Ground

KARACHI: Administrator Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Friday said that the Sindh government will build a state-of-the-art sports complex at Star Ground in Sherpao Colony, Landhi.

"This will be a great gift from the PPP for the residents of Landhi Sherpao Colony and adjoining areas. The Sindh government will restore the colors of Karachi," he said while visiting Star Ground in Sherpao Colony, Landhi.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that Sindh government has approved development works in Star Ground, construction work will start in next one month. Family and children's parks will also be constructed along with the ground.

"A treatment plant will also be set up at Star Ground to supply water while a modern lighting solar system will be installed in the ground," said the Administrator.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that at Star Ground, players will have access to a variety of indoor and outdoor games that will allow them to further improve their skills.

A detailed briefing was also given to Administrator Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on the occasion stating that Star Ground consists of 16 acres of land where various sports facilities are being provided. — APP

## DC asks hospitals to deal Covid urgency

DNA

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Amir Kareem Khan Friday asked the private hospitals administration to dedicate extra beds, ventilators and depute paramedics to tackle any urgency in wake of COVID-19 current situation.

Chairing a meeting of health department officials and private hospital owners at his office here, he said that though over 400 beds have been dedicated at Nishtar Hospital need might arise for more beds as Multan falls in 11 districts which were declared sensitive in connection with Coronavirus.

## APNS reiterates resolve to oppose PMDA come what may

The Executive Committee further stated that the proposal was unconstitutional as any Federal legislation to regulate print media is beyond the power of parliament after the 18th constitutional amendment

DNA

KARACHI: "The All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) has strongly lamented the perpetual efforts of the Federal Government to curtail the independence of the media, the latest being the proposed PMDA which, in the opinion of the APNS Executive Committee, is intended to strangle and control the entire media of the country."

The Executive Committee of the APNS at its meeting held at Karachi on September 09, 2021 chaired by the President, APNS, Mr. Sarmad Ali was briefed by the President on different meetings with the stakeholders and the Federal Government on the establishment of Pakistan Media Development Authority. The members unanimously rejected the proposal and termed it as an attempt to tighten the Federal Government control over the media from one platform. The proposed PMDA appears as extension of PEMRA to all media with more regimental provisions as subjugate and take over the independence of free media.

The Executive Committee further stated that the proposal was unconstitutional



as any Federal legislation to regulate print media is beyond the power of parliament after the 18th constitutional amendment. The APNS out-rightly rejected the proposal to make it mandatory for all types of media to obtain licenses and renewal of registration. The proposal envisages the concept of media tribunal whose members were to be appointed by the Federal Government which is a form of direct control over the media. The Concept is contrary to the very notion of

the justice and a fair hearing as it denies the right of appeal in the high courts. The tribunals have been authorized with the punishment up to 03 years imprisonment and a fine of Rs.25 million. The Committee observed that the Federal Government intends to tighten its control on media at large. The committee also noted that unless the proposed law to establish the PMDA is shared with stakeholders, no meaningful consultation was possible. The Executive Committee

considered the report of Advertising Committee and approved M/s. Advertising & Business Consultants (Pvt) Ltd, Peshawar for confirmation of accreditation. M/s. Marcom (Pvt) Ltd, Islamabad and M/s. Wings Media (Pvt) Ltd, Lahore were granted provisional accreditation. The Committee also approved the restructuring of M/s. Zenith Advertising Communication (Pvt) Ltd, Karachi.

The following attended the meeting: Sarmad Ali, President, Shahab Zuberi, Vice President, Fauzia Shaheen

(Monthly Dastak), Najamuddin Sheikh (Daily Deyanat), Muhammad Yunus Mehar (Daily Halchal), Adnan Faisal (Daily Jiddat, Karachi), Javed Mehr Shamsi (Daily Kaleem), Muhammad Aslam Leghari (Daily Kawish), Muhammad Manzoor Rana (Daily Mashriq, Quetta), Zahida Abbasi (Daily Nau Sijj), S.M. Munir Jilani (Daily Paigham), Humayun Gulzar (Daily Sayadat) and Nasir Daad Baloch (Daily Sindh Sujaag).

The following attended the meeting on Zoom : Jamil Athar, Sr. Vice President,

Nazafreen Saigol Lakhani, Secretary General, Mohsin Bilal, Joint Secretary, Awaiz Khushnood, Finance Secretary, Syed Sajjad Bokhari (Daily Abtak), Mumtaz A. Tahir (Daily Aftab), Waseem Ahmed (Daily Awam, Quetta), Ansar Mahmood Bhatti (Monthly Centre Line), Kazi Asad Abid (Fortnightly Ibrat), Imtihan Shahid (Daily Khabrain), Umer Mujib Shami (D/Pakistan, Lahore), Faisal Zahid Malik (D/Pakistan Observer) and Dr. Waqar Yousuf Azeemi (M/Roohani Digest).

## Development schemes worth Rs 11b approved

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Punjab Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) here Friday approved three development schemes of Livestock & Dairy Development and Agriculture Sectors with an estimated cost of Rs 11.109 billion.

These schemes were approved in the 11th PDWP meeting of current fiscal year 2021-22, presided over by Chairman Planning & Development Board Abdullah Khan Sumbal.

The approved development schemes included provision of Silage Making Machines to the farmers for Animal Nutrition Enhancement at the cost of Rs 660,000 million, promotion of mechanized agriculture for increasing crop productivity at the cost of Rs 9,999,000 million and National crop genomics and speed breeding centre for agriculture sustainability at the cost of Rs. 450.000 million.

## Official jailed for 7 years in corruption case

QUETTA: An accountability court on Friday sentenced Assistant Food Controller PRC Center Quetta Shakkar Khan to a total of seven years imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 297m for causing a loss of millions to the national exchequer. The court also issued directives to send the accused on bail to jail to serve out his sentence. Judge Munawar Ahmed of the accountability court pronounced the verdict in the light of investigation carried out and evidence collected against the officials by the NAB's Balochistan chapter. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Spanish Counsellor of Interior of Home Affairs and Spanish Police Liaison Officer (PLO) called on Director General Anti-Narcotics Force Maj. Gen. Ghulam Shabeer Narejo. — DNA

## First pet care hospital set up in Faisalabad

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: The first Pet Care Hospital has been set up at the divisional level under the auspices of Livestock Department where modern and standard treatment of pet's birds and animals will be provided. Punjab Minister for Livestock Sardar Husnain Bahadur Dareshk inaugurated Pet Care Hospital at Civil Veterinary Hospital and medical facilities were reviewed in detail. Director Livestock Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed Anjum, Additional Director Dr. Haider Ali Khan, Incharge Hospital / Deputy Director Rai Shafqat, Dr. Abdul Majid, Focal Person Dr. Fareeha and other officers were also present. Talking to media, the Livestock Minister said that Faisalabad is the second largest city in Punjab where the citizens were facing problems related to the treatment of birds

and pets. He said that six Pet care hospitals are functioning at private sector but the provision of facilities at the government level will improve the treatment process. He asked the citizens through the media to go to the hospital for information and treatment regarding the health and diseases of their pets and animals where they will be provided the best facilities. He said that Pet Care Hospital would provide new employment opportunities to the people and focus on improving the livestock sector as per the vision of the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister.

He said that the vaccination and meat program is being extended. Earlier, the provincial livestock minister paid an emergency visit to civil veterinary hospitals across the district. He visited Civil Veterinary Hospital Chak 189 RB, Kharriarwala, 199 RB Gutwala and other hospitals and inspected the record of medicines, vaccination status, facilities provided to the cattle breeders.



## Female student withdraws harassment complaint against lecturer

LAHORE: In a turn of events, a female student of the MAO College in Lahore on Friday withdrew her harassment complaint against a lecturer in a written application to HEC, a day after the inquiry body found him guilty. However, she insisted in her application that

the lecturer should be transferred from the educational institute. According to the content of the letter written to the HEC, the female student said that the lecturer did not harass her and they remained in touch with each other through messages. — Abid Raza

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN NATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY BUREAU SHAHRAH-E-JAMHURIAT, G-5/1 ISLAMABAD				
SERVICES REQUIRED				
National Accountability Bureau invites applications from only Pakistani Nationals for hiring of Services of Experts under Section 28(D) of National Accountability Ordinance-1999, for its HQ Islamabad/ Regional Offices on monthly fee payment basis for a period of one year as per criteria given below:-				
Sr #	Name of Position(s) and Station	Educational Qualification and Experience	Monthly Fee (in PKR)	Max Age Limit
1.	<b>Junior Expert-2 (Intelligence)</b> i. NAB (Lahore) = 01 Position ii. NAB (Balochistan) = 01 Position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retired Officer of armed forces of the rank of Major or equivalent.</li> <li>12 years experience in the field of intelligence/vigilance and security.</li> <li>Medical category-A.</li> <li>Clean record of service.</li> </ul>	Rs. 85,000/-	65 years
2.	<b>Assistant Junior Expert-1 (Intelligence)</b> i. NAB (HQs) = 01 Position ii. NAB (Karachi) = 01 Position iii. NAB (Balochistan) = 01 Position iv. NAB (Multan) = 01 Position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retired JCO from Armed forces.</li> <li>12 years experience in the field of intelligence/vigilance &amp; security.</li> <li>Medical category-A.</li> <li>No red entry.</li> </ul>	Rs. 35,000/-	54 years
3.	<b>Assistant Junior Expert-1 (Security)</b> NAB (HQs) = 01 Position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retired JCO/NCO from Armed forces.</li> <li>Medical category-A.</li> <li>No red entry.</li> </ul>	Rs. 35,000/-	54 years
4.	<b>Assistant Junior Expert-3 (Transport)</b> NAB (Lahore) = 01 Position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Matriculation</li> <li>Should hold a valid LTV driving License.</li> <li>Minimum experience of 05x years in a government organization preferably armed forces.</li> </ul>	Rs. 17,000/-	42 years

**IMPORTANT NOTES:-**

- Experience/ Educational Qualification shall be counted / examined as on the closing date for receipt of applications.
- Only shortlisted candidates shall be called for test/ interview, after scrutiny of applications.
- Candidates with additional qualification / experience can be preferred.
- Hiring will be governed by the terms of services hiring contract.
- Candidates possessing dual / foreign nationality are not eligible to apply.
- No TA/DA will be admissible for appearing in test/interview.
- Final selection will be subject to Security Clearance.
- The monthly fee is taxable as per Federal Govt. policy.
- The number of positions can be increased/ decreased at the time of final selection.
- The services period is extendable as per performance evaluation/ requirement basis.
- If a candidate is interested to apply for more than one post, a separate application is required to be submitted.
- Name of the post applied for should be written boldly on the top right corner of envelope.
- Applications on given format (without copies of academic/ experience certificate(s)) should reach the undersigned through post by **27<sup>th</sup> September, 2021**, before closing hours.

