



Islamabad POST

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Japan's assistance will continue to uplift Pak socioeconomic sector

Detailed News On Page-08

Afghan health care system about to crash

Detailed News On Page-08



Javeria leads Challengers to victory

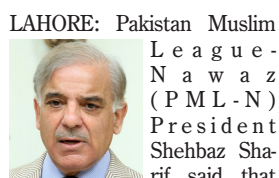
Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Shehbaz warns of dengue

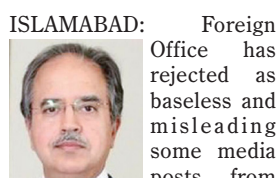
ABID RAZA



LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif said that the danger posed by dengue to the lives of the people is becoming more and more serious. In a statement issued from Lahore, Shehbaz said that the rulers were negligent. Dengue is very deadly, the result of negligence will be the loss of precious lives. He said that the government can save the people from this deadly virus by adopting preventive measures including dengue dashboard made during PML-N's govt. He said that there is a complete system, trained staff and procedures in place to deal with dengue.

Pakistan rejects false Indian claims

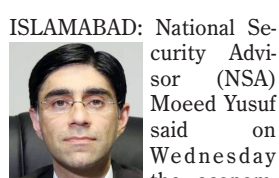
SAIFULLAH



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office has rejected as baseless and misleading some media posts from Indian journalists attributing the cancellation of the proposed informal SAARC Ministerial meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, to Pakistan. In a statement, Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said this is yet another example of fake news pedaled by India and propagated by its pliant media to mislead the international community.

Security demands economic stability

STAFF REPORT



ISLAMABAD: National Security Advisor (NSA) Moeed Yusuf said on Wednesday the economic stability and are interlinked on a deeper level and expressed the need to maintain ties with central asian republics. We need to better and further our relations with the central asian countries, Moeed Yusuf said on Wednesday while addressing media. The Prime Minister of Pakistan is resolute to transform Pakistan into a welfare state on the model of Medina, the NSA said.

India behind cancellation of NZ tour

Cancellation of New Zealand Team's tour is a result of fifth generation hybrid war against Pakistan, says Fawad



ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhary Fawad Hussain has regretted that a fake threat alert was created from India to get the New Zealand tour of Pakistan cancelled. Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said that cancellation of New Zealand Cricket Team's tour of Pakistan was result of fifth generation hybrid war against Pakistan as fake news was generated by India to scuttle the tour. Addressing a joint press conference along with Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed here,

Continued on Page 06

Afghanistan says want to host Pak cricket team

NEWS DESK / DNA

KABUL: Newly appointed Afghanistan cricket chairman Azizullah Fazli said on Wednesday he would visit Pakistan later this week to invite the side for a one-day series. The war-torn nation has steadily risen in international cricket over the past few years, with stars such as the world's top spinner Rashid Khan, but there have been calls for a boycott of the men's team after the Taliban's takeover last month. The change of government has called into question the future of Afghanistan's participation in Test matches, as under International Cricket Council regulations, nations must also have an active women's team.

Continued on Page 06

COAS inaugurates latest CIADBAM

Army Chief wants greater synchronisation to tackle complex future battle field challenges

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Wednesday inaugurated state-of-the-art Center of Integrated Air Defence Battle Management (CIADBAM) and said there was need for greater cooperation, integration and synchronisation to tackle complex and fluid future battle field challenges. Commander Army Air Defence Command, Lieutenant General Hamood Uz Zaman



Khan briefed the COAS regarding Air Defence battle management procedures and complete functioning of newly built CIADBAM, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) media release received here. Commending Pakistan Army Air Defence which has progressed phenomenally over the years and was ready to take on any misadventure by enemy in aerial frontiers of Pakistan, the COAS appreciated their professionalism, expressing complete satisfaction on operational readiness.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani presenting a souvenir to Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov. – DNA



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan in a meeting with members of Pakistan cricket team. – DNA

French envoy to return to US

Macron and Biden will meet at the end of October in Europe



WEB DESK

PARIS: France will send its ambassador back to Washington next week after French President Emmanuel Macron and President Joe Biden agreed in a phone call Wednesday to meet next month over a submarine dispute. The two heads of state "have decided to open a process of in-depth consultations, aimed at creating the conditions for ensuring confidence," the Elysee and the White House said in a joint statement. Macron and Biden will meet at the end of October in Europe, the statement said. In an unprecedented move, France recalled its ambassador after the U.S., Australia and Britain announced a new Indo-Pacific defense deal last week. As part of the pact, Australia will cancel a multibillion-dollar contract to buy diesel-electric French submarines and acquire U.S. nuclear-powered vessels instead. The French ambassador will "have intensive work with senior U.S. officials" after his return to the United States, the statement said. Biden and Macron agreed "that the situation would have benefitted from open consultations among allies on matters of strategic interest to France and our European partners," it said. Biden "conveyed his ongoing commitment in that regard." Biden reaffirmed in the statement "the strategic importance of French and European engagement in the Indo-Pacific region."

PM urges world to incentivize Taliban

– Says Taliban came into power after 20 years of civil power, so they require some time

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has urged the international community to seize the great opportunity for bringing stability in Afghanistan by supporting, encouraging and incentivizing the Taliban government so that they could fulfill their promises. He further stressed that the international community must realize the situation in Afghanistan which could

Continued on Page 06

PM Khan gives tips to national cricket team

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday advised the national cricket team to inculcate a team spirit, adopt aggressive posturing and play with a sole passion to win. The prime minister, who had captained Pakistan's 1992 World Cup winning team, met the national cricket team here and gave tips to become a successful cricketer while sharing his success story. Special Assistant to PM Dr Shahbaz Gill, Senator Faisal Javed and Chairman of Pakistan Cricket Board Ramiz Raja also attended the meeting. The prime minister believed that Allah had defined truthfulness and honesty as the principles of success.

