



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Trudeau stays in power; Liberals fall short of majority

Detailed News On Page-08

Asad hails media team's role in Covid response

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Pak Paying price of 'absolutely not', says Fawad

Detailed News On Page-01



Briefs

US does not seek a new cold war

WEB DESK

UNITED NATIONS: US President Joe Biden told the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday that the United States does not seek a "new Cold War", amid worsening ties with China. Addressing the UNGA in New York, Biden said, "The United States is ready to work with any nation that steps up and pursues peaceful resolution to share challenges even if we have intense disagreement in other areas." "We are not seeking a new cold war, where the world is divided...US is ready to work with any nation that pursues peaceful resolutions...because we have all suffered consequences of our failures," he added.

Japan supports anti polio drive

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The third nationwide anti-polio campaign of 2021 is underway. Over 40 million children under five years of age will be vaccinated during the campaign. MATSUDA Kuniori, Ambassador of Japan, highly appreciated the drastic decrease in the number of reported wild polio cases in Pakistan as a result of the sincere and united efforts of the government and people of Pakistan. Japan has been supporting polio eradication in Pakistan since 1996, with the total amount reaching \$229 million.

British envoy saddened

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner to Pakistan Christian Turner on Tuesday said the news had saddened him but the decision was made by ECB, which is independent of British government. "I am sad, this was a decision made by the ECB which is independent of British government based on concerns for players' welfare. The British High Commission supported the tour and did not advise against it on security grounds and our travel advice for Pakistan has not changed," he said in a video message.

Paying price of 'absolutely not': Fawad

"We are now seeking our lawyers' guidance on how to drag [New Zealand] to court," Information minister says



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The phrase "absolutely not" comes at a price that nations have to pay if they aspire to keep their heads high, Minister for Information Fawad Chaudhry said Tuesday, after the England and New Zealand cricket teams cancelled their Pakistan tours. Prime Minister Imran Khan had, back in June, clearly said that Pakistan will "absolutely not" give its military bases to the United States for operations in Afghanistan after the latter's withdrawal of troops - months before the Taliban took over the country. The information minister, addressing a press conference, said he and Minister for Interior Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed would brief the media on what has been transpiring lately. "You will see how fake news and hybrid war are inter-linked." Chaudhry said his briefing with Rasheed would highlight the matter with charts and other relevant data. "PTV alone has suffered losses worth Rs220 million and we are now seeking our lawyers' guidance on how to drag [New Zealand] to court," he said. "If you want to keep your head high, then you have to pay the price, and I believe that the Pakistani nation is ready to face this," the information minister said.

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Pakistan 'used and binned', says Ramiz

We've been going out of our way to meet the international demands

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ramiz Raja said on Tuesday he felt "used and then binned" after England cancelled a white-ball tour for their men's and women's teams next month. "It's the feeling of being used and then binned. That's the feeling I have right now," Raja told reporters. "A little bit of hand-holding, a little bit of caring was needed after New Zealand pull out and we didn't get that from England which is so frustrating." "We've been going out of our way to meet the international demands, being such a responsible member of the cricketing fraternity, and in return we get a response from ECB saying the players were spooked by New Zealand's withdrawal. What does that mean?" "It's a fantastic dichotomy isn't it," added Raja. "You are quoting fatigue and mental tension and players being spooked and an hour-and-a-half flight from here before a World Cup they are quite happy to be caged in a bubble environment and carry on with the tournament." "One feels slighted, one feels humiliated because withdrawal doesn't have an answer." The ECB's decision has also been met with fierce criticism at home.

PM warns of civil war sans inclusive govt

The prime minister says that in case, it would lead to a humanitarian crises for Pakistan

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Tuesday once again cautioned that Afghanistan could descend into civil war if all factions were not included in an inclusive government. In an interview with the BBC, the prime minister said "If they do not include all the factions, sooner or later they will gradually descend into a civil war," adding that it would again impact Pakistan. "That would mean an unstable, a chaotic Afghanistan and an ideal place for terrorists.

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Taliban urges world to recognize IEA

MONITORING DESK



KABUL: Taliban spokesperson and Deputy Minister for Information and Culture Zabihullah Mujahid Tuesday praised Prime Minister Imran Khan, acknowledging his efforts to promote peace in Afghanistan. Speaking to Afghan media in Kabul, Mujahid said countries were criticising the Taliban government for human rights violations without recognising it. "We think this is a unilateral point of view," he stressed. Mujahid called on all those criticising the Taliban to recognise its government in Afghanistan and "behave responsibly" towards it. He said that those who recognise

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RAWALPINDI: Andreas Papastavrou, Greek Ambassador to Pakistan called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), at GHQ. - DNA

Macron, Modi vow to 'act jointly'

Macron's discussion with the Indian leader came before conversation with Joe Biden

PARIS: President Emmanuel Macron and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday vowed to "act jointly" in the Indo-Pacific region, the French presidency said, as a row with Australia and the US intensifies. In telephone talks, both leaders said they would "act jointly in an open and inclusive Indo-Pacific area", days after Australia pulled out of a submarine contract with France in favour of US submarines as part of an alliance with Washington and the UK. Macron assured Modi of France's continued "commitment to the strengthening of

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Tabish resigns as SAPM

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Power and Petroleum Tabish Gauhar announced on Tuesday that he had resigned from the post, almost a year after his appointment. "After a year of public service, I've decided to call it a day to return to my family. It's been the privilege of a lifetime to serve the country, to the best of my abilities, in an honorary capacity. I shall remain indebted to the PM for giving me this opportunity," he tweeted after stepping down as the SAPM. He added that while challenges in the energy sector were manifold, he had "no doubt that under the able leadership of Hammad Azhar, the MOE (Ministry of Energy) team will continue to stay the course on structural reforms".

COAS, Greek envoy discuss bilateral ties

Amb. Andreas lauds Pakistan's efforts in controlling Covid-19 through a coordinated response

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The army chief on Tuesday asserted Pakistan was safe for all kinds of tourism, sports and business-related activities, the Inter-Services Public Relations said. Speaking with Greek Ambassador Andreas Papastavrou, who called on him at General Headquarters, Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa said Islamabad encouraged "healthy bilateral exchanges in all areas of common interest" with Greece. During the meeting, mat-

ters of mutual interest, regional security, including the situation in Afghanistan, and cooperation in various fields were discussed, said the ISPR press release. The army chief said Pakistan remained committed to cooperating with its international partners to ensure lasting peace in the region, and ensuring a stable and prosperous future for the people of Afghanistan. Papastavrou appreciated Pakistan's efforts in combating the Covid-19 crisis through a coordinated national response. He also

lauded Pakistan's role in Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover, including successful evacuation operations, and efforts for regional stability. Last week, European Union's ambassador in Islamabad Androulla Kaminara and Chief of the Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa discussed the situation in Afghanistan. Ambassador Kaminara called on the army chief at the General Headquarters. The meeting took place against the backdrop of the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

NCOC lifts additional curbs in six districts

Corona claims 81 more lives

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Tuesday decided to lift additional non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) in six high districts due to gradual decline in disease prevalence from September 21. Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initi-

atives Asad Umar chaired the NCOC session and reviewing the gradual decline in the disease to remove additional restrictions from the districts of Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, Sargodha, Gujarat and Bannu after 22 September, 2021. The general NPIs would remain enforced till September 30 across the country which would be reviewed on

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Experts of Int'l moot stress robust efforts for regional connectivity - Page 04

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Pakistan-Uzbekistan sets cricket diplomacy - Page 06

EU backs France as Australia submarine deal strains alliance - Page 07

Canada: Trudeau stays in power, falls short of majority - Page 08

Pakistan for multi-dimensional relationship with US: Qureshi

- says isolating Afghanistan had proved to be a mistake in past



ALI FURQAN IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK: Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said that with the end of the U.S.

mission in Afghanistan, Pakistan wanted to build a more broad-based and multidimensional relationship with the United States. Addressing the Council on Foreign Relations in New York he says Pakistan wanted

to "break out of the cyclical pattern" that had defined Pakistan-U.S. ties in the past and find new anchors for the relationship in trade, investment, and people-to-people exchanges. Qureshi said that an economically strong Pakistan would be "an anchor of stability" in the region, which had suffered because of 40 years of conflict in Afghanistan. He stressed that Pakistan wanted to work with the United States in areas that would create jobs and economic prosperity on both sides of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, helping the Afghan people rebuild their country. Pakistan's Foreign Minister said that isolating Afghanistan had proved to be a mistake in the past. He says that the international community may be able to encourage progress towards a more inclusive government in Afghanistan through sustained engagement.

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ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate, Mirza Muhammad Afridi exchanging views with Mohammad Motahar Alashabi, Ambassador of Yemen at Parliament House. — DNA

Div. Commissioner jointly chairs meeting to review Polio drive

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Divisional Commissioner Saqib Manan and Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad jointly chaired a meeting to review the progress of ongoing Polio campaign. They directed that every effort should be made to make the anti-polio campaign a hundred percent success and complete the daily target as per the micro plan so that no child up to the age of five years could be deprived of vaccine. ADC, HQ Muhammad Khalid, ACs Sahibzada Muhammad Yousaf, Umar Maqbool, CEO Dr. Mushtaq

Sipra, DHO Bilal Ahmed, representative of the World Health Organization and officials from other departments were also present. Reviewing the progress of implementation of the campaign, the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner urged the polio teams to fulfill their responsibilities in a more efficient manner and said that the presence of polio teams at public transport stands, railway stations and other important public places should be ensured and children should be vaccinated. They urged the health department to take immediate steps and address the issues

raised by the World Health Organization (WHO). The Deputy Commissioner clarified that the sudden checking of the implementation of the campaign would continue and the concerned area in-charge would be responsible for the shortcomings. During the meeting, the DHO gave a briefing on the implementation and monitoring of the campaign. Earlier, The Deputy Commissioner visited Jhang road and checked the cleanliness situation. He directed the FWMC to monitor the attendance of waste workers and city should be looked neat and clean.

Punjab Health dept warns on surge in delta

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab health department have warned on surge in cases of Delta and California Epsilon strains of Covid-19 detected in Lahore. The Punjab health department has stated that 12 positive cases of Delta and three cases of California Epsilon strain reported in Lahore in 24 hours. "Presently Punjab have 550 cases of the Delta strain of coronavirus, while 49 cases of Epsilon variant have been reported," the health department stated. Some medical experts said that first reported in California in 2020, the Epsilon variant had been more resistant to the vaccines and declared a new threat for the vaccinated people who may develop infection again.

They said the Epsilon strain was also highly infectious and almost equal to the Delta variant of the virus. "Only Vaccination is an effective treatment of the coronavirus. Those vaccinated could also be infected by the virus but this infection will be mild in intensity," health department stated. "It is necessary for all people with 15 or above age to get vaccinated to avoid the virus," the Punjab health department advised.

CM Advisor, Admin Keamari visit Sindhi Muhalla

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Advisor to Sindh Chief Minister Asif Khan and Administrator District Municipal Corporation Keamari Iqbal Ahmed Mirani on Tuesday visited Sindhi Muhalla and listened the issues being faced by people. People of the area complained about numerous civic issues including dilapidated situation of road caused by faulty sewerage system, said a press release. Locals told the CM's advisor and administrator that people were facing severe difficulties in transportation, adding that business activities were also being affected due to condition of roads.

Advisor assured them that steps would be taken on an urgent basis to rehabilitate the sewerage system and other issues would also be resolved on priority.

Atif Munir, Imran elected President, Senior VP of FCCI

Engineer Rizwan Ashraf Member FCCI Election Commission paid best tribute to the media for their cooperation in conducting fair, free and impartial elections

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Atif Munir, Imran Mahmood and Rana Fayyaz Ahmad have been elected uncontested and unofficially as President, Senior Vice President and Vice President of the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) respectively for the year 2021-22. Addressing a Press Conference Engineer Rizwan Ashraf Member FCCI Election Commission paid best tribute to the media for their cooperation in conducting fair, free and impartial elections. He said that the election process was started with the issuance of an election schedule on July 14 and the election commis-

sion was entrusted with the responsibility to conduct the election.

He said that provisional voter's list was issued on July 21 and no objection was received against any voter and elections were conducted according to this list. He said that polling for corporate and associate classes were held in a most peaceful manner on 15-16 September. He also thanked the contesting candidates who fully cooperated and reposed full confidence in the election process. He further said that nomination papers for the offices of President, Senior Vice President and Vice President were received on September 18. "Scrutiny of the papers was conducted to-

day and all papers were declared valid hence the three candidates have been elected uncontested and unofficially", he added. However, the official announcement will be made on September 30 during the Annual General Meeting (AGM). He further clarified that now the scheduled polling for the office bearers will not be held on September 22. Responding to a question, Engineer Rizwan Ashraf said that FCCI is a public forum and every eligible person can get its membership after full filing the fundamental requirements. He said that the turnover for the corporate class was 50% and for associate class it was 40% which is quite satisfactory as compared

with the turnover of general elections. He clarified the newly elected office bearers are representative of the all members hence they should not be now considered as the representative of any specific group. Mr. Muhammad Ayub Sabir Member Election Commission said that Pakistan is facing huge economic challenges hence new office bearers have to make serious efforts to resolve the same. He termed FCCI as the apex trade body which is working in close coordination with other trade bodies sprawling all over the city. He said that the election commission has made serious efforts to ensure elections fair and free so that real representatives of the business community could come into the power and resolve their genuine issues. He also appreciated the cooperation of both groups to make this event historic and peaceful. Mr. Muhammad Ayub Sabir also announced the names of the successful office bearers. Later Chaudhary Muhammad Nawaz Member election commission thanked media persons and hoped they would continue to extend full cooperation to the newly elected office bearers for the greater interest of the country and this city.



