



# Islamabad POST

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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**PCB new chairman Ramiz Raja vows to reset PCB's direction**

Detailed News On Page-06

**UN seeks \$600 million aid for Afghanistan**

Detailed News On Page-01



**Mishal Malik welcomes Pak dossier**

Detailed News On Page-04



## Briefs

**12,968 cases settled: CJP**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), Justice Gulzar Ahmed on Monday said 12,968 cases were settled during the last judicial year. Addressing the full court reference to mark the commencement of the new judicial year, CJP Gulzar said 20,910 cases were registered, while 12,968 were settled during the last judicial year. The last judicial year remained difficult for the world including Pakistan due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic; he said and added that the judiciary faced hurdles in disposing off the pending cases.

**Public showed confidence in PML-N**

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: President of Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) Mian Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that results of cantonment board elections show public's confidence in PML-N. Opposition Leader Shehbaz Sharif assured the masses that PML-N will not disappoint them and work hard to resolve their problems. On the other hand, vice-president of PML-N Maryam Nawaz said that it's unprecedented that despite being the prime target and top of rulers, PMLN did exceedingly well.

**Dr Faisal urges people to follow SOPs**

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant on Health Dr Faisal Sultan has urged the nation to wear masks and follow SOPs of social distancing to control the spread of Coronavirus. Addressing a ceremony in Islamabad on Monday, he said that we cannot remove masks yet. The special assistant said strengthening health institutions will benefit the coming generations. Punjab Minister Yasmin Rashid said that vaccination is a must to control the spread of coronavirus as Covid vaccines are very effective against the disease.

## Pakistan is on right path, says President

Despite challenges, Pakistan has achieved significant progress in diverse areas, says the President while addressing Parliament

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Monday said that owing to the government's prudent policies, Pakistan had achieved significant progress in diverse areas including economy, human and social development, information technology, foreign policy and defence. Addressing the joint session of parliament, he mentioned increase in exports from US \$ 23.7 billion in fiscal year 2019-20 to US \$ 25.3 billion in 2020-21; workers' remittances recorded at the historic US \$ 29.4 billion, vibrancy in stock market, improvement in ease of doing business and enhanced investors' confidence as some of the government's achievements. The President said that with 18% growth in revenue collection recorded at Rs. 4,732 billion in 2020-21, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has registered an increase of Rs. 160 billion revenue collection as against the target during the first two months of the current fiscal. He said that with the record sale and purchase of 2.21 billion shares in one session in May 2021 alone, Pakistan's stock market got the distinction of best market in Asia and 4th in the world. The President further said that Pakistan, which had got 28 points of improvement in the World Bank's ranking of ease of doing business two years back, has also won the confidence of overseas investors through 60% increase in the Business Confidence Index (BCI) in the survey of

Continued on Page 06

## Opposition stages protest during joint session

ALI FURQAN

ISLAMABAD: Opposition members staged a protest during the joint sitting of Parliament and chanted slogans for freedom of media. A joint sitting of the Parliament was held under the chairmanship of Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser. President Dr Arif Alvi, Prime Minister Imran Khan, Speaker National Assembly, Chairman Senate, Leader of Opposition Shehbaz Sharif and other opposition leaders including Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Shahid Khaqan Abbasi also attended the session. During the speech of President Arif Alvi, the opposition members chanted slogans against the government and Prime Minister Imran Khan. Opposition members marched in front of Speaker Dice to protest against the PMDA bill, while carrying banners and demanded freedom of the media. Meanwhile, Political parties, student unions and members of civil society continued to express solidarity with protesting journalists outside Parliament House in Islamabad on Monday, joining them in raising their voice against the proposed PMDA bill.

## Opposition terms PMDA as 'black law'

Shehbaz says PML N will confront the bill at all forums; Bilawal vows to move courts if bill passed

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Monday that his party had stood by journalists in the past and stood by them even today. Speaking to the journalists holding a sit-in outside the Parliament House in protest against Pakistan Media Development Authority (PMDA) Bill, he said the proposed bill was a 'black law', and it was an assault on free media as well as independence of judiciary. "This is also an attack on democracy," he commented. He assured the protesting journalists that PPP would not only raise this issue in the parliament but would also express solidarity with them at their every protest site anywhere in the country.

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## Journalists stage protest against PMDA bill

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Journalists on Monday held protest and staged a sit-in for the second day against proposed bill of Pakistan Media Development Authority (PMDA). Protesting restrictions on media and proposed new regulatory authority, journalists staged a sit-in outside parliament house. Media persons will also stage a walkout during address of President to joint session of Parliament. Top opposition politicians including Shehbaz Sharif and Bilawal Bhutto address at the united front of journalists protesting on Monday outside the parliament house against the Pakistan Media Development Authority (PMDA) bill which they together term 'black law'.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi along with Prime Minister Imran Khan, Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani and Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser coming to address the joint session of Parliament. - DNA

## UN seeks \$600mn aid for Afghanistan

The people of Afghanistan are facing the collapse of an entire country - all at once," says UN chief

NEWS DESK / DNA

GENEVA: The United Nations urged the world on Monday to raise \$606 million for Afghanistan, where poverty and hunger are spiralling since the Taliban took power, and foreign aid has dried up amid Western distrust of the Islamist militants. After decades of war and suffering, Afghans are facing "perhaps their most perilous hour", U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in his opening remarks to a conference in Geneva seeking aid for Afghanistan. "The people of Afghanistan are facing the collapse of an entire country - all at once." He said food supplies could run out by the end of this month, and the World Food Programme said 14 million people were on the brink of

## Pakistan lauds UN efforts

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan welcomes and appreciates the efforts of the United Nations to provide much-needed humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan. This was stated by Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in a statement on Monday for the High-Level Ministerial meeting on the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. He said that the situation is becoming dire for around 18 million people of Afghanistan, directly in need of humanitarian assistance and a slow response from the international community can cause grave humanitarian consequences. He said it is time to renew developmental partnerships, support nation-building, and meet the humanitarian needs of the Afghan population. The Foreign Minister said that whilst focusing on the humanitarian situation inside Afghanistan, the world must not forget millions of

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## COAS visits Corps HQ Karachi

DNA

RAWALPINDI: General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited Corps Headquarters Karachi. COAS was given a detailed update on operational preparedness, training regime and administrative matters of the Corps. COAS was apprised on prevalent Internal Security situation in the province especially, Army and Pakistan Rangers' efforts to assist other Law Enforcement

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'Forced conversion' a hoax fabricated to malign the state - Page 04

The mafia and Israel's child killers - Page 05

Ramiz vows to reset PCB's direction, announces coaches - Page 06

Qatar FM says he urged Taliban govt to respect women's rights - Page 07

PML-N sweeps Punjab: PTI wins KPK majority seats - Page 08

## Chinese investment to open up job opportunities: PM Imran

- lauds Interior Ministry's role in Afghan evacuations



CENTRELINE REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday said the government would extend utmost assistance to the foreign investors and expressed confidence that the Chinese investment in

Pakistan would open up immense employment opportunities. Talking to a delegation of heads of Chinese companies in Islamabad on Monday, he said incentives are being provided to investors and procedures are being made easy. The Prime Minister assured the delegation that he himself would chair the review meeting every month to address their issues on priority basis. He said Pakistan could learn a lot from China about industrial development. He said the Chinese investment would create em-

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## Briefs

## IGP for improvement in the affairs of police

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Rao Sardar Ali Khan Monday said that it was need of the hour to make the police stations real relief centre.

He was presiding over the first departmental meeting for bringing about improvement in the affairs of police stations and prevention of crimes against children at the Central Police Office here.

The IGP said the role of supervisory officers was crucial in that regard, and they should pay special attention to inspections and close monitoring while going out in the field.

The IGP said that SP Dolphin should ensure that Dolphin and Peru only act as the first responding force, and they should not be allowed to set up pickets on roads, while officers below the rank of sub-inspector should not be deputed at pickets anywhere, he ordered.

He said that prevention of incidents of abuse of women and children was one of top priorities of the Punjab Police; therefore, the CPOs and DPOs should form special awareness teams of police officers and personnel to prevent incidents of sexual violence and harassment.

Rao Sardar Khan said that arrangements should be made within the next week to start the programme for creating awareness and supporting children in their educational institutions.

The IGP said that the emergency calls received on the IGP Complaint helpline 1787 should be immediately transferred to the circle officer concerned, who should talk to the citizen and ensure immediate action and provide relief to him.

The IGP said that delays in resolving complaints received at the IGP Office would not be tolerated and the AIG Complaints should make the monitoring process more robust and effective.

## Shaqufta Malik to visit southern districts

STAFF REPORT

PESHAWAR: Awami National Party (ANP) has tasked a member of the committee for merged tribal districts, Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) Shaqufta Malik to undertake visit to southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to address issues of female party workers and others.

According to schedule issued here on Monday, Shaqufta Malik would visit to Kohat on September 18, Hangu on September 19, Karak on September 20, Bannu on September 21, Lakki Marwat on September 22 and 23, Tank on September 24 and Dera Ismail Khan on September 25.

During her visit, she would impart election training, discuss organizational affairs and other issues with regard to the party and voters.

## Hundal Club wins open Kabaddi Match

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Hundal Club has won the 2nd Yousuf Taley open Kabaddi match played under the aegis of Sports Department in Graveyard Ground Rasool Nagar Wapda City today.

The match was played between Master Kabaddi Club and Hundal Kabaddi Club in which the players performed excellently but Hundal Club succeeded in lifting the trophy by winning the match with 35-32 points.

Divisional President Cycling Association Hajji Muhammad Javed Sattar witnessed the event as chief guest and later he awarded prize of Rs.60000/- along with trophy to winner team and prize of Rs.40000 along with trophy to the runner up.

Coach Pakistan Kabaddi Team Ghulam Abbas Butt, Hajji Master Abdus Sattar, Chaudhary Zulfiqar, Rana Mudassar and other notables of the area were also present on the occasion.

## FGS Bayern ship visits Pak to celebrate bilateral ties

The four day long visit of FGS BAYERN (FFG-217) comprised of harbor and sea phase. Harbor phase included various harbor events, social calls, visits to prominent places, table top discussions on professional topics, cross ship visits and on-board receptions

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: German Navy Ship FGS BAYERN (FFG-217) visited Karachi from 08-12 September 2021. The visit was aimed at commemorating 70 years of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Germany.

The four day long visit of FGS BAYERN (FFG-217) comprised of harbor and sea phase. Harbor phase included various harbor events, social calls, visits to prominent places, table top discussions on professional topics, cross ship visits and on-board receptions.

A delegation of the visiting German Ship visited mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam to pay tribute to the founder of Pakistan and laid floral wreath.

On completion of Harbor phase bilateral exercise at sea was also conducted between ships of both navies to enhance interoperability between the two navies.

Pakistan and German Navies are partners in peace and striving to



achieve safe and secure maritime environment. The recent visit of FGS BAYERN proved to be event-

ful and professionally rewarding for both the navies in addition to furthering of bilateral relations of

the two navies. PNS ZULFIQUAR also visited port of Hamburg Germany earlier

in August 2021 to celebrate seven decades of bilateral relations between the two countries.



ISLAMABAD: Hamad Obaid Alzaabi, UAE Ambassador in Islamabad, hosted a lunch to bid farewell to Counselor Abdulaziz Al Neyadi, He expressed his thanks and appreciation for efforts during his tenure at the Embassy. – DNA

## AJK PM announces LB polls this year in the region

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi has said that solid measures would be taken for the provision of health facilities, promotion of education, dispensation of cheap justice and improvement of infrastructure to implement the vision of the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan.

Addressing a big public

meeting at his home town Dara Sher Khan Saihra on Monday, he announced the holding of local bodies' election this year to transfer the power at gross root level.

He said with the holding of local bodies' elections, not only the local leadership will emerge but the problems of the people will be resolved. He said corruption free society will be established and accountability process will be introduced without any discrimination.

He said Kashmiri people have given tremendous sacrifices for the liberation of occupied Kashmir and the present government would turn the state into a real base camp of the liberation movement. He said India has intensified the reign of terror in occupied Kashmir and the fundamental rights of the people of Occupied Kashmir have been denied.

He urged the international community and media to expose Indian forces' brutalities at international level rather

than playing their role as silent spectators.

He said despite using brute force India has failed to break the will of the Kashmiri people and they are determined to continue their struggle till the complete liberation of occupied Kashmir from India.

