



# Islamabad POST

Thursday, September 16, 2021

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

Price Rs. 20

**Kazakhstan biggest economy in Central Asia: Amb. Yerzhan**

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**Ursula delivers "State of the Union" address**

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**Pak capable to win T20 World Cup: Hassan Ali**

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## Briefs

**PM to attend SCO summit in Dushanbe**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan will be paying a two-day official visit to Tajikistan on the invitation of President Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan on 16-17 September 2021. The Prime Minister will be accompanied by a high-level Ministerial delegation. This will be the third visit of the Prime Minister to Central Asia, underlining Pakistan's enhanced engagement with the region.

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**Democracy vital for progress**

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has termed democracy as an unquestionable guarantee of security and progress of the country adding that two Pakistanis, instead of one, will continue to exist unless the constitution is not followed as per its spirit besides maintaining the supremacy of Parliament. In a statement on the occasion of International Day of Democracy, PPP chairman said that in a multicultural society like Pakistan, federal democracy is the only system of governance that upholds civil and political rights and nurtures a balanced society.

**Pakistan rubbishes Indian claims**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Spokesperson of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Asim Iftikhar Ahmed has said "We emphatically reject the Indian media's baseless claims that Indian authorities have busted a so-called 'terror module' having alleged links with Pakistan. Fabricating unfounded allegations and peddling white lies are part of India's well-known smear campaign against Pak, which has already been fully exposed by EU DisinfoLab and others.

## Outsiders can't control Afghanistan

PM says Afghanistan was currently at a "historic crossroads", and it could see peace after four decades if Taliban worked towards an inclusive govt



NEWS DESK / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan says there is a need to "incentivise" the Taliban's new administration in order to bring the current crisis to an end, instead of trying to control Afghanistan from the outside. In an exclusive interview with CNN, host Becky Anderson asked Prime Minister Imran about apprehensions that the Taliban will not protect human rights, especially those of women and children. "Where Afghanistan goes from here, I am afraid none of us can predict," the premier responded. "We can hope and pray that there is peace after 40 years. That the Taliban, what they have said, that they want an inclusive government, they want women rights – in their own context, they want human rights; they have given amnesty so, so far what they have said [shows] clearly they want international acceptability." The prime minister said it was a "fallacy" that Afghanistan could be controlled from outside, saying history showed "no puppet government in Afghanistan is supported by the people".

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**Amnesty for TTP only if they give up terrorism: FM**

MONITORING DESK

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said that the Pakistani government would be "open to giving" a pardon to members of the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) if they promise not to get involved in terrorist activities and submit to the Pakistani Constitution. In an interview with The Independent in Islamabad, the foreign minister said Pakistan was concerned about the reports of TTP figures being released from prisons in the wake of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. "If those guys come and start creating problems for us over here, it will affect innocent lives and we don't want that," he said while referring to the TTP. Qureshi said if the new Afghan setup could use its influence and talk to the TTP, and "if [the TTP] are willing to mend fences and not take the law into their hands and not get involved in terrorist activities and they submit and surrender to the writ of the government and the Constitution of Pakistan, we are even open to giving them a pardon."

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## Pakistan, UAE agree to boost bilateral links

FM Qureshi greets Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan on successful holding of EXPO2020

CENTRELINE REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi received a telephone call from His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates. During the call, the two Foreign Ministers discussed various dimensions of Pakistan-UAE relations and agreed to strengthen cooperation in all fields. They also resolved to continue their close collaboration in various multilateral fora.



Foreign Minister Qureshi congratulated his counterpart on making excellent arrangements for Expo2020 and hoped that the mega event would be a resound-

ing success. The two Ministers agreed to remain in close contact on bilateral matters as well as regional issues, including the situation in Afghanistan.



ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner Christian Turner calls on Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf Saeed Al Maliki, at the Saudi embassy. – DNA

**5 terrorists killed in IBO**

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Security forces have killed five terrorists during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in South Waziristan District, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement on Wednesday. The military's media wing mentioned that during an intense exchange of fire, seven soldiers were also martyred, with the forces conducting a cordon and search operation to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area. The development comes hours after security forces had killed two terrorists as they conducted an IBO after being informed of their hideout in Datta Khel of the North Waziristan District. Per a statement issued by the ISPR, the two terrorists were killed during the intense exchange of fire between the two sides.

**Capital admin. softens curbs**

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The capital administration has announced revised set of rules after the covid-19 cases show decline. According to new rules, business activities will be allowed to open till 10 pm at night. Indoor gatherings will be allowed only with a maximum of 200 vaccinated individuals.

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## COAS lauds PAF's role in Afghan crisis

Air chief highlighted various ongoing projects being carried out by PAF

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Wednesday appreciated Pakistan Air Force's role in provision of humanitarian assistance and facilitating recent evacuation operations from Afghanistan, military said. The army chief was given detailed briefing on operational matters of

**Awards conferred upon scientists, engineers**

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: On behalf of the President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, General Nadeem Raza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, conferred civil awards to the eminent scientists and engineers from strategic organizations for their superior meritorious services at the Investiture Ceremony held at Chaklala Garrison, Rawalpindi here. According to ISPR statement, 29 awardees including three

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## Russian envoy extols Pak efforts for regional peace

Pakistan, Russia pledge to further cement and enhance bilateral relations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a virtual meeting with Russian Ambassador Danila Ganich, Deputy Chairman Senate Mirza Muhammad Afridi underlined the need to work together to counter the challenges of climate change, poverty, Human rights and other issues of mutual concern. "Relations with Russia remains a key priority of Pakistan's foreign policy", said Deputy Chairman Senate while speaking virtually with the Russian Envoy here on Wednesday. During the meeting, issues of mutual interest, Afghan situation and overall regional situation were dis-



Mirza Afridi | Russian Amb. Danila Ganich  
cussed. Afridi underscored that relations between the two countries have improved significantly over the last two decades.

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## Kazakhstan biggest economy in Central Asia: envoy

The key point in Kazakh-Pakistan relationship front the beginning is a total absence of any profound disagreements, what makes our countries able to develop cooperation in any field: Amb Yerzhan Kistafin

EXCLUSIVE

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

AMBASSADOR of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin gave an exclusive interview to Daily Islamabad POST. This was his first-ever interview to any Pakistani media house, after assuming charge of the office of the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan. Ambassador Kistafin recently presented his credentials to the President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi. Attired in the traditional Kazakh dress Chopan, Ambassador Yerzhan Kistafin talked extensively about bilateral as well international relations. His interview shall be published in parts in Daily Islamabad POST while it will also be published in the October 2021 issue of CENTRELINE magazine.

1. Please share with our readers a brief history of Kazakhstan including life style; historical background; tourist destinations; cuisines, etc.? It is important to note, that Kazakhstan is the country, whose almost 19-million population, despite of being ethnically diverse, is mostly composed by Kazakh people with their own language, culture, traditions and, of course, history. Another issue to mention is that history of Kazakhstan is largely the one

of nomads, who Kazakh people had been for centuries before totally got sedentary at the very beginning of the 20th century. This is the reason why Kazakh traditions, folk music, traditions, cuisine are referring so much with our nomadic past. As for the term "Kazakh" and its origin, scholars have different views but the most popular among them is the one that the word "Kazakh" means free and warlike people. Just few years ago, Kazakhstan widely celebrated the 550th anniversary of creation of the Kazakh Khanate, a nomadic state, which is known as the first statehood of Kazakh people and predecessor of modern-day



Kazakhstan. The Kazakh Khanate was a successor of the Golden Horde and existed from the 15th to 19th century. The khanate was established by Janibek Khan and Kerei Khan around 1465. Kasym Khan, a son of Janibek (then leader of Kazaks), helped Babur, founder of the Moghul Empire, to conquer Kabul and Delhi Sultanate afterwards, sending Kazakh warriors to join Babur's army. Since the first half of the 18th century, the Kazakh Khanate gradually got under the power of the growing and expanding Russian Empire, what ended up in the 19th century with the abolition of the Khanate and total incorporation of Kazakh landmasses into the



Russian Empire. During that time, Pakistan as well as the most of the Indian subcontinent was gradually getting under control of the British Empire. The 20th century was mostly the era of the so-called Soviet Kazakhstan, when our country was an integral part of the USSR and developed within the Soviet power until it collapsed in 1991. Nowadays sovereign Kazakhstan, which is celebrating this year the 30th anniversary of its Independence, is a well-known state with a strong commitment to enhance mutually beneficial relationship with any state of the world, including, certainly brotherly Pakistan. In this regard, I would like to reiterate



the fact that Pakistan was among the first to have recognized Kazakhstan as a sovereign state in late 1991. It followed by the establishment in February of 1992 of diplomatic relations between our countries, which at present have enormous potential in developing interstate cooperation in every field.

**What are major exports and imports of Kazakhstan?**

Kazakhstan is the biggest economy in Central Asia and our strategic goal is to secure leading positions in the region and strengthen our niche in the world economy. But as any another national economy in the world the economy of Kazakhstan was badly damaged by COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, the Government of Kazakhstan managed to keep the economic situation in the country under control and start overcoming consequences of the pandemic. Kazakhstan is known as a country, blessed to have huge natural resources, including oil, gas, metals, uranium and many others, which the world economy still needs and makes our country a major exporter of natural resources. Currently the bigger part of our national export volume are natural resources, which comprise more than its half.

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Afghan girls' football team flees to Pakistan – Page 03

President Alvi stresses on facilitating AJK & GB youth – Page 04

COVID-19 demands a new global response – Page 05

DC ICT lauds D-Watson efforts to tackle corona – Page 06

EU President delivers "State of the Union" 2021 address – Page 07

Pakistan can benefit from Portuguese experience: Envoy – Page 08



## Briefs

## PhDs are the future of the country

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: The University of Agriculture Faisalabad arranged a two-day Orientation/Training workshop of Teaching Assistants. The inaugural session was presided over by UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan (SI). He said that the teaching assistants who are also PhD scholars are the future leaders. He said that system of teaching assistantship is to improve the quality of learning among PhD scholars and keeping in view the large student teacher ratio at UAF. He said that teaching assistantship was a huge responsibility to polish their teaching and communication skills. The university administration is ensuring to provide maximum facilities to teaching assistants and PhD scholars. Dr. Babar Shahbaz Director Academics and Teaching Resource Centre said that teaching assistantship for one semester is mandatory for all PhD students. TAs should take their responsibility in assisting the senior teachers.

## CM for effective price control mechanism

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has directed the provincial price control committee to ensure effective implementation of the price control mechanism in the province to provide necessary relief to the common man. In a statement, the CM directed the administration to ensure quality control as well as strict monitoring of prices of essential items in markets. Those creating artificial price-hike do not deserve any leniency and no one will be allowed to make a dacoity on the pockets of the people; the CM declared and further directed the administration to continue their indiscriminate action against hoarders and illegal profiteers. Action should be initiated against those selling items at exorbitant rates; he added and repeated to ensure the availability of daily used items according to fixed rates.

## US dollar beats Pak rupee

DNA

KARACHI: The US dollar opened in early inter-bank trading on a new historic high against the Pakistani rupee on Wednesday. The greenback straight away got a jump of 56 paise as the traders took positions at the opening time of the inter-bank trading, touching a new record high of Rs169.50, but the US dollar closed at 169.12, 18 paise up from yesterday's closing of Rs168.94. According to forex dealers, the US dollar had gained Rs17.22 in value during the last four months. On May 7, 2021, the US dollar had been traded at Rs152.28 in inter-bank trading.

## 3 dacoits killed during encounter

DNA

JHANG: Three 'dacoits' were killed in Jhang in an encounter with police while three others managed to flee on Wednesday. Police, however, said that the dacoits were killed due to firing by some of their own accomplices. Those who lost their lives had committed a robbery in a bazaar in Jhang city in broad daylight a few days ago. And when they attempted to rob people in the Kotcha Pakka area near Kot Khara area, they came face to face with the police. However, it was not due to police's fire, but due to firing by some of their own accomplices that they were killed, police told media.

## Ghani blames CM for expensive furniture

Saeed says the committee had started a process in 2018, but the bids were rejected by the committee

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Provincial Information Minister Saeed Ghani has blamed Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah over procurement of expensive furniture for the schools across the province. Talking to media in Karachi, Sindh information minister Saeed Ghani said that it was reported in the media that the education department had spent several billion rupees for the purchase of furniture. He said that the contract was started during my tenure, adding a committee consisting of several important people was formed for the procurement of school furniture. The heads of various institutions including IBA Sukkur were made members of the committee. He said that the committee had started a process in 2018, but the bids were rejected by the committee. Minister said the bids fell far short of what commit-

tee had estimated. A letter was written to Transparency International on this whole issue. The committee canceled the tenders and re-tendered in 2019. Saeed Ghani said that Sardar Shah remained the Minister of Education till August 2019. From August to February 2020, the Education Department remained with the Chief Minister of Sindh. In my time, big companies made bids, at that time the bids for benches were between Rs 21,000 and Rs 26,000. He said that the procurement committee had discussed the basic principle of SIPRA, according to which it is necessary to procure good quality furniture. The Procurement Committee recommended the use of A1 grade sheesham wood (Indian rosewood). He said that a gentleman went to the court in this regard, but the order given by the court was not conveyed to the department. He filed a contempt of court case.

