



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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COAS lauds combat readiness and training standards of troops

Detailed News On Page-08

Indonesian envoy stresses more trade ties

Detailed News On Page-07



China hails Pakistan as special partner

Detailed News On Page-08



Briefs

Putin in self-isolation

AGENCIES

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin entered self-isolation after people in his inner circle became infected with the coronavirus, the Kremlin said Tuesday, adding that the leader himself tested negative for Covid. Putin, who is fully vaccinated with Russia's Sputnik V, held several public engagements indoors Monday and even said that he may have to quarantine soon. An aide at the time sought to suggest he was speaking generally and insisted Tuesday that no one's health was endangered. During a daily conference call with reporters, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Putin, 68, is "absolutely healthy" but had come in contact with someone who contracted the virus.

Media freedom vital, says Shehbaz

DNA

LAHORE: President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Mian Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that freedom of media is central to survival of democracy. Opposition Leader Shehbaz Sharif, in a tweet, said that journalists of the country have waged a long and hard struggle to earn this freedom. Shehbaz Sharif reiterated that all opposition political parties stand by the media bodies and said that together, we will thwart the government's plan to take that freedom away. A day earlier, opposition termed PMDA bill as 'black law' and vows to stand with journalists.

Qari Fasihuddin new Afghan army chief

DNA

KABUL: Senior Taliban leader Qari Fasihuddin has taken charge as the new army chief of Afghanistan. The state Bakhtar News Agency broke the news on their official Twitter account on Tuesday. BNA posted a picture of Fasihuddin sitting on the chair of the Afghan army chief, saying that the new army chief has taken office.

Schools reopen as Covid cases show decline

Asad says the situation has now improved in eighteen districts while restrictions will stay in place in the remaining six districts till 22nd of this month

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar has said that the positive cases of COVID-19 are gradually coming down in the country. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad on Tuesday, he was confident that the situation will further improve in the next fifteen days and reduce the existing pressure on the hospitals. He however warned that the threat is not over. The Minister for Planning said tougher restrictions were imposed in twenty four districts earlier this month to curb the spread of the virus. He expressed satisfaction that the situation has now improved in eighteen districts. He said that the high degree of restrictions will stay in place in the remaining six districts till 22nd of this month. These include Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, Sargodha, Gujarat and Bannu. The Minister for Planning said that educational institutions are being

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Major drop in active cases

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases fell to 85,801 on Tuesday as 2,580 more people tested positive for the virus, while 7,240 people made full recovery from the disease in the last 24 hours, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). Some 47,419 tests were conducted across the country on Monday. A day earlier, Pakistan reported 2,988 new infections in a single day. It was the first time in more than a month that Pakistan had reported less than 3,000 coronavirus cases. Before this, the daily case

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Reforms in criminal justice system on cards

The cabinet rejected the proposal of giving 10 percent adhoc relief to lawmakers



ARIJ GHAZNAVI

ISLAMABAD: Federal cabinet at its meeting chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan in Islamabad on Tuesday decided to introduce comprehensive reforms in the criminal justice system. Minister for Law Farogh Naseem gave a detailed briefing to the meeting about the proposed criminal law reforms. Briefing the

media about the decisions taken in the cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Minister for Information Minister Chaudhary Fawad Hussain said these reforms will change the entire system of criminal justice and address matters relating to delay in trials and registration of FIRs. The Information Minister said that improving the justice system is on the agenda of Prime Minister Imran Khan. He said this matter will now be discussed in the Cabinet Committee on law and then these reforms will be enforced. Fawad said the reforms would fulfill Prime Minister Imran Khan's agenda of improvement in the criminal justice system to ensure timely justice. He said the focus of reforms would be inexpensive and timely provision of justice besides ending delay in trial and hurdles in registration of First Information Report (FIR). He said now the matter would be discussed in the Cabinet Committee on Law and Justice and after that it would be implemented.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: PM Imran Khan chairing meeting of federal cabinet. – DNA



KABUL: Pakistan's Ambassador to Afghanistan Mansoor Ahmed Khan called on new Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi and discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation particularly facilitating humanitarian, economic and people to people exchanges. – DNA

Imran, Putin discuss Afghanistan
Pakistan PM calls for early completion of gas projects



ALI FURQAN

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday received a telephone call from Russian President Vladimir Putin wherein both the leaders discussed latest situation in Afghanistan and other matters. Recalling their earlier telephone conversation of August 25 this year, the two leaders exchanged views on the latest developments of Afghanistan, bilateral co-operation and collaboration in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), according to a statement issued by the PM Office. The prime minister underscored the importance of peace and stability in Afghanistan for regional security and prosperity. He emphasised the urgent need for the provision of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan and the imperative of averting an economic crisis. PM Imran underlined the need for the international community to remain engaged in Afghanistan. He stressed that the Afghan people should not be abandoned at this crucial juncture. The premier stressed that close coordination and consultations between Pakistan and Russia on the evolving situation in Afghanistan are of crucial importance.

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Afghanistan urges donors to restart aid

Muttaqi says Afghanistan has already received aid from countries such as Pak, Qatar and Uzbekistan

NEWS DESK

Pakistan envoy meets Afghan FM

Both sides discussed strengthening bilateral co-op

DNA

KABUL: Pakistan's envoy to Afghanistan Mansoor Ahmed Khan Tuesday called on Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in the first meeting since the Taliban name the new government. According to the report of the state broadcaster, both sides discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation, particularly facilitating humanitarian, economic, and people-to-people exchanges in the recent meeting. Furthermore, Afghan's incumbent Finance Minister Hedayatullah Badri also held a discussion on economic, financial, and banking issues. Recently, Pakistan has provided humanitarian assistance to the war-racked country in dispatching tons of food and medical supplies. Pakistan also contributed to the evacuation efforts besides calling on the international community to have a positive engagement with Afghanistan.

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Iran wants to promote digital markets with Pakistan: Envoy – Page 04

Initial Taliban moves fail to convince neighbours – Page 05

Pak would recognize Taliban govt. when it honors pledges – Page 06

Indonesian envoy stresses more trade ties with Pakistan – Page 07

China hails Pakistan as special partner at China-ASEAN Expo – Page 08

Tareen announces targeted subsidies from this month

Subsidy will provide relief to common people

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin has said the government will start giving targeted subsidies from this month to the weak segments of society on essential commodities including sugar, flour and pulses. Addressing a news conference along with Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib and Special Assistant on Food Security Jamshed Cheema, he said the targeted subsidy will be in the form of cash assistance, which will cover thirty five to forty percent population.

The Finance Minister said the government is also focusing on bolstering the agriculture productivity. In the medium to long term, commodity warehouses, cold storages and agri malls will be established with the aim to eliminate the role of

middle man and ensure that the farmers get due price of their products. He said strategic reserves of major commodities are also being built in order to ensure smooth supplies in the market. The Finance Minister said that the prices of wheat will



see decline in the coming days. Shaukat Tarin said the government has tried its level best not to fully pass on to the masses the impact of international increase in the prices of commodities. He pointed out that sugar prices increased by forty eight percent in the world market but we only creased its price by eleven percent. Palm oil saw an increase of fifty percent but we increased the price by thirty three to thirty five percent. Similarly the prices of crude oil and wheat were not enhanced as per the international market.

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ICCI CORPORATE CLASS (CM)

CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF ICCI
ISLAMABAD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
VOTE FOR FOUNDER GROUP



Muhammad Umar Riaz
Monal
M/s Asian Wok
(CM-4127)

ELECTION DATE:
Thursday, 16 SEP, 2021
POLLING TIME:
9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM
VENUE:
ICCI G-8/1



Briefs

KP Assembly starts debate on Afghanistan

DNA

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Tuesday started debate on Afghanistan situation on an adjournment motion moved by the legislator of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Ahmad Kundi.

Speaking on the occasion, the legislators urged the government to take the emerging situation in the neighbouring country very seriously as it would have repercussions on law and order in Pakistan.

Initiating the debate Ahmed Kundi said that Pakistan wanted to see a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan as it was imperative for stability and peace in the region.

He said non-serious statements should be avoided over the issue as it could affect our foreign policy as well as law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said Kabul was a stronghold of resistant groups before takeover of the power by Afghan Taliban while Delhi was the operative behind those forces. Salahuddin of ANP and Malik Badshah Saleh of PPP said peace in Afghanistan was imperative for peace and stability in the whole region, adding that the world communities should have to accept Afghanistan as a sovereign state and support its people. The House would continue the debate in next proceedings.

CM aide reviews tourism dept performance

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Adviser to Chief Minister on Tourism Asif Mehmood Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the three-year progress of the Tourism Department. Secretary Tourism Capt (ret'd) Mushtaq Ahmed, Additional Secretary Kalsoom Saqib, DG Archaeology Ilyas Gill, MD TDCP Tanveer Jabbar, Deputy Secretary Planning Waqas Ahmed attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the managing director Tourism Development Corporation Punjab (TDCP) and DG Archaeology gave briefing about the important steps taken for development of tourism in Punjab.

The DG Archaeology said that Archaeological Directorate had completed 13 schemes in three years. He said these schemes including protection/ restoration and upgrading of Taxila, Hiran Minar, museum galleries, mausoleums etc., had been pending for 10 years. The adviser was briefed about Punjab's first tourism policy, establishment of Tourism Department and formation of tourism squad in Punjab. He was informed that the online portal of Department of Tourist Services (DTS) had been activated and Punjab Tourism Application had been made operational.

Regarding provision of facilities for tourists, the adviser was informed about steps to promote religious tourism in Taxila, along with restoration of Bhai Karam Singh Gurdwara, Afghana mosque, Rohtas Fort, Suri Gallery and others.

40 more test positive for Covid in Balochistan

QUETTA: About 40 new coronavirus patients were tested positive in Balochistan while number of total confirmed patients surged to 31702 in the province on Tuesday. According to media coordinator provincial Health Directorate Cell Balochistan Dr. Muhammad Wasim Baig, at least 1090009 people were screened for the virus till September 14 out of which 40 more were reported positive.

As many as 31037 affected patients have been recovered from the coronavirus so far while 344 deaths were recorded due to the deadly virus in Balochistan. — APP

DC Faisalabad lauds establishment of DMC

DC says that the district administration would extend all possible support to FIEDMC to remove the obstacles in the way of this important project under CPEC



ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Ali Shehzad paid a detailed visit to Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development Management Company (FIEDMC) Camp Office M3 Industrial City and Allama Iqbal Industrial Estate. He was accompanied by SSP Operations Muhammad Afzal. AC Chak Jhumra Mohammad Haider and other officers were also present. Acting CEO Rana Mohammad Yousuf briefed the Deputy Commissioner and SSP on the development work and law and order situation. The Deputy Commissioner

briefed on the development work on Allama Iqbal Industrial Estate. DC said that the district administration would extend all possible support to FIEDMC to remove the obstacles in the way of this important project under CPEC.

He said that Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar have keen interest regarding Allama Iqbal Industrial Estate development and due to which this project will be completed very soon.

He appreciated the establishment of Disaster Management Cell (DMC) and said that all facilities would be provided

for the promotion of commercial activities. He also took briefing on Furniture City, Health City and ongoing development work in Allama Iqbal Industrial City and told that a special economic zone to be set up under CPEC under FIEDMC, including the commencement of work on Weaving City and setting up of One Window Service Center. He said that Allama Iqbal Industrial City is being heavily invested in a very short span of time. SSP Operations noted that full protection is being provided to domestic and foreign investors by the district police, which will be maintained.

FESCO provides electricity to 170 villages in region

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has electrified 170 villages in its region during the current year with an estimated cost of Rs.460 million. According to details, the FESCO construction directorate also completed 142 Low-Tension (LT) proposals and seven High-Tension (HT) proposals during this period and spent Rs 460.101 million on these projects. One special directive of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) FESCO Engr. Bashir Ahmed, under the supervision of Pro-

ject Director (PD) Construction FESCO Mian Anwar Project Directorate spent Rs 62.656 million on completion of 2 HT proposals in Faisalabad, Rs 19.322 million on 2 HT proposals in Jhang, Rs 10.859 million on one HT proposal in Sargodha and Rs 76.539 million on 2 HT proposals in Mianwali. Similarly, Rs 21.678 million were spent on electrification of 26 villages in Faisalabad, Rs 48.11 million on electrification of 43 villages in Jhang, Rs 75.582 million on electrification of 56 villages in Mianwali and Rs 72.875 million on electrification of 45 villages in Sargodha.