(ZAHEER AHMAD)  
Deputy Director (Rec & TCS)  
NAB Headquarters  
Shahrah-e-Jamhuriat, G-5/1,  
Islamabad

PID (I) No.1555/21

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Position Applied: _____		Paste your recent Photograph with gum		
Choice of Station: _____ (As per Advertisement)				
Name of Applicant: _____				
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4. Domicile: _____				
5. Contact No.(Line/mobile): _____				
6. Email Address: _____				
7. Are you Dual / Foreign National: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>				
8. Details:-				
a. <b>Academic Qualification</b>				
S#	Degree/Certificates/Courses	Division/Grade /CGPA	Year of Passing	Name of Board/ University/Institute
b. <b>Experience / Employment Record</b>				
S#	Organization / Employer Name	Job Title	Job Duration From To	Remarks (if any)
9. Total experience as on closing date of applications: Day Month Year				
Signature of Applicant _____				
Date _____				

## Increase in corona alarming

Divisional Commissioner Saqib Manan informs the media that target of 70 thousand people to vaccinate daily in division and still that target is being achieved but this campaign should be faster

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: The important meeting of Coordination Committee for anti-Corona measures was held under the chairmanship of Divisional Commissioner Saqib Manan. Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad, Vice Chancellor Faisalabad Medical University Prof. Dr. Zafar Ali Chaudhry, Additional Commissioner Coordination Imran Raza Abbasi, Director Health Services, CEO DHA Dr. Mushtaq Sipra, DHO Dr. Bilal

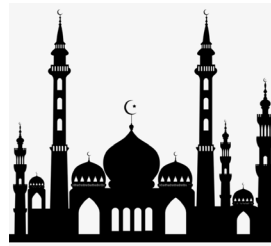
Ahmad and other officers were present via video link. Divisional Commissioner apprised about the details of fourth wave of corona and its intensity. He informed that patient were corona patient are increasing day by day that was alarming situation. He directed to implement of SOPs in markets, bazaars and public places during the current situation of Corona epidemic besides distribution of face masks and implementation of other anti-precautionary measures. He said that complete lock down on Friday and Saturday is being im-

plemented. He said that vigil eye should be kept on the situation of hospital capacity and people should awarded to vaccinate. He informed the media that target of 70 thousand people to vaccinate daily in division and still that target is being achieved but this campaign should be faster. He appealed the citizen to adopt SoPs and vaccinated themselves for save the virus. The Divisional Commissioner said that precautionary measures against Corona virus should be kept in view and effective measures should be taken to protect the citizens from Corona by using all available resources in this situation. He said that oxygen should be available in hospitals. He said that complete lock down on Friday and Saturday should be implemented strictly besides checking the SoPs at every Public place in Faisalabad. He asked the DC of district to close watch on positivity ratio on daily basis. Deputy Commissioners of four districts informed the situation of corona virus.





## SERVICES



### Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	04:23 am
Zohr.....	12:16 pm
Asr.....	04:34 pm
Maghrib.....	06:30 pm
Isha.....	07:50 pm



### Hotels & Restaurants

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



### Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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### Emergency

Rescue (Police).....	15
Bomb Disposal.....	15
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Emergency Ambulance.....	1122 & Rescue Services.4451122
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Motorway Police.....	9270601-20
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Rawalpindi.....	9270601-20



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CAA.....	9281092



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RGH.....	9290301-7
Holy Family.....	9290322-7
PIMS.....	9261170-79
Polyclinic.....	9218300-09
Shifa International.....	4603666



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



### Complaints

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

### Islamabad Metropolitan

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

### Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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# Shafqat visits PNCA painting exhibition 'The New Odyssey'

PNCA has maintained a range of regionally focused visual arts exhibitions featuring both nationally and internationally recognized artists

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Education, Professional training, National History and Culture Division Shafqat Mehmood Friday visited National Art Gallery to see painting exhibition titled as "The New Odyssey" appreciated young artists and also praised the efforts made by Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA).

PNCA is dedicated for promoting Pakistani Art on local and national level, its unique programs present the traditional and contemporary art practices which reflected the excellence and cultural diversity of Pakistan as well as the professional competence of the artists, said a press release issued here. PNCA was committed to promote significant positive aspects of the



country and encouraged community participation in gallery activities, fostering curatorial practice of artist's understanding of the work, and encourages a flourishing and sustainable local arts industry. PNCA has maintained a range of regionally focused visual arts exhibitions featuring both nationally and internationally recognized artists.

The various universities of Pakistan including National College of Arts, Lahore and Rawalpindi campus, Beacon house National University, University of the Punjab, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, University of Sindh Jamshoro, University of Peshawar, University of Baluchistan, and the University of Karachi participating in the exhibition. The show consisting of 70 artists and 93 skilled graduates and interesting works by the young graduates.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Spain, Jose Manuel Albares, planted a tree in the lawn of Foreign Office. – DNA

## H-8 College HOD Zoology Retires

ISLAMABAD: After the completion of 29 years of his service, Dr. Waqar Shehzad Abbasi, Associate Professor of Biology and Head of the Department of Zoology at Islamabad Model Postgraduate College H-8 said goodbye to his colleagues, bringing an end to his teaching career. He took up teaching as a profession by choice in June 1992. Besides teaching he worked as chairman of various committees constituted for the development of college in the staff room of the college to pay tribute to retiring Prof.



RAWALPINDI: President Pakistan Green Task Force, Doctor Jamal Nasir in a group photo with Sajid Irshad, Khawaja Rashid Jawed, Muhammad Waqas Ali, Meer-ul-Ghazal, Atif Kiyani, Irfa Ali, and other staff during the inauguration ceremony of "Islamic Banking Window" at Bank of Punjab Satellite branch. – DNA

# CJP gives over of Judicial System to NDU delegation

CJP says there were many other Courts established under various laws, which include, Accountability Courts, Commercial Courts, Anti-Terrorism Courts, Anti-Corruption Courts, Special Courts and Labour Courts

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: A 218 member delegation of National Defence University (NDU) headed by Major General, Rahat Naseem Khan, and Chief Instructor called on Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Gulzar Ahmed here on Friday as a part of their study tour.

The delegation comprises of Faculty Members, Participants of National Security and War Course – 2022 including Officers of Pakistan Army, Officers from 13 friendly Countries and also Officers from services/occupational groups of Civil Bureaucracy. Chief Justice while addressing the delegation gave an overview of the Judicial System of Pakistan, composition and functioning of different tiers of judicial system including superior courts as well as district courts. He also briefed them about the constitutional responsibilities and jurisdiction conferred upon the courts for smooth dispensation of justice to public at large.

Addressing the participants, he said that courts were established in the country under Article 175 of the Constitution. In Pakistan,

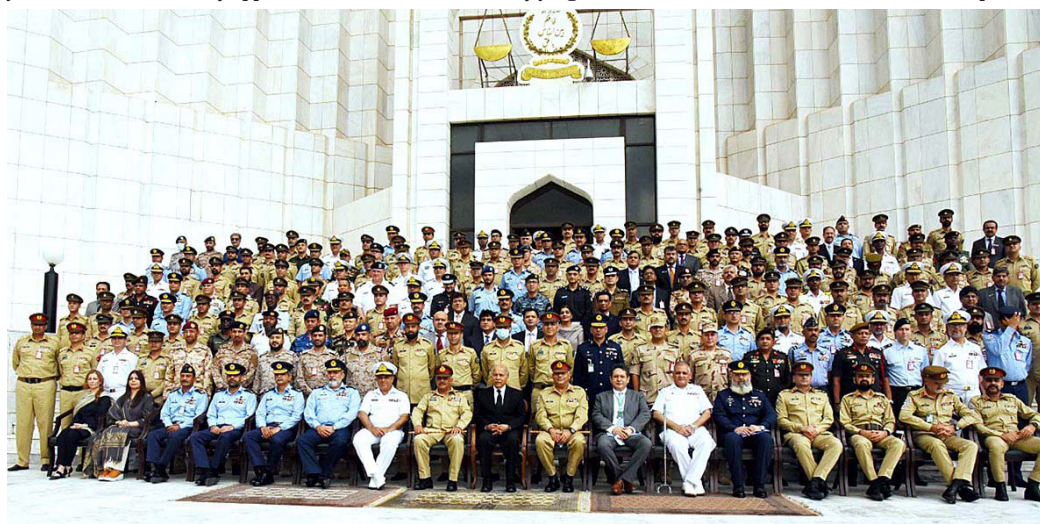
there was mainly four tier judicial system to hear civil and criminal cases, he added.

He said that there was a Federal Shariat Court established under Article 203C of the Constitution and under Article 203D it had jurisdiction to examine and decide the question whether or not any law or any provision of law was repugnant to the Injunctions of Islam. While under Article 203DD it had jurisdiction to decide any appeal arising out of any criminal Court under the enforcement of Hudood Laws.

He said that under Article 184(1) of the Constitution, the Supreme Court had been conferred the original jurisdiction in matters relating to question of public importance with reference to enforcement of any of the fundamental rights, he added. He said that under Article 185 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court had been conferred the appellate jurisdiction to hear appeals from judgments, decrees, final orders or sentences passed by the High Courts.

Under Article 186 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court had been conferred advisory jurisdiction that if, at any time, the President considers that it was desirable to obtain the opinion of the Supreme Court on any question of law which he considered of public importance, he could refer the question to the Supreme Court for consideration. He said that there were many other Courts established under various laws, which include, Accountability Courts, Commercial Courts, Anti-Terrorism Courts, Anti-Corruption Courts, Special Courts (Offences in Banks), Special Courts (Control of Narcotic Substances), Special Courts Customs, Taxation and Anti-Smuggling, and Labour Courts.

"There are many Tribunals established under the provisions of the Constitution and the law. Under Article 212 of the Constitution, the Service Tribunals have been constituted at Federal and Provincial level to decide the matters relating to the terms and conditions of service of the civil servants. Under Article 225 of the Constitution, the Election Tribunals are constituted to hear and decide election disputes.



## M Asad appointed as Director Media FBR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) appointed Muhammad Asad Tahir, a BS-20 (on acting charge) officer of Inland Revenue Services (IRS) as Director (Media), FBR (HQ), Islamabad.

According to the FBR notification issued here on Friday, he relinquished the charge of the post of Commissioner, Zone-II, Regional Tax Office, Sargodha and assumed the charge of the post. FBR also notified that Ms. Yasmin Yusuf Khan, a BS-19 officer of IRS has assumed the charge of the Chief (OPS), TPA, FBR (HQ), Islamabad. – APP

## Police carries out search operation in New Town

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawal Division police Friday carried out search operations in the jurisdiction of the New Town and Waris Khan police stations. According to the police spokesman, the search operations were conducted in the areas of Double Road glass factory and adjoining areas.

The New Town station house officer, Waris Khan, elite force and law enforcement agencies also participated in the operations. During the operation, the police searched 100 shops, four hotels, four student hostels, interrogated 420 people while the bio data of 39 tenants was also collected. The search operations were being conducted in the city as per directives of the CPO Muhammad Ahsan Younas with aimed to create a sense of security among the citizens and maintain a law and order situation, the spokesman added.

## Iesco issues power suspension schedule

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule:

On 11th September From 09:00am to 02:00pm, Daultallah, Adi, Mureed, Al-Qaim, Megan Feeders, On 12th September From 07:00 am to 12:00 Noon, Sanghoi, Nathwala, Safdar Shaheed, Sparko, Ammar, Zaraj, New Rawat, Dhok Awan, Shams Colony, Feeders, From 08:00 am to 02:00 pm, Nust Road Feeder, From 09:00am to 02:00pm, Jamalwal, Megan, PAF Mureed, Mureed, Misryal Road, VIP, Rawalpindi-III Feeders, From 06:00 am to 05:00 pm, 132 KV grid stations H-11, Nust, G-13, I-10 & Pirwadhai will be fed from Zeropot side. However 70MW Load management will be required on these Grid Stations. On 13th September from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. F-11/2, Moort Feeders and surrounding areas will remain off. IESCO management apologizes to its esteemed customers for the power outage. If the work is completed ahead of time, the power supply can be restored even before the scheduled time. – APP

## Tourist visa holders can perform Umrah

ISLAMABAD: The Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah has clarified that foreigners who are coming to the Kingdom on tourist visa can perform Umrah after obtaining Umrah permit by completing the procedures on the Eatmarna and Tawakkalna applications. The ministry said that the visit visa holders too could obtain the Umrah permit through completing the registration process on Eatmarna application.