Afghans in Pak interviewed to get PoR smart cards

DRIVE is part of a wider effort to assist displaced Afghans through the support platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR)

STAFF REPORT

PESHAWAR: Under a campaign being led by Pakistan government and supported by UNHCR as many as 600,000 Afghans have been interviewed to get their smart Proof of Registration (PoR) cards renewed out of the 1.4 million population of refugees currently residing in Pakistan. National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) in collaboration with UNHCR and Afghan Commissionerate would verify and update the data of all the 1.4 million population of refugees to issue them PoR cards.

It was informed by UNHCR Director Asia Bureau Indrika Ratwatte during his visit to a center of PoR registration here. Talking to the media he expressed gratitude to the government and people of Pakistan for hosting Afghan refugees for a long time. He said that under the PoR process the Afghan refu-

gees would be issued a chip-based smart card having all the details of the individual including his educational qualifications and skills which he said would help UNHCR in repatriation of the refugees and using their voluntary services in different fields in Afghanistan. He said that card would better enable refugees to access critical services, adding that refugees who completed their Documentation Renewal and Information Verification Exercise (DRIVE) verification interviews receive SMS notifications advising them of when and where their new PoR smartcard can be collected. Till date, he said over 100,000 cards have been printed and distributed to refugees for which the government of Pakistan deserves applause, he remarked.

He said a lot has changed since the last large scale exercise in Pakistan 10-year ago. It is important for the government and UNHCR to have current information

on the refugee population, including who is present, where they are living and what their needs are, Ratwatte added. The DRIVE campaign would continue till the end of the year, renewing and updating information on Afghan refugees who currently hold PoRs. The cards to be valid till June 2023 are legally recognized proof of identity and include enhanced security features including technologically compatible with systems used in Pakistan to authenticate the identities of nationals to access services. The smart PoR cards could not be tempered or forged.

DRIVE is part of a wider effort to assist displaced Afghans through the support platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR). The exercise will help collect data on the educational and professional backgrounds of refugees. This information would enhance support for those who may in the future voluntarily return to Afghanistan.

Two including minor girl shot dead

STAFF REPORT

PESHAWAR: Unknown assailants, riding a motorcycle here on Tuesday shot dead a five-year-old girl and a pedestrian and critically injured the girl's father at Pajagai Road in the vicinity of Mathra police station. Police said the injured father of the minor girl named Fazal Muhammad of Chugarmatti area told police that he along with his daughter Mehwish were on way to home from a market when two assailants riding a motorbike opened fire on them near Maskinabad. As a result of firing, his daughter was killed while he and a pedestrian sustained bullet injuries. He said local people shifted us to the Lady Reading Hospital where the injured pedestrian identified as Musa Khan (60) also succumbed to bullet injuries. Mathra police have started investigation after registering a case against unknown assailants.

3 housing societies sealed

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: The Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA) sealed three illegal housing societies here on Tuesday. According to a spokesperson, the enforcement team checked the status of the housing schemes, sealed offices of three colonies and demolished illegal structures through the use of heavy machinery. The colonies included Al-Najaf Garden, Inam Villas and additional locality on 51-JB Burawal road. The developers have been instructed to fulfill all legal requirements before sale and purchase of plots.

Govt. files review petition in sacked employees' case

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan on Tuesday informed the National Assembly that government had moved a review petition before the Supreme Court with request to review its earlier decision over Sacked Employees (Reinstatement) Ordinance Act, 2020. The minister expressed the hope that the apex Court would review its decision and grant relief to the thousands of sacked employees. Replying to a matter raised by the lawmakers of the Pakistan Peoples Party, he said it could

not be moved in the house as the issue was sub-judice. The minister said that he, along with Minister for Defence Pervaiz Khattak, had held two meetings with Prime Minister Imran Khan in this regard, adding, PM Khan directed them for seeking a review in this case. Opposition leader in the National Assembly Shahbaz Sharif said thousands of people were expelled from Pakistan International Assembly and Pakistan Steel Mill. He said load-shedding ended during the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government and public transport and infrastructure was also developed in its tenure.



JAMSHORO: Graduating students of Mehran University of Engineering and Technology posing for a camera shot on the eve of 24th Convocation. — Photo by Jan Ali

PML-N demands to publicize details of NAB Rs. 578b recovery

Mariyum Aurangzeb says that Nawaz spent over 35 years in politics but nobody has proved the corruption allegations against him

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) has demanded to make public details of the recovery of Rs578 billion ill-gotten money by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). PML-N spokesperson Mariyum Aurangzeb strongly criticized the media statement of the National Accountability Bureau, alleging that it was not a press release but a nexus between NAB and Prime Minister House. She said that PML-N demands to publicize the details of NAB's recovery of Rs578 billion ill-gotten money. Aurangzeb also demanded to provide details of expenditures for the recovery of the looted money. The PML-N spokesperson alleged that the press release was the part of levelling baseless allegations, propaganda and political agenda against the opponents of the government. She continued that the press statement was actually a request to extend the tenure of the NAB chairman. Mariyum Aurangzeb said that Nawaz Sharif spent over 35 years in politics but nobody has proved the corruption allegations against him so far. She added that Nawaz Sharif gifted nuclear technology to the country besides initiating national projects of electricity, health, education and others. Criticizing the anti-corruption watchdog, she said that



NAB has never noticed the alleged theft of sugar worth Rs800 billion and legalization of Bani Gala palace nor Rs400 billion worth LNG theft and helicopter cases. The PML-N spokesperson further alleged that Imran Khan had made NAB its front man in the Broadsheet case while his aide Shahzad Akbar used to conduct press conferences against Shehbaz Sharif. She demanded to publicize all details of the Broadsheet case. Aurangzeb alleged that the ministers of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) led federal government used to attack the election commission in the name of electronic voting machines (EVMs). She continued that elections reforms were being finalized in a threatening tone. Earlier in the day, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) initiated the process for the recovery of an eight million pounds fine imposed on former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Avenfield reference. The National Accountability Bureau stated in its letter to deputy commissioners that the amount of court fine imposed on Nawaz Sharif by the court is to be recovered with the proceeds of his saleable properties. The accountability bureau asked the officials to initiate recovery proceedings under the Land Revenue Act 1967 through the auction of convict's properties.

وزیر اعظم سے اپیل

16 سال گزر گئے

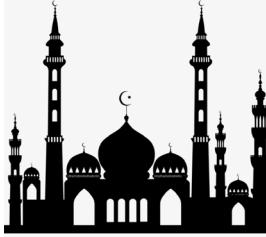
1200 لوگ انتظار میں مر گئے

آج بھی غیر قانونی قبضہ

فیڈرل ہاؤسنگ اتھارٹی بے بس!

G-14 ALLOTTEES ASSOCIATION

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	04:32 am
Zohr.....	12:02 pm
Asr.....	04:30 pm
Maghrib.....	06:15 pm
Isha.....	07:24 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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Emergency

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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'Diplomats asked to focus on trade diplomacy'

President ICCI says that the trainee officers should be fully aware of the business, joint ventures, and investment opportunities available in various sectors

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: A 21-member delegation of trainee officers of the Foreign Service of Pakistan led by Muhammad Wasif, Director (Programs), Foreign Service Academy visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and exchanged views with the business community on challenges and opportunities for the Pakistan's economy. Addressing the delegation, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that the trainee officers should focus on trade diplomacy while serving abroad as diplomats to promote Pakistan's business and economic interests. He said that the present era is an era of economic war so the trainee officers have a responsibility to



identify new avenues for promoting Pakistan's trade and exports while serving abroad. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that the trainee officers should be fully aware of the business, joint ventures, and investment opportunities available in various sectors of

Pakistan's economy so that during their professional career, they can play an active role in attracting foreign investment to Pakistan. He said that Pakistani missions abroad should have the updated brochures and information on Pakistani products, which can help improve our

exports. He urged that Pakistani missions should regularly share information on business and export opportunities for Pakistan's private sector abroad with Pakistan's Chambers of Commerce and Industry, including ICCI. It would enable our private sector to take

full advantage of the possible business opportunities in foreign countries. He gave a detailed briefing to the delegation members about the working of ICCI and how the Chamber works for promoting the interests of the business community. Muhammad Wasif, Director (Programs), Foreign Service Academy speaking at the occasion thanked Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan President ICCI and his team for providing a detailed briefing on the working of the Chamber and the challenges and opportunities facing the economy to the trainee diplomats. He said that this group of 21 officers of the Foreign Service of Pakistan is currently undergoing training in the 41st Specialized Diplomatic Course at the Foreign Service Academy and the purpose of bringing them to the Chamber is to provide them an opportunity to exchange views.

Int'l parley on World Suicide Prevention Day held



country in the world, with the majority of the population struggling to meet basic demands. Increased mental health problems are also a severe burden, leading to Suicide in the majority of patients. According to the World Health Organization, Suicide accounts for around 800,000 deaths globally each year, with most deaths occurring in low- and middle-income countries. COVID-19 has not only caused physical problems but also leaves a long-lasting impact on our mental health and may lead to suicides due to economic recession, distress, and fear of infection (Mamun, 2020). The Department of Psychology, Foundation University Islamabad, Rawalpindi Campus hosted an international Symposium on Suicide Prevention in collaboration with the Pakistan Institute of Living and Learning (PILL). Eminent Speakers including Prof. Dr. Imran Bashir Chaudhry, Head of Psychiatry Department at Ziauddin Hospital, Karachi; Dr. S M Yasir Arafat, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Enam Medical College and Hospital, Bangladesh; Dr. Sarah Cassidy, Assistant Professor at University of Nottingham, United Kingdom, and Ms. Atia Naqvi, Clinical Psychologist from the United States delivered their talk via MS. Teams. The symposium was attended in person by Faculty Members of the Psychology Department at Video Conference Hall and more than 100 participants, including students and professionals from all over Pakistan, participated via MS. Teams. - DNA

RAWALPINDI: Every year on September 10th, World Suicide Prevention Day demonstrates worldwide dedication and action to prevent suicides. Pakistan is the fifth most populous

Witness testifies in LNG case against Khaqan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An Accountability Court (AC) on Tuesday adjourned hearing till September 28, after testifying one more witness against former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in LNG reference. AC-II Judge Muhammad Azam Khan heard the case filed by National Accountability Bureau (NAB). Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and other co-accused appeared before the court. At the outset of hearing, the court inquired about the Barrister Qasim Nawaz Abbasi. The associate lawyer informed the court that Mr. Abbasi was busy in IHC. The court instructed to call Barrister Qasim so that he could cross examine the witness. After this, the court recorded the statement of Project Director SECP Asim Ali Trimzi. Later, Miftah Ismail's counsel conducted cross examination with witness Muhammad Farhan after this the hearing was adjourned till next date.

Cohesive policy nurtures innovation

We all know that innovation works in a cohesive and coherent system, and all STI policies are intertwined



COMSTECH

Organization of Islamic Cooperation Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH organized a 2-day online training course on "Inclusive Science Technology and Innovation policy for OIC Member States". Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, COMSTECH delivered inaugural address and introduced the plenary speaker of the event, Prof. Dr. STK Naim. He said Dr. Naim is a great source of inspiration. She is the best expert to talk about science and technology innovation policy. She has profound understanding of STI policy. She has a long experience of working in this field, and has been contributing in STI policy mak-

ing of different countries. Prof. Choudhary said, every country should have its own STI policy based on its ground realities, strengths and weaknesses. A policy that has been tailored according to their own needs. One policy proven successful in one country cannot yield same results in the other country because of many other indigenous factors. Dr. Naim gave talk on essential elements of innovation systems. She said, when the whole system works together, then innovation starts happening. Each country need to develop understanding of innovation and train their people to innovate. She said we can provide guidelines and take international instances for learning

that is all a policy adviser can do for a country. Policy making have to be indigenous, encompassing all stakeholders - policy makers, scientists, politicians, and private sector. She said, private sector is a major player in innovation sector. We all know that innovation works in a cohesive and coherent system, and all STI policies are intertwined. All the players in innovation system work like an orchestra. The innovation system only works when all elements work together. This two-day training delivered by national and international experts and more than 50 experts/policy makers from different institutions of OIC member states participated in this training course online.