## U-16 championship starts with full bang

The Divisional Commissioner says that Under-16 Championship should be organized for the promotion of cricket at the grass root level

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Under-16 Central Punjab Schools Championship has started under the arrangements of district administration. Divisional Commissioner Saqib Manan inaugurates the championship by hitting the cricket ball which was bowl by Deputy Commissioner Ali Shehzad and cut the ribbon along with Member Provincial Assembly Shakeel Shahid. Additional Deputy Commissioner Headquarters Muhammad Khalid, CEO Education Ali Ahmad Siyan, Assistant Commissioner City Syed Ayub Bukhari, Caretaker Iqbal Stadium Naveed Nazir, District Sports Officer Sajida Latif, Tehsil Sports Officer City Shabina Hameed, Leader Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Mian Nabeel Arshad, Assistant Director Education Sardar Mohammad Sajid, Incharge Control Room Mohammad Sadiq, Educationist Mohammad Akhtar Butt, besides players and officials were also present on the occasion.



On the opening day, one each match was played at two venues, Iqbal Stadium and Bohranwali Ground. A total of 10 teams from government and private schools participated in the tournament which was divided into two pools and the final of the championship would play on September 26, at Iqbal stadium. The Divisional Commissioner in his address appreciated the efforts of the district administration in organizing the inaugural function of

the Under-16 Central Punjab Schools Cricket Championship and said that the Under-16 Championship should be organized for the promotion of cricket at the grass root level. He said that on the instructions of Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar, a talent hunt program is being highlighted across the division and the organization of the championship is a link in the same chain.

He hoped that the teams of Faisalabad would make their place at the level of Punjab by presenting excellent play. MPA Shakeel Shahid said that the Prime Minister and Chief Minister are taking steps for the promotion of other sports including cricket at the grass root level and holding the Schools Cricket Championship is a link in the same chain of initiatives. He appreciated the efforts of organizing the successful opening ceremony.

## KP govt to open educational institutes

STAFF REPORT

PESHAWAR: Education department of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province has announced to resume in-person classes at the educational institutes from Thursday. A handout issued from the KP education department said that educational institutes are allowed to resume in-person classes with 50 percent attendance. "Each batch of students will attend classes three days in a week," it said while announcing against resuming classes in Bannu district owing to rising COVID-19 cases. On September 10, a day after the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) decided to extend restrictions to curb the spread of Covid-19, the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) governments on Friday notified the closure of schools in cities with high infection rate till Sept 15. KP Education Minister Shahram Khan Tarakai tweeted that schools in Peshawar, Swabi, Malakand, Swat, Haripur, Abbottabad, Mansehra and Dera Ismail Khan will remain closed until Sept 15 in line with the NCOC's decision.

## Umer's son thanks Sindh govt for treatment

DNA

KARACHI: Jawad Umer, son of Umer Sharif has thanked the Sindh government for providing funds for treatment of his father abroad. The Sindh government on Wednesday released Rs40 million for the treatment of legendary comedian Umer Sharif abroad. Jawad Umer while addressing a press conference along with Sindh Culture Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah, Karachi Administrator Murtaza Wahab, and Arts Council President Ahmad Shah expressed gratitude to the Sindh government for announcing help for his treatment abroad. He also appealed not to post pictures of his ailing father online. On this occasion, Murtaza Wahab called Omar Sharif a national asset. He told that as soon as the legendary actor's illness was reported, the Sindh CM said, "How can we leave alone the person who made us laugh all our lives?" Murad Ali Shah said that the Sindh government had always supported the artists. He said there was no like Umar Sharif. President Arts Council Ahmad Shah said that he was grateful to the Sindh government for its cooperation in the treatment of Umer Sharif.



LAHORE: First Lady Bushra Bibi visits centre for Mental Health, where she was briefed about the facilities provided to the patients. She also met with some patients and asked about their health. – DNA

## No restrictions on Freedom of Speech, says Faisal Javed

The Chairman Committee Faisal Javed says that the good things of PMDA should be appreciated and flexibility should be shown for improvement

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting on the newly proposed idea of the PMDA was held under the Chairmanship of Senator Faisal Javed at the Parliament House on Wednesday. The Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Fawad Chaudhry and State Minister Farrukh Habib briefed the committee on the concept paper for PMDA. The Chairman Committee Faisal Javed Highlighted that the Prime Minister Imran Khan would never put curbs of any kind on the freedom of speech and press. "Prime Minister Imran Khan completely believes in freedom of expression. He will never put curbs of any kind on the freedom of speech and press". Faisal Javed reiterated. He added



that the PTI's manifesto says: "We are committed to maintaining a vigorous free media, which will evolve its own rules to ensure responsible journalism. The Chairman Committee Faisal Javed said that the good things of PMDA should be appreciated and flexibility should be shown for improvement. The Chairman Committee reiterated that as long as the Proposed PMDA guarantees the rights of the freedom of Journalism and In-

terest of the Nation at large, we should acknowledge it. The Chairman Committee said that the PMDA bill has not been put before our committee so far. "Standing Committee is a legislative forum - it can comment on the legislation - so far only the concept paper has been shown", Faisal Javed commented. He said that we shall be in a better position to decide once we receive the draft on the bill. "We have informed the information ministry of our

response and recommendations" stated Faisal Javed The Minister for Information and Broadcasting, while briefing the committee on the Proposed Pakistan Media Development Authority (PMDA) said that first time in the history of Pakistan all the stake holders along with the legislative bodies are extensively being consulted prior to the official passing of the Bill. He said that it has become a convention by the opposition to oppose every bill proposed by the government, however this is an important bill and we should work above party lines to understand the spirit and objective behind the bill. Fawad Chaudhry lamented the fact that a fake ordinance was issued to misinterpret and create chaos in the country against the freedom of Journalism which the Government believes is their utmost right.



DG KHAN: Vice President, Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz, Maryum Nawaz addressing the first organizational meeting of PMLN. – DNA

## Measures stressed to protect glaciers

Dr. Sher said that changes had been observed in glaciers in the upper part of Indus River for which modern tech been used

STAFF REPORT

PESHAWAR: Speakers at a seminar on Wednesday underlined the need for taking effective measures to protect glaciers from harmful effects of climate change. A one-day seminar titled "Effects of Climate Change on Pakistani glaciers, Factors and Opportunities" was held by National Center of Excellence in Geology (NCEG), University of Peshawar in collaboration with International Center for Mountain Development, Kathmandu, Nepal. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sher Muhammad said that changes had been observed in glaciers in the upper part of Indus River for which modern technology had been used. He said that a slight change was taking place in the Karakoram area as the glaciers were declining in size and added that it was necessary

to observe glaciers minutely with help of new technology while enabling the use of water resources for agriculture, domestic and hydropower. He said that glacier surveillance technology was now widely available but there was a dearth of researchers in Pakistan who could use it properly. Dr. Sher Muhammad further said that the Kathmandu Institute had so far organized two trainings to improve the capacity of geological scientists and a training was also being conducted next month from which these scientists could benefit, he added. Earlier, in the seminar, focal persons Dr. Muhammad Younis Khan and Dr. Seema Anjum also highlighted various aspects of climate change and underlined the need for taking effective measures to successfully tackle environmental challenges.

## CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Water &amp; Sewerage R/A Zone Division

## TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are hereby invited on percentage basis from the contractors firms duly enlisted with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in appropriate category and Codes having validity / renewal of PEC license, NTN and GST registration with FBR.

S.No	Name of work	NIT Cost	Earnest Money	Tender Fee Non Refundable	Date & Time of receiving of tenders	Date & Time of Opening of tenders
1.	Providing and Laying Water Supply System In Frash Town (Pocket 1 & 2), Islamabad	Rs.52,019,864/96	Rs.1,560,596/-	Rs.3,000/-	30/09/2021 11:30 AM	30/09/2021 12:00 Noon

- Tender forms can be purchased on cash payment of Rs.3,000/- (Rupees three thousand only) (non-refundable) in shape of cash from the office of Deputy Director W&S (R/A) Zone, Capital Development Authority located at Room # 136, First Floor (Old Naval Head Quarter G-6 Markaz, Melody Market, Islamabad) upto 27-09-2021 before closing hours. No application for tenders will be received after schedule date and time.
- Tenders will be issued to those firms who provide copies of valid PEC License for the current financial year having appropriate category, with project code CE-09, NTN and GST registration certificate along with written request on original letter pad of firm / contractor. In case of representative, copy of CNIC along with authority letter / original power of attorney may also be attached with application. PEC Certificate and Professional Tax Certificate 2021-22 in original will also be seen before issuance of Tender Documents.
- Bid Security / Earnest Money shall also be accompanied with the request in the shape of Deposit of Call (CDR) clearly indicating the Name of Firm issued by local Schedule bank in favor of Deputy Director W&S (R/A) Zone, CDA and should be generated only from Firm's account. Cash / Cheque open CDR without indicating name of firm will not be accepted and no application without Bid Security / Earnest Money will be accepted for issuance of tender.
- The tender will be issued only to those firms who provide at least 03 work orders for last 02 financial years in the relevant filed.
- The tender will be issued to those firms who provide an undertaking on Stamp Paper worth not less than Rs.50/- that the firm / contractor are neither involved in any litigation nor black listed by any government, semi government for autonomous body in Pakistan and also undertakes that if any information or document provide by firm for issuance of tender document is found incorrect or fictitious the firm is liable for legal action under the law. Without the undertaking tender will not be issued to firm.
- If the contractor wants to participate in the tendering through representative, the contractor will provide general / special power of attorney duly attested by respective court and only to legitimate attorney holder would be allowed to get tender documents.
- Relative of tendering authority may not be entertained for participation in the tender.
- Tender will be opened by Director W&S (Dev), CDA in the office of Director W&S (Dev), CDA Room # 131 Old Naval Headquarter G-6 Markaz Melody Market, Islamabad on Schedule date & time.
- CDA may reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to acceptance of a bid or proposal. The CDA shall upon request communicate, to any supplier or contractor who submitted a bid or proposal, the grounds for its rejection of all bids or proposals, but is not required to justify those grounds.
- In case of any Gazetted / Occasional holiday(s), the tender will be opened on the next working day.
- The Bid Security / Earnest Money and Performance Security of unsuccessful bidder will be retained / deposited in CDA bank account and released in the favor of firm's account only after acceptance of bid.
- Tender Notice can be seen on both CDA website [www.cda.gov.pk](http://www.cda.gov.pk) and PPRA website [www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk) whereas tender notice can be downloaded from CDA's website [www.cda.gov.pk](http://www.cda.gov.pk).

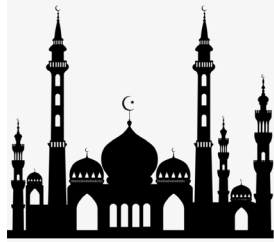
(QUDRAT ULLAH)  
Deputy Director

W&S (R/A) Zone Division, CDA, Islamabad.