He expressed the hope that the long night of terror and repressions would end soon and the Kashmiris from both sides of the line of control would celebrate the Jashan-e-Azadi together.

## FPCCI for reduction in SBP's policy rate

DNA

KARACHI: Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's (FPCCI) recently conducted monetary policy survey, prior to State Bank of Pakistan's Monetary Policy Committee meeting, recommended reduction in State Bank of Pakistan's policy rate by 50 to 100 basic points.

Policy Research Unit of Policy Advisory Board, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry conducted this survey, which showed 84 percent of the businessmen and researchers on monetary policy suggested that there should be no increase in the policy rate. Nearly half of them suggested cut of 50 to 100 bps, said FPCCI statement here on Monday.

The policy brief issued on the occasion noted with a sigh of relief that the core inflation in the country – the most definitive indicator for setting up the policy rate for any central bank – had significantly subsided to 6.3% in August 2021 as compared to 6.9% in July 2021.

President FPCCI, Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo said the policy interest rate must not be over 6%.

"For promoting business



activities aimed at sustained economic growth in the country, it should be down to 5%."

He also pointed out that policy interest rate in the region was 3 to 4 percent only and Pakistan had to compete with the regional countries in international market.

FPCCI has recently established Policy Advisory Board under the chairmanship of former Federal Secretary, Mohammad Younus Dagha.

It was tasked with providing research-based expert input for policy advocacy, ease of doing business initiatives and formalizing the business community's inputs on policies to various governmental departments, institutions and departments. The board was working to formalize collective opinion of the private-sector for the formulation of business-friendly policies with an objective to foster economic growth and development.

## DC Faisalabad inspects cleaning operation on roads

DNA

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Ali Shehzad reached various roads early in the morning to check the cleanliness situation in the city and inspected the cleaning operation on the roads. CEO Faisalabad Waste Management Company Kashif Raza Awan and other officers of the company were also present.

Novelty Bridge, Dijkot road and other areas and while inspecting the presence of waste workers said that the cleaning process should be completed in the city before the commencement of normal life. He said that more steps should be taken to raise the standard of cleanliness so that the city looks clean and beautiful in all respects as per the expectations of the citizens.

He directed to disposed off garbage in a save manner and said that the attendance of waste workers should be monitored regularly.



FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Ali Shehzad reaches various roads to check the cleanliness situation in the city, CEO Faisalabad waste management company Kashif Raza and other officers of the company were also present. – DNA

## U-16 C'ship to promote cricket at school level

Deputy Commissioner said that the 20 players each from City, Saddar, Chak Jhumra and Tandlianwala, 40 from Jaranwala and 80 student players have been selected from private schools

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Under the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, in connection with Punjab Talent Hunt Program, U-16 Central Punjab School Cricket Championship (CPSCC) is starting from September 15 to promote cricket at school level in which 10 teams of government and private schools have been divided into two pools. 200 players will participate in the championship.

This was informed by Deputy Commissioner Ali Shehzad to media men while distributing cricket kits among players and officials at Iqbal Stadium. ADC, HQ Muhammad Khalid, AC City Syed Ayub Bukhari, CEO DEA Ali Ahmad Siyan and other officers were present. Deputy Commissioner further informed that the teams of both



the pools will play one match each from September 15 to 25. Pool A matches will be played at Iqbal Stadium while the matches of Poles B will be played simultaneously at 10 am at Bohranwali Ground. Each team will play four matches of 40/40 overs.

The final match between the top teams of both the pools will be played on September 26 at Iqbal Stadium. Deputy Commissioner said that the 20 players each from City, Saddar, Chak Jhumra and Tandlianwala, 40 from Jaranwala and 80 student players have been selected from private schools.

He said that purpose of holding the cricket championship was to promote the game of cricket at the grass root level for the success of which the Punjab government has issued clear instructions. He asked the players to play a best cricket and showed their talent.

## People urged for co-op in polio eradication

DNA

PESHAWAR: Commissioner Peshawar Division, Riaz Khan Mehsud Monday urged the people for extending cooperation to district administration to make upcoming polio campaign beginning from Friday (September 17).

The division commissioner has also directed the utilization of all available resources to make the polio campaign in five districts of Peshawar division successful and provision of security to polio teams.

He was presiding over a meeting of the Divisional Task Force regarding polio eradication here. Besides, Deputy Commissioners (DCs) of all five districts of the division, District Police Officers (DPOs), District Health Officers (DHOs), representatives of World Health Organization (WHO) and senior officers of other concerned agencies attended the meeting.

During meeting, the Divisional Commissioner was given detailed briefing regarding performance of the previous polio campaign and arrangements for drive beginning from Friday (September 17).

The Divisional Commissioner also directed the use of traditional jirga to persuade the refusing parents for administrative vaccine to children. The proposed jirga will be comprised of local patwari, officials of health department and police officers of the concerned police station.

He expressed happiness and satisfaction over significant decline in the number of refusing parents and in this connection he commended the efforts of all districts administrations and particularly of district Mohmand where the number of refusing parents has become zero.

## Commissioner for renewal of manhole covers

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division Dr. Irshad Ahmed on Monday directed officers of Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) to replace damaged covers of manhole within 48 hours.

Presiding over a meeting to review performance of WASA here, the commissioner said a special week-long activity has been started here today to resolve sewerage related issues under "Khidmat Apki Dehleez Par" program.

He said public complaints should be resolved on top priority and there should be no complaint against any officer, he added.

He directed officers concerned to replace all damaged manhole covers within 48 hours, adding that First Information Report would be registered against the concerned officer in case of any mishap caused by the manhole. He also asked WASA administration to put special covers a few manholes for discharge of gas which was one of the major reasons of crown failure.

He directed officers to make generators operational at all WASA disposal stations to deal any emergency like situation.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Sarfraz Ahmed, Director Development Waqas Khawani and other concerned officers were also present in the meeting. – APP

## 20 more die of Corona in KP

NEWS DESK

PESHAWAR: Coronavirus disease (Covid-19) has claimed 20 more lives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as 292 more new cases have been reported in the province during last 24 hours.

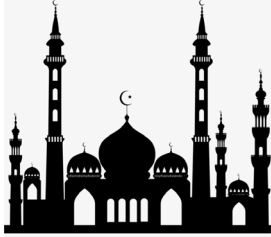
According to Corona updates shared by Health Department here on Monday, with 20 more deaths, tall from the disease in the province has climbed to 5290 while total active Corona cases to 7999 and overall cases to 169040.

As many as 9109 tests were conducted during the period out of which 292 have been proved positive for Corona.

In the meanwhile, 343 patients have also been recovered from the disease reaching the total number of recovered persons in the province to 155751.



## SERVICES



## Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	04:25 am
Zohr.....	12:10 pm
Asr.....	04:31 pm
Maghrib.....	06:17 pm
Isha.....	07:45 pm



## Hotels &amp; Restaurants

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



## Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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## Emergency

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Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.....	1122 & Rescue Services.4451122
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RGH.....	9290301-7
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PIMS.....	9261170-79
Polyclinic.....	9218300-09
Shifa International.....	4603666



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



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Wapda Islamabad.....	9217579
Wapda Rawalpindi.....	111-309-309



## Islamabad Metropolitan

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



## Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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## ICCI urges govt to facilitate exporters for boosting exports

Isphanyar Bhandara, Chief Executive, Murree Brewery along with his team welcomed the ICCI delegation and thanked them for visiting their manufacturing facility

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry has called upon the government to extend maximum facilitation and support to the export-oriented industries in their endeavors to boost the country's exports that would help the economy to prosper. He said that there were legal restrictions in Pakistan on export of alcoholic products to Muslim countries, however, he said that the government should allow export of such products to those Muslim countries who were importing these products to meet the needs of their specific customers. It will allow our breweries to expand business and create thousands of new jobs besides making a greater contribution to the GDP Growth. He expressed these views during a visit along with a delegation to Murree Brewery Company. He said that Murree Brewery was



making a useful contribution to the national economy by promoting exports and paying taxes, therefore, it needed more cooperation from the government side for business promotion. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan and delegation members visited various parts of the factory and appreci-

ated its state-of-the-art production facilities. He emphasized that the government should further facilitate Murree Brewery in promoting export of its products to Europe, USA, UK and other potential markets. He assured that ICCI would cooperate in addressing key issues being faced by this sector

so that it could further promote business activities with ease. Fatma Azim Senior Vice President, Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI, Usman Khalid, Umar Hussain, Omais Khattak, Hafiz Bilal Munir, Muhammad Shakir, Naeemur Rehman Parach, Muhammad Saeed Khan,

Ali Akram Khan, Saifur Rehman Khan, Ch. Ashraf Farzand and others were in the delegation. IsphanyarBhandara, Chief Executive, Murree Brewery along with his team welcomed the ICCI delegation and thanked them for visiting their manufacturing facility. Giving a briefing about his company to the ICCI delegation, he said that Murree Brewery was established in 1860 in Punjab and since then, it has been doing successful business in this part of the world. He said that with the passage of time, the company has modernized its manufacturing facilities and was producing world class products. He also highlighted some key issues of his sector and hoped that ICCI would help in resolving them. Fatma Azim Senior Vice President, Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI and other members of the delegation also lauded the role of Murree Brewery in the economic development of the country and assured that ICCI would play a role to redress their key issues.

## Sindh's forced conversions alarming

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sahibzada Noor-ul-Haq Qadri Monday said the alleged incidents of forcible conversion of minority religious communities into Islam being reported from Sindh were bringing disgrace to Pakistan. In a statement, he said there was no room for forced conversions into Islam. While no age restrictions could be imposed on converting into Islam as it could be accepted at any age on free will. He said the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony was scrutinizing the all religious, constitutional and social aspects of the draft of forced conversion law prepared by Ministry of Human Rights. The ministry was in close contact with minority community members, parliamentarians and the concerns of stakeholders would be addressed. - APP

## SC call reports from DG FIA, IG ICT in journalists case

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan Monday summoned reports from the DG FIA and IG Islamabad over the cases and attacks on journalists in a year. A five-member bench headed by Justice Umar Atta Bandial and also comprised of Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Qazi Muhammad Amin and Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar heard journalist's harassment case. The bench ordered the Director General FIA to submit a report about cases filed against journalists and the I.G. Police Islamabad over attacks on the newsmen during the period of one year. The court also summoned Chairman PEMRA, IG Islamabad and DG FIA to appear before the court in person in the next hearing of the journalist harassment case. "Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) should explain whether section 27 of the PEMRA law contravenes Article 19 of the constitution," the court questioned. The court also sought assistance from the Attorney General in interpretation of section 27 of the PEMRA law. "If anyone have any problem with journalists, should take legal path, opening fire at newsmen or resorting to violence is lawlessness," Justice Qazi Amin observed. "When the Minare-e-Pakistan incident accused can be arrested, why not those involved in attack on journalists. IG Islamabad Police should ensure arrest of the accused involved in attacks," the bench said.



## Six shops sealed over SOPs violations

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Assistant Commissioner Cantonment Rawalpindi Nosheen-Israr has sealed six shops and imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 for violating Corona SOPs during raids in various markets. According to a district administration spokesman, the shops were sealed on Bank Road. She was accompanied by Special Magistrate Saleem Butt. Notices were also affixed on the shops sealed during the operation launched against the rules violators. The spokesman informed that the DC had directed the Assistant Commissioners and Magistrates to remain in the field and ensure strict implementation of the SOPs and other preventive measures issued by the government to contain spread of coronavirus. He informed that the administration had launched crackdown in the entire district and action was being taken against the violators.

ISLAMABAD: Zahid Latif Khan, Chairman AIERD and ISE REIT had a meeting with Ambassador of Kuwait and discussed how bilateral relation can be strengthened especially in economic field. - DNA

## Gerry's dnata wins multi-year contract with Gulf Air

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Gerry's dnata, Pakistan's leading ground services provider, has been awarded a multi-year contract by Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The partnership will see Gerry's dnata provide quality and safe ground, passenger and cargo handling services to the airline at six airports in Pakistan, including Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar, Multan and Faisalabad. Syed Haris Raza, CEO of Gerry's dnata, said: "We are proud to be the ground handler of choice for Gulf Air in Pakistan. We consistently invest in infrastructure, cutting-edge technologies and training to deliver the best possible services for our

customers. Our new contract is a vote of confidence in our quality offering, and a testament to our team's hard work and commitment to safety and service excellence. We look forward to a long-standing partnership with the airline." In recent years Gerry's dnata has significantly invested in facilities, equipment, training and technology, while continually expanding its operations in Pakistan. Gerry's dnata's investments include a state-of-the-art import cargo centre at Jinnah International Airport (KHI) in Karachi. The 72,000 square feet facility is equipped with the latest technologies ensuring safe and efficient handling and storage of all types of cargo. Offering uncompromised handling and storage solu-

tions to airline customers, the GDP-certified facility has played a key role in the safe handling of COVID-19 vaccines, rapid test kits and other essential goods. Gerry's dnata also expanded its operations at Allama Iqbal International Airport in Lahore (LHE) and opened a new export cargo terminal. The expansion nearly tripled the company's cargo handling capacity in Lahore, supporting customers and their customers in increasing fruit export from the region. The excellent quality of Gerry's dnata's services is underpinned by the constant growth of its customer base. Having won over 10 new contracts in the past 18 months, Gerry's dnata now serves over 30 scheduled and unscheduled airline customers at seven Pakistani airports.