ISLAMABAD: Coca-Cola Pakistan and Afghanistan, Capital Development Authority, Team Up / National Incubation Center (NIC) sign MoU to introduce the concept of re-carpeting national roads with plastic waste. - DNA

Islamabad daily cases fall to one month low

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The federal capital's new daily cases hit the lowest number during last one month as the city appears to have got the latest delta variant outbreak under control. The city reported 106 new cases on Tuesday, down from 128 a day earlier, while the highest figure reported during the current month was 394, National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) said on Tuesday. According to an official of NCOC, so far 104,348 cases were reported from the federal capital while 904 deaths were reported from Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

2 robbers, snatchers arrested

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district police have arrested two robbers and snatchers besides recovering Rs 1.4 million, two pistols and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Cantt police team under the supervision of SHO managed to net two accused namely Tasawar and Imran who were robbers and street criminals. They were sent to Adiala Jail for identification parade and after the parade process police recovered Rs 1.4 million looted amount, two pistols and other items from their possession. He informed that they were also involved in other crimes. They confessed to have committed robberies, snatching and other crimes in different areas. Superintendent Police (SP) Potohar appreciated performance of Cantt police and directed to continue operation to net the lawbreakers.

National polio immunization drive continues

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A three-day polio immunization campaign to vaccinate children under the age of five years continued on Tuesday in the federal capital and other cities of the country. According to official sources, over 40 million children under five years of age will be vaccinated with the polio vaccine, along with a supplementary dose of Vitamin-A capsule during the nationwide campaign. More than 290,000 Sehat Tahafuz frontline workers are going house to house for vaccination to protect children from lifelong paralysis caused by the polio virus. Research shows approximately 50 percent of all children are vitamin-A deficient in Pakistan, so a supplementary dose of Vitamin A would be included providing protection against various infections and diseases like diarrhea, pneumonia, measles, and night blindness. On the occasion, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on National Health Services, Dr. Faisal Sultan said, "The programme has made significant gains with not a single case being reported for seven months, giving us a unique opportunity to achieve polio eradication." He added, "Now is the time to re-double our efforts and ensure to reach every eligible child with the polio vaccine to solidify this progress. Parents should open their door to frontline workers and vaccinate their children to make way for a polio-free Pakistan."

RCB confiscates 126 truckloads of goods

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) on the special directives of Executive Officer Cantonment Board, Rawalpindi Muhammad Umar Farooq Ali Malik accelerated its ongoing anti-encroachment drive and confiscated 126 truckloads of goods from different markets during first three months of current fiscal year. According to RCB spokesman, Qaiser Mehmood encroachment material was confiscated from Tench Bhatta, Kamalabad, Peoples Colony, Dhoke Saydian, Misrial Road, Saddar, Bakra Mandi and other areas, adding that operation was being conducted on daily basis while permanent and temporary encroachments were being removed. He advised the citizens not to violate the rules otherwise stern action would be taken against the violators and no relaxation would be given to anyone. On the other hand, the roads and streets in the jurisdiction of CCB including Firdousi road, Lalazar, Lalkurti, Chungi no. 22, Tali Mohri, Khawaja Corporation, Adayal road and several other areas are still occupied by the encroachers as the shopkeepers and vendors have occupied most of the footpaths and open spaces with Suzuki pickups, and other goods displayed by the shopkeepers in front of their shops hampering traffic flow besides creating trouble for the pedestrians to walk even on footpaths. - APP

#WorldWithoutWaste

Coca-Cola kicks off Pak first Plastic Road Project

This idea provides a break through solution to bring back plastic waste in to the productive economy. And we also want to focus on building a community around the idea and the innovation itself. For any concept to be applied and adopted, the people must first believe in it

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Coca-Cola Pakistan and Afghanistan has partnered with Capital Development Authority and TeamUp / National Incubation Center (NIC) to work towards creating a World Without Waste. This mega-project involves locally introducing the concept of re-carpeting national roads with plastic waste. For now, a one kilometre road in the Islamabad Capital will be modelled as a proof-of-concept. This partnership was finalized today in an MOU signing ceremony held at the TeamUp / NIC offices in Islamabad.

In attendance were environmental experts and government officials who discussed and debated the project in a panel discussion that followed the signing. Fahad Ashraf, VP and General Manager of Coca-Cola Pakistan-Afghanistan said, "This idea provides a break through solution to bring back plastic waste into the productive economy. And we also want to focus on building a community around the idea and the innovation itself. For any concept to be applied and adopted, the people must first believe in it. And it needs to make social and commercial sense." This is where TeamUp and NIC come in. Work-

ing towards expanding the idea nationwide via hackathons, conferences, white papers, policy changes, and a coalition of partners, TeamUp/NIC hope to make this a success. Parvez Abbasi and Zouhair Khaliq representing the strategic leadership of the TeamUp/NIC added, "When Coca-Cola came to us with the willingness to be part of the solution, we were keen to lead this because most of the startups and projects here are guided by the Sustainable Development Goals." This project by Coca-Cola Pakistan has adopted the process of sustainable innovation whereby the scale is large - almost 8 tonnes of recycled plastic is used only to re-carpet a one kilometre patch of road. The technology, the research and its application are Pakistani. Furthermore, this project allows the use of recycled PET waste to be part of a circular plastic economy and have a considerably positive impact on the environment. The roads re-carpeted with plastic last almost twice as long and are 51 percent stronger. At the launch event of Plastic Road Pilot Re-Carpeting, a technical paper revealed the secondary research and global best practices, which will be adapted locally in the Pakistani context and invites anyone to adopt plastic waste in strength-

ening road structures anywhere. Once adopted widely, this initiative is expected to save the government valuable taxpayer money in repairs cost. Whereas this new technology is practiced globally in countries across the world and even in South Asia, this is the first time Pakistan is adopting it under a public-private partnership. Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Amer Ali Ahmed was the Chief Guest at the event and an instrumental partner in making the project a reality. "We believe in a clean and green Pakistan, but we also believe in working with each other to create results expansively" he said.

Briefs

Covid jab is safe for cancer patients

ISLAMABAD: Vaccination against Covid-19 is effective in patients with cancer, whose immune systems get weakened by various anti-cancer medicines, according to studies presented at the annual congress of the European Society for Medical Oncology.

The findings revealed that individuals with cancer have an appropriate, protective immune response to vaccination without experiencing any more side-effects than the general population. Indirect evidence also suggests that a third "booster" shot could further increase the level of protection among this patient population.

of the studies, named VOICE, showed that patients with cancer who took Covid jab were protected regardless of the current oncology treatment, Medical Daily reported.

Study enrolled 791 patients from multiple hospitals in the Netherlands in four distinct study groups comprising of individuals without cancer, patients with cancer treated with immunotherapy, patients treated with chemotherapy and finally patients treated with a chemo-immunotherapy combination, to measure their responses to Moderna's two-dose mRNA-1273 vaccine.

At 28 days after administration of the second dose, adequate levels of antibodies to the virus in the blood were found in 84 per cent of patients with cancer receiving chemotherapy, 89 per cent of patients receiving chemo-immunotherapy in combination and 93 per cent of patients on immunotherapy alone. These results compare favourably with the antibody responses seen in almost all (99.6 per cent) of the group of individuals without cancer, according to Dr Antonio Passaro, lung cancer expert at the European Institute of Oncology in Milan, Italy. — APP

Theatre Walay to organize art workshop

ISLAMABAD: Theatre Walay would organize an art workshop for children titled 'Kaleidoscope' on Sep 25 here at The Farm aiming to encourage children's creativity.

Talking to APP, Director Theatre Walay Fizza Ali said it would develop their sense of colour and composition besides promoting stress-fighting activities.

She said it would commune with nature in a garden environment and to inspire environmentally conscious art and to socialise in a COVID-friendly atmosphere. She said around 7 to 12 years children could participate in the workshop as pre-registration is must and they could register themselves at the given link. She further briefed that all art materials will be provided by theater walay. — APP

IHC extends Asif Zardari's interim bail till Oct 7

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday extended the interim bail of former president Asif Ali Zardari till October 7, in New York property case. The associate lawyer informed the bench that the senior counsel Farook H. Naek was unable to appear before court this day as he was currently in Moscow. The court also accepted the one-day exemption from hearing request of former president Asif Zardari on medical grounds. The medical reports of the accused were also produced before the court.

The hearing of the case then adjourned till October 7. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Amer Farooq heard the case. The petitioner had adopted the stance that the NAB had issued a call up notice to probe his alleged property in New York City. He said there was risk of his arrest on appearance before NAB investigators and prayed the court to grant him pre-arrest bail. — APP

Experts of Int'l moot stress robust efforts for regional connectivity

The main goal of the International Conference was to enhance closer cooperation and connectivity within Eurasian countries

BUREAU REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Two-day International Conference on "Pakistan - Eurasian Heartland Connectivity: Towards Socio-Economic, Academic, and Legal Cooperation" was held at Area Study Center (Russia, China & Central Asia), University of Peshawar, Peshawar. First day of the Conference was conducted in two sessions.

The main goal of the International Conference was to enhance closer cooperation and connectivity within Eurasian countries. The objective is to deliberate upon the ways and means for enhancing trade, economic, cultural, educational, and industrial links between Pakistan and the Eurasian heartland for shared growth and prosperity. Day first of the conference was well attended by the worthy Ambassadors of various countries to Pakistan and renowned subject experts and scholars from all across Pakistan.

The theme of the first session was "Pakistan-Eurasian Connectivity: Analyzing Opportunities and Challenges". The session was commenced with the key note address by Prof. Dr. Shabir Ahmed Khan, Director, Area Study Center (Russia, China, Central Asia), University of Peshawar. He welcomed all the participants, speakers and worthy Ambassadors. He highlighted the significance of Eurasian region. He enlightened the audience about regional connectivity and associated benefits for integration because of regionalism. Prof. Dr. Shabir shed light on important multilateral regional arrangement programs, i.e., CAREC, BRI, ECO, CPEC, Mizare-Shareef-Kabul-Peshawar, etc. While concluding his speech, he stated that joint efforts are required to enhance research & academic cooperation between Pakistan and Eurasia. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of the Punjab, Lahore stated that universities are the driving force for integration and academic learning. He enlightened the audience about the Regional Integration Center (RIC), University of the Punjab, Lahore and its initiatives for joint



collaboration among regions. Prof. Dr. Saleem stated that if universities strive towards enhancing research dynamics via students and faculty exchanges, it will enhance people-to-people contacts, prosperity, and cooperation. Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram, Executive Director, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad welcomed all participants and Ambassadors. He explained the concept of regional connectivity and also establishment of regional integration center at various universities. He stated that the aim is to have joint efforts to enhance academic cooperation, fellowship programs and research initiatives. He also highlighted the significance of Eurasian Industrial Research Center that is to establish market links between Pakistan and Central Asian SMEs sector. Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram enlightened the participants about Eurasian Legal Center, facilitating regulatory regimes and laws with other regional countries. Aybek Arif Usmanov, Ambassador of the Republic Uzbekistan to Pakistan addressed the audience online. He expressed his grat-

itude to all worthy speakers and Ambassadors. He highlighted the legacy of Zaheer-ud-din Babur, Allama Iqbal and Rehman Baba in contributing to peace, cooperation, and friendly regional ties. He shed light on the significant initiatives taken by Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of Uzbekistan for regional connectivity. Aybek Arif Usmanov talked about the mega development projects between Central Asia and Pakistan for enhanced cooperation. He also discussed Pakistan-Uzbekistan cordial relationship in terms of trade development. Prof. Dr. Nadeem Ahmed Chaudhry, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Sialkot expressed his views on regional connectivity between Eurasian region and Pakistan. He stated that academic institutions play a vital role in enhancing regional integration and socioeconomic indicators. He highlighted the importance of Eurasian Industrial Research Center established at the University of Sialkot. He stated that through joint academic and industrial research, Pakistan can develop new mode of market collaboration and technological transformation. Second session was commenced with the

speech by Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Mr. Kistafin. He enlightened the audience about Kazakhstan and Pakistan bilateral relations. He stated that Pakistan is a golden gate for Kazakhstan as it provides a great way to reach warm waters. Likewise, Kazakhstan is a golden gate for Pakistan to access Eurasian Economic Union. Yerzhan Kistafin stated that this is the time to revive brotherly relations between Central and South Asia for regional connectivity and unity. He stated that People-to-people dimension is significant to strengthen relations between regional countries. Ulanbek Totuiev, Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic to Pakistan expressed his views on Pakistan and Central Asian countries. He highlighted investment opportunities in Kyrgyzstan. He explained that there are many investment opportunities in Kyrgyzstan for enhanced regional cooperation. He also shed light on the initiative of direct flight commencement between Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan. He stated that South Asian countries can invest in many domains because Kyrgyzstan has poten-

tial in diverse fields. Zahid Latif Khan, Chairman, Islamabad Stock Exchange gave speech on Trade and Transport Connectivity for Enhanced Regional Economic Growth. He stated that for regional cooperation, comparative advantage is important and we need to understand its relevance. He suggested that energy cooperation is necessary between Central and South Asia. However, infrastructure development is a hindrance. Therefore, it must be resolved via mutual accords and agreements by regional countries.