PID (I) No. 1633/21



## SERVICES



Namaz Timings	
Fajr.....	04:27 am
Zohr.....	12:10 pm
Asr.....	04:45 pm
Maghrib.....	06:20 pm
Isha.....	07:45 pm



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



Airlines	
Turkish Airlines.....	8494949



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Islamabad Metropolitan	
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Potohar Town.....	9209224
Rawal Town.....	5773343

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

# DC ICT lauds D-Watson efforts to tackle corona

He said that Chief Commissioner ICT Amir Ali and Hamza Shafqat took part in Corona eradication war as if they considered the whole of Islamabad as their family

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Hamza Shafqat has said that the business community of Islamabad has participated in the struggle and activities against corona across the country and in collaboration with the business community of Islamabad, hopefully Islamabad will be given the status of Pakistan's first fully vaccinated city. Hamza Shafqat said that the Bakhtawari family initially joined the front line in our fight against corona by providing free ventilators. We and the Islamabad administration are grateful to them. D. Watson chief Pharmacist Zeeshan khan sacrificed his life in the fight against corona he added that today's event is a continuation of D. Watson's efforts. And they have started the



process of encouraging women to get vaccinated and they are fully cooperating with us for better health of the citizens of Islamabad. Waqar Bakhtawari, Gener-

al Secretary, PTI Traders Wing, Islamabad, in his address on the occasion, said that the Islamabad administration under the leadership of Hamza Shafqat has

excelled in the fight against corona and in recognition of his services, Should be awarded the Civil Award. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that Hamza Shafqat

has become a role model in Pakistan's civil service. He said that Chief Commissioner Islamabad Amir Ali Ahmed and Hamza Shafqat took part in Corona eradi-

cation war as if they considered the whole of Islamabad as their family. He further said that District Health Officer Dr. Zain Zia and Sardar Shabbir Ahmed have been cooperating with us in making Islamabad a fully vaccinated city of Pakistan and the whole of South Asia. President of Anjuman-e-Tajirani Pakistan Ajmal Baloch said that the name of Hamza Shafqat will be remembered in the history of Islamabad for his contribution against corona and saving the life of the people of the city and he was everywhere in the fight against corona. Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Hamza Shafqat distributed gifts to the vaccinated women at the function. Jinah Supermarket President Asad Aziz, ICCI Senior Vice President Fatima Azeem, Member Punjab Assembly Shamim Aftab and women participated in the function.

## Governor Balochistan calls on IIU President

DNA  
ISLAMABAD: Balochistan Governor Syed Zahir Ahmed Agha called on International Islamic University (IIU) President, Dr. HathaHomoudAlotaibi at Faisal Masjid Campus. In the meeting held at the office of IIU President on Wednesday, issues of mutual interest and role of educational institutions in country's progress was discussed. Both the dignitaries agreed to boost academic cooperation between IIU and educational institutions of Baluchistan. They also discussed initiatives for promotion of quality higher education and role of universities in society building. The meeting was also attended by Director General, Islamic Research Institute (IRI)

Dr. Muhammad Zia ul haq. On the occasion, while appreciating the role of IIU in society building and services, Governor assured of maximum cooperation to promote quality education. He said universities must promote exchange of experiences through mutual cooperation. He appreciated the role of IIUI for providing special facilities to the Balochistan students. Talking on the Pak-Saudi ties, the Governor said that Pakistan gave great importance to relations with Saudi Arabia as both are time tested friends. During the meeting, IIU President apprised the Governor of the university's vision, newly approved strategic plan and goal of academic excellence. He said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have longstanding

fraternal ties and IIU is true example. IIU President said that IIUI is a unique hub of learning and it has a vital responsibility of nurturing Muslim youth according to the prevailing challenges in the light of Islamic teachings. Dr. Hatha said that the university has provided special scholarships to the students of Balochistan, while all the students of far flung areas and needy students are university's top priority. Later, the Governor along with IIU President, DG, IRI and other officials visited the IRI Paigham e Pakistan gallery and also narrated his comments on the book in the historical gallery of the institute. Dr. Muhammad Zia ul haq briefed about Paigham e Pakistan initiative and IRI's activities.

## SNC for quality in education system

ISLAMABAD: National Curriculum Council Director Mariam Chughtai Tuesday said the Single National Curriculum (SNC) would bring quality education in all educational institutions across the country. Addressing a Webinar on NSC, she said the standard of education should be equal in the educational institutions of Madrasa, public or private school system. "There is difference between the curriculum and education system. A good education system is based on quality curriculum" she underlined. Currently, Pakistan had three education systems including Madrasa, private and public school system, she elaborated. Chughtai said the SNC needed a lot of more hard work for its success as the whole educational system had many flaws. – DNA

## Pasha Union to win Referendum, says Izat Kamal

SHAHEEN HANIF  
ISLAMABAD: Pasha Union senior leader Izat Kamal Pasha while addressing at Iqbal Hall, G-7/3 on Wednesday said that his opposition group Mazdoor Union will be defeated in the forthcoming referendum going to be held on September 17. Pasha was of the view that his politics revolves around the protection of rights of poor employees of Capital Development Authority (CDA). He said his purpose behind taking part in the democratic process of the CDA is to serve the poor employees of the authority and not pocketing money, adding his father did the same. Opposition group leader ChYasin has always chosen politics of confrontation while he has always given preference to interests of employ-

ees of CDA. He said that a large number of CDA employees have joined Pasha Union and thus he expects winning the forthcoming referendum going to be held in the Authority. He said it is because of his hectic efforts that the workers have started joining his group though many had left the union after his father Parhat Kamal Pasha's demise. He also appreciated former General Secretary CDA union Amanullah Khan for supporting him in election.



## Case registered against NADRA officials

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has registered a case against Deputy Director NADRA and Assistant Director NADRA in fake ID cards scandal. As per details, the FIA s Anti-Human Trafficking Cell has launched an operation in Karachi. A case has been registered against NADRA deputy director Gauri Shankar and AD Yasir Zeb. The accused, deputy director NADRA Gowri Shankar, had gone into hiding to avoid arrest during the ongoing FIA's fake identity card inquiry. Taking advantage of the fear and intimidation of the accused deputy director, NADRA AD Yasir Zeb demanded a bribe of Rs 1 million from the accused deputy director and assured him of protection from arrest. – DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Androulla Kaminara presented a book "Embroidering Dreams", produced by Bahbud. – DNA

## Experts call for pressing the Taliban to act responsibly

Senior researcher at the RDI Dr. Dragos says that the EU was monitoring the situation in Afghanistan through a complex mechanism called Migration Preparedness and Crisis Blueprint Network on Afghanistan

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Experts speaking at a webinar organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) in collaboration with the Romanian Diplomatic Institute (RDI) here on Wednesday called for encouraging the Taliban to act responsibly. The Director General of the Romanian Diplomatic Institute (RDI) Dr. Iulian Fota (Director General RDI) was of the view that with the fall of Kabul it had become clear to the Europeans that not only had the era of distant wars for promotion of democracy and Western values come to an end but questions were also asked about European overdependence on the US

for its security. He added that the Europeans were also debating the purported decline of the West but that it was too early to say which perspective was more accurate. Assistant Professor at Quaid-i-Azam University Dr Salma Malik termed the Afghans as independent-minded people inhabiting a difficult geography. This, she argued, was the reason that they had historically been wary of any external influence in their affairs and had always presented a united front against external threats. She urged the international community to understand the unique dynamics of Afghanistan and incentivize the Taliban to act responsibly. She specifically urged the international community to

attach rewards to human rights-related goalposts for them to make them behave responsibly. Afghan entrepreneur and political activist Ms. Hassina Syed also agreed that the Taliban needed to be given a chance to prove themselves and added that what had been done in Afghanistan could not be undone. She urged the international community to continue to focus on women's rights issues in Afghanistan but added that for Afghans security and livelihoods were more important issues. She further stated that since the situation in Afghanistan was not very clear, there was a need to give the Taliban more space and time and to assist the people of Afghanistan with humanitarian assistance.

Senior researcher at the RDI Dr. DragosMateescu said that the EU was monitoring the situation in Afghanistan through a complex mechanism called the Migration Preparedness and Crisis Blueprint Network on Afghanistan. He added that the main concern of the EU was the influx of refugees from Afghanistan who had been arriving in various EU countries through the Iran-Turkey-Iraq route alongside thousands of others Afghans who were flying to EU countries with valid travel documents but were likely to stay back as refugees. He said that the EU countries were already exchanging notes on making contingency plans for the massive influx of refugees from Afghanistan.

Pakistan's former ambassador to Iran Ambassador Asif Durrani said that the future of Afghanistan was looking bleak because all the state institutions were in a state of dysfunction and the state coffers were empty. He added that the unrealistic human rights demands and expectations from the Taliban in Afghanistan were further complicating the lives of the people of Afghanistan. President of IRS Ambassador Na-deem Riyaz urged the international community to not view Afghanistan with a pre-determined mind set. He urged all relevant stakeholders to give peace a chance in Afghanistan and prioritize the people of Afghanistan in their policies towards the country.

## 6 arrested for possessing weapons

STAFF REPORT  
RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police in their crackdown against illegal weapons conducted raids in different areas and rounded up six persons besides recovering six 30 bore pistols and ammunition from their possession, said a police spokesman on Wednesday. He informed that Waris Khan Police held Zahid Ullah for having a 30 bore pistol while Sadiqabad police rounded up Anil Hussain for possessing a 30 bore pistol and ammunition. Westridge police arrested three accused and recovered three 30 bore pistols and ammunition. Saddar Wah police held Adil for having a 30 bore pistol. Separate cases have been registered against all the accused while further investigations are underway, he said and added that police would continue their raids against law-breakers and they would be sent behind bars.

## JKRPM welcomes UNSR's remarks

DNA  
ISLAMABAD: The Jammu and Kashmir Political Resistance Movement (JKPRM) in IIOJK has welcomed the UN Special Rapporteurs' remarks regarding the custodial killing of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir Chairman, Shaheed Muhammad Ashraf Sehrai, and illegal arrest of his sons after his funeral in Kupwara district. According to Kashmir Media Service, the Jammu and Kashmir Political Resistance Movement leader, DrMusaib Ahmad, addressing party meeting in Srinagar urged the UN to send its teams to IIOJK to take stock of the ground situation of the occupied territory. He expressed serious concern over the deteriorating health of illegally detained Hurriyat leaders and activists languishing in different jails of India and IIOJK. He said that Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Chairman's death in Udhampur jail in Jammu region and arrest of his two sons after the funeral clearly indicated the atrocities and injustice faced by the people of IIOJK. He said it is the responsibility of the UN to settle the Kashmir dispute by implementing its relevant resolutions to protect the lives of the people of IIOJK.

## 9 arrested; 1525 grams charras, liquor recovered

RAWALPINDI: Police in their ongoing drive against drug peddlers and bootleggers conducted raids in different areas and arrested nine accused besides recovering 1525 grams charras and 10 liters liquor from their possession. According to a police spokesman, City police held Khurram Khan, a drug peddler and recovered 105 grams charras from his possession. Gunjmandi police also recovered 200 grams charras from the possession of a drug peddler namely Muhammad Nazir and 110 grams charras from Muhammad Owais. Civil Line police seized 200 grams charras and rounded up Murtaza Ali while Wah Cantt police netted Sirbuland Khan with 250 grams charras. Jatli police arrested Nair Abbas for having 115 grams charras. In another raid, Chontra police nabbed Khurram Shahzad with 230 grams charras and Saddar Wah police held Imran with 315 grams charras. KotliSattian police recovered 10 liters liquor from the possession of Tahir Nawaz. Separate cases have been registered against all the accused under Narcotics Control Act while further investigations are underway, he added. – APP



## Briefs

## NLPD hold second conference

ISLAMABAD: The National Language Promotion Department on Wednesday held second conference in connection with the seventy-five years jubilee celebrations of Pakistan's independence.

It was presided over by the renowned scholar Professor Fateh Muhammad Malik, said a press release issued here.

Eminent short story writer and critic, Muhammad Hameed Shahid and Deen Urdu Department Islamic University, Dr. Najeeb Arif were the chief guests, whereas Director General of the organization Dr. Rauf Parekh, Dr. Rashid Hameed, well known short story writer Mubeen Mirza, Afshan Abbasi, Dr. Fareeha Nighat, Kaukab Iqbal Advocate were among the speakers.

Professor Fateh Muhammad Malik was of the opinion that we were still following the cultural track laid down before us in Khadija Mastoor's novel "Angan" with all its peculiarities. Muhammad Hameed Shahid stated that from independence to the tragedy of East Pakistan and from then on up till now, the world has transformed into a global village and all boundaries seem to have vanished. — APP

## NMDC being established for investors' facilitation

ISLAMABAD: Petroleum Division, during the current fiscal year, would initiate a new project to compile the data of available minerals for facilitation of investors and future projects' planning in the country.

The two-year project, titled National Minerals Data Centre (NMDC), is a joint venture of Petroleum and Planning Divisions that would be carried out at a total cost of Rs 295 million in consultation with all Provincial Mines & Minerals Departments including of Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Geological Survey of Pakistan. "Pakistan has world-class minerals' resource potential but contribution in the national GDP is <1% which is considerably below the global average of 2-8% of GDP primarily due to non-availability of integrated geological, regulatory and other relevant data that is the basic requirement for investment facilitation and projects' planning," according to an official document available with APP. — APP

## SC adjourns Dr Qadeer's petition for one month

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday adjourned hearing of Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan's petition seeking enforcement of fundamental rights, including the right to free movement across the country for one month.

