

Samahan

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New Zealand's policy on nuclear arms remains unchanged

Detailed News On Page-06

US, Pakistan in contact over Afghanistan

Detailed News On Page-01



World must stop Kashmir genocide: Bilal

Detailed News On Page-06



Imran Khan talks regional stability with SCO leaders

PM Khan holds meetings with Kazakh, Uzbek, Iranian and Belarusian Presidents

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

DUSHANBE: DUSHANBE: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday held several meetings with foreign leaders during his visit to the Tajikistan capital, where he arrived to attend the 20th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council of Heads of State (SCO-CHS). Prime Minister Imran Khan and President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev met here in the capital of Tajikistan and affirmed the commitment to enhance bilateral relations in diverse fields particularly trade, investment and transportation links.

The meeting, held on the sidelines of 20th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council of Heads of State (SCO-CHS) Summit, focused on closed collaboration for the mutual benefit of two countries. The two leaders exchanged views on bilateral relations and discussed key regional and international issues.

The prime minister underlined that Pakistan was resolved to comprehensively upgrade engagement with Central Asian countries through its "Vision Central Asia" policy. He particularly emphasised the importance of connectivity and Pakistan's pivotal position in providing the shortest ac-

Briefs

Visit to

Dushanbe

important

DNA

that Prime Minister Imran

Khan's visit to Tajikistan will prove to be an impor-

tant milestone and further

increase the prestige of

Pakistan. In a televised

message regarding the

Prime Minister's visit to

Dushanbe, the Information

Minister said Imran Khan

will hold meetings with the

Iranian President, the For-

eign Minister of China and

the leadership of Central

Asian States on the side-

lines of the SCO Summit.

The Information Minister

said situation in Afghanistan

will be discussed in the SCO

summit. He said Pakistan

recognizes Tajikistan's im-

portant role in Afghanistan.

for

Minister

mation and

Broadcasting

Chaudhary

Fawad Hussain has said

ISLAMABAD:

FM talks with Chinese, Russian counterparts

News Desk / DNA

DUSHANBE: The Foreign Ministers of Russia, China, Pakistan and the Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran held an important meeting in Dushanbe on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of State meeting in Dushanbe Thursday. During the meeting, discussions were held on the emerging situation in Afghanistan and peace and stability in the region. The participants reaffirmed their commitment to promote peace, security and stability in Afghanistan and the region as a whole.

The ministers stressed the need for an inclusive government in Afghanistan that takes into account the interests of all ethnic and political forces in the country. The meeting highlighted the current situation in Afghanistan and the need to work together to address

Continued on Page 06

cess route to the sea. The prime minister also highlighted the significance of Trans-Afghan

railway project connecting Termez-Mazar-e-Sharif-Kabul-Jalalabad-Peshawar. He also elaborated his vision of socio-economic development and shifting country's priority from geo-politics to geo-economics. To promote regional integration, the

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two sides also decided to enhance connectivity through land and air routes. The prime minister also underscored the importance of peace and stability in Afghanistan for Pakistan and the region. He stressed that the international community had to remain engaged to support the Afghan people, to address urgent humanitarian needs, and take steps to stabilise the economy. The prime minister stressed that sustainable peace and security in Afghanistan would contribute to regional peace, connectivity and progress.

The two leaders agreed to increase the frequency of high-level political exchanges. The Prime Minister renewed the invitation to President Tokayev to visit Pakistan. President Tokayev extended invitation to the Prime Minister to visit Kazakhstan. Pakistan and

Continued on Page 06

PM IMRAN IN DUSHANBE



meets with President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev. – DNA



DUSHANBE: Prime Minister Imran Khan DUSHANBE: Prime Minister Imran exchanging views with President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. – DNA

Zalmay blames Ghani's exit for Taliban takeover

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: The US negotiator on Afghanistan said that president Ashraf Ghani's abrupt exit scuttled a deal in which the Taliban would hold off entering Kabul and negotiate

a political transition. In his first interview since the collapse of the 20-year Western-backed government, Zalmav Khalilzad, who brokered a 2020 deal with the Taliban to withdraw US troops, told the Financial Times that the Taliban had agreed to stay outside the capital for two weeks and shape a future government.

Blinken's remarks a 'surprise'

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office spokesperson Asim Iftikhar Ahmad on Thursday said that US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken's remarks earlier this week, in which he had said the United States would be reassessing its relationship with Pakistan, were "not in line with the close cooperation" between the two countries. He made the comment in response to a question during his weekly press conference. Terming Blinken's statement a "surprise", Ahmad recalled that Pakistan had played a "critical role" in helping the US degrade Al Qaeda's core leadership which was the int'l coalition's main objective

Under President Tokayev....

Kazakhstan set on road to prosperity

President delivers address to the nation every year: Ambassador Kistafin

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin has said President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev in his address to the nation assured that his government would undertake all possible steps to improve the lot of the people and further develop infrastructure. The ambassador made these observations during a press conference at his residence on Thursday.

He said, every year the President Tokayev delivers his address to the Nation, articulating his views and must-to-do things to keep Kazakhstan on the track of progress and sustainable development. The President's address for 2021 was took place just a couple of weeks ago and it was an excellent



update of what is to be done in our country in a very short-run. Ambassador Kistafin said, the first part of the address was

Continued on Page 06

Nawaz, Shahbaz 'are one', PML-N stands united

Maryam warns party workers against propaganda

BUREAU REPORT



President Maryam Nawaz on Thursday urged party

workers to pay no mind to "propaganda by the enemy", saying that PML-N Nawaz Sharif Supremo and and PML-N President Shahbaz Sharif "are one". "This is a democratic party.

Continued on Page 06

Bilawal rejects hike in petrol prices

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Thursday rejected increase in prices of petroleum products and said that Imran Khan has robbed the poor by hiking the

price to highest level in history. Bilawal Bhutto, in a statement, said that with petrol and dollar at historic high, everyday use items will soon be out

of reach of the masses.

Zardari seeks acquittal in Toshakhana

STAFF REPORT



Former president and PPF Co-Chair man Asif Ali Zardari has sought ac-

quittal in Toshakhana reference. The former president through his counsel, Farooq H Naek, filed a petition in an accountability court in Islamabad pleading that none of the NAB witnesses appeared in the court so far had levelled any accusation against him The petition said 21 of the 43 NAB witnesses testified but no one alleged anything against Zardari which showed the former president was being subjected to political victimization. The court was urged to acquit Asif Zardari in the Toshakhana reference.

Afghan crisis: UNHCR all praise for Pak help This was stated in a meeting between Filippo

Grandi, (UNHCR) and COAS General Qamar Bajwa



RAWALPINDI: Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff. - DNA

SHUJAAT HAMZA

RAWALPINDI: Filippo Grandi, United Nations Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ, on Thursday. According to an Inter Services Public Relations

press release, matters of

mutual interest, regional security, current situation in Afghanistan & collaboration in humanitarian assistance were discussed during the meeting.

COAS reiterated the need for convergence of global efforts to avert humanitarian and refugee crisis in Afghanistan. COAS also appreciated the role of UNHCR in promoting UN core values and their response during crises. The visiting dignitary acknowledged effort for hosting four Million Afghan refugees for

over four decades. He also appreciated Pakistan's role in Afghan situation including provision of humanitarian aid/ assistance and pledged to play their role for further improvement in cooperation with Pakistan at all levels.

Afghan Taliban deny reports of internal rifts

Afghanistan's acting deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghani Baradar appeared in a video interview to deny reports that he was hurt in a clash with a rival faction of the Taliban

CENTRELINE REPORT

KABUL: Senior Taliban officials, including spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid and a member of the Haqqani network, have denied reports of rifts between the leadership of the group's various factions

since the formation of an interim government last week. Meanwhile, Afghanistan's acting deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghani Baradar appeared in a video interview to deny reports that he was hurt in a clash with a rival faction of the Taliban. "No this is not true; I am OK and healthy," Baradar said in an interview with state TV which was posted on Twitter by the Taliban's political office in Doha. "The media says that there are internal disputes. There is nothing between us, it is not true." Reports of disagreements first began circulating after the Taliban

formed a cabinet on September 7 that is more in line with their harsh rule in the 1990s than their recent promises of inclusiveness. Late last week, rumours emerged of an alleged violent confrontation between pragmatists and ideologues in the Taliban leadership at the presidential palace, including claims that Deputy Prime Minister of Afghanistan Abdul Ghani Baradar was killed. The occurrence of the row, reportedly between Baradar and minister for refugees Khalilur Rahman Haggani, was confirmed to the BBC by a senior member of the Taliban based in Qatar and a person close to the factions at loggerheads. The source identified Baradar's unhappiness over the interim government's structure as the primary reason for the confrontation, but added that the two factions had also argued over who should get more credit, with Bara-

dar purportedly wanting greater acknowledgment for diplomatic efforts such as his and the Haqqani group adamant that the fighting faction played a bigger role.

The rumours of Baradar's death reached such intensity that an audio recording and handwritten statement, both by the leader himself, denied that he had been killed. He reiterated his well-being by appearing in an interview with the country's national TV on Wednesday. Other Taliban officials have also come forward to refute reports of cracks within the leadership, with Mujahid among those shooting down the rumours.

Anas Haqqani, younger brother of the Taliban's newly appointed Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani, also issued a similar statement on Wednesday, maintaining that "the Islamic Emirate is a united front".

Continued on Page 06

US in contact with Pak on Afghan issue

DNA

WASHINGTON: US State Department Thursday said that Washington was in regular touch with Pakistan over Afghanistan's issue. Addressing a media briefing, US State Department spokesperson Ned Price said, "We have been in regular touch with Pakistani counterparts as well as Pakistani leadership. We've discussed Afghanistan in some detail." Responding to a question about US State Secretary Antony Blinken's statement in which he had said that the US will assess

its ties with Pakistan, the spokesperson said, "Pakistan was represented at the ministerial that Secretary Blinken and Foreign Minister Maas convened last week at Ramstein Airbase in Germany.

ZUBAIR AHMAD ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) issued notices to Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry and Federal Minister for Railways Azam Swati

ECP serves

notices to ministers

after they had levelled allegations against the institution, sources said Thursday. The ECP has sought explanations from both the ministers for accusing Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja and the commission, sources said. The development comes two days after the ECP had decided to issue notices to the information and railways ministers. CEC Raja on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the ECP where the matter of allegations levelled by the federal min-

isters was discussed.

Continued on Page 06



KARACHI: Minister of State for Climate Change Zartaj Gul is being presented memento during the ceremony of the World Ozone Day. – DNA

PD DHA Bahawalpur meets investors

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Basharat Ali, Project Director (PD) DHA Bahawalpur met with the top and renowned property dealers and investors of Rawalpindi on the first day of his visit of the twin cities. A prestigious event was held at Jacaranda Club, DHAI-R for the property dealers and investors of Rawalpindi to discuss the ongoing projects of DHA Bahawalpur, issues of mutual interest, and future developments. Brig. Basharat Ali also gave a detailed briefing on the whole project of DHA Bahawalpur and shared development plans and investment opportunities in one of the finest projects in Southern Punjab. The event was very well received by the audience and concluded with a prestigious dinner.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI: Three ships, Loch Crinan, Maritime Comity and Gas Amazon carrying 54,412 tonnes of Coal, 32,766 tonnes Palm oil and 3,202 tonnes LPG were berthed at Pakistan International Bulk Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal and Sui Sothern Gas Termina respectively on Wednesday. Meanwhile three more ships Irenes Ray, Efrossni and Apollo carrying Containers, Coal and Palm oil also arrived at outer anchorage of Port Qasim during the last 24 hours. Twelve ships were occupied at PQA berths during last 24 hours, out of them, two Container ships, Maersk Sentosa and MSC Rachele sailed on Thursday morning, while three more ships, IVS Pebble Beach, Arion and Port Belmonte are expected to sail from HFP&S, PQEPT and PIBT on today in the af-

ternoon.
Cargo throughput during last 24 hours stood at 165,654 tonnes, comprising 123,038 tonnes imports cargo and 42,616 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 2,926 Containers (580 TEUs Imports and 2,346 TEUs export), was handled at the Port. – APP

NAB takes notice of fake calls

DNA

LAHORE: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Thursday took notice of fake calls, in the name of NAB by some elements for pressurizing the private institutes or officials to get their personal benefits. These accused used international telephonic numbers to make telephonic calls to the officials or private institutes and they also set the NAB officers pictures at their whats app profile display, said NAB sources. Javed Iqbal had also issued directions to take action against such elements. It may be mentioned here that NAB intelligence wing had so far arrested 12 accused in-

volved in such practices. The NAB once again informed that on the directions of its Chairman, no NAB official made any contact through telephone with any individual or institution regarding inquiry or investigation but they only ensured written correspondence with the individual

or organization concerned.

COMSTECH, HSA ink LoU to build public health capacity

DNA

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH and Health Services Academy (HSA) signed a Letter of Understanding (LoU) to collaborate in the areas of: teaching, research, knowledge transfer, and exchange of information with the focus to achieve shared aims and objectives, here at COMSTECH Secretariat on Thursday.