Mian Abdul Rauf, Former Advocate-General Islamabad & Prosecutor-General of Pakistan under the Protection of Pakistan Act gave speech on understanding Legal Landscape, Legal Barriers to Regional Connectivity between Pakistan and Eurasia. He stated that modern infrastructure, information technology, legal regimes, and advanced transport system are the barriers for connectivity. He suggested that dispute resolution mechanisms and legal frameworks are required to resolve common issues.

Prof. Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Professor, Social Sciences Department, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad shared his views on regional connectivity imperative for shared prosperity. He stated that without regional connectivity, countries are unable to build economic cooperation. This implies huge shared responsibility on all regional states. Prof. Dr. Zafar Nawaz stated that Central and South Asia have many similarities, i.e., culture, religious, historical, spiritual etc. Thereby, role of academic institutions is pivotal to rejuvenate the historical relations between Pakistan and Eurasian region. While concluding his speech, he stated that in the 21st century, we all must move ahead for shared future and prosperity.

The sessions were moderated by Dr. Fouzia Hadi Ali, Director, Regional Integration Center (RIC), University of the Punjab, Lahore. It is noteworthy that the conference was well attended by students and renowned scholars, experts, academicians, and policy makers of Pakistan.

UK-Pak PBC hails removal from red list

ISLAMABAD: Chairman UK-Pakistan Business Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq Tuesday hailing the removal of Pakistan from United Kingdom red list said this epoch-making decision will pave the way for restoring trade activities and flow of international traveling between two countries. Talking to a delegation of exporters led by Muhammad Shehroz Shamas Kasuri he said the UK government has also decided to make testing easier for travelers which added is a good omen for importers and exporters of either country besides people. He said the UK is one of the leading trading partners of Pakistan which imported linens, knit sweaters, and other goods valued at \$1.73 billion during the year 2020 and ex-

ported iron, steel, chemical products, and electronics to Pakistan worth \$611.36 million during the period under review. He said over 2 million Pakistani nationals residents settled in the UK will also benefit and the majority of them stay engaged in doing business who he added is the main source of foreign exchange for Pakistan. He said credit goes to PM Imran and his teams for making strenuous continuous efforts in getting removed Pakistan from the red list. Kashif said now UK Pakistan business Council will gear up to move to the UK for holding series of meeting with investors next month who will be briefed about the unprecedented package of incentives to attract foreign investments. — APP

Awareness helpful to ease sufferings with Alzheimer

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said awareness about the needs of elderly population and understanding their age-related diseases, such as Alzheimer's and dementia, was important to make a difference in their quality of life. Addressing at an event to mark World Alzheimer Day, the president said a strong family support could prove one of the helpful means to ease the problems of old persons suffering with such neurological illnesses. President Alvi said coping with the loved ones with Alzheimer's disease or dementia and watching their memory erode with aging could be a stressful and emotional journey. He stressed that since there was currently no cure for

Alzheimer's disease, proper care-giving could have a positive impact on the patients. He said Alzheimer's disease acted like a brain plaque and weakened the linkages of brain cells resulting in memory loss. He said mental exercises such as puzzle solving in healthy years helped in risk reduction and delayed the symptoms of dementia. Dr Alvi said setting up of geriatrics units, the healthcare facility for old people, was important, however stressed that inculcating the society with values of caring for the elderly had more significance. He emphasized on sensitizing the society to handle the sufferings of their elders and extending them due care. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan said as the old popula-



tion in the society increased, there was a need to pay attention to their healthcare. He emphasized on training the fresh medical graduates on geriatrics services, and added that such initiative could be taken by the Pakistan Medical Commission at the federal level. Health Minister Punjab Dr Yasmeen Rashid, also the patron of Alzheimer's Pakistan, said a National Dementia Plan was under consideration to formulate a joint strategy in consultation with all prov-

inces, aimed at facilitating the old patients suffering with the disease. She said early detection of the symptoms of Alzheimer's could lead to the downhill course of the disease. She stressed that a strong family support was important to ensure proper caregiving to the patient of Alzheimer's disease. Secretary General Alzheimer's Pakistan Hussain Jafri said the degenerative brain syndromes of Alzheimer's disease usually started with dementia, loss of memory, disorientation, confusion and problems with reasoning and thinking. Due to lack of awareness, he said, dementia was often considered as a normal part of ageing, however the disease was a public health priority as declared by the WHO. — APP

IRSA releases 213255 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 213255 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 176782 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1521.83 feet, which was 129.83 feet higher than its dead level of 1392 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded at 105400 and 130000 cusecs respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1189.90 feet, which was 139.9 feet higher than its dead level of 1050 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded at 18127 and 30000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded at 162885, 137684 and 78010 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 16200 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 37055 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala.

AC summons witness against Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: An Accountability Court (AC) on Tuesday summoned three more witnesses for testimony on October 6, in Naroval Sports City Complex reference against former minister for inter provincial coordination Ahsan Iqbal. The court also testified one more witness in corruption reference against Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N)'s stalwart Ahsan Iqbal.

AC-III Judge Syed Asghar Ali heard the graft reference pertaining to misuse of powers in Naroval Sports City construction project. National Accountability Bureau (NAB)'s witness Waseem Javed and witness Izhar ul Haq appeared before the court besides Ahsan Iqbal and other accused. The court marked the attendance of accused and recorded statement of prosecution witness during the hearing. The documents presented by the witness were made part of the case record.

The judge summoned three more witnesses for testimony on next hearing and adjourned the case. It may be mentioned here that the reference had alleged the former minister for misusing his powers to allocate federation's funds for a provincial project. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Nigeria to Pakistan Mohammed Bello Abioye called on CNS Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi and visited NHQ, Islamabad. Both dignitaries discussed matters of mutual interest, bilateral collaborations and maritime security in the region. — DNA

Organic agri policy to be finalized for safe food: Fakhar

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam on Tuesday said that national organic agriculture policy to be formed in consultation with all stakeholders for ensuring safe and healthy food to local population besides tapping export potential of organic food. Addressing a workshop on 'Building Policy Ecosystem for Organic Production Landscape in Pakistan', Fakhar said that immense potential in the organic agriculture ecosystem can play an important

role in fighting poverty and climatic change.

There is a dire need to promote organic agriculture for safe and healthy food to local and international populations, he said adding that it will help in efficient water management practices for future generations and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as well as transforming conventional agriculture production system. The event was organized by Center for Agriculture and Biosciences International Regional Bio-Science Center Pakistan. — APP

Co-op urged to thwart crisis in Afghanistan

Rise of militancy, mass migration, and drug trafficking were the serious concerns of Central Asian states and Russia, said Dr. Zahid Shahab Ahmed, Research Fellow at Alfred Deakin Institute, Australia

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Regional countries have greater responsibility to reach out to the people of Afghanistan as the country was in limbo after US withdrawal. The whole region would feel the heat if the humanitarian crisis was not dealt effectively. In this difficult time, relationships with the people of Afghanistan be kept separated from the regional politics. These were the views expressed by the panelists at the webinar organized by the Institute of Regional Studies on 'Regional Response to Stability in Afghanistan'. China was actively engaged with the Taliban government for an inclusive political setup in Afghanistan, said Wang Zhen, Research

Professor of International Studies at Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, China. Meanwhile, China's humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan was continued, he added. However, Beijing's concerns remained as inclusive government, respect for human rights especially women and girls, prevention of trans-border terrorism, he further said. Prof. Zhen dispelled the impression that China's involvement in the post-US withdrawal was targeted at exploiting Afghanistan's natural resources, adding that 'China respects Afghanistan's sovereignty as its policies were strictly based on non-interference principles'. Rise of militancy, mass migration, and drug trafficking were the serious concerns of Central Asian

states and Russia, said Dr. Zahid Shahab Ahmed, Research Fellow at Alfred Deakin Institute, Australia. Dr. Ahmed said that the inclusion of Tajiks, Uzbeks, and other groups in political setup remained the priority of Central Asian states and Russia. The potential of multilateral engagements such as Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) need to be fully exploited to address Afghanistan challenges, he stressed. 'Russia has been in contact with the Taliban even before the US withdrawal, and has stable relations with other stakeholders' claimed Dr. Vadim kozyulin, Head, Center for Global Studies at Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. 'Russia was also in

contact with regional countries since Moscow's interests vis-a-vis Afghanistan were not different from China and Central Asian states, said Dr. Kozyulin. He was of the view that regional states had to play a role as US and Western countries were no more interested in Afghanistan. There must be a hierarchical approach to human rights in Afghanistan said Dr. Afzal Ashraf, Fellow at the Royal United Services Institute, UK. He was of the view that democratic values and larger human rights issues were only be cared when people of Afghanistan were enjoying the right to live with freedom. Dr. Ashraf urged Iran and Pakistan to work together in transforming the Jihadist ideology of the Taliban. He cautioned that the Taliban might fail to run the

state if proper guidance from the regional states was not provided, and regional intervention must be based on non-interference principles, he added.

The humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan was serious, said Dr. Salma Malik, Asst. Professor at QAU, adding that mass migration amid a rising humanitarian crisis would potentially threaten the security of the entire region. Dr. Malik cautioned that there was a possibility that Afghanistan would become a hub of proxy wars, and for that, Pakistan had to be prepared. Dr. Malik called for clear, and concise policies towards Afghanistan, especially regarding refugees. She urged Pakistan to play a lead role as the country was a potential stakeholder in peace in Afghanistan.

Gas tariffs

WITH not much time left till winter comes in Pakistan, the government has proposed an ambitious inverse gas tariff plan that will look to shift the burden of tax on 43 percent of the consumption to bear the cost of consumers utilising lower amounts of gas. This would mean that domestic consumers with lower consumption—about 77 percent of the total consumer base—can still use gas at less-than exorbitant rates while industries and households with high input rates of the natural resource will have a tough time paying bills.

Year after year, Pakistan's dwindling gas resources have not been able to compete with the consistently increasing demand. Prices have shot up, but consumption has continued to rise. There has to be a shift in our collective resource-use habits, and this policy looks to be a step in that direction.

High consumption will now entail for consumers to move towards other energy inputs such as electricity, fuel etc. This means that the increase in use of heaters and geysers in the winter months will require a hardware change as well. Electric heaters, stoves and other devices will slowly see more adoption in the coming seasons.

But this is only half the job done. Every crisis brings an opportunity and this is the perfect moment for the government to engage electric appliance manufacturers into producing more homegrown products. In addition to this, there is also ample opportunity for more sustainable practices to be promoted. Investment in public buildings into initiatives such as solar power heating and other cleaner forms of energy will kickstart the market through public spending, allow for more business activity and also save the government money in the long run.

Each year, the next few months are a source of trepidation for policymakers and gas consumers alike. It is time for us to get rid of the dependency and move towards a future where the use of gas sees minimal change between seasons.

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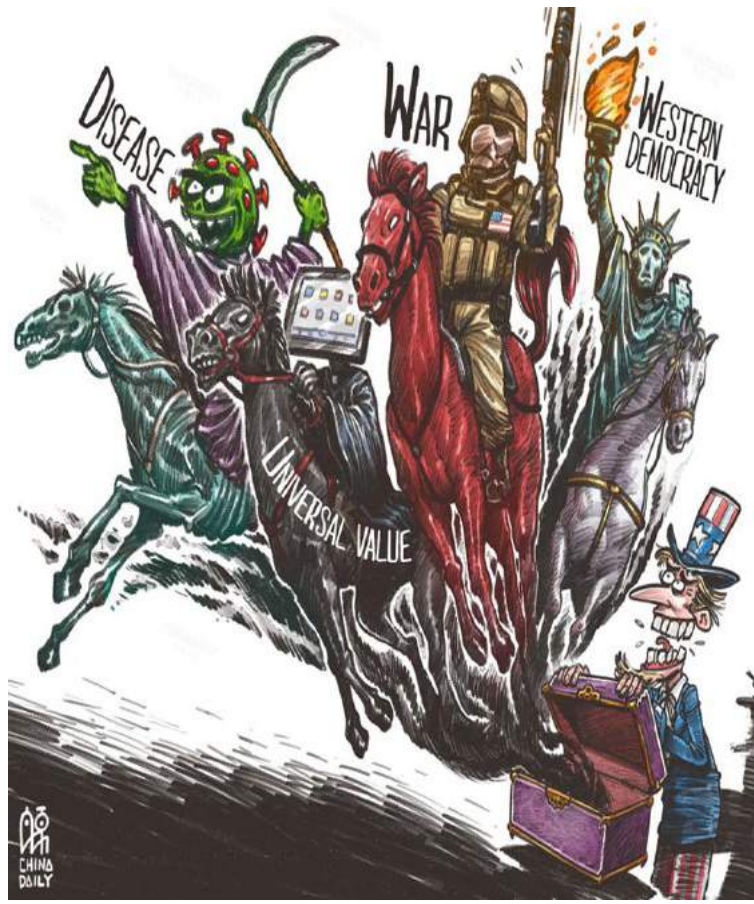
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India's territorial disputes

DIFFERENCES between Bangladesh and India over maritime demarcation in the southern Bay of Bengal is an issue that has been unresolved for decades. Due to India's reluctance to settle the dispute amicably, Bangladesh has time and time against sought mediation through international forums, most noticeably through the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), an official United Nations Observer, and obtained an award in its favour in 2014. However, the dispute has still been ongoing, and finally this year, Bangladesh, tired of India's antics, has gone directly to the UN, filing two appeals to the UN secretary-general against India.