Three Brothers military exercise ends in Baku

Peace mission exercises opened in Russia

BAKU: Trilateral Exercise Three Brothers - 2021 culminated at Baku, Azerbaijan. Special forces of Pakistan, Turkey and Azerbaijan participated in the exercise. The two weeks long exercise was focused on the capability to counter regional terrorism threats in a hybrid scenario, fostering combined force interoperability, joint force integration and enhance capabilities in amphibious operations. The chief guest of final exercise was Azerbai-



jan Minister of Defence Zakir Hasanov. Also in attendance were Services Chief of Azerbaijan, Commander of Special Forces Azerbaijan, General Hikmat Mirzayev along with observers from Kazakhstan and Major General Mumtaz Hussain From Pakistan. The august gathering witnessed final phase of joint training that included live fire of different

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Inside...

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Asad Umar, RCCI discuss industrial zones, RRP – Page 03

COMSTECH, IOFS hold int'l training on PGR conservation – Page 04

UN has rare opportunity to forge global consensus – Page 05

US hegemony no longer credible, Iran tells UN – Page 06

Uzbek President says we need to help Afghan people – Page 07

ADB projects Pakistan's GDP to rise by 4% in FY 2022 – Page 08

GSP plus status extended with 6 new conventions

The new conventions pertain to greater accessibility for people with physical disability, the eradication of child labour, and environmental safety

CENTRELINE REPORT

BRUSSELS: Pakistan's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP+) status was extended by the European Union on Tuesday, with six new conventions introduced. According to a statement by the European Commission, the new conventions pertain to greater accessibility for people with physical disability, the eradication of child labour, and environmental safety. The Commission, which reviewed the status of several

FM discusses bilateral issues with EU official

ALI FURQAN

NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with Mr. Josep Borrell, the High Representative of the European Union (EU) for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on the sidelines of UN General Assembly in New York on Wednesday. Views were exchanged on the latest developments in Afghanistan and bilateral cooperation between the two sides. Foreign Minister Qureshi stressed that Afghanistan was at a cross-roads and that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan was of crucial importance for

Continued on Page 06

other countries along with Pakistan, said talks will continue with the EU-Pakistan Joint Commission. "In the latest review, Pakistan's individual status was not discussed," it said, adding that the discussion revolved around "new conditions" in GSP Plus, which include the six new aforementioned conventions. It was observed that Pakistan has made considerable progress when it comes to labour laws and tackling climate change –

Continued on Page 06

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Briefs

Punjab
CM Office
expenses cut
by 76pc

MONITORING DESK

LAHORE: Punjab Government Spokesperson and Provincial Minister for Prisons Fayyazul Hassan Chohan said on Wednesday that expenses of Chief Minister's Office had been reduced by 76 percent.

In a statement issued here, he said that in the previous tenure of 2017-18 (the last year of PML-N government), 173 vehicles were in use in the CM's Office whereas, the number of vehicles had been reduced to 110 during 2020-21 which includes vehicles used by officers and personnel of CM Secretariat.

In the previous regime 2017-18, Rs 42 million were spent on the maintenance of vehicles whereas expenditures in this head remained limited to only Rs 15 million during 2020-21. In 2017-18, 372,000 liters oil was used in the vehicles of CM office, while in 2020-21 only 228,000 liters oil was utilized.

During 2017-18, Rs 35 million were spent in the fuel head in the CM's office, whereas during 2020-21, despite the increase in petrol prices, only Rs 270 million were spent. The non-salary expenditure of the CM Office were Rs 240 million in 2017-18, whereas, on the instructions of the Punjab Chief Minister only Rs 140 million was spent in this head in 2020-21. Rs 90 million were spent in the head of entertainment and gifts in 2017-18, whereas, Rs 44 million were spent in 2020-21 under this head.

Sindh govt
accused of
extrajudicial
killings

STAFF REPORT

KARACHI: Leader of the Opposition in Sindh Assembly, Haleem Adil Sheikh, Wednesday, alleged Sindh government of victimizing political opponents and killing PTI supporters in fake encounters.

Haleem Adil Sheikh, while addressing a press conference here at Sindh Assembly along with PTI leader Maleeha Soomro and Central President PTI Youth wing Moulana Bux Soomro, appealed Chief Justice of Pakistan to take notice of extrajudicial killings in Jacobabad.

Haleem Adil Sheikh alleged PPP government of using police force against political opponents.

Jacobabad a district bordering to Balochistan become hub of illegal activities including robberies, smuggling and drug peddling, Haleem alleged.

He observed that Chief Justice Supreme Court, Justice Gulzar Ahmed, during hearing of Nasla Tower review petition passed remarks against Sindh government. "Game of corruption and robber gangs are going on in Sindh", he opined.

Replying to a question on Apex court's decision on Nasla Tower review petition, Haleem Adil Sheikh said that he would not comment on Supreme Court's decision but it was essential to compensate the individuals who booked apartments in the contentious project. It must be ascertained that who issued NOC's for construction of Nasla Tower and who were responsible of the situation?