A two-member SC bench headed by Acting Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial heard the case filed by Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan regarding freedom of movement. During the course of proceedings, Justice Bandial asked about the health of Dr Qadeer Khan. Additional Attorney General Sajid Ilyas Bhatti said that Dr Qadeer was no longer on ventilator. Dr. Qadeer Khan was undergoing treatment in the ICU ward of MH Hospital, he added. Advocate Taufeeq Asif counsel for Dr Qadeer Khan said that Dr. Qadeer should be allowed to meet his family.

Justice Bandial asked how could be family allowed to meet during Coronavirus? He said that only doctors could decide about meeting of the family with Dr Qadeer. The counsel said that Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan needed more care than ever. He said that Dr Qadeer Khan was striving for basic rights since two years. Justice Bandial asked the counsel did not argue in a way that contradicted the facts. Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan was the country's asset and eminent nuclear scientist, he added. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani in a meeting with Dr. Shaista Sohail, Executive Director, Higher Education Commission at Parliament House. — DNA

## President Alvi stresses on facilitating AJK &amp; GB youth

In order to empower the youth financially, he said that Prime Minister's Kamyab Jawan Programme offered tremendous economic opportunities and the youth were required to capitalize on them by availing loans to establish their businesses

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has emphasized the need for guiding and facilitating youth of the country, particularly from Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir, to benefit from the Prime Minister's Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES). In order to empower the youth financially, he said that Prime Minister's Kamyab Jawan Programme offered tremendous economic opportunities and the youth were required to capitalize on them by availing loans to establish their businesses.

The President made these remarks while chairing a meeting to help address the

issues being faced by the youth of AJK & GB in getting loans. The meeting was attended by SAPM on Youth Affairs, Mr. Muhammad Usman Dar and President Bank of Punjab, Mr Zafar Masud at Awan-e-Sadr, today while Prime Minister of AJK, Chief Minister of GB, Heads of Banks regarding youth affairs, Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi, Chief Minister of Gilgit Baltistan, Mr Khalid Khurshed Khan, President Alfalah Bank, Mr Atif Bajwa, President JS Bank, Mr Basir Sham-sie, President National Bank of Pakistan, Mr Arif Usmani, and Head Consumer, Habib Bank Limited, Mr Aamir Kureshi attended the meeting via video link. SAPM on Youth Affairs, Mr Muhammad

Usman Dar, briefed the meeting about the loans disbursed under YES. The meeting was apprised that Rs 19.1 billion had been disbursed among the youth, out of approved loan of 26.2 billion, to establish their businesses. It was further informed that that YES had created more than 30,000 jobs in various sectors. SAPM on Youth Affairs gave details of the disbursed amount by various Banks, including Bank of Punjab, JS Bank Limited, National Bank of Pakistan, Bank Alfalah Limited and Habib Bank Limited that had disbursed loans among youth worth Rs 4.8 billion, Rs 3.5 billion, Rs 2.4 billion, Rs 1.7 billion and Rs 1.6 billion respectively.

Prime Minister of AJK and Chief Minister GB highlighted the issues being faced

by the youth in availing loans under the Prime Minister's Youth Entrepreneur Scheme. The meeting discussed various measures to educate and guide the youth to benefit from the loans scheme. The President advised the Governments of AJK and GB to establish facilitation centres in their respective areas to help facilitate the youth in getting loans. He also emphasized the need to create awareness among the youth by engaging media and local political leaders. The President also asked the Heads of the five banks to establish facilitation desks to guide the youth in getting loans.

The meeting agreed to hold monthly meetings to review progress with regard to the disbursement of loans in AJK and GB.



RAWALPINDI: The outgoing President of RCCI Nasir Mirza greets the incoming President Nadeem Rauf during a ceremony. — DNA

## Senate panel approves domestic workers bill

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee unanimously approved the Islamabad Capital Territory Domestic Workers Bill, 2021 with substantive amendments on Tuesday.

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights was held under the chair of Senator Walid Iqbal at the Parliament House.

The Islamabad Capital Territory Domestic Workers Bill, 2021 was discussed for the second consecutive day. The committee

chairman termed the bill a "pioneer law" for the underprivileged. The bill will provide legal cover for regulating the employment of domestic workers in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and protecting their rights.

It also envisages improved working conditions and terms of employment of domestic workers. The proposed legislation contains provisions for their social protection and welfare, including working hours, minimum wages, the entitlement of leaves, safety and medical care etc. — APP

## Digital media becomes important platform for speedy information

ISLAMABAD: The powers of social media in the digital era could not be ruled out as it helped out to create awareness among the masses about their due rights, highlighting injustice in society etc.

"Platform of social media should be handled with care and may not be used for misinformation or to create hate," an official of Ministry for IT and Telecommunication while talking to APP said.

It was unfortunate that social media as an important platform and a source to transmit speedy information was being used by some elements to spread fake information to achieve their nefarious designs.

In Pakistan, he said that Prime Minister Imran Khan has had taken notice of the issues on various occasions and issued instructions in this regard.

The present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran

Khan is more focused on the active use of social media to highlight their three-year performance and other issues confronting the masses, he said.

The official informed that the Digital Pakistan Policy 2021 is being developed through an all-inclusive approach to facilitate the IT industry, address impediments that prevent a higher level of ICT adoption in Pakistan, and positively impact the growth of ICT exports.

The Government of Pakistan (GOP) has outlined a vision of accelerated digitization and transformation of Pakistan into a knowledge-based economy to spur economic growth through innovation and entrepreneurship, he added. The Digital Media Wing (DMW) is working as a strategic unit of the government to effectively counter the fake/libelous news and also highlight the development agenda of the government. It disseminates result-ori-

ented digital media content, videos, animations, info-graphics, information, and authentic updates from the government, Federal Ministries, and Prime Minister office's social media assets.

The DMW is committed to revolutionizing how media is consumed in Pakistan. It maintains a data-driven, growth-oriented team to further the interests of the State of Pakistan locally and internationally. It strengthens the government for the 21st century with robust, authentic, and high-quality online communication platforms.

The DMW is also responsible for creating the digital content for official social media of the government of Pakistan on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and Instagram. It is organizing and verifying the social media accounts of all federal government ministries besides enhancing their digital media presence. — APP

## Govt releases Rs1,624m for petroleum projects

ISLAMABAD: The government has so far released an amount of Rs1,624.770 million to execute seven ongoing and six new petroleum-related projects under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP 2021-22) aimed at accelerating oil and gas exploration activities and achieving self-sufficiency in the energy sector.

According to the official data as of September 3, an amount of Rs1,624.770 million has been earmarked for seven ongoing schemes, out of which Rs263 million were meant for establishment of National Minerals Data Centre (NMDC), Rs345.321 for Expansion and up-gradation of Pakistan Petroleum Core House (PETCORE), Rs30 million for Geological Mapping on 50 Toposheets, out of 354 unmapped Toposheets of Outcrop Area of Balochistan province, Rs385.336 million for strengthening and up-gradation of Karachi Laboratories Complex (KLC) at HDIP Operations Office, Karachi, Rs76.580 million for the supply of 13.5 MMCFD gas at Doorstep (Zero Point) of Dhabaji Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Sindh, Rs 230 million for the supply of 30MMCFD gas at Doorstep (Zero Point) of Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and Rs143.446 million for up-gradation of POL testing facilities of HDIP at Islamabad, Lahore, Multan, Peshawar, Quetta and ISO Certification of Petroleum Testing Laboratory at Islamabad. — APP

JKRPM welcomes UNSR's remarks

ISLAMABAD: The Jammu and Kashmir Political Resistance Movement (JKRPM) in IOJK has welcomed the UN Special Rapporteurs' remarks regarding the custodial killing of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir Chairman, Shaheed Muhammad Ashraf Sehrai, and illegal arrest of his sons after his funeral in Kupwara district.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the Jammu and Kashmir Political Resistance Movement leader, Dr Musaab Ahmad, addressing party meeting in Srinagar urged the UN to send its teams to IOJK to take stock of the ground situation of the occupied territory. He expressed serious concern over the deteriorating health of illegally detained Hurriyat leaders and activists languishing in different jails of India and IOJK.

He said that Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Chairman's death in Udhampur jail in Jammu region and arrest of his two sons after the funeral clearly indicated the atrocities and injustice faced by the people of IOJK. He said it is the responsibility of the UN to settle the Kashmir dispute by implementing its relevant resolutions to protect the lives of the people of IOJK. — APP

## SC dismisses plea against CEC

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court dismissed on Wednesday a petition challenging the appointment of Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja as it upheld the objections raised by the registrar's office on the plea.

The two-member bench headed by acting Chief Justice Ata Bandial heard the case. Justice Bandial said the incumbent chief of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was a retired civil servant and that there were no solid grounds provided in the plea for his dismissal.

The court asked if any serving judge was a part of the ECP. At this, the petitioner said that there were no serving judges in the ECP. Justice Bandial responded that then there was no need to pursue this matter.

According to the top court, the appointment of ECP members, including the election commissioner, was

based on merit and competency.

A constitutional petition was filed by Ali Azeem Afridi Advocate under Article 184 (3), requesting that "section 4 of the Constitution (Twenty-Second Amendment) Act, 2016 (XXV OF 2016); to the extent of allowing appointment of senior civil servant and technocrat as chief election commissioner and by treating them at par with that of the judge of the Supreme Court and on that score enabling them to superintend and supervise the role of member(s); under the robes as judges of the high court; be declared ultra vires of the constitution".

"Allowing appointment of the most senior member in age i.e. senior civil servant or technocrat; to superintend or supervise the role of a person who has been a Judge of a High Court given Section 7 of the Constitution (Twenty-Second Amendment) Act, 2016 (XXV OF 2016) be declared ultra vires of the Constitution."

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## CPEC phase II

THE benefits of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) entail not just the completion of several infrastructure projections but also the arrival of more future investment opportunities which could transform Pakistan's economy. As CPEC enters its second phase, these benefits have started to become more apparent. Various leading Chinese companies have invested over one billion US dollars in different sectors in the second phase of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Pakistan. These companies have invested in Faisalabad's Industrial City and their assembling and production plants have started working. Sources close to the government have reported that the total value of this latest Chinese investment is \$1 billion, with the government hoping that in the near future five more major companies would invest more in Pakistan. This is a large investment, which if executed successfully, will attract even bigger amounts. This scale of investment can have a huge impact on Pakistan's economy and society; it can trigger significant job growth, boost exports and increase consumer purchasing power, which can put the economy on a positive growth-orientated cycle. While CPEC had initially been coming in slow, these developments as the project now progresses indicate how consequential it is to make sure that the investment coming in from China is made to work effectively. Some previous Chinese companies have complained of slow work and red-tape in the past and it is important these factors slowing down business be countered. The government is putting in work—the CEOs of some of the companies met with the Prime Minister, where he took strong exception to the complaints of the delegation concerning various departments and told businessmen that they should report to the PM office directly for swift response and resolution of their problems. This approach should be kept up to ensure that CPEC should be profitable for all stakeholders.