It was agreed upon to conduct online, and in-person trainings in African regions in basic health sciences, and policy making by sending prominent experts in a particular field to the region to train people not only from the host country but also from the neighboring countries as well. Both the institutions resolved to carry out extensive capacity building programs public

health in African regions. It was agreed to develop joint research programmes; invite scholars for lectures, talks and participation in conferences, colloquia and symposia; organize workshops, exchange information and publications; and facilitate faculty and staff visits to the partner institutions of OIC member states. COMSTECH would invite the Health Services Academy (HSA), Pakistan, as a member of COMSTECH Consortium of excellence for the development and promotion of public health activities in OIC member states. Distinguished teachers, professors, researchers of HSA would work as resource persons for capacity building in public health of OIC member states. HSA in collaboration with

establishment of Infectious
Diseases Center in Gambia
under Resource Linkage
Programme of Islamic Development Bank.
Colloquia and
Organize workThe Health Services Academy, is a degree awarding in-

my, is a degree awarding institute, under the umbrella of Ministry of National Health Services Regulations & Coordination, Government of Pakistan. HSA offers long term, short term teaching training and research programs in public health.

The COMSTECH is the Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the OIC. The President of Pakistan is the Chairman of COMSTECH. COMSTECH works for the socio-economic development of OIC member states through capacity building in frontier fields of science and technology, and strengthening cooperation.

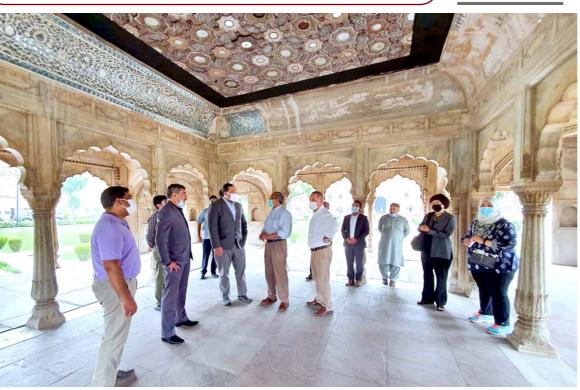
KP Government releases Rs. 400m grant for UAD

COMSTECH would submit

DNA

D.I KHAN: Provincial Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has released one time grantin-aid of Rs. 400 million for the University of Agriculture Dera Ismail Khan. When contacted, Vice Chancellor University of Agriculture Prof. Dr. Masroor Elahi Babar (TI) said that provision of high quality education has always remained a focus of the university and the released funds would be used to establish new laboratories to provide up to date equipment and better research environment to the students of UAD. Vice Chancellor further added that UAD will also ensure the provision of fund-

ed research projects to its students to uplift the academic standards of the institution and provide facilities for extracurricular activities to help prepare the balance, productive and sound minds for the society. Director Planning and Development of UAD, Arshad Jamil Khokhar said that with the proper funds now in hands to utilize, the University is expected to flourish further in near future through edifying its students by providing them with the factual and research oriented knowledge. The release was a long standing demand of the University of Agriculture and citizens of Dera Ismail Khan as cash-strapped UAD was running its financial affairs through the fees of the students enrolled in different programs of the University.



LAHORE: US Consul General William Makaneole visits Lahore Shahi Qila. – APP

DC Faisalabad meets District Peace Committee

DC informed that the Punjab government has also started vaccinating boys and girls between the ages of 15 and 17 to prevent them from corona in this regard

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Ali Shehzad called on the members of District Peace Committee (DPC). Additional Deputy Commissioner Headquarters Muhammad Khalid and other officers were also present. Maulana Muhammad Yusuf Anwar, Pir Faiz Rasool Rizwi, Muhammad Riaz Kharal, Syed Jafar Nagyi, Dr. Iftikhar Nagyi, Yaseen Zafar, Malik Bakhsh Elahi, Syed Tajmal Hussain, Abdul Rashid, Aslam Bhalli, Rashid Mahmood, Mian Tanveer Riaz and others were present on the occasion.

Deputy Commissioner welcomed the members of district peace committee and expressing happiness and satisfaction and said that the scholars of all schools of thought in Faisalabad district are united. He said that tolerance, love and observance of law should be taught to the people and especially in the gatherings Jumuah Al-Mubarak, the message of sincere adherence to Aswa-e-Hasana (PBUH) and protection from the Corona epidemic should of Ulmas for the establishment of peace. He said that peace and security is the hallmark of religion Islam of 15 and

which makes the world and the hereafter better therefore, will not spare a single minute to keep Faisalabad as the cradle of peace, the credit of which goes to the scholars of all sects. He said that on the occasion

He said that district ad-

ministration would always

welcome the suggestions

be conveyed.

He said that on the occasion of Chehlum Hazrat Imam Hussain (R.A) the administrative and security arrangements would be made in the light of the suggestions of the scholars. He informed that the Punjab government has also

started vaccinating boys and girls between the ages of 15 and 17 to prevent them from corona in this regard, lists are being prepared by educational institutions so the scholars should also provide lists of madrassa students.

He appealed to the religious scholars to spread the message among the parents that their children between the ages of 15 and 17 should

be vaccinated against corona so that they can be protected from this epidemic. Welcoming Ali Shehzad on his appointment as Deputy Commissioner, members of Peace Committee assured their full cooperation and said that peace belongs to all of us.

They also assured continued cooperation to ensure implementation of Corona SOPs. Finally, prayers were offered for the development and prosperity of the country and the nation, peace and security, unity and solidarity and blessings.



US issues visa to Omar Sharif, says Wahab

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Sindh government spokesman Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Thursday confirmed that renowned comedian Omar Sharif and his family have been issued United States visas.

In a tweet, Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that interviews were completed at the US embassy for the issuance of visas for renowned comedian Omar Sharif and his family.

The US embassy exempted Omar Sharif from the interview due to illness, for which we are grateful to the US embassy and officials.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab added that Omar Sharif is one of the great actor of the region. Wahab also prayed for his health and longevity. He also requested the nation pray for the recovery of Omar Sharif.

Proposal for term of FPCCI president still in pending: MoC

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Federal Ministry of Commerce has not put forward any proposal for extending the term of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry for two years. PTI MNA from Vehari Tahir Iqbal Ch. along with former FPCCI Vice Presidents Zafar Bakhtawari and Zahid Iqbal Ch. Thursday called on Iftikhar Ali Malik President SAARC Chamber and briefed him about their meeting with federal secretary commerce Sualeh Ahmad Farooqi. He said private member moved bill in this regard and government has not initiated any move however ministry will consult all chambers and associations on the proposed extension in the term of FPCCI.

He said issue of UBG presidential candidate khalid Tawab appeal against FPCCI elections was also taken up and secretary told that matter is pending before cabinet committee and in the light of its decision, the DGTO will take necessary action.

Tahir Iqbal Ch. further stated that UBG Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari informed the secretary that Khalid Tawab appeal has been pending for last nine months and not yet decided on merit. Zahid Iqbal Ch. said government decision should be in the best interest of the people and the business community and term of FPCCI should remain same. He said government should not take any decision in haste and if it's necessary to extend the term then a business referendum should be held.

Carpet makers to call on govt functionaries

DNA

LAHORE: A delegation of Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association will soon call on senior officials of government to draw attention towards granting relief on Sales and income tax on raw material imported into Pakistan from Torkham Border to give boost to the local carpet industry.

Senior vice chairman of the Association Riaz Ahmed told media that effective arrangements have been made to contact with the relevant authorities in the government. He recalled that exporting commodities already enoy exemption from Sales Tax exported through after imposing Value Added Taxes

locally Torkhan borders already enjoy exemption from Sales Tax. Riaz Ahmed further pointed

out that due to imposing of different taxes cost of production has soared very high as a result Pakistan is losing hand-market Carpet business in the international market due to vast competition.

He further assured Pakistan can gain cent percent increase in the export of handmade carpets of Pakistan besides increasing huge foreign exchange for the country. Moreover, he pointed that if our proposals are implemented Pakistan would be able to secure jobs for more than 0.5 million skilled workers attached with the hand-made carpet industry of Pakistan

Industries in residential areas under microscope

DNA

KARACHI: Sindh government has decided to re-survey industries located in residential areas of the province including Karachi and review environmental issues.

environmental issues.
Provincial Minister for Environment Ismail Rahu further said that there would also be an environmental inspection of restaurants across the province, including Karachi.

He directed officers to collect data of illegal industries, take legal action against negligent officers, industries operating without safety measures, loss of life, property and severe damage to the environment due to fire incidents.

Ismail Rahu said that after the survey, action would be taken against illegal industries and they would be relocated from residential areas.

Instructing the officers, the provincial minister Ismail Rahu said that environmental inspection of restaurants across Sindh would be carried out, general cleanliness of all restaurants across Sindh and also checking of indoor environment, drainage methods of restaurants across Sindh including Karachi would also be checked.

Opp require numbers for no-trust move

Staff Report

QUETTA: An opposition leader has claimed that the opposition parties have required numbers to pass a no-confidence motion against Chief Minister of Balochistan Jam Kamal.

Akhtar Hussain Langove, a member of BNP-Mengal, has said that the opposition have required number of lawmakers for the success of the no-trust move. Opposition parties, the Balochistan National Party (BNP), Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (JUI) and Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (P-MAP) have submitted the no-trust motion at the assembly's secretariat demanding Chief Minister Jam Kamal to seek confidence vote within seven days.

"Speaker has been bound under the rules to convene a session of Balochistan Assembly within seven days of submitting the no-confidence motion," Langove said. "The opposition parties have a strength of 23 members and they have support of more lawmakers than the required number," he said.

The opposition will need simple majority of 33 members of the provincial assembly to win the no-confidence motion against the Chief Minister. "CM Jam's own party members and allies are dissatisfied with his government's policies," Akhtar Langove said.

Usman Buzdar suspends 15 officers in Sialkot

Buzdar also took stern notice on the plight of women prisoners in District Jail Sialkot and reprimanded Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of the jail

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar on Thursday paid a surprise visit to Sambarial and Sialkot and suspended 15 senior officers over negligence of duty and public complaints.

During the visit, the Punjab CM visited various departments, during which he took stern action on negligence of duty, public complaints and poor performance. He also suspended 15 officers including Assistant Commissioner Sambarial.

Buzdar also took stern notice on

the plight of women prisoners in District Jail Sialkot and reprimanded Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of the jail. He lashed out at the mismanagement of Sialkot District Jail.

During the visit, the Punjab CM also approved the construction and repair of Sambarial Road and announced the release of a fund of Rs 200 million for the construction of Shahabpura bridge and approved the construction of road from airport to Sambarial Chowk.

He also directed the Deputy

Commissioner Sialkot to launch

crackdown on encroachments

and mafia without any discrimination. CM Bazdar appointed Secretary Excise and Taxation

as inquiry officer for inquiry into property tax matters. He also listened to the problems of the people at the Deputy Commissioner's Office.

Punjab government spokesman Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Chohan said that surprise visits of the chief minister to other districts would also continue. Earlier today in a statement, the chief minister said that the nation will not forgive opposition for its irresponsible behavior.

He said that opposition has also tried to do politics on coronavirus pandemic for its own interests. The opposition parties have always left the people of

Pakistan alone in difficult times, he added.

Meanwhile, CM Buzdar said that the opposition violated parlia-

the opposition violated parliamentary norms and its conduct during the address of President is condemnable.
Usman Buzdar said that address

of President to joint session of Parliament was a symbol of national unity.

Arif Alvi's address on com-

Arif Alvi's address, on completion of three parliamentary years, was a true representation of public's aspirations, he added. The Punjab CM further said that attitude of opposition parties was unparliamentary and undemocratic.

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Faji	04.10 am
Zohr	12:07 pm
Asr	04:50 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



Emergency

Rescue (Police)15		
Bomb Disposal15		
Fire Services Rawalpindi/		
Islamabad1122 & 16		
Emergency Ambulance1122		
& Rescue Services.4451122		
Motorway Police9266044		
Motorway Police9270601-20		
Women Police Stations		
Islamabad9222596		
Rawalpindi9270601-20		

Edhi Ambulance	11
PIAFlightInfo	
PIA Cargo	.9280979
Railway Inquiry	11
Railway Exchange9	270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	.9281092



Hospitals

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital.	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa Internation	onal.4603666



Denartments

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



Complaints

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
RawalTown	5773343

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....0331-5022125

Dr Alvi urges world not to abandon Afghanistan

President Alvi said that Pakistan provided Afghan refugees access to health and education facilities, including facilitating them to open bank accounts and engage in commercial activities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi Thursday has urged the international community to assist Afghanistan as the country was in dire need of humanitarian and economic assistance.

The president, in a meeting with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr, said the long-drawn war in Afghanistan had increased the miseries of the Afghan people.

