



Islamabad POST

Monday, September 13, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

Teen Emma Raducanu makes history with US Open victory

Detailed News On Page-06

Capital's half population vaccinated

Detailed News On Page-01



Don't abandon Afghanistan, warns Moed

Detailed News On Page-08



Briefs

Pak envoy meets Taliban leader

NEWS DESK

KABUL: Pakistani Ambassador to Kabul has on Sunday announced that he has called on the newly appointed finance minister of the Taliban government and discussed with him a number of matters including future bilateral trade. "Had a meeting with new Afghan Finance Minister Hedayatullah Badri," tweeted earlier on Sunday Mansoor Ahmad Khan. According to the details the two top officials held discussions across a range of topics including the lives of common people.

Martyrdom anniversary observed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 56th Martyrdom Anniversary of Major Raja Aziz Bhatti Shaheed, Nis-han-e-Haider, was observed on Sunday. He was born in Hong Kong in 1928 and moved to Pakistan before independence in 1947, settling in Ladiyan village of district Gujrat. In 1950, he joined newly formed Pakistan Army and was commissioned in Punjab Regiment. During Indo-Pak War in September, 1965 as a company commander in Burki, Lahore, Major Raja Aziz Bhatti decided to stay with his forward platoon and defended strategic BRB Canal bravely for five days.

Al-Qaeda chief appears in new video

NEWS DESK

DOHA: Al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahri appeared in a new video marking the 20th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, attacks, months after rumours spread that he was dead. The SITE Intelligence Group that monitors jihadist websites said the video was released on Saturday. In it, al-Zawahri said that "Jerusalem Will Never be Judaised," and praised Al Qaeda attacks including one that targeted Russian troops in Syria in January.

Pak releases dossier on Indian crimes

FM Shah Mahmood Qureshi says the Hindutva-inspired BJP regime in India has unleashed a series of atrocities against the people in occupied territory



ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has released a comprehensive dossier, exposing the scale of war crimes, human rights violations, fake encounters, false flag operations and use of rape as war tool by the Indian occupation forces in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Giving detail of the Indian atrocities, compiled in the 131-page dossier, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said the Hindutva-inspired BJP regime in India has unleashed a series of atrocities against the people in occupied territory. He expressed these views during a press conference on Sunday. National Security Adviser Moed Yousaf and Human Rights Minister Shireen Mazari were also present on the occasion. He said communication blockade in

Continued on Page 06

EU asked to implement its policy doctrine

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD, Minister for Human Rights Dr Shireen Mazari Sunday demanded the European Union (EU) to implement its policy doctrine over human rights in the IOJK as well by immediately holding India accountable for the ongoing gross rights violations. Addressing a press conference along with FM Shah Mahmood Qureshi and PM's Adviser on National Security Dr Moed Yusuf, Dr Mazari said that the EU should demand that human rights violations in IOJK are unacceptable. "Dual standards on human rights violations should be discarded and 'irresponsible and rouge India must be held accountable'," she added. "What Indian forces were committing in IOJK were clear violations of 4th Geneva Convention and the international community must take immediate notice," the minister said. She referred to the recent prolonging of EU's sanctions on Russia over territorial issue of Ukraine and questioned why it was not imposing such sanctions against India.

Qatari FM visits Kabul; meets Taliban leaders



KABUL: Mullah Hasan, PM of Afghanistan receives Qatari minister at the Presidential Palace. - DNA

DNA

KABUL: Qatar's foreign minister, who is also the country's deputy premier, was briefly in Afghanistan Sunday, becoming the most senior diplomat to visit the country since the Taliban's takeover on August 15. A Taliban official tweeted that Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani met senior officials of the new Afghan regime, although details of their talks

were not disclosed.

The group released pictures of Sheikh Mohammad meeting new Prime Minister Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund, while photographs of him with former president Hamid Karzai were circulating on social media. Qatar has long acted as a mediator on Afghanistan, hosting the Taliban's talks with the United States under former president Donald Trump, and then with the now deposed Afghan government of president Ashraf Ghani.

It is also supporting tens of thousands of Afghans who were evacuated in the final weeks of the US-led occupation as they are processed before heading to other nations. No country has yet formally recognised the new Taliban government - and only three did during the first rule of the hardline Islamists from 1996-2001.

New rules for female students

NEWS DESK

KABUL: Afghan universities will be segregated by gender, and a new Islamic dress code will be introduced, the Taliban said on Sunday. Higher Education Minister Abdul Baqi Haqqani indicated women would be allowed to study, but not alongside men. He also announced a review of subjects taught. Women and girls were banned from schools and universities under Taliban rule between 1996 and 2001. The Taliban have said they will not prevent women from

Continued on Page 06

SCO heads meet amidst Afghanistan crisis

Proceeding from the Shanghai Spirit, the SCO pursues its internal policy based on the principles of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, mutual consultations, respect for cultural diversity

CENTRELINE REPORT

DHUSANBE: The two-day meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State will be held in Dushanbe on 16th and 17th of this month. The SCO Heads of Government Council meets once a year to discuss the organisation's multilateral cooperation strategy and priority areas, to resolve current important economic and other cooperation issues. Pakistan became a member of the Heads of State Council of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in its historical meeting of 2017 in Astana. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a permanent

Iran hopes it will get SCO membership

It is not clear that membership would substantially reduce Iran's international isolation

DNA

TEHRAN: Iran is likely get membership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), during the upcoming summit in Dushanbe. Iranian officials hope, perhaps over-optimistically, that SCO membership would help them counter the impact of harsh US sanctions. Ali Akbar Velayati, an international affairs advisor to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has advised the Raisi government to look East towards China, Russia and India asserting that they could "help our economy to make progress." Similarly, it is not clear that membership would substantially reduce

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06



BAKU: Soldiers from Pakistan, Turkey and Azerbaijan demonstrating unity during the inaugural ceremony of military exercise. - DNA

Pak special forces troops arrive in Baku

Inaugural ceremony held in Baku

DNA

BAKU: Starting from September 12, the "Three Brothers-2021" joint international exercises of the special forces of Azerbaijan, Turkey and Pakistan will be held in Baku for the first time, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense said. The inaugural ceremony was held in Baku. Troops from all three brotherly

Continued on Page 06

Covid-19 positivity rate falls below 6%

58 corona patients have died during last 24 hours

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases was recorded 91,015 on Sunday with 3,153 more people testing positive for the deadly virus and 3,797 people recovering from the disease during past 24 hours.

Continued on Page 06

Half of Islamabad population vaccinated

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: NCOC Head and Federal Planning Minister Asad Umar on Sunday said that Islamabad has become the first city in Pakistan to have at least 50 percent of its eligible population (15 years and older)

Continued on Page 06

These are the views of Prime Minister Imran Khan about free media...

"Only a corrupt government will try to silence and harm the media."

"If there is political consciousness in the Pakistani nation, the media has a major role in it."

"Criminals are always afraid of freedom of information."

"There is no greater fool than the one who tries to control social media these days!"

"There should be an independent forum for media regulations!"



But Fawad Chaudhry Sahib...



Your PMDA will impose fines of up to Rs. 250 million (Rs. 25 crore) on media houses and 100 million (Rs. 10 crore) on individual journalists, through tribunals established on the lines of Anti-Terrorism Courts. This black law deprives journalists of their right to appeal in the honourable High Courts and restricts the power of the High Courts as well. Regulation already exists, instead of making it more independent and credible you are doing the opposite. Your intention to centralise control of journalism and journalists and block criticism is tantamount to conflict of interest and damages the very heart of democracy.

Fawad Chaudhry Sahib! Don't go against the commitments of your leader and PTI's manifesto.

ALL PAKISTAN NEWSPAPERS SOCIETY

PAKISTAN BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

COUNCIL OF PAKISTAN NEWSPAPER EDITORS

PAKISTAN FEDERAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS

ASSOCIATION OF ELECTRONIC MEDIA EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS

The following lawyer associations, media watchdogs, human rights associations, local and international, all have condemned PMDA. United for the public's right to know.

REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS | FREEDOM NETWORK | HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH | HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN | PAKISTAN BAR COUNCIL | ISLAMABAD HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION | SUPREME COURT BAR ASSOCIATION | SOUTH ASIAN FREE MEDIA ASSOCIATION | AGHS LEGAL AID CELL | DIGITAL MEDIA ALLIANCE OF PAKISTAN | INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH, ADVOCACY AND DEVELOPMENT | DIGITAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION | MEDIA MATTERS FOR DEMOCRACY

Inside...

NAC to be set up for Agri development, research: Fakhar - Page 02

Bakhtawari urges businessmen to show unity in their ranks - Page 03

ICCI calls for urgent measures to stabilize exchange rate - Page 04

China-led SCO weighs Iranian membership - Page 05

Pak edge Thailand in opener of Asian Volleyball C'ship - Page 06

Pakistani goods have strong competitive force at CAEXPO - Page 07

Speakers call for women empowerment - Page 08

Briefs

Small Industrial estate for Jhang underway

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: On the direction of Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Bazzar, a small industries estate is being set up in Jhang district under a self-financing scheme. Regional Director Amin Awaisi said that the booking of industrial plots would be booked till 30th September in which 521 plots of 4 kanals to 10 marlas would be drawn from the small industrial estate. He said that the estimated cost of the plot is Rs. 3.6 million per kanal, half of which is Rs. 1.8 million per kanal would be deposited as pay order or bank draft at Small industrial estate Jhang and remaining amount would receive in a year in 4 equal instalments. He said that the applicants should pay a non-refundable fee of Rs.1000 / - from the Regional Office Punjab Small Industries Corporation No. Z-2 Block Madina Town Faisalabad and Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry Jhang. They can also be purchased or the application form can be downloaded from the website www.psic.gop.pk and submitted along with the bank draft.

Cantt Board polls: PML N clean sweeps in Taxila

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: PML N has won 8 seats out of 10 in Taxila Cantt and Wah Cantt. The constituency belongs of federal ministers and parliamentary secretaries but they could not do anything. Malik Amir Sultan from Ward 1, Raja Muhammad Ayub from Ward 2, Malik Arshad Mahmood from Ward 3, Malik Arif Mahmood from Ward 4, Raja Amir Saeed from Ward 5, Haji Abdul Rehman from Ward 7, Farrukh Saleem from Ward 9 and Ward 10 Hassan Ali PML-N while Malik Fahad, brother of Parliamentary Secretary Malik Timur Masood and Sajjad Butt from Ward 6 won on PTI ticket. Three of Taxila Cantt out of five seats remain in the N-League. According to unofficial results, Haji Abid from Ward 1, Ghulam Dastgir from Ward 2 and Saif Ali from Ward 4 won the PML-N ticket while Sajid Khan from Ward 3 and Saad Khan from Ward 5 won the PTI ticket. While in Pindi and Chaklala PML N won 14 out of 19 according to unofficial results.

Mathra police hold Open Katcheri

STAFF REPORT

PESHAWAR: In compliance with the directives of Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Abbas Ahsan for elimination of crimes, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Fida Hussain here Sunday held Open Katcheri in Pajagi area. The Katchehri besides others was attended by elders of the area residing in the limits of Mathra police station and large number of people from all walks of life. Speaking on the occasion, DSP said that objective of the Katchehri was to ensure eradication of street crimes like land grabbing, murder enmities, aerial firing, and holding of intense musical programs during weddings. He urged people to cooperate with police force for making a healthy society and to save our coming generation from the spread of drugs like ice. He also directed policemen to maintain liaison with people in polite manners by making efforts to gain their confidence. The area people thanked DSP for holding the Katchehri and vowed for all possible support to police department in eradication of street crimes. They also demanded holding such katchehris to other areas so that we could achieve the dream of a healthy society.

NAC to be set up for Agri development, research: Fakhar

Fakhar says that the government has disbursed Rs 4 billion credit to the small farmers community, less than 12 acre, which is the 90 percent of the farming community

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam has said the National Agriculture Commission (NAC) will be set up for the development in the agricultural education and research.

Chairing a meeting at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, he said that the increment in per acre production, value addition, empowering small farmers, tangible research in agriculture and rural development were prerequisite for the uplift of the country and food security.