## 11 criminals held, items recovered

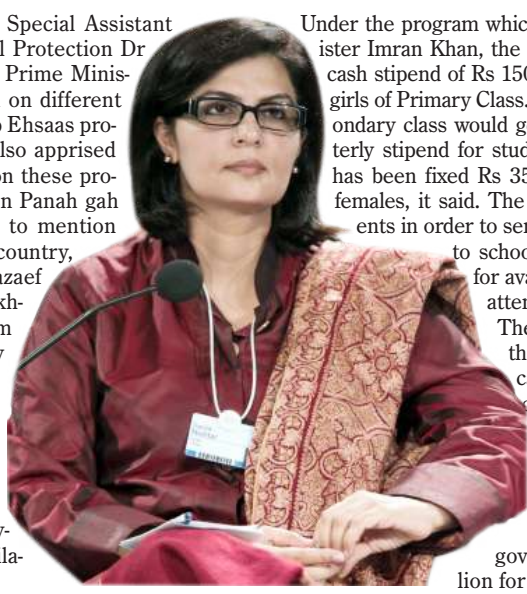
NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have arrested 11 outlaws including five members of two criminal gangs and recovered 3 stolen motorbikes and weapons. According to a news release issued on Monday, following directions of SSP (Operations) Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer, SP (Saddar-zone) Noshawan Ali constituted a team headed by SHO Karachi Company police station and others which nabbed three members of a dacoit gang later identified as Hassan Abbas, Naeem and Bilal. The team also recovered three 30-bore pistols along with ammunition and motorbikes used in the crime from their possession.

## Dr Sania Nishtar calls on PM, briefs on Ehsaas programme

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Poverty Reduction and Social Protection Dr Sania Nishtar Monday called on Prime Minister Imran Khan and briefed him on different projects of government's flagship Ehsaas programme. The special assistant also apprised the prime minister of progress on these projects, besides giving a briefing on Panah gah (shelter homes). It is pertinent to mention here that like other parts of the country, the award of Ehsaas Taleemi-Wazaef started across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, however, the students from Primary to Higher secondary schools would get quarterly stipend up to Rs 4,000. The applications have already been invited from the deserving families with no deadline date and students can apply for the program at anytime from anywhere, an official document available with this agency revealed.

Under the program which was launched by the Prime Minister Imran Khan, the government would pay a quarterly cash stipend of Rs 1500 to boy students and Rs 2,000 to girls of Primary Class. Similarly, the boys students of secondary class would get 2500 and girls 3,000. The quarterly stipend for students of Higher Secondary classes has been fixed Rs 3500 for boys and Rs 4,000 for the females, it said. The program aimed to encourage parents in order to send their children especially females to schools. The only eligibility criteria set for availing the scholarship is 70 percent attendance of the students at schools. The parents and students can apply for the stipend while submitting an application form along with birth certificate and CNIC at Ehsaas Program Centres or Ehsaas Registration Centres. According to Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Special Initiatives Dr Sania Nishtar, the government has allocated Rs 8 billion for the welfare project. - DNA



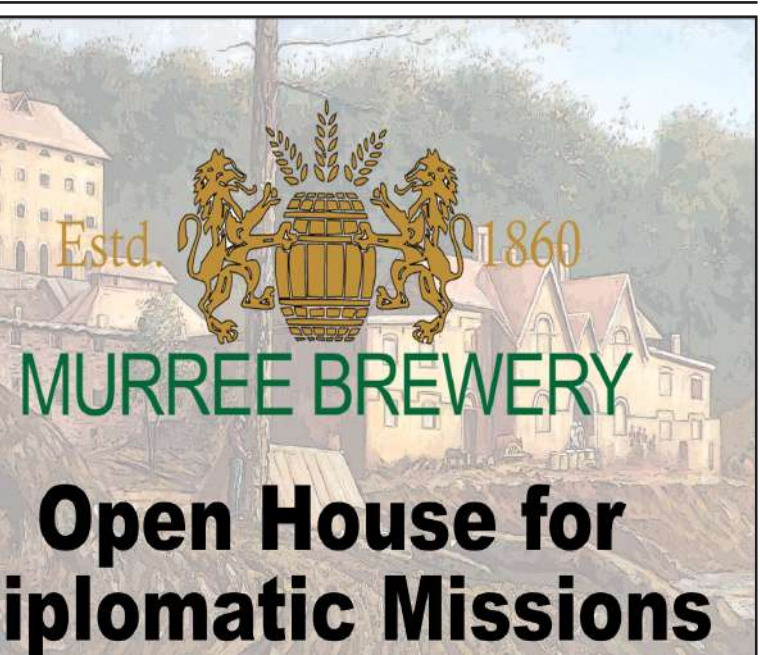
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For further information please contact the following.

Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman  
Mobile: 0300 8553342





## Briefs

DC holds  
Khuli  
Kutchery

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Muhammad Ali here on Monday held a Khuli Kutchery in his office and issued orders to the authorities concerned on complaints of the citizens directing them to resolve the problems of the citizens within shortest possible time frame.

The DC said that the problems of senior citizens were being resolved on priority basis. He issued orders to the officers concerned to resolve revenue issues of 12 applicants.

He said that he personally listens to the problems of all the citizens who come to his office and orders are issued to the officers concerned for their resolution.

He said that the district administration officers had been directed to address issues of the citizens as soon as possible and negligence on part of officials concerned would not be tolerated. Muhammad Ali said that Rawalpindi district administration was trying to solve the problems of the people at their door steps as per vision of the Chief Minister Punjab Usman Buzdar. He said, strict action in accordance with the law would be taken against corrupt officials and they would be given exemplary punishment. — APP

IRSA releases  
266965  
cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Monday released 266965 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 278403 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1532.09 feet, which was 140.09 feet higher than its dead level 1392 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 144900 and 1138000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1191.95feet, which was 141.95 feet higher than its dead level of 1050 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded a 29538 and 25000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 150415, 146974 and 92325 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 36300 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 67665 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. — APP

Monthly UFG  
losses come  
down by 36%  
in last FY

ISLAMABAD: The strategy adopted by the government to bring down Unaccounted for Gas (UFG) ratio has started yielding required results as the per month gas losses witnessed a significant decrease of 36 percent during the last fiscal year.

"The average monthly loss of High UFG areas was 1,348 MMCF [Million Cubic Feet] in FY 2019-20 which has now been reduced to 859 MMCF during FY 2020-21," according to an official report available with APP.

Overall, the government had given the two-state companies, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) and Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), a target of reducing the UFG by 13.55 per cent (58,869 MMCF gas) during a three-year period from 2019-2020 to 2021-22.

In 2019-20, the SNGPL and SSGC had prevented a volumetric loss of around 9,938 MMCF gas against the UFG reduction target of 14,806 MMCF gas.

The UFG is a phenomenon of gas loss that occurred due to various technical factors when gas flowed from fields to end consumers.

"It is calculated as the difference between metered gas volume injected into the transmission and distribution network (Point of Dispatch/Delivery) and the metered gas delivered to the end consumers (Consumer Meter Station) during a financial year," a senior official privy to petroleum sector developments said. — APP

'Forced conversion' a hoax  
fabricated to malign the state

Vehemently denying these allegations, Mitho said that people have been coming for over two centuries to Bharchundi Sharif. Even the famous Muslim scholar Ubaidullah Sindhi had converted to Islam here

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "Forced conversion is a hoax that has no proven factual basis at all but is used to damage the image of Pakistan, its society, and the state."

This was the view of a group of academics, activists, and civil society members who had gathered in Islamabad to question the nature of religious conversions in Pakistan, and more particularly in Sindh. Mian Abdul Haq alias Mian Mitho of Bharchundi Sharif (Ghotki) was also present and had to respond to several striking questions on his role in such conversions and the allegations leveled against him of forcibly converting scores of individuals to Islam.

Vehemently denying these allegations, Mitho said that people have been coming for over two centuries to Bharchundi Sharif. Even the famous Muslim scholar Ubaidullah Sindhi had converted to Islam here. During colonial times, the British rulers had investigated the phenomenon and got convinced of the genuineness of the conversions in places like these, and



they had developed a framework to streamline and record the conversions. "You would not find a single case at our monastery where force is used to convert someone; I request you to visit the place yourself and investigate the facts to vindicate the allegation against Pakistan", he insisted.

Mian Aslam, son of Mian Mitho and a lawyer himself said that it was against Islam to forcibly convert a person, but when a person is voluntarily converting to Islam, he or she should not be allowed to be pressurized, victimized, and ob-

structed by his or her peers and society. "I confess that not even a single person has accepted Islam on my persuasion, but the people who are inspired by Islam and its socio-cultural tenets come to us for conversion and for protection against the patriarchy and their religious elders", Mian Mitho said.

Denying the popular perception against him, Mitho said that he had several Hindus working at his home and lands whom he could convert if he had ever believed in forced conversion but "they freely profess their faith and enjoy the pro-

tection that we offer them as Muslims".

He informed the audience that every individual, couple, family, or group who would approach them for conversion is not only given free choice but under an agreement with Ramesh Kumar Vankwani of Pakistan Hindu Council, sent to the local head of Hindu community to have a meeting with their parents. "In a couple of cases, girls have preferred to return to their parents, and we had no objection over it. For those, however, who would still like to convert, we have our

arms open and do not deny them the option to eternal success", he said.

Responding to the set of questions regarding the famous case of Rinkal Kumari, Mian Aslam said that the lady had expressed her willingness to convert at every forum from the Civil Court to the Supreme Court despite the fact that she was sent to jail and to shelter home of an NGO for three months against her will. "Faryal Shah [previously Rinkal Kumari] has recently performed 'Umrah and imparts religious education to girls of her vicinity

as a practicing Muslim", he informed.

Contrary to what is propagated, those who convert to Islam undergo discrimination and persecution at the hands of their community, and local authorities in most of the cases. A recent convert Dua Fatima has alleged that she was severely tortured by her family and Hindu community on showing her interest in Islam. Her husband was tortured so much that he remained hospitalized for several days. This side of the picture is totally blacked out.



ISLAMABAD: UNDP Pakistan representative, British High Commissioner and others visited One Window Center of Ehsas. UNDP chief said his organization will continue to provide policy advisory and technical support to make Ehsas more inclusive in the context of COVID19. — DNA

Mishal welcomes  
Pakistan's dossier

ISLAMABAD: Mishal Malik, a social activist and wife of jailed Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik, on Monday welcomed the strong step of Pakistan's government to present a detailed dossier report before the international community over the Indian forces' human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK).

Talking to a private news channel, she said the true bold evidences were produced in the dossier and international forums, world human right organizations etc could approach the Indian government over the illegal Indian steps including demographic changes in IOJK.

She condemned Indian forces on committing worst brutalities in IOJK, including rape, torture, killings of young Kashmiris. But, she said that after all Indian brutalities, the Kashmiris are still determined to continue their freedom struggle at all costs.

Mishal said that brutal India has imposed the world's worst and longest curfew in Kashmir in order to change Kashmir valley into mini India.

She urged the international community to hold India accountable for its crimes against humanity in IOJK.

She said that no doubt Pakistan is supporting Kashmiris' right to self determination and exposing Indian brutality at every world forum. Hurriyat leader said top Kashmiri leadership including her husband Yasin Malik had been put behind the bars to crush the freedom movement. — APP

Police arrest 12  
for possessing  
illegal weapons

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police in their crackdown against illegal weapons and aerial firing rounded up 12 persons from different areas and recovered 12 pistols 30 bore from their possession, said police spokesman on Monday.