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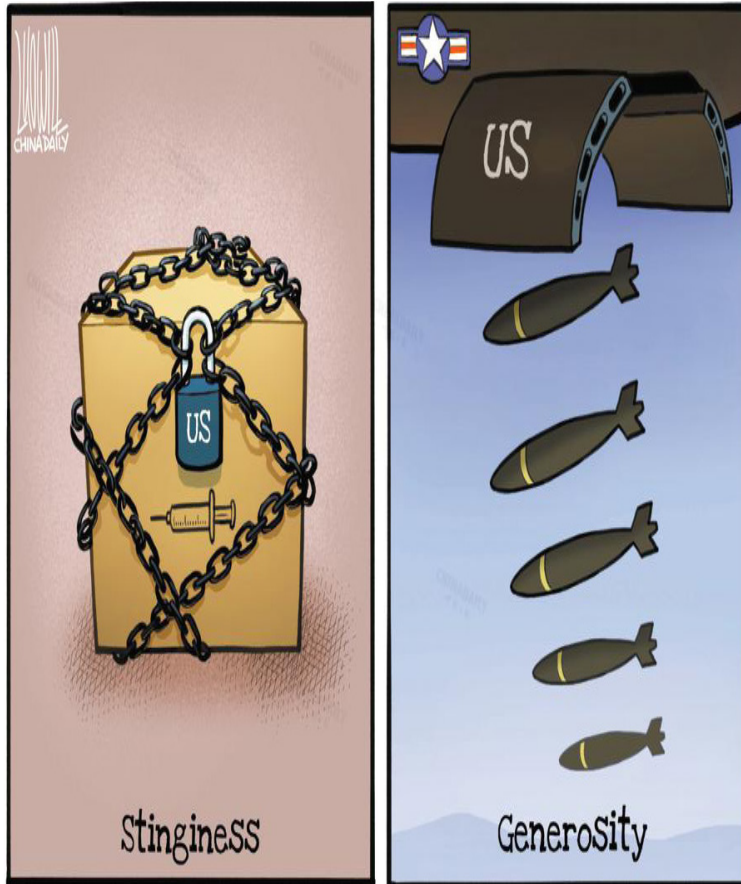
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## Dollar appreciation

THE steady ascent of the US dollar continues as Mettis Global, a financial analytics portal, reported that it reached the value of Rs168.9—an all-time high against the rupee. Regional and domestic economic conditions have allowed for the rupee to slip, sparking further concern about the potential for economic recovery in Pakistan. It seems as though the demand for the dollar has increased in the region exponentially. The primary cause for this is the US' commitment to stopping the shipment and use of the currency in Afghanistan. Since the Taliban takeover, nearly \$9.5 billion of assets belonging to the Afghan central bank have been frozen which prompted the immediate and large-scale need to smuggle dollars. As a neighbour with easy access, Pakistan has become the main provider of the currency according to Malik Bostan, the chairman of the Forex Association. With people buying dollars in the country, and selling it in Afghanistan for huge profits, outflow has been tremendous. The depreciation of the rupee was thus inevitable. Another factor to consider is the hefty import bill drafted on a monthly basis. Our trade deficit now stands at \$4.2 billion primarily because we are spending more than we are bringing in. Pricy products like petroleum and LNG, beyond raising the import bill, have increased the cost of local production as well. This makes it all the more difficult to enhance exports given that industrial costs keep rising. On the face of it, it seems as though the gains made in reducing the import bill have been rolled back. Pakistan experienced many signifiers of economic recovery—like record-breaking rates of remittances, foreign aid and increased exports of value added goods—but, this will not count towards progress if we are struggling to remain afloat financially. Our currency has a role to play in determining our global economic standing and the government must protect it by strict surveillance of dollar outflows, reducing the import of luxury goods, and providing incentives to the domestic industry to maximise exports.

# COVID-19 demands a new global response

Andrew Hammond

UK Cabinet minister Oliver Dowden insisted London could help to jab the world while delivering a domestic booster program. He noted that the UK was committed to 100 million jabs by 2022, and had already delivered nine million. Positive as these commitments are, however, the UK government must do much more alongside its international partners. The impact of creating what is in effect a sterilised wedge from the rest of the world is not just unjust, but also potentially self-defeating given the possibility of vaccine-resistant variants. At the 18-month point of the pandemic, there is now an urgent need for an increasingly global response to the continuing challenge it poses

AS temperatures fall in the West with another difficult autumn and winter pandemic season ahead, the debate is hotting up over global vaccines distribution with many developing countries still having low vaccination rates. Former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown turbocharged the issue, rightly asserting that scarcity of vaccines in poor countries was not just a moral failure, but also could come back to haunt the West given the prospect of new mutant variants of the virus emerging. About 70 percent of people in the West are now vaccinated, but only 2 percent in Africa, while hundreds of millions of doses lie in warehouses in Europe and North America. Prof. Sir Andrew Pollard, director of the Oxford Vaccine Group, which developed the Oxford-AstraZeneca jab, said the world needed to “turn the tap on” to fight the “fire” of coronavirus internationally. It is not only that the West had a moral obligation to vaccinate other countries but, as his Pollard's colleague Prof. Dame Sarah Gilbert also argued, booster third jabs in the West should be given only to the elderly and those with weakened immune systems. This intervention is important, coming amid rows in many Western countries over whether there should be mass booster jabs. So just as many hoped that vaccine shortages in the developing world would be eased, plans to offer boosters mean that a lot more vaccine doses have to be obtained and stored in the

West. This extends the time needed for the rest of the world to catch up, meaning many thousands of people or even tens of thousands will die. And the global emergency is not only in healthcare. Education in a quarter of countries at risk of collapse due to the pandemic's impact. The education of hundreds of millions of children is hanging by a thread with the UN estimating that, for the first time in history, about 1.5 billion children were out of school during the pandemic, with at least a third unable to access remote learning, threatening a “lost generation of learners” with all the social, political and economic fallout that could ensue in coming years. There is not just a moral rationale for ending the global vaccine chasm, but also a compelling economic case. In June, the heads of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank Group, World Health Organisation and World Trade Organisation issued an extraordinary call for \$50 billion of investment in vaccines to generate \$9 trillion in global economic returns by 2025. In so doing, they argued, the ambition of the WHO to vaccinate about 30 percent of the population in all countries by the end of 2021 could be boosted to 40 per cent, and at least 60 percent by the first half of 2022. To be sure, there is some movement. The G7 leaders committed in June to provide one billion vaccine doses for low and low-middle income countries over the next year, but the WHO says

this falls far short of the 11 billion vaccine doses needed. With the UK playing a world leadership role in 2021, not just with its presidency of the G7 but also COP 26, London should be leading the world on this agenda given that so much of the UK population has been vaccinated already. To translate this to the global picture, the UK has given almost as many doses to its own citizens as the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access program has been able to ship to 120 countries in dire need of jabs. UK Cabinet minister Oliver Dowden insisted London could help to jab the world while delivering a domestic booster program. He noted that the UK was committed to 100 million jabs by 2022, and had already delivered nine million. Positive as these commitments are, however, the UK government must do much more alongside its international partners. The impact of creating what is in effect a sterilised wedge from the rest of the world is not just unjust, but also potentially self-defeating given the possibility of vaccine-resistant variants. At the 18-month point of the pandemic, there is now an urgent need for an increasingly global response to the continuing challenge it poses. The more policymakers act on a key lesson of the crisis — that no one is safe until everyone is safe — the faster the crisis may pass and the world can move into the “new normal” that comes next.

— Courtesy: Arab News

# Prejudice against Pakistan!

Muhammad Akhter



Bahrain, Qatar, UAE has been added to the red, amber list. While, Pakistan is still on the list. This decision is based on pure prejudice. India ranks second in the world after the United States in terms of COVID-19 cases, while India ranks third in the world in terms of deaths. But, Interestingly, Pakistan ranks 30th in terms of COVID-19 cases

IT is well-known to everyone, many rankings and lists are made in the world these days, and Pakistan is never included in any good list by the bigoted world. Whether in terms of measures against terrorism, or making the world peaceful. Even, in the lists measuring current situation of COVID-19. Everywhere around Pakistan, the siege is tightened. Pakistan is entangled in problems by drawing a red circle in spite of better performance and better results. Moreover, the world is once again using its interests' and expediencies to make concessions to the most dangerous countries in terms of COVID-19. While, sanctions are being imposed on the countries which are being targeted by the world powers. The UK has made a similarly biased decision. In recent past; India, the stronghold of the England Delta variant, has been removed from the COVID-19 Red List, while Pakistan has been included in the list despite better conditions and statistics. Although, the number of COVID-19 Positive cases in Pakistan is also low and in terms of population, the situation in Pakistan is under control while on the other hand the situation in India is completely different. Bahrain, Qatar, UAE has been added to the red, amber list. While, Pakistan is still on the list. This decision is based on pure prejudice. India ranks second in the world after the United States in terms of COVID-19 cases, while India ranks third in the world in terms of deaths. But, Interestingly, Pakistan ranks 30th in terms of COVID-19 cases. What will

be the status of this red list after these statistics, where the 30th ranked country is included in the red list and the second ranked country is being given concessions? Since, India is “Dear” and obedient of the United States, the US is pursuing plans to destroy law and order in the region to achieve its interests through terrorists like, Narendra Modi and this is not possible without creating obstacles in the way of Pakistan. All these lists are tantamount to obstructing Pakistan's development. All of them are aimed at destabilizing Pakistan. It may be recalled that the World Health Organization (WHO), while praising Pakistan's efforts to deal effectively with the COVID-19, said that corona-affected countries should follow Pakistan's example. The other side of the picture is that India, the stronghold of the Delta variant of COVID-19 has been removed from the red list. While, Pakistan is still on the list even though COVID-19 cases in Pakistan are much less than in India. I wish the world would feel ashamed and ashamed of these lists. Who is being deceived? It is pertinent to mention here; Naz Shah, A Member of Parliament for the United Kingdom, termed the decision of the British government to keep Pakistan on the red list as political and said that despite the low rate of COVID-19 expansion, Pakistan is constantly being kept on the red list. Science is being ignored in making decisions on political grounds. What would be the status of a decision against which voices are being raised in the British Parliament?

These double standards are enough to expose the so-called civilized world. In addition to this it is also noted that earlier, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) had also shown impartiality in deciding on Pakistan. Despite the implementation of key points, toughness was maintained on Pakistan, while for India, which is prominent in money laundering and terrorist financing hasa completely different approach by the bigoted world community. Similarly, all these episodes are enough to prove that Pakistan is being targeted just because of its “Absolutely Not” response. Furthermore, Pakistan is also being targeted because of CPEC, its friendship with China, and another Chapter is peaceful Afghanistan. Pakistan is in favor of a peaceful Afghanistan while the bigoted world powers want to continue the game of fire and blood instead of peace in Afghanistan. In conclusion, Pakistan is in favor of peace instead of war in the region. While, the present government of India seeks to destroy peace in the region under the Hindutva ideology. Pakistan does not support this game of fire and blood and is being punished. Even though Pakistan has sacrificed for twenty years to save the world from terrorism, the so-called civilized world is ignoring Pakistan's sacrifices and pushing it into another world war through the enemy of peace Narendra Modi.

— The Writer is a Freelance Columnist, He can be reached at @MAkhter\_ (Twitter)



## Briefs

Outsiders  
can't control  
Afghanistan

FROM PAGE 01  
"So rather than sitting here and thinking that we can control them, we should incentivise them because this current government in Afghanistan clearly feels that without international aid and help they will not be able to stop this crisis. We [...] should push them in the right direction." The premier said Afghanistan was currently at a "historic crossroads", and it could see peace after four decades if the Taliban worked towards an inclusive government.  
"But if it goes wrong, and which is what we are really worried about, it could go to chaos, the biggest humanitarian crisis, a huge refugee problem, unstable Afghanistan and [...] the possibility of again terrorism from Afghanistan's soil," he added.  
When pressed about concerns regarding women's rights, Imran said it was a "mistake" to think someone from outside would give Afghan women their rights.  
"Afghan women are strong. Give them time, they will get their rights," he said. "You cannot impose women's rights from abroad."  
To a question, Prime Minister Imran said he had not spoken to US President Joe Biden since the collapse of the Afghan government. When asked by Anderson to confirm that Biden hadn't called Imran since coming into office, the premier replied: "He is a busy man."  
"Pakistan is a major non-NATO ally and yet no call between you and the US president. Do you see this as punishment for supporting the Taliban while they were killing US troops?" the host asked. Prime Minister Imran said Biden should be asked "why he is too busy to call". But he emphasised that Pakistan suffered greatly after siding with the US in the war in Afghanistan after 9/11, saying "at one point, there were 50 militant groups attacking our government."

Amnesty for  
TTP only...

FROM PAGE 01  
"But as long as they do not come and start undertaking terrorist activities [in Pakistan]. That is our concern," the minister emphasised. Qureshi termed as "positive" the Afghan Taliban administration's announcement that they would not allow any terrorist groups to use their soil against any country, including Pakistan. He said Pakistan had been "continuously" pointing out TTP sanctuaries to the Ashraf Ghani government, "but they wouldn't move". It remains to be seen whether the Afghan Taliban act on their assurances, Qureshi added.

COAS lauds  
PAF's role...

FROM PAGE 01  
the Pakistan Air Force during his visit to the Air Headquarters, Islamabad, the Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.  
During the meeting with the air chief, matters of mutual professional interest were discussed, according to the military's media wing.  
The air chief highlighted various ongoing projects being carried out by PAF, it said, adding that the COAS hailed PAF sacrifices for the country and their all-out support to the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs). Gen Qamar also appreciated PAF's role in provision of humanitarian assistance and facilitating recent evacuation operations from Afghanistan. He praised the operational preparedness of PAF, while appreciating the motivation level of all ranks, according to the ISPR.

Awards  
conferred...

FROM PAGE 01  
female scientists were conferred with the awards. 10 officers were awarded Sitara-i-Imtiaz, 12 awarded President's Award for Pride of Performance whereas 07 were awarded Tamgha-i-Imtiaz. Chairman JCSC lauded the services of scientists & engineers and said, "You are hailed as our unseen heroes and therefore we owe you our highest gratitude".