He said the government has mapped out comprehensive five policies on five major crops in order to boost up per acre productivity, ensure food security and agriculture development. He said this year, per acre what production has boosted up which was stagnant for the last ten years, resulting in the significant increase of 2.2 million ton in the national wheat production. He said that it is increased by 1.5 ton per acre.

Talking about the cotton, he said that production of cotton in Punjab is touching 4.5 million bales at an increase of approximately 8.5 per cent from last year. Overall cotton production is likely to reach 8.46 million bales. He said that the attack of and Whitefly, pinball worm and CLCV remained significant which had adversely affected the production of cotton.

He also shed light that provision of certified seed, value addition and mechanization was one of challenges in which agriculture experts should play their pivotal role. He said that the government has disbursed Rs 4 bil-



lion credit to the small farmer's community, less than 12 acre, which is the 90 percent of the farming community.

He said the provision of quality school and health facility was essential at rural level that will lower down burden in the cities and the will help strengthen the rural development.

Talking about fruits, he said that country was producing the excellent fruit but export is the negligible. He said that the value addition and the adaptation of the international standard are prerequisite to earn the foreign exchange. He said that it is matter of grave concern that we import edible oil and pulses worth billions of the rupees instead of the producing at the domestic level. Talking about research, he said that the

spending on research and development remained minimum. The impact can be seen on the per hectare production of major crops like wheat, rice, sugarcane, cotton and maize. He said that agriculture council must be set up to analyze the demand and supply of agricultural students in the country.

He said that under cultivation land in the country was 50 million hectare out of which 32 million is the irrigated.

He said that we had ignored the agriculture sector for the last 25 years that is a matter of serious concern. He said that agriculture sector is a powerful sector that was employing 43 percent of man force. He said that neighboring countries are progressing with a large pace whereas we were far-lagging behind in modern agriculture practices. He

added that no nation can make the development in the modern era without investing on Human Resource Development. We need to learn from the other nations experiences the modern seed technology will not only reduce the production cost but also make the crop profitable. This will enable both the farmers and the country to move towards prosperity.

He said that we had been ahead of China and Korea five decade ago. But now we are far lagging behind. The both countries invested on education and learn from other nations experiences. He called for curriculum reforms in the agriculture and reverse engineering.

UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan said that FSc Agriculture should be revived that will help produce the dedicated agriculturists. He said that agriculture as a subject must be revived at the school level. He said that the blend of corn and wheat be introduced to cope with increasing malnutrition issue. He said that with the help of KOICA Pak Korea Nutrition Center had been established at the UAF to fight with challenge. He said that UAF was making all out efforts of the farming community, agriculture and rural development with help of trained manpower, research and outreach. He said that there is the need to bring the reform in the educational system to facilitate the people living in rural areas.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Anas Sarwar said that the quality milk producing center must be set up. He said that country was importing animal vaccination worth billions of rupees. All deans gave the presentations on the occasion.

Fawad visits PTV Karachi centre

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Sunday visited Pakistan Television (PTV) Karachi Centre and took briefing on the performance of various departments. GM PTV Karachi Centre, Mohammad Shujaatullah apprised the Minister about the performance of Programmes department, current affairs, PTV Home and PTV National in detail. Fawad also visited different departments of PTV centre including news room, studios etc. He also listened to their problems.

Earlier on his arrival, General Manager PTV Karachi, Mohammad Shujaatullah and other staff received the minister. — DNA



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Ahmed visiting PTV Karachi Centre. — DNA

Governor for int'l community's role for Afghan peace

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar on Sunday urged the international community to cooperate with the Afghan leadership in Afghanistan peace process.

He said that peace in Afghanistan would not only be in benefit for the region but also for the entire whole world.

Pakistan will not interfere in internal matters of any country including Afghanistan but conspiracies of India against peace were seen by the whole international community, he added. Addressing the media men along with Halem Adil Sheikh, the Opposition Leader in Sindh Assembly, he said that unfortunately India was still against peace. There was no such example in world, the way India was oppressing

innocent people and children in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), he said and added that United Nations should solve the issue of Kashmir in accordance with its resolutions because it was very important for complete peace in the region. While answering to reporter's queries, the Governor said that Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar had full confidence of Prime Minister

Imran Khan, the PTI, coalition parties and members of Punjab assembly. He said, there was no such example in the past of steps taken by current government in education, health and others sectors. People of Punjab were getting health cards, Sindh govt should also focus on providing the basic facilities to the public as everyone better knew the conditions prevailing in Sindh.

Port Qasim has become Pakistan's premier port

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Ali Zaidi has said that Port Qasim has become the premier port of Pakistan.

Land was also sold at sea, KPT still has more employees than it can handle. The Hang Tong 77, which was stranded off the coast of Karachi, will not be allowed to leave Pakistan until its dues are paid.

He expressed these views while addressing a press conference at KPT House Karachi. He was accompanied by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Maritime Affairs Mahmood Maulvi and other senior KPT officials.

Ali Zaidi further said that blue economy can change the destiny of the country. 80% of the country's trade is from the port, 80% of the customs is collected from the port. Shipping, ports, shipping are part of the blue economy, Industries in countries seem to be closer to the port so that production costs are lower,

coal and oil all fall into the sea in the past, fishing has never been considered, and the country's economy is dependent on trade from the sea.

He said that for the first time in history, the ship got stuck and came out unbroken.

He further said that Port Qasim has become the premier port of Pakistan. Referring to the sale of KPT lands, Federal Minister Ali Zaidi added that in the past, lands were sold in water, people have not been getting lands for twenty years. KPT land will not be leased for pennies now. The financial audit of KPT has not been done since 2010.

The allegations against us are baseless. KPT's workshop has been closed for the last 14 years, PTI was not in power for 14 years. The situation is similar in Port Qasim, people have paid for the land but they are still occupied. They are occupying the industrial land with a stay order. Korangi Fish Harbor has not had an MD for the last 12 years. The first pressure on us after coming to power was jobs.

NAB determines to eliminate corruption

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Chairman Justice (Retd) Javed Iqbal has said NAB was determined to weed out the scourge of corruption and to make Pakistan Corruption free by adopting "Accountability for All" policy.

In a statement, he said that the bureau was incessantly combating this national menace with unflinching resolve through its multi-pronged strategy, which has started yielding remarkable results. NAB has also established Witness Handling Cells in all its regional bureaus to vigorously pursue its cases in the learned Courts on the basis of solid documentary evidence.

The Bureau had recovered some Rs. 822 billion directly and indirectly since its inception. While some Rs 535 billion had been recovered from corrupt elements directly and indirectly during the last over three years which was a remarkable achievement as compared to previous years of NAB.

The accountability courts have decided 2,477 corruption reference from out of 3,754 filed by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) since its inception, said Chairman Justice (Retd) Javed Iqbal. He said right now as many as 1,273 corruption references having worth of Rs. 1335.019 billion were under trial at various accountability courts.

Covid claims 20 more lives in KP

STAFF REPORT

PESHAWAR: Coronavirus has claimed 20 more lives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as 490 new cases have been reported during last 24 hours, said Covid updates shared by Health Department here on Saturday.

With 20 more deaths, tall from the disease has climbed to 5270 while total active cases in the province were 8070 and overall Coronavirus cases reached to 168748. As many as 11052 tests were conducted, out of which 490 were tested Covid positive.

During the same period 368 patients have also been recovered that had reached the total number of Coronavirus cases in the province to 155408.

According to the updates shared by Health Department Peshawar division, 182 cases were reported in Peshawar division and 127 cases were reported from district Peshawar. Similarly, 39 new cases reported from Nowshera, 15 from Khyber, one in Charsadda and zero case from Mohmand district.

Similarly, 93 Covid positive cases were reported from Malakand Division with highest 66 in Chitral Lower.

Other districts including Swat has 9, Buner 6, Dir Upper 3, Malakand 7, Chitral Upper 2 while no new Corona cases were reported from Dir Lower, Shangla and Bajaur districts. Furthermore, 50 new Corona cases have been reported from Hazara division, 29 from Kohat Division, 39 from Bannu division and 16 cases from D.I. Khan respectively.

Faiz meeting in Kabul sign of hope for peace

DNA

LAHORE: Khawaja Rameez Hassan, Deputy Secretary Information PML-Q Punjab, said in a press release that India is currently completely isolated in the region. Hosting the intelligence chiefs of key countries by ISI chief is one of the most important diplomatic achievements of Pakistan. He added that the meeting of the intelligence chiefs of eight countries, including China, Iran, Russia and Uzbekistan, presented a practical picture of the region's decisions being made in the region. Pakistan is moving forward as a stable state and Pakistan's armed forces and law enforcement agencies are working day and night to restore Pakistan's lost credibility for which they are facing criticism and conspiracies.

Raising departmental services top priority

Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad said that the measures were being taken in a coordinated manner in matters of public welfare and regional construction and development are being progressed at a rapid pace and in this regard

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad has said that provision of every possible relief to the public of Faisalabad district, Regional Development and raising the departmental services were included in his priority and would kept close liaison with public representatives for consultation in the progress and development of district. He was holding introductory meeting with Parliamentarians of the district. Parliamentarians Mian Farrukh Habib, Sheikh Khurram Shahzad, Raza Nasrullah Ghuman, Malik Umar Farooq, Ch.

Ali Akhtar, Shakeel Shahid were present. Deputy Commissioner welcomed the parliamentarians and said that the district administration was rapidly implementing development programs and public welfare schemes.

He said that the measures were being taken in a coordinated manner in matters of public welfare and regional construction and development are being progressed at a rapid pace and in this regard, administration would ensure deep contact with the parliamentarians so that the highest quality of public service could be established by harmonizing the resources available

through mutual consultation. He said that concrete steps were being taken to further improve the quality of services of government departments so as to ensure speedy resolution of problems by providing facilities to the citizens and strict departmental action against the officers who were not resolving the problems of public. He said that the focus was on the quality of the services of the departments as per the expectations of the public and regular monitoring of the performance of all the departments would continue. He said that the development of Faisalabad was one of the prior-

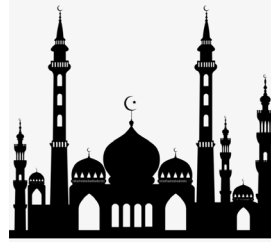
ities and in the process of development the administration sure accompany the parliamentarians and their suggestions would also be welcomed. He asked the members of the Assembly to assist the district administration in proposing regional construction and development projects and solving the problems of the people so that joint efforts could advance the mission of urban development and public welfare.

He said that coordination meetings with members of the Assembly would be held regularly. Parliamentarians congratulated the Ali Shahzad for appointing as Deputy Commissioner Faisalabad and said

that they would continue cooperation with administration. They said that the timely completion of public welfare schemes was the focus of the policies of the present government and concerted efforts will successfully support this development agenda.

They emphasized on the sustainable completion of development projects. They applauded the performance of the District administration and said that they should continue to assist in this regard. They stressed the need for further enhancement of the quality of work. They also identified some problems and stressed to solve them.

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	04:25 am
Zohr.....	12:10 pm
Asr.....	05:00 pm
Maghrib.....	06:30 pm
Isha.....	07:45 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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Emergency

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



Enquiry

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



Hospitals

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



Departments

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



Complaints

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125

Bakhtawari urges businessmen to show unity in their ranks

Zafar Bakhtawari, former president ICCI and secretary general of the United Business Group, says in his address that businessmen should show full unity in their ranks

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that he had briefed Minister Imran Khan and President Dr. Arif Alvi on the problems faced by the traders at his Chamber's function last week. He hoped that the long standing problems faced by the traders and industrialists of Islamabad would be resolved soon. He expressed these views in Islamabad at a reception hosted by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, former Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in honor of Elected President of Appara Traders Welfare Association Ajmal Baloch and Founder Group ICCI, Sardar Yasir Ilyas said that he has raised the issue of EOs by FBR in shops across the country in front of Prime Minister Imran Khan. In his speech he had said that the business community was in a state of panic due to these measures and these measures



would not increase the revenue but would reduce the trend of investment in the country. Mian Akram Farid, Chairman, Founder Group, said that the business community of Islamabad was moving ahead in full swing in the election campaign. He said that if the intention and

faith were right, the destination would be found automatically. Zafar Bakhtawari, former president ICCI and secretary general of the United Business Group, said in his address that businessmen should show full unity in their ranks. Problems can be solved. He advised all the candidates that

they have an opportunity to reach out to the business community and meet them and they should avail this opportunity. In his address, Khalid Javed, former President ICCI, emphasized the need to highlight unity and harmony in the business community, saying that only through our

unity can we solve our problems as Ajmal Baloch has done for many years. Standing with us in the historic struggle has raised the voice for the rights of traders. Former President of ICCI Khalid Iqbal Malik said that Pakistani forces have made great sacrifices to eradicate terrorism. Ejaz Abbasi, former president ICCI, said in his address that the Founder Group would win the elections on September 16 by a landslide based on its service and the business community of Islamabad would once again express its full confidence. He said that all the friends would be represented in the chamber on the basis of justice and merit. Ajmal Baloch, newly elected president of Aabpara Market Traders Welfare Association, said in his address that he has played his full role in reviving the business of Waziristan traders besides Islamabad traders. He said that he has endured the hardships of jail for the rights of his traders and will not spare any sacrifice for their rights in future.