He said the international community should not abandon Afghanistan alone and continue to provide economic and humanitarian assistance to its people. Welcoming the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the president stated that Pakistan had played a major role in the promotion of peace and reconstruction

of Afghanistan. He said that Pakistan was the only coun-

Encroachments

rampant in the garrison city

ZUBAIR AHMAD

RAWALPINDI: A number of stalls have encroached upon

the footpaths at Raja Bazaar. Talking to media here on

Thursday, one encroacher Fezan Khan at Raja Bazaar said

he is doing this business for over one-and-half year; many

times the District Administration demolished his stall but

he rebuilt it. When asked who helps him doing so, he said,

Another encroacher at the bazaar while telling his name

Kamran said that this stall is his single source of income.

When asked why he doesn't establish such settlement at

When Commercial Market was visited to take stock of

the situation there; such encroachments were also seen

there. When District Administration office was visited to

take its version on the matter, the official concerned said

that the officials continue its operations during the whole

week in the city; however, these encroachers establish

lodging first information reports (FIRs) against them. He

said that the administration takes action in accordance

with the law against profiteers and the violators are not

allowed to cheat public, adding that action is taken against

their stalls and other illegal settlements again.

ie said that fine is imposed on the

the violators without any discrimination.

'no one, adding he does all this on his own.

Atwar Bazaar, he remained tightlipped.



try in the world which had hosted over 3.5 million Afghan refugees for the last four decades. President Alvi said that Pakistan provided Afghan refugees access to health and education facilities, including facilitating them to open bank accounts and engage in commercial activities. He highlighted that the world needed to acknowledge Pakistan's role in the promotion of peace in Afghanistan and hosting millions of Afghan refugees for the past 40 years.

The president briefed Filippo Grandi about the recent humanitarian assistance and medical supplies being provided by Pakistan to the people of Afghanistan. He also highlighted Pakistan's efforts in the evacuation of members of international organizations and diplomatic missions from Afghanistan.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees appreciated Pakistan's role in hosting millions of Afghan refugees and sending humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan.

Skilled Afghan refugees in Pakfill the void back home'

DNA ISLAMABAD: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule: On 17th September, from 08:00 pm to 01:00 pm,Islampura, Burhan, Hassan Abdal, KSB Feeder, Shafi Chauhan Feeder from 09:00 am to 02:00 pm, New Waheedabad, Burma Feeders, from 08:00 am to 04:00 pm, Kohistan Enclave Feeder and surrounding areas will remain off. IESCO management apologizes to its esteemed customers for the power outage.

IESCO

issues power

suspension

program

DNA ISLAMABAD: In an interactive session at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Dr. Ghulam Farouq Azam, a

veteran Afghan leader and

academician, has termed the incumbent rule of Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan (IEA) as the only hope for the people of the country as the previous government had left it in the lurch creating an administrative void that needs to be filled. Dr. Azam, a development economist and politician, has served as economic advisor to former Afghan President Daoud Khan and later became a Mujahideen

leader and has remained

a part of two governments

in Kabul before the advent of the Taliban in 1995. He has been actively involved in the intra-Afghan peace

the Movement for Peaceful Transformation of Afghanistan during the last few years. Regarding the collapse of the US-backed Afghan government machinery against the onslaught of the Taliban, the speaker said, "The Taliban did not trigger the fall of the system as it collapsed on its own." Dr. Azam believed that educated, skilled Afghan refugees in Pakistan can fill the void created by the exodus of Western-funded, anti-Taliban

workforce in Afghanistan. He viewed the Taliban as having inherited a feeble country with a shrinking economy that is on the verge of economic collapse. He hoped the Talban would prove their mettle as better administrators than the Ashraf Ghani-led government.

He called unemployment

process as the chairman of one of the biggest challenges in Afghanistan now as around half a million people who were part of the Afghan army, police and militias and were getting salaries from the United States have become jobless. Similarly, previous government employees, the staffers of civil society organizations, NGOs, and media organizations who were being paid by the international community were now faced with a

bleak future. He warned the Taliban-led government against the growing chaos amid the lack of jobs in Afghanistan. He urged them to face this daunting challenge by creating employment opportunities for people who have become unemployed. Otherwise, the masses will create hindrances in governance that will eventually lead to the government's failure.

NCHD to establish 3000 literacy centers

ISLAMABAD: National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) has launched a literacy project under which 3000 centers would be established to educate 75,000 illiterates across the country. The first phase of the project called 'Promoting Literacy in Rural Areas of Pakistan" is in progress as BISP under Ahsaas Taleemi Wazifa Programme has agreed to run it to enhance the outreach and mobilize all BISP beneficiaries for enrollment. According to NCHD, it has been putting its efforts to improve human development indicators by collaborating with different ministries, divisions, organizations, and departments relating to health, education. – **DNA**



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with women representative of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and Attock Chamber of Commerce and Industries. -DNA

Experts discuss Europe's role in Afghanistan

Amina Khan, Director CAMEA says although the Taliban gave assurances that it would work towards the formation of an inclusive political set-up, the interim government is anything but inclusive

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) had a Panel Discussion on 'Conversations on the Evolving Situation in Afghanistan: Europe's Role in Afghanistan' which is the sixth in a series of conversations CAMEA is having on Afghanistan - under its 'Conversations on the Evolving situation in Afghanistan'.

distinguished speakers included: Mr. Graeme Smith, former Senior Consultant on Afghanistan at the Crisis Group, Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz, former Pakistan Ambassador to Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia & current President Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Mr. Daud Khattak, Managing Editor, Radio Mashaal (a Pashto language unit, broadcasting to regions on both sides of the Pak-Afghan border), Dr. Christian Wagner, Senior Fellow at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), and Mr. SangarPaykhar,

founder of Afghan Eye podcast, freelance journalist & commentator on Afghan affairs. Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry. Director General ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG, ISSI, also participated in the discussion.

During her opening remarks, Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA said although the Taliban gave assurances that it would work towards the formation of an inclusive political set-up, the interim government is anything but inclusive. However, even within the confines of a Taliban dominated set-up, a lot will depend on how the group delivers on governance, foreign relations, CT assurances, as well human rights. If the Taliban fail to deliver, it risks losing support and recognition need by the group to legitimize its rule. Hence, Taliban should work towards a future inclusive government. Europe has been a key player in Afghanistan, being the second largest political, economic and security contributor, making Afghanistan the largest beneficiary of EU development assistance.

Ahmad Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry said that Europe has always been a very important player in Afghanistan, and that he has always believed in the resilience of the European continent as it has been at the centre of human and intellectual evolution.

Mr. Graeme Smith said that a lot of us are hoping for a political setup in Afghanistan but unfortunately it ended up with a military takeover of the country. The new interim government in Afghanistan is presenting various challenges for European policymakers. Providing economic assistance and avoiding economic crises is the key concern of Europe right now. He mentioned that there is a real trust deficit between Europe and

the current Taliban government in

Afghanistan. Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz said that the Taliban's takeover of Kabul and their establishment of an interim government in Afghanistan mean the group is now organized. The Taliban has transformed from what they were 20 years ago. Mr. Daud Khattak, said that Europe has been a major ally of the US in the post 9/11 era, and it now has serious concerns about the future of Afghanistan. These concerns will guide the role of Europe in Afghanistan in the future. After the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, Europe's immediate concern is how to ensure women rights, human rights and freedom of the media.

Dr. Christian Wagner, spoke about the reaction of Europe at three different levels: immediate pertaining to refugees, midterm, regarding the humanitarian crisis and long-term which revolved around the recognition of the Taliban government in Afghanistan. He mentioned that a huge refugee influx (which is already anticipated) will be a serious concern for Europe.

Saira releases new Sufi opera song

ISLAMABAD: British Pakistanis world first Sufi Opera singer Saira Peter has released her new song "Marvi's Tears" English version, featuring the bravery and determination of the Marvi -a famous character of Indus valley. The video for the Marvi opera song has been directed by British film director Michael Rouse, while the famous British musician Paul Knight has composed the music for the song.

The heart touching lyrics of the song were written by Zafar Francis. The music was produced by Stephen Smith. Saira Peter has presented the story of Shah Abdul Latif Bhattai in the color of English Sufi Opera.

Talking to APP, Saira Peter said that Shah Abdul Latif Bhattai has beautifully arranged the famous folk tale of Sindh "Omar Marvi" in "Sur Marvi". In fact, "Marvi" was considered a symbol of beauty, purity, greatness, high character, justice, libertarianism and patriotism. Marvi was not impressed by King Omar's splendor, his large palaces, his immense wealth and other precious garments. In Marvi's view, love of homeland, longing for his loved ones, was more important. Saira Peter added that she has incorporated all these conditions into my new Sufi opera. - APP

NH&MP to ensure secure driving environment

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: National Highways & Motorway Police (NH&MP) is continuously making efforts to ensure safe and secure driving environment on national highways and motorways.

According to NH&MP, a state of the art Drivers Licensing Authority (DLA) was established in Islamabad, besides Helpline 130, FM Radio 95, Travel Advisory Portal, Smartphone App, Online Complaint Portal and Mobile Education Unit giving services to road users round the clock, said a news release.

The working hours of NH&MP Drivers Licensing Authority (DLA) was also extended beyond routine official working timings, for convenience of public and now it would remain open throughout the week including on weekends.

To promote safety on Motorways and Highways, NH&MP was also conducting special awareness campaign in various educational institutions. NH&MP is trying to provide all possible assistance to the commuters.

Govt revives over 134 RE projects of 4000MW

ISLAMABAD: The incumbent government revived more than 134 Renewable Energy (RE) Projects having cumulative capacity of 4000MW, which had abolished by the previous government of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N). Sources told APP here that

the PML-N government had abolished more than 134 RE projects to make a quick buck through the 'LNG train,' creating opportunities for loot and plunder of the national wealth. However, they said Pakistan

Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) led government after coming into power revived all these projects and brought a new RE policy, under which inexpensive electricity was being produced.

They said the PML-N government gave the solar projects' tariff of Rs 23-24 per unit, which the incumbent government brought down to Rs 6.5 per unit within the period of one year.

The PTI government, they said, also renegotiated the agreements which would help save Rs4, 000 billion in the next 15 years.

The sources said during the PML-N tenure the Residual Fuel Oil (RFO) usage in power plants remained 29 percent, which PTI government brought down to 4 percent. "With this, we saved billions of rupees."- APP

Briefs

PTDC focusing tourism: MD

ISLAMABAD: Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), Managing Director Aftab ur Rehman Rana Thursday said that the department was focusing on both domestic and foreign tourism and making better facilities to develop on mod-

Talking to a private news channel he said, tourism economy will further grow by introducing new policies, which would play pivotal role on the country economy as well as its GDP growth. He said, after formulating new policy government would privatize few places of PTDC, aiming to introduce new facilities and better ways of promoting the sector.

He said the department was also formulating Covid-19 strategy that would help to develop transport and infra-

In response to a question he said, every province has its own tourism department that would ensure registration process of private owned properties and would develop price mechanism, he added. – APP

IT ministry all set to run digital projects

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Amin-ul-Haque on Thursday said that the IT ministry was ready to run developmental projects to make digital Pakistan on the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that the IT ministry was focusing to develop IT-based infrastructure in far-flung areas of the country especially in Balochistan which was a less developed province.

He said that the IT ministry bridging connectivity between road infrastructure and 3G,4G services. Connectivity process had been initiated in small cities of provide opportunities for e-commerce and e-governance for youths, he added.

Aiming to vanish deprivation from the province IT-based projects have been initiated to enhance capacity building to youths in far-flung areas and to provide every facility at their doorstep.

He vowed to complete all projects within eighteen months time frame.

The minister said the IT ministry took the Covid-19 period as an opportunity rather than a challenge to complete projects to facilitate masses maximum. - APP

HDIP labs' up-gradation to complete in current FY

ISLAMABAD: The Petroleum Division is likely to complete the up-gradation of testing laboratories of Hydrocarbon Development Institute of Pakistan (HDIP) during the current fiscal vear, which would help ensure provision of quality fuel across the country.

Under the project, the government in Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP 2021-22) has allocated an amount of Rs 143.446 million to upgrade petroleum testing facilities of HDIP at Islamabad, Lahore, Multan, Peshawar and Quetta, besides getting the ISO certification of Petroleum Testing Laboratory at Islamabad.

According to an official document available with APP, the project scope included procurement of latest equipment for complete testing of indigenous and imported petroleum products at the HDIP facilities in line with the international standards and specifications.

With completion of the project, the country's oil industry and general consumers would benefit from the upgraded testing facilities. "Moreover, this will have a positive impact on the environment as new equipment and other resources will help maintain the quality of POL products as per Euro standards." The project would help facilitate supply of locally produced and imported petroleum products to industrial, commercial, agriculture, transport and domestic consumers. - APP

Speakers call for concerted efforts to forge regional connectivity

This Conference was organized to conclude the Six weeks On-Campus Internship Program for the Under-Grad Students of Bahria University which was organized by Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad

STAFF REPORT/DNA

ISLAMABAD: An International Conference on "Significance of Regional Connectivity for Shared Prosperity: Opportunities and Prospects" was organized by Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad. The aim of the Conference was to highlight the importance of regional integration between countries vis-a-vis socio-economic and cultural cooperation.Bahria University, Islamabad and Midas (Pvt) Limited were the collaborative partners for this Conference. The Conference was well attended by the worthy Ambassadors of various countries to Pakistan and subject experts from Pakistan as well.