He informed that Civil Line police conducted a raid on Sunday night and arrested Barkat Ali for aerial firing after Local Bodies election results. Saddar Baroni police also rounded up Amdadullah and Ubaidullah who were allegedly involved in aerial firing outside an election office on Sunday night. Police also

recovered two 30 bore pistols from their possession. Meanwhile, Westridge police arrested five namely Mushtaq Khan, Buland Iqbal, Haseebullah, Majid Hussain and Usama Ali and recovered five 30 bore pistols and ammunition from their possession.

Wah Cantt police netted Majid Jahangir for possessing a 30 bore pistol and ammunition. Mandra police also nabbed an accused namely Rashid Mehmood for having a 30 bore pistol.

Kotli Sattian police held Waris Ali and recovered a 30 bore pistol. — APP

Lehri remembered  
on his 9th death  
anniversary

ISLAMABAD: Legendary comedian actor Safirullah Siddiqui, also known as 'Lehri', was remembered on his 9th death anniversary today (September 13) to pay homages for his unforgettable services for entertainment industry.

Lehri was one of greatest comedians who made his name through his film career starting from 1950s and lasted until the 1980s. His first film "Anokhi" was released in 1956, and his last production was "Dhanak" in 1986. The vast majority of his films have been in Urdu, though he did perform in a few Punjabi productions.

After independence, he along with his family, migrated to Pakistan and

settled in Karachi. He performed on radio and stage before entering the film industry, PTV news channel reported.

He is still considered as one of the most acclaimed comedians of South Asia.

Lehri acted in approximately 225 films and his first film was Anokhi released in 1956, while his last production was Dhanak in 1986. The vast majority of his films had been in Urdu, though he did perform in a few Punjabi productions.

He won the Nigar Award for the best performance for various films between 1964 and 1986.

Lehri's forte was the quip and in his monotonous, his audience became used to finding a brand of quiet, almost surreptitious humor. — APP

IWMB conducts two-day  
Eco-Guards training at Trail-5

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) has conducted a two-day workshop aimed at training volunteers from the civil society as Eco-Guards to patrol and protect scenic Margalla Hills National Park facing issues of littering, poaching, tree cutting and irresponsible tourism.

The lectures were imparted by IWMB senior member Wildlife Expert and Ecologist, Professor Dr Z.B. Mirza and Associate Professor of Islamic International University of Environmental Sciences Dr Muhammad Ibrar Shinwari here at the Visitors' Information Center at Trail-5.

The participants included male and female youngsters, teenagers, adults who were



regular visitors of the Margalla Hills National Park and avid nature lovers as well as conservationists by passion.

The experts presented a detailed overview of nature, ecology, biodiversity and wildlife linkages with the

environment.

The experts also briefed the participants about human interventions disturbing wildlife habitats and species. The volunteers were also briefed on communication skills, preventive measures to contain hostile human activities harming biodiversity etc., so that a sustainable environment friendly tourism was promoted in the National Park.

Chairperson IWMB Rina Saeed Khan told APP that Senator Faisal Javed Khan was the chief guest at the concluding ceremony of IWMB volunteers Eco Guard's training workshop. She added that over 50 volunteers who participated in the training workshop were awarded certificates, caps and badges.

The participants were also presented a short documentary on the Margalla Hills National Park highlighting its serene environment, thriving foliage, diverse flora and fauna and also environmental hazards posed by human activities in the Park.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari attends dharna by the media fraternity held to oppose the new media development authority. — DNA

Pakistan Post  
extends EP  
services

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Post has extended Express Post (EP) Services including Urgent Mail Service (UMS), Urgent Money Order (UMO) and UMS-Cash on Delivery (UMS-COD) to Southern Punjab Circle.

According to a notification on Monday, the Director General Pakistan Post has approved to start booking of EP services with existing infrastructure and man power in the Khanewal, Makhdoom Pur Pahoran, Post Office.

The Divisional Superintendent of Postal Services (Multan) will arrange to provide standardized printed forms, relevant books of receipts, UMS, UMO, UMS-COD services stationery etc to the said Post office for starting operation of newly introduced EP Services. — APP

Aviation  
Division gets  
Rs936m in  
two months

ISLAMABAD: The government has so far released an amount of Rs936.046 million to execute around 17 aviation sector projects under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP 2021-22).

According to the official data as of September 3, an amount of Rs 936.046 million has been authorized/distributed against the total allocation of Rs 3,558.20 million for different aviation sector projects.

As per the PSDP document, an amount of Rs11.077 million had been earmarked for construction of double story Ladies Hostel/Barrack with provision of third storey along with mess, recreation hall and allied facilities at Al-lama Iqbal International Airport, Rs37.581 million for construction 2X double storey Barrack with provision of third storey for corporal to inspectors and assistant director along with separate mess and allied facilities, Recreation Hall at Quetta Airport, Rs20 million for construction of Airport Security Force (ASF) Camp at Islamabad International Airport and Rs50 million for construction of barrack accommodation for ASF personnel along with mess and allied facilities, Ladies Rest Room MT, Store, Kote Magazine, Quarter Guard and OC Accommodation/Room at Skardu Airport.

Similarly, Rs39.534 million had been kept for construction of barrack accommodation for ASF personnel along with mess and allied facilities, MT, Store, Visitors Room, Ladies Rest Room, Kote Magazine, Quarter Guard, and OC accommodation/Room at Chitral Airport, Rs21.285 million for construction of double storey barracks for ASF at Faisalabad Airport, Rs6.213 million for construction of double storey Director South Secretariat Offices ASF along with allied facilities adjacent to ASF HQs Karachi, Rs500 million for construction of Rain Water Harvesting Kasana Dam at Islamabad International Airport, Rs57.719 million for construction of triple storey living accommodation for ASF personnel at Lahore Airport, Rs3.952 for construction of triple storey living Barrack for ASF personnel along with Mess, Recreation Hall at Multan Airport, Rs96.108 million for developing Reverse Linkage. — APP

Govt notifies  
transfer of  
officers

ISLAMABAD: The Federal government on Monday notified the transfer and posting of high ranking officers.

According to a notification issued by the Establishment Division, Mian Asad Hayaud Din, a BS-22 officer of Pakistan Administrative Service, presently posted as Officer on Special Duty (OSD), Establishment Division, is transferred and posted as Secretary, Economic Affairs Division, with immediate effect and until further orders.

Tahir Khurshid, a BS-21 officer of Pakistan Administrative Service, presently posted as Additional Secretary, National Food Security and Research Division, is assigned current charge of the post of Secretary, National Food Security and Research Division, for a period of two months or till the return from leave of the present incumbent, whichever is earlier, with immediate effect.



## Climate change

**B**EING eighth on the list of the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change, Pakistan has sought financial and technological assistance from the German government. While we have introduced several green initiatives including the 10 Billion Tree Tsunami project for a greener Pakistan, a lot more needs to be done if we are to meet our environmental objectives.

Given the severity of the threat facing Pakistan, Germany has decided to offer its assistance in this area. Being one of the most environmentally aware countries in the world, Germany has a lot to offer and teach. With the help of German technological and financial assistance, we will come one step closer to becoming a sustainable country that is able to embark upon countless afforestation missions, but also phase out coal and fossil fuel-based power generation, limit pollution, reduce our national carbon footprint, endorse the use of electric vehicles and even look towards water conservation projects. Our geographical location gives us the opportunity to take advantage of solar power as well, should any government want to.

The problem has always been that a greener developmental approach is rather expensive for a country like Pakistan that is heavily indebted and has a multitude of other priorities. We have already understood that the gradually changing environment is going to be catastrophic for us, and have as a result prioritised combating climate change. However, we still need help with gaining access to the right tools, technology and finances needed to bring about greater change. With Germany promising us exactly that, there should be no excuse for the government to lag behind. The need is for undertaking long-term mitigation and adaptability measures instead of just focusing on single-aspect projects.

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## Vaccination drive progress

**F**ROM Monday onwards, adolescents from the age group of 15 to 17 years can get their COVID-19 vaccinations on behalf of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). This development was announced in late August by the NCOC, when the body governing the policies and implementation of the national COVID-19 effort decided to reduce the minimum age for Covid-19 vaccination from 18 years to 15 years. This was set in the works earlier when it was decided that starting September 17-year-olds would be allowed to get the first dose of the vaccination.

The fast pace of this step-by-step vaccination campaign according to age brackets must be commended. This was a vital course of action. 82 patients died of Covid-19 and 3,480 got infected in a single day, on Saturday, taking the number of active cases to 91,717 as of this weekend. This is good considering that a significantly large portion of the population is being catered to under the immunisation campaign. Children and teenagers have been groups that have been either carriers or have suffered from the virus in the shadows. With their vaccination, national immunity is bound to improve.

This was also an important step to take, considering the national confusion on whether to re-open schools and universities. While other aspects of the lockdown might not be strictly implemented, schools and universities have been mostly closed. Students have been forced to take online classes, which has had a visible impact on education, drop-out rates and enrolment statistics. While schools were briefly opened, the alarming hike in coronavirus cases this month, has led schools and universities to be indefinitely closed again. If the government plans to open on-campus teaching again, vaccination of as many students as possible is an essential part of increasing safety around schools and curbing further spread of the virus.

# The mafia and Israel's child killers

Andrew Mitrovica



Biden reminded them of his sad history with loss.

In 1972, his first wife, Neilia, and 13-month-old daughter, Amy, perished in a car accident a week before Christmas.

Decades later, his son, Beau, succumbed to brain cancer. Reportedly, Biden said: "You get this feeling like you're being sucked into a black hole in the middle of your chest. There's no way out. My heart aches for you." Hassan's mother, family and friends have been sucked into a black hole of longing, hurt and despair

**I**T is easy to kill and get away with killing.

A former hitman I got to know well while writing a book years ago about Canada's nefarious spy service once made that stunning admission to me. It was stunning because the middle-aged man with a monotone voice, slim build, wispy white hair, and quiet, almost elegant demeanour, seemed, at first impression, to be a harmless, petty thief who stole to raise enough money to survive until his next score.

Only later, as his trust in me deepened, did he share the sinister secret that he had killed other hoodlums on the orders of a prominent Mafioso family he had ingratiated himself to during one of his many stints in prisons across Canada.

I did not burrow for details because, frankly, I did not want to know the details. But I knew he was not prone to the kind of bravado and hyperbole crooks often engage in to impress or inflate their lawless resume. Still, he told me he would never harm a quarry's family, particularly their kids. I believed him, knowing full well that Mafia "codes of honour" that bar women and children from being murdered are a sentimental, Hollywood-propelled fiction.

The squalid fact is that Mafioso goons have repeatedly killed women and toddlers, some as young as three-year-old, who were shot in the head before being incinerated in burned-out cars. The hitman and the Mafia came to mind as I read about the murder of yet another Palestinian child, instantly erased by one of a ruthless crew of gangsters masquerading as "soldiers" who populate the Israeli military. Truth is that the Mafia and the Israeli military have a lot in common: life – including the budding lives of children – is considered cheap and disposable in the pursuit of their base, parochial instincts and interests. And the fantasy that the Mafia abides by an honourable "code" that, despite its heinous modus operandi, affords it a measure of "perverse credibility" is as obscene as the Western-media-manufactured myth that the child-murdering Israeli military is the "most moral army in the world".

The difference is that when the Mafia kills kids, outrage and loud calls to bring the inhuman culprits to justice are de rigueur. But when the Israeli army guns down and mutilates Palestinian boys and girls with armour-piercing bullets and stealth-like drones – again and again and again –

the response, if any, among Western capitals and editors is usually of understanding, acceptance and overt, if sometimes grudging, approval.

The death of 12-year-old Hassan Abu al-Neil on August 21, a week after he was shot in the head while standing on what remains of Palestinian soil in Gaza by a government-trained hitman sporting a military uniform is more proof that, for Israel, it is not only easy to kill Palestinian children, but just as easy to get away with it.

Hassan was executed. The Israeli hitman (aka "sniper") who plucked him out of a crowd of Palestinians simply exercising the right to resist their occupation had to know that Hassan was a child. A picture purportedly of the boy reveals a small, thin figure with a radiant smile and a thick wave of black hair and large, ungainly ears – the unmistakable signs of youth.