Pakistan desires stronger ties
with the regional countries

CGSS conducts second day of Eurasian international conference

DNA

PESHAWAR: Two sessions were conducted on the second day of the two-day international conference (21st-22nd September) on "Pakistan - Eurasian Heartland Connectivity: Towards Socio-Economic, Academic, and Legal Cooperation" held at Area Study Center (Russia, China & Central Asia), University of Peshawar, Peshawar. The main goal of the International Conference was to enhance closer cooperation and connectivity within Eurasian countries.

Dr. Nadeem Ahmed Ch, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Sialkot was Chair of the session. He stated that Pakistan desires stronger relations with regional countries. He discussed the benefits and opportunities that Central Asian Republics can offer for Pakistan. Likewise, Pakistan has pivotal position for Central Asian countries in many fields.

Andrei Metelitsa, Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus to Pakistan addressed the audience online. He stated that Belarus is enhancing its diplomatic efforts and global outreach for better regional integration. He stated that Eurasian Economic Union plays a vital role in regional connectivity and Belarus is also member of that forum.

Dr. Syed Hussain Shaheed Soherwordi, Chairman, Department of International Relations, University of Peshawar enlightened the audience about Central & South Asian Regional Connectivity: Relevance & Prospects for Economic Cooperation. He stated that there is an international academic disconnect. Mr. Hassan Daud Butt, Chief Executive Officer, Khyber



Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade (KP-BOIT) shared his views on Enhancing Regional Connectivity: Towards a Regional Arrangement for Cross-Border Economic Activities. He highlighted despite sharing geographical proximity, we live in a least integrated region.

Prof. Dr. Adam Saud, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Bahria University, Islamabad gave online speech on Pakistan-Eurasia: Building Greater Trans-Regional Connectivity. He gave a detailed presentation on Pakistan's economic and strategic potential. He also explained Pakistan relations, military cooperation, and trade linkages with Eurasian countries. Pakistan for inclusive economic progress projects.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Khan, Professor, Department of Politics & International Relations, International Islamic University

Islamabad expressed his views on Pakistan's Foreign Policy Contours for Eurasian Region. He stated that foreign policy is the instrument of international relations between states. Likewise, diplomacy is the instrument of foreign policy, which paved the way for political achievements and economic uplift.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of the Punjab, Lahore was the Chair of the session.

Professor Inayat, Principal, Khyber Law College, University of Peshawar presented speech on Law fare Challenges to Regional Connectivity and Counter Mechanism. He stated that we need to understand nature and background of laws. He explained that international law contains broad principles and norms.

Dr. Khuram Iqbal, Head of International Relations Department, National Defence

University (NDU), Islamabad presented speech on Regionalization in South Asia: Prospects & Challenges for Pakistan. He gave five major reasons that hindered regionalization in South Asia. He stated that despite having opportunities, South Asia is the least regionalized region.

Dr. Minhas Majeed Marwat, Department of International Relations, University of Peshawar discussed China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Regional Integration. She stated that regional connectivity helps countries to overcome barriers. It allows countries to enhance cooperation in many diverse fields, i.e., transport system, smooth flow of goods & services, ideas, and innovation. Dr. Minhas stated that CPEC will enhance multidimensional cooperation not only between China and Pakistan, but also other regional states.

Prof. Dr. Shabir Ahmad Khan, Director, Area Study Centre (Russia, China, & Central Asia) University of Peshawar presented vote of thanks. He expressed his gratitude to all speakers, participants, session chairs, and co-organizers for making this two-day international conference a success.

Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram (Retd), Executive Director, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad gave the closing remarks. He stated that there must be an integrated forum for regional cooperation. Therefore, through the joint efforts, all established centers, i.e., Regional Integration Center, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Eurasian Industrial Research Center, University of Sialkot, Sialkot and Area Study Center (China, Russia & Central Asia) University of Peshawar have been playing a pivotal role for regional integration.

Tarin, Hatem
to resolve
Etisalat,
PC issues

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and revenue, Shaukat Tarin, held a virtual meeting with Hatem Dowidar, Group CEO Etisalat International at the Finance Division Wednesday. Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin-ul-Haque, Federal Secretary Finance Division, Federal Secretary Information Technology, Secretary Privatization and other senior officers also participated in the meeting.

In his opening remarks, the Finance Minister underscored the significance of resolving outstanding issues and moving ahead for a sustainable solution with all stakeholders on board. The Finance Minister further stated to setup a mechanism for fair assessment of properties by hiring internationally renowned evaluation companies.

Hatem Dowidar, CEO Etisalat agreed to this proposal and affirmed to have evaluation of properties completed within a couple of months. Participation of Etisalat in recent auction of spectrum in Pakistan affirms its commitment to Pakistan's telecommunication sector.

AJK PM for
completion of
development
projects

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: The Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi Wednesday said that all resources will be channeled for the promotion of tourism and development of infrastructure in the state to provide better communication facilities to the people of AJK.

He expressed these views while addressing a briefing given by the Department of Communications and Public Works here.

The Minister for Communications and Public Works Azhar Sadiq was also present on the occasion. Secretary Communications and Public Works Ghulam Bashir Mughal briefed the AJK Prime Minister.

The AJK Prime Minister directed the officials concerned to ensure the completion of development projects within the stipulated time and accelerate the tempo of developmental activities for the well-being of the people.

He said that he had come to power with the sole objective to serve the people and no compromise will be made on the quality and transparency of the developmental work.

Khurshid Barlas meets
KPK CM adviser on trade

DNA

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Industry, Commerce & Trade Abdul Karim Tordhar met with the Chairman Pak World Trade Expo Center Khurshid Barlas and discussed investment opportunities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the meeting.

Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Trade Abdul Karim Tordhar said that according to the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, to bring industry and trade, investment and we are always ready to provide any kind of assistance in line with this vision.

He also directed the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment to extend full cooperation to the conference as it would play an important role in terms of investment in the province.

Chairman Pak World Trade and Expo Center Khurshid Barlas appreciated this effort and invited to attend the Invest in KPK Conference, to be held on 30 October 2021 at Pearl Continental, Peshawar.

Handing over
ceremony of 2 Pak
Navy tugs held

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Handing over ceremony of 2 x Tugs built for Pakistan Navy was held at PN Dockyard. Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf Commander Pakistan Fleet, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The ceremony was attended by high ranking officials from Pakistan Navy and engineers/workers of KS&EW.

The Tugs has a length of 25 meters with a displacement of 250 tons. It has maximum speed of 12 knots and is propelled by two diesel engines having azimuth drive propulsion system with automated integrated machinery and tug handling system. These tugs are equipped with two diesel generators, a diesel driven fire

pump, navigational radar, fire-fighting system, deck crane, and sewerage treatment plant and towing arrangements. The Chief Guest in his address said that construction of these tugs at Karachi Shipyard is yet another example of sheer hard work and dedication by the engineers and workers of KS&EW. He appreciated the timely delivery of these tugs, despite the COVID-19 pandemic and resultant challenges like non-availability of OEM engineers and Kit-of-Material etc. He congratulated all stakeholders particularly management and workforce of Karachi Shipyard for achieving this important milestone.

Earlier MD KS&EW, Rear Admiral Ather Saleem in his welcome address said

that workforce of yard was proud to be entrusted with such projects and thanked the valued customers, Pakistan Navy for reposing confidence in KS&EW. He further highlighted commitments of KS&EW had increased manifolds but his teams were more determined, motivated and geared up to undertake the future challenges. He apprized the august gathering about the recent Inauguration of Ship Lift & Transfer System by PM of Islamic Republic of Pakistan which would go a long way in enhancing yards, shipbuilding/ship repair capabilities. He further apprised about ongoing projects including, MILGEM Class Corvette, FAC(M) 4, Tugs, GRP Boats for PN and 1500 T MPV for PMSA.

PAF trainer
jet crashes

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistan Air Force trainer aircraft crashed near Mardan during a routine training mission, the PAF spokesperson said Wednesday. A pilot lost his life in the accident as he could not manage to eject in time. Videos from the site show huge plumes of smoke rising in the air.

The aircraft was, on the other hand, reduced to mere ashes.

A board of inquiry has been ordered to investigate the cause of the accident.

On Tuesday, two Indian AirForce personnel were injured when an Indian Army helicopter crashed near Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district. The pilots were immediately moved to the hospital.

9b released for FMU affiliated hospitals

The provincial health minister said that apart from local medicine, expensive medicines would also be made available to the patients with the help of medicine funds

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Provincial Health Minister Dr. Yasmeen Rashid has said that Rs. 9 billion has been sanctioned for the provision of medicines and treatment to the patients in the government hospitals affiliated to Faisalabad Medical University and for the development of the hospitals out of which Rs.2 billion would be spent for medicines. The medicine would be provided to patients through local purchase. She said this while talking to media after presiding over a syndicate meeting of Faisalabad



Medical University during her visit to Faisalabad. Vice Chancellor Dr Zafar Ali Chaudhry, MPA Adil Pervaz Gujjar and other members

were also present. The provincial health minister said that apart from local medicine, expensive medicines would also be

made available to the patients with the help of medicine funds. She delegates appealed to the citizens not to allow water to accumulate anywhere in the houses and to be more careful during the rains because dengue session is on and danger of breeding of dengue larvae is generating. The provincial minister said that every effort is being made to vaccinate 70% of the people of the province by the end of this year from corona while so far more than 40 million people have been vaccinated against corona virus so far. She said that although the intensi-

ty of forth wave of corona decreased but the implementation on corona sops should not be let down. She said that health cards are providing to every family and the value for treatment has raised till one million and those who have not yet made an identity card should make it immediately so that they are not deprived of the health care facility. The provincial minister said that oxygen generating plants are being set up in Allied Hospital which will alleviate oxygen deficiency and facility of Chemotherapy will also be available to treat the patients of cancer very soon.



CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Mechanical Division-I (E&M)

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

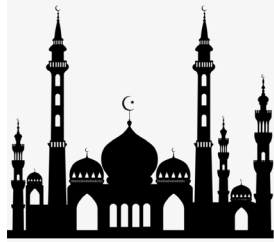
S. #	Name of Work	NIT Cost	Earnest Money	Date & Time for Receipt of Technical & Financial Bid	Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid	Tender Fee	PEC Code
1	Retrofitting of High Power Sodium Road / Street Light to LED Lights at Eastern Side of Faisal Avenue i.e. Margallah Road, Nazim-ud-din Road, Jinnah Avenue, Ibn-e-Sina Road (Phase-I)	47,840,000/-	1,435,200/-	14-10-2021 at 11:30 AM	14-10-2021 at 12:00 Noon	5000/-	EE-04 EE-06
2	Retrofitting of High Power Sodium Road/Street Light to LED Light at Western Side of Faisal Avenue, Islamabad (Phase-II)	47,840,000/-	1,435,200/-	20-10-2021 at 11:30 AM	20-10-2021 at 12:00 Noon	5000/-	EE-04 EE-06