US CG hands over vaccines to Punjab health minister

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: United States (US) Consul General (CG) in Lahore William Makaleone Tuesday handed 320,580 Pfizer coronavirus vaccine doses to Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid during a ceremony at the Expo Centre coronavirus vaccination mega centre here. Speaking at the ceremony, William Makaleone said he was pleased to announce a donation of 320,580 Pfizer doses for the people of Lahore, adding that the same number of coronavirus vaccine doses had been delivered for Multan and Faisalabad as well. Public Affairs Officer US Consulate Lahore Bryce A Isham, Director General (DG) Health Services Punjab Dr Haroon Jahangir and other officials were present



during the ceremony. The diplomat said the US government had donated 15.8 million coronavirus vaccine doses to Pakistan so far as part of US President Joe Biden's efforts to save the world from the deadly virus. Quoting President Biden, CG William Makaleone said the United States was the arsenal of vaccines in common war of

the world against coronavirus pandemic. He said the US government had purchased 500 million doses of vaccine to donate to 92 countries of the world including Pakistan, adding that those vaccine doses were being distributed through Covax. William Makaleone said the US mission had provided \$63 million in Covid-19 sup-

port besides the vaccine.

In her address, Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid acknowledged the magnanimous US support in fighting Covid-19 pandemic, adding that she was thankful to the US government and people for the donation of the Pfizer vaccine for the people of Lahore by the US people. She said 39 million vaccine doses had so far been administered to people in Punjab. The minister said the large number of Pfizer vaccine doses would help inoculate the youth between 15 and 18 years of age, adding that 3.8 million people had been administered coronavirus vaccine in Lahore only, to date. She said that 87 per cent of the patients in hospitals in the province consisted of those who did not get vaccine, while 95 per cent of the critical patients were the non-vaccinated persons.

Emergency dept. inaugurated at DHQ Bajaur

STAFF REPORT

PESHAWAR: New emergency department has been established by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital Bajaur to strengthen the healthcare facilities in Merged Areas. The newly built 26-bed facility, equipped with operation theatres and other required equipment and facilities, was formally inaugurated by the Dr. Atta Ullah Khan, Deputy Chief Health System Reforms Unit Health Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday. A ceremony was organized on this occasion which was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Bajaur Hamza Zahoor, District Health Officer Bajaur Faisal Kamal, officials of the ICRC and DHQ hospital Bajaur. The Chief Guest Dr. Atta Ullah Khan, Deputy Chief Health System Reforms Unit Health Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in his address said that the newly established facility will provide efficient and appropriate healthcare services to the people of Bajaur. He also appreciated the efforts of the ICRC for building a state of the art emergency department which is equipped with all modern

facilities. He added that improvement of healthcare facilities in Merged Areas is a priority of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, and we are committed to provide best health facilities to the people of these areas.

Health Program Manager at the ICRC Sub Delegation Peshawar, Issa Ahmed Dahir, said that the ICRC is focusing on development of the emergency departments at secondary level health facilities in Merged Areas and is currently supporting emergency departments of four (04) hospitals in KP including merged areas. ICRC is also supporting emergency services at the largest health facility of the province Lady Reading Hospital Peshawar, he said adding that ICRC would providing the technical and material support to Health Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in institution strengthening, equipment supports and infrastructural modifications to strengthen its healthcare system. Speaking on the occasion, the Head of the Sub Delegation ICRC Peshawar Farrukh Isomov, said that the ICRC is committed to extend its expertise in the field of health and will continue its work in a coordinated manner with the authorities and credible national partners.

Covid claims 15 more patients, infects 703

DNA

KARACHI: As many as 15 more patients of Coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 7,192 and 703 new cases emerged when 15,728 tests were conducted.

This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Tuesday. He added that 15 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 7,192 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate.

Murad Ali Shah said that 15,728 samples were tested which detected 703 cases that constituted 4.5 percent current detection rate.

He added that so far 5,780,943 tests have been conducted against which 446,233 cases were diagnosed, of them 89.7 percent or 400,027 patients have recovered, including 6634 overnight.

The CM said that currently 39,014 patients were under treatment, of them 38,305 were in home isolation, 35 at isolation centers and 674 at different hospitals.

He added that the condition of 599 patients was stated to be critical, including 49 shifted to ventilators.

AIOU to construct new campus in Dir Lower

DIR LOWER: Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Prof. Dr. Zia-ul-Qayyum here Tuesday said that a meeting with Deputy Commissioner Dir Lower was convened to discuss construction of the varsity's campus in the district. He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony held at a local hotel in connection with his visit to the district. He said that AIOU is among the leading educational institutions of the country and more than 2.1 million students were studying and getting online education in various faculties of the varsity.

VC AIOU said that AIOU has 55 offices throughout the country and management of the varsity was striving to construct more campuses in various areas of the country.

The ceremony besides others was attended by Director General Regional Services AIOU, Inamullah Sheikh, Assistant Regional Director Timergara, Moaz Ahmed Sahib, Principal Tangay, Rahatullah, SS Lal Qila, Bahadur Khan and Principal Chakdara, Ayaz Khan. — APP

E-Filing pilot project to be launched

STAFF REPORT

MULTAN: A committee formed to launch e-filing system in South Punjab Secretariat decided to introduce a pilot project in the agriculture department.

A meeting of the committee formed on the direction of Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) South Punjab Saqib Zafar was held under the chairmanship of Secretary Agriculture South, Saqib Ali Ateel here on Tuesday.

Additional Secretary, Deputy Secretary Finance and officials of Punjab Information Technology Board attended the meeting.

Secretary Planning and Development South Punjab attended the meeting through video link.

Addressing the meeting, Saqib Ali Ateel said that e-filing system would be implemented in all administrative departments in phases because the ACS wanted to bring lightning speed in office affairs.

He informed that it took time to use modern technology in offices. Secretary Planning and Development Shoaib Iqbal Syed said that apart from e-filing, hard copy of documents was also required for handling financial matters so that there is no difficulty in handling audit matters.

Additional Secretary Rana Rizwan Qadeer said that Punjab Information Technology Board to secure the data, archive folder should be added in the system and access to e-filing system should be facilitated.

He said that timeline should be fixed for e-filing so that no case would be delayed.

Special economic zones to attract investors in Sindh

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Special Assistant to Chief Minister (SACM) Sindh on Investment Department and Public Private Partnership Projects Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar Tuesday said that establishing Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the province were aimed at to attract industrialists and investors. This he said while presiding over a meeting on the progress of Khairpur Special Economic Zone (KSEZ) here at his office.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Sindh Special Economic Zones Management Company, Abdul Azeem Uqaili also attended the meeting.

On the occasion, Chief Executive Officer Abdul Azeem briefed the Special Assistant to Chief Minister Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar regarding measures to enhance the performance of Khairpur Special Economic Zone. He added that almost 85% of plots were already allotted and the zone provided an excellent infrastructure and other facilities to the investors.

The Chief Minister aide asked the officials to expedite work on SEZs in Sindh because it would bring prosperity, job opportunities for locals and to boost up economy.

He said that we were providing a better working environment for locals, national and international investors to establish their industries in these Special Economic Zones.

Scientists urged to address agricultural problems

UAF Treasurer Umar Saeed Qadri says that command over advancement in the management tools will improve efficiency

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: The four-week training workshop on Financial and Administrative Management and E Governance for the officials and management of Agriculture Department Punjab (Research Wing) has commenced at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF). It is the fourth batch of the series of trainings. In the fourth session, as many as 79 participants were being given handout trainings. The inaugural ceremony presided over by UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan was arranged by the Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) UAF. Prof Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan urged the agricultural scientists to work with dedication and come up with valuable research work to address the agricultural problems especial of the small farmers in order to increase the agricultural productivity. He said that skilled manpower was prerequisite to face the challenges

of the modern world. He said that despite the fact of agrarian country, we are importing edibles including oil, pulses and others worth billions of rupees. He said that we have to promote modern trend as well as high value crops to alleviate poverty and ensure food security. He

said UAF was initiating a home gardening program in the province in which women clubs to create awareness among the women about home gardening would be established. He said that the healthy lifestyle was essential to combat malnutrition. DG Ayub Research Dr. Zafar Iqbal

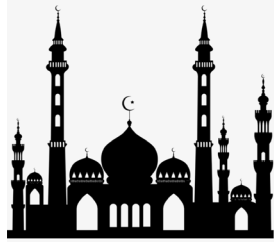
said that workshop course was planned keeping in view the challenges and latest tools and practices meant to enhance the working efficiency of the participants. Director ORIC Prof Dr. Zahir Ahmad Zahir called for promoting the latest trend to enhance productivi-

ty. He said that more than around 270 officials were being trained in these four workshops. He directed the participants to work with full devotion that will open up new avenue of the development and prosperity for the country.

UAF Treasurer Umar Saeed Qadri said that command over advancement in the management tools will improve efficiency. He also gave the presentation on taxation system and Punjab Revenue Authority. He said that the University was adopting all modern tools for the smooth functioning of financial and administrative matters. Dr. Abdul Rasheed said that all possible resources were being utilized to ensure the state-of-the-art facilities for the training. He said that capacity building workshop will enable the participants to perform their duties on modern lines. Dr. Qamar Shakeel from Ayub Agriculture Research said all out efforts were being taken to facilitate the farming community with latest technologies. Manager Innovation and Commercialization ORIC Dr. Khurram Zia also attended.




SERVICES




Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	04:15 am
Zohr.....	12:04 pm
Asr.....	04:45 pm
Maghrib.....	06:16 pm
Isha.....	07:40 pm




Hotels & Restaurants

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




Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8.....	9266316
Wapda Islamabad.....	9217579
Wapda Rawalpindi	111-309-309

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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Anti-harassment, violence cell to provide 24/7 services

The cell would deal with all the incidents of harassment and violence against women

SUJUAAT HAMZA

RAWALPINDI: Newly established anti-harassment, violence cell would provide 24/7 services to victims who would be able to report cases of harassment, abuse and violence through emergency helpline 15, Rawalpindi Police UAN 111-276-797 or women safety App and Rawalpindi police App. Rawalpindi district police on the directives of Inspector General of Police, Punjab have set up a special anti-harassment and violence cell for women in Women

Police Station here. According to a police spokesman, four special desks have also been established at the cell including victim support, monitoring, investigation and prosecution and victim feedback and assistance desks. The cell would deal with all the incidents of harassment and violence against women. Lady police victim support officers have been appointed in all the police stations in Rawalpindi. The safety and legal aid would be ensured for women as per the vision of IGP Punjab, said City Police

Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi, Muhammad Ahsan Younas. Special female police officers have been appointed as Victim Support Officers in all police stations of Rawalpindi, who would help and assist the victims accordingly during the entire investigation process. Investigation of registered cases would be directly supervised by senior officers to ensure merit, safety of the victims and make sure that the accused is awarded exemplary punishment as per law. The special desks would guide and assist the victims

during different stages of the investigation and prosecution process accordingly. Senior Superintendent Police (SSP) Investigation, Ghazanfar Ali Shah would supervise the operations of the special cell, whereas Inspector Shahida Yasmin would be the overall in-charge of the cell. The CPO said that as per IGP Punjab's vision, safety of the women is first priority of Punjab Police, and it is right of the females to be protected at home, educational institutes, workplaces & markets and police would take all possible steps to ensure their safety and security. He informed that Rawalpindi District Police in collaboration with Fatima Jinnah Women University have organized a five-day workshop at Police Lines Headquarters to impart training to the lady victim support officers of anti-women harassment and violence cell. He said that the workshop has been organized with an aim to impart training to the police officers and increase the awareness and capacity of the Victim Support Officers for legal, social and psychological support of the affected women as per the

requirements of modern times. The lady victim support officers of all the police stations of Rawalpindi and the victim support officer of transgender protection center are taking part in the workshop so that the best support and service delivery could be ensured to all the deprived and vulnerable sections of the society including women. Rawalpindi Police's Anti-Women Harassment and Violence Cell and Protection of Transgender Reporting Center are providing services to all the victims round the clock.

Police arrest 6 for possessing weapons

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police in a crackdown against illegal weapons conducted raids in different areas and rounded up six persons besides recovering five 30 bore pistols and ammunition from their possession, said a police spokesman on Monday. He informed that Pirwadhai police held Ali Asghar and recovered a 30 bore pistol and ammunition. Wah Cantt police rounded up ArbabElahi and his son Noor Khan for possessing two 30 bore pistols and ammunition. Chontra police netted Tahir Abbas for having a 30 bore pistol and ammunition while KotliSattian police arrested an accused namely Sanullah with a 30 bore pistol. Kahuta police recovered a dagger from the possession of Saqib Bashir. Separate cases have been registered against all the accused while further investigations were underway, he said and added that police would continue their raids against law-breakers and they would be sent behind bars.

Drug peddler held; Marijuana recovered

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Police in their ongoing drive against drug peddlers conducted a raid and arrested an accused besides recovering 1250 grams charras(Marijuana) from his possession. According to a police spokesman, Gunjmandi police held a drug peddler namely Amin Shah and recovered 1250 grams Marijuana. A cases has been registered against him under Narcotics Control Act while further investigation is underway, he added.