"Opening an account on Eatmarna is possible only after updating the visitor's immune health status on the Tawakkalna application," Saudi Gazette reported. – APP



## Briefs

84,000  
people get  
jobs at CDA  
hospital

ISLAMABAD: At least 84,000 people have been vaccinated against the novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) at the Capital Development Authority's (CDA) hospital. The vaccinated people included CDA staff, frontline health workers as well as other citizens, said its spokesman on Friday. Talking to APP, he said around 80 per cent staff of the authority including their families have been inoculated Covid-19 vaccine. Similarly, the federal civic agency had also set up a separate centre at fire brigade to facilitate its 18,000 employees in getting vaccinated, he added. He said the CDA Hospital had become a major health-care centre in the city and two new blocks were also near completion there. Recently, the CDA board also decided to set up a Cochlear Implant Centre at the CDA Hospital, he maintained. – APP

MoHR  
conducts  
media  
awareness  
campaign

ISLAMABAD: a nationwide media awareness campaign about child abuse by organizing seminars at various educational institutions during last three years. According to details, the ministry data revealed that nationwide media awareness campaign was also conducted on women's inheritance rights and violence against women. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material including 12,000 pamphlets and posters on Zainab Alert (Pakistan Citizen's Portal) were also designed, printed & disseminated. The ministry also designed, printed and disseminated 2000 Posters on Employment of Children Act, 1991 proscribing domestic work and displayed across all Police stations in ICT. The Ministry also completed film festival organized on human rights issues in 2020 Completed 16 days of Activism campaign in December, 2020 Completed World Autism Day celebrated, followed by a social media campaign Organized Truck Art campaign on the rights of the girl child, focusing on the prevention of early marriages and supporting girl's education. Completed around 1,673,640 SMS messages on the rights of the girl child were disseminated in 44 cities through telecommunication companies completed. MoHR collaborated with the PEMRA to air public service messages on child abuse and child labor on TV channels, FM Radios and Cable TV. – APP

Residents  
asked to  
remain vigilant

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali has said that eradication of mosquito larvae was essential for dengue control. Presiding over a meeting to review the arrangements to control dengue larvae here on Friday at his office, the DC said that the prevailing season was very conducive for the breeding of dengue larvae and there was need to control it on emergency basis. Muhammad Ali stressed the need of special training for general practitioner doctors, so that they can diagnose the symptoms of dengue fever timely and prescribed appropriate treatment. He directed the officials to monitor the possible hotspots of dengue larvae breeding and destroy it immediately to control the further spreading. The DC also directed the environment department to make effective arrangements for the surveillance of junkyards and hotels as they were the possible sites of the larvae breeding. He said the district administration along with the health officials was making all out efforts to control the spread of dengue but without people active participation, no campaign could be made successful.

Pak, Kazakhstan agree on  
cementing bilateral ties

Ambassador Kistafin meets NSA Moeed Yousaf; shares message of Kazakh President delivered to the nation on Sept 1

DNA

ISLAMABAD – The Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin paid a visit to the National Security Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Moeed W. Yusuf. During the meeting, both sides expressed its principle interest in strengthening partnership, discussed the current agenda for bilateral cooperation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Trade and economic partnership, development of «people-to-people» contacts



in the fields of culture and education etc., were identified as top priority. The Ambassador of Kazakhstan also briefed M.W.Yusuf on key messages of the address to the people of Kazakhstan delivered by the President of Kazakhstan K.Tokayev on September 1, 2021. A common interest was expressed in the early stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan, which is extremely important in the context of establishing co-operation in both bilateral and interregional formats. Following the meeting, the parties agreed to hold consultations on a regular basis.

APP, Cuban news agency sign  
MoU for news exchange

APP

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said on Friday that Pakistan stood by Afghan people and would not leave them at these critical times. Speaking on the occasion of MoU signing ceremony between the official news agencies of Pakistan and Cuba, he said that Pakistan had sent humanitarian aid to Afghanistan to avert humanitarian crisis and one C-130 was in Kabul now whereas two more planes would leave for Kabul within this week. He said that Pakistan was the most important corridor for getting access to Afghanistan. Chaudhry Fawad said that the international community had appreciated Pakistan's role in the evacuation of media persons and thousands of foreigners from Afghanistan. He said that the world was giving

more respect and honour to Pakistan's narrative now. Pakistan's official and premier news agency Associated Press of Pakistan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the exchange of news with Cuban news agency Prensa Latina. Managing Director APP Mubashir Hassan and Ambassador of Cuba to Pakistan Zéner Javier Caro González signed the agreement. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, Secretary Information and Broadcasting Shahera Shahid and senior officers of the ministry were also present on the occasion. Chaudhry Fawad said that it was a historic day as two leading news agencies were signing an agreement for the exchange of news. He said it was APP's first agreement with any news agency of Latin America. The minister said that with the signing of this agreement, cooperation between the APP and Prensa Latina

would be beneficial for both media organizations. He said that APP would soon also sign news exchange agreements with Tajikistan, Iran, and United Arab Emirates news agencies which would increase cooperation in the information regime. The minister said that Pakistan had good relations with Cuba based on mutual trust and respect. He said that both countries understand each other's problems and challenges. The minister said that on the directives of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the government of Pakistan and the Ministry of Information had been providing assistance in the evacuation of foreign nationals from Afghanistan. The minister said that the government had revamped External Publicity Wing during the past few months. He said that the Ministry of Information through EP Wing had issued 250 visas, 85 borders crossing NOCs and 35 media cover-

age requests since last month. He said that Pakistan facilitated not only the evacuation of media persons from Afghanistan but also personnel of aid agencies stationed there. The minister said his ministry facilitated, in evacuation and granting visas to all those foreign journalists working in Afghanistan or intending to visit there for media coverage. Speaking on the occasion, the Cuban envoy thanked Chaudhry Fawad for taking personal interest in the completion of modalities for the signing of the agreement between the two agencies. He said that fake news was also a problem in Cuba and signing this agreement would prove helpful in strengthening of cooperation in the field of media. Thanking Pakistan for helping in the evacuation of foreigners from Afghanistan, he said that sending relief goods to Afghanistan was a step worth appreciation.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and broadcasting, Chaudhry Fawad Husain witnessing the MoU signing ceremony between Associated Press of Pakistan and Prensa Latina of Cuba. – APP

A two-days 'Traveling Bus  
Painting Project' starts

ISLAMABAD: A two-days "Traveling Bus Painting Project" started here on Friday at the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (NIFTH) aiming to promote Art and Culture of both countries (Pakistan-Australia) by involving our youth to participate in this Bus Painting Project. Talking to APP, Executive Director Lok Virsa Talha Ali said, "The designs on the buses draw parallels between the climate and landscape of Australia and Pakistan". He said the historic and cultural landmarks used, including Badshahi Mosque Lahore, K-2, Uluru, Sydney Opera House, Three Sisters, Sydney Harbour Bridge, represent the cultural diversity and rich history of both countries. Adding the design elements on the two sides of the bus will be painted as day and night scenes representing the colloquialism of 'Down Under' and the different time zones and opposite seasons in Australia and Pakistan. Waves, water, and rain will be a common theme connecting all designs. – APP

CDA cracks down on land  
mafia in Humak Town

ISLAMABAD: On the directions of the management of the Capital Development Authority, the Department of Enforcement, with the help of the district administration and the Islamabad Police, carried out operations against the land mafia at various places in different parts of Islamabad, in which illegal buildings, houses and other illegal structures were demolished. According to details, the operations were carried out in Humak Town area of Islamabad, where the CDA Enforcement Department, while conducting an operation demolished, illegally set up a pre-cast wall on more than 200 kanals of government land, six rooms, a site office, a Container, a check post, and a barrier with the help of heavy machinery and retrieved government land worth more than two billion rupees. Later, the Enforcement Department, while removing encroachments around Khanna pull area of Islamabad, confiscated five trucks of trespassers, while two illegal huts and construction materials stalls were also removed at Bhandar stop on the Express Way. On this occasion, the CDA administration said that the protection of government lands is our top priority and no concessions will be made to the land mafia. It should be noted that for the last several months, the CDA in the Federal Capital has been engaged in continuous operations against illegal encroachments and constructions, which have resulted in the retrieval of billions of rupees worth of government land. – DNA

## PRCS and ICRC celebrate world first Aid Day

Dragana Kojic, head of the ICRC's delegation in Pakistan, reiterated that first aid saves lives. The ICRC works with PRCS to deliver practical training to communities in first aid, ensuring they are equipped with life-saving knowledge and skills, and the confidence to act when needed

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Today, 194 Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies, around the globe, including Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), are celebrating the World First Aid Day to promote and advocate for first aid knowledge and skills to the wider public. Every year, the second Saturday of September is observed as World First Aid Day to recognize and celebrate the important role that National Red Cross and Red

Crescent Societies and other organizations play in providing quality first aid trainings worldwide as a way of building people's capacity to respond in situations of injury or illness. This year, the theme of WFAD is "First Aid in Schools", placing the youth at the core of this first aid awareness day. Some training and prevention themes will also revolve around necessary life-saving actions in these unprecedented times of COVID-19, such as the obligation to wear a mask at school, to wash their hands regularly and adaptation of first aid procedures. In a statement on the occasion, PRCS Chairman Abrarul Haq said, "COVID-19 has reshaped

the whole world and changed the dynamics of safe behaviors and responsibilities, including in educational institutions. In these times, it is important for everyone to adapt to the changing scenarios, in which first aid trainings can play a crucial role. It enables a person to carry out first aid in life-threatening situations as the first few moments are crucial in preventing the situation from worsening." PRCS has made numerous systematic and structural interventions to promote first aid by arranging first aid training programs through an accessible and inclusive approach. During the COVID-19 pandemic, PRCS has successfully conducted various first aid training sessions

across Pakistan. "We have witnessed an overwhelming response to the first aid training sessions. I can proudly say that from 2020 to 2021, the number of trained first aiders has increased from 18,767 to 27,787. Moreover, I feel proud to add that these first aiders have responded to over 4,600 emergency cases to date from the start of this year", Abrarul Haq added. The First Aid program particularly focuses on training people from marginalized communities, including the transgender community, religious minorities, and persons with disabilities. Moreover, students, lawyers, and journalists are also being equipped with first aid skills.

Dragana Kojic, head of the ICRC's delegation in Pakistan, reiterated that first aid saves lives. "The ICRC works with PRCS to deliver practical training to communities in first aid, ensuring they are equipped with life-saving knowledge and skills, and the confidence to act when needed. When a crisis or emergency occurs, the first to provide essential aid is our community of first aid responders. On this day, I would like to extend ICRC's support to PRCS in further strengthening the first aid program and thank its network of staff and volunteers who are equipping vulnerable communities with essential first aid skills," she added.

Bike lifter  
gang busted

RAWALPINDI: Police have busted a bike lifter gang and arrested its ring leader besides recovering five stolen motorcycles, cash Rs 20,000 and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Pirwadhai police team under the supervision of SHO arrested three members of Idress Khan motorcycle lifter gang including ring leader Idress Khan and his accomplices Abass and Bashrat, who were bike lifter gang members and allegedly involved in several cases registered in different police stations. Police recovered five stolen motorcycles, cash Rs 20,000 and other items from their possession. They confessed to have committed bike lifting and other crimes in different areas. A case has been registered against them while further investigation was underway, he added. – APP

IRSA releases  
231694

cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 231694 cusecs water from various rim stations with an inflow of 199919 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1531.50 feet, which was 139.05 feet higher than its dead level of 1392 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 127300 and 150000 cusecs respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1192.25 feet, which was 142.25 feet higher than its dead level of 1050 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water were recorded as 15925 and 25000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, and Sukkur was recorded as 170774, 159289, and 75125 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River, a total of 18400 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 38294 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. – APP

Rs49b spend  
to upgrade  
transmission  
lines

ISLAMABAD: The incumbent government spent more than Rs 49 billion in up-gradation of electricity transmission lines and during summer as many as 25,000 MW electricity was transmitted through the system, which was only 18,000 MW in 2018- the last year of the PML-N government. Sources told APP here Friday, that the previous government did not pay attention to up-grade the transmission network and their focus remained on setting up power plants mostly based on imported expensive fuel. The system could not transmit more than 18,000 MW despite availability of generation capacity during peak summer season due to paying no proper attention to the up-gradation of transmission system, they said. However, the incumbent government made heavy investment both in the transmission and distribution system to remove the constraints and enhanced the capacity over 4000 MW during the last 3 years. Meanwhile, the power regulator National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has approved the Competitive Trading Bilateral Contract Market (CTBCM) Model vide its Determination issued on December 5, 2019. – APP

NIFTH's  
'Music & Arts'  
course to start  
next month

ISLAMABAD: The National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage-Lok Virsa (NIFTH) and Echo Records will launch a three months course titled 'Level Up – a Skill Development program' by next month. Talking to APP, Executive Director NIFTH Talha Ali on Friday said that the short course program is ideal for those who want to study abroad in music and film production with the aim of enlightening creative musical minds. He further said, "Our panel of instructors consists of highly skilled and well-known professionals in their respective fields." He said the courses included, music short courses, pop vocal training and saxophone, Arts and Crafts Courses. The last date to apply for registration is 30th September 2021, he added. – APP



## Digitising land records

ONE of the most pressing issues in Pakistan, and a big factor behind the backlog of cases in the courts, is ownership of land and land mafias. Prime Minister Imran Khan in this regard has urged complete digitisation of land records, and recently launched the cadastral map of Islamabad to curb land record tampering, ensure monitoring of construction through imagery and provide information about land ownership.