- The Capital Development Authority invites sealed bids under "Single Stage Two Envelope" procedure from firms registered with Pakistan Engineering Council having valid Registration Certificate in Category C-4 or above, with project code EE-04/EE-06 and valid Electrical License issued by Electrical Inspector Islamabad Region for execution of E&M Works at Islamabad/Rawalpindi, who can prove their eligibility and qualification as mentioned in the Bidding Documents for the captioned project. The NIT cost of each project is Rs. 47,840,000/-.
- Interested Firms/Contractors can Purchase the bidding documents from the office of Deputy Director Mechanical Division-I (E&M), CDA, located at Room No.47 (Ground Floor), Old Naval Headquarter, G-6/Markaz, Islamabad upon submission of application with non-refundable Cash for an amount of Rs.5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) being cost of the bidding documents during working hours before 12:00 Noon on 13-10-2021 & 19-10-2021 respectively.
- The firm had carryout similar nature of work in Government/Semi-Government sector/department.
- The prospective bidders are required to submit Bid Security (Deposit at Call) amounting to Rs.1,435,200/- in favor of Deputy Director Mechanical Division-I (E&M), CDA, issued from any scheduled bank against firm's account (for each project). Name of Firm should be clearly mentioned on instrument (Deposit at Call). Tender documents shall not be issued without Earnest Money.
- The Bidders are required to submit two sealed envelopes separately (One Containing the Technical Proposal and the other for the Financial/Price Bid) enclosed together in an outer Single Envelope (for each project). The name of proposal Technical or Financial should be clearly mentioned on the envelope face.
- The Bids shall be received in E&M (Development) Directorate, CDA located at Room No.49, Ground Floor (Old Naval Headquarter) Islamabad on 14-10-2021 for work at Sr. No.1 & 20-10-2021 for work at Sr. No.2 at 11:30 AM respectively. The Technical Bids will be opened on dates mentioned above at 12:00 PM in the presence of bidder's authorized representatives who choose to attend.
- The Price Bids will remain sealed and will be held in custody of the Employer until evaluation of Technical Bids however, time for opening of Price Bids will be intimated subsequently.
- The firms providing unsubstantiated and/or incorrect information are liable to legal action and disqualification.
- CDA may reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to acceptance of a bid or proposal. The CDA shall upon request communicate to any supplier or contractor who submitted a bid or proposal, the ground for its rejection of all bids or proposals, but shall not be bound to justify those grounds.
- The advertisement is also available on CDA and PPRA's websites.

Deputy Director (E&M)
Mechanical Division-I, CDA

PID (I) No. 1820/21

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr..... 04:33 am
Zohr..... 12:05 pm
Asr..... 04:21 pm
Maghrib..... 06:10 pm
Isha..... 07:23 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15
Bomb Disposal.....15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance..1122 & Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police.....9266044
Motorway Police..9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



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PIAFlight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
CAA.....9281092



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



Departments

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



Complaints

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11.....9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8.....9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, 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

Asad Umar, RCCI discuss industrial zones, RRP

The minister says that he will talk to the Prime Minister regarding early construction of industrial zones along Rawalpindi Ring Road

ZUBAIR AHMAD

RAWALPINDI: A delegation of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) led by President Mohammad Nasir Mirza called on Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar in Islamabad. The delegation included newly elected President Nadeem Rauf, Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, and Vice President Shahraiz Malik. Talking to the delegation, Federal Minister Asad Umar said that the government was pursuing a comprehensive policy to control the COVID -19. In cities where the number of vaccinated people is higher and the rate of Corona cases are lower, the COVID restrictions will be gradually relaxed. In Rawalpindi, more than 36 per cent of its eligible population are fully vaccinated and



54pc have received at least one jab, whereas in Islamabad it is 55% and 74% respectively. Complaints regarding uploading of data at vaccination centers in Rawalpindi will be addressed. The minister said that he will talk to the Prime Minister regarding early construction of industrial zones along Rawalpindi Ring Road. Nasir Mirza, President Rawalpindi Chamber, briefed the Federal Minister on the ongoing activities of the Chamber. He said that the ring road project was pending and work on it should be started immediately and industrial zones should be set up as per masterplan. Setting up industrial zones will accelerate trade activities and promote local industry, he added. He appreciated the services of the NCOC in controlling the corona spread and also lauded its efforts for the availability of vaccines across Pakistan.

PRCS, IFRC hold meeting with envoys, diplomats

Abrar ul Haq says PRCS is serving the suffering humanity to the best of its capability and without any discrimination



KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and the International Federation of the Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) hosted a breakfast meeting with the diplomatic community at a local hotel here on Wednesday. The meeting was attended by ambassadors and representatives from 12 countries including the Ambassador of Denmark Mr. Lis Rosenholm, Deputy Head

of Missions of Kingdom of Netherlands, UAE, China and senior representatives from the embassies of United States, British High Commission, Canada, Turkey, Japan, Belgium, Norway and European Commission Directorate-General for ECHO. Chairman PRCS, Abrar-ul-Haq, Regional Director IFRC Asia Pacific, Mr. Alexander Matheou, PRCS Vice Chairman, Mr. Asif Bajwa, members of managing body, Dr. Irshad Muhammad, Syed HashimA.Hassan, Dr. Pervaiz GhaffarRajwani, Brig. (Rtd.) Dr. Mowadat Hussain Rana, Secretary General PRCS Dr. Adeel Nawaz, HOD IFRC in Pakistan Peter (Pwi) Ophoff, PRCS and IFRC officers, and volunteers were also present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion PRCS Chairman Abrar ul Haq said that PRCS is serving the suffering humanity to the best of its capability and without any discrimination. He said PRCS had expanded its door-to-door mobile vaccination campaign against Covid-19, to contain the