DC urges people to plant trees

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali on Tuesday planted a sapling at District Health Authority office, Khayban e Sir Syed in connection with tree plantation drive. While speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the present government was well aware of the dangerous consequences of global warming and therefore emphasis was being laid on tree plantation. He said that providing clean environment to the people of district was his top priority and urged the people to take part in the plantation campaign. "It is not enough to plant saplings only. We must take care of those trees, which were already planted," he said. Muhammad Ali said that planting trees was a charity and trees were a guarantee of mental and physical health for future generations. The district administration was using all available resources of planting trees for keeping the environment neat and clean which would be helpful for controlling environmental pollution, he added. Additional Deputy Commissioner planning and finance Amber Giallani,Chief Executive Officer Health Dr. Faiza Kanwal and other health officials were present on the occasion. – APP

CDA approves 8 projects for construction

ISLAMABAD: The 53rd meeting of the Development Working Party (CDWP) was held at the CDA Secretariat under the chairmanship of Chairman, CDA, Amir Ali Ahmed. PC-Is and PC-IIs of eight development projects were approved. "Islamabad Bus Service"with the project cost of Rs 873 million was approved. This project will be completed by February 2022.This bus service will run on three routes namely sohan Garden to Faisal Mosque,Barakahu to Faiz Ahmed Faiz metro station and from Tarnol Railway station to M5 Metro station. The meeting also approved project for construction of 115 public toilets at different locations of the city to facilitate the citizens with approximate cost of Rs. 40 million which will be completed in six months. In order to maintain high standards of cleanliness in Islamabad, modern machinery will be purchased to strengthen the sanitation department with in-house machinery at the cost of Rs 689 million has been approved.It will be completed in six months. Similarly, project amounting to Rs. 4013 million to purchase machinery to enhance the capacity of MPO Directorate was approved. This will significantly reduce the expenditure of CDA. The meeting also approved construction of underpasses at intersection of Ataturk Avenue, Sector G-5 and G-6 to ease traffic congestion in Islamabad at the cost of 193million, while widening of Jinnah Avenue and Ayub Chowk from Ataturk Avenue at the cost of 157million was also approved. These project will be completed in a period of six months. – DNA

CPWB rescues 945 street children in one year

RAWALPINDI: The Child Welfare Protection Bureau (CPWB) Rawalpindi has rescued 945 street children from different areas of the city during the last one year and reunited them with their families after necessary mediation. District Officer CPWB Ali Abid Naqvi told APP that with

the help of local police around 100 children under 15-year of age have been taken into custody during last month who were involved in begging in markets and on roads. He said they were later handed over to their parents after taking assurance that they would not be forced to beg again. Ali Naqvi said that at present seventy children were in the custody of bureau who were being provided the facility of food, education and shelter at the center. He said the CPWB was searching for parents of 12 children who were taken into custody during various rescue operations in the city.

Authorities directed to finalize plan for RDA's housing scheme

ZUBAIR AHMAD

RAWALPINDI: Chairman, Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) Tariq Mehmood Murtaza on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to finalize a plan for RDA's housing scheme. Chairing a meeting held here to review the progress of various projects of RDA he said the RDA's housing scheme should have been established and developed much earlier. He said, it's very unfortunate that RDA could not finalize a plan to establish its housing scheme since 1989. Director General

al RDA was also present on the occasion. The Chairman directed the authorities to provide relief to the citizens. He said that the citizens should be apprised about Building and Zoning Regulations 2020 and illegal housing schemes. He directed the Director MP&TE to formulate Expression of Interest for RDA's housing scheme as soon as possible. The Chairman also directed the MP&TE Directorate to continue the crackdown against illegal housing schemes, unauthorized constructions and commercial activities in residential areas without

any discrimination. The Director Estate Management, RDA gave a detailed briefing about RDA's vacant plots and other properties of RDA, verification and clearance of residential and commercial buildings and other projects. The DG directed the Estate Management Directorate to formulate a plan to use the vacant plots within shortest possible time frame. The Chairman also appreciated the officers concerned for completing the work on Dr Qadeer Khan road on fast track. Stressing the importance of speedy work with regard to Kutchery

Chowk, Ammar Chowk and Defence Chowk, he directed the Engineering Directorate to work hard to provide relief to the citizens. The officers concerned should show commitment and dedication to alleviate the hardships of the common people, he added. Director Admin and Finance, RDA, Asif Mehmood Janjua, Director MP&TE Jamshed Aftab, Director Estate Management, SaimaYounis, DD Finance, Muhammad Junaid Taj Bhatti, DD Admin, Iftikhar Ahmad Janjua, DD Engineer, Azizullah and other officers attended the meeting.

‘NAB itself deserves to be held accountable’

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and senior Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said on Tuesday that National Accountability Bureau (NAB), the department tasked with holding 'corrupt' people accountable, itself needed to be taken to the task for its actions.Talking to the media outside an accountability court in Islamabad where he had gone in connection with the hearing of LNG reference filed against him, he said, "Look what this country's finance minister has said. – DNA

MD RWMC inaugurates the Green Street project

SHAHEEN HANIF

RAWALPINDI: Managing Director (MD) Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) Awaiz Manzoor Tarar and Deputy Commissioner V Force on Tuesday jointly inaugurated the Green street project at Union Council 34, Asghar Mall aimed to make the city neat and green. MD RWMC while speaking on the occasion said that under V force's green street project trees would be planted in every street of the city while RWMC would continue its responsibilities of cleaning of the areas. He said that a RWMC in collaboration with V force would make the city green and pollution free by planting more trees. On the occasion, Direc-

tor General Parks and Horticulture Authority Zaheer Anwar Japa lauded the efforts of V Force and RWMC and said that the Green Street project would cover the entire city while it was the responsibility of the institutions as well as the citizens to take care of the cleanliness and tree planting in their streets. He urged the residents to avoid throwing garbage and burning the toxic openly in order to protect the environment of the city. The DG asked the residents to register their complaints regarding cleanliness on helpline number 1139 or on mobile app "Service on your doorstep". Later a walk was held to create awareness about hygiene measures while pamphlets were also distributed among the citizens.

IESCO issues power suspension program

DNA

ISLAMABAD: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule: On 15th September, 09:00 am to 01:00 pm F-11 Markaz Feeder, From 07:00 am to 12:00 Noon Borian, Chip Board, Industrial, KTM, Galyana Feeders, From 08:00 am to 01:00 pm Hamid, Gondal, Mansar, Khanabad, Munirabad, Lalazar, Lala Rukh, Purmiana, Garhi Afghana, Kohistan Feeder, Kashif Gul, Mix Industrial, Model Town, Ghazi Kohli, Industrial Estate, Hussainabad, Ahmednagar, Col. Sher Khan, Fateh Jang Rural, Khandha, Laniwala Feeders, From 09:00 AM to 02:00 AM, Bhikri, KSM One & Two, I-14/3 Feeders, From 08:00 am to 01:00 pm Domail, Main Bazaar Feeders and surrounding areas will remain off. IESCO management apologizes to its esteemed customers for the power outage. If the work is completed ahead of time, the power supply can be restored even before the scheduled time.

Focus of former rulers remained on fake accounts

Farrukh said that global commodity prices did not rise from 2008 to 2018 when PPP and PML-N ruled the country. He said since the outbreak of Covid 19, reduction in production was registered and logistics costs shot up which resulted in increaseof prices of daily use commodities

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib said on Tuesday that, when in power, the focus of PML-N, PPP remained on money laundering, fake accounts and corruption instead of taking steps to increase production of the country and improve economy. Addressing a press conference along with Minister for Finance Shaukat Tarin and SAPM on Food Security Jamshwd Iqbal Cheema he said that global commodity prices did not rise from 2008 to 2018 when PPP and PML-N ruled the country. He said since the outbreak of Covid 19, reduction in production was registered and

logistics costs shot up which resulted in increaseof prices of daily use commodities. He said according to the UNFAO report, from February 2020 to August 2021, food items prices have increased globally by 127 per cent. He said that Pakistan imported 70 cent of pulses and edible oil. The minister said due to prudent government policies, the full impact of global inflation has not been shifted to the consumers. He said the present government was working on food security as it was vital for Pakistan as an agricultural country. He lamented that PML-N had set up sugar mills in cotton growing areas in the past and sugarcane cultivation had been started there which badly affected cotton production.

The minister said that Rs 1,000 billion housing and commercial projects have been approved for low income and middle class with an economic impact of Rs 5,000 billion. The income of the working class has also increased during past couple of years, he

said adding the laborers earning Rs. 500 to 600 a day in the past were now earning Rs 1000 per day and masons earning about Rs 1200 in the past were now earning Rs 2000 to 2500 per day. Today all power looms were active in Faisalabad, and more textile Mills were being built which was manifestation of good policies of the government. The world, he said has been appreciating the policy of Prime Minister Imran Khan to fight Covid 19, and The Economist lauded Pakistan's handling of coronavirus. The opposition parties leaders he said, including Maryam Safdar and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari were demanding a complete lockdown from the beginning as they had no feelings for labour class

and daily wage earners. Mechanism against profiteering and hoarding has been developed and data was being reviewed every week in collaboration with the provinces, he said. Farrukh Habib said that Kamyab Jawan Programme, Low Income Housing Scheme and Sehat Insaf Card schemes were meant for low income groups. He revealed that banks received Rs 154 billion loan applications for construction of low-income houses, out of which Rs 60 billion loans have been approved. He said that State Bank of Pakistan wasnow providing capital of up to Rs 10 million to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) which will create innumerable employment opportunities in the country.

Briefs

PSW, SBP
launch
online
registration

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Single Window (PSW) in collaboration with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) successfully launched the 'online registration of banking profile' in Pakistan Single Window today.

Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB) has become the first bank to successfully integrate with PSW. Integration of banking profile with PSW is a major reform initiative aimed at elimination of the SBP mandated 'Electronic Import Form (EIF)' and 'Electronic Form-E (EFE)' for imports and exports to reduce time and cost of doing business.

The initiative is being implemented in phases with more banks scheduled to join the system in coming weeks. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and PSW have collaborated to simplify the existing procedural framework for foreign exchange regulation of cross border trade. The new system provides enhanced transparency and visibility to the SBP, Pakistan Customs and the relevant stakeholders.

Governor
Punjab visits
Boy Scouts
Association's
Headquarters

ISLAMABAD: Governor Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar here on Monday visited the National Headquarters of Boy Scouts Association of Pakistan. After attending a detailed briefing on Boy Scouts Association, he said that the Association was being mobilized in Punjab and a comprehensive plan has been formulated so that the boy scouts could play an active role at Union Council level. The Governor Punjab directed the authorities concerned that a list of occupied lands and buildings of the Boy Scouts Association in Punjab should be provided so that the occupied lands could be retrieved. Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar said that all the scouts present in Punjab should be verified and authentic data should be compiled.

The Governor said that the boy scouts in Pakistan was started by the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and stressed the need to further organize the institution. He said that the aim of boy scouts was to attract children and youth towards positive activities and to teach them such skills which could be utilized to help others in the society. Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar was given a warm welcome on his arrival at the Boy Scouts National Headquarters. The Governor Punjab also planted a sapling in the lawn of the Headquarters and offered prayer for peace and development of the country. — APP

IRSA releases
235732
cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Tuesday released 235732 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 228344 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1531.74 feet, which was 139.74 feet higher than its dead level 1392 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 129100 and 138000 cusecs respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1192.00 feet, which was 142.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1050 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded 26512and 25000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 167455 , 146974 and 93050 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 24200 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 48532 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. — APP

Iran wants to promote digital markets with Pakistan: Envoy

He said that by implementing the TIR Convention, Pakistan can promote its exports through Iran to Russia and other regional countries

SHUJAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Iran and Pakistan have great scope to enhance trade relations and Pakistan should consider setting up digital markets with Iran to boost bilateral trade up to the potential of both countries. This was stated by H.E. Syed Mohammad Ali Hosseini, Ambassador of Iran while interacting with the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry along with Ms. Qadyanlo Commercial Attaché and Ms. Beheshti Secretary. He said that Iran-Pakistan bilateral trade was around USD 1.5 billion before Covid-19, which has now come down to less than USD 1 billion. He said that foreign sanctions on Iran were a problem for trade promotion, therefore, establishment of Pak-Iran digital markets and joint border markets could be the better options to improve two-way trade volume. He said that Iran and Pakistan have agreed to set up 3 border crossing points that would help increase bilateral trade.

However, he said that facilitation and exemptions by the Government of Pakistan for border markets would support the Pakistani business community to further enhance trade with Iranian counterparts. The Iranian Envoy said that lack of better connectivity between the private sectors of Iran and Pakistan was one of the factors



for low trade volume and stressed the need of close cooperation between Iran-Pakistan chambers of commerce to develop strong business linkages between the private sectors of both countries.

He said that by implementing the TIR Convention, Pakistan can promote its exports through Iran to Russia and other regional countries. He also highlighted the need for exchange of trade delegations for trade promotion and assured that Iranian Embassy was ready to help in introducing more Pakistani

products in Iranian market.