This initiative has been launched after information was shared with the Prime Minister a few months ago during a meeting of the National Coordination Committee for Housing, Construction and Development, where he was briefed about the digitization of land records in different provinces by the Survey General of Pakistan. According to the data, Punjab has digitised 92 per cent land records and 100 per cent crop reporting system. KPK had digitised approximately 50 percent land records and 6-7 per cent crops reporting system. Balochistan had digitized land records of only 4 districts. Land records of Sindh were being scanned and retrieved on demand.

Secure land tenure and property rights are fundamental to shelter and livelihoods that serve as cornerstones for the realization of human rights and poverty reduction. While this project should be completed on priority, the government must also look at the progress already made, especially in Punjab, where the authorities launched the comprehensive online portal named as Land Record Management and Information System. Under this, the Punjab Land Records Authority (PLRA) has decided to issue "Fards" (record of ownership) online. However, the system's functionality is in question—the process of issuing fards has been reported as extremely slow and full of red-tape. According to the LRA, they have hired more staff for the Arazi Record Center (ACR) to expedite the process of issuing online fards and have also launched an Android app called Digital-PLRA to spread awareness.

In order to expedite and make more efficient this national digitisation system, the government should rely on the data already available in Punjab, as well as utilise the lessons on how to go about the digital system—a complete overhaul and transformation of this process is required.

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## Checks and balances

THE government has initiated the audit of all oil refineries and oil marketing companies (OMCs) to investigate the possibility of any irregularities when it comes to taxes, product sourcing and transportations costs. Sources within the government have revealed that the Petroleum Division has asked 25 OMCs and refineries to make sure that relevant personnel are available along with entire records for the examination by the audit teams. The understanding is that this exercise has been launched in view of the findings submitted by an inquiry commission regarding the oil shortage crisis last summer.

This is an encouraging development, especially considering how an audit of this nature has been long overdue. In fact, earlier this year in March, the Petroleum Division had asked the Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP) to conduct a forensic audit of OMCs. The inquiry commission last year had identified several malpractices which included the manipulation of pricing mechanism, adulteration, misrepresentation and evasion of taxes, and figure fudging across the oil supply chain. These issues have persisted for a long time and need to be addressed at the earliest so that the OMCs are held accountable going forward.

We cannot afford to have a repeat of the artificially created petrol crisis that we witnessed the last time. The findings that 90 percent of the OMCs were not maintaining mandatory 21-day stocks and that an estimated Rs250bn worth of oil was being smuggled from Iran are extremely concerning, this whole fiasco reeks of elite capture which cannot be tolerated whatsoever.

Detailed findings into the crisis will be important to ensure that nothing of this sort takes place in the future and that the requisite checks and balances can be put in place. The audit should not be rushed or time-bound too tightly so that the exercise can achieve its purpose and should not just serve optics.

# Remembering those killed in the 9/11 backlash

Ray Hanania



Balbir Singh Sodhi was murdered on Sept. 15, 2001, in Mesa, Arizona. The turban-wearing Sikh was killed outside his gas station by a man who had spent hours drinking at a bar, bragging that he planned to “go out and shoot some towel-heads.” The killer was Frank Silva Roque, 42, a Boeing aircraft mechanic at a local repair facility with a criminal record that included an attempted robbery in California

ON Saturday, Americans will remember the 2,996 people killed in the Al-Qaeda terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. They will mourn them, recall their lives, and remember the events of that horrific day. But few will spend any time remembering the dozens of Americans who were killed in the weeks and months after 9/11 in backlash violence that targeted people who “looked” Middle Eastern or were Muslim. The tragic tales of these victims have never been fully told or acknowledged by the American people. In many cases, the police and judicial system seemed reluctant to connect their murders to 9/11, despite the fact that the federal government later acknowledged a sharp rise in anti-Arab and anti-Muslim discrimination and violence.

Anger and racism prevents many Americans from accepting the fact that the murders were tied to 9/11, because the victims were Muslim or “Middle Eastern-looking” Pakistanis, Sikhs or Hindus. They have never been included in the commemorations for that tragic event. But every single one of the backlash victims should be recognized when Americans pause to remember the terrorist attacks on Saturday. Two of the perpetrators openly bragged about wanting to avenge the deaths of those who died on 9/11, and their cases were officially acknowledged as being linked to the attacks. But, in a shocking display of ignorance, few of the victims were actually Arab — the declared description of the 9/11 terrorists. Here are some of the cases that should be remembered.

Balbir Singh Sodhi was murdered on Sept. 15, 2001, in Mesa, Arizona. The turban-wearing Sikh was killed outside his gas station by a man who had spent hours drinking at a bar, bragging that he planned to “go out and shoot some towel-heads.” The killer was Frank Silva Roque, 42, a Boeing aircraft mechanic at a local repair facility with a criminal record that included an

attempted robbery in California. Roque was arrested, convicted and sentenced to death by an American court, but his death sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment. The day after Sodhi was murdered, another American man enraged by the 9/11 terrorist attacks began a violent rampage, killing two people and seriously injuring another. Mark Stroman, a white supremacist from Texas, first attacked and killed Waqar Hasan in Dallas. The 46-year-old Pakistani was working in his convenience store when Stroman shot him dead.

Five days later, Stroman entered a gas station in Dallas, where he encountered 28-year-old cashier Rais Bhuiyan, who was a former Bangladesh Air Force pilot. After asking where he was from, Stroman shot Bhuiyan in the head with a shotgun, partially blinding him. On Oct. 4, Stroman drove to a gas station in nearby Mesquite, where Hindu Indian Vasudev Patel, 49, worked. Patel had emigrated to America in 1983 and was a naturalized US citizen. Stroman shot Patel dead and fled after failing to forcibly open the cash register.

Stroman was caught the next day and told police he did “what every American wanted to do,” saying America was “at war.” He was convicted of murder and executed in July 2011. Bhuiyan, the only survivor of Stroman’s killing spree, tried in vain to stop the execution, citing his Muslim faith for forgiving his attacker. These cases were identified as being related to 9/11 because the attackers acknowledged the source of their rage. But many other crimes that took place in the weeks following the attacks were never classified as hate crimes and the victims were never associated with the post-9/11 backlash. Adel Karas, 48, a grocer from Egypt and a Coptic Christian, was killed on Sept. 15, 2001, in his San Gabriel, California, store. Although several suspects were identified, prosecutors declined to press charges, saying there was insufficient evidence.

Ali Almansoor, a Yemeni-American citizen and father of four, was murdered two days later in his Detroit, Michigan, home. Prosecutors charged Brent David Seever with first-degree murder and he was sentenced to life in prison. Although Seever reportedly claimed he was glad he shot the victim because of 9/11, police decided it was a domestic dispute over a woman.

Jawed Wassel, of Queens, New York, was an Afghan-American director who had just finished a film about Iraq when he got into a dispute with one of the film’s investors. The investor was later charged with murdering Wassel and dismembering his body in the days after Sept. 11. He admitted murder and was sentenced to 25 years in jail.

Father-of-eight Abdo Ali Ahmed, 51, was murdered two days after he found a note on his car deriding his ethnicity and threatening to kill him. Ahmed, a Yemeni shopkeeper in Reedley, California, showed the note to friends and family but threw it away after concluding the threat was little more than typical post-9/11 rage. He was murdered on Sept. 29, 2001. Police have never charged a suspect in the case. Abdullah Mohammed Nimer, 53, was a door-to-door salesman who lived and worked in Los Angeles. Police described his October 2001 murder as “a simple robbery,” but when his body was found his car was unlocked and filled with merchandise worth thousands of dollars. Police also found several hundred dollars in cash with the victim. No one has ever been charged.

As America prepares to mark the 20th anniversary of 9/11, the commemorations would have a more powerful meaning if these victims were also memorialized. The terrorist attacks were horrendous acts of terror that took thousands of lives on a single day, but they also took many more American lives in the weeks and months that followed.

— *Courtesy: Arab News*

# Late Justice Muhammad Abdul Rashid

Muhammad Siddique



The judgements of the Balochistan High Court did not sit well with Martial Law authorities or General Zia-ul-Haq. He was said to have called the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and complained about the Balochistan High Court. The Chief Justice responded that the judges have taken oath on the Constitution, and they have to make decisions

JUSTICE Rashid was born in the town of Sibi in Balochistan in 1933. His early schooling was in different parts of Balochistan and finished his intermediate education at the Government College Quetta. Soon after, he started working as a teacher. As a teacher he worked in Harnai, Dalbandin and Quetta. In Quetta, he worked in Sandeman and Special High Schools as an English teacher. During that time, he privately completed his BA and went to Lahore for his BT. He later earned his master's in History. In 1958 he appeared in the Central Superior Services (CSS) competition examination and passed. He was selected in the Civil Service of Pakistan (CSP). For CSP training, he attended the Civil Service academies in Lahore, Dacca and London. He was a devoted family man. In 1960, he married Aziza Khanum and had two sons and a daughter. They were happily married for 52 years. Besides spending time and providing for his own family, he remained devoted to caring for his parents and widowed sister. He accompanied his parents for Haj, and at times he had to carry his father on his back during tawaf.

In the executive branch, he served in various positions such as Assistant & Deputy commissioner, Chairman Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Director of Basic Democracies and Caretaker Law Minister of Balochistan. He served these positions of power with courage, unmatched integrity and highest principles he believed in. He never compromised on his high ethics.

Sometimes he felt he was pressured in during his time with the executive branch. Being in the executive service he had the option to join the judicial branch of the service, which he eventually opted for. After some time in training, he was briefly appointed a civil judge. Later he served

as Sessions Judge for a few years. Then, he served as the first Secretary of Law Department in Balochistan, and later as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Law in the Federal government. He was then sent to Harvard University in the U.S. for law review training. During that time, he was picked as the judge of the Sindh-Balochistan High Court. Since he was in the US, he had to be sworn in by the permanent Pakistan representative at the United Nations. He became the first Pakistani judge to take oath outside Pakistan. On his return from the U.S., he joined the Sindh-Balochistan High Court in Karachi. After a constitutional amendment the Balochistan High Court was separated and located in Quetta. Justice Rashid joined two other judges to make up the new High Court. His judgements were always made according to the law and the constitution. Soon after his appointment, General Zia-ul-Haq imposed martial law in the country. Many military courts were established in the country to deliver so-called swift justice at the discretion of the martial law authorities.

Often, non-violent crimes had harsh punishments, which were overturned on appeal by the high court. Several politicians were sent to jail for opposing martial law. Also, in Balochistan many politicians were detained. Their lawyers challenged the detention orders in the high court. He was instrumental in overturning their detention orders based on the rights guaranteed by the constitution.

In one notable civil criminal case, the martial court ruled that the defendant be punished by death. His attorney challenged the ruling in the high court. The martial law prosecutor was arguing the case and referred to a martial regulation. In this case, Justice Rashid told the prosecutor that the country has a constitution,

and that there is no law above that, and any martial law decree can be challenged in the high court. In many cases, the court either reduced the sentences awarded in the martial law courts or reversed their judgements. Politicians from other provinces also challenged their detention in Balochistan High Court and got their detentions overturned.