spread of the pandemic in the country adding that the state-of-the-art Red Crescent Corona Care Hospital was set up within a record period of 15 days and it was inaugurated by Prime Minister Imran Khan. He said it was a matter of great honor for the PRCS that the RCCH was designated by the government as a Mass Vaccination Centre. "More than 300,000 people had been vaccinated so far from PRCS static units and door to door vaccination campaign", he added. Abrar ul Haq said that the Muhafiz Force set up by the PRCS helped vulnerable segments of the society and provided food to 9 lac families during the campaign as well as raised awareness among the people on adherence to safety and security SOPs devised by the government. He said PRCS would soon launch Red Crescent Corp and students of educational institutions will be trained under this initiative to render First Aid services to vulnerable communities.

President calls for training of students, volunteers to tackle natural calamities

The President said that enhanced cooperation between IFRC and PRCS was essential to ensure timely help of the people affected by natural calamities

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Wednesday stressed on the need of training the country's students and volunteers to tackle natural calamities in an appropriate way. He was talking to the Regional Director of the International Federation of Red Cross and Societies (IFRC) Alexander Matthews, who called on him here. Chairman of Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Abrar-ul-Haq was also present in the meeting. The President said that enhanced cooperation between IFRC and PRCS was essential to ensure timely help of the people affected by natural calamities. He said that Pakistan Red Crescent Society played an important role in providing health facilities to people during the COVID-19 pandemic. The President said that the government's successful policy of smart lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic helped keeping the situation under control. The government also allocated special funds to provide relief to the weaker segment of the society during the pandemic, he added. The President appreciated the PRCS and IFRC for providing assistance to the government.

Cantt residents advised to pay taxes

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) on Wednesday advised the residents to pay taxes till September 30 and get 5 percent special concession announced for the tax payers. According to a RCB spokesman, the Board has also made special arrangements to facilitate the tax payers and on Sept 25, Saturday, the Cantt Board, National Bank Booth would be opened during 9 AM to 2 PM to collect property and other taxes. He also thanked the management of the bank for their cooperation. In this regard, Cantt Board Revenue staff would also remain present in their offices on Saturday to facilitate the tax payers, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Participants are taking interest in the book of S.M. Hali during its launching ceremony at the Institute of Strategic Studies in Federal Capital. – DNA

"100 years of CPC: Best example of selfless service"

S. M. Hali underlined that CPC is a progressive party, which is not mired in archaic traditions and rules which are outdated

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a book launch event titled, "Hundred Years of the Communist Party of China – The best example of selfless service" authored by S. M. Hali on September 22, 2021. Various distinguished national and international experts attended the book launch event. In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, congratulated author for producing a timely book. He lauded Mr. Hali for his various works, and roles including as an anchor. Ambassador Chaudhry underscored that during hundred years, CPC has truly transformed China. S. M. Hali, the author of the book thanked ISSI for launching his book. In his remarks he highlighted key attributes of CPC. He underlined that CPC is a progressive party, which is not mired in archaic traditions and

rules which are outdated. He emphasized that CPC has the capacity to look inwards, and apply course correction. Mr Hali said, CPC has strived continuously to make China a better place with remarkable achievements in science and technology and new endeavours to reach outer space. Senator Nisar A. Memon, in his remarks, lauded Mr. Hali for authoring, yet another book, which he termed as an essential reading for those wishing to understand

China. Senator Memon commended Mr. Hali for producing book in both English and Urdu languages, which he believed would enhance outreach of the book. On CPC, Senator Nisar noted that it has come a long way since its inception in July, 1921. CPC now has become an institutional organisation with vast grass-roots support. Political system of China is designed for people of China, and results are for the world to see. Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC, in his



remarks, said that author has produced an insightful literature on the CPC at a time when CPC is marking 100 years of its founding. He noted that the book primarily focuses on the CPC, its establishment, its manifesto and its goal and analyses Chinese democracy under the rules of CPC. He underscored that CPC has been pursuing a policy of strengthening the development of China by transforming and reforming it. Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi, former Ambassador to China, in her remarks applauded Mr. Hali for authoring a book which she believed would enhancing understanding of Chinese political system and CPC in Pakistan. She noted that while two countries are close strategic partners, great work needs to be done to enhance understanding between peoples of two countries. Ambassador Nong Rong, Ambassador of China in his keynote speech, celebrated book as an achievement of Mr. Hali and termed it is a gift to the CPC on its 100th anniversary.

Police arrest 10 for possessing weapons

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police in their crackdown against illegal weapons, drugs and bootleggers rounded up 10 persons from different areas and recovered 320 grams charas, 25 liters liquor, five 30 bore pistols and ammunition from their possession, said a police spokesman on Wednesday. He informed that Gunjmandi and Rawat police held two accused namely Rashid and Zaheer Ahmed on recovery of 120 and 200 grams charas respectively. Waris Khan Police arrested Arshad with five liters liquor. Civil Lines police netted an accused namely Aurangzaib Iqbal for having five liters liquor while Gujar Khan police arrested Hassan Ali for possessing 15 liters liquor. Similarly, Gunjmandi, RattaAmral, Sadiqabad and Cantt police conducted raids and arrested Mushtaq, Zia ur Rehman, Majid Khan, Zubair Khan, and Muhammad Atif besides recovering five 30 bore pistols and ammunition from their possession. Separate cases have been registered against all the accused while further investigations are underway, he said and added that police would continue their raids against lawbreakers.