30 madrasa students hospitalized

KHAYYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: As many as 30 madrasa students were hospitalized on Saturday night due to eating unhygienic food. According to Rescue-1122 spokesman, 30 students of Qasimia Madrasa, Jamia Masjid IlyasBuri Stop, Model Town Humak, Islamabad were shifted to Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Islamabad and District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ), Rawalpindi were affected. He informed that Rescue 1122 shifted students namely Saeed (22), Anwar shah (17), Rafiullah (17), Muhammad Irshad (19), Afaq (18), Jan Muhammad (21), Atta ur Rehman (17), Muhammad Hmmar (16), Jaffar (14), Bilal (15), Muhammad Ismail (35), Muneer Rehman (20), Zeeshan (15), Muhammad Attique (9), Saifullah (8), Muhammad Adil (11), Adil Tariq (12), Suffian (9), Awais (12), Subhan (20), Ab Sami (15), Usama (14), Sohail (14), Ishfaq (15), Idrees (13), Ahsan (15), Atif (17), Junaid (17), Nouman (13) and Asim (16) to hospital.

Students perturbed over limiting choice of programs

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Students studying in the educational institutions run by Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) are perturbed over limiting the choices of programs being offered at associated degree level, finding no other option but to join private institutes and paying hefty amounts. According to an official source, FDE has issued guidelines regarding Associate Degree Programs (ADP) running in the ICT colleges under the ambit of FDE. The letter issued by the Director Academics stated that the number of students should be at least 30 to start any ADP and in case of lesser number of applicants/ students in various subject combinations of ADP, they might be merged into one which has the higher number of applicants within the exceeding limit of 50 students per program.

'Traveling Bus Painting Project' concludes

ISLAMABAD: A two-days "Traveling Bus Painting Project" concluded on Sunday 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". - APP



ISLAMABAD: Workers busy in preparing ground for planting saplings at green belt of I-11. - APP

Citizens advised to use alternative routes during matches

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi City Traffic Police (CTP) on Sunday advised the citizens to use alternative routes to avoid inconvenience as Double Road would remain closed for the practice sessions and cricket matches between Pakistan and New Zealand to be played in Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium during September 12 to Sept 21. According to a CTP spokesman, Murree Road Rawalpindi from Faizabad to Double Road would remain closed for all kind of vehicular traffic at arrival (morning) and departure (evening) of the cricket teams. The Double Road would remain closed for all kind of vehicular traffic from start to conclusion of the practice sessions and the cricket matches. He urged the road users to cooperate with the police performing duties during the cricket matches. Traffic Police on the directives of Chief Traffic Officer, Rawalpindi Rai Mazhar Iqbal would make all-out efforts to regulate traffic in adjacent areas of the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium where the cricket matches between Pakistan and New Zealand cricket teams to be played. He informed that 230 Traffic Wardens, 72 Traffic Assistants, 18 Inspectors and seven DSPs would perform duties in the circle to regulate traffic and facilitate the road users. The CTP have issued a traffic plan for the cricket matches to facilitate the citizens, he said. The traffic coming from Rawal Dam, Islamabad towards Rawalpindi would be diverted to Expressway. - APP

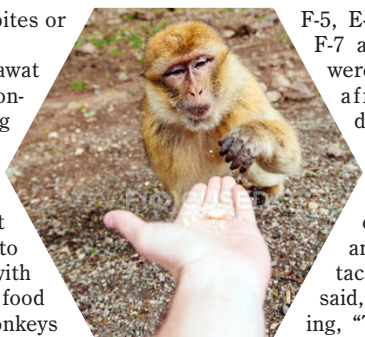
Avoid feeding food, wear perfume to deter monkeys' attacks in Margalla Hills

ISLAMABAD: One of the world's closest ecosystems near a human settlement, Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP), thriving with diverse species of flora and fauna reported recent incidents of human and monkey conflict that demands citizens' responsible behavior to shun animal contact. The monkey used to live in the form of herds or groups where they shift from existing colony to establish their separate herd as Alpha monkey (most agile with extreme control over the entire monkey colony) never allow that without a contest, during which they descend to local populated areas, Manager Operations Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) Sakawat Ali told APP while requesting the masses to play their role in prevent-

ing monkey bites or conflict. Mr. Sakawat said the monkeys during their pursuit of a separate establishment come into contact with humans for food as these monkeys used to get very few prey in the wilds. "It is never advisable and conducive for the masses to contact or share any food item to monkeys, however, they may blow a firecracker to deter the approaching monkey," he added. However, firecrackers must be the last resort in a safe way whereas using perfumes might also help reduce monkey attacks, he added. The residents of Sector

F-5, E-7, F-6, F-7 and F-8 were most affected due to monkeys' tinkering and attacks, he said, adding, "The areas' residents are requested to properly discard leftover food." The wild monkeys, he said were visiting these sectors in search of food that caused behavioral changes in these wild animals. He requested the tourists that they should not feed monkeys of MHNP. He told that recently a monkey was rescued in the sector H-13 and was badly injured due to dog

bites. "He is an old monkey and tied with a rope string around his neck that created wounds. He is in a critical condition at the rehabilitation center of the IWMB," he said. To a question, he said a probe was launched into the matter to initiate punitive action against the people involved in this heinous and brutal act as no one would be allowed to assault wildlife in the National Park. Pakistan Wildlife Foundation Vice President Safwan Ahmed informed that the people venturing out into the trails should avoid giving any food item and apply some perfume or deodorant to prevent monkey attacks. "A fragrance is an unperceived odor for monkeys, which they consider a threat and, therefore, flee in fear," he advised. - APP



People angry over uprooting of saplings

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The environment conscience residents of Chaklala Cantonment on Sunday expressed dismay over damage inflicted by the unknown to saplings planted along Tufail Road to protect the green and clean environment. It was with utter dismay that the Chaklala Cantonment Board (CCB) authorities on the persistent demand of nature loving residents of the area started the monsoon tree plantation and planted a dozen saplings on tufail road where on the very next day some scrupulous elements uprooted the plantation, told Mr. Suleman Hedayat an area resident who avily pursued the authorities to ensure plantation. Mr. Hedayat said while the CCB staff kept a watch on the first day and the guards along the road side flats had been asked to keep a lookout that the new plants were not damaged. "One is flabbergasted to learn that the new

plantations were uprooted on the very next day. While the government is actively pursuing clean and green Pakistan, it is sad to learn that a noble endeavor has been thrown in the dust bin," he regretted. Ms. Uzma Pasha, another area resident also expressed her disappointment on the matter and said the area was already lacking green cover due to increasing urbanization sprawl in the country. "These saplings will have been a source of some relief after growing into full trees. But, some fanatic or ill minded individuals have took out the saplings which is unforgivable," she added. When contacted, the CCB official presented their brief version on the matter. He said the Board has the responsibility to plant and water the saplings in the region. However, it did not have a huge force of guards to deploy single individual on each sapling to protect it, adding, it was the public responsibility to take ownership of the plantation which was carried out with taxpayers money, he said.

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Briefs

Fawad grieved over demise of journalist Rafiq Azad

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Sunday expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of senior journalist Rafiq Azad. In a statement, the minister said that late Rafiq Azad was a fearless journalist and the vacuum created by his death will never be filled. The minister said that services of the late Rafiq Azad in the field of journalism will always be remembered. He prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with fortitude. — APP

Govt to soon launch 1122 Air Ambulance

ISLAMABAD: Director General Rescue 1122 Dr Rizwan Naseer on Sunday said that the Punjab government would soon start launching of Rescue 1122 Air Ambulance service in the high risk areas of the province. Talking to PTV news, DG Rescue said on strict directions of CM Punjab Usman Buzdar over 250 new ambulances were being provided to 1122 department in the emergency services so far. DG Rizwan said Punjab government was taking all possible revolutionary steps to further improve the rescue services in the Punjab which would be acknowledged at the international level adding that Rescue 1122 was not given any new ambulances in the past 15 years.

"The community emergency response teams and their trainings would also be constituted at the union councils level to timely arrange emergency services", he added.

DG said that 1122 teams had played a leading role in helping and saving patients from Covid-19, adding, the entire nation can never forget the services rendered by Rescue 1122 the way they came out and rescued around 30,000 citizens. He said Punjab government was utilizing all available resources to protect masses from Covid-19, as this was the time to serve distressed people.

Responding to a query, he lauded the rescue service personnel and officers for saving lives in various accidents and for their bravery and courage in reaching to the victims during corona risky days.

Rizwan said that Emergency Service (Rescue 1122) was responding over 1000 road traffic (RTCs) accidents in all districts of Punjab on daily basis, adding, the majority motorbikes were involved. The Emergency Services Academy (ESA) Rescue 1122 has also conducting special training programs for female and male staff to enhance capacity building and increase the emergency response skills, he added. — APP

Lok Virsa to organize 3-day Autumn Festival

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage —Lok Virsa in collaboration with Hill Joint would organize a three-day Autumn Festival from September 17 to 19.

With talented folk and independent artists and bands from all over the country, the event will save our environment by spreading positive vibes of musical and positive enforcement about climate change and saving our environment.

Executive Director Lok Virsa Talha Ali told APP that three-day music and cultural festival with two nights camping option at festival grounds for music lovers who want to join from far and beyond.

He said that with daily workshops, seminars, talks, poetry reading, miniature art, pottery stand-up comedy and theatre during the day, and musical festival at night, the event will be an all-inclusive cultural extravaganza. He said that registrations for folk and independent artists are now open till September 4. — APP



ISLAMABAD: To reduce healthcare-associated infections, WHO supported IPC Training Certificate Course for Nurses at SZABMU. "Nurses are the backbone of the healthcare system to implement IPC practices," remarked WR Flag of Pakistan, Dr Palitha Mahipala at the certificate distribution ceremony. — DNA

ICCI calls for urgent measures to stabilize exchange rate

Sardar Yasir Ilyas said that Pakistan's trade deficit has risen sharply in August driven by surging imports compared to exports as merchandise trade deficit has reportedly reached \$4.05bn in August against \$1.740bn

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has shown great concerns over the falling value of rupee against dollar as it would create multiple problems for business & economy and called upon the government to take urgent remedial measures for ending the volatility and bringing stability in the exchange rate. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the value of Pakistani rupee has now tumbled to over Rs.168 against one dollar, which showed that our

currency was losing its value at an alarming rate. It reflected a deteriorating market perception about the country's capacity to finance its foreign debt obligations going forward. He said that the constant erosion in the value of rupee was severely disturbing all future plans of the business community as it needed a stable exchange rate for long-term business and investment planning. He said that people were already facing great problems due to high inflation and falling value of rupee would bring a new wave of inflation in the country making life of common man more miserable. He said that Pakistan's trade deficit has risen sharply in Au-



gust driven by surging imports compared to exports as merchandise trade deficit has reportedly reached \$4.05 billion in August against \$1.740bn over the corre-

sponding month of last year showing an increase of 133 percent. He stressed that the government should incentivise imports substitution to reduce dependence on imports that would arrest further devaluation of rupee and prevent the build-up of imported high inflation.