The Conference commenced by the remarks of Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram, Executive Director, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabadwho explained the concept of the Conference. He discussed the significance of Central and South Asia connectivity. He stated that our aim is of connectivity with Eurasia and ASEAN countries. He thanked the worthy Ambassadors and the students of Bahria University for their contributions.

Prof. Dr. Adam Saud, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, BahriaUniversity, Islamabad in his welcomeremarks stated that regional connectivity is one of the most important themesand it is the future of the world. The future belongs to this region i.e., Asia and regional connectivity will bring development and prosperity for the whole region. Mr. Ashfaq Ahmed Gondal, For-

mer Federal Secretary of Information and Vice-President (Federal Region), CGSS in his opening remarks stated that connectivity and interdependence leads to independence of nations. Connectivity is the key and without that the regional issues cannot be resolved. Connectivity is important for peace and prosperity.

The Conference commenced with the speech of Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan (Dean of Diplomatic Corps)who discussed Turkmenistan's neutrality policy which is a roadmap for the regional peace & progress. He stated that Turkmenistan is an active member of international community and



pays special attention to sustainable development. Turkmenistan is cooperating to combat global challenges. Turkmenistan focuses on development of energy sector for future development, energy security, consumption and transportation is basis of Turkmenistan's energy sector. Turkmenistan does not only propose initiatives but also takes practical steps for their implementation. His Excellency stated that railway links and pipelines are being established to serve connectivity between different regions.

Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistandiscussed Kazakhstan inclusive foreign policy contours. He stated that connectivity is very important as COVID-19 has affected our economies and regional connectivity is the key to revive our economies and achieve the ultimate goal.Kazakhstan depends on natural resources. Kazakhstan pays special attention to development of communication and transportation routes. Kazakhstan has well developed infrastructure, corridors and railway links. Kazakhstan is willing to provide transit capabilities to Pakistan to enter European and Central Asian markets. Kazakhstan is an attractive country for air corridors development and it is important to develop favorable conditions for foreign investment.

Aybek Arif Usmanov, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistandiscussed the role of Uzbekistan in reinvigorating the phenomena of academic cooperation into regionalism. He stated that this era is of understanding and cooperation. The focus of our leaders is on confidence building measures, security and stability for economic integration between regional countries. These initiatives have consequently developed an era of trust and integration. South Asia is the first neighboring region of Central Asia and we all are a part of this development. Pakistan is considered as the main partner of Central Asia and is considered as the main hub to provide access for Central Asia to seaports of Karachi and Gwadar. He stated that our next step towards connectivity is the railway link coming from Uzbekistan to Kabul, Jalalabad and Peshawar.

Jawad Majid, President, Summit Bankhighlighted economic potential of BRI and the opportunities for regional states. This century is about economic growth of South East Asia and Asia. Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) is a transcontinental long-term policy and investment program which aims at infrastructure development and acceleration of the economic integration of countries along the

route of historic Silk Road. Ulanbek Totuiaev, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to Pakistandiscussed the role of Kyrgyz Republic in broader regional connectivity between Central & South Asia. He stated that the aim of Kyrgyzstan is to enhance partnership and increase people to people connectivity. Furthermore, Kyrgyz Republic envisions to increase cooperation with Pakistan and regional countries in energy sector. Kyrgyzstan offers and alternative trade route. Kyrgyzstan acts as a regional hub for Central and South Asia connectivity.

Mustafa Yurdakul, Ambassador stanstated that Turkey has made billion dollars investment for the connectivity projects that also includes natural gas pipeline. Since

1980. Turkey has invested in connectivity through Europe and Asia because of Turkey's significant geographical location. He also discussed the concept of Islamophobia and appreciated the steps of Prime Minister Imran Khan to promote religious stance.

Andrei Metelitsa, Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus to Pakistan discussed Pakistan-Belarus bilateral relations. He stated that Pakistan and Belarus have signed agreements on regional connectivity including political agreement to facilitate trade and investment. His Excellency also highlighted the significance of Karachi and Gwadar port for regional connectivity. He stated CPEC and maritime route also holds great significance for regional connectivity. He stated that much part of middle east and south countries contain high resources of oil and gas. Vice-Admiral Asif Humayon

HI(M), (Retd), Former Vice-Chief of Naval Staff (VCNS) presented speech on "Pakistan's Maritime Assets: Opportunities under Gwadar Port and Opportunities for Regional Countries". He stated that cooperation in aquaculture needs to be developed. Regarding the Afghan issue, he stated that peace is necessary for development in Central Asia and to entertain benefits from CPEC. Gwadar as part of CPEC can transform into a new Dubai. Adam M. Tugio, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan discussed economic prosperity through regional cooperation and the role of Pakistan, ASEAN and Indonesia. He stated that the focus of ASEAN countries is to work on negotiation through cooperation and regional agreements. He stated that it is also the responsibility of the Government, institutions and academia to play vital role in the promotion of regional cooperation. His Excellencydiscussed the cooperation between Pakistan and ASEAN countries. He stated that 21st century is an era of international cooperation.

Nguyen Tien Phong, Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan presented speech on "Vietnam's robust economic model: Prospects for cooperation with Pakistan and Role in ASEAN". He discussed the Vietnam's economic model. He stated that Vietnam's aim is to promote integration and increase trade with the regional countries as economies rely on each other for mutual benefit and win-win situation for all. Vietnam is an active partner of many regional organizations. He also stated that ASEAN plays an important role in Asia and Vietnam is a proactive member of it.

Prof. Cem Karadeli, Senior International Relations Advisor, Ankara Center for Crisis and Policy Research (ANKASAM), Ankara, Turkeypresented speech (Online) on "Prospects for Pakistan-Turkey Think Tank Cooperation". He discussed that Turkev and Pakistan are old friends Their historical, cultural and religious ties make this bond stronger. Pakistan and Turkey need to establish group of common practices and ANKASAM and CGSS can play a very important role in Think Tank cooperation.

Ambassador (p) Gheorghe Savuica, President and Founder, Romanian Institute for Europe-Asia Bucharest, Romania presented speech on "Regional Cooperation and Opportunities for Pakistan-Romania Academic Connectivity". He discussed about the significance of regional cooperation and focused on the promotion of national interest and people-to-people connectivity. He also focused on cultural and academic cooperation. Discussing about Pakistan and Romania relations, he states that both are working for signing an MOU for cooperation.

Dr. Pek Chuen Khee, Dean, Faculty of Business and Management, UCSI University and CEO, UCSI Poll Research Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysiapresented speech on "Enhanced Regional Integration: Exploring New Frontiers of Pakistan- Malaysia Cooperation". He discussed the 17 sustainable development goals. He stated that the prime focus is on the economy, society and biosphere.

The Conference concluded by the speech of Rear Admiral Naveed Ahmed Rizvi (Retd), Director General, Bahira University, Islamabad. He stated that this Conference is an opportunity forInternational Relations students to handle the challenges in the contemporary era. He stated that technology can play an important role for the connectivity. Bahria University have faculty development programswhich can serve as the better solution for tomorrow problems. He thanks CGSS andBahia university for 6 weeksinternship program and organizing the conference. He said that the ambassadorsoffer a fresh perspective for the students for better future.

The Conference concluded with Certificate Distribution Ceremony for the interns, guest speakers who delivered lectures during the internship program, faculty members of Bahria University and the management of CGSS.

Traffic

violations

decrease in

Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: The E-Chal-

Chinese solar power giant promoting energiewende

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A Chinese solar power giant is actively engaged in promoting energiewende in Pakistan, as a big step forward making the country pollution free. According to Gwadar Pro.

recently, Sungrow Power Supply Co., Ltd., the global leading inverter solution supplier for renewable energy, showcased the latest PV and energy storage product solutions at Solar Pakistan 2021 in Lahore.

Besides, the solar power giant signed a 50 MW distribution contract, furthering its commitment to renewable energy and fueling the national transition to a low carbon economy.

The 50 MW agreement was forged between Sungrow and Pakistani local distributor Energy For You to supply residential and commercial inverter solutions within a year.

We have signed an MoU agreement with EFY. Our inverter distributions are mainly for residential and commercial use. For instance, the power generation of a photovoltaic system on the roof of an office building can reaches 100-200 kilowatts.

These small customers mean huge market demand for us," said Howard Fu, Country Director of Sungrow Pakistan, in an interview with Gwadar Pro. Besides, Sungrow's bran-

new residential energy storage system made local industry headlines and is expected to be available in Pakistan in January 2022.

It rolled out new residential energy storage systems (ESS) comprising of hybrid inverters and high-voltage batteries -SBR series, for Pakistani households, ensuring Pakistan's renewable energy system is more reliable and affordable.

"The newly introduced ESS solutions, which are adaptable for various scenarios both in increasing the national uptake of solar and slashing the electricity bills for end users, are the ideal match to the market," noted Howard Fu, and he added that the new residential energy storage system is adopted to generate electricity through the photovoltaic system by day, and the stored electric energy can be used during the electricity consumption peak from 7 to 9 p.m. "Undoubtedly, the peak-load shifting will greatly save local electricity costs, providing convenience for local life.' Since entering the Pakistan market in 2015, Sungrow has made great contributions to the development

nomic Corridor. It provided inverters for the Zonergy 900MW Solar Power Project, as well as Pakistan's largest cement plant and first plant energy storage system.

Last year, Sungrow won the bid for the photovoltaic construction project of the Presidential Palace of Pakistan to install PV products for the presidential office. At present, it has established a good cooperative relationship with the Pakistani government and many local power enterprises. Sungrow will continue to spare no effort to contrib-

ute to the CPEC. To date, the total installed capacity of Sungrow's grid-connected inverters in Pakistan has reached approximately 700 MW, which has accounted for more than half of Pakistan's total grid-connected projects.

World Space Week to be celebrated from October 4-10

ISLAMABAD: World Space Week celebrations will be held in Pakistan, like other countries, from October 4-10 featuring a number of events including space related competitions, awareness sessions, workshops and demonstrations.

World Space Week is the annual week of celebrating achievements and contributions of Space Science, technology, and its applications.

United Nations General Assembly has declared 4th-10th October as World Space Week to educate young students and the general masses about the bounties of space tech-

nology and its applications. The dates signify the UN General the launch of the first human-made earth satellite, Sputnik 1 on 4th October, 1957, and the signing of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Peaceful

Uses Outer Space, on 10th October 1967. World Space Week consists of space education and outreach events held by space agencies, educational institutions, planetaria, museums and astronomy clubs around the world in a common timeframe under the ambit of the United Nations to enhance awareness about

space and related technologies and to highlight its role

towards national development. SUPARCO being the National Space Agency annually organizes World Space Week (WSW) in Pakistan as WSW national coordinator since the year 2005.

Pakistan has managed to make its mark each year with the most number of events conducted globally and stood second in year 2019 and 2020. - APP

lan system launched in Islamabad under Safe City Project has witnessed a sharp decline in violation of traffic rules in the city since its inception. It was launched to ensure

a safe road environment and maintaining traffic discipline besides reduction in road accidents and violation of traffic rules. Inspector General of Po-

lice (IGP) Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman said that latest technology was being used in policing affairs which would be helpful for implementation on traffic laws and effective monitoring in the city.

More than 20,000 e-tickets were issued to motorists over various traffic violations captured through safe city cameras in Islamabad during last five months. Of these fine tickets, 11,358 were issued over violation of speed limit and 8,990 for not following lanes.

These challan tickets have been dispatched at the addresses of vehicle owners which they described with Excise and Taxation Office at the time of registration. In case of non-payment of fine amount within 10 days, the copy of challan would be placed in the master file of vehicle at Excise and Taxation Office while legal action to be initiated against the owner of vehicle.

The vehicles could not be sold out or transferred to other person till non-payment of fine amount.

The citizens can pay a fine amount through JS Bank, mobile accounts and Jazz cash. The IGP Islamabad has

also appreciated the performance of Director General Safe City for his efforts in introducing this effective system.

He hoped further extension of it to overcome violations of serious nature on roads. - APP

Govt strategy against Covid termed realistic

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan termed the government's strategy against the Covid-19 pandemic scientifically correct as well as grounded in the reality of the country. He was speaking at a seminar organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) in collaboration with the Italian Embassy and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation here on Thursday.

Dr Sultan said that there were three major components of the government's strategy against Covid-19: first, taking all segments of the society along to have a collective response to the pandemic; second, creating space to have scientifically grounded and statistics-based consultations for policy input; and third, an all-of-the-country implementation strategy in which no region or segment of the

society is left out. Dr Sultan stated that the govern-



ers, and providing all the necessary equipment to the hospitals, such as increased numbers of beds and Oxygen equipment. He added that the government had to retool a vaccination system that was designed for vaccinating children to one that could effectively respond to the challenge of vaccinating adults. He appreciated the role of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) in maintaining a centralized database of vaccination all across the country.