Territorial issues and bad-faith tactics seem to be a given if a country shares a border with India, as all of India's neighbours know too well. These issues end up lasting decades. India's approach includes taking advantage of international forums and putting forward frivolous litigation for reputational purposes when it suits it but backing away and delaying when a neighbour aims to actually resolve the dispute in an international court. This was the tactic displayed in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case where India wasted everyone's time by taking the issue to the International Court of Justice, but lost all interest when the Supreme Court of Pakistan began the review.

This is the same strategy here, where India placed baseless objections to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, but attempts to divert from real solutions, like the UN's arbitral process, where it knows it will lose the claim, or the PCA, which has already issued an award out of favour with India. Pakistan can learn from Bangladesh. If this issue can be brought to the UN, India's illegal actions in IIOK can be taken up by the international body as well. The Prime Minister of Pakistan will speak about Kashmir in the UNGA on Friday. We must increase pressure on taking this forward for an eventual resolution.



Time to break up the military-industrial complex

Katrina Vanden Heuvel

The military-industrial complex's sheer breadth of influence – to the point where it might more accurately be called the military-industrial-congressional-media complex – can make dismantling the system seem hopeless. But history offers a solution. Nearly 80 years ago, then-Sen. Harry S. Truman chaired the Special Committee to Investigate the National Defense Program, a commission to eliminate waste and prevent war profiteering. In just seven years, it saved the country an estimated \$113 billion to \$170 billion in today's dollars. We need something similar – and even bolder – today: an independent commission to disrupt the insidiously symbiotic relationship between the Pentagon and the private sector

TWO days after the United States withdrew from Afghanistan, the House Armed Services Committee voted to set the Pentagon's 2022 budget. Given that U.S. officials claim to be winding down decades-long wars, even maintaining current levels of military spending would seem a mystifying choice. But the committee didn't just vote to maintain current spending levels. It voted to increase them by a whopping \$24 billion.

Which begs the question: Are we spending this money because we need to, even though our military budget is already higher than those of the next 11 largest countries combined? Or are there other incentives at play? Ties between the government and the private sector – what President Dwight D. Eisenhower famously called the “military-industrial complex” – form the foundations of our national defense. Since 9/11, between one-third and half of the nearly \$14 trillion the Pentagon has spent went to for-profit defense contractors. Dozens of members of Congress and their spouses own millions of dollars' worth of stock in those companies. And Pentagon officials regularly leave their government posts to serve on corporate boards or lobby on behalf of – you guessed it – defense contractors. A recent Government Accountability Office report found that, between 2014 and 2019, 1,718 former Defense Department senior and acquisition officials went to work for many of the country's largest defense contractors. Generals have made fortunes joining corporate boards to hock their experience leading a conflict that lasted 20 years, cost taxpayers trillions, and claimed the lives of 176,000 people – only to fail in its primary objective. As columnist Eric Alterman writes, the question of who won the war on terrorism has a clear answer: “the ex-generals and admirals and other defense contractors who made millions off of it.”

The result is that decisions about whether

to engage in military conflicts are shaped by people who have a vested interest in perpetuating these conflicts. Media outlets regularly invite former military and public officials to comment on U.S. defense policies – without disclosing their financial interests in these policies. Over the course of just 10 days in August, retired Army Gen. Jack Keane appeared 16 times on Fox News; retired Army Gen. Barry McCaffrey appeared 13 times on MSNBC; and retired Army Gen. David H. Petraeus appeared six times on MSNBC, CNN and Fox News. Keane chairs a military-vehicle manufacturer, McCaffrey has a long history of not disclosing conflicts of interest and Petraeus serves on the boards of two firms with interests in the defense sector.

The military-industrial complex's sheer breadth of influence – to the point where it might more accurately be called the military-industrial-congressional-media complex – can make dismantling the system seem hopeless. But history offers a solution.

Nearly 80 years ago, then-Sen. Harry S. Truman chaired the Special Committee to Investigate the National Defense Program, a commission to eliminate waste and prevent war profiteering. In just seven years, it saved the country an estimated \$113 billion to \$170 billion in today's dollars. We need something similar – and even bolder – today: an independent commission to disrupt the insidiously symbiotic relationship between the Pentagon and the private sector.

But a commission is just the first step. In 2019, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) proposed a plan that would ban defense officials from owning stock in defense contracting companies and make them wait at least four years after exiting government to join those firms. Her plan would also require contractors to specifically disclose their lobbying activities, and prevent contractors who take government jobs from working on projects

that could affect their former employers.

As for addressing congressional conflicts of interest, there's rare potential for transpartisanship: In March, more than a dozen lawmakers from both sides of the aisle introduced a bill prohibiting members of Congress and senior staffers from buying or selling stocks while in office.

These proposals legislate what should be common sense: The people influencing decisions about whether our country engages in foreign conflicts should not have a clear personal financial incentive to do so. If these proposals even moderately reined in out-of-control military spending, they would free up funding to address different, but no less urgent, concerns. With just the proposed \$24 billion in new Pentagon funds, the federal government could support almost 14 million Americans behind on rent, or help rural and urban communities rebuild from Hurricane Ida, or finance nearly 8 billion covid-19 vaccination doses.

But we shouldn't settle for just blocking further increases in military spending; we should redirect a significant portion of Pentagon spending to measures that will truly make us safer – addressing climate change, preventing future pandemics and reducing racial and economic injustice. Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Wis.), for example, has proposed an amendment that would cut the overall Pentagon budget by 10 percent, excluding any reductions in military personnel or the defense health program. When Eisenhower first cautioned the world about the influence of the military-industrial complex, he warned of “the potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power.” The past two decades of war have fueled that disastrous rise. As we wind down foreign conflicts, our country faces a choice. We can double down on the war-profit cycle – or we can cut it off, and give priority to our citizens, our economy and our integrity on the global stage.

– Courtesy: Washington Post

Examining Pak Navy initiatives since 2002

Mominyar Khaiid Butt

Apart from actively contributing towards regional maritime security, Pakistan Navy has also invested in creating a vigorous security apparatus for the protection of vital coastal installations in the wake of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Coastal Security and Harbour Defence Force and Task Force-88 (TF-88) are worth mentioning here. Comprising of ships, coastal security stations, fast attack aircrafts, drones, surveillance assets, Pakistan Fleet and Pak Marines altogether, both the forces act as force multiplier for the security of CPEC against traditional and non-traditional threats

IN the changing geopolitical and geostrategic environment, securing maritime interests has become all the more important especially when nations' economic security is tied to the security of sea lanes of communications (SLOCs). Pakistan, with its proximity to strategic choke points and location at the most nuclearized ocean of the world transiting 80 percent of sea borne trade in oil, carries immense responsibility to ensure a peaceful environment in Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Consequently, the role of Pakistan Navy becomes important and must be harnessed in order to ward off sea blindness. Being fully aware of the threats and challenges emanating from the IOR, Pakistan Navy has been actively contributing towards regional maritime security through various maritime exercises for demonstrating combat readiness, fostering joint maritime cooperation and improve inter-operability among regional and extra-regional navies. AMAN is one such exercise being organized biennially since 2007. What makes it unique and effective is the participation of regional and extra-regional navies to signify unity and collective resolve to fight the common threat emanating from the sea, thereby, creating a doctrinal synergy among navies to tackle maritime security challenges together.

Similarly, Regional Maritime Security Patrol (RMSP) launched in 2018, is another initiative of Pakistan Navy aimed at promoting region-centric approach of maritime security by limiting dependence on extra regional powers for maritime patrolling in IOR so that economic and scientific activities at sea continue unhindered. It shows the utmost resolve of Pakistan Navy to ensure freedom of the seas and has therefore, earned itself a place among responsible, active and robust navies of the region.

In addition to that, Joint Maritime Information and Coordination Centre (JMICC) was launched by Pakistan Navy in 2013 in view of increasing threats emanating from the sea. By harmonising the efforts of all maritime-related agencies and organisations, JMICC aims to generate a coordinated and timely response to maritime security challenges within Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Pakistan, thus, ensuring security of maritime environment.

Apart from actively contributing towards regional maritime security, Pakistan Navy has also invested in creating a vigorous security apparatus for the protection of vital coastal installations in the wake of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Coastal Security and Harbour Defence Force and Task Force-88 (TF-88) are worth mentioning here. Comprising of ships, coastal security stations, fast attack aircrafts, drones, surveillance assets, Pakistan Fleet and Pak Marines altogether, both the forces act as force multiplier for the security of CPEC against traditional and non-traditional threats.

In addition to fulfilling the primary responsibility of seaward defence, Pakistan Navy is leading the way in projecting maritime awareness and promoting blue economy. National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) established in 2006 under the aegis of Bahria University is helping to achieve the aforementioned objectives. In this regard, International Maritime Conference (IMC) being organised biennially since 2007 under the auspices of NIMA and in tandem with AMAN Exercise is worth mentioning here. The Conference with various themes ranging from blue economy to maritime security renders quality input to the policymakers and broadens the horizon of academic research on maritime affairs. Besides this, to augment maritime research, Na-

tional Centre for Maritime Policy Research (NC-MPR) was established in 2007 to become a seat of maritime policy research by engaging scholars and researchers to provide solutions to the challenges in maritime domain.

Similarly, Maritime Security Workshop (MARSEW) conducted annually under the auspices of Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore is an important step in this regard. What makes it unique is that dignitaries from different walks of life ranging from parliamentarians to academia are invited to attend this two-week workshop consisting of on-campus academic activities and a visit to Navy installations in the South. It is pertinent to mention that on the occasion of MARSEW-18, the first ever Maritime Doctrine of Pakistan (MDP) was launched for better understanding of maritime affairs. Similarly, MARSEW-19 marked the watershed moment for projecting maritime awareness when Maritime Centre of Excellence (MCE) the first of its kind, was established in PN War College in December 2019 with the aim to promote maritime research studied diverse national maritime narrative. Last but not least, projects such as Pakistan Maritime Science and Technology Park (PMSTP) in Karachi speak volumes about the firm commitment of Pakistan Navy towards blue economy and maritime awareness.

Being a custodian maritime security and blue economy, Pakistan Navy has remained at the forefront in building up its capacity and potential as per the changing needs and geostrategic realities. From demonstrating combat readiness to enduring maneuverability at sea to maritime patrolling in IOR to showcasing the potential of blue economy, Pakistan Navy has earned itself a place among the responsible, vigilant and robust navies of the region, thereby, promoting a peaceful image of Pakistan.

Briefs

Paying price of 'absolutely not': Fawad

FROM PAGE 01

The seventh census of Pakistan, which is in the approval phase, will be the first one to be conducted via technology, the minister said, adding that it would be completed within 540 days or 18 months. "We still need a few more details in this regard, and to get them, the prime minister has constituted a committee which will look into the matter and revert to the cabinet," he said.

Chaudhry said it has been decided that the next election, along with using technology, will be held under new delimitations, also noting that it was imperative to work on electoral reforms. The information minister said if the Opposition does not agree with the electoral reforms, then it should bring its own proposal — not sit idle and create hurdles in the government's way. "Their politics only revolves around money. If we drop their cases then they will retire and leave politics," the information hit out at the Opposition by saying.

The information minister said inflation is currently a global phenomenon and that the dollar is depreciating — and both of these combined have hit Pakistan. "The government has taken some big steps in this regard — the Ehsaas Programme and subsidy programmes for the poor." Fawad rejected the notion that people's salaries had not increased. "The income of farmers' has increased by Rs1,100 billion, of masons has gone up three times, plumbers two times, and labourers two times," he said.

NCOC lifts additional curbs in six districts

FROM PAGE 01

September 28, 2021 at the NCOC. The NCOC was closely monitoring the disease spread and the health-care system on a daily basis, where the decisions would be made accordingly whenever there was a need to control the spread of the disease.

Corona claims 81 more lives. Meanwhile, the national tally of total COVID-19 active cases on Tuesday was recorded 62,922 with 1,897 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 2,618 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. Eighty-one corona patients died during past 24 hours, 72 of whom were under treatment in different hospitals and nine of them perished in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). The National COVID positivity ratio during past 24 hours was recorded 4.1 percent.