He said that the traders were also reportedly booking dollars for future import payments at a higher premium or spread, which predicted further rupee depreciation. He said that in this scenario, the growth of the economy would remain uncertain amid fears of further deterioration in the fiscal and current account imbalances and it was high time that the govern-

ment should take urgent remedial measures to curb the situation from getting worse. Fatma Azim Senior Vice President and Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI said that some industries were importing around 70 percent of their raw material for manufacturing activities and decreasing value of rupee would further push up production cost making our exports more uncompetitive in the international market. They said that the government was charging high taxes on POL products and emphasized that it should make significant cuts in such taxes in these tough times to provide some relief to the inflation-hit people.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov and his spouse visited the ancient place of Saipur Village in the outskirts of Islamabad. The couple enjoyed the visit and had a chance to explore the history of the area. — DNA

Cycle of cousin marriages causes neurodev. disorders

RAWALPINDI: The cycle of cousin marriages is one of the causes leading to neurodevelopmental disorders among children which have emerged as a daunting challenge for the affected families in Pakistan, said scientists of National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) here on Sunday.

"The cycle of family marriages with cousins is leading to an ever-increasing burden of neurodevelopmental disorders. These disorders present lifelong clinical challenges including deficits in learning, speech, memory, and mobility putting great emotional and financial burden on families and society," said Dr. Tahir Khan, who is leading the research project with Dr. Humayoon Satti. Both the scientists are working on a Higher Education Commission's (HEC) funded

Rs. 15 million project to find causes of neurodevelopmental disorders in children, born out of cousin marriages in our society.

Under its "National Research Programme for Universities" HEC gives funds for encouraging research in universities and NUMS was awarded this project following a country-wide competitive process.

The human genome is made up of DNA sequences that contain all the information for our body structure and function. Changes in this DNA sequence called mutations can have adverse effects and may lead to abnormal function of our natural biochemical processes and consequently to disease, he said. The proposed project is aimed at identifying the mutations underlying neurodevelopmental

disorders and then explore the mechanism by which mutations affect other biological processes leading to abnormal phenotypes, he added

"To achieve these goals, we will first identify mutations by sequencing all protein coding part of the patients' genomes and then test the pathogenicity of specific mutations in zebrafish embryos and mouse models," said Dr. Tahir Khan.

He said the results of the experiments "will inform us of previously unknown disease mechanisms that can ultimately lead to better disease understanding and therapeutic interventions."

The disease causing mutational data generated in this project "will be helpful in genetic counselling of patients and their families and screening of individuals at risk," he added. — APP

'Fair elections only possible through EVM voting'

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan Sunday said that electronic voting machine (EVM) is the only way to ensure clean, fair and transparent election process in 2023.

Talking to private news channel, he said Prime Minister Imran Khan strongly believes on holding of free, fair, transparent and credible elections, adding, overseas Pakistanis would be



given right to vote thus enabling them to participate in the country's decision-making

process and ensuring rigging-free polls. Ali advised opposition parties to set aside their political differences and sit with government for quick development of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) to increase the overall efficiency of the electoral process in next general election 2023. It was high time for the opposition to sit together with government and discuss the matter of electoral reforms seriously for great interest

of public, he added. He added that whenever the opposition loses in elections, it starts crying foul about rigging and now they are just doing politics for their own interests. Replying a question, Ali Muhammad said the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is a respectable institution but if they have any reservations, the government and the Ministry of Science and Technology are ready to address them. — APP

Couple receive burn injuries

ISLAMABAD: At least two persons of a family were received serious burn injuries, as a result of blast due to gas leakage occurred in their house at Chiniot on Sunday.

According to details, rescue sources said that the incident occurred due to gas leakage resulting in a powerful blast that razed the portion to the ground, a private news channel reported. Rescue teams reached the spot after getting information about the incident and started the relief work. The injured were taken to a nearby hospital, rescue officials said. — APP

Workshop on Theatre techniques starts

ISLAMABAD: A workshop, titled "Intro to Theatre Techniques" started here on September 12 at Theatre Wallay aiming at providing opportunity to refine the skillful talent.

Theatre Wallay has scheduled a series of workshops for aspiring actors, drama enthusiasts or those generally interested in improving public speaking skills.

The workshops will be conducted by experienced Theatre Wallay artists Fizza Hasan and Ammar Khalid. According to Theater Wallay the workshops will use basic theatre games and activities to build confidence, manage anxiety, improve communication skills and work on voice and body.

The second workshop will be held on "Face & Body" on September 26 and third workshop will be conducted on "Voice & Text" on October 10 and similarly the fourth workshop titled "Scene work/ scene analysis" will be held on October 24 at The Farm in Bani Gala, she added. — APP

Music classes in full swing at Theater Wallay

ISLAMABAD: The enchanting 'Music Classes' is in full swing here at Theater Wallay 'The Farm, Bani Gala' an effort to promote music of all genres alongwith polishing the talent of the young blood.

Talking to APP, Director, actor, producer, trainer and writer Ms Fizza said that these classes being held to promote the participants trained in Sitar and Tabla musical instruments.

Wajih Nizami a Sufi musician, composer and writer and Irfan Khan a Tabla player were conducting music classes.

Wajih Nizami played the plucked string instrument Sitar.

He has been described as the most well-known contemporary musician and a brilliant performer Wajih Nizami was a classical sitarist and upholds the tradition of sitar playing handed down to him through eight generations of dedication and devotion to music. He was carrying the legacy of Mian Tan Seem Ji, the court musician of Mughal emperor, Akbar. — APP

MoHR develops project to create HR awareness

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Human Rights has developed a project to create human rights awareness in the target districts.

According to ministry, this project is contributing to facilitate access to justice and enable people to know their rights as humans.

The main objectives of the project are to increase the people's understanding and knowledge about respect of human rights in Islam and fundamental human rights enshrined in the constitution of Pakistan and domestic national laws for human rights and to sensitize rural and urban communities for behavioral change towards certain human rights issues particularly gender based violence.

The project also aimed to develop communication strategy to address major human rights issues particularly violence against women, women's inheritance rights,

child abuse, transgender, minorities and Person with Disabilities (PWDs) etc. The project also aimed to promote tolerance and respect for human rights and inter-faith harmony to combat religious intolerance for a peaceful society and to disseminate information on human rights in schools, colleges, universities and public & private sector organizations.

The training programme developed under the EU project had trained 300 judges and 360 public prosecutors from all districts of Sindh. The training aimed at a province-wide intervention by building the capacity of trial court judges and public prosecutors. The MoHR also conducted two Police Sensitization Workshops with Islamabad and Rawalpindi Police to introduce the police guidelines, solicit feedback and sensitize police personnel. — APP



TEXILA: Bulgarian ambassador to Pakistan Irena Gancheva visits Takshasila Museum and learn interesting facts about ancient Takshasila through the museum's impressive collection of antique objects. — DNA

Mental health awareness

IN the midst of a pandemic, authorities continue to work on improving the standard of medical care so that all bodily ailments can be treated immediately, no matter the intensity. Completely neglecting the hardships that come from mental illnesses is not an option. Suicide rates have steadily increased according to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), evident from a total of 1735 deaths in 2020 alone. The apathy shown towards hidden illnesses must be counteracted as the situation becomes more concerning. The economic ramifications of the lockdowns implemented have been a major cause of stress and depression for those who have lost their jobs, practitioners working in hospitals, Covid-19 patients, victims of now intensified domestic abuse and those that experienced a deterioration in their quality of life. There is no system in place to help members of the public deal with the mental trauma that such an environment has perpetuated. Already, there was a lack of awareness about mental health as most have been unable to grasp how severe it can get. The logic is that if it cannot be seen then it does not exist. Furthermore, Section 325 of the Penal Code of Pakistan criminalises suicide which often leads to people either not reporting it, or allows for a major impediment to be created in studies to determine the psychological state of those affected with mental illnesses. This means that the number of suicides is likely to be much higher and that the law makes it impossible to propose targeted solutions because the research needed to understand the causes behind each case is unavailable or unattainable. An immediate solution is needed to rescue the country from the grips of depression and individuals from suicidal tendencies. A suicide prevention act that provides the right avenues for the public to seek help should be introduced. The taboo around going to therapy must be destroyed and those in need should be facilitated with subsidised, if not free, sessions. Suicide prevention hotlines should be opened for those in need of immediate assistance. Schools should make it a priority to incorporate mental health awareness programmes in their curriculums and the government must consider decriminalising suicide simultaneously.



Credit: Global Times

Supporting Afghanistan

CONSIDERING the ongoing humanitarian crisis and governance struggles amidst a critical transition phase in Afghanistan, Federal Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin has stated that Pakistan may have to send experts to Afghanistan because of the brain drain there. The situation is undeniably grim and the new government requires support at the moment. Assisting Afghanistan stabilise is not only a humanitarian duty, but it also ties in with our vision of regional connectivity and development. Going forward, funding levels from the West are expected to decline and currently Afghanistan's foreign reserves worth \$10 billion have been frozen. These restrictions will only make an already difficult economic situation even more complicated. Pakistan once again is going the extra mile as it is building up strategic reserves of essential food commodities to meet domestic as well as Afghanistan's requirements. Islamabad's efforts are commendable, however it should consider a couple of factors with regards to its engagement with the new government in Afghanistan. There is no doubt that Afghanistan could benefit from the help of technocrats at the moment, but while offering such help, we should be mindful of the fact that the Taliban are yet to gain international recognition as they have to prove that they are going to uphold the promises they made in the realm of human rights and individual freedoms. Of course, the government is in its nascent stages and there will be hurdles along the way, but reports of journalists and protestors being harassed or abused have to be addressed and taken seriously. Pakistan should use its assistance and engagement to push the new government towards being more considerate of these issues so that it can gain the confidence of the international community. This will only help Afghanistan in the long run as donors and investors will be more confident of engaging with the new government, helping Afghanistan stabilise in the long run.

China-led SCO weighs Iranian membership

James Dorsey

Mr. Nizomiddin's comments have since been supported by reports in Russian media. "There is a general disposition for this, there is no doubt about it," said Bakhtiyor Khakimov, Russia's ambassador at large for SCO affairs. Russian analyst Adlan Margoev noted that "the SCO is a platform for discussing regional problems. Iran is also a state in the region, for which it is important to discuss these problems and seek solutions together." The Tajik and Russian backing of Iranian membership raises tantalizing questions about potential differences within the SCO towards dealing with the Taliban

THE Taliban takeover of Afghanistan may help Iran reduce its international isolation. At least, that's what the Islamic Republic hopes when leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) gather in Tajikistan next weekend. Members are admitted to the eight-member China-led SCO that also groups Russia, India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan, by unanimous consensus. Iran, unlike its rivals in the Gulf, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, has long had observer status with the SCO. The Gulf states have so far kept their distance to the China-dominated regional alliance created to counter the 'evils' of 'terrorism, separatism, and extremism' so as not to irritate their main security ally, the United States. Acceptance of the Iranian application would constitute a diplomatic coup for Tehran and Iran's new hardline president, Ebrahim Raisi. Mr. Raisi, a proponent of closer relations with China and Russia, is expected to make his first appearance on the international stage at the SCO summit in Dushanbe since having assumed office last month. Iranian officials hope, perhaps over-optimistically, that SCO membership would help them counter the impact of harsh US sanctions. Ali Akbar Velayati, an international affairs advisor to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has advised the Raisi government to look East towards China, Russia and India asserting that they could "help our economy to make progress." Similarly, it is not clear that membership would substantially reduce Iran's international isolation or significantly improve its existing relations with other SCO members. What membership would do is effectively give Iran a veto should Saudi Arabia and the UAE choose to seek more formal relations with the SCO in response to a reduced US commitment to their security. The SCO is expected to grant Saudi Arabia and Egypt the status of dialogue partner at its Dushanbe summit. Gulf confidence in the reliability of the United States as a security guarantor has been rattled by the chaotic US departure from Afghanistan as well as the recent removal of the most advanced US missile defence weapon, the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system, and Patriot