Speaking at the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Pak-Iran bilateral trade was much lower than the actual potential and both governments should cooperate with private sectors to take it to higher levels. He said that many Pakistani products including pharmaceuticals, textiles, fruits, pink salt, IT products & services, surgical instruments, leather products, steel & pipes, sanitary & crockery etc. could find a good market in Iran

at cost effective prices.

He said that Iranian investors should explore JVs and investment in SEZs being established in Pakistan that provided long tax holidays. He said that Pakistan has reduced duties on the tourism industry and Iranian entrepreneurs should take advantage of them by developing close cooperation with Pakistan in the tourism sector. He was of the view that organizing trade fairs on reciprocal basis, holding chambers level zoom meetings during Covid-19 and

promoting exchange of students between the two countries would be helpful in strengthening trade and economic relations.

Fatma Azim Senior Vice President ICCI, Aslam Khokhar, Omais Khattak, Saeed Khan, Usman Khalid, Muhammad Shakir, Ali Akram Khan, Javed Iqbal, Sheikh Pervez, Khalid Chaudhry and others were also present in the meeting and shared useful ideas for promoting bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Iran.

No way gas utility
prices can be reduced:
OGRA Chairman

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the energy regulatory said on Tuesday there's no chance of bringing down gas utility prices any time soon as the energy reserves in the country are running out. The Senate standing committee of cabinet secretariat held its session on Tuesday wherein chairman Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) Masroor Khan said Pakistan's resources of natural gas are running out and as a result, slashing the utility prices is not a possibility. OGRA assesses the numbers and statistics and reaches a conclusion on what prices the utility should be sold at, chairman OGRA said. He said that based on our report, it is up to the government whether to pass on the price hikes to the people and to what extent. The tariffs of gas utility are revised twice each year, and 90 per cent of these prices are the cost of the gas itself, he said. We don't factor in other expenses in the tariffs, he said. The ex-refinery price of petrol is Rs94.38 and the freight margin are Rs3.65 for a liter, he said. Additionally, the distribution margin is on petrol's liter is Rs2.11 and the general sales tax is Rs11.28, he said. He further described the profit margin per liter for the oil marketing companies to be Rs2.97. He said Pakistan's petrol prices are among the cheapest in the region.

Separately earlier on Monday, cabinet body on energy approved a concessional power tariff for consumers during the winter season spanning over November 2021 to February 2022. — DNA

Director FIA delivers lecture
on anti-women harassment

RAWALPINDI: Director, Federal Investigation Agency, Athar Waheed here on Tuesday delivered a special lecture at training workshop organized at Police Lines Headquarters by Rawalpindi District Police in collaboration with Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU) to impart training to the Lady Victim Support Officers of Anti-Women Harassment and Violence Cell.

Addressing the participants, the Director said that the victim support program is first model of its kind in South Asia which has been set up here to provide immediate relief to the victims. Congratulating the officers of Rawalpindi District Police for presenting a best Victim Support model in the region, he said Lady Victim Support Officers should be role model

and Police should focus towards victim support.

He said the basic responsibility of the officers of the Victim Support should be to restore the confidence of the victim on the system besides providing legal and physiological support to the victim. The victim should also be provided security wherever needed, he said adding, "We all can bring change in the system."

City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Muhammad Ahsan Younas thanked Athar Waheed for the guidance he provided to the victim support officers. On the occasion, CPO said the lady victim support officers should be role model and expressed the hope that they would become the agent of change.

All the officers should be committed to improve the service delivery. On second



day of the workshop, the expert teachers of FJWU, Dr Sajida Naz and Dr Nadia Khadam also delivered lectures on the victim support.

Rawalpindi Police on Monday kicked off a five-day workshop at Police Lines Headquarters to impart training to the lady victim support officers of anti-women harassment and violence cell set up here as per vision of Inspector General of Police Punjab.

The workshop has been organized with an aim to impart training to the police officers

and increase the awareness and capacity of the Victim Support Officers for legal, social and psychological support of the affected women as per the requirements of modern times.

The expert teachers and the researchers during the workshop would impart training to the Victim Support Officers to provide better assistance to the female victims in legal, psychological and social aspects.

The lady victim support officers of all the police stations of Rawalpindi and the victim support officer of transgender protection center are taking part in the workshop so that the best support and service delivery could be ensured to all the deprived and vulnerable sections of the society including women. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov reading daily Islamabad POST. Ambassador Khazar has just presented his credentials to the President of Pakistan. Ambassador Khazar Farhadov is keen to further expand and diversify ties with Pakistan. — DNA

CDRS, Saba Trust
to provide food to
Tarlai Panagah

ISLAMABAD: Comprehensive Disaster Response Services (CDRS) and SABA Trust would provide uncooked food and other grocery items to Tarlari Panagah (Shelter Home) to facilitate the beneficiaries. Both of the organizations would provide 50 Kg Mutton and 50 kg Rice and other grocery items to the shelter home every week with the pledge to increase the quantity in future on fortnightly basis.

Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) Managing Director, Malik

Zaheer Abbas Khokhar, founder CDRS, Todd Shea and Anns Ali from SABA Trust signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in a ceremony held at Panahagah of Tarlai on Tuesday. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Ali Muhammad Khan also witnessed the signing ceremony. Under the MoU, CDRS, SABA Trust would provide uncooked food and grocery items to PBM to facilitate the beneficiaries of Tarlai Shelter Home. — APP

Farewell held
for outgoing
officers

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police on Tuesday arranged a ceremony in the honor of three officers who got retired after completion of their services.

The ceremony was attended by IGP Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman as Chief Guest while DIG (Headquarters) Kamran Adil, AIG (Operations) Dr. Naveed Atif, AIG (General) Khalid Rasheed, SSP (Headquarters) Muhammad Omer Khan and other senior police officials were also present on the occasion.

In a simple but graceful ceremony, IGP Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman lauded the performance of retired officials from ministerial staff including Accounts Officer Abdul Rasheed Khan, Superintendent Ch. Mehfooz and Haji Abdul Rahim and also prayed for their future success. He paid rich tributes to them on outstanding work during their career in Islamabad police.

He said they served on various posts in Islamabad police and always accomplished their assignments in responsible manner.

The IGP that officers ensured effective working during their stay and their contribution in the success story of Islamabad police would be remembered. In the end of ceremony, the IGP acknowledged their extra ordinary services and asked other officers to serve like them in the force with dedication. He also awarded shields to them on behalf of Islamabad police. — APP

Students
complete
internship
with ITP

ISLAMABAD: As many as 25 students of Capital University of Science and Technology (CUST) on Tuesday completed their internship with Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) and were educated about traffic rules besides road safety measures. Addressing the concluding ceremony, the Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Ayesha Gul said efforts were afoot to promote friendly policing in the city, said a news release issued here.

She said the young generation was our asset and their cooperation as well as responsible attitude was crucial for safe road environment in the city.

She also distributed certificates among the students and hoped that they would further educate and brief their fellows and family members about road safety tips.

Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) was acquainting citizens and students about traffic rules through various programs and this internship programme was also part of it, said an official of ITP. — APP

FBISE,
American
Lycetuff
signs MoU

ISLAMABAD: American Lycetuff DNK School System signed a memorandum of understanding with the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education to ensure the continuation of high-quality education to our students throughout. The MOU was co-signed by the Chairman of FBISE, Mr Qaiser Alam and Executive Director American Lycetuff DNK School System, Mr Aurangzeb Nadeem Kiani.

American Lycetuff DNK School System has, so far, maintained its precedence of providing the best well-rounded educational experience to its students across all platforms. This affiliation will allow ALS DNK to conform its curriculum with the set guidelines and pattern of the FBISE — asserting that the students of ALS DNK benefit from all the innovations that the FBISE promises its affiliated institutions: ranging from a wide array of subject choices to technological advancements in examinations. FBISE ensures support to educational institutes at multiple levels and is dedicated to playing its part in ensuring the deliverance of quality education in private schools at unified curricular guidelines. ALS DNK is constantly striving to equip the students with a thorough skillset, ensuring their prosperity in the professional world. — APP

Speakers for reviving Junagadh case at Int'l forums

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at an inaugural session of a one-day national conference on "Junagadh Challenges and prospects" called for reinvigorating the efforts by government, academia and youth to plead the longstanding case of Junagadh illegal occupation by India at international forums.

"Releasing of a new political map, although played an integral role in projection of this issue and seeking support for this cause, will not merely be enough for its resolution but the whole nation has to respond to this challenge not only the government", they observed.

The conference, held here on Tuesday, comprised of over six sessions including four academic sessions, was organized by Muslim Institute to highlight the legal status of the Junagadh issue. Speakers asserted that Junagadh was an integral part of Pakistan which was illegally and immorally occupied by India. "Pakistan needs to persistently pursue its claim on Junagadh at all international forums for which a more cohesive and persistent policy is required".

Speakers made it clear that "India occupied Junagadh forcefully which was absolutely negated by the then Prime Minister, Nawabzada Liaqat Ali Khan, and today

we negate vehemently all Indian claims on Junagadh".

Speakers put in high esteem the methodology and manner adopted by the Muslim Institute to carry forward the issue through organizing this conference and engaging the academicians in research on this issue from different aspects. They also praised the academic maturity, serious academic work, and especially the professional manner in which the work has taken.

Speakers highlighted that Junagadh was a unique issue and Nawab of Junagadh continued to be the sovereign in exile. Junagadh's Instrument

of accession with the state of Pakistan had an absolute validity under the auspices of international law. Speakers appreciated the Pakistan's government releasing of the new political map which has secured special importance in the eye of international law, terming the country's support for the cause of Junagadh as crucial.

The speakers said Pakistan honored all international treaties in letter and spirit and considered that honoring a treaty was part of honoring international law and the norms of the international community. "India is not a country but a region and all the

nations of this region have the right to independence", they observed. Speakers highlighted need to conduct more academic work on Junagadh issue and gave special leverage to the Junagadh community.

They pledged that supporting Junagadh was part of our national duty and acknowledged the courage and absolute resolve presented by the Nawab and Dewan of Junagadh state in carrying forward the case of Junagadh.

Speaking as a chief guest on the occasion, Former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee of Pakistan, Gen. (retd) Ehsan U1 Haq

said Junagadh was also an unfinished agenda of Pak-India partition like Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IloJK) which has to come to the logical conclusion some day.

"Every aspect of Junagadh state has a strong legal foundation and reinforce the cause of IloJK also", he added.

He said nations which did not display resolve and determination to safeguard their legal and legitimate rights could never be secured and respected and even their survival remains in jeopardy.

"We have to tell the world that we are a determined nation that will never abandon its legal, just, and rightful claims".

"This is the era of 'narratology' since influx of social media platforms and if you can build a strong narrative to highlight such cause at international forums through mobilizing the researchers, intellectuals and youth of the country, you will be able to succeed", he said.

In his presidential remarks, Nawab of Junagadh State, Nawab Muhammad Jahangir Khanji, thanked the Prime Minister, Imran Khan and his government for reiterating its stance through sharing Junagadh as part of Pakistan through the political map. — APP



All refugees deserve dignity

THE recent events that have unfolded in Afghanistan are only bound to increase the numbers of refugees fleeing that troubled nation, seeking refuge and a safe haven beyond its borders. For those giving up their home, family, villages and communities, they are embarking on a life of the unknown, a tenuous existence dependent mostly on the help of others, relying on humanitarian aid and the generosity of international partners. While the exact numbers of those leaving Afghanistan are still unclear and are likely increasing with each passing hour, what is clear is that there are more than 80 million people living today as refugees – more than the population of Germany. That is a sobering thought indeed. But what is more frightening is the reality that far too many refugees now live a life of fear, where their worth as individuals is somehow diminished by virtue of the circumstance that forced them to leave their homes in the first instance. In the past several days, Amnesty International has documented the cases of Syrian refugees who returned home and were subjected to detention and disappearance. In a report titled “You’re going to your death” Amnesty documented violations against 66 returnees, including 13 children. It also cited five deaths in custody. The timing of this report is poignant given that some Western countries such as Denmark are piling pressure on Syrian refugees to return home. The moves are all part of a change in perspective where refugees are somehow viewed as being responsible for their plight, to blame for the miseries they have endured, to be punished and sent packing as if they are alien and unwelcome. That is an outlook that is small-minded, uncaring, soulless and dehumanising. And it is an outlook that should not be brooked for one minute. There is a reality that we all who share this planet must understand, a truth that differs us from the animals that roam our wilds. We are human because we have the ability to care, empathise, act with compassion and change and improve the lives of others with our actions. And how we act against those who are the most vulnerable, the weak, the sick and the suffering should be our yardstick of humanity. Any other outlook is uncivilised and immoral. We must act as how we would want to be treated if we were ever to be in such a vulnerable and threatened position.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 02 Issue: 112

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Falling rupee

NOT long ago the central bank won great praise for achieving complete sovereignty in its operations and letting the rupee float freely in the currency market. But since then it has done practically nothing even as the currency collapsed and investor confidence sagged, to the point that now businesses are openly asking for some sort of clarity because they need exchange rate stability to enter into long- and even medium-term contracts. Yet the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), in addition to saying everything is under control because reserves are healthy, isn't saying anything that makes matters clearer at all. The reserves, appreciated as they are, aren't really much help as far as the currency is concerned and a big part of them will be eaten up by debt repayment very soon anyway. And while the currency is very clearly in a downward spiral, with nothing to suggest a turnaround anytime soon, the production upswing that the government is so proud of will become increasingly difficult to finance because of constantly rising prices of inputs that need to be imported. Also, as the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) made very clear just the other day, now that the rupee has crossed the 168 threshold against the dollar, “it reflects deteriorating market perception about the country's capacity to finance its foreign debt obligations.” Surely the SBP will no longer just be a quiet spectator as all our monetary policy gets us is imported inflation at a time when prices, especially food prices, are already uncomfortably and unjustifiably high. Governor Baqir came from the IMF with great promise, just when a few other high profile Pakistanis were also imported from other international behemoths. Yet now most of them have left and the economy's outlook is hardly much to write home about; at least as far as the currency market, and its impact on production and prices, is concerned. This is not to say that the Bank must step in and provide support to the currency when market forces rule otherwise; just that it should always be present go give clarity to businesses in what is after all a very critical phase for the economy.