Taliban urges world..

FROM PAGE 01

the Taliban administration in Afghanistan can then raise issues legally with the new government. "We will work towards resolving their concerns after they recognise the Afghan government," he said.

Mujahid revealed that the Afghan government had arrested people from two groups for their alleged involvement in recent attacks in the Nangarhar province. He said that the people of Afghanistan harboured hate for Daesh. "Our operations against Daesh have been successful in the past," said the deputy minister, adding that the Taliban knew how to deal them a technical blow. Mujahid said that the group did not want any country to interfere in Afghanistan's internal issues. He, however, added that the Taliban would welcome cooperation from the international community.

"Afghanistan will see stability soon, despite challenges," he said. Speaking about the new appointments to the federal Afghan cabinet, the Taliban announced that Haji Nooruddin Azizi, a prominent figure from Panjshir, has been appointed as the country's acting Minister of Commerce. In the new appointments, Mullah Mohammad Ibrahim has been appointed as the senior deputy security minister of the Ministry of Interior.

Pakistan-Uzbekistan sets cricket diplomacy

PCB Director High Performance Nadeem Khan: "TransGroup International has been one of our major partners in recent years and we are delighted to renew our alliance for the upcoming domestic cricket season"

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: As a step towards improving relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan through cricket diplomacy, the Pakistan Cricket Board and Cricket Federation of Uzbekistan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for promotion of the game by developing a working relationship to enhance the capacity, professionalism and performance of the game in Uzbekistan.

As per the MoU, the PCB will plan, organise and implement player development programmes including two high performance camps for emerging play-

ers at the National High Performance Centre, Lahore. These programmes will aim to improve the technical, tactical, mental and game abilities of the players in Uzbekistan.

The PCB will also send its staff to deliver game development programmes in Uzbekistan which will include preliminary curator and grounds staff courses, PCB Level 1 Umpiring Course, Advanced Level 2 Coaching Course, training and analysts courses for various levels will also be conducted.

The PCB will also help prepare Uzbekistan players on life skills and provide guidance on anti-doping, anti-corruption and code of conduct obligations.



Additionally, the PCB will also explore the opportunity of inviting a team from Uzbekistan for participation in domestic tournaments in Pakistan. On the other hand TransGroup International has secured the rights for the domestic cricket season 2021-22 after signing-up with the Pakistan Cricket Board. Trans Group Inter-

national has been working with the PCB for more than two decades in domestic, international and HBL Pakistan Super League events and has now secured rights for the National T20, Quaid-e-Azam Trophy and Pakistan Cup (First XIs) tournaments that will be held in the 2021-22 season.

As part of the new agreement, TransGroup International will have ground and sponsorship rights for the entire domestic cricket season. The First XI tournament of the season is the National T20 which begins at the Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi on Thursday. PCB Director High Performance Nadeem Khan: "TransGroup International

has been one of our major partners in recent years and we are delighted to renew our alliance for the upcoming domestic cricket season.

"As domestic cricket season partners, TransGroup International has the experience and expertise to add more colour and excitement both for the participants and the fans. We at PCB look forward to delivering the domestic cricket season with the same level of commitment and professionalism that was witnessed in the previous season which gathered record eye balls with the extended TV and digital media coverage of all three premier domestic men's tournaments."

All Pakistan CNS Hockey Tournament kicks off



NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: An impressive opening ceremony of 3rd Chief of Naval Staff All Pakistan Hockey Tournament 2021 was held at Abdul SattarEdhi International Hockey Stadium Karachi. Honorable Governor Sindh, Imran Ismail graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Upon arrival, the Chief Guest was received by Commander Karachi, Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest appreciated Pakistan Navy's role in promoting sports and healthy activities in the country. He commended the efforts made by Pakistan Navy in revival of national sport. He

also lauded the efforts put in by all stake holders to make the event successful. 1st edition of the Championship was introduced back in 2016. 2nd edition of the tournament was held at Lahore in 2018. Ever since, it has become a regular and major event on national hockey circuit. Biennial conduct of the tournament is also a manifestation of PN's commitment towards promotion of national sport. Top eight teams of the country including Armed Forces teams are participating in the event. The eight sides are divided into two pools and tournament will commence with pool matches followed by semi finals and final. Qualified technical officials of Pakistan Hock-



ey Federation (PHF)/Sindh Hockey Association (SHA) will conduct the matches. Prize money of the tournament is PKR 4.2 M. Pakistan Navy has always actively pursued the cause of nurturing various sports at national / international level. Apart from Hockey, Pakistan Navy has also been regularly organizing sporting events which include CNS Open Golf, CNS International Squash, CNS Shooting and National Sailing Championships. Pakistan Navy hosted International CISM Sailing Championship a couple of years back in which military teams from 12 different countries participated. In 2018, CNS Open Asian Tour Golf was also hosted by Pa-

kistan Navy with prize money of USD 300000. This initiative of PN not only contributes in generating healthy activities in the society but also helps in project its 'Sporting' image of Pakistan across the globe. Names like Gold Medalists Munir Sadiq, Mamoon Sadiq, Zaka Ullah, Nadia Raees the cricketing sensation Fakhar Zaman and newest Olympian shooter G M Bashir are just to name the few.

The opening ceremony was attended by officers from tri-services, PHF, SHA officials, ex-Olympians / professionals players and members of Managing Committee of the event along with large number of spectators.

European Union states breached air pollution limits

AGENCIES

BRUSSELS: Most European Union countries broke at least one air pollution limit last year, even as COVID-19 lockdowns improved air quality in many regions, according to provisional European Environment Agency (EEA) data published on Tuesday. Excessive air pollution has landed around 10 EU countries in court in recent years, and while air quality has improved this decade it remains Europe's biggest environmental health risk.

Most of the EU's 27 member states exceeded at least one of the bloc's limits for air pollutants in 2020, according to provisional EEA data from monitoring stations. Hotspots in eight EU countries broke annual limits for nitrogen dioxide pollution last year, a large improvement from the 18 countries exceeding the limits in 2019, the EEA said.

The reduction was driven partly by lockdowns introduced to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, which sharply reduced road transport. Traffic is the main source of nitrogen dioxide pollution, which can cause asthma and breathing problems. Meanwhile, areas in eight EU countries broke daily EU limits for particulate matter last year, compared with 16 countries in 2019. Only two EU countries breached annual particulate matter pollution limits in 2020, the EEA said. Prolonged exposure to particular matter can cause lung cancer and cardiovascular disease. Key sources include burning solid fuels, and particulate matter levels are particularly high in regions of central and Eastern Europe where coal is commonly used for home heating.

A total of 17 EU countries breached the EU's target values last year for ozone pollution, a pollutant formed by chemical reactions between heat, light and other greenhouse gases. COVID-19 lockdowns had less impact on ozone pollution, which is also determined by meteorological conditions, the EEA said. In a bid to reduce premature deaths associated with dirty air, the European Commission has said it will revise EU pollution limits next year to better align them with upcoming World Health Organization recommendations.

PM warns of civil war sans...

FROM PAGE 01

That is a worry," he observed. The prime minister further said that in case, there had been a fighting on Afghan soil, it would lead to a humanitarian crises and refugees issue for Pakistan. To a question, he replied after twenty years of civil war, Taliban have come into power. It had been few months, since they had been in power. He, however, expressing his optimism said that Taliban leadership's statements after coming into power had been very encouraging.

Responding to another query by the British broadcast host John Simpson regarding Afghan women's rights, Prime Minister Khan said Afghan women were very strong, 'give them some time and they will assert their rights.'

Macron, Modi vow to 'act jointly'

FROM PAGE 01

India's strategic autonomy, including its industry and technology base, as part of a close relationship based on trust and mutual respect". The statement from Macron's office said France and India's shared approach would be aimed at promoting "regional stability and the rule of law, while ruling out any form of hegemony". Macron's discussion with the Indian leader came before a planned conversation with US President Joe Biden.

France is furious with the US for secretly leading talks about a new strategic alliance, AUKUS, and a deal for the delivery of American nuclear-powered submarines to Australia, calling the move "a stab in the back". Australia informed France only hours before pulling out of the submarines deal, according to the French government. Biden has requested a conversation with Macron, but no date has been set. — APP

Pakistan for multi-dimensional relationship with US...

FROM PAGE 01

Qureshi stressed that a stable government in Afghanistan would be more effective at denying space to terrorist groups. While the Taliban should be held to their commitments on counter-terrorism, human rights, and political inclusivity, the immediate priority must be to help the Afghan people as they confronted a potential humanitarian crisis.

Foreign Minister said that Prime Minister Imran Khan had offered dialogue to India soon after assuming office. He said India had not only rebuffed Pakistan's peaceful overtures, but destabilized the entire region by its illegal actions of 5 August 2019 in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Even so, India had failed to suppress the Kashmiri freedom struggle, which was laid bare by its bewildered and inhuman response to the death of Syed Ali Shah Geelani.

Qureshi said that Pakistan remained committed to finding a peaceful solution to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute but the onus was on India to create the enabling environment for a meaningful and result-oriented dialogue. He hoped that the international community would not sacrifice the principles of self-determination and freedom to political expediency in Kashmir.

Earlier president CFR Ambassador Richard Haass welcomed the Foreign Minister to the Council, which is one of the United States' leading think and the publisher of the Foreign Affairs journal. Shah Mahmood Qureshi outlined his vision for the future of the Pakistan-U.S. relationship and highlighted Pakistan's efforts for regional stability during a keynote address at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. The event was attended by a large number of analysts and members from the think tank community as well as media persons. The Foreign Minister's remarks were followed by an interactive question and answer session with the audience.

Barty among first three qualifiers for WTA Finals



WEB DESK

CANBERRA: Defending champion Ash Barty, world number two Aryna Sabalenka and French Open champion Barbora Krejickova have all qualified for the season-ending WTA Finals in Mexico, the WTA said on Monday. Five more singles players have yet to be named for the finals, which will be contested by the world's top eight singles players and eight doubles teams. The event is scheduled

to kick off on Nov. 8 and was moved to Guadalajara from Shenzhen earlier this month due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced their cancellation last year. "Lifting the Billie Jean King Trophy in Shenzhen in 2019 is one of the best moments of my career," said world number one Barty. "It's a great honor to be among the top eight players in the world and be the first to qualify for the 2021 WTA Finals."

However, it remains to be seen whether the Australian will actually defend her title.

Her coach Craig Tyzzer this month expressed doubts about her participation due to what he called "ridiculous" playing conditions at the high-altitude venue and the timing of the tournament, which he said could interfere with her ability to play at February's Australian Open.

Federer says 'feeling strong' after knee surgery

BERN: Swiss great Roger Federer said he has faced no setbacks and is recovering well after his latest knee operation. Federer, who pulled out of the U.S. Open, said in August he would be sidelined for many months because he needed more knee surgery in order to resume playing.

The 40-year-old had two procedures in 2020 which resulted in more than a year of rehabilitation before a return to action in March. He last played at Wimbledon in July, where he suffered a quarter-final exit, which ended his dream of a record-extending ninth title at the All England Club.

"I'm feeling actually really good ... things are not as I hoped they would be, but I'm recovering well and the rehab is going really good," Federer told Eurosport. "I've had no setbacks. I'm feeling strong and excited for what's to come. I wish I could be back on a tennis court as quick as possible, but I have to be patient. — Agencies

Araujo saves a point for Barca against Granada

MADRID: FC Barcelona defender Ronald Araujo headed home an 89th-minute equalizer for his side to save a 1-1 draw at home to Granada, but the goal and an excellent performance from the Uruguayan does little to hide the fact that Barca are a club desperately struggling for form and confidence.

Under pressure after his side's 3-0 defeat at home to Bayern Munich six days ago and with a host of injuries in his squad, Barca coach Ronald Koeman gave starts to B-team players, Yusuf Demir and Alejandro Balde, who covered for the injured Pedri and Jordi Alba respectively.

Barca needed a good start to the game but got just the opposite after just 90 seconds when Granada left-back Sergio Escudero crossed for Domingos Duarte to head home unopposed at the far post.

The goal made an already nervous Barca more nervous and they were close to falling 2-0 behind when Jorge Molina volleyed just

over in the 11th minute. Sergi Roberto hit the post for Barca with a snap-shot following a corner in the 11th minute, but Barca were struggling to find any fluency against a rival that looked to waste time at any opportunity and the visitors again went close when Marc Andre Ter Stegen produced a flying save to deny Monchu. Barca's best chance of the first half came through an Araujo header which was denied by a flying save from Granada keeper Luis Maximiano, but prior to that Koeman drew the ire of the crowd by replac-

ing Balde (who appeared to be suffering from a back problem) with Oscar Mingueza. Luuk de Jong replaced Sergi Roberto at the start of the second half as Barca looked for an equalizer, but although they were pegging Granada back, their only chance was an effort from Memphis Depay that went over the bar.