And yet the hitman trained his sophisticated weapon's scope on Hassan's head – not an arm or a leg – but his head. It was a "kill shot" meant to tear through flesh, skull and bone with disfiguring and lethal accuracy. Anyone capable of knowingly and intentionally killing a child from a safe, comfortable distance has forfeited the privilege of being called a human being. The decrepit void of that "soldier's" evaporated soul must have been occupied, long ago, by malignant malice and corrosive hate that permitted him to "whack" a child with a sociopath's ease.

That is one possible explanation. Another, equally nauseating interpretation is that, like the "soldier", many common Israelis and their apologists abroad, are convinced that Hassan and many other Palestinian children who have been shot in the head and stomach or dismembered while playing football on a beach, deserved their fates.

Israel and its cynical allies have tried – drip by drip – to drain Hassan and the other slaughtered Palestinian children of their humanity with the sick, incessant accusation that they were willing, malleable "tools of terrorists" or "rock-throwing terrorists". They, in effect, invited their violent and sudden deaths.

It is a predictable calumny and an indecent lie.

The responsibility for Hassan's murder rests with the Israeli hitman who shot him and Israel's diseased, irredeemable army of military and political "godfathers" who, like the Cosa Nostra

henchmen, deem children to be legitimate targets. Unlike Mafia-hired-killers, Hassan's Israeli hitman will never be held to account. The farcical "investigations" the Israeli military launches on occasion into the litany of Israel's state-sanctioned killings of Palestinian children are a pathetic pantomime designed to exonerate its stable of hitmen in fatigues by fixing blame on the boys and girls it murders. All the while, the so-called "international community" nods or shrugs in unconscionable agreement. So, it is left to Hassan's mother to mourn and keep his crisp, clean school uniform tucked away and the T-shirt he was wearing the day he was killed close by as a bloodied keepsake to remember her son.

In late August in the aftermath of the suicide bombing that killed more than 60 Afghans and 13 US servicemen in Kabul, US President Joe Biden met the grieving American families.

Biden reminded them of his sad history with loss. In 1972, his first wife, Neilia, and 13-month-old daughter, Amy, perished in a car accident a week before Christmas. Decades later, his son, Beau, succumbed to brain cancer. Reportedly, Biden said: "You get this feeling like you're being sucked into a black hole in the middle of your chest. There's no way out. My heart aches for you." Hassan's mother, family and friends have been sucked into a black hole of longing, hurt and despair. It is the same black hole of longing, hurt and despair that too many other Palestinian mothers and fathers have had to endure and cannot emerge from whole.

I wonder: Does Biden's heart ache for them, too? Their pain and suffering are not the searing, debilitating by-products of an accident or an inoperable tumour. They are, instead, the awful consequence of the deliberate, calculated acts of Israeli cowards who know they can kill Palestinian children with impunity. Stripped of their sullied uniforms, Israeli soldiers are unrepentant thugs who, like their ugly Mafioso brethren-in-spirit, should be hauled before the dock to come face-to-face with the anguish their crimes against humanity have wrought – again and again and again. Of course justice will not be done since, for too many Israelis and much of the craven "international community", these degenerate hitmen are "heroes".

– Courtesy: Al Jazeera

# Gender segregation or symbolic deterrence

Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi

Liberty isn't imperialism of choices; it is freedom of choices and practices.

French regulations of restricting female students to wear hijab and banning burkini are equally sensitive. However, as we accommodate French choices in our modern thoughts, we should also give space to the choices which Taliban prefer for their nation. According to Charlotte Vautier, "In 2014, FIFA announced that women footballers could wear the veil during official matches. Great news for many players..."

**V**IRAL video clip of a university in Afghanistan with curtains in a classroom to separate male and female students is getting global attention.

Besides other geopolitical dimensions it also provides an opportunity to analyse prevailing circumstances in modern-day universities. Islamic teachings made it mandatory for men and women both to acquire knowledge. It is almost impossible for any country to provide separate universities for entire population of both genders. Despite a few dedicated institutions of higher learning there is always a need to utilise existing infrastructure and other resources to educate female students, because it is widely believed in Muslim societies that an educated woman creates an educated family while educating a man means educating an individual. However, due to the scarcity of resources and difficulties to access available opportunities a huge portion of society remains deprived of education, let alone higher education, and woman education is not an exception. To ensure increased access of women to the higher education it is unavoidable to adopt co-education at university level. However, when we analyse prevailing circumstances about secure and peaceful environment for women education particularly in universities around the globe it appears to be a hard reality that we probably can't find any safe university for women on this planet.

According to Soren Maahs from Freie Universität Berlin, "Every second female student in Germany is sexually harassed or suffers violence during her years at university." Heike Pantelmann, managing director of the Margherita von Brentano Center of the University, "referred to it as an omnipresent problem at German universities. Of 12,000 female students in Germany who were interviewed for a Europe-wide study, more than half indicated that they had experienced sexual harassment or violence during their years in college. The harassment or violence came almost exclusively from men. The largest group of perpetrators is other students. Lecturers and professors account for somewhat less than seven percent of the acts of violence." Jessica Murray of the Guardian reported, "Students at a sit-in protest over sexual misconduct at Warwick University

have said universities are still failing to tackle rape culture on campus. Student group Protect Warwick Women has been camping in tents outside the student union building for months to protest over what they see as the university's failure to tackle an 'ingrained' problem of rape culture and sexual harassment on campus." RAINN's, an American non-profit anti-sexual assault organization, statistics suggest, "Among undergraduate students, 26.4% of females experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation."

Under these circumstances if any nation tries to adopt a soft pattern of drawing curtains to establish symbolic deterrence to ensure protection of women in universities, may not be considered radicalisation. Rather, we should take it as a pilot study to determine if this pattern can reduce sexual harassment or assault in institutions of higher learning. Media is using the term 'segregation' for subject arrangement in the universities of Afghanistan, without being able to relate the whole big crisis of women safety and protection in institutions of higher learning around the globe. Francisca Ochoa, the communications secretary of the University of Chile's student federation, said: "We want to create a society in which men and women are respected equally: this doesn't end with condemnations of abuses – we want to ensure that there is no position of privilege or power for any man over a woman."

Liberty isn't imperialism of choices; it is freedom of choices and practices. French regulations of restricting female students to wear hijab and banning burkini are equally sensitive. However, as we accommodate French choices in our modern thoughts, we should also give space to the choices which Taliban prefer for their nation. According to Charlotte Vautier, "In 2014, FIFA announced that women footballers could wear the veil during official matches. Great news for many players... with the exception of French women: the FFF chooses not to follow this reform locally, and continues to ban the hijab in official competitions in France. Which, at the time, earned him a warning from former FIFA President Stepp Blatter. Despite this, France has still not changed its regulations."

Ibtihaj Muhammad, U.S. Olympic fencer with bronze medal, posted her picture with burkini on her Instagram account and said, "This is how I and a lot of women I know dress at the beach. There are cities in France where this type of bathing suit is banned. First it was the burkini, then it was the niqab and now it's the hijab. This is what happens when we normalize anti-Muslim and anti-Islamic speech and discrimination – a hijab ban that violates religious freedom. Regulating Muslim women's bodies in the name of secularism is both Islamophobic and oppressive. STOP making Muslim women's choice to cover our hair and bodies political. We should all have the freedom to wear what we want. The love and respect society has for Orthodox nuns and Orthodox Jews who cover their hair, keep that same energy for Muslim women too." Democracy is considered as a will of majority, apparently success of Taliban is backed by the majority of Afghans. Peaceful control of Kabul suggests majority of Afghans accepted Taliban's doctrine. Now, we as adherents of modern-day liberty and democracy should respect choices of majority of Afghans and let them handle their society and the country to shape future of their nation, as long as we don't see any valid phenomenon directed to sabotage peace and comfort of other nations around the globe.

Students studying in a class with curtains as symbolic deterrence could lead to respect rights of female students which may provide a model for favourable learning environment to the likes of Brin Arnold and Cai Kennedy at Warwick. Students in the subject University of Afghanistan will certainly engage in assignments, projects, presentations and internships which are integral part of university teaching; these activities will strengthen their abilities and enhance confidence to face challenges of practical life. In today's highly vulnerable environment of movements such as "Me Too", "The Hijabeuses", "You Are Not Alone", and "A Rapist in Your Path", we should appreciate Taliban to extend a model for symbolic deterrence to protect female university students from anxiety and stress which female students of Warwick, Freie and Chile are facing.



## Briefs

## Pakistan is on right path, says President

FROM PAGE 01

Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI). The President said that enhanced revenue collections and workers' remittances indicated full confidence in the government's policies. The president said the government had passed laws to protect rights of special persons and women as well as to eliminate sexual crimes.

He said unfortunately, some cases of sexual crimes were reported from different parts of the country but the government made legislation to curb the evil which needed to be enforced. The president said beside the government, it was also the societal responsibility to help stop the crime by being watchful against such elements. He said the refusal of property rights to women still pervaded in some parts of the country which was unfortunate for a Muslim country as Allah Almighty had guided the followers in details on the subject. He again urged the society particularly Ulama to play role for awareness and counter the societal traditions.

President Alvi said considering the risks posed by global warming to Pakistan, Imran Khan launched Billion Tree Tsunami in KP and later countrywide 10 Billion Tree Tsunami as well as Clean and Green Pakistan Program to help steer the country out of the challenge.

Coming to the democratic system, the president said the electoral reforms were essential which could not be achieved through commotion. He said the Electronic Voting Machine would ensure transparency, voters' privacy and swift results as it also featured a counter to calculate votes. Moreover, the government is also taking measures like i-voting to grant voting rights to overseas Pakistanis.

Touching the subject of foreign policy, the president said India had been committing genocide of Kashmiri people as well as targeting Indian Muslim minorities. He said Imran Khan, who had called himself as Ambassador of Kashmir, exposed the real face of India globally. He said Pakistan always strived to maintain friendly ties with the world which was also manifested by the prime minister in his maiden speech. But it was construed as Pakistan's weakness by India, he added. Moreover, Pakistan's gesture of releasing captured Indian pilot in 2019 was also taken as country's weakness, he added.

President Alvi asked India to end its atrocities in IIOJK and abide by the UN resolutions. He also assured the Kashmiri people that Pakistan was committed to its stance and thanked China, Turkey, Iran and Azerbaijan for supporting Pakistan's stance on the issue.

## Opposition terms PMDA as...

FROM PAGE 01

"And if this bill turns into a law, PPP will move the courts against it," Bilawal said, and added, "There is no place in the country where it is safer to be a journalist." PPP chairman said the proposed bill was also aimed at financial massacre of journalists. Political parties, student unions and members of civil society continued to express solidarity with protesting journalists outside Parliament House in Islamabad on Monday, joining them in raising their voice against the proposed Pakistan Media Development Authority (PMDA) bill.

PML-N President and Opposition Leader Shahbaz Sharif also addressed the protesters. Shehbaz Sharif said the government was out to muzzle free press in Pakistan adding the PML-N would do its best to confront this new law. He added, the PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif had asked him to attend the protest and express solidarity with the media fraternity. He said his party had always worked for the freedom of press in Pakistan and would continue to do so even in the coming days come what may. The protest call was given by various journalist bodies, headed by the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists. Meanwhile, the Parliamentary Reporters Association had also announced that reporters would boycott the presidential address in protest against the proposed media authority.

## Ramiz vows to reset PCB's direction, announces coaches

Ramiz also announced that he has appointed Australia's Matthew Hayden and South Africa's Vernon Philander as coaches for the upcoming T20 World Cup

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: The former Pakistan captain and 36th Chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Ramiz Raja extended his thanks to Prime Minister and patron-in-chief Imran Khan for posing confidence in his abilities and vowed to reset the direction of the PCB to restore Pakistan cricket's glorious past. Ramiz Raja, who was elected unanimously and unopposed as the Pakistan Cricket Board's chairman for a three-year term in a special meeting presided over by the PCB Election Commissioner, Mr Justice (ret'd) Sheikh Azmat Saeed on Monday. Ramiz Raja, along with MrAsad Ali Khan, was nominated by the PCB Patron, Prime Minister Imran Khan, on the PCB Board of Governors on 27 August for a three-year term, where they joined AsimWajidJawad, Alia Zafar, Arif Saeed, Javed Kurieshi and PCB Chief Executive Wasim Khan.

Addressing to media, shortly after getting charge as PCB chairman, Ramiz Raja announced he



would not introduce any change in the T20 team and he has some long-term and short-term goals to bring improvement in the Pakistani squad.

The PCB chairman said he would focus on ensuring the board's policies remained consistent, adding that he would also ensure club cricket, new talent,

coaching and the national cricket team's performance improved. He said that the board's performance is interlinked with the team's performance and PCB will focus on school and club cricket to ensure the country keeps on producing quality cricketers.