The judgements of the Balochistan High Court did not sit well with Martial Law authorities or General Zia-ul-Haq. He was said to have called the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and complained about the Balochistan High Court. The Chief Justice responded that the judges have taken oath on the Constitution, and they have to make decisions based on this supreme law of the land. Zia-ul-Haq then reportedly asked how this could be changed, to which the Chief Justice replied that all judges asked to take a new oath in which the word “Constitution” is omitted.

Accordingly, a new Martial order was issued and requested all the judges of High Courts and Supreme Court to take a new oath specifically omitting the word ‘Constitution’. Seventeen judges, including the Chief Justice and Justice Rasheed refused to take the oath. That was the end of his career as a judge. He was a man of strong will and strong principles. His personal ethics and principles did not allow him to take such an oath. Upholding his principles and highest ethics has been his legacy. He practiced law in Sindh briefly, in Karachi and Sukkur. Later, he was able to revisit his passion for education when he was appointed Vice Chancellor of the University of Balochistan from 2000 to 2004.

Justice Rashid died in Civil Hospital Quetta after a brief illness on August 25, 2021 and is buried in his ancestral hometown, Sibi.



## Briefs

Govt wants  
CEC to resign

FROM PAGE 01

"The chief election commissioner is in close contact with PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif," said Fawad, adding that the party leaders are trying to get legal amendments passed so that the use of electronic voting machines (EVMs) could be declared controversial. He said that the chief election commissioner should "either take a look at his behaviour or join politics." "You better not become a tool used by small political parties," Fawad told the chief election commissioner. Fawad added that whenever the Opposition loses in elections, it starts crying foul about rigging.

On the other hand, Senator Babar Awan said that the bill on electoral reforms was passed in the National Assembly after eight months but the Opposition did not present a single suggestion throughout this period.

**Swati levels bribe allegations against ECP**  
Officials of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) walked out of a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs after federal minister Azam Swati levelled serious allegations against the commission of taking bribes. The debate on the usage of electronic voting machines for the next general elections turned hostile Friday when a session of the committee was held under the chair of Senator Taj Haider. Advisor to the Prime Minister on Parliamentary Affairs Dr Babar Awan said the government will not decide which machine will be used for voting. "This will be decided by the election commission," he said. "The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs wrote a letter to the ECP, asking whether it needed a budget."

Swati then added that such institutions conduct all elections through rigging and should be burned down. At this, the ECP officials walked out in protest. After the meeting was disrupted, Senator Farooq H Naek lashed out at Swati, saying that the ECP should be removed from the Constitution and the government should conduct the elections itself.

Pak, Spain  
resolve...

FROM PAGE 01

humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. He expressed satisfaction that a conference is taking place in Geneva to raise funds for the country. Shah Mahmood Qureshi said Pakistan is contributing in its own way. One of our aircraft landed in Afghanistan yesterday with supplies of food and medicines. He said we will continue to extend humanitarian assistance through air and land routes. The Foreign Minister reiterated the call on the international community to take steps to avert economic collapse of Afghanistan. One of the ways is availability of resources and promoting economic activities. He suggested the decision of freezing the Afghan funds will not be helpful and be revisited. On bilateral relations, Shah Mahmood Qureshi there are great opportunities for cooperation between the two countries in different fields. Given the changed security situation in Pakistan, he urged the Spanish counterpart to review the travel advisory. In his remarks, the Spanish Foreign Minister said Pakistan is a very important partner for his country and the European Union. He said as both countries celebrate seventy years of the establishment of diplomatic relations, this is an excellent opportunity for us to reenergize the bilateral relationship.

Int'l  
community  
must...

FROM PAGE 01

The Prime Minister hoped that Pakistan-Spain relations would continue to be strengthened in all fields. The Prime Minister also lauded the positive role of Pakistani diaspora in Spain. This year marks the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Spain and both sides would commemorate this milestone through specific events.

## IPC body proposes Rs 1000 million grant for Hockey

"The change from the grass field to astro-turf is a major reason for the downfall of the game as we didn't adopt the type of infrastructure," says Bajwa

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC) recommended that the federal government should allocate Rs. 1000 million annual grant for the revival of national game Hockey and government monitor these funds itself for uplifting hockey in the country. Under the chairmanship of NawabSher, the standing committee meeting was held at Parliament house discussed the reasons of sports decline in the country as well as detailed briefing were given by the Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) and Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) to the committee.

In the meeting, the chairman committee NawabSher said that we have declined in sports and we need to find out the reasons for it. "Our national game hockey has also suffered a lot and has lost its international glory," he said. To which, the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) Secretary Asif Bajwa briefed the committee members about the downfall of the national game. "The change from the grass field to astro-turf is a major reason for the downfall of the game as we didn't adopt the type of infrastructure," Bajwa said, adding that in a country like Holland which is even smaller than our city Lahore there were 1650 astro-turfs which were registered with the Dutch Hockey. "It has 12,000 high perfor-

mance men and women players," he said and added that India also spends a hefty amount on its national hockey team. He was of the view that Pakistan lacks funds and infrastructure which was the reason for the national game's downfall. "We have 10 to 12 astro-turfs on which hockey is playable. In the 1990s when sports was separated from education it also caused a major blow to the national game as it was not being played in schools, colleges etc." To a question, he said that PHF's audit was done on regular basis and we give \$10,000 as fees to the International and Asian hockey federation. He said that when the government stops the financial assistance, hockey falls down and our foreign coaches went

back as we failed to pay them salaries due to lack of funds. Bajwa told the committee that the Indian government has invested Rs 2.5 billion in hockey and they were given maximum support to the Indian hockey team to get medal in Olympics 2021, adding that now we are given our plans to ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination and focusing for the Asian Games to qualify for 2024 Olympic Games. Iqbal Mohammad Ali Khan, who is active member of the standing committee said that Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) has spent Rs. 220 millions in the name of road repairing. In reply, Director General PSB Col r Asif Zaman said that I am not responsible for the previous works but admitting that blame

games are damaging sports, the government will support elite players in sports policy, Jinnah Stadium is going to be renovated after 31 years. Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) secretary Khalid Mehmoed informed the committee that the government does not provide any funding to the Pakistan Olympic Association, the POA is fully audited. He said that POA cannot select any athlete or coach in any international event as the selection is done by the relevant sports federation. He said that the National Olympic Council cannot be formed without the International Charter Committee (IOC) Charter as Pakistan Olympic Association operates under the charter of the International Olympic

Committee and is an independent body, adding that in 2014, the government also signed an agreement with the IOC in this regard. The IPC Secretary Mohsin-Mushtaq said after the NFC awards the resource distribution formula was changed. "We were not putting money in sports due to limited resources. In the new national sports policy we are actively pursuing that the provinces should focus on five sports," he said and added that we can also rope in a foreign coach for the national hockey team. The IPC Minister DrFehmidaMirza said we were bringing in a national sports policy and whoever would represent Pakistan at international level will have to get the No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the government.



ISTANBUL: Pakistan ambassador to Turkey Syrus Qazi received Zekeriya Yapicioglu, Chairman of Free Cause Party (Hür Dava Partisi) at Pakistan embassy Ankara. Views were exchanged on further promoting the fraternal Pakistan-Turkey ties. – DNA

Mohamamd Nabi  
named Aghanistan  
cricket captain

AGENCIES

KABUL: The Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) on Friday accepted the resignation of Rashid Khan as captain and appointed Mohammad Nabi as the new skipper for the upcoming T20 World Cup. The development took place after Rashid Khan announced to resign from his role, complaining that he was not consulted over the team selection. Rashid Khan had said, "As the captain and responsible person for the nation, I reserve the right to be part of the selection of the team. The selection committee and ACB has not obtained my consent for the team which has been announced by ACB media,". The T20 World Cup will be the first international tournament where Afghanistan cricket is due to take part since the Taliban takeover last month. The new rulers, however, expressed full support to the men's team but their position regarding women's sports raised eyebrows all over the world. Rashid Khan was part of a spin-heavy roster an-

nounced for this autumn's tournament, joining fellow all-rounders Mohammad Nabi and Sharafuddin Ashraf in the squad. Front-line spinners Qais Ahmad and Mujeeb Ur Rahman were also selected. Mohammad Nabi, the new skipper, welcomed the ACB decision, saying that he admired the decision of the board for the announcement of leading the National Cricket Team in T20 Format. "InshaAllah together we will present a great picture of the Nation in the upcoming T20 World Cup," he said. Afghanistan's tournament starts in Sharjah on 25 October against one of two of the qualifying teams in Group B. Khan and company will also face India, New Zealand and Pakistan in the group stage. T20 Squad: Rashid Khan, RahmanullahGurbaz, HazratullahZazai, Usman Ghani, Asghar Afghan, Mohammad Nabi, NajibullahZadran, HashmatullahShahidi, Mohammad Shahzad, MujeebUr Rahman, Karim Janat, GulbadinNaib, Naveen ul Haq, Hamid Hassan, Sharafuddin Ashraf, Dawlat Zadran, Shapoor Zadran, Qais Ahmed.

Raducanu to face Fernandez in  
historic all-teen US Open final

SPORTS DESK

NEW YORK: British 18-year-old Emma Raducanu became the first qualifier in history to make a Grand Slam final when she reached a fairytale US Open decider against another teenager, 19-year-old Canadian Leylah Fernandez. Raducanu, who was virtually unknown even in Britain at the start of the year, will become the youngest Slam finalist in 17 years after beating Greek 17th seed Maria Sakkari 6-1, 6-4 in a nerveless display. "I'm in the final and I can't actually believe it," Raducanu said. Fernandez, a 73rd-ranked left-hander, beat second seed ArynaSabalenka of Belarus 7-6 (7/3), 4-6, 6-4, for her third Open win over a top-five rival, a feat not seen at a Slam since Serena Williams at Wimbledon in 2012.

"Now I can say I've done a pretty good job of achieving my dreams," Fernandez said. The teen prodigies will meet Saturday at Arthur Ashe Stadium, where one of them will claim her first Grand Slam title. "Is there any expectation?" Raducanu said. "I'm a qualifier so technically on paper there's no pressure on me." It's the first Slam final between teens since 17-year-old Williams beat 18-year-old Martina Hingis at the 1999 US Open, and just the eighth all-teen Slam final in the Open era (since 1968). "I just want to play a final," Fernandez said. "I'm going to enjoy my victory and worry about it tomorrow," Raducanu is



the youngest Slam finalist since 17-year-old Maria Sharapova won at Wimbledon in 2004. She became only the second woman ranked outside the top 100 to reach a US Open final after unranked Kim Clijsters came out of retirement and won the 2009 US Open. "Today I wasn't thinking about anyone else except for myself," Raducanu said. Raducanu is trying to become the first British woman to win a Grand Slam title since Virginia Wade at Wimbledon in 1977 and the first British woman to win the US Open since Wade in 1968. Wade and British legend Tim Henman were watching. "Tim is such a big inspiration,"

said Raducanu. "He has been helping me, telling me take one point at a time. You have to stay in the moment and can't get ahead of yourself," Fernandez, who turned 19 on Monday, had earlier ousted defending champion Naomi Osaka and fifth-seeded ElinaSvitlana before Sabalenka, 23, become her third top-five victim. "I had opportunities but I didn't use them in the key moments," Sabalenka said. "I didn't play well. She deserved this win." Raducanu could become the first US Open champion not to lose a set since Serena Williams in 2014. Raducanu saved three break points in her opening service game then broke to lead 2-0.

Butt qualifies for  
quarter-finals in  
Beach Wrestling

DNA

PARALIA: Pakistani wrestlers Inam Butt and Zaman Anwar have qualified for quarter-finals in World Beach Wrestling Series Greece-leg.