Initial Taliban moves fail to convince neighbours

James Dorsey

The Taliban as well as a significant number of Pakistani ultra-conservatives root their worldview in Deobandism, a strand of Islam that emerged in India in the mid-19th century to oppose British colonial rule by propagating an austere interpretation of the faith. Deobandism became prevalent among Pashtuns even if Deobandis in Pakistan, Afghanistan and India went their separate ways after the 1947 partition of the subcontinent. Arshad Madani, the principal of the Darul Uloom Deoband, the original Deobandi madrassa established in 1886, recently welcomed a decision by India's Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) to set up a training centre in Deoband. “There is nothing wrong with what we teach, and we welcome the ATS staff to be a part of our classes whenever they like,” Mr. Madani said

THE Taliban's record in recent weeks on making good on promises to respect human and women's rights as well as uphold freedom of the press is mixed at best. Afghanistan's neighbours and near-neighbours are not holding their breath even if some are willing to give the Central Asian country's new rulers the benefit of the doubt. A litmus test of Taliban willingness to compromise may come sooner than later. It's most likely only a matter of time before China knocks on newly appointed Afghan acting interior minister Sirajuddin Haqqani's door demanding the extradition of Uighur fighters. The Chinese demand would be challenging not only because of the Taliban's consistent rejection, no matter the cost, of requests for the expulsion of militants who have helped them in their battles. The Taliban already made that clear two decades ago when they accepted the risk of a US invasion of Afghanistan in the wake of 9/11 by refusing for the umpteenth time to hand over Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. There is little in Taliban 2.0 that suggests that this has changed. If Haneef Atamar, the foreign minister in the US-backed Afghan government of former president Ashraf Ghani, is to be believed, Uighurs, including one-time fighters in Syria, contributed significantly to the Taliban's most recent battlefield successes in northern Afghanistan. A demand to extradite Uighurs to China would also be challenging because Mr Haqqani himself, the Afghan official in charge of internal security, is a wanted man with a \$5 million US bounty on his head. Moreover, the United Nations has sanctioned Mr Haqqani's prime minister, Mullah Hasan Akhund, and several other members of the caretaker government. “It's hard to see a wanted man turning over someone who is wanted for similar reasons,” said a Western diplomat. Moreover, honouring extradition requests could threaten unity within the Taliban's ranks. “Taliban actions against foreign jihadist groups to appease neighbouring countries would be especially controversial, because there is quite a widespread sense of solidarity and comradeship with those who fought alongside the Taliban for so long,” said Afghanistan scholar Antonio Giustozzi. Unanswered is the question of whether China would go along with what seems to be an unspoken international consensus that it may be best not to seek extraditions if the Taliban keep their word and prevent militants from striking at targets beyond Afghanistan. Counterterrorism experts and diplomats argue that if forced, the Taliban would quietly let foreign militants leave their country rather than hand them over. That would make it difficult to monitor these individuals. China has in recent years successfully demanded the extradition of its Turkish Muslim citizens from countries like Egypt, Malaysia, and Thailand and has pressured many more to do so even though they were not suspected of being foreign fighters and/or members of the Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP). The United Nations Security Council has designated TIP's predecessor, the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) as a terrorist organisation. There is little reason to assume that China would make Afghanistan, a refuge from Syria for Uighur fighters, the exception. Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi made that clear when he hinted at possible extradition requests during talks in July in China with Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, a co-founder of the Taliban and the new govern-

ment's first deputy prime minister. Mr Wang demanded that the Taliban break relations with all militant groups and take resolute action against the TIP. Moreover, the Taliban may have destroyed any chance of Chinese reliance on them by demonstrating early on that they and the international community may be speaking different languages even if they use the same words. The Taliban made clear that their definition of inclusivity, a term the group and the international community, including China, Russia and India, appeared to agree on, was very different. The Taliban formed an overwhelming ethnic, all-male government that was anything but inclusive by the universally agreed meaning of the word. Similarly, Mr Haqqani and his colleagues, including Qari Fasihuddin Badakhshani, the Afghan military's new Taliban chief of staff, a Tajik and one of only three non-Pashtuns in the new 33-member government structure, is believed to have close ties to Uighur, Pakistani and other militants. As a result, they are likely to be equally reticent about entertaining Chinese-backed Pakistan requests for the transfer of members of the Tehriki-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), more commonly known as the Pakistani Taliban. The TTP is a coalition of Pashtun Islamist groups with close ties to the Afghan Taliban that last year joined forces with several other militant Pakistani groups, including Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, a violently anti-Shiite Sunni Muslim supremacist organization. Hazara Shiites, who account for 20 per cent of the Afghan population were not included in the newly appointed Afghan government even though the Taliban made a point of last month protecting Shiite religious celebrations. Nonetheless, the Taliban's notion of inclusivity has already troubled relations with Iran and could persuade the Islamic republic to covertly support resistance to the group's rule. China fears that the fallout of the Taliban's sweep across Afghanistan could affect China beyond Afghanistan's borders, perhaps no more so than in Pakistan, a major focus of the People's Republic's single largest Belt-and Road (BRI)-related investment. The killing in July of nine Chinese nationals in an attack on a bus transporting Chinese workers to the construction site of a dam in the northern mountains of Pakistan raised the spectre of Afghanistan-based religious militants jihadists targeting China. Until now, it was mainly Baloch nationalists who targeted the Chinese in Pakistan. The attack occurred amid fears that the Taliban victory would bolster ultra-conservative religious sentiment in Pakistan where many celebrated the group's success in the hope that it would boost chances for austere religious rule in the world's second-most populous Muslim-majority state. “Our jihadis will be emboldened. They will say that ‘if America can be beaten, what is the Pakistan army to stand in our way?’” said a senior Pakistani official. Indicating concern in Beijing, China has delayed the signing of a framework agreement on industrial cooperation that would have accelerated the implementation of projects that are part of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a crown jewel of the People's Republic's transportation, telecommunications and energy-driven BRI. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid recently kept the Taliban's relationship with the TTP ambiguous. “The issue of the TTP is one that Pakistan will have to deal

with, not Afghanistan. It is up to Pakistan, and Pakistani Islamic scholars and religious figures, not the Taliban, to decide on the legitimacy or illegitimacy of their war and to formulate a strategy in response,” Mr Mujahid said during an interview on a Pakistani television program. The spokesman stopped short of saying the Taliban would abide by a decision of the scholars. Afghan sources suggest that the Taliban advised the TTP to restrict their fight to Pakistani soil and have offered to negotiate with the Pakistan government an amnesty and the return of the Pakistani militants to the South Asian nation. Uncertainty about where the Taliban may be taking Afghanistan has also cast a shadow over Indian hopes that the Iranian port of Chabahar would facilitate trade with Afghanistan and Central Asia and counterbalance the Chinese-supported Pakistani port of Gwadar. Eager to maintain leverage in its relations with Pakistan as well as China, Taliban official Sher Mohammed Abbas Stanekzai chose his words carefully by stressing that economics should be at the centre of Afghan-Indian relations. “We give due importance to our political, economic and trade ties with India and we want these ties to continue. We are looking forward to working with India in this regard,” Mr Stanekzai said. Mr. Stanekzai's business-focused approach coupled with the pressure on Taliban to police militants on Afghan soil, some of whom have attacked India in the past, dovetails with Islamic scholars in the Deobandi alma mater in the Uttar Pradesh town of Deoband stressing the divide between themselves and their Afghan and Pakistani brethren. The Indian Deobandi posture created an opportunity that the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has yet to grasp to involve them in India's backchannel and direct contacts with the Taliban. India invested US\$3 billion over the last 20 years in building Afghan roads, girls' schools and health clinics. Mr. Stanekzai's remarks indicate that the Taliban would like India to continue its investments in the country. The Taliban as well as a significant number of Pakistani ultra-conservatives root their worldview in Deobandism, a strand of Islam that emerged in India in the mid-19th century to oppose British colonial rule by propagating an austere interpretation of the faith. Deobandism became prevalent among Pashtuns even if Deobandis in Pakistan, Afghanistan and India went their separate ways after the 1947 partition of the subcontinent. Arshad Madani, the principal of the Darul Uloom Deoband, the original Deobandi madrassa established in 1886, recently welcomed a decision by India's Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) to set up a training centre in Deoband. “There is nothing wrong with what we teach, and we welcome the ATS staff to be a part of our classes whenever they like,” Mr. Madani said. A spokesman for the madrassa added that “we are a religious school, but we are also Indians. To doubt our integrity every time the Taliban spread terror is shameful.” Mr. Madani's posture should serve as an incentive for the Modi government to work with Indian Deobandis in the hope that the Taliban may be more willing to listen to religious figures with whom they share a history. Mr. Madani has never had contact with the Taliban nor has he ever visited Afghanistan. “I'm weak and old,” says the 80-year-old cleric. “But if given the chance, I would go to Afghanistan.”

The Afghan situation and Pakistan

Muhammad Anwar Farooq



In Pakistan, a careful analysis of social media shows that a large number of people are praising the Taliban victory, considering them as heroes and true representers of Islam. It means, there are chances that religious radical...

THE execution of the US plan to leave Afghanistan and the quick takeover of the Taliban brought up many questions. One of the significant inquiries is “What were the essential targets that the US looks to accomplish in Afghanistan?”. At the beginning of the US invasion of Afghanistan President Obama expressed that it is to disrupt, dismantle and defeat Al-Qaeda. With these core goals, Americans were also committed to fighting with the Taliban, working for Afghan nation-building, and establishing a centralized state in Afghanistan? According to Dr. Maleeha Lodhi, at the start, for the US, it was neither an open-ended escalating military engagement nor “cut & run” from Afghanistan. But in the end, American rapidly left Afghanistan without achieving other objectives and such rapid “cut & run” withdrawal is dangerous for the whole region. It is just like to repeat the strategic mistake of the 1990s when the Russian withdrawal from Afghanistan put it into a chaotic situation that nurtured Al Qaeda and terrorism. Such a chaotic situation in Afghanistan would largely affect Pakistan which is, strategically, a much more critical country. It is a historical fact that the Afghan situation badly undermined the stability of Pakistan twice. First, the Russian occupation of Afghanistan burdened Pakistan with militancy, weapons, drug proliferation and three million Afghan refugees. Second, the US invasion pushed and fuelled the force of militancy in Pakistan. No doubt, the insurgencies in Afghanistan (Afghan Taliban) and Pakistan (Tehriki-Taliban Pakistan TTP) were interlinked but different. The Afghan Taliban were well organized and had a proper command and control structure. They are confident, have a national objective and fight to push the enemies out from Af-

ghanistan. But on other hand, TTP is a loose composition of many groups. They had no proper command and control structure, candid objectives and public support. They were disrupted by the effective military operations of the Pakistan Army. The whole scenario put Pakistan Army in a better position than coalition forces in Afghanistan and it proved that indigenous forces have the capability to better cope with such insurgency. On the other side, Afghan coalition forces faced a much bigger challenge. They invested huge resources, escalating war in Afghanistan and in the end they have to leave Afghanistan. The escalation by coalition forces in Afghanistan pushed militants as well as refugees into Pakistan which caused a wave of terrorism and economic pressure for Pakistan respectively. It caused pressure on Pakistani forces to protect the NATO supply route in Pakistan. To cope up with the law and order situation, Pakistan consumed huge military and economic resources in the war against terrorism or its national action plan. Now, the important point is that the fall of Kabul has the potential to become a beacon of light for all religious radical and militant groups in the world. The American's humiliating defeat and the rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan will fire up religious radicalism in other countries and motivate militants to join them from all over the world. The level of threat for poor countries with weaker states is high because the militants in those countries would think that if the Afghan Taliban can beat a superpower then we can beat our own wretched rulers or systems. No doubt, bad governance always creates an opening for such radical thinking and activism. If a state is failed to deliver its citizens then there is a chance that citizens quietly support such anti-state actors.