Cutlery exports witness record increase

ISLAMABAD: The exports of cutlery during the first two month of FY 2021-22 grew by 11.32 percent as compared to the exports of the corresponding period last year. During the period from July-Aug 21, cutlery worth US \$ 9,225 were exported as compared to the exports of US \$ 8,287 of the same period of last year. According to the data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the exports of Onyx Manufactured were increased by 52.36 percent, worth the US \$ 387 were exported as compared to worth the US \$ 254 of the same period last year. Meanwhile, the exports of Chemicals and Pharm.Products increased by 73.45 percent, worth the US \$ 113,813 thousand were also exported in the current financial year as compared to the exports of valuing the US \$ 65,619 of the same period of last year. During the period under view, surgical goods and Medical instruments exports decreased by 6.75 percent, as worth US \$ 30,678 were exported in the current fiscal year as compared to the exports of valuing the US \$ 32,899 of the same period of last year. – APP

Upsurge of dengue cases reported in Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An upsurge has been reported in the dengue fever cases in the federal capital as 17 new cases of the disease were surfaced in last 24 hours. According to a document over the dengue virus cases in Islamabad, 14 cases of the viral disease reported in rural and three cases in urban areas of the federal capital territory. "In the ongoing season 94 dengue fever cases have been reported so far, the paper read. "In rural areas 67 and in urban areas of Islamabad 27 dengue virus cases have been reported. Dengue virus has claimed two lives during this seas in Islamabad, according to the report. "Both patients succumbed by the disease in this season were residents of Ghouri Town Phase IV in Islamabad," according to the paper. According to sources, delay in fumigation by the administration was resulted in upsurge in dengue patients. According to the document, 61 dengue hemorrhagic fever cases were reported from the Holy Family hospital, 20 in Benazir Bhutto Hospital and one in the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS).

Briefs

CPO makes surprise visits to Police Stations

RAWALPINDI: City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi, DIG, Muhammad Ahsan Younas on Tuesday night paid surprise visit to Westridge, Bani, Waris Khan and Sadiqabad Police Stations. Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations, Rai Mazhar Iqbal and Divisional SPs were also present on the occasion. He checked the records of the Police Stations, Hawals and the personnel on night duty. He directed the police officers to perform their duties diligently and further improve the service delivery. He instructed the officials to take effective measures to facilitate the public. – APP

Lok Virsa to organize calligraphy classes

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (NIFTH) and Eco Records would organize a three-month long calligraphy classes under a skill development program titled 'Level Up'. Executive Director Lok Virsa Talha Ali told APP that the last date of registration is September 30. He said Lok Virsa has scheduled a skill development program titled "Level Up" aiming at all creatively and musically inclined minds. "Our panel instructors consists of highly skilled and well-known professionals in their respective fields," he said. Renowned Calligraphy Instructor Muhammad Hanif will conduct the classes at Lok Virsa under level up initiative. The course is a head start for all students to become proficient in Calligraphy qalam, brush pen Calligraphy, traditional pointed pen Calligraphy and broad edge Calligraphy. Calligraphy is a type of visual art related to writing. It is the design of lettering with a broad tip brush or similar tool in one stroke. A contemporary definition of calligraphic practice is the art of giving form to signs in an harmonious, expressive, and skillful way. Calligraphy can also become part of an overall ornamental program, clearly separated from the rest of the decoration. It is a style of writing described as a script, hand or alphabet. – APP

Crackdown against smoke emitting vehicles

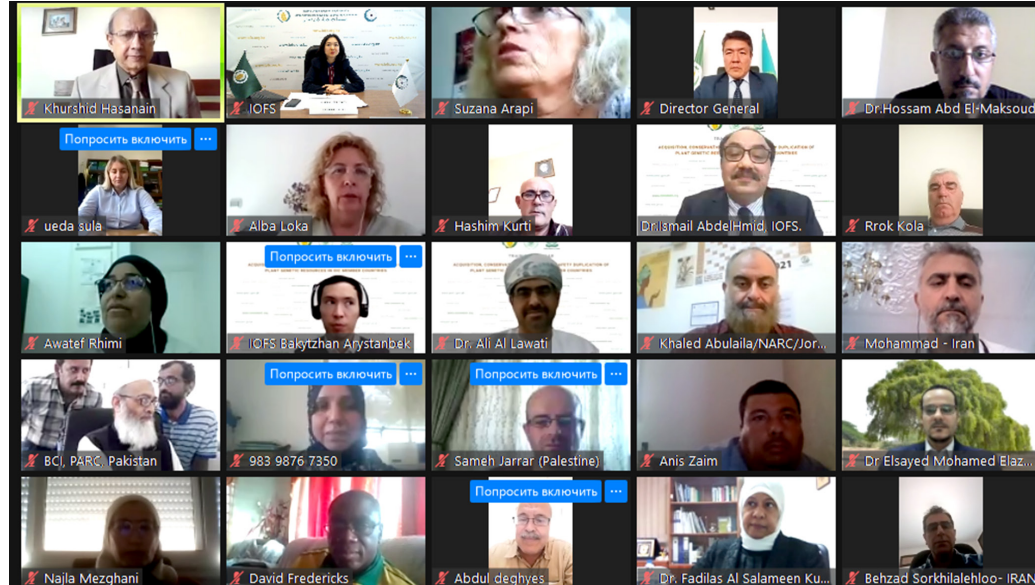
RAWALPINDI: Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Rai Mazhar Iqbal on Wednesday directed all circle In-charges to take strict action against smoke emitting vehicles. The CTO said smoke emitting vehicles were not only polluting environment and creating respiratory problems in human beings but could also cause of road accidents. He directed the officers concerned to play their due role to control environmental pollution. He informed that special campaigns were also run by the CTP while under a campaign the citizens were educated regarding traffic rules and road safety. Education Wing of Traffic Police was making efforts to spread awareness so that the road journey could be made safe and sound, he added. The CTO urged the people to cooperate with traffic wardens as they were on the roads to facilitate them. A special squad was available on Helpline 1915 to help and facilitate the citizens, he added. According to a spokesman, City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi on the directives of CTO would take action in accordance with the law against the rules violators. He said under special operation against smoke emitting vehicles, fines would be imposed and vehicles would also be impounded. Action would also be taken against two stroke rickshaws and motorcycles, he added. – APP