## Afghan girls' football team flees to Pakistan

The Taliban banned women from playing all sport during their first rule in the 1990s and have indicated women and girls will face restrictions in playing sport this time around

## AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: Members of Afghanistan's national girls' football team have fled across the border into Pakistan, officials said Wednesday, a month after the hardline Taliban swept back into power. The group of junior players and their coaches and families had tried to escape the country last month but a devastating bomb attack at Kabul airport left them stranded, someone close to the team told AFP.  
"I received a request for their rescue from another England-based NGO, so I wrote to Prime Minister Imran Khan who issued clearance for them to land in Pakistan," said Sardar Naveed Haider, an ambassador for global development NGO Football for Peace, based in London. More than 75 people crossed the northern border on Tuesday, before travelling south to the city of Lahore where they were greeted with flower garlands. About 30 more are still hoping to cross into Pakistan.



They will stay in Pakistan for a month before moving on to another country. The girls, who played for the under-14, under-16 and under-18 teams, crossed the land border dressed in burqas, Haider said, before they later changed into headscarves. The Taliban banned women from playing all sport during their first rule in the 1990s and have indicated women and girls will face restrictions in

playing sport this time around. A senior Taliban official has told Australian media it is "not necessary" for women to play. But on Tuesday, Bashir Ahmad Rustamzai, Afghanistan's new director general for sports, said top-level Taliban leaders were still deciding. Pakistan's federal minister for information Fawad Chaudhry welcomed the women players in a tweet early Wednesday morning.  
"We welcome Afghanistan Women football team they arrived at Torkham Border from Afghanistan. The players were in possession of valid Afghanistan Passport, Pakistan visa," Chaudhry tweeted. Pakistan's prime minister is a former international cricketing star and sports hero among Pakistanis. Tens of thousands of Afghan nationals have fled their country since the Taliban seized power, fearing reprisal attacks or repression. At least 75 members of the Afghan women's national football team and their family members were evacuated to Australia last month, with more expected to follow.

Pakistan's rich culture & cuisine  
delight Washington natives

## DNA



ISLAMABAD: The heritage of Pakistan with its rich culture and cuisine turned out to be a delight for the people in Washington DC, at an event hosted by the embassy. The event, aimed at promoting Pakistan's tourism and cultural diversity, was held in connection with celebrating the country's 75th anniversary. Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Asad Majeed Khan in his remarks on the occasion said Pakistan was blessed with majestic landscape that offered immense tourism opportunities. He said that the government of Pakistan was focused on promoting the tourism industry through infrastructure development, investment and liberalization of visa regime. As a result, he mentioned, Pakistan had been declared as one of the top tourist destinations by a number of foreign media outlets including Forbes and The British Backpackers' Society and Conde Nast Traveler. The guests took keen interest in the exhibits showcased at the event including paintings, photographs, historical monuments and cultural artefacts.

Man Utd dealt  
shock Champions  
League loss

## SPORTS DESK

PARIS: Manchester United slumped to a shock 2-1 loss at Young Boys despite a goal from Cristiano Ronaldo in their Champions League opener on Tuesday, while Chelsea kicked off their title defence by beating Zenit. Robert Lewandowski struck twice for Bayern Munich as the German heavyweights inflicted a 3-0 defeat on Barcelona at Camp Nou in their first European game since the departure of Lionel Messi. Ronaldo, the leading scorer in Champions League history, bagged his 135th goal in the competition after 13 minutes in Bern, but Swiss champions Young Boys hit back after the sending-off of Aaron Wan-Bissaka. The United defender saw red for a dangerous tackle on Christopher Martins before half-time. Nicolas Mouminigale equalised in the second half before Jordan Siebatcheu snatched the winner with the final kick. "It's the first game in the group. We've got many games to bounce back and we must do," said United captain Harry Maguire.

Stranded mountaineers  
on Rakaposhi rescued  
by Army Aviation

## NEWS DESK

GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Khalid Khurshid on Wednesday announced that the mountaineers stranded on the Rakaposhimountain were successfully rescued with the help of Army Aviation on Wednesday. Pakistani climber Wajidullah Nagri, along with Czech climbers Peter Macek and Jakub Vitek were stranded on the 7,788-metre-high mountain during their descent after summiting the peak, said the Alpine Club Pakistan (ACP). For the last four days, the trio was stranded at an altitude of around 6,900 metres, with food and other essential supplies being flown in via helicopter for them, stated Nagar's deputy commissioner (DC). The Gilgit-Baltistan administration enlisted a team of expert climbers to partake in the rescue operation, which included Sajid Ali Sadpara, the son of legendary mountaineer Mohammad Ali Sadpara. The first few attempts to conduct a helicopter rescue were due to rough weather conditions in the area. The mountaineers, however, were in contact with their families through satellite communication. The secretary of the ACP also confirmed with a post on Facebook that the three stranded climbers were successfully rescued by Army Aviation. "With the continuous efforts of Army Aviation, the rescue operation was successfully ensured," CM Khurshid said, commending the role of Army pilots. Nagri and the foreign climbers' cooperation with Force Command Northern Areas aided with the rescue mission, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence, Perviz Khattak presenting a shield to Georgi Panayotov, Defence Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria. – DNA

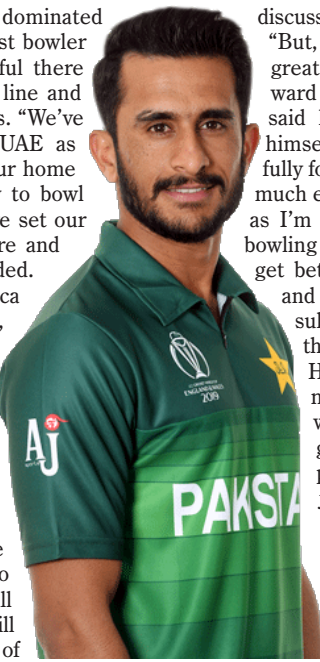
## Pak capable to win T20 World Cup: Hassan Ali

"Contest between Pak-India and is always a pressure game. It is also always much-watched game in world"

## DNA

RAWALPINDI: Fast bowler Hassan Ali on Tuesday said he was confident that Pakistan would play well capable of winning the upcoming T20 World Cup. "The players who have been picked up for the T20 World Cup by the selection committee have either performed in the past or in recent times. I've the strong belief that if we play with our full potential we can win," Hassan told media in a virtual press conference. Hassan recalled Pakistan's historic win in the final of ICC Champions Trophy's final in 2017 against arch-rival India saying that Pakistan would be trying to repeat that performance when they took on them in their inaugural T20 World Cup match on October 24. "The contest between India and Pakistan is always a pressure game. It is also always the much-watched game in the world." "Even those who have never watched any match in the whole year, they will watch Pakistan and India contest. We'll be trying to win that match by all means."

He said usually spinners dominated at the UAE pitches but a fast bowler could also become successful there if he would bowl at a good line and length while using variations. "We've played a lot of cricket in UAE as once it has also remained our home ground. We fully know how to bowl there. As fast bowlers, we've set our targets as how to bowl there and help our side to win," he added. About the former South Africa fast bowler Vernon Philander, who would be set to join Pakistan team as bowling consultant ahead of World Cup, Hassan said he had been a great performer for his country. "But it is too early to predict that we'll get a lot of benefit from him as we don't have much time for the World Cup now. I also don't know exactly when will he be joining us and what will be our plans and what sort of



discussion will take place with him." "But, no doubt, he has been a great bowler. We are looking forward [to work with him]. Hassan said he was trying to establish himself as an all rounder and was fully focused on that. "I'm doing as much efforts to improve my batting as I'm doing to further polish my bowling skills". "I'm trying hard to get better with the bat day-by-day and my efforts are yielding results as I've improved a lot on that front." He said it was good that former great Abdul Razzaq, who had remained a very good all rounder during his playing days, had recently joined Pakistani team as a stand-in bowling coach adding, "We've started working with him as how to do big hitting while maintaining balance at the crease. His inclusion is a very pos-

itive thing for all, especially for the power-hitters. We are trying our best to learn as much as we can from him." About former head coach Misbah-ul-Haq and bowling coach Waqar Younis' decision to retire from their duties, he said it was a bit disappointing for him as the World Cup was approaching and the change should not have happened at this crucial time. "But I'll say it is not our domain [to comment on that]. It is the prerogative of the PCB chief or other high authorities in the board to bring the [team] management which they want. "As players, we are supposed to perform and contribute in the team's win," he said. He said Waqar was his role model and when he saw first the erstwhile great on TV while bowling, he had also decided to become a bowler. "I admire him a lot and it was very nice to work with him. Obviously, I'll miss him but I know as a professional I've to move on. I wish all the best to both [Misbah and Waqar] in their future plans and goals." To a question about the second-string New Zealand side, who were currently on Pakistan tour for ODI and T20 series, he said they were a talented bunch of players.

Russian  
envoy extols  
Pak efforts...

## FROM PAGE 01

While pointing to the recent telephonic conversation held between Imran Khan and the Russian President, and conversation on bilateral relations held between Foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi with his counterpart, the deputy chief of the Senate stated that both the countries have maintained contacts at high-level, which is of paramount importance. Economic ties between the two countries were discussed in detail during the meeting. Discussing the gas pipeline project, Deputy Chairman Senate said that Pakistan is working towards early completion of the Pakistan-Stream Gas Pipeline Project. Meetings of the technical committee are being held regularly to finalise the Project, he added. Both the dignitaries stressed the need to further cement the bilateral relations between the Senate of Pakistan and the Council of the Federation as well. Discussing the impact of COVID-19, Afridi said that the pandemic has wreaked havoc on the lives and livelihoods of people across the globe. He commended the development of "Sputnik" vaccine by the Russian Federation. "Both countries, being the member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APU), need to utilise these forums and work together for the creation of a prosperous and peaceful future of the world", Afridi remarked. He noted that Pakistan and Russia have several institutional mechanisms in place i.e JCC, Joint working group on economic cooperation, Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism etc to discuss issues of mutual concern. This year the bilateral trade volume has swelled and hit a record 780 million US dollars, Afridi expressed with pleasure. Keeping in view the true potential of both the countries, he called for upswinging the trade volume to its desired level.

Capital  
admin....

## FROM PAGE 01

However, outdoor gatherings can host maximum of 400 individuals under strict SOPs. Same rule will be applied for indoor and outdoor weddings, with time limit being 10 pm. Indoor and Outdoor dining will be allowed till midnight, with only 50 % sitting capacity allowed to be filled. Amusement parks and shrines will be opened for vaccinated people only under strict SOPs.

PM Imran to  
attend SCO..

## FROM PAGE 01

The Prime Minister will participate in the 20th Shanghai Cooperation Organization Council of Heads of State (SCO-CHS) Summit in Dushanbe. He has earlier participated in SCO-CHS held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic on 13-14 June 2019 and SCO-CHS hosted by Russia on 10 November 2020 through video-conference. SCO is an 8-member permanent inter-governmental trans-regional Organization. It was established in Shanghai on 15 June 2001. Pakistan became an SCO Observer in 2005 and a full member in June 2017 during Astana SCO-CHS Summit. Russia, China, India, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan are other SCO members. SCO also has 4 Observer states (Iran, Mongolia, Belarus and Afghanistan) and 6 Dialogue Partners (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Cambodia, Nepal, Turkey and Sri Lanka). The Prime Minister will have bilateral meetings with other participating leaders on the sidelines. After attending the SCO-CHS, the Prime Minister will have the bilateral segment of the visit. His talks with Tajik President will cover the entire gamut of bilateral relations, especially enhancing trade, economic and investment ties with a particular focus on regional connectivity. The two countries have earlier expressed strong commitment to enter into a formal strategic partnership. The Prime Minister will also inaugurate the first meeting of Pakistan-Tajikistan Business Forum for which a group of Pakistani businessmen will also visit Dushanbe.



## Briefs

## Uzbekistan to expand co-op with IFC

DNA

TASHKENT: Negotiations were held between the Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurzakov with the Managing Director of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Makhtar Diop. During the negotiations, the current state and prospects for deepening partnership between Uzbekistan and the IFC were discussed. Makhtar Diop highly appreciated the scale and pace of the socio-economic reforms being carried out in Uzbekistan and expressed his commitment to further mutually beneficial cooperation. The IFC management was grateful for the consulting and technical assistance provided in the implementation of reforms aimed at the development of the financial market, public-private partnerships, agriculture, transport and healthcare. The role of the IFC in promoting large-scale projects in Uzbekistan in the fields of alternative energy and the chemical industry was highly appreciated.