17-year-old midfielder Gavi replaced Philippe Coutinho just before the hour, but Barca were so lacking in creativity that with 15 minutes left to play, central defender Gerard Pique came on to play in attack. — Agencies



Taliban stamps out HR in Afghanistan: Amnesty

Human rights report accuses Taliban of several rights violations ranging from limits on press freedom to restrictions on women

NEWS DESK

LONDON: A new report published by Amnesty International, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) details a litany of human rights abuses by Taliban including targeted killings of civilians and surrendered soldiers and the blockading of humanitarian supplies in the Panjshir Valley, which constitute crimes under international law.

The briefing also documented that

restrictions have been reimposed on women, freedom of expression and civil society.

Dinushika Dissanayake, Amnesty International's Deputy Director for South Asia said: "In just over five weeks since assuming control of Afghanistan, the Taliban have clearly demonstrated that they are not serious about protecting or respecting human rights. We have already seen a wave of violations, from reprisal attacks and restrictions on women, to crackdowns on protests, the media and civil society."

"Given the prevailing climate of

fear, lack of mobile connectivity in many areas, and internet blackouts enforced by the Taliban, these findings are likely to represent just a snapshot of what's happening on the ground," she added.

The UN Human Rights Council must establish a robust, independent mechanism with a mandate to document, collect and preserve evidence of ongoing crimes under international law and other serious human rights violations and abuses across Afghanistan, she stressed.

The report mentioned the worsening climate of fear for human

rights defenders on a near-daily basis since August 15. The Taliban are conducting door-to-door searches for human rights defenders, forcing many into hiding.

On persecution of journalists, Amnesty International said that they spoke to two Kabul-based female journalists who shared the threats and intimidation they faced following the Taliban takeover.

The rights organisation has also documented that some protests were violently repressed by the Taliban.

Juliette Rousselot, FIDH's Programme Officer for South Asia

said "The international community must not turn a blind eye to the violations being committed by the Taliban. Taking concrete action at the UN Human Rights Council will not only send the message that impunity will not be tolerated, but also contribute to preventing violations on a broader scale."

Rousselot added, "This should go hand in hand with support for the ongoing investigation at the International Criminal Court, in order to secure accountability for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed by all parties."

Briefs

Russian warships leave Baku Port

DNA

BAKU: The Astrakhan and Anatoly Gulin warships of Russia's Caspian Flotilla have left the port of Baku, the Defence Ministry reported on September 20. The warships arrived in Azerbaijan on an unofficial friendly visit on September 18, the report added. As a part of the visit, Azerbaijani Naval Forces Commander Subhan Bakirov and Russian Caspian Flotilla Detachment Commander Vladimir Zaytsev discussed friendly relations and other issues of mutual interest. Furthermore, the head of the Azerbaijani Navy received the naval crews and discussed the bilateral military cooperation perspectives within the scope of the visit. In addition, an excursion was held for the guests in Baku city to view cultural and historical monuments. The Russian Caspian flotilla is the largest and most powerful naval unit in the Caspian Sea. None of the Caspian littoral states has such a number of warships with modern onboard weaponry as Russia does.

New Zealand reports 14 new Delta cases

WELLINGTON: New Zealand reported 14 new Delta cases on Tuesday as its largest city Auckland will relax restrictions from midnight by moving to COVID-19 Alert Level 3 for at least two weeks. Tuesday's new COVID-19 infections, all recorded in Auckland and its suburb, brought the total number of confirmed cases in the country's community outbreak to 1,085. Director-General of Health Ashley Bloomfield told a press conference. Auckland has remained at Level 4, the top-level COVID-19 lockdown, for more than 30 days, longer than last year's lockdown, with schools and non-essential businesses closed. Construction work and take-away services can resume with necessary safety measures in place, while most students are encouraged to study at home.

The rest of the country will stay at Alert Level 2, which means businesses and schools are back to normal, with mask-wearing being mandatory in certain settings and gatherings limited to 50 people in size. Currently in New Zealand, 15 community cases are being treated in hospital, including four in intensive care units (ICUs) or high dependency units (HDUs), Bloomfield said. There are 1,054 cases that have been clearly epidemiologically-linked to another case or sub-cluster, and a further 10 cases for which links are yet to be fully established, he said. — APP

Greece fire breaks out, prompting evacuations

ATHENS: A wildfire broke out in a Greek seaside town northeast of Athens on Monday, burning through brush and pine trees and causing precautionary evacuations, firefighters said. The latest fire comes after Greece was shaken by deadly blazes last month fanned by a heatwave that officials blamed on global warming. Around 70 firefighters and 20 vehicles were battling flames on Monday night in the town of Nea Makri, 38 kilometres (24 miles) northeast of the capital, an official for the firefighters' press service said. "The fire broke out at 10.35 pm local time (1935 GMT) near homes in Nea Makri, and evacuations have been recommended as a precaution," the official told AFP. A series of devastating forest fires claimed three lives and ravaged more than 100,000 hectares (250,000 acres) across Greece in early August, mainly northwest of the capital, on the island of Evia and in the southern Peloponnese. It was also a brutal summer fire season for a swathe of southern European countries, including Spain, Italy, Croatia, France and Cyprus, while blazes also claimed lives in Turkey and Algeria. — APP

EU backs France as Australia submarine deal strains alliance

The security pact, known as AUKUS, includes the sale of nuclear-powered submarines to Australia, and has strained relations between western countries ahead of the start of this week's annual gathering of world leaders for the United Nations General Assembly

FOREIGN DESK

BRUSSELS: European Union leaders have rallied behind France in its anger over a multi-billion dollar submarine deal with Australia that was scrapped when Canberra signed up to a trilateral Asia Pacific security pact with the United States and the United Kingdom. The security pact, known as AUKUS, includes the sale of nuclear-powered submarines to Australia, and has strained relations between western countries ahead of the start of this week's annual gathering of world leaders for the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Speaking after the closed-door meeting on the sidelines of the assembly, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said "more cooperation, more coordination, less fragmentation" was needed to achieve a stable and peaceful Indo-Pacific region where China is the major rising power. The bloc's foreign ministers "expressed clear solidarity with France," Borrell said. "This announcement ran counter to calls for greater cooperation with the European Union in the Indo-Pacific," he said. French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian earlier on Monday accused the US of betrayal and Australia of backstabbing. Le Drian called on Europeans to "think hard" about alliances, and accused US President Joe Biden's administration of continuing the "unilateralism, unpredictability, brutality and not respecting your partner" of his predecessor Donald Trump.

Berlin sides with Paris over submarine deal

AGENCIES

BERLIN: Germany expressed strong support for France on Tuesday after Australia scrapped a multi-million dollar submarine deal leading to renewed tensions between the EU and US. Speaking to reporters in Brussels ahead of a meeting of EU ministers of general affairs, Germany's Europe Minister Michael Roth said: "Of course, I have great understanding for our French partners and we are also in close contact (with them). It is once again a wake-up call for all of us in the European Union to ask ourselves how we can strengthen our sovereignty." He added: "It has been shown time and again that the unified appearance of the European Union is of outstanding importance. We cannot rely exclusively on others; we have to cooperate and we have to overcome our differing views, which of course sometimes also

The US has sought to soothe anger in France, a NATO ally, and Biden is due to speak to French President Emmanuel Macron on the phone in the next few days. "We are allies, we talk and don't hide elaborate different strategies. That's why

exist on these issues in the European Union, and speak with one voice." Roth acknowledged this was "a very difficult situation for France," saying lost trust had to be restored. EU leaders have rallied behind Paris in its wrath over the deal with Australia that was discarded when Canberra signed up to AUKUS, a trilateral Asia Pacific security pact, to assemble nuclear submarines. EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell "expressed clear solidarity with France," saying "this announcement ran counter to calls for greater cooperation with the European Union in the Indo-Pacific," he said. Borrell's remarks were underscored by EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen who said France was treated in an "unacceptable" way. French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian has branded the agreement a "stab in the back," and recalled the French ambassadors to Canberra and Washington for consultations.

there is a crisis in confidence," Le Drian said. "So all that needs clarifications and explanations. It may take time." Australia signed the deal to buy French diesel-powered submarines in 2016. The agreement was cancelled when the AUKUS pact

UK records another 36,100 corona cases

LONDON: Another 36,100 people in Britain have tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the total number of coronavirus cases in the country to 7,465,448, according to official figures released Tuesday. The country also recorded another 49 coronavirus-related deaths. The total number of coronavirus-related deaths in Britain now stands at 135,252. These figures only include the deaths of people who died within 28 days of their first positive test. The latest data came as a trial of what has been described as the world's first multi-variant vaccine booster against COVID-19 kicked off in the British city of Manchester on Monday. A married couple, both in their 60s, became the first participants in the trial, a collaboration between the University of Manchester and a National Health Service (NHS) foundation trust in the city. Launched by U.S. pharmaceutical company Gritstone, the drug, called GRT-R910, is claimed to boost the immune response of first-generation COVID-19 vaccines to a wide array of variants of Sars-Cov-2, which cause COVID-19. — APP

Azeri products showcased at int'l expo

FOREIGN DESK

BAKU: Azerbaijani products are being presented at the international food exhibition WorldFood Moscow held in Russia on September 21-24, Azerbaijan's Export and Investment Promotion Foundation (AZ-PROMO) has reported. Such products as fruit juices, various wines, natural mineral waters, tea, dairy products, hazelnuts, fruits and vegetables, confectionery products etc produced by more than 20 Azerbaijani companies are presented at the exhibition at the single national stand "Made in Azerbaijan".

It should be noted that Azerbaijan will be presented at the WorldFood exhibition for the 5th time this year with a single national stand. Earlier this year Azerbaijan also participated in the International building materials exhibition Mos-Build 2021, ProDEXPO 2021, Heimtextil Russia 2021 and the TransRussia 2021 international transport expo in Moscow, Russia, China Food and Drinks Fair, TAOWINE Hotel Show exhibition, and the 31st International Trade and Economic Exhibition China, Global Village International Fair and Arabian Travel Market 2021 held in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates.

Moreover, this year, Azerbaijani companies will present their products at China International Import Expo in Shanghai, China under the single country stand "Made in Azerbaijan". AZPROMO's acting head Yusif Abdullayev earlier announced that Azerbaijani entrepreneurs would participate in a number of international exhibitions in 2021.

Pakistan, Belarus hold bilateral meeting on the sidelines of IAEA conference

DNA



VIENNA: Pakistan and Belarus held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the 65th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), currently taking place in Vienna. Chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) Mr. Muhammad Naem led the Pakistani delegation. The Belarus side was led by Belarusian Minister for Energy Mr. Victor Karankevich. Pakistan's Permanent Representative to International Organizations in Vienna, Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, also participated in the meeting. The objective of the meeting was to explore possibilities of collaboration between the two countries in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the areas of health, agriculture and industry, under the auspices of IAEA. Belarusian Minister of Energy invited the Chairman PAEC to undertake a visit to Belarus for detailed discussions in this regard. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher appreciated Belarus' support for Pakistan's membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

Pakistan, Afghanistan trade now picking up

ISLAMABAD: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Iftikhar Ali Malik Tuesday said that bilateral trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan was picking up pace as it swelled to 60 percent during last week. Talking to a delegation of exporters led by Syed Yawer Abbas Bahwalpuri, he said it could be increased manifolds if old infrastructure was replaced with modern facilities of handling at all land border routes including Thorckham and Chaman for early scanning and clearing of goods from either sides. He stressed the need for fast track resolution of all issues including removal of non-tariff barriers impeding the smooth flow of bilateral trade besides further strengthening of economic ties with Afghanistan. — APP

OGRA holds workshop on Safety and Compliance of Rules

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: A one-day workshop, "driving change" on the challenges of regulatory body - monitoring and compliance of rules and regulations and carrying out inspections, reporting and the role of Third Party Inspectors in the implementation of OGRA Rules and Regulations was held in a local hotel. 17 number OGRA pre-qualified Third Party Inspectors including HDIP were invited

to present and highlight areas of focus where 'change' is required for better implementation of OGRA rules and regulations. All TPIs presented their ideas and the questions were asked by participants after each presentation. The Chairman OGRA informed that arranging this interactive session is primarily to bring positive change in the organization and to explore opportunities through discourse as how to improve compliance and to ensure safety and security in the

country. He further added that through change and self-belief we can make OGRA as the leading regulatory body in Pakistan driving safety agenda.

The objective of this one-day workshop was to reiterate OGRA's vision to become world-class regulator and implement internationally recognized top-class safety standards in processes, facilities covering LPG, Petroleum products, CNG, LNG, Storage terminals, Refineries and Pipelines reiterated by Mr.

Masroor Khan. "OGRA is focused to achieve brilliance by aligning its current standards and procedures with International Practices towards standardization without the intent of reinventing the wheel." Chairman OGRA. At the end around 100 participants gave their ideas as to where they see OGRA in near future especially in the fields of Oil, LPG, LNG, CNG, Petrol Pumps, Oil Terminals and Refineries, Pipelines, Lubricants, etc.