batteries from Saudi Arabia as Yemeni Houthi rebels were successfully hitting targets in the kingdom. China and Russia have in the past been reluctant to entertain full Iranian membership because they did not want to upset their delicately balanced relations with both Iran and its detractors. Policymakers, in the wake of Afghanistan, may figure that the two-year application process will give them time to prevent upsetting the apple cart. To be sure, Tajikistan, in anticipation of a Taliban victory, first publicly promoted Iranian SCO membership in late May. Zohidi Nizomiddin, Tajikistan's ambassador to Iran, told a news conference in Tehran "that Iran to become a major member is among plans of the Shanghai Organization and if other countries are ready to accept Iran, Tajikistan will also be ready." Tajikistan opposed Iranian membership in the past, accusing Iran of supporting Islamist rebels in the country. Mr. Nizomiddin's comments have since been supported by reports in Russian media. "There is a general disposition for this, there is no doubt about it," said Bakhtiyor Khakimov, Russia's ambassador at large for SCO affairs. Russian analyst Adlan Margoev noted that "the SCO is a platform for discussing regional problems. Iran is also a state in the region, for which it is important to discuss these problems and seek solutions together." The Tajik and Russian backing of Iranian membership raises tantalizing questions about potential differences within the SCO towards dealing with the Taliban. Iran and Tajikistan, in contrast to Russia and China that have praised the Taliban's conduct since the fall of Kabul, have adopted a harder, more critical attitude. Nonetheless, Russia has in recent weeks held joint military drills with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan near the Tajik-Afghan border. Russia further promised to bolster Tajikistan by supplying weapons and providing training. Tajikistan is believed to support Tajik rebels in the Panjshir Valley in northern Afghanistan that last week lost a potentially initial first round of fighting against the Taliban. It remains unclear whether the rebels will be able to regroup. Tajiks account for approximately one-quarter of the Afghan population. As the Tajik President Emomali Rahmon recently awarded posthumously Tajik-

istan's third-highest award to two ethnic Afghan Tajiks, Ahmed Shah Massoud, the legendary father of current Tajik rebel leader Ahmad Massoud, and former president Burhanuddin Rabbani, for their contribution to ending a devastating civil war in the 1990s in the Central Asian country. Tajikistan and Iran agreed in April to create a joint military defence committee that would enhance security cooperation and counter-terrorism collaboration. Iran recently changed its tone regarding Afghanistan after the Taliban failed to include a Hazara Shiite in their newly appointed caretaker government. Hazaras, who account for 20 per cent of the Afghan population, have reason to fear Taliban repression despite the group's protection last month of Shiite celebrations of Ashura, the commemoration of the Prophet Moses' parting of the sea. Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, took the Taliban to task for "ignoring the need for inclusive government, foreign intervention and the use of military means instead of dialogue to meet the demands of ethnic groups and social groups that are the main concerns of the friends of the Afghan people." Mr. Shamkhani was referring to alleged Pakistani support for the Taliban in the battle for Panjshir. Supporters of Iranian membership may figure that affairs in Afghanistan will have been sorted out by the time the application procedure has run its course with Afghanistan well on its way towards reconstruction. That may prove to be correct. By the same token, however, so could the opposite with an Afghanistan that is wracked by internal conflict and incapable of controlling militants operating from its soil. The SCO may in either case want Iran to be in its tent to ensure that all of Afghanistan's neighbours, as well as regional powers Russia and India, are seated at one table. Mr. Margoev, the analyst, argued that "just like other countries in the region - (we should) sit at the same table with Iran and not call it a guest from outside."

— Dr. James M. Dorsey is an award-winning journalist and scholar and a senior fellow at the National University of Singapore's Middle East Institute.

Next big disruption is 'hybrid work'

Huma Arshad

Appropriate use of technology can help companies and teams to switch to hybrid work efficiently and effectively. Like investing in clear video conferencing, different chat applications, audio visual setups, and availability of other resources of communication can have effective and productive results. Since COVID-19 rapidly changing world has forced companies to invest more in technology including video conferencing and other audio visual tools, investing in different apps

HYBRID work poses unique challenges for companies either large or small, but the opportunities to cultivate a more engaged workforce are the biggest motivation behind all that after the pandemic. We should accept the fact that hybrid work is not new, but it is a 'New Normal'. The pandemic accelerated the adoption of workplace flexibility, making it obvious that many people can be productive outside the office too. Despite the interest in hybrid work among companies and employees, businesses are confronting real-world challenges in adopting it. Many companies' leaders worldwide are facing several questions integral to implementing a hybrid work model. The major challenge is ensuring the right people are in the office keeping in mind their occupancy. Another challenge with hybrid work is workplace equity, ensuring employees who work virtually are visible, engaged, and offered the same opportunities as their counterparts in the physical office. As employees head back to the office under a hybrid model, concerns are arising about inequalities in the workplace experience, and companies are exploring ways to sustain uniformity and equality between those who work in the office and those who work virtually. Any organization's culture has always been one of the key factors to attract and retain talent. With a hybrid model, it is quite challenging to build a culture that attracts employees to the company. Two major elements which can curb this problem are collaboration and connection. Collaboration and connection must be formed and prevailed between leaders, employees, and teams who are

operating under different work models. The key to the successful adoption of hybrid work is to understand the needs of the company and workforce before prescribing workplace and employee policy strategies. Tactics to a successful transition to Hybrid Work

The popular Hybrid Work Model is based on

- Remote -first
- Office -Occasional
- Office- First, Remote Allowed

In this rapidly changing world of technology, every company or organization has its own needs and demands. No workforce is homogenous. Each employee and team has different needs. Involving employees in the conversation is a solution towards adopting an appropriate Hybrid Work Model according to the needs and demands of employees and the company. Developing policies for Hybrid Work like meeting etiquettes for virtual and in-person participation, recommending office space use, communicating expected working hours. Those policies must apply to the entire workforce of the company whether they are working virtually, physically in the office, or a mix of both. Continuous feedback in such cases is a must so companies have to encourage their employees to give feedback related to these policies as it is a 'New Normal,' so, it needs to be reviewed and restructured according to new challenges and needs of the time. The main aim is to afford employees flexibility while maintaining predictability in where and when they work. Investing in virtual making virtual work environment productive reserves time in office.

Appropriate use of technology can help companies and teams to switch to hybrid work efficiently and effectively. Like investing in clear video conferencing, different chat applications, audio visual setups, and availability of other resources of communication can have effective and productive results. Since COVID-19 rapidly changing world has forced companies to invest more in technology including video conferencing and other audio visual tools, investing in different apps. Many companies started investing in workplace sensors, which can be used to track workplace occupancy rates and collect data on which workspace are most used by the workforce. This kind of data can be used to determine investment decisions and workplace policies. It has been observed that employees consistently say the most compelling reason to go back to the office is collaboration and interaction in person. attending meetings and experiencing interaction with colleagues. Offices have traditionally been designed around individual workstations, but a Hybrid workplace needs to facilitate in-person collaboration and in-office flexibility. In the end, inevitably, companies can no longer afford to sit on the sidelines anymore. They must figure out how to make remote work possible and effective either it is full-time work from the home hybrid model with the fusion of on-site work. If they do not adopt such strategies they will lose their top talents. "Success in a hybrid work environment requires employers to move beyond viewing remote or hybrid environments as temporary or short-term strategy and to treat it as an opportunity." George Penn, Vice President- Gartner.

Briefs

Pak releases dossier on Indian crimes

FROM PAGE 01
IIOJK continues by design to hamper international media and observers from reporting the heinous crimes being committed by the Indian occupation forces. He said the dossier contains three chapters and first one carries detail of war crimes and genocidal acts of the Indian troops; the second one exposes false flag operations in IIOJK to suppress the indigenous freedom movement while the last chapter tells that how human rights law are being openly being violated by India. "We expect the United Nations to compel the Government of India to allow free access to Special Procedure Mandate Holders of UN Human Rights Council for independent investigations of human rights violations," Shah Mehmood Qureshi said.

In probably what was for the first time, Pakistan shared with the world the details of War Crimes perpetrated by the Indian Occupation Forces (IOF). It covers accounts of 3,432 cases of war crimes in which 1,178 personnel of IOFs have been found to be involved including one Major General, four Inspectors General, seven Deputy Inspectors-General, five Brigadiers, 31 Colonels and 188 Majors and Captains. The Foreign Minister also demanded that the UN record names of individuals and units involved in war crimes and place sanctions on the individuals and entities. "We expect EU, the UK and others to impose sanctions on India under their specific global human rights sanctions regimes for perpetrating state-sponsored war crimes."

The document states that since Indian brutalities in IIOJK largely remain unreported, "a comprehensive dossier on Indian Human Rights Violations in IIOJK has been compiled which underscores that Modi government continues to obliterate Kashmiri indigenous identity' due to differences in religion, culture, ethnicity and political views."

Pakistan's last dossier was shared by Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Director General Inter-Services Public Relations Maj Gen Babar Itikhar in November last year which gave details how Indian intelligence RAW in collaboration with the Afghan intelligence NDS was running 66 training camps to prepare terrorists working for TTP, ISKP, BLA and smaller outfits. The new dossier that focuses on Kashmir points out that with coming into power by the Indian hardliner BJP in 2014, "human rights violations in IIOJK reached epic proportions, and accounts of human suffering are reminiscent of dark ages."

The document gave gruesome details of the Indian atrocities since 1989 that include over 96,000 extra-judicial killings, around 162,000 cases of arbitrary arrests and torture, over 25,000 pellet gun injuries, rape of 11,250 women, around 23,000 women were widowed while over 108,000 children were orphaned. The document also provided details of the 8,652 unmarked mass graves that have been identified in 89 villages of 6 districts in IIOJK. Another key factor highlighted by Pakistan was the suspected use of chemical weapons by India against the Kashmiris. It pointed that bodies of 37 Kashmiris burnt alive by IOFs were completely beyond recognition. The document which showed images of charred bodies and pointed that the use of chemical weapons was in complete contravention to the 'Chemical Weapons Convention' and said that it necessitates "an impartial international investigation."

FROM PAGE 01
CHIBA: Pakistan pushed opponents Thailand toward the tie-break, to win 3-2 (22-25, 25-23, 21-25, 25-23, 15-12) in the Preliminary Round - Pool B of the 21st Asian Senior Men's Volleyball Championship. Usman Faryad Ali scored 22 points in the match, delivering reliably in clutch plays for Pakistan's win on Sunday at the Chiba Port Arena. Captain Khan Aimal served as a primary option on offense for Pakistan, while Thai opposite Assanaphan-Chantajorn likewise had much success with his wing attacks. Pakistan, with a

Pak edge Thailand in opener of Asian Volleyball C'ship

Pakistan retaliated as Abdul Zaheer engaged the middle attack, and later scoring off back-to-back service aces. They also improved their accuracy from the wing

DNA

much taller team, sought to capitalize in the middle, utilizing both attack and block to their advantage. With a tight first set unfolding, Thailand stuck to good floor defense as their clear advantage in clutch plays. A service winner sealed the first set at 25-22 for the Thai side. By the next set, Thailand adjusted better to the block formation against them. They also kept a close eye on Pakistan's right-side, which helped usher an early 9-2 run. Pakistan retaliated as Abdul Zaheer engaged the middle attack, and later scoring off back-to-back service aces. They also improved their accuracy from the

energized the Thai offense from the flanks. Pakistan still utilized their strengths to stay abreast with their opponents, but later misfired their attacks. Aekka-weeBangsri connected with huge block kill, that helped spark the Thais toward 25-21 in the third set. By the fourth set, Pakistan tightened their watch on their opponents' wing attack. The Thai side worked on a number of solutions, varying their speed in attack, or enlisting the pipe plays. Each team knew how to respond to rallies and recycled plays, making for an exchange of side-outs. Toward the closing plays, Pakistan firmed up their



wing, with Usman Faryad Ali scoring successfully to help tie the match with 25-23 in the second set. In the next set, ChapipatBuket and Kittithad Nuwaddee

net defense, and connected from the wing to force the decider. Interesting rallies sparked the fifth set. Thailand endured better in the exchange, with good defense to help propel faster plays. Pakistan showed they could adjust quickly, and race towards the net for good block formation. Aimal delivered from the right wing to settle a disputed rally to help bring Pakistan to good momentum for a 15-12 finish. Thailand will next face three-time champions Iran at 15:00 local time, while Pakistan and Hong Kong, China face-off earlier at 9:30 local time on Monday at the Chiba Port Arena.