## Azerbaijan, Turkey ink roadmap on digitalisation

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan's Transport, Communications and High Technologies Ministry and Turkey's Digital Transformation Office have signed a roadmap for the Azerbaijani-Turkish working group on digital transformation. The document was signed during the meeting held at Azerbaijan's Transport, Communications and High Technologies Ministry with a delegation led by Turkey's Digital Transformation Office President Ali Taha Koch on September 14. The main tasks of cooperation based on the roadmap are the formation and implementation of policies in the field of digital transformation, and the development of human resources. Moreover, during the meeting, the parties discussed the issues of further cooperation in the implementation of the digital transformation concept of Azerbaijan, cyber security, protection of personal data and the government cloud. It should be noted that the parties reached an agreement on the establishment of a working group at a meeting held in Turkey in February 2021. During subsequent meetings, the main directions of cooperation were identified and an agreement was reached on the development of the roadmap.

## Uzbek FM hosts meeting with Head of OSCE

NEWS DESK

TASHKENT: First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Farhod Arziev held a meeting with the head of the Observation Mission for the presidential elections of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Bureau for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Owen Murphy. During the conversation, the current state and prospects of cooperation between Uzbekistan and the OSCE were discussed. The successful interaction in the implementation of the Bureau's recommendations, including in the framework of improving the Electoral Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, was emphasized. The parties expressed interest in further long-term and fruitful partnership, primarily in the areas of human rights, freedom of speech, religion and belief, gender equality, youth support, development of civil society institutions, strengthening the legal framework of ongoing democratic reforms based on international best practices.

## EU President delivers "State of the Union" 2021 address

Sets out priorities for post pandemic era; President Ursula Von Der Leyen is the first woman to hold the position after she was elected last year

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In the annual "State of the Union" address, the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, presented her vision of a greener, digital, resilient and healthier Europe and of the EU as a strong global actor. The European Commission is the executive branch of the EU and helps to shape overall strategy, proposes new laws and policies, monitors implementation and manages the EU budget. This includes trade policy as well as development cooperation and humanitarian aid – policy areas of highest relevance for Pakistan and the region. The State of the Union address takes stock of the achievements of the past year and presents the priorities for the year ahead. The President also sets out how the Commission, the executive branch of the EU, will address the most pressing challenges the European

Union faces and ideas for shaping the future of the EU. In view of the annual speech, the Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Ms Androulla Kaminara, underlined: "Given the importance of the European Union for Pakistan – as the most important export destination for Pakistani goods, as major development partner, as global driver of policies and standards – this annual speech is highly relevant for Pakistan. President Van der Leyen not only talked about issues relevant within the Union, but also challenges, priorities and action that will impact the world at large." During her address, President Von der Leyen highlighted Europe's efforts to procure vaccines, scale up production, to strengthen international cooperation against the pandemic and to lead Europe out of the economic crisis with NextGenerationEU – and emerge stronger from the pandemic. She added that the EU had set ambitious targets for the transfor-



mation of the economy – to make it greener, digital and fairer. The commission will focus on • Continuing the vaccination efforts in Europe and speeding up vaccination globally, as well as strengthening the pandemic preparedness • Working on closing the climate finance gap, together with

our global partners

• Leading the digital transformation that will create jobs and drive competitiveness, while ensuring technical excellence and security of supply • Ensuring fairer working conditions and better healthcare, and creating more opportunities for Europe's youth to benefit from the European social market economy • Stepping up our cooperation on security and defence, and deepening EU's partnership with closest allies • Defending European values and freedoms, and protecting the rule of law. • Taking a new approach to migration, remaining vigilant on the rule of law and building a union where racism and discrimination have no place. The European Commission is the executive branch of the EU and helps to shape overall strategy, proposes new laws and policies, monitors implementation and manages the EU budget. This

includes trade policy as well as development cooperation and humanitarian aid. The overall EU budget for cooperation and external relations amounts to over 129 Billion Euros. The President decides on the organisation of the European Commission, sets the policy agenda – and is also responsible for implementation of European Law and held accountable by both the European Parliament and Council of Europe. President Ursula von der Leyen is the first woman to hold the position after she was elected last year. Her political career spans 30 years during which time she held a number of key positions including the Federal Minister of Defence and the Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs in Germany. Over the last 7 years, the European Union has allocated 618 million Euros in development cooperation and more than 611 million Euros in humanitarian aid for Pakistan since 2009.

## SMALL WORLD



TEHRAN: Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Iran Ali Alizada meeting with DG Protocol Iranian Foreign Ministry Mehdi Honardoost. Both of them served in Pakistan as ambassadors of their respective countries at the same time. First time they met as fellow ambassadors in Islamabad. – DNA

## Localization key to success for Pakistani handicrafts

AGENCIES

BEIJING: Localization key to success for high-end Pakistani handicrafts in Chinese market, says a report published by China Economic Net on Wednesday. "This design is specially made for the Chinese customers; they like it a lot," noted Muhammad Kamil Khan, CEO of Pak Link Enterprises, while showcasing the high-end Pakistani handicrafts in the

18th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO), adding that understanding China's culture and traditions helps his products make its way into the Chinese market. Muhammad Kamil Khan added, Pakistan is one of the few countries in the world with a wide variety of minerals and marble. Of these precious marbles, the most famous and exclusive one is onyx. "Onyx is a very popular decorative stone that is used to create any number of indoor

and outdoor carvings and shapes," he explained. How to shine in a foreign market? Muhammad Kamil Khan, who has been in the industry since 2012, got his own key to success. "This is a business rule that if you wanna do business in this country, you have to learn about their culture, like what kind of things they like." For instance, "peach symbolizes longevity in Chinese culture, so we made this onyx handicraft in the shape of peaches," he pointed at a stunning onyx product.



MADRID: Ambassador of Pakistan to Spain Shujjat Rathore had a meeting with President of Foreign Affairs Committee of Congress of Deputies (Lower House). Views were exchanged on various topics of mutual interest. – DNA

## Baku's liberation sign of historical Azer-Turk fraternity: FM

DNA

BAKU: Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has said that Baku's liberation from the Armenian dashnak and bolshevik occupation in 1918 reflects the Azerbaijani-Turkish historical brotherhood. Bayramov made the remarks on his official Twitter account on the 103rd anniversary of Baku's liberation by the Caucasus Islamic Army led by Turkish Commander Nuru Pasha. "The liberation of Baku from the occupation by the Caucasus Islamic Army under the command of Nuru Pasha on September 15, 1918, is a special day, reflecting the historical brotherhood, unity of Azerbaijan and Turkey, support in difficult times," Bayramov noted. Meanwhile, the military march was held in Shusha to mark the anniversary. Chairman of the Board of the Shusha State Reserve Department Maftun Abbasov wrote about this on his Twitter page. "Moments of pride. On September 15, the 103rd anniversary of Baku's liberation from the Armenian-Bolshevik occupation is celebrated in Shusha, which was liberated from [Armenia's] occupation at the cost of our national army's blood. We are proud of our national army," Abbasov tweeted. The Caucasus Islamic Army led by Turkish Commander Nuru Pasha together with the



newly-formed Azerbaijani National Army and volunteers liberated Baku from the Armenian and Bolshevik occupation on September 15, 1918. Following the liberation, Baku was declared the capital of the Azerbaijani Democratic Republic, which became the first democratic republic in the Muslim East. In all, 1,132 fighters of the Caucasus Islamic Army were martyred during the liberation of Baku. The liberation of Baku is an event of exceptional importance for the Azerbaijani-Turkish friendship and brotherhood. During the 44-day war with Armenia in 2020, Turkey was among the first countries voicing political support for Azerbaijan. Turkey also backs Azerbaijan in the restoration of the country's liberated territories.

## WFP logistics center established in Uzbekistan

DNA

TASHKENT: The UN World Food Program has established a main logistics center in Termez (Uzbekistan). This was reported by the UN News Center. The report notes that the UN is increasing stocks of essential goods in warehouses in Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in connection with the increased needs for food aid in Afghanistan. Over the past days, humanitarian supplies have been delivered to UN agencies in the provinces of Afghanistan. On the eve of the convoy of the Office of Refugees (UNHCR) safely reached Nangarhar. This is the second in the past three weeks, a convoy with assistance, proceeded to Afghanistan through the Pakistani checkpoint Torkha.

## Baku Metro orders new batch of trains

FOREIGN DESK

BAKU: The Baku Metro CJSC has ordered another 20 cars (four trains) from Russia and plans to put them into operation in 2022, Bakhtiyar Mammadov, spokesperson for the company, told Trend on Sept.15. Mammadov reminded that the company signed an agreement for the production of railcars with the Russian Metrovagonmash CJSC. "In accordance with the agreement, Metrovagonmash will produce 20 more cars for the Baku metro. Their delivery is scheduled until the summer of 2022. The CJSC will transfer all the technical conditions to Metrovagonmash," he said. Baku Metro CJSC has 280 cars, including 95 of the new generation, under its balance. The Baku metro plans to increase the number of new generation cars to 115 by the end of next year. The new cars are manufactured according to the technical specifications of the CJSC, equipped with air conditioners and an automatic microclimate control system.

## Fossil of land-roaming whale species found

WEB DESK

CAIRO: Egyptian scientists say the fossil of a four-legged prehistoric whale, unearthed more than 10 years ago in the country's Western Desert, is that of a previously unknown species. The creature, an ancestor of the modern-day whale, is believed to have lived 43 million years ago. The prehistoric whale, known as semi-aquatic because it lived on land and sea, sported features of an accomplished hunter, making it stand out among other whale fossils, the team's leading paleontologist Hesham Sallam told the Associated Press news agency on Tuesday. The fossil was first found by Egyptian environmentalists in 2008 in an area covered by seas in prehistoric times, but researchers only published their findings confirming a new species last month. Sallam said his team did not start examining the fossil until 2017 because he wanted to assemble the best and the most talented Egyptian paleontologists for the study. The fossil whale has been named Phiomictus Anubis, after the "god of death" in ancient Egypt. "We chose the name Anubis because it had a strong and deadly bite," said Sallam, professor of paleontology at Mansoura University in Egypt. "It could kill any creature it crossed paths with." The whale belongs to the family of Protecetids, extinct semi-aquatic whales that lived from 59 to 34 million years ago, Sallam said. It would have walked on land but also hunted in the water. "This is yet another new species of early whales from the time when they retained four functional limbs," said Jonathan Geisler, an expert on the evolutionary history of mammals with New York Institute of Technology.

## ASEAN, China, Pakistan- co-op to expand CPEC

DNA

NANNING: As CPEC has entered the second phase, the new energy cooperation between Pakistan, ASEAN and China will be an unavoidable important agenda of the triangle partnership and will play an important role to further expand CPEC. This was stated by Badar uz Zaman, Commercial Counsellor of embassy of Pakistan in China, while talking to Gwadar Pro during the 18th China ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO). At the 70th Anniversary of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between China and Pakistan & Bilateral Trade/Investment Forum, a sub-activity of the 18th CAEXPO, representatives of Chinese energy enterprises shared their successful experience of participating in CPEC. Ren Hongbin, Vice Minister of Commerce of China, also stated that "China hopes that Pakistan will make good use of CAEXPO and other platforms to promote sustained growth

of bilateral trade and strengthen cooperation in sustainable development. " After the forum, Badar said in the exclusive interview: "Thanks to the effort of Pakistan and China, we have completed many projects of energy, which is the major sector of CPEC. Sustainable development is an important global issue. Pakistan is also focusing on the products and industries related to new energy including solar, hydro, and wind. In addition to that, we are already working on some industrial products, special economic zones and other projects regarding sustainable development. Therefore, the second phase of CPEC is a new stage in which we are focusing more on the environment and socio-ecology." In order to ensure the sustainable development of CPEC and renewable energy growth under the context of COVID-19 pandemic, Pakistan and China have taken numerous measures to ensure the projects go ahead. Ning Jizhe, Director of China's National Bureau of Statistics, also said during CAEXPO

that strengthening international cooperation on environmental protection and jointly tackling climate change will be an important precondition for economic recovery and production capacity recovery in the post-COVID-19 era. Badar said: "We are complying with all the requirements, all the quality, and all the quarantine and systematic requirements of CDC. Thanks to the unremitting efforts of the builders from our two countries, the bilateral trade has been increasing, renewable energy projects have been signed and operated normally, and our productive capacity has been developed to cope with the worldwide public crisis" He also agreed that the tripartite cooperation between Pakistan, China and ASEAN countries is conducive to sustainable development of CPEC. Badar said: "China has Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with both ASEAN and Pakistan. BRI also provides favorable conditions for the three sides to reach a consensus on low-carbon transformation and renewable

energy development." During the 18th CAEXPO, China has also shown its consistent positive attitude toward developing clean energy and realizing sustainable development. Zhang Jianhua, Chairman of China's National Energy Administration, said: "At present, China's new energy installed capacity accounts for one third of the world's total. China has built the largest power network in the world with the strongest transmission capacity, the highest operational voltage level, the most new-energy interconnection and the best safe operation record. China has endeavored to work together with BRI countries to push forward the power sector green and low-carbon transition and realize high-quality development, strive for mutual benefit through cooperation based on trust. China will also actively contribute her wisdom and strength to the sustainable development of BRI countries' society and economy."