Expert on infectious diseases from Italy Professor Gloria Taliani shared that there were 225,024,781 confirmed cases of Covid-19 worldwide since the start

worldwide deaths as of 13 Septemover 5.5 billion doses of vaccine was of the view that the global response to the pandemic in the of vaccines within months of the onset of the pandemic was quite

of the pandemic and 4,636,153 ber 2021. She added, however that had been administered around the world as well. Professor Taliani form of development and trials

of the health sector. Italian Ambassador to Pakistan Ambassador Andreas Ferrarese said that health was an important component of social life. Therefore. Italy had initiated health diplomacy with Pakistan by assisting the country in the health sector. He underscored the importance of global health collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

unprecedented. Sharing a time-

line of the spread and control of

Covid-19 in Italy, she emphasized

the importance of awareness,

management, and vaccination in

Parliamentary Secretary for

Health Dr Nausheen Hamid re-

iterated the coordinated and

people-centric approach of the

government in response to the

pandemic. She added that al-

though the pandemic posed a

serious challenge to a develop-

ing country like Pakistan, the

government was able to convert

that challenge into an opportu-

nity by plugging the gaps in the

epidemic response capabilities

controlling the pandemic.

05

Unsavoury spectacle

HE ongoing spat between ministers of the ruling party and the ECP continues to escalate and has now become an embarrassing spectacle. Following the objections raised by the ECP on the implementation of EVMs in time for the 2023 general elections, ministers spoke out against members of the ECP and even called the autonomy of the institution into question. Regardless of how one chooses to interpret the objections raised by the ECP, the claims of bribery and being partial to the opposition are unsavoury to say the least. Politicising every issue is something that we must refrain from. It is even regrettable to see the ECP and its employees getting embroiled in this controversy, with reports emerging of notices being issued against federal ministers. Instead of prolonging this any further, both sides need to exercise better judgement and be wary of the need to set a better example for the public.

As has been said before, the introduction of newer technology is definitely something to look forward to if the process of conducting elections can be improved. However, such an undertaking cannot be done in haste and the objections raised by the ECP certainly hold a lot of weight. Even the Free and Fair Election Network (Fafen) has warned against any attempt to amend the Elections Act 2017 without a political consensus. Such a move would cause political instability that could potentially reverse the process of democratic consolidation in Pakistan. The procurement and implementation of EVMs is an important issue that must be deliberated with all the concerned stakeholders as such a decision will have far reaching consequences. This matter should not be politicised unnecessarily and should not be viewed from an "us against them" lens. Under no circumstances should the discourse devolve into personal attacks. Concerns should be raised via the appropriate channels, and institutions like the ECP should be allowed to do their job without being dragged into such controversies.

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Covid-19 precautions

CCORDING to the NCOC, the government will lift the additional restrictions put in place to reduce the transmission of Covid-19 during the fourth wave. Given that progress has been marginal in the last few weeks—with the number of cases remaining close to the 3000 mark—there has not been a significant enough improvement to justify side-lining additional precautionary measures.

Currently, the NCOC reported 2988 cases in the last 24 hours. Furthermore, the positivity ratio now stands at 5.62 percentstill a relatively concerning rate. The non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) helped limit transmission but not at the rate at which they should have. The reality remains that more than 50 percent of the country's ventilators are occupied, 60 percent of oxygen beds are being used for critical patients and over 90,000 cases are active. These are figures that are hard to stomach when we understand that behind them, there is the suffering of countless patients and their family members. It does not make sense to lift the precautionary measures merely ten days after implementation; each policy needs time to have an effect and by fast-forwarding ahead, we are depriving ourselves of the progress we had the potential to make. As intercity transport, outdoor dining and school reopening resumes, the risk of digression is very real. It was vital to limit the public's activity considering that people now seem to have gotten comfortable with the idea of living in a pandemic. Precautions are not adhered to with the same diligence as before and while once there was a time when the masses displayed concern over the prevailing circumstances, now they are met with absolute apathy. A false sense of security is being indulged in after the success of the vaccination campaign. Currently, we have only vaccinated 15.8 percent of our population and that means the task of immunisation is still monumental.

It is too early to deem our performance as a success story given that the situation can turn anytime, as evidenced by the sudden yet extreme fourth wave. As the numbers slowly decline, the authorities must reinvigorate the public through awareness campaigns and reiterating their social responsibilities.

Central Asia's growing role in Afghan situation

Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg

Central Asia is vast about 4 million square kilometers – but sparsely populated, with less than 73 million inhabitants in the five countries combined, about 70 percent of whom are in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. The region's combined gross domestic product in 2019 was merely \$300 billion and the average per capita income was about \$4,100. As elsewhere, COVID-19 has shrunk its economy - the Organization for **Economic Co-operation** and Development estimated the shrinkage at about 4.5 percent in 2020. They are, however, recovering in 2021. The Asian Development Bank recently revised Central Asia's growth prospects...

troops from Afghanistan before a comprehensive peace deal had been reached has created a chaotic situation in the country and alarmed its Central Asian neighbors. Fears of growing terrorist activity and instability in Afghanistan have spurred the region into action. This crisis may offer an opportunity for the region to again play a greater role in shaping its own future. The Gulf Cooperation Council also sees Central Asia as a potentially important partner in dealing with the new situation in Afghanistan and maintaining peace and security, as well as an opportunity to encourage shared economic interests and common history and culture. According to the British politician and author Halford Mackinder, Central Asia is the heart of the world. One of the founding fathers of the concepts of both geopolitics and geostrategy in international relations, he believed that, in order for any great power to control the world, Central Asia must be under its control. That may have been an overstatement, but Central Asia remains very significant indeed for the geopolitical interests of many powers, including China, Russia and the US. Central Asia is also important for the Gulf region and the wider Middle East.

Thirty years ago, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan — the five countries comprising Central Asia — regained their independence after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Since then, these landlocked states in the heart of Asia have had to develop their own ways to deal with security, economic, diplomatic and political affairs, as well as to manage their regional relationships in the midst of great power competition for influence.

In 2015, the GCC decided to enhance its collective engagement with the Central Asian countries, in addition to its bilateral cooperation with the individual states. There is considerable potential for an effective and mutually beneficial partnership in several fields,

HE hasty withdrawal of US and NATO troops from Afghanistan before a comprehensive peace deal had been reached has created a chaotic situation in the country and alarmed its Central Asian which could be achieved by intensive joint work, propelled by an evidently strong political commitment to pursuing that partnership, especially after the US and NATO withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Central Asia is vast – about 4 million square kilometers – but sparsely populated, with less than 73 million inhabitants in the five countries combined, about 70 percent of whom are in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. The region's combined gross domestic product in 2019 was merely \$300 billion and the average per capita income was about \$4,100. As elsewhere, COVID-19 has shrunk its economy – the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development estimated the shrinkage at about 4.5 percent in 2020. They are, however, recovering in 2021. The Asian Development Bank recently revised Central Asia's growth prospects for 2021 up from 3.4 percent to 3.6 percent, although that would still put it below the 2019 level.

Despite its budding recovery, the region's full economic potential is yet to be realized and, with that, its influence. GCC countries could help by providing successful examples of countries that went from dirt-poor isolated backwaters to rich international economic hubs in just two generations. They could also provide the investment and know-how needed for such transformations.

Central Asia has many of the most important ingredients needed to thrive today. It is rich in energy resources, including oil, gas, coal and renewables. The region has also been described as a "geologist's paradise," as it holds some of the world's largest deposits of gold, uranium and chromium, as well as significant reserves of bauxite, boron, bismuth, copper, iron, lead, manganese, mercury, salt, silver, titanium, tungsten, and zinc. Economists believe that these energy and mineral reserves form the basis for the region's future economic growth and development. GCC countries, also being energy and mineral-rich, could help develop those sectors in Central Asia.

Reforms are needed to accelerate growth and remove any obstacles. Infrastructure upgrades are needed in several areas, including for transporting energy, as well as improving the financial, banking and payment systems. GCC countries could help by offering state-of-the-art examples to address these needs, including building modern infrastructures and streamlining financial systems.

In addition to natural resources, tourism — particularly historical and ecotourism — is another promising sector. Some of Central Asia's cities are among the oldest and best preserved in the world. Bukhara and Tashkent, for example, were established thousands of years ago and contributed to many civilizations throughout history. Samarkand, Ashgabat, Dushanbe and other Central Asian cities also evoke deep feelings of shared history and culture for many in the Muslim world, including the Gulf region. That cultural affinity can augment political and economic partnership between the two regions.

Security is an area of growing importance after the Afghanistan crisis. The Central Asian states and the GCC are equally concerned about the possibility of Afghanistan again becoming a haven for terrorist groups. Containing the threat of terrorism is a priority for both. Political and security dialogue, as well as the exchange of information and expertise, will help both regions achieve that goal.

Afghanistan has also been a source of drug trafficking, which poses a threat to both regions. Traffickers trying to smuggle drugs from Afghanistan, a landlocked country, could be effectively intercepted through cooperation between its neighbors.

These shared interests in maintaining regional peace and stability and growing their economies provide a solid basis for the GCC-Central Asian regional partnership. Their strong historical and cultural ties can form the glue for their renewed engagement after decades of isolation and estrangement.

Courtesy: Arab News

#PalestinianPrisoners: This is not the time to despair

Susan Abulhawa

They want to erase from our minds the knowledge that six defenceless, emaciated men with nothing but perhaps a spoon, shook the colonial Zionist project to its core. It terrifies them that we could collectively contemplate the depths of hope and determination that propelled those six heroes to accomplish what everyone assumed was impossible. Because if we did truly ruminate on that primal impulse for freedom, on the boundless hope in the heart of every revolutionary and fighter, we might find our own

individual, collective power

OR four days, Palestinians inside Palestine and living in exile in the diaspora were euphoric. In an act of extraordinary creativity and determination, six brave Palestinian political prisoners tunnelled their way out of an Israeli maximum-security prison.

It was presumed they did so with a spoon, as they would have had no other tools. Certainly, they had no heavy machinery typically necessary for such a feat. The tunnel openings were exceedingly narrow, leaving everyone baffled how six grown men were able to pass through them.

I was immediately reminded of these lines from a Mahmoud Darwish poem:

The Earth is closing on us pushing us through the last passage and we tear off our limbs to pass through.

Indeed, when two of them – Yaqoub Qadri and Mahmoud Abdullah al-Arida – were captured on the fifth day, images released of them showed they had shed a tremendous amount of weight, presumably to fit through the opening. It was life imitating art – they tore off parts of their bodies to make the passage to freedom.

The following day, Zakariah Zubeidi and Mohammad al-Arida were captured. Ayham Kamamji and Munadil Infaat remain free, fighting for their lives, holding out as long as they can.

Israeli police snapped photos of the men they shackled, distributing ones that showed the most anguish in their expressions. Someone promptly photoshopped smiles on the faces of Yaqoub and Mahmoud, and the edited pictures went viral. Many have criticised the alteration of those photos. They argue that we have to look squarely at their pain and defeat as if we are too stupid to understand what this moment means for them.

I believe whoever altered the photo did our society a great service, and I hope he or she does the same for Zakaria and Mohammad's photos. The Israeli authorities disseminated those painful photos for a reason.

They want to reflect the heavy weight of them onto all of our hearts and let defeat and depression set in, as it seems to be doing. They want our deflation to be as big or bigger than our initial celebration.

They want to erase from our minds the knowledge that six defenceless, emaciated men with nothing but perhaps a spoon, shook the colonial Zionist project to its core. It terrifies them that we could collectively contemplate the depths of hope and determination that propelled those six heroes to accomplish what everyone assumed was impossible.

Because if we did truly ruminate on that primal impulse for freedom, on the boundless hope in the heart of every revolutionary and fighter, we might find our own individual and collective power.

We might begin to understand that nothing is impossible, and freedom is within our reach. We might begin to organise a collective system to protect the remaining two – Ayham and Munadil – to keep them free

shopped smiles on the faces of Yaqoub and and alive and encourage more defiance Mahmoud, and the edited pictures went viand resistance.

We might rise up to rid ourselves of the treacherous and illegitimate regime of Mahmoud Abbas, and install a revolutionary leadership, willing to protect its own people, instead of protecting those who occupy, rob, and oppress Palestinians.

Our brave political prisoners knew the risks they were taking. This is what revolutionaries do. They would rather fight than capitulate. No matter what happens now, what they did cannot be undone. The blow they dealt to "Israel" cannot be undealt. They sacrificed so much to give us all hope. How dare we now give in to depression and the sense of defeat? It was not defeat or depression that motivated them to spend sleepless hours digging a massive tunnel without adequate tools. It certainly was not a belief in Israel's carefully cultivated perception of omnipotence.

The least we can do to honour them is to carry forth the torch of hope and the impulse for liberation that surely were at the heart of their heroism. We can solidify our defiance and refusal to live forever exiled or captive on our knees. We can understand that nothing is impossible, including ending this cruel Zionist regime. In the face of the horrors we know those heroic political prisoners are now facing, we have no right to depression or defeat at this hour. We can be certain that is not what

they sought to inspire in us.

— Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Imran Khan talks regional...

From Page 01 Kazakhstan enjoy cordial relations based on a common approach towards the world issues as well as bilateral understanding. The prime minister met Iran President Ebrahim Raisi as well, the PM Office said. Furthermore, the prime minister met Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the sidelines of the SCO summit. Prior to the bilateral meetings with foreign leaders, the prime minister addressed the Pakistan-Tajikistan Business Forum organised by the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) and TDAP where businessmen from Pakistan and Tajikistan were in attendance.

Pakistan Tajikistan **Business Forum**

Pakistan-Tajikistan Business Forum was organized by the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) and TDAP at Dushanbe. A total of 67 companies from Pakistan and more than 150 Tajik companies participated in the Forum. A large number of B2B meetings were held among companies representing Textiles, Pharmaceuticals, Leather, fruits and vegetables, processed food, Transport and Logistics, construction, education, Tourism and Mining. Fifteen MOUs were signed for Joint Ventures and many orders were booked by Pakistani exporters. The Forum began with welcoming remarks by the Qodirzoda Sadi, Chairman of the State Committee on Investments and State Property Management of the Republic of Tajikistan and followed by speech by Advisor to PM on Commerce & Investment. Addressing the Pakistan-Tajikistan Business Forum, Mr. Abdul Razak Dawood, Advisor to PM on Commerce & Investment said that the objective of Pakistan is regional connectivity & enhanced regional trade. He said, the visit of President of Tajikistan to Pakistan in June this year, provided impetus to the historical ties between the two countries. "We want to follow examples of ASEAN and EU in enhancing intra-regiona trade and connectivity."

FM talks with Chinese, Russian...

From Page 01 the threats posed, particularly the spread of terrorism

and drug trafficking. The Ministers expressed their concern over the complex human and social and economic situation in Afghanistan and the dangers of refugee invasion in the region. Participants stressed the need for a return to peaceful life and economic recovery in Afghanistan.

Earlier, Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov called on Shah Mahmood Qureshi and discussed bilateral relations, promotion of cooperation in various fields and the regional situation. The two foreign ministers agreed to continue consultations on important regional and global issues. Shah Mahmood said that Pakistan is committed to enhancing trade, investment, energy, defense and public relations with Russia. Pakistan considers peace in Afghanistan essential for peace and stability in the region.

Nawaz, Shahbaz ...

From Page 01 Differences in opinion may exist. This does not mean that one raises questions pertaining to party leader ship," she said, addressing a gathering of workers belonging to the party's Bahawalpur division. "When it comes to the party leadership, everyone agrees with Nawaz Sharif as well as Shahbaz Sharif," she said.

US in contact...

From Page 01 Pakistan contributed to that forum, echoed much of what we heard from other participants." "And as I said before, there was a good deal of consensus that the gains of the past 20 years, especially on the part of Afghanistan's women and girls and minorities, is - preserving those is in everyone's interests.," he added.

Briefs All set for NZ first int'l match in Pakistan after 18 years

Pakistan to play aggressive cricket against NZ: says Babar Azam; NZ has match winners in bowling & batting: Tom Latham

AFZAL JAVED

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan captain Babar Azam and New Zealand captain Tom Latham are ready to make history, when both teams will square off after long eighteen years awaiting comes to an end when both teams will be in action in the first ODI on Friday (today) at the Pindi Cricket Stadium.

The occasion will see the tourists play their first match on Pakistan soil since 2003 This will be the fourth time the two sides will meet at the historic stadium in an ODI with Pakistan enjoying

a 3-0 advantage. This will be the fourth time the two sides will meet at the Pindi Cricket Stadium in an ODI with Pakistan enjoying a 3-0 advantage. Prior to this match, Pakistan and New Zealand have met 19 times in an ODI in Pakistan between 1976 and 2003 with Pakistan winning 16 times.

Pakistan and New Zealand last met in an international 50-over competition during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019 when Babar Azam's glorious century anchored his side to a fabulous six-wicket win at Birmingham.

This series provides an opportunity to sixth-ranked Pakistan to climb a spot in the ICC Rankings. If the hosts beat the tourists by a 3-0 score-line, they would jump to fifth position, however, any other result will see both sides retain their pre-series rankings. New Zealand, the top-

ranked ODI team in the ICC Rankings and the finalists of the 2019 World Cup, come into this series with a 3-0 sweep over Bangladesh in the three-match ODI series at home in March and will be eager to extend their winning streak.

Pakistan's last outing in the



format at this venue was in October-November 2020, when they defeated Zimbabwe 2-1, while in their last ODI series, they defeated South Africa by 2-1.

The series will not be part of the ICC World Cup Super League as both the PCB and NZC have mutually agreed to swap the status of this series with the one taking place in the 2022-23 season. This means the ODI series in the 2022-23 season will count towards the World Cup 2023 qualification

while the series commenc-

ing on Friday will be a bilateral fixture in which team and player ranking points will be up for grabs.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam, in his pre-series media conference held online, said: "Finally, the day has arrived and our entire camp is very excited to play New Zealand at home. We have practiced hard for this series and I am sure we will take full advantage of our home conditions.

"We have a balanced squad and I remain optimistic about our chances in what promises to be an exciting series. I am sure fans at the stadium and millions watching us on screens will enjoy these matches.'

Babar said that his team will play "positive and aggressive" cricket during the series against Kiwis, adding that we have decided to add three spinners to the team in view of the upcoming T20 World Cup.

the skipper said that Abdullah Shafique is a stylish player, adding that improvement has been observed in his performance. The captain hoped that Shafique will become the best batsman in the team.

He maintained that the

openers are giving their

best performance.

Replying to a question, the skipper said that he did not think that the PCB chief was not supporting him or the team. "It did not seem that PCB Chairman Ramiz wanted to change the skipper," said Babar Azam. He maintained that it takes some time to adopt a new strategy.

He denied any knowledge of any potential change in the team's leadership amid rumours that new Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ramiz Raja was monitoring the situation and could wield his proverbial axe if his expectations Talking about his squad, were not met.

Kazakhstan set on road to prosperity

From Page 01 about economic development of the country in post-Covid-19 term. This de-

velopment comprises mostly the measures to be taken by the government in the field of supporting business. employment, industrialization and strategic sectors of economy, like agriculture. The second part was about increasing the efficiency of national Healthcare system. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted vulnerabilities of our national healthcare system in many ways. This is why the President made it clear that Kazakhstan should be better prepared for this sort of challenges in the future through developing its capacity in biological security, pharmaceuticals industry. The third part was about high-quality education. In this field the President tasked authorities concerned to provide sufficient telecommunication systems to cover all school and university students for them to

Secondary education is mandatory in Kazakhstan and the right for that education is protected by our national Constitution, what makes make our people almost 100% literate. At the same time it leads to a problem of shortage of schools and teachers. To resolve this problem the President tasked the Government to construct 1000 new schools across Kazakhstan by the 2025 and take all necessary additional measures to increase social status of schoolteachers and make their salaries competitive.

be able to study online.

The fourth part of the address was about improvement of our regional policy, which is always an urgent matter, given huge terri-torial size of Kazakhstan and physical distances between the regions and the Center. It means that regional authorities should be constantly more involved in resolving local problems of any kind with no wasting time to coordinate their actions with the Center, which in case of Kazakhstan may be far away from a region concerned. This is the reason of why the quality of regional civil service is the issue, closely related to domestic political stability.

was about making the domestic labour market adequate to the global trends. The President paid a particular attention in this regard on growing emergence of online-services in our labour market and people, who are employed in providing online-services, just couriers or taxi-drivers. These people are now also to be legally protected socially in terms of their pensions, tax payments, medical insurance and etc.

The fifth part of the address

Kazakhstan, whose vast territory is largely under populated, is a target for incoming labour migrants. The involvement of big amount of labour migrants from the outside into the Kazakh economy is also to be transparent and corruption-free in legal terms. So, the President tasked the Government to take urgent measures to get labour rights of migrants in Kazakhstan protected, as well as the rights of Kazakhstan citizens, working outside of the country.

The final part of the address was traditionally about the unity of the Kazakh society. The population of Kazakhstan, which unevenly dispersed across the vast landmass, constantly needs the sense of their unity as one nation. This is the endless process, which is always to be updated, according to ongoing realities and challenges. For this reason it is a duty of the President to remind that our unity is not something to be taken for granted. (Note: More details about

stan bilateral relations shall be published on Monday in the second part of the interview of Ambassador Kistafin)

the Presidential address

and Pakistan, Kazakh-

Afghan Taliban deny reports of internal...

From Page 01

Haggani's tweet follows a separate statement a day earlier by the Taliban foreign minister, Amir Khan Mutaqi, who deemed reports of friction within the group as "propaganda" Analysts say the friction may not amount to a serious threat to the Taliban – for now.

Amb. Bilal urges world to stop genocide in Kashmir



BAKU: The international community must not remain indifferent to what is happening in Jammu and Kashmir, said Pakistani Ambassa-

dor to Azerbaijan Bilal Hayee. Speaking at a briefing on the situation in Kashmir, the ambassador urged the international community not to allow a new genocide to

"Several countries that always advocate democracy, human rights and value, continue to turn a blind eye to the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. This is a clear manifestation of double standards," he said.

The Pakistani diplomat called Azerbaijan a brotherly and friendly country. He noted that Azerbaijan understands the desire of Kashmiris. The ambassador reiterated that Pakistan supports Kashmir's right to self-determination.

"Self-determination is a legitimate right of repressed Kashmiris. In Kashmir, people are being persecuted, human rights are being violated. The world must raise its voice to prevent a new genocide," Ambassador Hayee added. - DNA

PCB unveils new **ODI kit for NZ series**

LONDON: Top English players could boycott this year's Ashes series against Australia as they don't want to be confined to their hotel rooms for close to four months due to strict quarantine rules in the country.



According to ESPN Cricinfo, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) are still adamant and have not thought about postponement which has irked the senior players and support staff. "The prospect of England fielding a significantly under-strength squad in the Ashes would appear to have grown following talks between the team and officials at the ECB," the website reported. The players have been left disappointed because of ECB's refusal to even countenance a partial or even complete postponement of the tour. As a result, they are considering their options. One of those options is understood to be the entire team - including coaching and support staff - taking a collective decision to boycott the tour. While the players appear, in general, fairly sanguine about the prospect of a two-week quarantine for themselves, they are reluctant to put their families through it. - Agencies

Lionel Messi's PSG disappoint against Brugge in UCL

BRUGGE: Lionel Messi failed to provide Paris St Germain with any sparkle as the Ligue 1 team's potent attacking trio lacked inspiration in a disappointing 1-1 draw at Club Brugge in their Champions League opener on Wednesday.

Making his first start for the French team, the Argentine forward hit the woodwork but was otherwise far from his brilliant best alongside the hugely disappointing Neymar and KylianMbappe, who set up

Ander Herrera for PSG's first-half opener before being replaced injured after the break.

Brugge, who levelled before halftime through Hans Vanaken, were more aggressive and had the best chances against a PSG side lacking quality and defensive focus. The result left PSG and Brugge trailing Group A leaders Manchester City by two points after the Premier League champions crushed RB Leipzig 6-3. - Agencies



Legendary basketball coach Ivkovic passes away

BELGRADE: Serbia's DusanIvkovic, one of the legendary coaches of European basketball, died on Thursday, FIBA confirmed. He was 78. "Rest in Peace, Duda!" FIBA EuroBasket, the main international basketball competition, tweeted. Ivkovic played club basketball at the senior level in Serbia's Radnicki Belgrade from 1958 to 1968. As a coach, he guided 12 European basketball clubs such as Aris, PAOK, Olympiacos, CSKA Moscow, and AnadoluEfes. The Serbian legend led Olympiacos to win two EuroLeague titles. and Dinamo Moscow to claim ULEB Cup.