"The national side has the potential to win the World Cup and we

need to back the side selected for the global event", PCB chairman said adding that we need to fine-tune our plans. Pakistan cricket's DNA consists fearlessness, and we need to define a proper model and provide clarity to achieve desired results.

"We will bear all the expenses of any cricket club that produces an international cricketer", he said adding that we need support of every stakeholder and hoping that the nation will avoid criticism on the board early on. Ramiz also announced that he has appointed Australia's Matthew Hayden and South Africa's Vernon Philander as coaches for the upcoming T20 World Cup. Earlier addressing the BOG meeting, Ramiz Raja said that he thankful to all participants for electing him as the PCB Chairman and look forward to working with them to ensure Pakistan cricket continues to thrive and grow stronger, both on and off-the-field.

## Benzema hat-trick gives Madrid winning return to Bernabeu



SPORTS DESK

MADRID: Real Madrid returned to the Santiago Bernabeu after 560 days away and Karim Benzema ensured it was a happy homecoming as his hat-trick inspired a thrilling 5-2 fightback against Celta Vigo on Sunday. Benzema twice had to pull Madrid level after Santi Mina and Franco Cervi each put Celta ahead, goals that were greeted with whistles inside the Bernabeu where 19,874 fans attended for the first time in a year and a half.

But Benzema kept his team

in it and Madrid motored in the second half, Vinicius Junior finishing after racing onto the France forward's through-ball before Eduardo Camavinga marked his debut by tapping into an open net. Benzema completed his hat-trick by converting a penalty in the 87th minute, to make it five goals and two assists from his opening four games this season.

"The team has a lot of quality offensively, that's clear," said coach Carlo Ancelotti. "What wasn't so clear was the defensive organisation, which has to improve."

Antoine Griezmann's return was less impressive,

his first game for Atletico Madrid in two years and four months coming against Espanyol, who sank to a 2-1 defeat after a 99th-minute winner from Thomas Lemar. Griezmann had gone off in the 58th minute with his team trailing.

Griezmann played for Barcelona in Real Madrid's last match at the Bernabeu on March 1, 2020, a 2-0 home win that also featured Lionel Messi, Sergio Ramos and Raphael Varane, with Zinedine Zidane and QuiqueSetien in the dugouts. If the drain of talent since has been a disappointment for La

Liga, it might at least briefly offer Benzema a spell in the limelight. The 34-year-old is surely Madrid's best chance of winning back the title this term.

There was certainly a warm glow inside the Bernabeu at the end, a sense of relief after so long playing at the Alfredo di Stefano Stadium, a move prompted by the pandemic's ban on fans and aimed at accelerating the 575 million-euro renovation work at their 81,000-capacity home. The project is not expected to be completed until towards the end of next year but with limited numbers of supporters allowed back by the Spanish government, the club has opened the doors again.

Santi Mina was the last opposition player to score at the Bernabeu before it closed and the first to score after it re-opened, taking advantage of a sloppy Miguel Gutierrez pass early on to put Celta in front.

Benzema levelled after Fedeverde cushioned back to him in the box but Celta came again, Cervi flicking in after the ball cannoned back kindly off the post to expose Madrid's defensive failings once more.

## Pope warns EU countries against being self-centred

BRATISLAVA: Pope Francis warned against too much focus on individual rights and culture wars at the expense of the common good on Monday during a visit to Slovakia amid increased nationalism and anti-immigrant sentiment across eastern Europe. The 84-year-old Francis, looking fit, is making his first trip since undergoing intestinal surgery in July. Asked by a reporter on Monday how he felt, he joked: "Still alive." On the first papal visit to Slovakia since 2003, Francis returned to a theme he had touched on during a stopover on Sunday in Hungary on how nations should avoid a selfish, defensive mentality, as he recalled the region's communist past.

"In these lands, until just a few decades ago, a single thought system (communism) stifled freedom. Today another single thought system is emptying freedom of meaning, reducing progress to profit and rights only to individual needs," Francis said. Addressing Slovak President ZuzanaCaputova, other officials and diplomats in the gardens of the presidential palace, the pope added: "Fraternity is necessary for the increasingly pressing process of (European) integration."

Slovakia, part of Czechoslovakia during communist times, secured its independence from Prague in 1993. The Slovak and wider eastern European economies have since boomed but their integration into the European Union has also coincided with a nationalist backlash against increased illegal immigration, often involving Muslims from the Middle East and Afghanistan. Slovakia's neighbours, Hungary and Poland, have been at loggerheads with the EU over their hard-line stance on migration as well as over their judicial reforms and curbs on media freedoms.

In September, Brussels told Poland its challenge to the primacy of EU law over national law was holding up the release of 57 billion euros in recovery funds to deal with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Francis specifically mentioned the EU recovery plan on Monday, saying people were "looking forward with hope to an economic upturn" it is meant to underpin. - Agencies

## Root, Eimear voted ICC Players of Month for August

ISLAMABAD: England captain Joe Root and Ireland star Eimear Richardson have been voted winners of the ICC Player of the Month for August, the ICC said in a media release on Monday.

Root saw off competition from JaspritBumrah, the India pacer and Pakistan speedster ShaheenAfridi to win the award following a stellar August for the England captain. Root scored 507 runs in three Tests against India in August. He scored three important centuries, including an unbeaten 180\* at Lord's, and the form propelled him to the top of the MRF Tyres ICC Test Rankings for batters.

"With the expectation and responsibility on his shoulders as the captain, I was really impressed with how he led from the front with the bat, and become the number one ranked Test batter in the world," said former South Africa all-rounder JP Duminy, one of the panellists in the ICC Voting Academy. In the women's award, Richardson saw off tough competition from teammate Gaby Lewis and Thailand's NattayaBoochatham.

Richard put in a fine all-round display in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Europe Qualifier last month, which led her to be named the Player of the Tournament. For her all-round performance, Eimear Richardson was named the Player of the Tournament in ICC Women's T20 World Cup Europe Qualifier. - APP

## South Africa seal T20 series with nine-wicket win over Sri Lanka

Tabraiz Shamsi was the pick of the bowlers with 3-20 while Aiden Markram finished with a career-best 3-21 as the spinners wreaked havoc

COLOMBO: South Africa beat Sri Lanka by nine wickets in a rain-hit Twenty20 international in Colombo on Sunday to win the three-match series with a match to spare. Having lost the one-day international series 2-1, South Africa won the first T20 match by 28 runs and bowled out Sri Lanka for 103 in the second, their lowest score when batting first at home. Opener KusalPerera scored 30 but found little support as five different bowlers picked up wickets at regular intervals.

TabraizShamsi was the pick of the bowlers with 3-20 while Aiden Markram finished with a career-best 3-21 as the spinners wreaked havoc. "We've got a lot of quality bowlers in the attack. These pitches take a lot more turn than back home, that's something we've got to get used to," said Shamsi, who was adjudged the player of the match. In response, South Africa reached the target with the loss of just one wicket as opener Quinton de Kock smashed seven boundaries in his unbeaten knock of 58 while Markram scored 21 off 19 balls. The final T20 will also be played in Colombo on Tuesday. - Agencies



## Medvedev sinks Djokovic's Grand Slam dream at US Open

Medvedev, playing in his third major final, at last hoisted a Grand Slam trophy while avenging a straight sets defeat by Djokovic earlier this year in the Australian Open final

SPORTS DESK

NEW YORK: Novak Djokovic's quest for a record 21st major title that would have completed the calendar-year Grand Slam has collapsed at the final hurdle with a 6-4 6-4 6-4 loss to Russian Daniil Medvedev in the US Open final.

Medvedev, playing in his third Grand Slam final, at last hoisted a trophy while avenging a straight sets defeat by Djokovic earlier this year in the Australian Open final. Djokovic, who was trying to become the first man in over a half-century to win all four majors (Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, US Open) in

the same year, arrived on Arthur Ashe Stadium court with the weight of history on his shoulders.

For the fifth consecutive match, the Serb world number one found himself in an early hole after dropping the first set. But this time there would be no way out as the rampaging Russian Medvedev kept up the pressure with a barrage of aces while allowing Djokovic a single break. Djokovic will enter 2022 tied with "Big Three" rivals Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, both absent with injuries, on an all-time record 20 men's Slam titles. Instead of joining immortals Laver and Don Budge, who completed the first men's Slam in 1938, Djokovic became the third man to fall at the final match attempting to complete the Slam after Australians Jack Crawford in 1933 and Lew

Hoad in 1956. Medvedev, 25, became the third Russian man to win a Grand Slam title after Yevgeny Kafelnikov at the 1996 French



Open and 1999 Australian Open and Marat Safin at the 2000 US Open and 2005 Australian Open. In the biggest of Djokovic's 1,176 career matches, he made two unforced forehand errors to surrender a break to Medvedev in the first game.

Djokovic saved two break points to hold the third game but Medvedev held through to take the first set in 36 minutes, never facing a break point. It was the fifth consecutive match in which Djokovic dropped the first set. Medvedev dropped only three points on his serve in the first set but lost that many to open his first service game in the second. Djokovic, however, squandered his first three break

points of the match and Medvedev held to 1-1.

Medvedev hit a backhand wide to give Djokovic a break chance in the fourth game but he netted a forehand volley then drew back his racket in anger as if to smash the ball. After botching a forehand on the following point, Djokovic shattered his racket and on the next sent a backhand long as Medvedev held to 2-2, pressure clearly affecting the Serb. In the fifth game, Djokovic-mis-hit a backhand volley to hand Medvedev a break and a 3-2 lead and the Russian held three times to claim the set. Djokovic pushing a backhand wide to surrender the final point.

## Chinese investment to open...

FROM PAGE 01

Special Assistant CPEC Khalid Mansoor and senior officials were also present. The delegation appreciated the investor-friendly policies of the government of Pakistan and expressed keen interest in investing in the country. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday lauded the Ministry for Interior's role in evacuating thousands of Afghanistan and foreign nationals from Kabul after the Taliban took over the country on August 15.

The development came during the prime minister's meeting with Federal Minister for Interior Sheikh Rasheed in Islamabad, a statement from the Prime Minister's Office said. The federal minister provided briefings to the prime minister on Islamabad's security situation, Rescue 1122 services, and the facilitation cell, the statement said.

## COAS visits Corps HQ Karachi

FROM PAGE 01

Agencies in maintaining law and order. COAS emphasised to guard effectively against Hybrid threats in view of latest developments in the region and the need to respond collectively with the whole of nation approach.

COAS was also briefed on multifaceted assistance being rendered by Army for implementation of Karachi Transformation Plan (KTP), a critical mega initiative underway to uplift Pakistan's biggest metropolis, Karachi, through various developmental projects in the aftermath of Karachi urban flooding in August last year. COAS appreciated Karachi Corps for all out support to civil administration ensuring timely and efficient action on key projects of KTP. COAS also visited Khatoon-e-Pakistan Government Girls School Karachi; an initiative of Zindagi Trust. COAS praised school administration for providing state of the art facilities and high standard of education for underprivileged girl students at par with any modern education system of the day.

Later, COAS also interacted with families of Martyrs of Army, Pakistan Rangers Sindh, other LEAs incl intelligence, Sind Police, ANF and ASF. COAS spent time with them and inquired about their well being. COAS directed the formation to take all necessary measures for welfare of Martyrs' families. Earlier on arrival, COAS was received by Lieutenant General Nadeem Ahmed Anjum, Commander Karachi Corps.

## UN seeks \$600m aid for...

FROM PAGE 01

"Fourteen million people, one out of three, are marching to the brink of starvation. They don't know where their next meal is," he said. "If we are not very careful, we could truly, truly enter into the abyss in catastrophic conditions, worse than what we see now."

The World Health Organization, another U.N. agency that is part of the appeal, is seeking to shore up hundreds of health facilities at risk of closure after donors backed out. Filippo Grandi, head of the U.N. refugee agency UNHCR, warned that there could be far greater displacement soon than the estimated half a million who have already sought refuge elsewhere in Afghanistan this year.

## Pakistan welcomes UN efforts

FROM PAGE 01

Afghans in large refugee-hosting countries, for whom the international support has dwindled over the years. He said Pakistan has been supporting the humanitarian efforts in Afghanistan in several ways, including by facilitating the evacuation and relocation of international staff, and establishment of a humanitarian corridor for the delivery of relief goods through air and land routes. He said that Pakistan is also hosting more than 3 million Afghan refugees, for over 4 decades earmarking over one billion dollars for a range of development projects in Afghanistan.