According to the details, both the Pakistani wrestlers won two consecutive group matches to qualify for the knock-out stage. Inam beat Azerbaijan's Ibrahim Yusuf in his first fight in the 90Kg category to start the tournament on a winning note. Zaman defeated Turkey's wrestler to win his first fight in +90Kg category. In the second match, Inam beat Georgian wrestler DatuMistimili by 1-0 whereas Zaman outclassed Romanian wrestler by 3-0. Following the quarter-finals fixtures, Inam will meet Romanian wrestler PalaghiaMihaiNicolae in the knock-out match whereas Zaman will lock horns with Azerbaijan's wrestler NazarianOyan. Remember, Inam won a Gold medal in World Beach Wrestling Series Italy-leg.

Military top  
brass...

FROM PAGE 01

a crisis situation in the region. COAS appreciated Army's support and role towards the overall evacuation & transit related effort under taken in support of evacuation of foreign and Afghan populace from Afghanistan to other countries.

Reiterating Pakistan's firm commitment to peace, COAS said constructive engagement and sustained humanitarian support for Afghanistan by world community is imperative for enduring peace and stability. Close cooperation amongst all regional stakeholders is essential for a prosperous and peaceful region, forum emphasised. Forum also paid homage to Syed Ali Shah Geelani for his lifelong struggle and sacrifices as leader of the indigenous Freedom Movement in IIO-J&K and expressed solidarity with Kashmiri people who continue facing Indian state oppression and violence.

COAS appreciated formations for their efforts for conduct of Muharram in a peaceful manner and instructed complete readiness to counter conventional and non-conventional threats. The designs of external and internal forces inimical to peace and stability in Pakistan shall be thwarted at all costs, COAS concluded.

Taliban  
must stop...

FROM PAGE 01

Afghanistan, including in Herat, where two people were shot dead. Shamdasi said the rights office had also received credible reports that a man and a boy were shot dead as Taliban gunmen sought to disperse crowds during national flag-raising ceremonies held last month. "Firearms must never be used except in response to an imminent threat of death or serious injury," she said. On Wednesday, at least five journalists were arrested and two severely beaten for several hours. "One journalist was reported to have been told, as he was being kicked in the head, that you are lucky you have not been beheaded," she said. "(There is) lots of intimidation of journalists who are trying to simply do their job," she said.

Afghanistan  
at risk of...

FROM PAGE 01

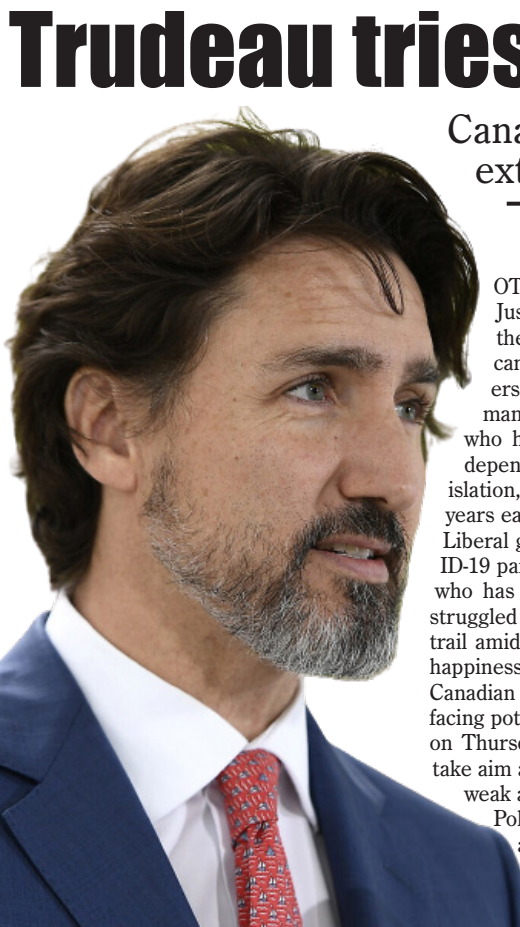
key leverage over the new administration. But the UN special envoy on Afghanistan Deborah Lyons told the Security Council on Thursday that a way needed to be found to get the money into the country "to prevent a total breakdown of the economy and social order" noting that Afghanistan was facing a storm of crises including a plunging currency, a sharp rise in prices for food and fuel and a lack of cash at private banks. The authorities also do not have the funds to pay salaries, she said.

Professor  
Miyawaki...

FROM PAGE 01

actively promoted at the initiative of Prime Minister Imran Khan. Under this approach, dozens of species that suit the environment are planted in the same area, close to each other, which ensures their growth in a competitive environment, allowing the trees to grow faster compared to normal plantation. On the sad demise of Dr. Miyawaki, PM Khan conveyed his sincerest condolences, which has been shared with Yokohama National University, where Dr. Miyawaki worked as Professor Emeritus. In response, Mr. UMEHARA Izuru, President of Yokohama National University, has conveyed his appreciations to PM Khan upon receiving his condolence message.

MATSUDA Kuninori, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan honors the life and work of the late Professor Miyawaki, and expresses deepest appreciation to the Prime Minister for his condolences and sympathies over the passing away of Dr. Miyawaki and also for his initiative of adopting the "Miyawaki Method". "I hope that by tree planting activities, with the cherished memory of the late Professor Miyawaki, trees and forests throughout Pakistan will grow strongly, as Pakistan will do certainly", said the Ambassador.



## Trudeau tries to boost reelection campaign

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accuses O'Toole of harboring an extremist agenda and not being serious on topics such as climate change

AGENCIES

OTTAWA: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Friday entered the crucial last stage of his reelection campaign after an inconclusive leaders' debate in which he failed to land many blows on his main rival. Trudeau, who heads a minority government that depends on the opposition to pass legislation, called the Sept. 20 election, two years early, in an effort to capitalize on his Liberal government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. But the 49-year-old leader, who has been in power for six years, has struggled to make a mark on the campaign trail amid voter fatigue and the public's unhappiness with the early election call.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, facing potential defeat in a Sept. 20 election, on Thursday used a key leaders' debate to take aim at his main rival, portraying him as weak and ineffective.

Polls show Erin O'Toole's Conservative Party has a chance of winning the election and ending six years of Liberal rule. Trudeau called the vote two years ear-

ly as a referendum on his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. Trudeau, sometimes looking agitated, rounded several times on O'Toole, who has had trouble making himself known to Canadians since taking over his party a year ago. O'Toole says he will offer serious leadership to clean up after what he calls a corrupt, incompetent and spendthrift Trudeau government.

Trudeau accuses O'Toole of harboring an extremist agenda and not being serious on topics such as climate change. Trudeau also favors mandates to ensure people are inoculated against COVID-19, a move O'Toole says goes too far. "The problem with Mr O'Toole and his principles is, he says all the right sounding things and he's working on reassuring everyone that he's right there as a strong leader, but he can't convince his candidates to get vaccinated," said Trudeau. Polls show the Conservatives led by Erin O'Toole, 48, have a slight lead and could win enough seats to form a government. O'Toole, who has had little chance to introduce himself to voters since becoming the leader of the Conservatives last year, says Trudeau is corrupt and will run up unsustainable debts. Trudeau's government racked up record levels of debt with programs to help dull the economic

impact of the pandemic, aid which he said helped the economy recover more quickly. Statistics Canada said 90,200 jobs were added in August and the unemployment rate fell to 7.1%, the lowest since the onset of the pandemic. Trudeau and O'Toole, along with the leaders of three smaller parties, took part in a two-hour televised debate Thursday night. The debate can be an important way to attract voters, but its complex format meant leaders often talked over each other and gave Trudeau few chances to score points on O'Toole. Three senior Liberals with a direct role in running the campaign said the evening had been a disappointment. "Worst debate ever," one said in a message. The Liberal sources requested anonymity given the sensitivity of the situation.

Frank Graves of the EKOS polling firm dismissed the event as "possibly the most vacuous and tedious debate in Canadian political history." Trudeau is due to speak to the media at 10:30 a.m. EDT (1430 GMT) in Hamilton, a city near Toronto. A rolling Nanos Research poll of 1,200 voters on Thursday showed the Conservatives with 33.3% support and the center-left Liberals at 31.3%. The left-leaning New Democrats had 19.2%.



## Briefs

Lebanon  
announces  
government  
formation

## AGENCIES

BEIRUT: Prime Minister Najib Mikati and President Michel Aoun have signed a decree forming a new government in the presence of Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, the Lebanese presidency said in a statement. Lebanon had been without a government for more than a year as it descended further into an economic meltdown. "The situation is very difficult. But it's not impossible if we united as Lebanese. We have to put our hands together," Mikati told the press on Friday. "We are all going to work together, united with hope and determination."

The new prime minister made the remarks at a news conference at the presidential Baabda Palace after a meeting with Aoun to sign the government formation decree, with Berri also present. Before meeting the president, Berri arrived at the presidential palace waving a paper to the press with what was the finalised list of ministers. Like the country's previous government, the lineup consists of newcomers, including Finance Minister Yousef Khaili, a senior Central Bank official, and Health Minister Firas Abiad of the government-run Rafic Hariri University Hospital, who came to prominence during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sri Lanka  
extends  
nationwide  
curfew

## FOREIGN DESK

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan authorities on Friday further extended a nationwide quarantine curfew till Sept. 21 to prevent further spread of the COVID-19. Health Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said the curfew will be lifted at 4:00 a.m. on Sept. 21 after a decision made by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa following a meeting with the COVID-19 Task Force. Rambukwella said the number of COVID-19 patients in the country was steadily declining and authorities were confident that Sri Lanka would once again be able to reopen without risk. "Please adhere to the regulations, use this time to get vaccinated, stay home and wear a mask," the health minister said. Army Commander General Shavendra Silva said President Rajapaksa had instructed authorities to submit a report as to what type of restrictions should be imposed if the quarantine curfew is lifted after Sept. 21.

UN Program  
on Drugs  
and Crime to  
be signed in  
Tashkent

## WEB DESK

TASHKENT: These days, the parliamentary delegation of Uzbekistan, headed by Chairman of the Senate Tanzila Narbaeva, is taking part in the 13th Summit of Women Speakers and the 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments, organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in cooperation with the UN and the Austrian parliament in Vienna. During the visit, the head of the Senate met with the UN Under-Secretary-General, Executive Secretary of the Office on Drugs and Crime Ghada Fathi Waly. The main topics of the talks were the organization of the visit of the head of the UNODC to Uzbekistan, the adoption of a special Program of this organization for the countries of Central Asia, as well as the expansion of cooperation in the field of combating drug trafficking and organized crime. The Executive Director of UNODC highly appreciated the reforms carried out on the initiative of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, which fully coincide with the Sustainable Development Goals and common European principles.