In 2008, Ivkovic was honored as one of the 50 Greatest EuroLeague Contributors. He entered the FIBA Hall of Fame in 2017. He served as the head coach of the Yugoslavian national team from 1987 to 1995 and led the squad to gold medals at 1989, 1991, and 1995 EuroBasket as well as the 1990 FIBA World Cup. - APP

Pakistan's cycling team off to Belgium for World Cycling Championship

KARACHI: Pakistan's four member cycling team has left for Belgium from Karachi to participate in World Road Cycling Championship. Cyclists Kanza Malik. Asma

Jan, Khalil Amjad and Ali Illyas will represent the country in cycling's pinnacle at Flanders from 19th to 26th September. This is the first time that two women cyclists are also representing Pakistan at world championship, both are hoping to tie their best in the Championship. "I want to be a better version of myself every time. I want to beat

for Individual Time Trial event

myself. So, I will be competing against myself. If I could beat myself, then I will be happy," Asma Jan had told Geo in an interview earlier. All four cyclists will be in action

which will run from 19th to 21set September. Pakistan's men cyclists will be in action on 19th wile female cyclists will be on track on 20th September. The time trials will take place on north of Flanders. According to UCI, the ITT start in

Knokke-Heist, up on the North Sea coast and finish in the centre Bruges. The men's event will cover 43.3km, with 78 metres of elevation gain, while the women will cover a distance of 30.3km and an elevation gain of 54 metres. - DNA

NZ policy on nuclear arms remains unchanged

The UK, US and Australia have announced the security pact in the Indo-Pacific as China becomes increasingly assertive in the region. Each of the nations' leaders told a joint press conference that Australia's yet-to-be-created fleet will be powered by nuclear reactors and will be armed with conventional munitions

AGENCIES

AUCKLAND: New Zealand will not change its policy on prohibition of nuclear-powered submarines, the country's prime minister said on Thursday, as Australia joined the US and UK in a security pact to acquire nuclear submarines. "New Zealand's position in relation to the prohibition of nuclear-powered vessels in our waters remains unchanged," Prime Minister JacindaArdern told a news conference in the capital Wellington, which was streamed live online. She, however, added that the pact, to be known as AUKUS, "does not change anything for New Zealand" in its relations with these countries. "Certainly, the (nuclear-powered) submarines could not go into our waters," Ardern replied to a question. "That is the position held by all (political) parties." Ardern said her Australian coun-

terpart Scott Morrison "very well

understands" New Zealand's position on nuclear weapons and nuclear-powered submarines.

The UK, US and Australia have announced the security pact in the Indo-Pacific as China becomes increasingly assertive in the region. Each of the nations' leaders told a joint press conference that Australia's yet-to-be-created fleet will be powered by nuclear reactors and will be armed with conventional munitions "Let me be clear: Australia is not

seeking to acquire nuclear weapons, or establish a civil nuclear capability, and we will continue to meet all our nuclear non-proliferation obligations," the Australian premier said virtually alongside US President Joe Biden and UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Earlier, Australia struck a multi-billion dollar deal with France to

build 12 conventionally-powered

submarines. With the new pact,

that agreement appears to have

ended. France has described the



letter and the spirit of the cooperation which prevailed between France and Australia.

But Biden said Washington "looks forward to working with France and other key countries as we go forward." "France, in particular, already has a substantial Indo-Pacific presence and is a key partner and ally in strengthening the security and prosperity of the region," he said.

China fumes over nuclear sub pact

BEIJING: China on Thursday denounced a new Indo-Pacific security alliance between the United States, Britain and Australia, saying such partnerships should not target third countries and warning of an intensified arms race in the region. Under the arrangement, dubbed AUKUS, the United States and Britain will provide Australia with the technology and capability to deploy nuclear-powered submarines. The United States and its allies are looking for ways to push back against China's growing power and influence, particularly its military buildup, pressure on Taiwan and deployments in the contested South China Sea. U.S. President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison did not mention China by name in the joint announcement and senior Biden administration officials, who briefed reporters ahead of time, said the partnership was not aimed at countering Beijing. But Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said the three countries were "severely damaging regional peace and stability, intensifying an arms race, and damaging international nuclear non-proliferation efforts". "China always believes that any regional mechanism should conform to the trend of peace and development of the times and help enhance mutual trust and cooperation... It should not target any third party or undermine its interests," he told a regular briefing in Beijing.

Business / World



Palestinian El-Kurd twins make TIME top 100 list



Palestinian rights activists Muna and Mohammed El-Kurd, whose family faces forced displacement from their home in the occupied East Ierusalem neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah, have been named to TIME magazine's annual list of the 100 most-influential people in the world. The twins, aged 23, earlier this year became the faces of a global campaign to halt Israeli efforts to forcibly displace Palestinians from Sheikh Jarrah to make way for Jewish settlers.

Israeli forces detained and questioned the siblings for several hours over their activism in June.

"Through online posts and media appearances, sibling activists Mohammed and Muna El-Kurd provided the world with a window into living under occupation in East Jerusalem this spring - helping to prompt an international shift in rhetoric in regard to Israel and Palestine," the magazine wrote about the siblings. In a statement on Twitter on Wednesday, Mohammad El-Kurd said that although being named to the list was a "positive" development, symbolism is not enough to truly support the Palestinian cause.

TIME Editor-in-Chief Edward Felsenthal said the top-100 list features "extraordinary leaders from around the world working to build a better future" who "in a year of crisis have leaped into the fray". - DNA

Spain restarts dialogue with secessionist Catalans

Foreign Desk

MADRID: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez met Wednesday with Catalonia's President Pere Aragones in a resumption of talks aimed at resolving an ongoing crisis caused by the autonomous region's separatist movement, said local sources.

Following the roughly twohour meeting, the two leaders expressed optimism by recognizing that the meeting itself was an important devel opment to find a solution to the problem Spain has faced since the constitutional crisis of 1978, the Spanish daily El Pais reported.

While Sanchez insisted that the most important thing now is to work "without haste and deadlines,' Aragones said "we need progress beyond deadlines," the newspaper said.

The newspaper also highlighted that the two leaders acknowledged that their positions are very far apart.

China justifies Lithuanian ambassador expelltion

BRUSSELS: China's "expelling" of Lithuanian ambassador to China is a justified and legitimate reaction to Lithuania's wrong actions that contravened the one-China principle and provoked and infringed upon China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, Chinese Mission to the EU noted in response to Slovenia's Prime Minister Janez Jansa's accusations against China. Jansa made the remarks in a letter sent to EU member states encouraging them to stand with Lithuania. The spokesperson of the Chinese mission reiterated that the one-China principle is a universally recognized norm in international relations. It is the political foundation for China to develop bilateral relations with other countries and organizations. including the EU and its member states. The EU has committed to and repeatedly reiterated its adherence to the one China policy. It should urge its member states to correct their mistakes and should not send wrong signals on issues concerning China's national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Briefs District Election Commission formed to conduct Uzbek polls

Candidates for members of District Election Commissions are recommended by the Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regional and Tashkent city Kengashes of People's Deputies to the Central Election Commission within three days after the formation of electoral districts



DNA

TASHKENT: The District Election Commissions for the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan play an important role both in the election campaign and in monitoring the implementation of the Electoral Code in the regions.

Candidates for members of District Election Commissions are recommended by the Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regional and Tashkent city Kengashes of People's Deputies to the Central Election Commission within three days after the formation of electoral districts

Citizens who enjoy authority among the population are recommended as members of the District Election Commission. The total composition of the District Election Commission may be from 11 to 21 people. The personnel of the District Election Commission, its chairman, deputy chairman, secretary and members of the commission, as well as indicating their places of work,

AU calls

for end to

vaccine

nationalism

ADDIS ABABA: Rich coun-

tries should end vaccine na-

tionalism that is to blame for

a supply crunch in Africa and

slowing down efforts to con-

tain the COVID-19 pandemic

in the continent, experts said

at a webinar on accelerating

COVID-19 vaccination in Af-

rica on Wednesday. Michel

Sidibe, the African Union's

special envoy for the African

Medicines Agency, said that

the rich North has a respon-

sibility to stop hoarding vac-

cines that has been counter-

productive to the pandemic

fight. He stressed that vac-

cine equity is key to averting

the emergence of new coro-

navirus strains, hastening

recovery and strengthening

the resilience of Africa's pub-

lic health systems. Speaking

at the webinar convened by

the Brookings Institution

Sidibe noted that Africa's

battle against the pandemic

has suffered headwinds amid

vaccine nationalism. – APP

are announced 70 days in advance on the official website of the Central Election Commission, as well as in the mass media.

The District Election Commission monitors the implementation and uniform application of the Electoral Code, forms polling stations, sets their numbering by district, publishes their lists with an indication of the address. Forty days before the election, it forms precinct election commissions and publishes information about their composition, coordinates their activities.

At the same time, this body notifies voters about polling stations, hears reports from public associations, citizens' self-government bodies, heads of enterprises, institutions and organizations on issues related to the preparation and conduct of elections.

The powers of the District Election Commission include monitoring the compilation of voter lists and their submission for public inspection, providing organizational and methodological assistance to precinct election commissions and reviewing other issues of material and technical support for

This body also issues a standard mandate to observers from political parties and citizens' self-government bodies, organizes the

activities of the press center at the District Election Commission, informs voters, observers, and media representatives about the time and place of early voting.

In addition, the District Election Commission considers appeals from voters and other participants in the electoral process, as well as makes decisions on them, conducts training sessions, seminars, conferences, round tables related to the preparation and conduct of elections, including for members of precinct election commissions.

In order to organize the use by voters of the Unified Electronic List of Voters, this body provides members of precinct polling stations with the necessary information to access the Information System for Managing the Electoral Process and coordinates the work.

In its activities, the District Election Commission is guided by the principles of legality, collegiality, transparency and fairness. Observers from political parties, representatives of the mass media, observers from citizens' self-government bodies, as well as other States and international organizations may be present in District Election Commissions when adopting protocols based on the results of counting



votes from precinct election commissions and in the process of determining the results of elections in an electoral district. Other persons are prohibited from participating in this process, except those who are allowed to be present in the building of the District Election Commission.

The results of elections in an electoral district are determined on the basis of the protocols of precinct election commissions. At a meeting of the District Election Commission, the results of the elections for the district are established and recorded in the protocol. It is signed by the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, secretary, other members and submitted to the Central Election Commission, respec-

A copy of this protocol is immediately posted in the premises of the precinct election commission for public inspection for a period of at least forty-eight hours.

Bulgaria to hold early general elections

Foreign Desk

SOFIA: The Bulgarian president on Wednesday announced early parliamentary elections on Nov. 14 as the last polls failed to form a government.

Earlier, the parliament had decided to hold the presidential elections on the same date. Rumen Radev also replaced three ministers in the provisional technocrat government he established after the July 11 general elections.

Prime Minister Stefan Yanev will continue to serve in the government consisting of 18 ministers, and will be tasked to prepare for the early elections.

Daniela Vezieva will replace Economy Minister Kiril Petkov, while Valeri Belchev will come in place of Finance Minister Asen Vasilev. Transport Minister Georgi Todorov will be replaced by Hristo Aleksiev. Yanev said the main task of his government is "to hold honest and transparent elections."

If there is no definite result in the first round of the presidential election, in which Radev will also be a candidate, a second round will be held on Nov. 21.

SpaceX rocket blasts off from Florida

Web Desk

CHICAGO: With whoops and hollers on the ground and fist bumps and thumbs ups from the crew members, Elon Musk's SpaceX venture launched the first all-civilian crew into space Wednesday night for an historic step forward in space tourism.

At just after 8 p.m. local time in Cape Canaveral, Florida on a warm, clear night, a rocket dubbed Falcon 9 blasted off, carrying the Crew Dragon Capsule. which will be home for the two men and two women for the next three days.

"You are truly inspiring the world," came the word from SpaceX mission control as the rocket blasted off. "Good luck, Godspeed and enjoy the ride.'

By 12 minutes into the ride, the capsule reached the boundary of space, drawing a big cheer from mission control. The capsule is heading to an orbital altitude of 575 kilometers (357 miles) above Earth, which is beyond the orbit of the International Space Station. The mission, called "Inspiration4" is notable for several reasons. Unlike the space flights led by billionaires Richard Branson and Jeff Bezos in July, considered the first of their kind. Musk himself is not aboard the Crew Dragon.

The four civilians include Iared Isaacman, a 38-vearold billionaire who heads a payment processing company. He paid an undisclosed amount of money to help fund the trip and is dedicating it to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital for cancer patients.

Hayley Arceneaux is a bone cancer survivor who later began working for St. Jude.



ISLAMBAAD: Federal Minister for Defence Production, Ms. Zobaida Jalal presents souvenir to Ambassador of UAE, Mr. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salam Al-Zaabi during a meeting at Minister's Enclave. - APP

Pak has vital stake in Afghan peace: High Commissioner

DNA

LONDON: High Commissioner Moazzam Ahmad Khan on Thursday stressed that Pakistan, as a country most affected by decades-long instability in Afghanistan, had a vital stake in peace and stability in that country.

Pakistan not only continued

to host over 4m Afghan refugees, but had also suffered 80,000 casualties and economic losses of \$ 150bn due to conflict in that country, he added. On behalf of FM Shah Mahmood Qureshi, HC, who is also the accredited representative of Pakistan to the Commonwealth, represented Pakistan at the annual Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers meeting held virtually. In his address to the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers, the HC shared Pakistan's perspective on the situation in Afghanistan, and the role being played by Pakistan in supporting evacuation and humanitarian relief efforts, a in London said.



today, there was finally an opportunity to put an end to the 40-year war in that country and enable the Afghan people to reconcile and rebuild The humanitarian situation posed a challenge. Afghanistan stood on the brink of

> ghans in dire need of assistance. At the same time it was imperative that Afghan soil was not used to harm any country. He called on the international community to avoid the mistake of abandoning Afghanistan, adopt a pragmatic approach, and sustain engagement. At this critical juncture, the Afghans must be helped to walk firmly along the path of peace.