## Briefs

## Ukraine plans to purchase 24 Turkish UAV

KIEV: Ukraine plans to buy 24 more Turkish drones, the country's top military authority announced Sunday. Armed Forces Commander in Chief Valeriy Zaluzny told reporters that Ukraine plans to purchase the Bayraktar TB2 (Tactical Block 2) unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) in the 2021-2022 period. Ukraine currently has 12 Bayraktar TB2 UCAVs in its inventory, which are being used by its air and naval forces. "We also intend to include such drones as domestic production in our inventory in the future," he said. Zaluzny also underlined that it is not enough to purchase them only, noting they need to learn to use them effectively. The Ukrainian Armed Forces purchased six Bayraktar TB2 UAVs and three ground control stations from Turkey in 2019, which were delivered in two months. In July this year, the first batch of TB2s was delivered to the Ukrainian Naval Forces.

The Bayraktar TB2 entered the Turkish army's inventory in 2014 and is currently used by several other countries, including Ukraine, Qatar and Azerbaijan. Turkey has used its cutting-edge drones effectively over the years in cross-border anti-terror military operations such as Euphrates Shield, Olive Branch and Spring Shield to liberate areas near the Syrian border from terrorist groups. Turkish drones are also said to have played a crucial role in last year's six-week war between Armenia and Azerbaijan. — APP

## 227 climate defenders killed globally

## AGENCIES

JAKARTA: At least 227 land and environment defenders were killed globally in 2020, an international rights group said on Monday. "Over half of attacks took place in just three countries: Colombia, Mexico and the Philippines," Global Witness said in a report. Colombia saw the highest number of killings in 2020, with 65 land and environmental defenders murdered, according to the report. The group said it documented 30 lethal attacks against land and environment defenders in Mexico last year, a 67% increase from 2019. Meanwhile, in the Philippines, 29 defenders were killed, with over half of the lethal attacks directly linked to their opposition to mining, logging, and dam projects, it added. The rights group said that 166 land and environment defenders have been killed in the Philippines between 2016 and 2020.

## Lebanon to receive \$1.13 billion from IMF

BEIRUT: Lebanon will receive \$1.3 billion from the IMF on Sept. 16, the country's finance ministry said on Monday. A ministry statement said that allocation will be in the IMF Special Drawing Rights (SDRs). The amount is comprised of \$860 million from 2021 and \$275 million from 2009, the statement said. In August, the IMF Board of Governors agreed to distribute a general allocation of SDRs equivalent to \$650 billion to the IMF members to address their needs of reserves and to foster stability of the global economy. The SDR is an international reserve asset, created by IMF in 1969, to supplement its member countries' official reserves. The last IMF's SDRs distribution was in 2009 where member countries received \$250 billion in SDR reserves to help ease global financial crisis. Since late 2019, Lebanon has been grappling with some of the severest domestic challenges, including currency devaluation which lost almost all of its value against the dollar, along with shortages of fuel and medicines. — APP

## Qatar FM says he urged Taliban govt to respect women's rights

"We have always urged the Taliban and the government, we reiterated that yesterday, that the Afghan people's gains must be protected including women's rights and their role in the development of Afghanistan"

## AGENCIES

DOHA: Qatar's foreign minister said on Monday the Gulf state has urged Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers to respect women's rights and that it was still too early to consider recognising their government. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani was speaking in a joint press conference with French foreign minister Jean-Yves Le Drian in Doha. Le Drian said dozens of French nationals are still in Afghanistan and Paris is working with Qatar to evacuate them. "We have always urged the Taliban and the government, we reiterated that yesterday, that the Afghan people's gains must be protected including women's rights and their role in the development of Afghanistan," Sheikh Mohammed said. During their previous 1996-2001 rule, the Taliban severely restricted women's rights, including banning them from education and work, and there are fears they may do so again following their return to power last month with the collapse of the Western-backed government and the withdrawal of foreign forces.



Qatar, an absolute monarchy where political parties are banned, has itself come under criticism from Human Rights Watch and others for its position on women. Although they have a relative freedom in the Gulf state, women are still under the

guardianship system that prevents them making independent decisions on basic rights such as marriage, travel and accessing reproductive health care without a male guardian's approval. In 2020, Qatar allowed women to obtain a driving license without permission. Sheikh Mohammed met with the Taliban government's prime minister and other senior officials in Kabul on Sunday. He said the Taliban had told Qatari officials they want to engage with the international community and for embassies, shuttered after it took over Kabul, to reopen. The Qatari and French ministers said the international community is waiting for the hardline Islamist group to fulfill its promises and that it was too early to discuss recognition of the new government in Kabul. "We believe keeping insisting on the issue of recognition right now is not going to be helpful for anyone. What we believe can be helpful and more constructive is to engage with them to make sure the commitments they have put forward will be implemented," Sheikh Mohammed said. Qatar has considerable influence over the Taliban and played a pivotal role in the US-led airlift of its own citizens, other foreign nationals and Afghans who helped Western countries. The capital Doha hosts the Taliban's political office, which oversees the negotiations with the United States that eventually led to the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan.

## Baku, China mull transport cooperation

BAKU: Azerbaijan's Transport, Communications and High Technologies Minister Rashad Nabiyevev and China's Transport Minister Li Xiaoping have discussed the current state of cooperation between the two countries in the field of transport and logistics, during an online videoconference. During the meeting, the parties also discussed China's support for the transit of Chinese goods through Azerbaijan's territory. Chinese minister noted the importance of developing bilateral relations between the two countries in the field of transport and logistics. Moreover, the ministers agreed that major Chinese transport companies would support a transit route through Azerbaijan. The sides also discussed China's support in using the potential of the Trans-Caspian international transport route in transporting goods. Furthermore, it was emphasized that Azerbaijan supports China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative. Meanwhile, the two countries agreed to improve the regulatory frameworks. Chinese minister stated that his country is ready to support infrastructure, transport and logistics development projects in Azerbaijan. For more effective implementation of cooperation, the parties agreed to create a working group on transport, led by the deputy ministers. — APP

## The Week of Cultural Heritage starts in Tashkent

## DNA

TASHKENT: The 5th International Congress "Study, Preservation and Popularization of the Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan at the Present Stage" will be held as part of the Cultural Heritage Week, which will be held in Tashkent and other cities of Uzbekistan from 13 to 21 September this year. The events are held with the organizational and financial support of the government of Uzbekistan. The congress will take place within the framework of the international forum in Khiva "Central Asia at the crossroads of world civilizations", held under the auspices of UNESCO. The main event of the event will be the presentation of 40 new illustrated book-lets from the series "Cultural heritage of Uzbekistan in the collections of the world." During the pandemic, the research ac-



tivities of the World Society for the Study, Preservation and Popularization of the Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan not only did not stop, but also turned out to be successful. Dozens of world and domestic orientologists specializing in the study of the cultural heritage of Uzbekistan have prepared materials for new books. "We are grateful to the government of Uzbekistan, which supports our project to preserve the cultural her-

itage of Uzbekistan. During the pandemic, we managed to establish close contact and fruitful work with authors from Hungary, Russia, Great Britain, France and a number of other countries. The result of this work was the publication of an unprecedented number of unique books - 40. I would like to thank the authors for their tireless work and express condolences to the loved ones of those who passed away during this

## Pakistan fulfilling obligations under IAEA

## DNA

VIENNA: Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher delivered a statement at the ongoing meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna. Speaking under the agenda item "Nuclear and Radiation Safety", Ambassador Khokher stated that as a country with longstanding experience in the field of nuclear power generation, as well as in the use of nuclear technology in medicine, industry and agriculture, Pakistan attached the utmost importance to nuclear and radiation safety. He said that as a party to several international conventions related to nuclear and radiation safety, Pakistan was fulfilling its obligations to ensure safe and secure operation of nuclear power plants and related facilities. He highlighted that Pakistan has an independent nuclear regulatory



body i.e. Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority, which ensures compliance with the highest safety standards issued by the IAEA. Along with the annual General Conference, the Board of Governors is one of the two highest policy-making bodies of the IAEA. Pakistan serves regularly on the IAEA Board of Governors and contributes to its deliberations which is a recognition of Pakistan's achievements in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

## Malaysia PM to sign pact with opposition

KUALA LAMPUR: Malaysia's Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob will sign a cooperation agreement with the country's opposition that is designed to shore up his support and end months of political instability as the government grapples with a surge in COVID-19 driven by the Delta variant. The agreement is due to be signed at 5pm (13:00 GMT) on Monday, representatives from the government and opposition announced in a statement on Sunday evening. Malaysia's parliament began sitting on Monday for the first time since Ismail Sabri, a senior member of the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), took power following last month's resignation of his predecessor Muhyiddin Yassin. King Al-Sultan Abdullah, a constitutional monarch, has urged the new prime minister to hold a confidence vote to prove his support although not date for the vote has yet been set. As he opened the session, the king welcomed the cooperation agreement and urged lawmakers to remember their status as representatives of the people. "I have received hundreds of letters from the people who shared their grievances and hope to get back to their normal life soon," state news agency Bernama reported the king as saying. "My advice to all MPs is not to put the future of my country and my people at stake to achieve a certain agenda." — APP

## Bangladesh reopens schools after 18-month

## AGENCIES

DHAKA: For the first time in 18 months, Adnan Hasan finds himself wearing his school uniform - a crisp white shirt and blue pants - and standing in a queue. The fifth-grader, wearing a mask, waited before the arched gate of capital Dhaka's Udayan School on Sunday, as hundreds of thousands of children in Bangladesh returned to their classrooms after 543 days - one of the world's longest coronavirus shutdowns. As children waited to enter Udayan School, two workers stood at the gate, dispensing hand sanitiser to those entering, while the other checked their temperatures with a

thermometer. The last time Hasan passed through this gate in March last year, he was not standing in a queue nor was his temperature checked. They also did not need to wear a mask. But the pandemic changed everything, forcing millions of children like him across the world to stay home. In a report last week, UNICEF warned that prolonged school closures during the COVID crisis accentuated "alarming inequities" for more than 430 million children in South Asia. "School closures in South Asia have forced hundreds of millions of children and their teachers to transition to remote learning in a region with low connectivity and device affordability."



ISLAMABAD: Azerbaijan ambassador to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov meet with Aqsa Nawaz, Director General of CARs & ECO Division of MFA of Pakistan. Both sides discussed the current level of bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and Pakistan & agreed to work together to further strengthen and deepen our relations. — DNA

## Azerbaijan, Turkey mull multilateral co-op

He highly appreciated Azerbaijan's assistance in extinguishing fires in Turkey and expressed his gratitude

## DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov and Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Faruk Kaymakci have discussed ways of strengthening cooperation in multilateral platforms, the Foreign Ministry reported on September 13. At the meeting held in Baku on September 13, Bayramov pointed out the extensive agenda of the existing and dynamically developing bilateral cooperation between the two fraternal countries. He also stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation on multilateral platforms. Kaymakci conveyed the greetings of Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu and expressed satisfaction with the development of a strategic partnership between the two countries. He highly appreciated Azerbaijan's assistance in extinguishing fires in Turkey and expressed his gratitude. The parties also exchanged views on cooperation within the framework of international organiza-

tions, including the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, the Organization for Economic Cooperation, and the Turkic Council. During the 44-day war with Armenia in 2020, Turkey was among the first countries voicing political support for Azerbaijan. Turkey also backs Azerbaijan in the res-

toration of the country's liberated territories. On June 15, 2021, Azerbaijan and Turkey signed a memorandum of alliance that cemented the existing military, political and economic cooperation. The Shusha Declaration on Allied Relations that President Ilham Aliyev and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan signed during the first official visit to Shusha eight months after Azerbaijan's victory in the war with Armenia, also focuses on defence cooperation. It affirms joint efforts by the two armies in the face of foreign threats. The declaration also pledges joint efforts for the restructuring and modernization of the armed forces.

Moreover, the two nations affirm to encourage the execution of joint projects with the aim of developing capabilities in the field of sea, air, and space. Azerbaijan and Turkey cooperate in various fields of economy and have jointly completed giant energy and infrastructure projects such as Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan, Baku-Tbilisi-Kars and TANAP. Eleven agreements were signed between the two countries within the Azerbaijani-Turkish business forum held in Ankara on February 18. The agreements envisage the development of the Azerbaijani-Turkish cooperation in the economic, trade, and other spheres.