Pak special partner country  
at CAEXPO opens in China

President, Dr. Arif Alvi in his video message screened at the opening ceremony said that there would be a lot of discussions between the Pakistani, Chinese and other ASEAN countries businessmen and traders to enhance trade



## DNA

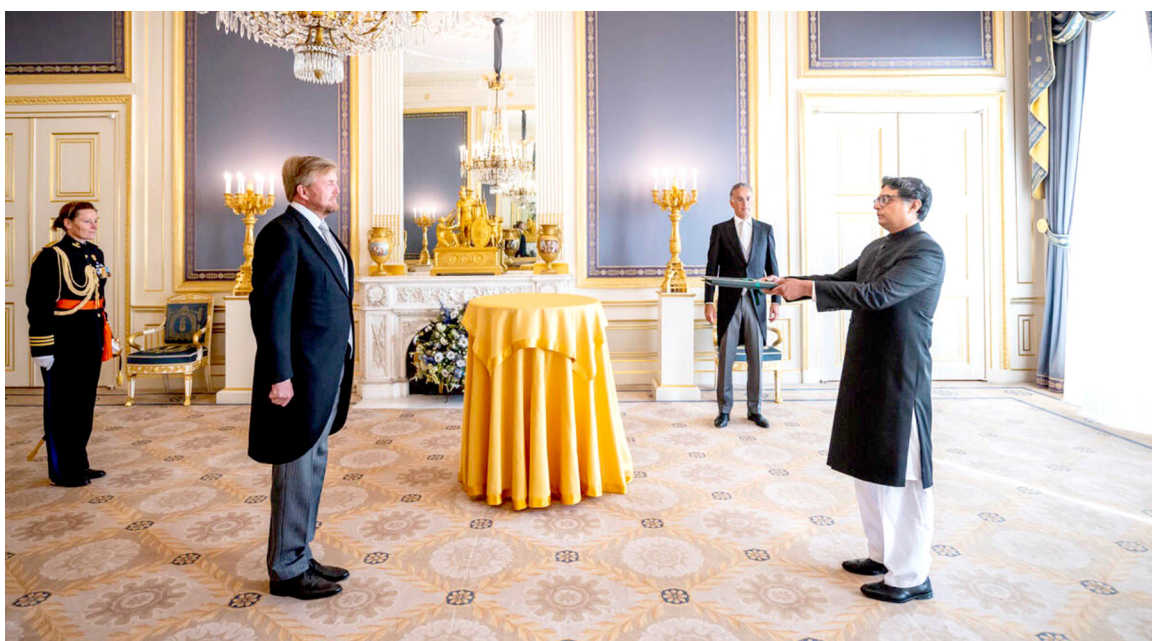
NANNING: The 18th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) formally kicked off in Nanning, China's Guangxi Autonomous Region here on Friday aimed at providing new business and development opportunities for China, ASEAN and other regional countries especially Pakistan. Like previous year, Pakistan is participating in the China-ASEAN Expo as special partner country. President, Dr. Arif Alvi in his video message screened at the opening ceremony said that there would be a lot of discussions between the Pakistani, Chinese and other ASEAN countries businessmen and traders to enhance trade. While congratulating China for organizing the expo, he expressed the confidence that

it would further cement good partnership between China and Pakistan, and other ASEAN countries. Pakistan, the president said, has set up a pavilion at the exhibition hall of the Expo in which a number of goods such as sports, jewelry, gems, minerals products, etc are being displayed. Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan was the chief guest during the opening ceremony and he also read out congratulatory message of President Xi Jinping for the expo. Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque along with Vice President Qishan and representatives of ASEAN countries pushed button to formally open the expo. The theme of this year expo is "Sharing Opportunities Created by the New Land-Sea Corridor, Building the China-ASEAN Community with a Shared Future". For many years, Pakistan has been an active

participant of the China-ASEAN Expo to promote its specialty products, seek cooperative partners, and tap into the Chinese and ASEAN markets. So far, a total of 64 Pakistani official bodies and enterprises have used 122 booths since the 13th CAEXPO to showcase its national image, top carpets, wood furniture, handicrafts and other specialty products. Through this platform, Pakistan has achieved remarkable results. This year too, as special Partner Country, Pakistan has set up a national product exhibition area to showcase its superior products and achievements in the key industries, and will host a number of events including the Pakistan Trade and Investment Promotion Forum. All these efforts will promote the economic and trade exchanges and cooperation between Pakistan and China and ASEAN countries. Pakistan, with an exhibition area of 81



square meters, showcase its national image and organize over 20 Pakistani companies to show carpet, marble, wood handicrafts and other products of the country. Ambassador Moin ul Haque will address the China-Pakistan Economic and Trade Forum on the sideline of the expo and invite businessmen from China-ASEAN countries to take advantage of incentives offered for present government for the foreign investment. An exhibition area of 12,000 square meters has been allocated to the exhibitors of the 10 ASEAN countries, and each ASEAN country has its own exhibition area as usual. Following the practice of the previous Expo, an international exhibition area for the countries along the Belt and Road has also been set up to accommodate the exhibitors from over 20 countries, including Pakistan, Poland, Republic of Korea, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Russia, France and Spain.



AMSTERDAM: Newly appointed Ambassador of Pakistan to Netherlands Sajuk Mustansar Tarar presenting his credentials to King Willem Alexander of the Netherlands. – DNA

President Aliyev  
commissions  
Kalbajar oil tanker

## DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has attended a ceremony to commission a Kalbajar oil tanker at the Baku Shipyard, Azertag reported on September 10. The construction of the oil tanker began at the Baku Shipyard two years ago on the order of Azerbaijan Caspian Sea Shipping CJSC. The tanker was named Kalbajar at Aliyev's initiative. It is worth noting that the head of state recently raised Azerbaijan's tricolor flag in Kalbajar, which was liberated from the Armenian occu-

pation in the last year's war. And now he took part in the commissioning ceremony of the oil tanker Kalbajar, which will sail in international waters under the Azerbaijani flag - this represents a great symbolic significance. During the ceremony, the chairman of the Azerbaijan Caspian Sea Shipping CJSC, Rauf Valiyev, informed the head of state about the tanker. The Kalbajar tanker is 141 meters long, 16.9 meters wide, and the permanent crew of which consists of 15 people. The tanker, which has a deadweight of 7,800 tons, is equipped with the equipment of the world's leading companies.

Advanced regional energy  
security symposium wraps up

## NEWS DESK

BAKU: The Closing ceremony of the Advanced Regional Energy Security Symposium 2021 – Caucasus was held on September 10 by the Center of Excellence in EU Studies at ADA University in partnership with the NATO Energy Security Center of Excellence, the Naval Postgraduate School, bp Azerbaijan, and State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SOCAR). The Symposium kicked off with the Opening ceremony on September 6. Both events brought together industry leaders, policymakers, and professionals of academic institutions, international organizations, and public-private sectors. Energy security, regional terrorism threats, and cyber attacks were underpinned as the main topics of discussion. The panel session organized within the frame of Closing ceremony was moderated by Dr. Anar Valiyev, dean



of the School of Public and International Affairs at ADA University. H.E. Mr. Lee Litzenberger, Ambassador of the USA to the Republic of Azerbaijan addressed the attendees and delivered a keynote speech: "Azerbaijan's energy sector has been transformative for the country and for European energy security. By growing its renewable energy potential, Azerbaijan can build upon its role as an important player in energy security in the region and beyond."

Dr. Vitaliy Baylarbayov, Deputy Vice-President of SOCAR for Investments and Marketing and the panelist of the discussion, talked about the current trends and challenges shaping the energy sector. He mentioned that Azerbaijan will continue to work with partners in ensuring energy security in the Caspian regions. Keeping the right balance of secure energy supply is one of strategic goals of SOCAR. The next speaker, Dr. Brenda Shaffer, Naval Postgraduate

School, said that traditional geopolitics of energy is still alive and well. With the aim of rendering the Symposium more interactive, over 20 participants representing ministries, public agencies, and companies participated in a wide array of presentations, discussions, group works, case studies, and exercises delivered by distinguished local and international experts from the USA, Turkey, and Ukraine. All the workshops were hosted on ADA University campus.

## Turkic-speaking countries sign economic accords

He emphasized that Azerbaijan attaches special importance to trade and investment cooperation with the Turkic Council member countries, as well as relations between businessmen

## DNA

BAKU: Turkic-speaking countries have signed trade and economic cooperation agreements at the 10th meeting of the Turkic Council member countries' economy ministers in Baku on September 10, Azertag has reported. The signed agreements envisage the exchange of information and experience in various economic spheres. The meeting was held under the joint chairmanship of Turkic Council Secretary-General Baghdad Amreyev and Azerbaijani Economy Minister Mikayil Jabbarov. During the meeting, Azerbai-

jan's economy minister noted that Turkic-speaking countries successfully cooperate in all spheres. He stressed the importance of further strengthening of economic

ties to support the national and regional economy. In addition, he emphasized that Azerbaijan attaches special importance to trade and investment cooperation

with the Turkic Council member countries, as well as relations between businessmen. Amreyev stated that the Turkic Council is interest-

ed in further strengthening cooperation among the member countries, expanding partnerships in the economic, cultural and other spheres.

The ministers of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Hungary, and Turkey also attended the event. Established in 2009, the Turkic Council is an intergovernmental organization of Turkic-speaking countries. The founding member states of the organization are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey. During the seventh summit of the Turkic Council held in Baku in October 2019, Uzbekistan joined the organization as a full member, while during the sixth summit held in Cholpon-Ata (Kyrgyzstan) in September 2018, Hungary received observer status at the organization.

Climate issue  
dominates  
elections in  
Norway

## AGENCIES

OSLO: Oil-rich Norway goes to the polls on Monday in elections dominated by climate change that the ruling Conservative party is widely expected to lose to a Labour-led coalition. Labour Party leader Jonas Gahr Store is hoping to wrest power from centre-right Prime Minister Erna Solberg, who has headed the wealthy Scandinavian nation for eight years. Polls suggest Solberg is unlikely to win again, and the key question is whether Store's hoped-for coalition with the Centre and Socialist Left parties will get enough votes for a parliamentary majority. If not he may have to seek the support of other small parties. "Something really dramatic would have to happen for the right-wing to win," political scientist Johannes Bergh of the Norwegian Institute for Social Research told AFP. The campaign has largely focused on the future of the oil industry in Norway, western Europe's biggest producer. Norway owes its riches to black gold, enabling it to amass the world's biggest sovereign wealth fund. The country has embraced environmentally-friendly policies to tackle climate change in recent years, but Store says it's not been enough.

Kyrgyzstan  
interested in  
Azerbaijani  
oil

## FOREIGN DESK

BAKU: Kyrgyzstan is interested in buying Azerbaijani oil, Kyrgyz Economy and Finance Minister Akybek Zhaparov said at the 10th Meeting of the Turkic Council's Economy Ministers in Baku, Trend reports on Sept.10. "Our country is interested in buying Azerbaijani oil and fuel. Azerbaijan has sufficient potential to supply Kyrgyzstan with oil products. We want Azerbaijan to become an exporter of petrochemicals not only for Kyrgyzstan, but also for the region as a whole," Zhaparov noted. The meeting is being held under the joint chairmanship of the Turkic Council's Secretary General Baghdad Amreyev and the Azerbaijani Economy Minister Jabbarov and with the participation of the ministers of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Hungary and Turkey.

Mumbai  
imposes  
Covid curbs

## AGENCIES

MUMBAI: India's financial hub Mumbai has introduced new safety measures and restrictions for its biggest Hindu festival amid a resurgence in COVID-19 cases. Police barred public processions and restricted crowds for the 11-day festival of Ganesh Chaturthi, celebrating the elephant-headed Hindu god Ganesha, that started on Friday. Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations normally see massive crowds across the city, where towering idols of Ganesha are placed in marquees, locally referred to as "pandals", accompanied by song and dance performances. The festival ends with the immersion of the idols into the sea, usually attended by millions of people. This year, people are banned from visiting marquees, while the city's municipal agency has said only 10 people, preferably fully vaccinated, should accompany the idol for immersion. The curbs come as the number of daily coronavirus cases in the western Indian city surged, rising more than two-fold in less than a month. The infections in the city, which were at a low of 190 on August 16, rose to 530 daily infections on Wednesday, according to government data. "The third wave is not coming. It is already here," Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar told reporters this week, urging citizens to stay home and celebrate the festival.



## Briefs

## Pakistan wants peaceful Afghanistan

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has once again reiterated that all energies must be focused on ensuring lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan through positive engagement with international community.

In his weekly press briefing Foreign Office spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said we continue to closely follow the evolving situation in Afghanistan and reaffirm our abiding commitment to a peaceful, stable, sovereign and prosperous Afghanistan.

The spokesperson said we hope that the new political dispensation in Afghanistan will ensure coordinated efforts for peace, security and stability as well as work towards taking care of humanitarian and development needs of the Afghan people. He said in pursuance in continuation of our constructive role and engagement, primarily keeping the interest of the Afghan people up-front, Pakistan has decided to dispatch humanitarian assistance comprising food and medicines for the people of Afghanistan. First flight carrying such assistance reached Kabul and another in Kandahar today. Asim Iftikhar said in the days leading up to the completion of the United States military withdrawal from Afghanistan, Pakistan provided critical support to the multinational evacuation effort from Afghanistan both from Kabul airport, and across the land border.

## Rs1.38 per unit rise in electricity price approved

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Friday approved an increase in electricity prices.

A notification issued by NEPRA said that an increase of Rs1.38 per unit of electricity, on account of fuel charges adjustment (FCA), has been approved.