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Pakistani athletes bag four Golds in Int'l Cultural Festival Romania



BUCHAREST: Pakistani athletes won four gold medals and a bronze in the 5th International Cultural Festival Romania (Europe) 2021. RukhsarGul, Majid Fareed, Basharat Ali, and Mohammad Rashid won four golds in the Mas-Wrestling event of the festival. Rukhsar contested in the 65Kg category, Majid in the 80Kg category, Basharat in the 90Kg category, and Rashid in the 90Kg category. Meanwhile, Majid Khan won a bronze medal in Mind Games of the event. - DNA

UEFA chief attacks breakaway European Super League trio

LONDON: The UEFA head has once again censured Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus - remaining clubs of the breakaway European Super League (ESL). "I wouldn't mind if they left," AleksanderCeferin said in an interview with Germany's Der Spiegel on Friday. "These people tried to kill football with their incompetent directors," he added. In April, a dozen European giants from England, Italy, and Spain announced to form the ESL. But after a major backlash, nine of the 12 clubs quit the project before it fully took off. UEFA condemned the failed project, and opened disciplinary proceedings against the three clubs for their roles in the league. In May, Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus dismissed UEFA's disciplinary action, saying they would not give up on the ESL. The proceedings were suspended in June, and the three clubs entered the 2021-22 UEFA Champions League groups. Citing the Real Madrid president's earlier statements, Ceferin said: "Florentino Perez complains, saying his club can only survive with the Super League, and then offers 180 million euros to sign KylianMbappe." Mbappe is still with Paris Saint-Germain as the French club rejected a 160 million (\$188 million) bid by Real Madrid. Perez had described the Super League as a way to "save football." "If we continue with the Champions League there is less and less interest and then it's over," he said. - Agencies

Ronaldo's 'unbelievable' Man Utd return exceeds his expectations

SPORTS DESK

MANCHESTER: Cristiano Ronaldo admitted his "unbelievable" return to Manchester United had exceeded his expectations as the Portugal star shrugged off his nerves to score twice in Saturday's 4-1 win against Newcastle. Ronaldo returned to United in a blockbuster move from Juventus last month, 12 years after leaving Old Trafford to join Real Madrid. The 36-year-old marked his second United debut in style with a goal in each half in front of 76,000 adoring fans. Ronaldo's double was followed by goals from Bruno Fernandes and Jesse Lingard as United moved to the top of the Premier League. It was an even better return than Ronaldo imagined during his anxious wait to pull

on the famous United number seven shirt again. "I didn't expect to score two goals. I expect one but not two. I have to appreciate the fans and what they did to me today. I feel so proud for that," he told BBC Sport. "Of course I am happy to score goals, I am not going to deny that but the most important thing is the team and the team played good. "It is unbelievable. When I started the game I was so nervous, I swear. It is normal because I did not expect that they would sing my name all game. "I was very nervous but maybe I didn't show but I was. The reception is incredible but I am here to win games and help the team. "It was unbelievable moment. I was super nervous and was thinking last night that I wanted to play good and show I was still capable of



helping the team." Away from United for over a decade as he established himself as one of the all-time greats during his spells with Real Madrid and Juventus, Ronaldo said he always retained a kinship with English football.

Teen Raducanu makes history with US Open victory

The 150th-ranked Raducanu completed her Grand Slam fairy-tale by beating Fernandez in straight sets - 6-4, 6-3 - to be crowned champion. She is also the first British woman in 44 years to win a Grand Slam title

SPORTS DESK

NEW YORK: Britain's 18-year-old Emma Raducanu became the first qualifier to capture a Grand Slam title as she defeated Canada's Leylah Fernandez, 19, in the US Open women's tennis final on Saturday. The 150th-ranked Raducanu completed her Grand Slam fairy-tale by beating Fernandez in straight sets - 6-4, 6-3 - to be crowned champion. She is also the first British woman in 44 years to win a Grand Slam title. Not since Virginia Wade in 1977 at Wimbledon had a British woman won a major tournament, with Raducanu the first Briton to claim the US Open crown since Wade in 1968. Wade and British men's tennis legend Tim Henman were among a sellout crowd of 23,700 that created an electric atmosphere at Arthur Ashe Stadium in the first-ever women's Slam final between unseeded players. "It means so much to have Virginia here and also Tim," Raducanu said after her victory. "To have such British legends and icons, for me to follow in their footsteps, it really helped and it definitely gave me the belief that I could actually do it." The showdown of prodigy talents was the first all-teen Grand Slam final since 17-year-old Serena Williams beat 18-year-old Martina Hingis for the 1999 US Open crown. The drama of the much-anticipated meeting produced tension from the start. Fernandez saved five break points in her opening service game of the match



before finally surrendering the 10-minute game on a netted forehand to give Raducanu a 2-0 edge. Fernandez broke back in the third game, Raducanu netting a backhand on the fourth break point she faced. With each game a roller-coaster of powerful groundstrokes and sensational shotmaking, the first set hung on a knife's edge game after game. Raducanu forced three break points on Fernandez's serve in the 10th game, but sent backhands long, wide and into the net. On her fourth opportunity, Raducanu blasted a forehand winner to claim the first set after 58 minutes.

Queen Elizabeth congratulates Emma

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: The Queen has hailed Emma Raducanu's "remarkable achievement at such a young age" penning a tribute to her "outstanding performance" at the US Open. Emma Raducanu became the first British woman in 44 years to win a Grand Slam in a breathtaking final beating Leylah Fernandez in straight sets. The monarch was moved to write an open letter to the 18-year-old, saying: "I send my congratulations to you on your success in winning the United States Open Tennis Championships. "It is a remarkable achievement at such a young age, and is testament to your hard work and dedication. "I have no doubt your outstanding performance, and that of your opponent Leylah Fernandez, will inspire the next generation of tennis players. I send my warmest good wishes to you and your many supporters." The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's Twitter account posted in a tweet signed C for Catherine: "Huge congratulations @EmmaRaducanu on your stunning performances and historic Grand Slam victory! Incredible - we are all so proud of you. @LeylahFernandez well done on your amazing achievements at this year's #USOpen, it's been a pleasure to watch. C."

New rules for female students

FROM PAGE 01

being educated or having jobs. But since they seized control on 15 August, they have asked all women, except those in the public health sector, to stay away from work, until the security situation improves. The announcement of the higher education policy comes a day after the Taliban raised their flag over the presidential palace, signalling the beginning of their administration. They seized control from the elected government a month ago. The policy marks a significant change from the accepted practice before the Taliban takeover. Universities were co-educational, with men and women studying side by side, and female students did not have to abide by a dress code.

SCO heads meet amidst Afghanistan crisis

FROM PAGE 01

intergovernmental international organisation, the creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai (China) by the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan. It was preceded by the Shanghai Five mechanism. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Charter was signed during the St. Petersburg SCO Heads of State meeting in June 2002, and entered into force on 19 September 2003. This is the fundamental statutory document which outlines the organisation's goals and principles, as well as its structure and core activities. The SCO's main goals are as follows: strengthening mutual trust and neighbourliness among the member states; promoting their effective cooperation in politics, trade, the economy, research, technology and culture, as well as in education, energy, transport, tourism, environmental protection, and other areas; making joint efforts to maintain and ensure peace, security and stability in the region; and moving towards the establishment of a democratic, fair and rational new international political and economic order.

Iran hopes it will get...

FROM PAGE 01

Iran's international isolation or significantly improve its existing relations with other SCO members. What membership would do is effectively give Iran a veto should Saudi Arabia and the UAE choose to seek more formal relations with the SCO in response to a reduced US commitment to their security. The SCO is expected to grant Saudi Arabia and Egypt the status of dialogue partner at its Dushanbe summit. (James Dorsey's article on the subject is published on the opinion pages)

Pak special forces...

FROM PAGE 01

countries took part in the inaugural event. The main objective of the joint exercises is to improve the interoperability of the Special Forces Units of friendly and partner countries during combat operations, prepare for operations in peacetime and wartime, exchange knowledge and experience. The "Three Brothers - 2021" International Exercises will last until September 20. A contingent of Special Forces of Pakistan, Azerbaijan and Turkey are participating in Exercise Three Brothers-2021.

Covid-19 positivity...

FROM PAGE 01

58 corona patients have died during last 24 hours, 56 of whom were under treatment in the hospitals and two of them perished in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest update issued by the National command and Operation Centre (NCCO).

Half of Islamabad...

FROM PAGE 01

fully vaccinated. Asad Umar said that 71 percent of Islamabad's eligible population has received at least single dose and there is a need to see an acceleration of inoculating the second dose in other cities. On Saturday, the district administration of Islamabad imposed a micro smart lockdown in 11 sectors. All private and public gatherings have been banned. The government will also be forming special teams that would visit educational institutions across the country and immunised students.

Briefs

Heavy rains hit Indian capital

FOREIGN DESK

NEW DELHI: Heavy rains Sunday hit Indian capital New Delhi, flooding parts of the city's airport and roads, officials said.

According to Meteorological Department (IMD) officials, 1,100 mm of rainfall was recorded this monsoon season. The southwest monsoon season in India officially commences from June 1 and lasts until September 30.

Visuals taken from the Indira Gandhi International Airport showed aircraft on the ground at the airport which is partially flooded. The inclement weather has affected flight operations at the airport, with several airlines requesting passengers to track flight status before leaving for the airport.

The heavy rains led to waterlogging at the forecourt, the Delhi International Airport, following which officials swing into action and resolved the issue.

"Due to sudden heavy rain, for a short period, there was waterlogging at the forecourt. Our team was immediately aligned to look into it and the issue has been resolved," a spokesman of Delhi airport said.

UK records another 29,547 corona cases

AGENCIES

LONDON: Another 29,547 people in Britain have tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the total number of coronavirus cases in the country to 7,197,662, according to official figures released Sunday.

The country also recorded another 156 coronavirus-related deaths. The total number of coronavirus-related deaths in Britain now stands at 134,144. These figures only include the deaths of people who died within 28 days of their first positive test.

The latest data came as the British Office for National Statistics (ONS) showed that in England, COVID-19 rates were rising in children aged from two to those in year 11, and for those aged 35 to 49 in the week to Sept. 3. Figures for the same time period showed that the infection rate in Scotland was the highest recorded, and the rate in Wales was the highest since Christmas.

Tunisia's Kais says constitution must be amended

TUNIS: Tunisian President Kais Saied has announced plans to form a new government and said the constitution should be amended, weeks after he sacked his premier and suspended parliament in moves his critics called a coup.

Speaking to two television channels after a late Saturday evening stroll in central Tunis, Saied said he would form a new government "as soon as possible" after selecting "the people with the most integrity". But he declined to give a specific timeline.

Saied also told the television stations that "the Tunisian people rejected the constitution". He added that such charters are "not eternal" and stated that "we can introduce amendments to the text".

His comments, which confirmed earlier media speculations on his plans, were dismissed by the Islamist-inspired Ennahda party, the largest bloc in parliament. The party in a statement expressed "its categorical rejection of the attempts of some parties that are hostile to the democratic process... to push for choices that violate the rules of the constitution". Ennahda added that it would oppose "an intended suspension of the application of the constitution and a change to the political system, possibly through a referendum".

The influential UGTT trade union confederation, which has so far backed Saied, also rejected any "suspension of the constitution" and called for early legislative elections so that a new parliament could look into potential constitutional changes. — APP

Pakistani goods have strong competitive force at CAEXPO

Pakistan is one of the few countries which has a complete ecosystem of textile, from weaving to dyeing, making garments and clothes

DNA

BEIJING: "Pakistan has already opened the market of China and ASEAN. These years, Pakistan's exports have recorded a new volume, exports to China are showing great momentum as well, and we hope that by the end of this year, we will have a new breakthrough," said Pakistani ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque.

He was talking to Gwadar Pro after he visited the Pakistani pavilion of the 18th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO). CAEXPO kicked off on Friday (10th) in Nanjing. This is the second time in a row that Pakistan has been invited to participate in as a special partner.

Haque visited the Pakistani pavilion and conversated with Pakistani exhibitors. Then, he was exclusively interviewed by Gwadar Pro. He believed that Pakistani goods have a strong competitive force, especially the textile sector, which remains one of Pakistan's flagship products.

"Pakistan is one of the few countries which has a complete ecosystem of textile, from weaving to dyeing, making garments and clothes. Textile is our strongest sector, so you can see the products from home textile to ladies' clothes are all showcased here," Haque said.