Karabakh to become green energy zone

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijani President's Special Representative to Shusha Aydin Karimov has said that the entire Karabakh region, including Shusha city, will become a "green energy" zone, Trend reported on September 20. "The entire Karabakh region, including Shusha, will become a 'green energy' zone, and we will try to use sustainable energy as much as possible," he said. Karimov noted that the construction and the re-

construction have been underway in Shusha for about ten months. He highlighted that initially, the projects of urban infrastructure had started.

He underlined that among the infrastructure projects, those related to the city's power supply are of particular importance. "The 110/35/110 kV substation is already fully operational. In accordance with the Azerbaijani president's relevant decree, the construction of the heating system in Shusha has begun," the special representative said.

Sudanese army thwarts 'failed' coup attempt

AGENCIES

KHARTOUM: Sudanese authorities have reported a failed attempt to overthrow the country's transitional government, blaming "military officers and civilians" from the former government of deposed President Omar al-Bashir. Sudan's Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok addressed the attempted coup, which took place early Tuesday, he called it an "extension of previous attempts" to overthrow the transitional government created after longtime leader al-Bashir was removed from power in 2019. "We tried to take advantage of the situation in different towns by closing the ports and the roads. They took advantage of the national crisis and tried to stop us from moving forward during this transition-

period," he said. Earlier on Tuesday, Information Minister Hamza Baloul said military officers and civilians linked to al-Bashir had attempted a coup but were swiftly brought under control. "We brought under control a coup attempt by military officers early Tuesday," Baloul said. Authorities "have arrested leaders of the failed plot, which involved military officers and civilians belonging to the defunct regime", he added. A government source told media that information about the coup attempt was made available to the government on Monday evening. Reporting from Khartoum, Arab media said the capital woke up to "what seemed like a pretty normal morning", except that one of the bridges leading to Omdurman, the twin city of the capital, was blocked.

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Briefs

EVMs crucial to curb menace of rigging

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Tuesday said use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) was the permanent solution for curbing the menace of electoral rigging and reclaim the credibility of elections.

Talking to a private news channel, he said the country had the capacity to produce more than 2000 electronic voting machines in a day that was required for elections, adding, those objecting EVMs should come up with a new suggestions to prevent electoral fraud.

Farrukh said PTI-led government invited opposition a number of times on EVM issue but it never took the matter seriously and raised unwarranted objections. PTI's politics was only based on accountability and transparency, adding, the incumbent government was working to ensure transparent elections in future, he added.

"Those opposing the use of EVMs are against fair and transparent elections in the country", he criticized.

"The opposition can call any national as well as international experts to show them the machine to address their reservations", he added. - APP

Tianjin named sister-city to Karachi, Islamabad

DNA

BEIJING: China's Tianjin Municipality was declared as sister cities to Karachi and Islamabad respectively and sister-province to Punjab to further enhance the bond of friendship between China and Pakistan.

According to Gwadar Pro, Pakistani Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque and Mayor of Tianjin Municipality, Liao Guoxun, signed a 'Letters of Intent' for establishment of sister-city and sister-province relationships with Karachi, Islamabad and Punjab province.

Earlier, Ambassador Haque held a meeting with Secretary of CPC Tianjin Municipal Central Committee Li Hongzhong. Mayor of Tianjin Municipality Liao Guoxun and other high-level senior officials were also present at the meeting.

During the meeting, Li Hongzhong said that China and Pakistan are All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partners. "Our iron-clad friendship is deeply rooted in the hearts of the people of two brotherly countries."

Sindh passes resolution to pay tribute to Latif Bhittai

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Provincial Assembly of Sindh on Tuesday passed resolution to pay rich tributes to the legend Sufi poet Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai and annually local holiday on Wednesday.

Provincial Assembly members among Minister Syed Sardar Shah briefly portrayed the services of Bhittai and the history on the occasion, while PPP MPA Heer Sohu, PTI MPA Firdous Shameem Naqvi, MQM MPA Muhammad Hussain, GDA MPA Nand Kumar jointly presented resolution of Shah Latif Bhittai and spoke high about the great work of Shah Abdul Latif on his 278th Urs Mubarak.

Provincial members of Sindh Assembly expressed that Bhittai's great services was not only Sindh but world over acknowledged, his message of love, peace, tranquility and humanity is unforgettable.

They said the mystic Sufi Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai was great beacon of light in dark history, who raised voice of truth and spread the message of true spirit and equality, which depicts in his poetry.

The Sindh Assembly session was chaired by Deputy Speaker Rehana Leghari and later joined by Speaker SA Agha Siraj Durani in the half, later, the session was summoned on 2:00 pm Friday.

Canada: Trudeau stays in power, falls short of majority

"You elected a government that will fight for you and deliver for you," Trudeau says

NEWS DESK

TORONTO: Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party has narrowly won Canada's election, but it failed to secure a majority of seats.

This is Mr Trudeau's third federal election win, but his critics say the poll was a waste of time.

The Liberals are projected to win 158 seats, short of the 170 seats needed for the majority Mr Trudeau was seeking with his early election call.

The Conservatives have held onto their main opposition status and are expected to win about 122 seats.

"There are still votes to be counted but what we've seen tonight is millions of Canadians have chosen a progressive plan," Mr Trudeau told supporters in

Montreal in the early hours of Tuesday morning.

"You elected a government that will fight for you and deliver for you," he said.

The election, which took place during a fourth pandemic wave in Canada, was the most expensive in the country's history, costing some C\$600m (\$470m; £344m).

The projected results suggest a parliament strikingly similar to the one elected just two years ago in 2019.

The snap election call, sending Canadians to the polls for the second time in two years, was widely seen as a bid by Mr Trudeau to secure a majority government and he struggled to explain why a campaign was necessary.

Conservative leader Erin O'Toole suggested it was a



waste of time and money. "Canadians sent him back with another minority at a cost of \$600m and deeper divisions in our great country", he told reporters.

Mr Trudeau maintained that the election gave the incoming government a clear mandate in moving forward.

But over the course of the campaign, he struggled to convince voters of the need for an election, which also coincided with rising Covid-19 case loads due to the Delta variant.

Separately he was also heckled by anti-vaccine protesters on the campaign trail, with some shouting they would refuse the Covid jab.

While questions will inevitably be raised about Mr Trudeau's political future, Liberal MP Pablo Rodriguez told journalists early in the evening that no mat-

ter the outcome, he had "100% confidence" in him as Liberal Party leader.

"And all the members of the party do as well," he said.

The country's left-wing New Democrats (NDP), which ran on a "tax the ultra-rich" message with leader Jagmeet Singh trying to tap into progressive voters frustrated with the Liberals, looks to have picked up a small number of seats.

Vote counts will continue to trickle in over the coming days as elections officials tally the roughly one million mail-in ballots cast this election, and current seat tallies are still to be finalised.

image caption Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole speaks from Oshawa, Ontario

For the Conservatives, the result is a disappointment for new party leader Erin

O'Toole, who ran on a centrist message in a bid to expand the party's base of support. Like in 2019, the party is projected to have won the popular vote. But the first-past-the-post system - awarding victory to the candidate with most votes in any given constituency - means that has not translated to seats won.

Speaking to party faithful in Oshawa, Ontario, a defiant Mr O'Toole pitched his vision for a bigger Conservative tent, saying: "Our party needed the courage to change because Canada has changed."

He urged supporters not to waiver from the commitment to grow the party's base, acknowledging that "clearly there is more work for us to do" in setting the stage for a better showing in the next campaign.

Egypt's first post-Mubarak ruler dies aged 85

CAIRO: Egypt's Mohammed Hussein Tantawi, who headed the military junta that ruled after president Hosni Mubarak's ouster in the Arab Spring protests, has died at age 85, the presidency said Tuesday.

After his stint as Egypt's de facto leader, he was soon sacked by the country's first freely elected president, Mohamed Morsi, and spent his remaining years largely out of public view.

President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi paid tribute to him in a statement that confirmed his death, calling him one of "Egypt's most loyal sons".

"He dedicated his life to serving the nation for more than half a century. (He was) a statesman who took responsibility for running the country during a very critical time," the statement added, referring to the tumult after the 2011 revolution.

The government newspaper Akhbar al-Youm said the field marshal died on Tuesday "after giving a lot" to his country. - APP

Macron walks domestic tightrope over US subs deal

AGENCIES

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron's fury over the cancellation of a huge submarine contract is part of a bid to show strong leadership in the run-up to 2022 elections, but he needs to tread carefully to avoid tripping up, analysts say.

France's unprecedented recall of its US and Australian ambassadors over the scuppering of its 31-billion-euro "deal of the century" to supply Australia with 12 submarines caught Washington and Canberra off guard.

Nearly a week after the deal was torpedoed, Macron has not yet publicly commented on Australia's decision to ditch its French order for American nuclear-powered vessels as part of a new defence pact with the US and UK to counter a rising China.

But while leaving it to Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian to complain that France had been "stabbed in the back" by its friends, it was Macron who took the decision to bring home France's envoys.

The move, usually reserved for adversaries, appeared aimed at sending a message that one of the West's

biggest military powers - which aims to be a moderating influence at a time of US-Chinese tensions in the Indo-Pacific region - deserves more respect.

US President Joe Biden attempted to smooth the waters by requesting a telephone call with his French counterpart.

But Macron has appeared in no hurry to grant him an audience.

On Tuesday, he held talks with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, where the two vowed to work together to promote stability in the Indo-Pacific area in a way that precludes "any form of hegemony."



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. - DNA

Asad hails media team's role in Covid-19 response

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives and Chairman National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Asad Umar on Tuesday lauded the efforts of the media team associated to the Centre for coordinated reporting and raising awareness on the pandemic.

NCOC chair took to Twitter to extend kudos for the information team including the ISPR and various departments of the Health and Information Ministries for managing the news communication for credible and genuine information pertaining to decisions made at the forum to contain the disease spread.

Asad wrote, "Want to acknowledge members of an aspect of covid response which played a vital role in success: The information team. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), and Ministry of Health worked extremely

hard and did an outstanding job."

NCOC chief also mentioned the departments for their vital support particularly provided by Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA), Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain and Director General ISPR Major General Babar Iftikhar.

It is worth mentioning that during the whole pandemic period, the media campaign was well executed by the ISPR and the departments of Ministry of Information including Associated Press of Pakistan. The reporters, cameramen and photographers of the premier news agency had been continuously dispensing their duties at the NCOC for coverage of events and issuing reports to national media under the guidance of the Information Ministry and the NCOC. - APP

Zalmay calls on Qureshi

NEW YORK: US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad called on Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in New York today. They discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan and the continued need for an inclusive political settlement in Afghanistan.

The Foreign Minister reiterated Pakistan's support for a broad based and stable government in Afghanistan, which can be a credible development and security partner for the international community.

He expressed concern about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and hoped that international community would support the Afghan people in order to prevent further instability in the region.

The Foreign Minister and Ambassador Khalilzad agreed that continued close coordination between Pakistan and the United States was critical to achieving a comprehensive and peaceful political settlement in Afghanistan. - DNA



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NAB orders sale of Nawaz' properties

In the letter, the deputy commissioners have been apprised of all the details of Nawaz Sharif's saleable properties

SHUJAAT HAMZA

LAHORE: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has ordered the immediate sale of properties belonging to former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and has issued a letter to the concerned deputy commissioners in this regard, media reported Tuesday.

In the letter, Director-General of NAB's Lahore office, Shahzad Saleem, stated that for the first time in the country's history, the decision to recover fines from a former prime minister has been implemented.

The country's accountability watchdog maintained that it had initiated proceedings to recover an £8 million fine - equivalent to Rs1.85 billion - from Nawaz in the Avenfield apartments case. Aside from the imposition of fines, in July 2018, an accountability court had sentenced Nawaz to ten years of imprisonment. In the letter, the deputy commissioners have been apprised of all the details of Nawaz Sharif's saleable properties, including bungalows situated at Lahore's Upper Mall Road and agricultural lands in Sheikhpura and other areas.

The proceeds from the sale of properties

would be used for the development of the country, the letter said, adding that if the full amount of the fine is not recovered, a search for further assets of the convict will be carried out.

In 2016, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists released leaked documents of Mossack Fonseca, a private law firm based in Panama, which disclosed details of offshore companies incorporated under the laws of the British Virgin Islands.

Per the documents, Nawaz Sharif owned two offshore companies, namely, Nescoll Limited and Nielson Enterprises Limited. These companies bought apartments no. 16, 16 A, 17 and 17 A, in Avenfield House, Park Lane, London, in 1993, 1995, and 1996.

NAB claims that the apartments were purchased by Nawaz and his children through "corrupt, dishonest or illegal means" because in 1993 Sharif's children had no source of income.

"The father is a natural guardian of his children, thus the stance taken by the accused [Sharif] that the children were dependents of their grandfather could not be substantiated," the Bureau was quoted as saying in an IHC judgement.

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