## Briefs

Sherry  
slams gov't's  
'intimidation'  
of ECP

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Criticising the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government for what she called being on a direct collision course with democratic institutions such as the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Senator Sherry Rehman on Wednesday vowed to support the ECP at all forums.

Sherry Rehman also said that Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) will violate privacy of the voter. Talking to the media outside the ECP office in Islamabad along with other PPP and Awami National Party (ANP) leaders, Sherry Rehman said that PTI members are giving statements on International Democracy Day but in reality the incumbent government is on path of collision with democratic norms and values.

Senator Sherry said that such election machinery is being imposed on the country which has been opposed by other countries as well as ECP. She added that her party always had reservations on elections but never made any constitutional institution controversial as ECP is a very important stakeholder in electoral process.

PMDA:  
Media  
conveys  
concerns  
to govt

ISLAMABAD: A meeting was held between the Federal Information Minister, Fawad Chaudhry, Minister of State Farrukh Habib and representatives of PBA, APNS, CPNE, PFUJ and AEMEND. Issues relating to media regulation and proposed PMDA were discussed with the information minister. The Joint Action Committee expressed its reservations on the proposed PMDA and termed it as unacceptable. It was mutually agreed to form a committee to address the issue amicably.

The committee will address the issue of fake news particularly on social media, the rights of the media workers and ways to further improve laws and regulatory framework. — DNA

Red List:  
Low testing a  
worry for UK

## WEB DESK

LONDON: The UK government has said that low testing rates and the lack of genomic surveillance in Pakistan are causes of concern for them, as it gets ready to review the names of countries on the Red List on Wednesday night.

On Tuesday, credible sources in both Pakistan and UK shared full details of the Red List review with this correspondent, explaining the progress made and the continuing issues around the COVID-19 response of the Pakistani authorities. The UK's action of putting Pakistan on the Red List continuously has caused friction between the two countries to the extent that Pakistan refused to allow permission to a chartered flight on September 7, which was set to take off from London for Islamabad. Twenty-five Pakistani national deportees were on the flight.

Diplomatic sources confirmed that Pakistan told the Home Office that it will not accept the flight as a token of protest over its action to keep the country continuously on the Red List.

The Pakistan High Commission denied the flight cancellation was linked with the Red Listing. However, a source in the UK government linked the flight cancellation — which cost the UK govt over £100,000 — with the Red Listing.

Kazakhstan biggest economy  
in the Central Asia: envoy

Afghanistan territory had been for centuries function as geographically most suitable trade link to connect Central and South Asia. There is now a unique chance to re-establish that link to boost contacts between two regions, which have a lot to offer each other

FROM PAGE 01

But from the very beginning of Kazakhstan's independence for us it quite clear that exhaustible natural resources cannot be a backbone of national economy, what made our country to do its best in diversifying its economy in favour of developing other sectors and make them competitive worldwide.

Achievement of this objective is of strategic importance for Kazakhstan for the reason our national economy to be sustainable and less dependent upon world prices for natural raw resources. Recently the President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev in his Address to the nation reiterated the need to keep making our economy diversified through extending the production of ready-to-export goods.

As president Tokayev stressed in his annual address to the nation, delivered on 1 of September 2021: "At the end of 2020, for the first time in 10 years of industrialization, the contribution of the manufacturing industry to the development of the economy exceeded the share of the mining industry. We are planning to increase by 2025 the volume of export of manufacturing industry to 1.5 times and the volume of labour productivity up to 30%".

One of the sectors we want to make competitive is agriculture, which in the future may be a driver of the Kazakh economy. President Tokayev in his annual Address said that Kazakhstan has the enormous agrarian potential and outlined the measures we need to take in order to develop our agriculture.

In this regard, it is worthwhile to say that at present Kazakhstan is among top ten world exporters of high-quality wheat. Last year



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin giving an interview to Daily Islamabad POST, CENTRELINE and DNA News Agency.

our country exported the wheat, worth of almost 1.1 billion USD. This is the reason why our country is in constant search of profitable markets worldwide, including the ones in South Asia.

At the same time Kazakhstan imports in big volumes various technical equipment and machinery, pharmaceuticals and vehicles. But right now we are on the way to lessen our dependence on importing this stuff through trying to produce it domestically. This is all part of our national economic policy, designed to ensure by 2050 Kazakhstan's joining the list of 30 most developed nations in the world.

How would you describe relations between Kazakhstan and Pakistan? And what are the key areas where both countries can cooperate? Relationship between our countries go back to 1991, when Kazakhstan emerged as a sovereign state, but official diplomatic ties were established in February 1992, during the first official visit of the First President of Kazakh-

stan, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev to Pakistan.

The key point in Kazakh-Pak relationship since then is a total absence of any profound disagreements, what makes our countries able to develop cooperation in any field.

Furthermore, geographic proximity, as well as deep historical and cultural links between peoples of Central and South Asia are creating most favourably environment to bring our nations much closer than they actually are.

It certainly should be manifested through development of business-to-business and people-to-people contacts, which are still at a relatively low level due to lack of information about each other, some visa policy restrictions and no direct air flights between our countries. These are formidable impediments indeed but not unresolvable, given the will from both ends to do it.

The area we can develop bilateral cooperation the most is certainly trade and economy, as Kazakhstan

as a largest land-locked country in the world needs to get secure and shortest access to the sea. And Pakistan can provide it through Karachi and Gwadar ports. Moreover, Pakistan, whose growing population needs more food supplies, potentially is a great market for the Kazakh wheat and other food items.

On the other hand, the COVID-19 pandemic made us certain that Kazakh pharmaceutical industry needs to be reformed to meet the challenges of this kind. This is why we would be much interested in setting up cooperation with Pakistani pharmaceutical industry and in the domain of medicine as a whole.

Kazakhstan is steadily developing in cooperation with top world universities the network of English-speaking higher education institutions, where students from Pakistan could study, as they already do in Kazakhstan's medical universities. Education area is indeed the one we should pay con-

stant attention upon in terms of enhancing people-to-people contacts. It is essential for making our nations well aware of each other. Keeping in mind the reputation of the Pakistani armed forces as one of the most powerful and effective armies of the world another field of cooperation to be developed between our countries is the military one.

Last month armed forces of Kazakhstan and Pakistan held another round of military drills of "Dostarym-2021" here in Pakistan and the recent visit to Kazakhstan of the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff General Nadeem Raza gave big impetus to strengthening Kazakh-Pak military ties.

We have also a bilateral commission on military-technical cooperation and I hope that before the end of the current year we shall hold the inaugural meeting of that commission here in Islamabad.

Regional stability is a must for regional connectivity and trade activities. What is your take on this especially in view of the emerging situation in Afghanistan?

As I said, regional connectivity matters are essential for the land-locked Kazakhstan. This is why Kazakhstan, being located in the very heart of Eurasia, is strategically interested in turning to be a regional transportation hub. This is at the best interests of not only Kazakhstan, but also of other countries.

This is also true for countries of South Asia, like Pakistan, through the territory of Afghanistan. Afghanistan territory had been for centuries function as geographically most suitable trade link to connect Central and South Asia. There is now a unique chance to re-establish that link to boost contacts between two regions, which have a lot to offer each other.

NAB's policy  
starts yielding  
excellent  
results: NAB

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: NAB was established in 1999 in order to eradicate corruption and to recover looted money from corrupt elements and deposit in the national exchequer. Justice Mr. Javed Iqbal, after assumption of his responsibilities as Chairman NAB more than three years ago had introduced a comprehensive and effective national anti corruption strategy consisting of Awareness, Prevention and Enforcement with commitment of 'Corruption free Pakistan' starts yielding excellent results. Reputed national and International Organizations like Transparency International Pakistan, World Economic Forum, PILDAT, Mishal Pakistan have not only lauded NAB's efforts for eradication of corruption but in the Gillani and Gallup Survey about 59 percent people have shown their confidence upon NAB as NAB under the dynamic leadership of Honorable Justice Mr. Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB has not only recovered Rs. 535 billion from corrupt elements during his tenure which is remarkable achievement as compared to previous years of NAB.

Tarin for  
increased  
Pak-German  
trade co-op

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: A German business delegation called on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Mr. Shaukat Tarin, at the Finance Division today. The delegation comprised of the representatives of leading German enterprises. The Ambassador of Germany to Pakistan Bernhard Schlagheck accompanied the delegation. Secretary BOI and representatives of OICCI also participated in the meeting. The visit comes on the occasion of 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

While extending a warm welcome to the delegation, the Finance Minister stressed upon the German investors and businessmen to further strengthen business and economic linkages between the two countries.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, National Heritage Shafqat Mahmood in a meeting with Chinese Ambassador in his office. — DNA

Democratic culture will  
improve political standard

ARIJ GHAZNAVI

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said on Wednesday that Pakistan was one of the few countries in the world which were created through democratic process and it had a functioning democratic system.

Addressing a seminar on the international day of democracy organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, he said that in Pakistan, the debate was about improving the quality of democracy.

He said there was a need to introduce democratic culture in political parties, ensure rule of law and protect fundamental rights of all irrespective of caste, creed or political affiliation. He said that Imran Khan was striving for transformation of the society but all institutions would have to transform them.

The minister said that Pakistan had one of the most independent and vibrant media in the world, adding However there was need



for its regulation, but a section of media owners wanted that they should be allowed self-regulation.

He said that Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar had rightly said that in such a situation, all regulatory authorities would have to be closed. Unfortunately, advertisements against the Prime Minister and Information Minister have been aired in the media for 5 days on a fake ordinance, which did not exist.

He said a section of the media in Pakistan believed that it had the right to criticize every person and institution but no one could regulate it. He said that political parties were far away from democracy and their only objective was to come to power through all means.

Fawad said that political parties in Pakistan wanted democracy in the country but they were against bringing democratic culture within political parties.

Petrol  
price raised  
by Rs 5

ISLAMABAD: The government on Wednesday announced a Rs 5 increase in the price of petrol "owing to the fluctuations in petroleum prices in the international market and exchange rate variation".

According to a notification by the Finance Division, besides petrol, an increase in other petroleum products will also be enforced starting September 16.

Petrol, with the Rs5 increase, will now cost Rs123.30 per litre, whereas high speed diesel, with an increase of Rs5.01, will now cost Rs120.04 per litre.

In addition, kerosene will cost Rs5.46 more and will thus be priced at Rs96.26 per litre, while light diesel oil will become Rs5.92 dearer to cost Rs90.69 per litre. — DNA

Pakistan can benefit from  
Portuguese experience: Envoy

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Portugal's superior seafaring expertise and maritime strategies combining naval power, trade, and religious and cultural aspects were its key foreign policy instruments during the exploration age. Portugal's rich maritime legacy, the history of former Portuguese colonies in Asia, Africa and

Latin America, and their role in world affairs today offer many lessons and insights for Pakistan.

The message emanated from an exclusive talk by Paulo Neves Pocinho, Ambassador of the Portuguese Republic, in his address titled 'Navigating the Portuguese History and its Impact in the Indian Ocean Region with Special Reference to Afro-Eurasian Maritime Trade' at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS).



The interactive discussion that followed the ambassador talk was participated by Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman, VC IPS Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain and IPS Associates Ambassador (r) Tajamul Altaf, Dr Tughrul Yamin, associate dean, Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), NUST, Naufil Shahrulh, GM Operations, IPS, and Farzana Yaqoob, founder and CEO, Centre for Asian-African Studies (CAAS).

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Pocinho said that maritime and geostrategic thinking, and the science and the arts of sea navigation and international diplomacy practiced by Portugal in the Indian Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean regions were the key foreign policy instruments that equipped Portugal to become a prominent maritime power in the age of discovery.

Pak, China agree  
to boost education

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Wednesday reiterated their resolve to further consolidate their relationships in the areas of Education, Skills development and Culture.

It was agreed in a meeting with the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong with Federal Minister for Education, Professional Training and National Heritage Shafqat Mahmood. During the meeting, both sides ex-

changed views on a range of bilateral issues of mutual interests based on education and skills development, said a news release issued here.

Federal Minister for Education Shafqat Mahmood stated that Pak-China had an iron bond which was getting stronger every passing day. China was the first country to provide Covid-19 pandemic vaccines to Pakistan and was also a role model for the world the way it fought against the deadly virus and defeated this unseen enemy, he said.

## ICCI CORPORATE CLASS (CM)

CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE OF ICCIISLAMABAD 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