"Second, the food sector in Pakistan is very important. Pakistan is one of the largest leading countries in production of wheat, rice, sugarcane, cotton as essential raw materials, which have made us one of the most competitive countries in the region. Now,



the government is focusing towards industrialization to do value addition for these products," he added.

The third competitive commodity of Pakistan is milk products. Haque introduced: "We are the 4th largest country as equal to China in milk production. Now we are focusing on also bringing a revolution in the dairy sector by giving value addition such as making cheese, yogurt and other products, then exporting to ASEAN, China, and even the whole region."

He also mentioned sports products as his favorite Pakistani goods, and he's proud that "Pakistan is the largest producer of footballs in the world, and most world-class tournaments have assigned Pakistani foot-

ball as their official football. Not only football, but we also make other sports goods like boxing gloves, motorcycle gloves, and so on."

After visiting the pavilion, he said: "This is the second time that Pakistan has been invited to participate as a special partner country. We were given this honor for 2 years continuously, which is unprecedented in the history of CAEXPO.

In another sense, it is important because China and Pakistan are celebrating the 70th anniversary of our friendship this year. Pakistan's participation is dedicated to this milestone. I'm so happy to see such a beautifully designed pavilion and Pakistani products, which are very important export

products of Pakistan. 14 Pakistani stores, which are set up by Pakistani traders, are displaying these different products."

Haque emphasized that CAEXPO is very important for Pakistan because it represents two large markets: "China, which is the second largest economy in the world, and ASEAN, which has become a very important trading block in the region, represents about 2 billion people and \$18 trillion economy. Now these countries have set up RCEP regional cooperation partnership."

The international situation is closely related to Pakistan. Haque said: "Pakistan has a close friendship with China and ASEAN. Pakistan's presence and cooperation with China and ASEAN, provides our traders new opportunities to come here and use this platform to export to RCEP block. So, we think that this platform will help in building trilateral cooperation in trade and investments."

"Pakistan has already opened the market of China and ASEAN. Now Pakistan has FTA with China, and launched its second phase last year. In recent years, both Pakistan and China have opened their markets, and nearly 1,000 products are exported duty free. In addition, the Pakistani government is also helping to promote trade and create an enabling environment for our traders to converge here and share their projects, and the results are clear and evident.

These years, Pakistan's exports have been recorded a new volume, exports to China are showing a great momentum as well, and we hope that by the end of this year, we will have a new breakthrough," Haque added.

Two Ukraine soldiers die in clashes

AGENCIES

KYIE: Two Ukrainian soldiers have been killed and 10 others wounded in the country's war-torn east as clashes tick back up, the army said on Sunday.

Over the past 24 hours, pro-Russian separatists fired at Ukrainian positions using large-calibre artillery, grenade launchers and drones, the military said in a statement. Most of the attacks took place in the eastern Donetsk region, it said.

"As a result of enemy fire, two members of the Joint Forces were killed," the Ukrainian military said. "There are no victims among the local population."

The Ukrainian army is locked in a conflict with breakaway fighters in the Donetsk and Lugansk regions that erupted after Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula in 2014.

Kyiv says at least 52 Ukrainian troops have been killed since the start of the year, compared with a total of 50 the previous year. The separatists say they have lost more than 30 soldiers since the start of the year.

Ukraine and its Western allies accuse Russia of sending troops and arms to support the separatists, which Moscow denies.

On Friday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said it was conceivable that an "all-out war" with Russia could break out.

Dmitry Peskov, spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin, has dismissed the comment as "apocalyptic".

Paris mayor to run for French president

FOREIGN DESK

PARIS: The Socialist mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, on Sunday announced plans to run for president in next year's election, joining a growing list of challengers to centrist incumbent Emmanuel Macron.

Speaking in the northwestern city of Rouen, Hidalgo, who has been mayor of Paris since 2014 said: "I have decided to be a candidate for the presidency of the French Republic."

The 62-year-old daughter of Spanish immigrants, who fled Francisco Franco's dictatorship, is the hot favourite to win the nomination of the Socialist party.

But she will need to expand her profile nationally to become France's first female president.

She enters the race as a polarising figure, whose campaign to squeeze cars out of Paris and make the city greener divided residents of the capital.

Hidalgo chose Rouen, which is also run by a Socialist, for her announcement to try establish a foothold outside of Paris.

She credited her rise from humble beginnings in a housing estate - her father was an electrician and her mother a seamstress - as testament of the power of the French Republic to help children overcome "class prejudice".

Warning of growing inequality, she said: "The Republican model is disintegrating before our eyes" and added: "I want all children in France to have the same opportunities I had."

Bangladesh receives new batch of Sinopharm

DHAKA: Bangladesh on Sunday received a new batch of China's Sinopharm vaccines against COVID-19 as the country continued to fight the pandemic.

A plane of Biman Bangladesh Airlines carrying the Chinese vaccine doses arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at around noon Saturday, Md. Shamsul Haque, a senior health ministry official, told journalists.

Bangladesh's vaccination drive is now running smoothly in the capital Dhaka and elsewhere in the country thanks largely to China's continued support for vaccines. To fight against the alarming spike in COVID-19 cases, Bangladesh has signed an agreement on the co-production of the Chinese COVID-19 vaccines locally. — APP

PFC to participate in world expos to explore markets

LAHORE: Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) would participate in all international exhibitions to explore export markets and introduce Pakistani handmade furniture to the world community.

PFC Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq announced this while talking to a woman delegation of furniture manufacturers and producers led by Ms Sofia Haq, here on Sunday.

Other delegation members included Sobia Aurangzaib, Sana Izhar, Uzma Nadeem, Ayesha Shafique.

Mian Kashif said Pakistan's

furniture industry had great potential to dominate global markets with innovative designs and could significantly contribute to exports; however, it direly needed a package of incentives and facilitation for boosting exports as well as training of woodworkers on modern lines.

He said there was an urgent need to explore the international market for boosting country's exports, adding that the value of furniture export was very nominal but with aggressive marketing strategy the value of exports could be doubled in a short span. — APP



KABUL: Prime Minister of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan Mullah Hasan Akhund in a meeting with Abdul Rahman bin Jaber, Qatar FM along with delegation. — DNA

SAARC CCI for unlocking potential of economic co-op

DNA

LAHORE: President SAARC chambers of commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday stressed the urgent need of unlocking the potentials of regional economic cooperation and integration to boost trade among SAARC members countries especially with Afghanistan at this critical juncture.

Talking to a delegation of traders led by Muhammad Saddique Kamboh he said inter regional trade in South Asia is less than one third of its potential which indicates 67 percent of trade is not being fully exploited. Other members of the delegation included Muhammad Adrees, Muhammad Nadeem, Muhammad Shafique and Muhammad Naeem. He said role of Afghanistan as a connector and as land bridge between Central Asia, the Middle East and South Asia needs to be reviewed in prevailing scenario to primarily focus on promotion of trade and investment. He said even today, Afghanistan is seen as a viable doorway to south Asian countries for direct access to oil and gas of republics of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

He said better trade ties will help promote economic growth and to do away with abject poverty in the region especially in Afghanistan thus enhancing its cross border and transit trade with neighbouring countries. He said poor trade facilitation at borders and prevalence of a variety of non tariff barriers are major hurdles in further enhancing mutual trade manifolds with Afghanistan.

Iftikhar Ali Malik said at the moment what we need is total up gradation and strengthening of existing facilitation, handling and clearance of transport and trade at the Pak-Afghan land borders besides consolidation of initiatives taken by new regime of Taliban. He said Pakistan after Iran and China is third largest trading partner of Afghanistan which exports cement, pharmaceuticals products, sulphur, stone, plaster, peel of citrus fruit, melon, vegetable fats, edible fruits and oil etc.

IAEA, Iran reach agreement to avert nuclear deal crisis

It was Grossi's first trip to Tehran during the new administration of President Ebrahim Raisi, who appointed Eslami as the new nuclear chief on August 29

AGENCIES

TEHRAN: The head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog and Iran's nuclear chief have reached an agreement that will prevent another crisis looming over the prospect of restoring Iran's 2015 nuclear deal.

Rafael Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), landed in Tehran late on Saturday and met Mohammad Eslami, the newly appointed head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, on Sunday morning.

It was Grossi's first trip to Tehran during the new administration of President Ebrahim Raisi, who appointed Eslami as the new nuclear chief on August 29.

Both sides called the meeting "constructive" and agreed they will continue discussions

on the sidelines of the agency's general conference in Vienna later this month.

They also agreed that Grossi would travel to Tehran again soon to replace the agency's monitoring cameras' memory cards, which will still be kept in Iran in line with a law passed by the hardline Iranian parliament in December.

Iran has since February said it will only hand over the

tapes to the agency after an agreement is reached in Vienna that will lift unilateral United States sanctions.

"What matters to us, and the agency also emphasises upon, is to build trust," Eslami said following the meeting.

The meeting came days after two new confidential IAEA reports were shared with the media, showing the agency's concern over Iran's nuclear programme.

The reports said Iran has failed to adequately cooperate on the agency's recording equipment, some of which may have been destroyed after an incident, while it is resuming high enrichment of uranium, and has not provided a full explanation on nuclear materials at several locations.

Iran had doubled down after the reports, calling on the agency to maintain its independence and refrain from political moves.

Grossi is slated to immediately return to Vienna, where he is expected to hold a news conference later on Sunday.

The last-minute meeting on Sunday was reportedly facilitated by Russia, which has not been in favour of a resolution against Iran at the next conference of the IAEA board of governors on Monday as it could derail nuclear deal talks.



Foreign vehicles cannot enter Azerbaijan: MoD

NEWS DESK

BAKU: Baku has said that foreign legal entities, individuals and their vehicles cannot enter the Azerbaijani territories without the country's consent and such cases violate Azerbaijan's laws.

"Legal entities and individuals of other countries and their vehicles cannot enter the territory of Azerbaijan without the consent of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and such cases are a violation of our country's laws," the Defence Ministry said in a statement posted on its website on September 12.

It added that letters had been addressed to the Russian Defence Ministry and the Russian peacekeeping forces command over the illegal entry of vehicles belonging to other countries into the Azerbaijani territories where Russian peacekeepers are temporarily stationed. "The letters noted that such cases run counter to the trilateral statement signed by the Azerbaijani, Russian

presidents and the Armenian prime minister on November 10, 2020, and it was requested to prevent such cases," the ministry stated.

On September 10, the new commander of the Russian peacekeepers in Karabakh, Mikhail Kosobokov, met Defence Minister Zakir Hasanov. At the meeting, the officials focused on the latest situation on the Azerbaijani territories, where Russian peacekeepers are temporarily deployed. On September 11, the local media reported that a lot of Iranian trucks continue to illegally enter the Azerbaijani territories in Karabakh under temporary Russian peacekeeper control.

From August 11 to September 10, 58 trucks, for various purposes, entered Khankandi, in particular, with fuels and lubricants. Fifty-five trucks later left. From July 11 to August 8, 35 Iranian vehicles (4 trucks and 31 fuel trucks) 70 times entered and exited through the Lachin corridor. The dates are also available: July 11, 14, 16, 17,

20, 21, 27, 28, 29, 31, and also August 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, the media reported.

On August 11, 2021, the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry summoned Iranian ambassador Seyyed Abbas Mousavi and handed over Baku's protest note, expressing serious concern about the illegal transportation of goods by Iranian trucks to Azerbaijan's Karabakh region. At the time, Baku stated that it counts on practical steps from Iran, which should have put

an end to such illegal activities. The local news sources underlined that "Iranians and Armenians resort to various tricks. For example, when approaching the zone of temporary responsibility of the Russian peacekeepers, they put Armenian plates on Iranian trucks in order to hide the exact number of Iranian trucks heading to Khankandi. The plan wasn't without flaws though - the Iranians were using the same, repeated plates, slapping them on different trucks".

Azerbaijani presidential aide Hikmat Hajiyev earlier said that "some discussions" on additional legal mechanisms for the mandate of Russian peacekeepers in Karabakh are still underway.

He noted that the activities and operations of Russian peacekeepers in Karabakh were carried out in line with the trilateral declaration signed by the Azerbaijani, Russian and Armenian leaders on November 10.