> a catastrophe with 18m Af-

US court dismisses NSA lawsuit, citing 'state secrets'

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: A US federal appeals court has upheld the dismissal of a lawsuit that challenged the National Security Agency's (NSA) practice of mass interception and searching of US citizens' international internet communications.

The Wikimedia Foundation, which runs Wikipedia, said in its lawsuit that the NSA's so-called "Upstream" surveillance programme captures some of its international communications and is a violation of the US Constitution's First Amendment free-speech rights and its Fourth Amendment rights against unreason-

able search and seizure. In a divided ruling on Wednesday, the 4th US Circuit Court of Appeals said the lawsuit must be dismissed after the government invoked the "state secrets privilege", which meant that a full exploration of the issue in a court would damage national security. Judge Albert Diaz wrote in a majority opinion by the court that "the state secrets privilege requires the termi-

Meanwhile, Judge Diana Gribbon Motz, who dissented in the court ruling, warned that the majority opinion "stands for a sweeping proposition: A suit may be dismissed under the state secrets doctrine.

nation of this suit".

A Pakistani AGENCIES founded new textile material startup

DNA

BEIJING: A Pakistani founded a new textile material startup in Shanghai to promote Sino-Pak bilateral cooperation in textile sector. "I have founded a new textile material startup in Shanghai's Lingang New Area. Although it is new-born, I'm full of expectations," said Faizan

Shafiq from the Donghua University in an interview with China Economic Net. "Since I was a child, I have heard 'long live the Sino-Pakistani friendship' countless times. From then on, I had a strong curiosity about China," Faizan mentioned.

He came to China the first time seven years ago, and in 2017, in order to pursue studies in textile industry, he passed the application and began to study for a Ph.D. degree in textile chemistry in Donghua University, Shanghai

Born in Faisalabad, the hub of textile industry in Paki-

stan, Faizan joined the field naturally. "Nowadays, many materials are technologies being used in the textile industry cause environmental disruption." He was determined to devel-

op a new environment-friendly material. After a series of experiments, Faizan created a new kind of dye obtained from natural plants instead of chemicals. He hopes that in the future,

more and more people can wear cloths dyed by his invention, "The process of extracting dyes from plants fascinates me. We're using it on cotton cloth and silk. I am always committed to the green transformation of the textile industry," noted Faizan.

In this way, Faizan was determined to start his own business in China. His idea was supported by his doctorial tutor. Faizan and his Chinese classmates completed the research and development of the new dye in the laboratory, then his tutor found a foundry for him.

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Briefs

Sindh to offer free **booster shots** to health workers

KARACHI: The Sindh government has decided to administer free Pfizer coronavirus booster shots to all healthcare workers, a notification from the province's health department said Thursday.

The department, in the notification, said the healthcare workers were at greater risk of being exposed and getting infected with the virus, and in a bid to reduce the risk, the government has decided to give them booster shots. The health department has written a letter to the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) in this regard as well.

The development comes a day after as many as 18 more patients died, and 817 new coronavirus cases emerged in the province, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said in a statement. The province's death toll has reached 7,210, while the total cases have reached 447,050, the chief minister added in the statement.

SAPM on Health Dr Faisal Sultan had in August said that the government had started consideration to administer booster shots after six months of second shot to frontline healthcare workers above 50 years of age. - APP

JAC thanks partners

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a statement issued on Thursday by the Joint Action Committee set up against PMDA, the committee thanked all those bodies and individuals; in particular, media watch dogs, awvers associations. Human rights Associations, Political Parties, Civil Society for standing up for freedom of expression in

the country.

On Wednesday, in the meeting between APNS. CPNE, PFUJ, PBA, AE-MEND and the federal information Minister, Fawad Chaudhry and Minister of State Farrukh Habib, the IAC expressed its reservations on PMDA and termed it as unacceptable. However, it was agreed to form a committee to address the issue of fake news particularly on social media, the rights of media workers and ways to further improve laws and regulatory framework. The statement said that member organisations of Joint Action Committee will nominate its representatives to the above committee being formed to discuss these issues amicably along with the representatives of the Federal Government.

PIA to operate Lahore, Peshawar flights

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) on Thursday has decided to operate flights from Lahore to Peshawar. According to the PIA spokesperson, weekly two flights will be operated between Lahore to Peshawar from October 1. The first flight will take off for Peshawar from Lahore airport on October 1 at 11.40 am.

The flights would be operated on Monday and Friday every week, the spokesperson said and added that ATR planes will be used for the flight operations. On Wednesday, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet had approved US\$130 million cash support for Pakistan International Airlines (PIAC).

A decision to this effect was taken at the ECC meeting. which was held in Islamabad with Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin in the chair. Earlier, the new Afghan government contacted the CAA Pakistan and sought permission for scheduled flights for Afghanistan Airlines Ariana and Kam Air.



DUSHANBE: President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko presented souvenirs to Prime Minister Imran Khan at Dushanbe. - DNA

PM Imran Khan stresses enhanced Pak-Belarus ties

The two leaders exchanged views on the situation in Afghanistan. The Prime Minister underscored that as a country most affected by conflict and instability in Afghanistan for over 40 years, Pakistan had a vital interest in a peaceful and stable Afghanistan

DNA

DUSHANBE: Prime Minister Imran Khan met with Alexander Lukashenko, President of the Republic of Belarus, on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of State meeting in Dushanbe. The two leaders discussed mutual efforts for strengthening of Pakistan-Belarus relations and exchanged views on regional and interna-

tional issues. Reviewing bilateral relations, Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed satisfaction at the growing cooperation between the two countries. The Prime Minister said that Pakistan was committed to further enhancing its relations with Belarus across all fields of mutual interest, including trade, investment, agriculture, industry and defence.

It was also agreed to enhance bilateral ex-

changes at the highest parliamentary and political levels. The two sides noted that the visit of the Belarus Foreign Minister to Pakistan later this year would contribute significantly to the consolidation and further expansion of bilateral cooperation in diverse fields.

The two leaders exchanged views on the situation in Afghanistan. The Prime Minister underscored that as a country most affected by conflict and instability in Afghanistan for over 40 years, Pakistan had a vital interest in a peaceful and stable Afghanistan. The Prime Minister stressed that the international community must stand by the Afghan people, help avert a humanitarian crisis, and take steps to stabilize the economy. The Prime Minister reiterated Pakistan's full support to efforts for stabilization of Afghanistan and hoped that the international community will play

a positive role in this regard.

The Prime Minister renewed his invitation to President Lukashenko to visit Pakistan. President Lukashenko extended an invitation to the Prime Minister to visit Belarus at the earliest convenience.

PM Imran Khan is paying a two-day official visit to Tajikistan on the invitation of President Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan . The Prime Minister is accompanied by a high-level Ministerial delegation.

This is the third visit of the Prime Minister to Central Asia, underlining Pakistan's enhanced engagement with the region.

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-gov-

ernmental 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). Pakistan and Tajikistan enjoy close brotherly relations underpinned by the bonds of common faith, history and culture. The two countries have shared perceptions and a common desire to promote economic development, peace, security and stability in the region.

Taliban should be given time: Sh Rasheed

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed on Thursday said that the Taliban should be given time to form government

and run country's affairs. He said this in his meeting with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, who called on him in Islamabad. During the meeting, matters pertaining to evacuation from Afghanistan and humanitarian assistance for Afghan citizens came under discussion.

It was agreed during the meeting that Afghan citizens would not be left alone in the current situation - food, medicine and other essentials

would be provided to Afghans on humanitarian grounds. Sheikh Rasheed said that Pakistan wants lasting peace in neighboring Afghanistan. He said the Taliban should be given time to form government and run the affairs of the country, adding that the

world needs to understand the ground realities in Afghanistan. "Taliban will have to ensure

financial and human resources for governance in Afghanistan," the minister said. The minister went on to say that refugees could lead to possible humanitarian famine. instability and lawlessness in Afghanistan, adding that trucks and planeloads of food and medicine have been sent to Afghanistan under humanitarian assistance.

committed in averting food crisis

Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam here on Thursday reaffirmed the commitment of the Government of Pakistan to play its role in supporting World Food Program to uplift the people of Afghanistan from humanitarian crisis.

Talking to WFP Pakistan Country Director, Chris Kaye, who called on him, Imam said that the population of Afghanistan was approximately 3.9 million and their wheat requirement was estimated at 6.8 million tons, said a press release issued by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research.

The minister said that the government will provide all the necessary support to ensure that a humanitarian food crisis does not arise in Afghanistan.

He said that the Ministry of National Food Security and Research was committed to providing support to World Food Program to enable it to avert a humanitarian crisis brewing in Afghanistan. Kave, speaking on the occasion said that WFP aims to provide sufficient food nutrition to Afghanistan. He said that the current issue was providing timely food nutrition to the people of Afghanistan and in that regard Pakistan can be of crucial importance. During the meeting both the sides agreed to increase coordination to address the food shortage issue in Afghanistan.

Govt pursues policy based on scientific data

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant on National Health Services Dr. Faisal Sultan

has said the government pursued coherent and calibrated policy based on scientific data

to deal with the challenge of COVID-19. Highlighting the key components of Anti Covid strategy at a seminar in Islamabad on Thursday, he said the success was achieved due to a collective response to the pandemic. The Special Assistant said we upgraded our health infrastructure with addition of thousands of beds and training of doc-

tors and paramedical staff. He pointed out that the most vulnerable segments of the society were provided with cash assistance under Ehsaas Program. The Special Assistant said the latest technology and data of NADRA was used to take forward the process of vaccination on equitable basis.

US rejects French concerns

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: France and the United States had high-level talks ahead of the announcement of Washington's new alliance with Australia and Britain, with Canberra to acquire nuclear submarines, White House official said Thursday.

'Senior administration officials have been in touch with their French counterparts to discuss AUKUS, including before the announcement," the official told AFP after the agreement angered France. which had a deal of its own to supply conventional submarines to Australia. "I will leave it to our Australian partners to describe why they sought this new technology... we

cooperate closely with France on shared priorities in the Indo-Pacific and will continue to do so," the The AUKUS agreement scuppered Australia's multi-billion-dollar 2016 deal

official added. to buy submarines from France, which had been personally backed by President Emmanuel Macron.

Ahmed Agha, the Governor of Balochistan. - DNA PM's efforts for co-op with China commendable chair a monthly self-review DNA ay into the Pakistan market

BEIJING: China appreciates the importance attached by Prime Minister Imran Khan and Pakistani government on practical cooperation with China and their active efforts, a Chinese foreign spokesperson ministry's said on Thursday.

"As all weather strategic cooperative partners, the two sides have constantly deepened economic and trade cooperation," Zhao Lijian said during his regular briefing held here.

During a recent meeting with CEOs of Chinese companies operating in Pakistan, the prime minister assured his government's cooperation and facilitation to the Chinese enterprises and investors. The spokesperson remarked that China has been Pakiments and trading partner for many years in a row. "We stand ready to work together with Pakistan to advance high quality CPEC development, and to deepen bilateral cooperation," he added. He hoped that there will be a

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul paid a courtesy on Syed Zahoor

more favorable environment for Chinese businesses who want to invest and operate in Pakistan so that we can have mutually beneficial cooperation and shared development. Earlier, several Chinese business leaders have expressed increased confidence in their operations in Pakistan after attending a meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan that was aimed at addressing Chinese firms' concerns regarding policy support and security. During the meeting with a delegation of Chinese business leaders, Khan vowed to

meeting to address their concerns sending a strong signal that the Pakistani government attaches great importance to Chinese companies. Zhang Shilu, general manager of Zhengbang Agriculture Pakistan (Pvt) Limited, who attended the meeting, told the Global Times that the meeting was held in response to concerns that have gripped enterprises encountered some difficulties in doing business in Pakistan and we expressed our expectations to the Pakistani Prime Minister, who showed that Pakistan attaches great importance to the development of Chinese enterprises in Pakistan. It greatly increases the confidence of Chinese enterprises," Zhang said.



ment meeting, representatives of Chinese enterprises voiced their hopes that Pakistan could introduce an industrial park management committee - a common practice in China - to simplify approval processes. Chinese enterprises that at-

tended the meeting included OPPO, Shanghai Challenge Textile Co, and Easy Prefabricated Homes Pvt, a subsidiary of Henan D.R. Construction Group Co. George Long, CEO of OPPO Pakistan, told the Global Times that the company was hoping for some form of preferential tax treatment and land policies from the Pakistani government to support its R&D and high-tech production.

This would boost local employment and local tech supply chains would also be steadied, Long said. The

kistan and bringing quality smart gadgets to the people of Pakistan, he added." A manager surnamed Jin with Henan D.R. Construction Group who participated in the meeting said that the agenda of the meeting included difficulties for Chinese-funded firms in the local industrial park that include land purchases and natural gas and

began in 2014 and it has built

17 aftersales services centers

and more than 5,000 retail

outlets across the country.

"We're confident about ex-

panding investment in Pa-

power supplies. In October 2019, the company purchased 6.1 acres of land in an industrial park as a factory production base, and started to build the factory after the land purchase procedures were approved in December 2019.