The two countries set up a goal to bring the mutual trade turnover to \$15 billion in 2023. It should be noted that so far, Turkey is Azerbaijan's second-largest investor followed by the UK. In the first seven months of 2021, the trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Turkey amounted to \$2.5 billion. The trade turnover between the two countries amounted to \$4.1 billion in 2020.



## Abducted students freed in NW Nigeria

KANO: Nigerian gunmen have freed dozens of schoolchildren kidnapped this month in northwest Zamfara State, according to the local government, after an army crackdown helped end the one of a series of mass abductions of pupils this year. Nigerian troops also came under attack in Zamfara at the weekend after an armed group raided a military base there killing 12 security officials, while gunmen stormed a jail in another central state and freed scores of inmates. Security forces began operations in Zamfara a week ago against heavily armed criminal gangs known as bandits. Local authorities also shut down telecoms completely across the state to disrupt bandit communications. The largest most recent military operation on criminal gangs came after more than 70 students and some teachers were snatched from the Kaya school in Zamfara on September 1. — Agencies



## Briefs

### UK cancels vaccine deal with Franco-Austrian firm

AGENCIES

PARIS: The British government has terminated a supply deal for a potential Covid jab being developed by French-Austrian biotech laboratory Valneva, the firm said on Monday.

Britain had ordered 100 million doses of the vaccine for 2021-2022 - the only order so far for Valneva, which has a production facility in Scotland. Valneva said in a statement it "strenuously denies" allegations from Britain that it breached its obligations under the deal.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's spokesman did not comment on the specifics of the company's claim but pointed out that Valneva's vaccine candidate was not yet approved. "The comments from the company won't have any impact on our vaccine supply and did not form any part of our vaccine rollout in autumn and winter," he said.

Unlike most high-profile coronavirus shots, which use various methods to prime the immune system to fight the coronavirus, Valneva's VLA2001 is based on an "inactivated" version of the coronavirus itself.

The laboratory had said Phase 1 and 2 trials suggested its vaccine would be more than 80 percent effective. Valneva confirmed on Monday it had received a "termination notice" despite having "worked tirelessly" on its UK collaboration.

### Taliban claim seizing \$6m from Saleh's residence

AGENCIES

KABUL: In a now-viral video, the Taliban have claimed that they have seized up to six million dollars and about 15 bricks of gold from the residence of former Afghan vice-president Amrullah Saleh, reported The Khaama Press News Agency on Monday.

However, no comments have been received from Amrullah Saleh in this regard. Earlier, the Taliban swept to power last month and they said they had captured the Panjshir valley, the last holdout province, though the resistance has not conceded defeat.

The capture of Panjshir was a significant achievement for the Taliban, who had never been able to hold the valley. The group posted photos of its fighters standing in front of the provincial governor's compound; much of the province is composed of smaller, remote mountain valleys that provide areas for opposition forces to regroup.

Last week, the ousted Afghan government's ambassador to Tajikistan had said Panjshiri leader Ahmad Shah Massoud and Amrullah Saleh had not fled Afghanistan and their resistance forces are still fighting the Taliban.

Zahir Aghbar, envoy to Dushanbe under the government of ousted Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, told a news conference in Tajikistan's capital that he was in regular contact with Saleh and that the resistance leaders were out of general communication for security reasons.

### First PIA flight lands at Kabul

KABUL: The first PIA flight landed at Kabul Airport on Monday after the new interim setup in Afghanistan. The PIA crew took foreign journalists to Kabul and returned with a team of World Bank and international media organizations.

This was the first international passenger flight after the new setup in Kabul. In a statement, Chief Executive Officer PIA Air Marshal Arshad Malik said the objective of the flight is to promote goodwill between Pakistan and Afghanistan. He said this flight operation is very important for PIA and the entire world.

The PIA CEO expressed hope that the flight operation would soon be fully restored. - APP

# Cantt Board Elections final results PML-N sweeps Punjab: PTI wins KPK majority seats

PTI bags 63 seats, followed by PML-N's 59; PML-N takes big victory in Punjab, PTI comes on top in KP

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: PTI emerged as the biggest winner in cantonment board elections held across Pakistan on Sunday. According to the preliminary, unofficial results, PTI obtained 63 seats, closely followed by PML-N which won 59. Independent candidates bagged 52 seats. Among the Opposition parties, PPP won 17, the Jamaat-e-Islami seven and Awami National Party two. Of the allied parties, MQM won 10, whereas Balochistan Awami Party secured two. PTI won the most number of seats in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa - 18 - followed by 28 in Punjab, 14 in Sindh and three in Balochistan. PML-N won big in Punjab, bagging 51 seats, managing only five in KP, three in Sindh and

none in Balochistan. Reacting to the ruling party's victory, federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar said: "Cantonment elections once again show the PTI not only as the largest party but also the only national party." He said that the PTI had won either the highest or the second highest number of seats in every province. "Prime Minister Imran Khan [is the] only national leader," he said. Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry said that the competition was between PTI ticket holders and workers who contested the polls as independent candidates after being unable to get party tickets. "The results of the cantonment polls show that the opposition has lost what little standing it had left and [it] has been badly

defeated," he said. PPP was surprisingly unable to defeat PTI in Sindh, instead tying with them for 14 seats. The remaining three seats were won in KP, meaning none were won in either Punjab or Balochistan. Independent candidates scored big in Punjab, bagging 32 seats. They secured nine in KP, seven in Sindh and four in Balochistan. MQM won all of its 10 seats in Sindh, whereas JI won five in Sindh and two in Punjab. ANP won two seats in KP, whereas BAP won two in Balochistan. In Sunday's polls, 684 independent candidates from across the country were in the fray while 876 candidates from political parties were contesting. The highest number of candidates - 183 - were fielded by PTI, while 144 were

from PML-N, 113 from PPP, 104 from Jamaat-e-Islami, 42 from Muttahida Qaumi Movement, 35 from Pak Sarzamin Party, 34 from PML-Q and 25 candidates from JUI-F. Furthermore, 83 candidates of the banned Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan also contested the polls. Of the candidates vying for the total 219 wards across 42 cantonment boards, seven candidates were already elected unopposed. Therefore, the race was held for 212 seats. In addition, there was no competition in four wards of Kamra, none in one ward of Rawalpindi and none in one ward of Pano Aqil. The polling process started at 8am and continued till 5pm. Voters inside the polling station were able to cast their votes despite polling time ending. The gates were closed for those queued outside.

## Malaysia pledges USD 100,000 for Afghanistan

Dato Saifuddin Abdullah says security of Afghans top priority

DNA

KUALA LUMPUR: YB Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, participated virtually in a United Nations' High-level Ministerial Meeting on the Humanitarian Situation in Afghanistan on 13 September 2021. The emergency Meeting was convened by António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General to demonstrate solidarity for the people of Afghanistan and to issue a flash appeal for funding and support by the international community to address the acute humanitarian needs in Afghanistan.

Foreign Minister further pledged financial contribution from Malaysia amounting to USD100,000 to help alleviate the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. The UN Secretary-General highlighted the urgent need for USD 604 million to support 11 million Afghan people for the next four months. In YB Foreign Minister's intervention during the Meeting, he stressed that the safety, security, human rights and the wellbeing of all Afghan people and other nationals in the country must be given priority and be protected, and pushed for immediate, safe and unhindered humanitarian access.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov presenting books on Azerbaijan to Chief Editor Daily Islamabad POST, Centreline and DNA News Agency Ansar Mahmood Bhatti, during a meeting at the Embassy. Ambassador Khazar hoped during his tenure bilateral relations between the two countries shall further be strengthened. He also thanked Pakistan govt and people of Pakistan for extending whole-hearted support during Azerbaijan war with Armenia. - DNA

## Phase 2 of CPEC initiated

Phase 1 of the project had an investment of \$25bn which was mainly divided in power projects and developing infrastructure

ARIJ GHAZNAVI

ISLAMABAD: The beginning of Phase 2 of the CPEC project has begun, this progress update was provided at the press conference held on Monday. In the conference Khalid Mansoor briefed the media about the ongoing progress of the CPEC project and highlighted the steps being taken in phase 2 of the project. Phase 1 of the project had an investment of \$25 billion which was mainly divided in power projects and developing infrastructure. The Phase 2 of the project focuses on bringing for-



eign investors, as of now 8 companies have invested in Pakistan through the project. These companies are focusing on developing and providing; two and three wheel electric vehicles,

pre-fabricated homes in Pakistan, LED lights, ceramic tiles, detergent (Liquid and Solid), agricultural products and solution, OPPO smartphone assembly, and making apparels for top brands

throughout the world. The CPEC authority is providing SEZs for existing and future investors in order to start one window operations, this phase is dedicated towards assisting the investors and making sure that the process of investing is made smooth and efficient. The authority also highlighted the improvement of security situation of CPEC projects where all necessary precautions are being taken to safeguard the investors. Phase 2 is already showing promising results with around \$845 million of investment already been made.

## Oil sector in balance as Norway votes

A clear majority is emerging to unseat Prime Minister Erna Solberg's centre-right government

OSLO: Norway's "Red-Green" opposition was seen winning Monday's general election, a change of power that could potentially impact oil activities in the largest producer in Western Europe. First estimates based on advance ballots were to be released when voting ends at 9:00 pm. According to opinion polls, a clear majority is emerging to unseat Prime Minister Erna Solberg's centre-right government, which has ruled the Nordic country for the last eight years. The leader of Norway's

Labour Party, Jonas Gahr Store, a 61-year-old millionaire who has campaigned against social inequality, seems well placed to succeed her, but the exact shape of the coalition needed to pave his way to office is still unclear. His party's preferred allies are the agrarian Centre Party and the Socialist Left Party, but if they are unable to reach a majority on their own they might depend on the support of the Green Party and the communist Red Party, potentially complicating negotiations. - APP

## Pak-Tajikistan to sign transit trade agreement



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood on Monday said transit trade agreement between Pakistan and Tajikistan would be signed soon, which help increase trade between the two countries. Increasing transit trade between the two countries would be a new beginning for the region's bilateral economic and trade ties, as well as facilitating contacts with other countries, said a

news release issued here. The Advisor said Pakistan was also working to promote bilateral trade and economic connectivity with the rest of Central Asian states. Razak Dawood said Prime Minister Imran Khan would also attend an investment and trade conference held in Tajikistan during his upcoming visit to Tajikistan starting from September 15. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Imran Khan would meet the leaders of various countries in the region and also meet the business community of Tajikistan, he said. He said during the visit, the Prime Minister would be accompanied by a delegation of local businessmen to hold talks with Business Quantum for promoting trade. In addition, Prime Minister Imran Khan would sign various bilateral agreements during his visit to Tajikistan and would also hold talks for promoting bilateral trade in few potential sectors.

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## Uzbekistan deports illegal Afghan entrants

DNA

BAKU: Uzbekistan deported all Afghan servicemen and nationals to an unspecified country on Sept. 12-13 after they illegally crossed the border from Afghanistan during the Taliban takeover, the foreign ministry said in a statement on Monday. Many Afghans rushed across the land border with Uzbekistan as violence surged with the withdrawal of U.S.-led forces and the Taliban's lightning takeover of most of the country. In mid August, Uzbekistan's foreign ministry said that the first group of 84 Afghan soldiers made no attempts to resist when Uzbek border guards detained them but instead sought medical help.

## IPEMC to pass all students of grade 10, 12

MONITORING DESK

ISLAMABAD: The Inter-Provincial Education Ministers Conference (IPEMC) on Monday decided to pass all students of grade 10 and 12, sources at the Ministry of Federal Education told media. Under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Education Shafiqat Mehmood, it was decided that the students who fail will be given 33 grace marks. During the conference, the education ministers decided that keeping in view the situation of COVID-19, immediate re-examination was not possible.

## Sindh receives over 320,000 Pfizer jabs

DNA

KARACHI: The Sindh Government on Monday received 320,580 new Pfizer vaccine doses sent by the United States through the COVAX facility, the US State Department said in a press release. Pakistan recorded 2,988 Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours. At least 67 more coronavirus related deaths were reported in the country during the same time period. According to the National Command and Operation Centre statistics, 53,158 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours and the positivity ratio was recorded at 5.32 pc. US Consul General Mark Stroh and Sindh Minister of Health and Population Welfare welcomed the shipment which is part of a 6.6 million dose tranche of vaccine the United States has sent to Pakistan.