So, it is a bigger challenge for all states in the rest of the world to achieve a minimum level of satisfaction for their citizens regarding governance. It is a fact that the Afghan situation would not only affect Afghan citizens but also the rest of the world. It would result in bigger refugee flows and a greater chance that insurgencies will prevail in Afghanistan as well as in other weak countries. A candid conclusion that could be derived from the Afghan situation is that a purely military approach to deal with insurgencies in Afghanistan is not suitable. The only concrete solution to minimize the probability of such insurgencies is the strengthening of the Afghan state with a good governance setup and the ability to deliver basic human rights. In Pakistan, a careful analysis of social media shows that a large number of people are praising the Taliban victory, considering them as heroes and true representers of Islam. It means, there are chances that religious radical groups which were already disrupted through military operations would be able to get the moral support of people which will motivate them for activism. For its own safety, Pakistan must take precautionary security measures as well as align all its efforts and foreign policy with political stability and implementation of basic human rights in Afghanistan. It is also necessary to develop a political consensus on Afghan issues in Pakistani domestic politics. Otherwise, it will increase the chances that Pakistan would again face the burden of refugees as well as extremism. – The writer is a lecturer in the department of humanities and social sciences, Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology, Rahim Yar Khan, Pakistan. He is also the author of six books.

Briefs

Schools
reopen
as Covid...

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reopened from Thursday in a staggered manner. Intercity transport is being allowed with fifty percent occupancy. Outdoor dining will now be allowed in these districts by twelve midnight but indoor dining will remain closed. The Minister for Planning said that amusement parks are being opened for fully vaccinated people. He said outdoor gathering of four hundred people is being allowed. Asad Umar urged the people to get themselves vaccinated against the disease. He said those not getting the vaccine jab will have to face restrictions such as on their air travel and visit to different places such shopping malls, guest houses, hotels from 30th September.

Shaukat
Tareen
announces..

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The Finance Minister said the government is also giving attention to enhance the incomes of the people to enhance their purchasing power. Shaukat Tarin said that Kamyab Pakistan Program will be launched this month in order to enable the weak segments of the society earn their livelihoods. Shaukat Tarin said that the results our growth strategy are visible and the revenue collection is increasing. He said we are on the track to achieve five percent growth during the current fiscal year. This, he said, will also help reduce our debt to GDP ratio. As regards the State Owned Enterprises, the Finance Minister said we have to turn around them. He said a board is being established in the privatization in order to run the State Owned Enterprises on professional lines. He said these enterprises will be privatized after turning them around. Speaking on the occasion, Jamshed Iqbal Cheema said the prices of flour, sugar, Ghee and pulses would be reduced by December this year. He said the government is targeting on ensuring quality and affordable price of milk; and a program to this effect would be unfolded in two weeks. The Special Assistant said we are also shifting from non-promising crops to promising crops to meet the food demand of the country.

Imran, Putin
discuss
Afghanistan

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In the bilateral context, PM Imran emphasised the growing cooperation across a range of sectors and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further upgrade the overall relationship. He underscored that strengthening trade and investments and energy cooperation are the cornerstones of engagement with Russia. The premier also reaffirmed the government's resolve for early realisation of the Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline Project. The 1,100-kilometre-long project, formerly known as the North-South Pipeline, plans to carry 12.4 billion cubic metres of natural gas annually. The project name was changed to 'Pakistan Stream' along with its partnership structure against the risk of US sanctions on Russian companies. He reiterated his invitation to President Putin to visit Pakistan. The Russian president renewed his invitation to PM Imran to undertake a visit to Moscow, read the communiqué.

Major drop
in active
cases

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count had mostly been hovering between the 3,000-4,000 range for a month. The national coronavirus positivity rate in the last 24 hours was recorded at 5.44%. Among the active cases, 5,304 patients are under critical care. Since August 24, Pakistan's positivity rate has been under 7% on 20 out of 22 days. The NCOC data showed 78 patients died from the virus during the last 24 hours, pushing the death toll to 26,865.

Pak would recognize Taliban govt. when it honors pledges

“The international community has to make a choice: between engaging – and that doesn’t necessarily mean recognition—and abandonment”

DNA

WASHINGTON: Pakistan is monitoring the ability of the new Taliban government in Afghanistan to deliver on the commitments and promises to uphold human rights that they have made to the international community before extending recognition to it, Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan has said. “Whether the Taliban actually abide by those (commitments) is their call,” the Pakistani envoy said in an interview with The Washington Diplomat, an independent monthly newspaper that serves the diplomatic community here. “But we have basically laid out our expect-

tations, which is that we want the rights of everyone to be respected,” he said when asked under what conditions Pakistan would recognize the Taliban government. “We want that Afghani territory not be used against any other country, including Pakistan. We want human rights and women’s rights to be preserved.” At the same time, Ambassador Khan said Pakistan believed, “instead of indulging in give-and-take on these issues, right now what’s really important is to avert a humanitarian crisis.” “Right now,” he added, “what’s really important is to basically not let things fall apart. Clearly, there is a new reality, which is a government under the Taliban.”



“The international community has to make a choice: between engaging—and that doesn’t necessarily mean recognition—and abandonment.” Replying to a question about Islamabad-Washington ties,

he said since 9/11, Pakistan has essentially been seen through the prism of Afghanistan. “I can tell you that today, we are together on the same side in terms of our interests and expectations in Afghanistan: The US wants to see the conflict end; that’s also what we want. And we would like to see that the gains Afghanistan has made over the last few decades are preserved.” Asked about the impression in the US that Pakistan supported extremist groups, Ambassador Khan said a deep look was required into the facts. “Pakistan has been a close partner and ally in decimating al-Qaeda, and in bringing about the peace negotiations (on Afghanistan),” he

said, asserting that it was unfortunate that Pakistan was associated with a lot of negative news. About India-Pakistan ties, he said, “unfortunately, we have a government in India which is fundamentalist and ideological, which believes in unilateralism, and which has regrettably rebuffed all our peaceful overtures.” Prime Minister Imran Khan had publicly extended the hand of friendship to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said, noting that he chose to indulge in military adventurism. “The situation in Kashmir continues to be very bad. Pakistan wants to resolve all its disputes through engagement and dialogue. Our two countries have no other options but peace.”

Amb Aamir presents credentials to Swiss protocol department



BERN: Ambassador Aamir Shouket arrived in Switzerland on 8th September 2021 and assumed charge of his office. Today, he presented a copy of his Credentials to the Swiss Chief of Protocol at Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA. Ambassador Shouket looks forwards to closely work on enhancing bilateral relations between the two countries. He is keen to promote Pakistan to the Swiss business fraternity in order to attract more investments. He is also looking forwards to actively engage with the Pakistani diaspora living in Switzerland. – DNA

Pak cricket team to travel Bangladesh

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD, Sep 14: Pakistan cricket team is set to tour Bangladesh after five years to play three T20Is and two ICC World Test Championship matches after the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, Pakistan Cricket Board announced on Tuesday. The Men-in-Green are playing three ODIs and five T20Is matches against New Zealand starting from 17th September at Rawalpindi and Lahore will plays T20I series to be staged at Dhaka's Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, on 19 November. The second and third T20Is will be played on 20 and 22 November. The two teams will then travel to Chattogram for the first of the two Tests at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium from 26-30 November. This match will see the two sides face-off in the apex form of the game on Bangladeshi soil for the first time since May 2015, when Pakistan won the two-match series by completing a win in the final Test by a mammoth 328 runs. The two teams will return to Dhaka to play the final Test, which will start from 4 December. Pakistan are ranked second on the ICC World Test Championship points table with one win in two matches, while Bangladesh are yet to kick of their campaign. Pakistan have immaculate record in Tests against Bangladesh with 10 wins from 11 matches.

Fixtures:
19 Nov – First T20I, Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Dhaka
20 Nov – Second T20I, Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Dhaka
22 Nov – Third T20I,

Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Dhaka
26-30 Nov – First Test, Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chattogram
4-8 Dec – Second Test, Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Dhaka

Pakistan, New Zealand teams participate in training session

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan and New Zealand teams practiced for three hours today here at Pindi Stadium ahead of their ODI series, slated to start from September 17. According to the details, both teams planned and executed it during their practice session that run for three hours. Batting, bowling, and fielding drills were seen under the supervision of their respective coaches. Pakistan's interim coaches Saqlain Mushtaq and Abdul Razzaq worked with players on their weak-

nesses and strengths and tried to make the solid for the ODI series. Pakistan and New Zealand will play three ODIs on September 17, 19, and 21. These matches will not be a part of ICC Cricket World Cup Super League as the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) failed to arrange Decision Review System (DRS). Later on, the two teams will meet in five T20Is from September 25 to October 3 at Gaddafi Stadium Lahore. – DNA



NZ well-prepared to face Pakistan: Glenn Pocknall

“Pakistan are a very good side in home conditions, hence challenges lie ahead for our players. But I presume they’ve got a very exciting chance to have a crack at this very good Pakistan side”

DNA

RAWALPINDI: New Zealand's coach Glenn Pocknall on Tuesday said his side was well-prepared to face Pakistan in the three-match ODI series, commencing at Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi from Friday. “We feel ourselves very well-prepared and will not make a lot of changes in the team that played in T20 series against Bangladesh,” he told media at a Zoom press conference. The Black Caps have arrived in Pakistan from Bangladesh, where they conceded 2-3 defeat in the Twenty20 international series. Glenn said after his side lost first

two games in Bangladesh people had started expecting that they were going to lose all the fixtures but the boys bounced back and won two of the last three matches. “Those two wins have given a huge amount of confidence to the players. That confidence is still there.” “The guys are really excited to be here to play international cricket. It's been a long time coming so they are really grateful to have this opportunity. “Pakistan are a very good side in home conditions, hence challenges lie ahead for our players. But I presume they've got a very exciting chance to have a crack at this very good Pakistan side.” He said that though the spinners

would play a role at Rawalpindi but it would not be like Bangladesh where New Zealand batters struggled against spinners. “I don't believe spinners are going to play a big part in this series as they did in



Bangladesh as there were probably extreme [weather] conditions. “On the basis of the brief training session, which we had here yesterday [Monday] I can say the fast bowlers will play a bit more role. We've also got a decent fast bowling attack. He said the T20 series in Bangladesh was very much like an ODI series in terms of the way the players played there. “Like ODIs, a lot more singles were taken there in T20s as opposed to boundaries. Hence, in that respect our batters are fully prepared for ODI matches here.” “The main difference between the Bangladesh and Pakistan tours is that here in ODI series we'll have to do things for longer. The bowl-

ers will be bowling longer spells and the batters staying longer at the crease. Similarly, the players will have to spend pretty much time in the ground while fielding.” He said around 250 to 280 runs on the board would be a decent total at Rawalpindi. “Currently, we don't know how the surface will behave. Hence, we'll try to gather as much information as we can [about it] while training here during the next couple of days.” To a question about security measures, he said New Zealand were used to such arrangements. “Coming from Bangladesh where we had [security] convoys for two weeks, it's just an extension to that,” he added.

Afghanistan
urges
donors to
restart aid

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“Projects that are incomplete need to be completed in order to avoid waste of resources,” he added, also calling for more assistance from multilateral donors including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Islamic Development Bank. After the takeover, the United States froze Afghanistan's dollar-denominated bank deposits that make up the majority of the central bank's reserves. The international community should not politicize their assistance to Afghanistan, Muttaqi said. “(We) helped the US until evacuation of their last person, but unfortunately the US, instead of thanking us, froze our assets,” Muttaqi said. “The USA is a great country so it should have great patience, we should help each other.” Muttaqi said Afghanistan, which is also facing a drought, had already received aid from countries such as Pakistan, Qatar and Uzbekistan, but did not give further details. He said he had held discussions with China's ambassador on the coronavirus vaccine and other humanitarian causes, with Beijing pledging US \$15 million which will be available “soon”.

Reforms
in criminal
justice...

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He said the cabinet rejected the proposal of giving 10 percent adhoc relief to Chairman and Deputy chairman Senate, Speaker and Deputy speaker National Assembly and members of Senate and National Assembly in their salaries. He said the cabinet had also rejected an allowance traditionally given to members of the federal cabinet. The minister said the decision was part of the austerity measures taken by the incumbent government from day one to reduce burden on the national exchequer. He said the decision was meant to show the nation that people in corridors of power were setting an example for other people to save national kitty. He said the Prime Minister House has made big saving in its expenditure as part of the PM's authority drive and the National Assembly secretariat has returned Rs 1.54 billion to the government. The cabinet, he said, was informed that the cabinet allowed the Federal Board of Revenue to hire services for making its data more secure following a cyber attack on August 14 this year. Fawad said hackers attacked the website of Federal Board of Revenue, however most of its data remained safe and an operational emergency was declared to secure its data. He said the cabinet was informed that this year about a million cyberattacks were made on Pakistani websites which were thwarted by National Telecom Company. It was informed that a comprehensive framework of cyber security was in place which was being further strengthened.

Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said the Ministry of Science and Technology briefed the cabinet on process of electronic voting machines and overseas Pakistanis voting right. The minister said the Ministry of Information Technology would launch 5G technology in the country from next year in which multiple companies had already shown interest. He said Prime Minister Imran Khan directed the Pakistan Telecom Authority to ensure good telecommunication services in all parts of the country so that everyone could benefit from revolution in the sector. The minister said the cabinet gave approval for the establishment of Quid-e-Azam Foundation. He said the Prime Minister expressed disappointment over delay in procurement of wheat despite his clear instructions for early procurement. He said Punjab province was issued directives for immediate release of wheat which, he said, would help in gradual reduction of wheat and flour price in the market. On the proposal of the tariff policy board, the cabinet approved reduction in additional customs duty on auto parts from seven to two percent to promote indigenous production of vehicles. He said additional customs duty on heavy commercial vehicles had also been reduced from seven to two percent. Moreover, he said that prices of 1000 cc and below cars would fall after abolishment of additional duty on their equipment.

Briefs

Kabul airport
charge only
after clear
accords

NEWS DESK

DOHA: Qatar has warned it would not take responsibility for operations of Hamid Karzai International Airport without "clear" agreements with all the authorities concerned, including the Taliban.

Doha has become a key broker in Afghanistan following last month's withdrawal of US forces, helping evacuate thousands of foreigners and Afghans, engaging the new Taliban rulers and supporting operations at Kabul airport.

"We need to make sure that everything is addressed very clearly otherwise... we are not able to take any responsibility of the airport (if) all these things are not addressed," Qatar Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani said at a press briefing.

"Right now the status is still (under) negotiation because we need to have an agreement that's clear for everyone for all the parties and who is going to take care of the technical (side), who's going to take care of the security aspects."

"There is a possibility for collaboration with other countries if needed, but until now the discussion is only among us, Turkey and the Taliban."

Since the US pullout, Qatar Airways planes have made several trips to Kabul, flying in aid and Doha's representatives and ferrying out foreign passport holders.

A Pakistan International Airlines jet landed in Kabul Monday, marking the first international commercial flight since the US withdrawal.

Pak-Turkish
JBC sees big
trade via land
route

KARACHI: Chairman of Pakistan-Turkish Joint Business Council of FPCCI, Amjad Rafi has appreciated the opening of direct land route to Turkey for trade.

He acknowledged the efforts by National Logistics Cell (NLC) which materialized and Transports Internationaux Routiers (International Road Transports) license/permit was issued for the route for transportation of goods from Pakistan to Turkey, said statement issued on Tuesday by Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The senior business leader said this would not only save shipment time but freight as shipping companies were charging five times high.

He said it was a long pending 'recommendation' of PTJBC in all Joint meetings and other relevant forums. If this route succeeded, in the longer run Central Asian countries on one side and Europe on the other would be easily accessible. — APP

184 illegal
migrants
rescued off
Libyan coast

TRIPOLI: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on Monday said that 184 illegal migrants were rescued off Libya's coast and returned to western Libya.

"184 persons were returned this evening to the Oil Refinery point in Azzawiya. Among them were 12 women and 6 children," UNHCR tweeted.

"UNHCR & partner IRC were present at the disembarkation and provided humanitarian assistance and medical aid to all survivors," UNHCR said.

Libya has been suffering insecurity and chaos since the fall of its leader Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, making the North African country a preferred point of departure for illegal migrants who want to cross the Mediterranean Sea to European shores.

So far this year, a total of 23,601 illegal migrants have been rescued, while hundreds of others died or went missing off the Libyan coast on the Central Mediterranean route, according to the International Organization for Migration. — APP

Indonesian envoy stresses
more trade ties with Pakistan

He promised all-out efforts to boost mutual trade between his country and Pakistan. He said the two countries enjoyed cordial trade, and both share many cultural values

SIALKOT: Indonesian Ambassador in Pakistan Adam Mulawarman Tugio has called upon the Sialkot exporters to explore the international trade markets of his country to promote bilateral trade between the two countries.

Addressing a meeting at the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) here on Tuesday, he said Pakistani businessmen should focus more on the markets of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to increase their exports.

He promised all-out efforts to boost mutual trade between his country and Pakistan. He said the two countries enjoyed cordial trade, and both share many cultural values. He also stressed people-to-people contacts between the two countries.

He showed keen interest in SC-CI's documentary "Sialkot, the city of progressive people", which



was screened during the meeting.

SCCI President Qaisar Iqbal

Baryar, Senior Vice President

Khurram Aslam Butt, Vice Pres-

ident Sheikh Ansar Azizpuri and

Sialkot business community also

attended the event.

Qaisar Baryar said there was great potential for increasing bilateral trade between Pakistan and Indonesia. He said the total trade volume between the two countries in 2019-20 stood at \$2.5 billion, with the balance of trade strongly in favour of Indonesia.

He said Sialkot could export specialised products to Indonesian markets including sports goods, surgical instruments, leather products and gloves of all sorts, textiles items, sports wear, martial arts uniforms and accessories, musical instruments, kitchen ware and table ware, hollow ware, hunting knives, table cutlery/flatware, and military uniform badges.

Earlier, the ambassador visited leading industrial units in Sialkot. He showed interest in the production process of sports goods and surgical instruments. — APP

Pak participates
at Beijing Int'l
Book Fair

BEIJING: Pakistan has participated as the Country of Honour at the 28th Beijing International Book Fair (BIBF) began here at China International Exhibition Centre here on Tuesday. Over 50 exquisitely-printed Pakistani books, regarding Pakistan's history, culture, politics, fiction and arts were showcased at Asia's largest book fair. Over 20 local paintings were also presented. Addressing the opening ceremony, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haq said this year, Pakistan and China are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

"It is an honour for Pakistan to participate as the Chief Guest Country in this book fair," he added.

Ambassador Haque said that the pavilions of Pakistan and the Communist Party of China are located simultane-

ously at the festival which reflects the friendly relations between the two countries. He said many Pakistani books have been introduced using this platform and added, the exhibition will help introduce Pakistan literature and culture among Chinese people.

Ambassador Haque remarked that there is a natural affinity in the literary trends of Pakistan and China. "Our literature is an apt manifestation of Asian values, a vehicle for highlighting the historical continuity of our civilization and promoting a spiritual and tolerant outlook of our national ethos."

He also announced that the launching of the entire collection of Faiz Ahmed Faiz poetry in Chinese, which has been translated by Zhang Shixuan, the eminent Professor of Urdu language and old friend of Pakistan, will start soon. — APP

Aliyev urges attraction
of investments in Azerbaijan

He emphasized the need to create conditions for entrepreneurs, stating that the latter should be given opportunities to invest in regions and to create jobs

DNA

BAKU: President Ilham Aliyev has urged the attraction of local and foreign investments in Azerbaijan's regions for their faster development, Azerbaijani media reported.

He made the remarks at a video-format meeting with the newly-appointed executive heads of Shamkir and Jalilabad regions, Rashad Tagiyev and Rafiq Jalilov. "You should try to attract investment to the regions - both local and foreign. Our country cannot develop as much as we want without private investment. The state alone cannot take on everything. All this construction and improvement work throughout the country has been done through public investment," the president said.

He emphasized the need to create conditions for entrepreneurs, stating that the latter should be given opportunities to invest in regions and to create jobs. Moreover, Aliyev stressed that the necessary steps will be taken for the development of each region. Furthermore, the president



underlined that there is a huge potential for industry, agriculture and tourism in both regions.

"This potential needs to be used effectively. Notice that the state has done everything, has built beautiful roads, has laid gas lines, power lines, water lines, has installed irrigation systems, has created reservoirs, has built hospitals, schools, sports facilities. The rest is up to local leaders," Aliyev stated.

Giving the instructions to the newly-appointed executive heads, the president stated that a civil servant should be an example.

"I think that everyone already understands that a

civil servant should be an example. People's livelihoods and comfort depend on the activities of civil servants. They must work in such a way that they are always with the people," the president noted.

Aliyev underlined the need to work on the ground so that the regions develop faster.

"You must work in such a way that people are satisfied with you, things in your region are going well, there is development, construction and landscaping," Aliyev stressed.

Additionally, the president noted that great work had been done for the socio-economic development of Jali-

labad and Shamkir regions. As part of the public investment programs, major infrastructure projects have either already been implemented or are nearing completion.

Large-scale landscaping work had been carried out in both regions, electricity supply had been completely renewed. The level of gas supply in Jalilabad is more than 90 percent and in Shamkir is close to 100 percent.

He stressed that great work had been done on irrigation, and many artesian wells had been drilled. A large reservoir was built in Shamkir region - the Shamkirchay reservoir, which ushered new opportunities for land reclamation measures in both Shamkir and neighboring regions, and significantly expanded the scale of irrigated land.

The president noted that about 120 schools had been built or renovated in both regions. Two large hospitals were built, for 190 and 145 patients. In addition, a Medical Diagnostic Center was built in Jalilabad and two large Olympic Sports Complexes were commissioned.

Uzbekistan sends
humanitarian aid
to Afghanistan

DNA

TASHKENT: The ceremony of handing over humanitarian aid to the people of Afghanistan sent from Uzbekistan was held.

Humanitarian aid, which includes flour, various foodstuffs, basic necessities,

medicines, clothing and footwear, is another manifestation of the Uzbek people's goodwill towards brotherly Afghanistan.

It is another proof of the centuries-old historical, cultural and spiritual ties between our peoples. The aid will actually help Afghanistan.



Pakistan joins world to reduce food loss and waste

"These high levels of food loss and waste, valued at 400 billion US dollars annually, could feed around 1.26 billion more people per year," Dr Qu noted

BEIJING: In a concerted effort to grapple with the worsening food loss and waste and ensure global food security, officials and experts from various countries including Pakistan and international organisations gathered at the International Conference on Food Loss and Waste (ICFLW) held at China's east city of Jinan. In a video speech to the conference, Dr Qu Dongyu, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), said that FAO estimates that up to 14% of food produced globally undergoes food loss between the post-harvest and retail stages of the supply chain, and that 17% of total global food production is expected to be wasted at

the retail, food service and consumption stages.

"These high levels of food loss and waste, valued at 400 billion US dollars annually, could feed around 1.26 billion more people per year," Dr Qu noted.

In the 70 speeches delivered at the conference, experts and officials have advocated sustainable production practices, and suggested preventing food loss in the processes of harvest, storage, processing through mechanised and standardised operations, and new technologies. While providing Pakistani experience of dealing with post-harvest food loss at the conference, Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Agriculture

Faisalabad, said that Pakistan has drawn on drying techniques and climate-smart storage technology to alleviate post-harvest food loss which is mainly caused by high moisture and insect pests.

Talking to the media, Ma Youxiang, Vice Minister of Chinese Agriculture and Rural Affairs, said that "reducing food loss and waste is a systematic and international effort as it not only involves production, harvest, logistics, storage, processing and sales, but it involves both domestic and international supply and consumption, industrial and supply chains."

Realising the complexity of food loss and waste reduction, the participants have also expect-

ed to establish a mechanism to facilitate international cooperation and an international food loss and waste R&D platform to promote the innovation and experiment of relevant science and technology, CEN reported.

To pull global wisdom to tackle food loss and waste, the conference released the "Jinan Initiative on Food Loss and Waste", setting out the key areas and cooperation directions to reduce food loss and waste including popularising the concept of food loss and waste reduction, improving infrastructure and adopting new technologies and promoting sustainable consumption patterns.

Themed "Reducing food loss and waste and promoting global food

security" and co-hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China, the National Development and Reform Commission of China, the National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration of China and Shandong Provincial Government, the conference aims to build an international platform and unite the world to achieve the Target 12.3 of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) to halve global food waste at retail and consumer levels, as well as to reduce food loss during production and supply.

More than 300 experts and officials from over 50 countries, international organisations, enterprises and NGOs participated in the conference. — APP

Turk-Uzbek
ministers
discuss co-op

DNA

TASHKENT: Deputy Minister - Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurzakov held a meeting with a group of deputies of the Parliament of the Republic of Turkey, representing the Justice and Development Party of Turkey, headed by its deputy chairman, deputy Parliament of the Republic of Turkey from Istanbul by Numan Kurtulmus.

During the bilateral dialogue, the sides discussed a wide range of issues of multifaceted interaction between the countries.

The policy of expanding cooperation, economic, economic, cultural and humanitarian cooperation between Uzbekistan and Turkey was highly appreciated.

The Turkish side was enhanced expanded assistance in promoting reforms in Uzbekistan. An agreement was reached on close cooperation in order to implement the agreements already reached and to further improve the forms and mechanisms of interaction.