The new price will apply to all Distribution Companies (DISCOs), except for K-Electric, and lifeline consumers, only for the billing of September.

The increase was made after a public hearing on the matter of FCA on September 1, on the request of Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA), which has asked for an increase of Rs1.47 per unit.

The prices were last raised in January this year when NEPRA notified a Rs1.06 per unit rise in the power tariff over CPPA's request of an increase of Rs0.52, made for the months of October and November in 2020, by way of fuel adjustment charges.

## Huthi offensive in Yemen 'must stop': envoy

AGENCIES

UNITED NATIONS: The offensive by Huthi rebels in Yemen's northern Marib province "must stop," the UN Security Council was told Friday by the organisation's new envoy for the country, Hans Grundberg from Sweden.

"Civilians, including the many internally displaced persons who sought refuge in Marib, live in constant fear of violence and renewed displacement," the newly-appointed official said. "The UN and the international community has been clear in its message: The offensive must stop."

The offensive in the Marib region has been going on since the beginning of 2020 and has "killed thousands of young Yemenis," the envoy said. "The fighting must stop, the violence has to come to an end," he insisted.

The province of Marib, the last bastion of government power in the war-torn north of the country, is regularly the scene of violent clashes.

## PM for urgent steps to check gap between imports, exports

The premier directed the Commerce Division to present within the next two weeks Strategic Exports Framework for approval and set targets for the trade and investment officers posted abroad

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday said with all economic indicators moving towards positive trajectory, there was a need to take immediate measures to check the existing gap between imports and exports. He directed the Commerce Division to present within the next two weeks Strategic Exports Framework for approval and set targets for the trade and investment officers posted abroad. The prime minister was presiding over a meeting held here to review the various measures taken by the government for enhancing the volume of country's exports. National Security Advisor Dr Moed Yusuf, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Dr Shehbaz



Gill, Secretaries of the Commerce and Energy Divisions and senior officers were in attendance. The meeting was told that with focus on 19 products including in the areas of information technol-

ogy, textile, medicines, poultry, rice, vegetables, dry fruit, leather, salt, marble, ceramics and surgical instruments, the country's current volume of exports could be increased by US\$ 30 billion.

The Commerce Division told the meeting that consultation with all the stakeholders including industrialists, exporters and relevant government institutions was in progress.

The prime minister said with facilitation and ease of doing business for exporters, the government's priority in terms of enhancing exports was diversification of products and markets.

He further said as Pakistani business community had a lot of potential, the provision of business-friendly environment and policies was the government's foremost priority.

The prime minister was following the philosophy of formulating policies in consultation with the business community and this system of strong public-private partnership would continue.

He said since the government was committed to provide all possible facilitation to the business community, it also expected them to benefit from this opportunity and fully support the government in its efforts to strengthen economy.

## Denmark ends Covid curbs

AGENCIES

COPENHAGEN: Denmark on Friday became the only European nation with no Covid curbs, losing a requirement to show vaccine passports to enter nightclubs as it cautiously embraces a return to normal. New infections have eased off in Denmark as vaccine rates have climbed, reaching over 70 percent of the overall population.

But as the Scandinavian country looked ahead to a new post-pandemic reality, the WHO warned that vaccines alone may not end the pandemic and the virus could be around for years. One Denmark resident said the lifting of the last curbs was "liberating" after a tough pandemic slog.

"It's been a rough couple of years. I have three kids and we have had homeschooling and it's been a lot of hard days," Klaus Sylvester said. "It's quite liberating that Denmark no longer has restrictions."

The nightclub rule was the last in a long line of measures that Denmark has gradually lifted in recent months.

It is now the only nation in Europe to have no restrictions in place after Iceland



lifted all its measures in June, only to reimpose them after cases spiked again. Denmark introduced Covid passports in March 2021 as part of a gradual easing of rules. On August 1 it lifted the Covid pass requirement at museums and indoor events with fewer than 500 people, before ditching it for major events, while masks have not been required on public transport since mid-August. On Saturday, a sold-out concert in Copenhagen will welcome 50,000 people, a first in Europe.

"We are definitely at the forefront in Denmark as we have no restrictions," Ulrich Rum-Petersen, an event promoter, told AFP.

"We are now on the other side of the pandemic thanks to the vaccination rollout."

## Tourist visa holders can perform Umrah

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah has clarified that foreigners who are coming to the Kingdom on tourist visa can perform Umrah after obtaining Umrah permit by completing the procedures on the Eatmarna and Tawakkalna applications. The ministry said that the visit visa holders too could obtain the Umrah permit through completing the registration process on Eatmarna application. "Opening an account on Eatmarna is possible only after updating the visitor's immune health status on the Tawakkalna application," Saudi Gazette reported.

"Only those who are immune by taking two doses of coronavirus vaccine or completion of 14 days after taking first dose of the vaccine or recovered after infection of coronavirus are entitled to obtain an Umrah visa," the ministry said.

It is noteworthy that about 500 Umrah service companies and establishments and more than 6,000 foreign Umrah agents have started receiving vaccinated foreign Umrah pilgrims effective from Aug. 9 (Muharram 1).

## Media organizations Joint Action Committee rejects proposed PMDA

—terms the concept as unconstitutional and a move to muzzle the freedom of press and expression by imposing state control to regulate all media platforms under one body

DNA

KARACHI: A meeting of the Joint Action Committee of Media Organizations was held on September 10, 2021. All representative media organizations namely Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), and the Association of Electronic Media Editors and News Directors (AEMEND) reiterated their stance of rejecting the proposed Pakistan Media Development Authority (PMDA) vehemently and termed the concept as unconstitutional and a move to muzzle the freedom of press and expression by imposing state control to regulate all media platforms under one central body.

The Joint Action Committee expressed full support for the PFUJ's demonstration on September 13 in front of the Parliament House against the establishment of the proposed Pakistan Media Development Authority.

The statement further said, in addition to all media representative organizations, the Bar Associations, political parties, Human Rights organizations, and other civil society organizations will also participate in the sit-in.

All media associations in Joint Action Committee reiterated their commitment to thwart the government's efforts to legislate for the establishment of the proposed Media Development Authority.

Meanwhile, the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) strongly lamented the perpetual efforts of the Federal Government to curtail the independence

of the media, the latest being the proposed PMDA which, in the opinion of the APNS Executive Committee, is intended to strangle and control the entire media of the country.

The Executive Committee of the APNS at its meeting held at Karachi on September 09, 2021 chaired by the President, APNS, Mr. Sarmad Ali was briefed by the President on different meetings with the stakeholders and the Federal Government on the establishment of Pakistan Media Development Authority.

The members unanimously rejected the proposal and termed it as an attempt to tighten the Federal Government control over the media from one platform. The proposed PMDA appears as extension of PEMRA to all media with more regimental provisions as subjugate and take over the independence of free media.

## COVID-19 infects 3689 more people

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases was recorded 91,440 one of the highest during fourth wave of pandemic on Friday with 3,689 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 3,755 people recovering from the disease during the last 24 hours.

Eighty-three corona patients have died during past 24 hours, 75 of whom were under treatment in the hospitals and eight of them perished in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC).

Most of the deaths occurred in Punjab followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Out of the total 83 deaths occurred, 27 of them died were under treatment on ventilators. There were 5,368 Covid infected patients under treatment in critical condition in various Covid dedicated healthcare facilities of the country. The National Covid positivity ratio during past 24 hours was recorded 6.03%. The Covid positivity ratio is the percentage of actual positive cases appearing in every 100 tests performed to identify infected individuals.

## German Envoy recalls cycling memories

DNA

KARACHI: As the Pakistan-German relationship comes close to marking its 70 years, the German Ambassador and Managing Director of Siemens Pakistan spoke on Friday to a private television channel and discussed possibilities of furthering the bilateral ties.

German ambassador Bernhard Schlagheck and Siemens MD Markus Strohmeier being guests at the morning show, said they cherish their time and memories with Pakistan in the time they have served in the country.

Bernhard Schlagheck said he would ride on his grandfather's cycle to the embassy here since he loves cycling. He also mentioned a grand celebration at the German Embassy about mid-October to mark the Pak-German anniversary. "We are planning a school in Pakistan to teach the German language for students willing to learn it to study in Germany," the ambassador said.



## African Union says suspends Guinea after coup

The AU had on Sunday condemned the military takeover and called for the release of Conde

MONITORING DESK

ADDIS ABABA: The African Union said on Friday it was suspending Guinea after a coup in the West African country that saw its president Alpha Conde arrested. The pan-African body said on Twitter that it "decides to suspend the Republic of Guinea from all AU activities and decision-making bodies". The move came after Guinea special forces seized power on Sunday and arrested Conde, who had come under increasing fire for perceived authoritarianism.

The AU had on Sunday condemned the military takeover and called for the release of Conde, who became the country's first democratically elected president in 2010.

Its decision to suspend Guinea came after a similar move on Wednesday by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which has sent a mission to the country to evaluate the situation there.

The AU's Political Affairs, Peace and Security Council said it called on AU Commission chief Moussa Faki to "engage with stakeholders in the region" on the crisis.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Foreign Minister of Spain Jose Manuel Albares held a Joint Press Stakeout at Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — DNA

## Muslim MP speaks of Islamophobia, abuse in UK

"Growing up, I had seen the abuse prominent British Muslims were subjected to. I knew I wouldn't be in for an easy ride," she added

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: A Muslim lawmaker burst into tears during a speech she made Thursday and spoke of the abuse she has received since she became a politician during a parliamentary debate on the definition of Islamophobia. Zarah Sultana, the Labour Party member of parliament for Coventry South, said she received various abusive messages. Speaking in tears, she said: "One person, for example, wrote to me, and I quote: 'Sultana, you and

your Muslim mob are a real danger to humanity,' another wrote I am a 'cancer everywhere I go' and soon, they said, 'Europe will vomit you out.' A third called me a 'terrorist sympathizer and scum of the earth,' and that is sanitized of their unparliamentary language."

"Before being elected, I was nervous about being a Muslim woman in the public eye," Sultana said in Westminster Hall.

"Growing up, I had seen the abuse prominent British Muslims were subjected to. I knew I wouldn't be in for an easy ride," she added.

"And when young girls ask me

what it's like, I'd like to say I was wrong to be worried, that they would face the same challenges



as their non-Muslim friends and colleagues. But in my short time in Parliament, that's not my experience."

"I have discovered that to be a Muslim woman, to be outspoken and left-wing, is to be subject this barrage of racism and hate," she said.

"It's to be treated by some as if I were an enemy of the country I was born in, as if I don't belong." Sultana also said the abuse she received worsened when she criticized former Prime Minister Tony Blair for launching an "illegal war" in Afghanistan.

She underlined that "this Islamophobia doesn't come from a vacuum. It's not natural or ingrained. It's taught from the top."

She also said in the emotional speech that "when a far-right online account targeted me with racist abuse, suggesting that Muslims were an invading army, a Conservative MP replied, not calling them [out] for their racism, but by insulting me."

Sultana said this Saturday will mark the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the US and the "horrific act of mass murder cast a long shadow."

## Turkey administers 100m doses of vaccines

NEWS DESK

ISTANBUL: Turkey has so far administered 100 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines as part of the nationwide vaccination campaign launched in mid-January, the Health Ministry announced on Friday.

According to the latest data of the ministry, 47.6 percent of the population has received two doses of vaccine in the country of 83 million.

Hasan Murat Gunduz, a member of the Coronavirus Scientific Advisory Committee, said the vaccination ratio has not yet been at a level to end the pandemic, and at least another 10-15 percent of the population should be fully vaccinated.

Gunduz told reporters that the regular vaccination would continue for another two years to strengthen herd immunity.

Turkey's Health Minister Fahrettin Koca urged citizens to get their third doses to be better protected from the coronavirus.

"About 6 million more citizens became eligible to receive their booster shots," he said in a written statement, adding that nearly 90 percent of active cases in hospitals are people who have not been vaccinated or received only one jab.