The presidential aide added that the November 10 trilateral agreement established a "political and to

some extent legal framework" for peacekeeping forces. "As for additional mechanisms on the mandate of peacekeepers, the parties have had initial contacts and some discussions are still ongoing," Hajiyev said.

He stressed that all territories in Karabakh are Azerbaijan's sovereign lands.

"All of Karabakh is the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan, the international community recognizes Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and in accordance with the November 10 statement, peacekeeping forces have been temporarily deployed in a certain part of Azerbaijan's Karabakh region," the presidential aide underlined.

About 2,000 Russian peacekeepers have been deployed for five years in Karabakh under the Moscow-brokered trilateral cease-fire deal signed in 2020. The signed agreement obliged Armenia to withdraw all its troops from the Azerbaijani lands that it had occupied since the early 1990s.



Briefs

Germany to help Pak on climate change: Amin

The global climate action was launched under the 2015 global Paris climate accord

DNA

BERLIN: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam has said Germany will provide technical and financial support to Pakistan for implementation of various environmental and climate change-related initiatives. In a statement, he said that Germany's joining of hands with Pakistan against adverse impacts of climate change will enhance our resilience and capability to fight this challenge. The global climate action was launched by the world community under the 2015 global Paris climate agreement for staving off socio-economic devastating impacts of global warming.

Afghan police return to work

AGENCIES

KABUL: Afghan police at Kabul airport have returned to work manning checkpoints alongside Taliban security for the first time since the group seized power, officers said on Sunday. When the Taliban swept into Kabul last month ousting the government, police abandoned their posts, fearful of what the incoming group would do. But two officers said they had returned to work on Saturday after receiving calls from Afghan Taliban commanders.

On Sunday, an AFP correspondent at the airport saw border police members deployed at several checkpoints outside the main buildings of the airport, including the domestic terminal.

"I came back to work yesterday more than two weeks after being sent home," one of the police force members told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity. "I received a call from a senior Taliban commander who asked me to come back," another officer said. "Yesterday was great, so happy to serve again."

NSA warns against abandoning Afghanistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Security Advisor Dr. Moeed Yusuf says abandoning Afghanistan again by the international community will be a mistake. Address an international webinar organized by the Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies, he said that the world needs to constructively engage Afghan Taliban in order to prevent governance collapse and avert another refugee crisis. He said Pakistan is coordinating with the world to have a stable and peaceful Afghanistan.

Dr Moeed Yusuf said that after the Soviet-Afghan Mujahideen conflict in Afghanistan, the Western world committed catastrophic mistakes, including abandoning Afghanistan and sanctioning its "most allied of allies" and Pakistan was the only country which bore the brunt of abandonment of Afghanistan and the subsequent War on Terror. Speaking on the occasion President Chengdu Institute of World Affairs of China Dr. Long Xingchun said that neighboring countries have to play the leading role in rebuilding Afghanistan and Pakistan is the most important country in this regard. He said that CPEC should be extended to Afghanistan and Gwadar port can play a big role in strengthening Afghan economy.

Russian geopolitical expert Leonid Savin in his remarks said that the recent takeover by Afghan Taliban has changed the regional political dynamics and this will have an impact on global politics.

Serena Hotels' Raabta initiative

Speakers call for women empowerment

CEO Serena Aziz Boolani thanked the esteemed panelists for making themselves available for the event. He assured the audience that Serena Hotels will continue to host and support such events even in the coming days in order to generate a health debate

ARIJ GHAZNAVI

ISLAMABAD: A high profile panel discussion on the celebrating female role model of Pakistan was hosted by Serena Hotels under the banner of Raabta, which is a nonpartisan public initiative by Serena hotels to initiate dialogue aimed at creating awareness amongst diverse groups and networks on critical aspects of socially significant fields such as the economy, health and education. The event highlighted the importance of empowering women in today's society. Speaking on this topic were prominent women that have excelled in their own respective fields and are working on empowering other women to do so. The panel consisted of Abida Malik, Hadia Hashmi, Dr. Muniza Rizwan, Aliya Zafar, Kashmala Tariq and Sarbat Najeed. Sidra Iqbal hosted the event and asked questions on the topic from the panel. All the speakers had highlighted key points that are essential for empowering women, the discussion emphasized on women being more economically empowered. Women need to have the support of their family members, and the government should bring out a narrative for this topic through various platforms. The current position at which women stand in the society was discussed,



where speakers raised the point that the society needs the efforts of male and female members both

to progress. CEO Serena Aziz Boolani thanked the esteemed panelists for making them-

selves available for the event. He assured the audience that Serena Hotels will con-

tinue to host and support such events even in the coming days in order to generate a health debate on is-

ues of utmost importance. (Detailed coverage in the September issue of CENTRELINE magazine)

Pakistan to vaccinate 15-18 years children from today

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to further lower the Covid vaccination age to 15 years in the country. According to sources, the government has decided to launch vaccination of the children of upto 15 to 18 years age as efforts to inoculate general public being expedit-

ed in the wake of the fourth virus wave in the country. The vaccination drive for the children between 15 to 18 years will begin from September 13 and they will inoculated with the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine, sources said. The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has on Saturday announced that the youngsters between the ages of 15 and

18 will be administered the Pfizer vaccine. In its meeting on Saturday, the forum maintained that students will receive the doses free of cost. Mobile vaccination teams will be formed to visit schools and colleges across the country for the immunisation of students. The doses will be available at all major vaccination centres as well.

For people below the age of 18 years, the Child Registration Certificate (B- Form) number will be used for registration in NIMS (National Immunisation Management System). Meanwhile, all teaching, non-teaching staff, and people involved in the transportation of students have been instructed to get fully inoculated by September 30.



RAWALPINDI: Voters being checked for temperature outside a polling station at Ward No 1 during Cantonment Board Elections. - APP

Denmark thanks Pakistan for evacuation help

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi received a telephone call from Jeppe Kofod, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. The two Foreign Ministers discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan as well as bilateral relations. Foreign Minister Kofod reiterated gratitude for Pakistan's role in facilitating evacuation of their nationals and personnel, noting



that their evacuation endeavours were continuing. Foreign Minister Qureshi said that Pakistan would extend all possible help in this regard. He added that, overall, Pakistan had facilitated the transit of more than 12,000 people from 30 countries and international organizations.

FBI begins declassifying 9/11 documents

WASHINGTON: The FBI has released a newly declassified document that looks into connections between Saudi citizens in the US and two of the 9/11 attackers. Relatives of victims have long urged the release of the files, arguing Saudi officials had advance knowledge but did not try to stop the attacks. But the document provides no evidence that the Saudi government was linked to the 9/11 plot. Fifteen of the 19 plane hijackers were Saudi nationals. Ahead of the declassification, the Saudi embassy in Washington welcomed the release and once again denied any link between the kingdom and the hijackers, describing such claims as "false and malicious". The document was declassified on the 20th anniversary of the deadliest terror attacks on US soil - almost 3,000 people were killed after four planes were hijacked - and is the first of several expected to be released. - Agencies

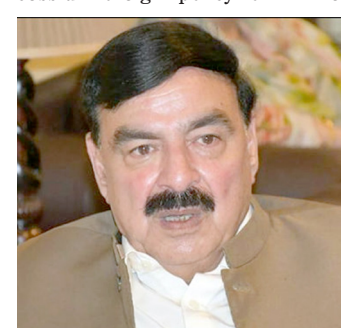
Pak urges world to unfreeze Afghan govt accounts

Sheikh Rashid says that Narendra Modi's media leveling baseless allegations against Pakistan Army on Panjsher's fabricated stories and airing baseless news stories

KARACHI: Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed on Sunday said that the world desired Afghanistan to become Scandinavia in eight days as the seizure of Afghan accounts was not sensible thinking and it could create humanitarian crisis. He said, 'We should hope that Taliban would take steps with the world and would not allow terrorist outfits TTP or Daesh to use their land as they had said.' Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed said that intelligence chiefs of eight countries visited Pakistan on (Saturday) including two superpowers. He stated this while holding a press conference at a local hotel here. In the present circumstances, no desire of India be fulfilled and no bloodshed occurred. He

said that Indian media shouting to impose ban on Pakistan. He said that Narendra Modi's media leveling baseless allegations against Pakistan Army on Panjsher's fabricated stories and airing baseless news stories. It should bear in mind that Pakistan's interest in Afghanistan was only peace, stability and development. 'Indian media is based 80 to 85 percent on lies,' he said adding that Pakistan Army had protected its board to avoid any terrorism activity. He said that Pakistan had great significance geographically in the region. Pakistan would also talk to the world on peace. The Interior minister said, 'We facilitated Mula Biradran to sit with Americans at tables for the cause of peace.' The United States left Afghanistan

by signing an agreement and Pakistan did not sign any signature on that. We did not guide them to do anything but we are only facilitator of peace, he said. He said, earlier, diplomatic planes had to request Pakistan for flying in her air limits but after the successful foreign policy of Prime Minister Imran Khan now they request to land in the country. Speaking about Pakistan's efforts on foreigners from Afghanistan, he said 'Pakistan Army had allowed to move eight to ten thousand people (foreigners) with great hospitality from Pakistan to their homelands, or where they want to go.'



The Interior Ministry had issued 21 days visa to them and issued even one month visa to those foreigners, who could not fly to their destinations due to flight delays etc. He said, 'There is no refugees camp across the country and those, who entered the country illegally had been sent back even from Karachi. Replying to a question about U.S. President Joe Biden's talk to Chinese President Xi Jinping, he

said that they talked around 70 minutes and it was a great step. He said that after a gap of seven to nine months two superpowers talk to each other. The Interior Minister said that bitterness between U.S. and China also create problems for impartial countries like Pakistan. Replying to another question, he said that Pakistan could appeal to the world to avoid any crisis in the aftermath of seizure of Afghanistan's accounts. Replying to another question, he said if Ashraf Ghani had accepted PM Imran Khan's words then he had not to escape like this. Pakistan leaves Afghanistan's decision on Afghans. 'Pakistan do not interfere and it will not allow others to interfere. - APP

COAS, CJP others to attend joint sitting

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Gulzar Ahmed, Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Ch Sultan and Prime Minister Abdul Qayyum Niazi will attend the joint session of the parliament tomorrow on special invitation. The National Assembly Secretariat Sunday prepared 6-type of invitations for the special guests to join the session scheduled to be held tomorrow (Monday) in Islamabad. The sources said that the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Naval Chiefs and Air Chiefs, the four provincial governors and the chief ministers would be invited to the joint session of the parliament. The Governor and Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan, FPSC chairman, The Auditor General of Pakistan, diplomats from all countries, advisors and special assistants to the Prime Minister would also be invited to the joint sitting. Federal Secretaries, chairman of PEMRA, OGRA, and NEPRA as well as the heads of the constitutional bodies including district administration of Islamabad and CDA chairman would be invited to the meeting. A day before the session, the assembly Secretariat informed the MPs about the SOPs and instructed them not to bring guests, staff and security personnel. A shuttle service would be run for Parliamentarians from Parliament Lodges to Parliament House.

Citizens asked to strictly follow Covid SOPs

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination has urged the citizens to strictly follow COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to prevent the disease in the wake of a sudden increase in the number of infections in the country. According to an official of the ministry, the disease expansion had caused a burden on the country's health system as Covid cases were jumping up for the past few weeks. He said that keeping in view the disease risk certain restrictions were imposed focusing on high-risk sectors with mass gathering. He said that this time is not of any complacency rather strict compliance of SOPs. The official said "COVID-19 is a deadly virus, but we can control it just as we controlled it by following the SOPs during the previous waves. We can save precious lives, including those of our near and dear ones by taking preventive measures." He said that the COVID-19 vaccine is very effective to protect citizens from medical complications from many virus variants. "Keeping in view the detection of new COVID-19 variants in Pakistan and raising questions about the effectiveness of vaccine process, I advise country people to must go for vaccination against the virus to avoid facing more complications and hospitalization." - APP

Govt to help treat Omar Sharif

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Husain on Sunday said that veteran actor Omar Sharif was asset of the nation and all resources would be provided for his medical treatment. In a tweet, the minister said that Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr. Faisal Sultan had consulted Omar Sharif's medical team on the matter and the consultation process would continue even today. The challenge for the medical team in this state of poor health was how to make Omar Sharif's journey possible.