Russia fines
Facebook,
Twitter

MOSCOW: Russia fined Facebook and Twitter on Tuesday for not deleting banned content, adding to a slew of penalties the government has already imposed on foreign tech giants. Russia has been tightening controls over US-based tech companies and last week accused them of interfering in parliamentary polls due later this month. A court in Moscow slapped Facebook with five fines on Tuesday totalling 21 million rubles (\$288,000), according to an official Telegram channel.

The same court fined Twitter five million rubles. Facebook has so far been fined 90 million rubles in Russia and Twitter 45 million, the state-run TASS news agency reported. Russia often takes legal action against internet platforms for not deleting content it labels illegal, such as posts condoning drugs and suicide.

The judicial authorities have also fined Google citing the same offences and for failing to store the data of Russian users on domestic servers.

Nearly all Kremlin critics - including allies of jailed opposition leader Alexei Navalny - have been barred from running in parliamentary elections on 17-19 September. Russia's foreign ministry said last week it had summoned the US ambassador in Moscow over US tech giants' "interference" in the polls. Russian media regulator Roskomnadzor has blocked dozens of websites linked to Navalny, including a site that instructs Russians how to vote out politicians of the ruling United Russia party. — APP

PSX wins
best ISX
award 2021

KARACHI: Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) has been awarded the Best Islamic Stock Exchange Award-2021 by Global Islamic Finance Awards (GIFA).

The award presented to PSX for the first time in 10-year history of GIFA is an international vote of confidence in PSX as a robust and active bourse, facilitating all types of companies and investors - whether Shariah-compliant or otherwise, said PSX statement on Tuesday.

GIFA is an internationally respected platform recognizing excellence in banking and finance in the Islamic world, which is a significant development at global level especially in the Islamic world.

Since 2011, the awards have been presented to individuals, institutions and government departments globally who has shown outstanding performance in promoting Islamic banking and finance, and in terms of commitment to social responsibility.

GIFA is the only global Islamic finance awards programme covering all parts of the world and includes all institutions and individuals who have contributed to growth and expansion of Islamic banking and finance with Sharia authenticity. — APP

Briefs

Rupee slumps to an all-time low against dollar

KARACHI: An 85-paisa decline in the inter-bank market due to external payments pressures dragged the rupee to a record low on Tuesday against the US dollar, with the exchange rate sliding to Rs168.94. The Pakistani currency briefly touched an all-time low of Rs169 in the inter-bank market during intra-day trade, before making a modest pull-back from that level. In all, the rupee dropped 0.5% to Rs168.94 on Tuesday after closing at Rs168.10 on Monday (September 13). A decline in the country's foreign earnings mounted pressure on the local currency from the supply side. The rupee has now fallen past its previous low of Rs168.43 against the greenback recorded on August 26 last year. It has depreciated by 6.7% since June 2021 and 9.9% since its recent high of Rs152.28 in May 2021, according to Arif Habib Limited. — APP

55% Pakistanis 'happy' with Taliban govt

DNA

ISLAMABAD: More than half of Pakistan has a favourable opinion of Taliban rule in Afghanistan, a new poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan suggests. As part of the survey, a representative sample of more than 2,400 people was asked, "Are you happy with the formation of Taliban government in Afghanistan?" According to the survey's findings, 55% of Pakistanis stated they were "happy", whereas 25% were "unhappy" about the Taliban rule and 20% had "no response". In total, 55% of the sampled people were happy with the establishment of a Taliban government, who took over Afghanistan on August 15. The province-wise breakdown found that the strongest support for the Taliban government was in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where 65% respondents said they were "happy" with the Taliban government. After that, 55% were from Balochistan, while 54% were from Punjab and Sindh, who expressed happiness over the formation of the Taliban government in Afghanistan. From among urban respondents, 59% were "happy" with the formation of the Taliban government and 20% said they were "unhappy". Meanwhile, from among rural respondents, 53% people said that the were "happy" while, 28% people were "unhappy".

Govt to repay loan of \$3 bn to China

ARIJ GHAZNAVI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have begun talks for the rollover of \$3 billion worth of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) debt and have also agreed to hold a much-delayed meeting of the CPEC strategic committee, Khalid Mansoor, an aide to the prime minister, said on Monday. An announced delay in holding the 10th meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of CPEC and Pakistan's discomfort with payment of upcoming debt of CPEC energy projects was sending negative signals about the government's seriousness towards the multibillion-dollar strategic initiative. For the restructuring of debt of CPEC energy projects, "talks with Chinese authorities have begun for a win-win situation", said Special Assistant to Prime Minister on CPEC Affairs Khalid Mansoor while addressing his maiden press conference. He maintained that Pakistan was committed to making payments against the Chinese investment in energy sector projects.

China hails Pakistan as special partner at China-ASEAN Expo

Zhao Lijian remarked that as all weather strategic copter partners, China and Pakistan have also deepened economic cooperation in recent years

DNA

BEIJING: China on Tuesday hailed Pakistan for its participation as special partner country second time in a row at the 18th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) held from September 10-13 at Nanning, China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. One again, Pakistan attended the exhibition and meeting as a specially invited cooperation partner. President Dr Alvi delivered a video address at the opening ceremony of the expo. China appreciates all this, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian

said during his regular briefing. Pakistan again attended the annual in this year's expo as a special partner country. It also participated in the 17th China-ASEAN Expo as special partner country. President, Dr. Arif Alvi in a video message screened at the opening ceremony said there would be a lot of discussions between the Pakistani, Chinese and other ASEAN nations businessmen and traders to further enhance trade. Zhao Lijian remarked that as all weather strategic copter partners, China and Pakistan have also deepened economic cooperation in recent years. China has been



Pakistan's largest trading partner for six years in a row. "We stand ready to work together with Pakistan to promote high level development of bilateral relations,

and constantly deepen cooperation in various sectors including in trade and work together to build the China Pakistan community with a shared future for the new era, and provide impetus

for regional prosperity and development, he said. The spokesperson said the Expo was an important platform for China and ASEAN cooperation and added, "In recent years with the upgrading of China ASEAN relations, the expo's influence and appeal has also increased." He said the expo had promoted and witnessed the deepening economic integration, expanding trade cooperation, enhanced connectivity and closer people to people exchanges between the two sides. Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque addressed the China-Pakistan

Investment and Business Forum on the sidelines of the expo and invited the Chinese businessmen to take benefit from the present government's investment-friendly policies and conducive atmosphere. Pakistani traders and businessmen showcased marble, wood handicrafts, carpets, leather garments and other products at the expo. With an exhibition area of 81 square meters, Pakistan has set up a pavilion as well as 14 booths to showcase its national image and display its products to further promote its exchange and cooperation with China and ASEAN countries.

ECP to serve notices to Azam Swati, Fawad Ch

SHUJAAT HAMZA

LAHORE: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has decided to serve notices to Fawad Chaudhry and Azam Swati over allegations leveled by the federal ministers. As per details, the Election Commission will take action after serving the notices. The Election Commission also sought a record of the allegations of the ministers from PEMRA, further action will be taken after the record is released. Earlier Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja on Tuesday chaired a meeting over allegations leveled by the federal ministers. According to details, Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) members and higher officials attended the session.

The participants deliberated upon the discussions which took place during the meetings in Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs and President House. The ECP members expressed anger over federal ministers for accusing the commission of taking bribes. The allegations are baseless and unacceptable as the ECP is a constitutional department, they stated. Earlier, federal minister Azam Swati had leveled serious allegations against the ECP of taking bribes. During the session of Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, the minister criticized the commission for making fun of the Parliament. In a protest against the statement of Azam Swati, the ECP officials had walked out of the meeting.

Pakistan, Germany sign first climate partnership

ARIJ GHAZNAVI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Germany have announced a first-of-its-kind climate partnership to enhance the climate resilience of the venerable communities in Pakistan. It will deepen cooperation in climate change, environmental sustainability and green development sectors. Pakistan PM's special assistant on climate change Malik Amin Aslam Khan visited Berlin for the signing ceremony on September 11 to begin the process for climate partnership between the two countries leading green initiatives in their respective regions. The letter of intent includes up-scaling initiatives related to renewable energy,



nature-based solutions, nature performance bonds and carbon markets. The letter was signed by Sara Ijaz, chargé d'affaires at the Embassy of Pakistan on behalf of the Ministry of Climate Change while Prof. Dr Claudia Warning, Director General Asia and Europe, signed it on behalf of the

German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The special adviser expressed hope that the partnership "would prove to be exemplary and provide a model for the international community in restoring ecosystems and addressing common climate challenges." The partnership would be launched as a flagship initiative during the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow in November this year. The German officials also highlighted that Pakistan was the pioneer country for this partnership due to its track record of cooperation in the field of climate change. German Ambassador to Pakistan Bernhard Schlagheck said that he was "very proud of the expanding Germany-Pakistan bilateral cooperation." He said: "The latest collaboration on a new Pakistan-German climate and energy initiative has great potential to foster exchange and progress for both countries fighting climate change and increasing clean energy."

PM for steps to hold local body elections in Punjab

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Tuesday directed the officials to take immediate steps for holding local body elections in Punjab. Federal ministers Asad Umar, Fawad Chaudhry, Shafqat Mahmood, Makhdoom Khusró Bakhtiar, Ghulam Sarwar Khan, Chaudhry Tariq Bashir Cheema, Moonis Elahi, Provincial Minister for Punjab Abdul Aleem Khan and senior officers attended the meeting. Minister for Local Bodies Punjab Mian Mahmoodur Rashid took part in the meeting through video link. The Punjab government briefed the prime minister about new local government system in the province. The prime minister emphasized that the local government was the basic structure of democracy and reiterated that without a strong local body system democracy was incomplete. He asked the relevant officials to ensure direct elections of local government representatives.

COAS visits Panno Aqil; lauds combat readiness of troops

DNA

RAWALPINDI: General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited Panno Aqil. According to an ISPR press statement, COAS was given a detailed briefing on operational preparedness of the desert formation training in field. COAS witnessed formation at Field Firing Ranges, Salehpota. The participating troops demonstrated integrated battle drills by various components as part of defensive battle in desert including fire and manoeuvre. Interacting with troops, COAS appreciated their combat readiness, training standards and high morale while training under such tough conditions. Effective integration of various arms and services during training is imperative for befitting response to adversary during war, COAS emphasised. COAS also planted a tree as part of Sarsabz-o-Shadab Pakistan Campaign. COAS commended formation for this undertaking in unfavourable desert conditions aimed at preservation of environment and strengthening defence of the area. Later, COAS visited family of Sepoy Hizb Ullah Jatoi Shaheed, in village Dattar Dino; Panno Aqil, who embraced shahadat on 5 September 2021 due to IED attack on FC troops deployed at Quetta. COAS inquired about well-being of the family and directed all concerned to ensure welfare of the families of Shuhada; who have sacrificed their lives for defence of motherland.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of UAE Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Alzaabi calls upon Federal Minister for Science and Technology Shibli Faraz. — DNA

PM to deliver UN speech virtually

ALI FURQAN

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan decided not to visit the United States for the annual UN General Assembly session and instead will deliver his speech through video link from Islamabad. Khan will address the UNGA 2021 virtually on the afternoon of September 24. However Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi would represent Pakistan at UNGA 2021 and would hold a number of meetings at the sideline of the session. More than 100 heads of state and government will arrive in New York next week to attend the annual high-level General Assembly session. Last year, for the first time in 75 years, world leaders had submitted pre-recorded vid-

eo statements for the UNGA session as they could not physically attend the gathering due to the coronavirus pandemic. Shah Mahmood would chair the OIC contact group meeting on Kashmir on the sideline which is scheduled on September 23. Qureshi would also participate in a high-level meeting of the security council reforms committee. Pakistan's foreign minister would not go to Washington DC and sources told Islamabad Post that no meeting is planned with the US secretary of state Antony Blinken. Qureshi is scheduled to depart on September 21 and will remain in New York till September 25. The UN General Debate begins on September 21 and will run through September 27.

US tells Pakistan to press Taliban on HR



FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: The US has made it clear to Pakistan that it does not want Islamabad to recognise the Taliban government until it doesn't give women their due rights and allows Afghans who want to leave the country, to do so. In the first public hearing in Congress about Afghanistan since last month's collapse of the US-backed Afghan government, US Secretary of State Blinken told the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee that Pakistan has a "multiplicity of interests, some that are in

conflict with ours." "It is one that involved hedging its bets constantly about the future of Afghanistan, it's one that's involved harboring members of the Taliban ... It is one that's also involved in different points cooperation with us on counterterrorism," Blinken said. Asked by lawmakers if it is time for Washington to reassess its relationship with Pakistan, Blinken said the administration would soon be doing that. "This is one of the things we're going to be looking at in the days, and weeks ahead - the role that Pakistan has played over the last 20 years but also the role we would want to see it play in the coming years and what it will take for it to do that," he said. The United States' withdrawal from Afghanistan culminated with a hastily organised airlift that left thousands of US-allied Afghans behind and was punctuated by a suicide bombing outside Kabul's airport that killed 13 US troops and scores of Afghans.

SEPTEMBER 2021

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

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