COMSTECH, IOFS hold int'l training on PGR conservation

PGR experts from 17 OIC member states delivered this training on the importance of conserving plant genetic resources, plant identification and herbarium, intellectual property rights and PGR, Genebank establishment, operation and information management, and plant genetic resource utilization

DNA

ISLAMABAD: OIC Ministerial Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) and The Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), Kazakhstan, in partnership with the Bio-resources Conservation Institute (BCI) of Pakistan Agricultural Research Centre (PARC) conducted a 2-day international online training webinar on "Acquisition, Conservation, Exchange, and Safety Duplication of Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) in OIC Member Countries – MENA Chapter" during September 21-22, 2021. MENA (Middle East North Africa) is one of the three recognized regions of the OIC. PGR experts from 17 OIC member states delivered this training on the importance of conserving plant genetic resources, plant identification and herbarium, intellectual property rights and PGR, Genebank establishment,



operation and information management, and plant genetic resource utilization. An overview of national gene banks of different OIC member states was also part of the training. Representatives

of seven national Genebanks, the International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) made technical presentations on different aspects of plant genetic

resources preservation and exchange between member states of the OIC. Mr. Yerlan A. Baidaulat, Director-General, IOFS, stressed the strong belief and intention of his

organization to build beneficial collaboration and networking among Genebanks in OIC member states, including the availability of accession and exchange. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General of COMSTECH thanked the Director-General of IOFS for joint implementation of activities, and expressed his willingness to continue the COMSTECH-IOFS collaboration in the future. It is essential to note that both institutions commit all their resources and efforts to achieve best possible outcomes for the interest of OIC member countries. The two institutions, through a Memorandum of Understanding, had agreed to hold a series of training sessions on PGR conservation and safety for OIC member countries in 2021. This was the third training of the series, conducted for Middle East and North Africa region. First two trainings covered the Asian and African regions and were conducted in July and August 2021.

PHA plants over 310,000 saplings

RAWALPINDI: Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi has planted over 310,000 saplings in different city areas, alongside new Islamabad Airport Road, G.T.Road, parks, govt buildings, open spaces and Murree. According to Director Horticulture PHA, Sheikh Tariq Mahmood, all available resources were utilized to achieve the plantation target. He informed that nearly 310,000 saplings were planted in different parts of the city and other places under monsoon tree plantation campaign 2021. Under a program, organized here on Sept 19, as many as 7000 saplings were planted in Potohar Park, Dhoke Munshi. Nearly 500 students and their teachers took part in the plantation campaign. Advisor

to the Chief Minister Punjab Asif Mehmood was also present on the occasion. He informed that PHA was striving to renovate public parks of the city besides plantation and as per vision of the Advisor to the Chief Minister, Asif Mehmood. More facilities were being provided to the citizens at all parks, he added. The authority was carrying out mass plantation under ongoing monsoon plantation campaign and more than the plantation target of 200,000 plants, given by the Punjab government for 2021 campaign was achieved as 310,000 saplings had been planted during this season. The plantation was being carried out with the help of various private institutions, he said adding. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Editor Daily Islamabad POST Ansar Mahmood Bhatti presenting a copy of the newspaper to Ambassador of Vietnam Nguyen Tien Phong. – DNA

Unified curriculum to be taught in elite, public schools: Shafqat

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Shafqat Mehmood Wednesday said that the widely debated unified curriculum launched by the present government will be the first-ever curriculum to studied by the elite as well as public schools. Speaking at a two-day summit held here in a local hotel entitled "Leaders in Islamabad", he said "Our effort to

implement a unified curriculum in the country is going to be studied by both private and public schools which has never been happened in the history". The minister said that the present government headed by the Prime Minister Imran Khan was taking concrete steps to channelize the potential of youth in right direction. "Creating opportunities for young people would be a chal-

lenge as they are the asset of the country", he said. He quoted an example of Japan who wanted to hire services of young people from Pakistan and has contacted us in this regard. Quoting a poetic verse, "Zara Num Ho Tu Yeh Matti Bari Zarkhez Hey Saaqi", the minister said that "we are working diligently to move ahead this country which is the prime motive and aspiration

of the Prime Minister". He said our country was facing enormous challenges and emphasized that "we have to build an inclusive and educated Pakistan which meant that it belongs to everybody as its stakeholder and everyone should have the realization that this is his Pakistan". He expressed his displeasure over low literacy rate i.e. around 67% in Pakistan after passing of 70 years of its life. Shafqat Mehmood said that our country is mainly comprised of a population belonging to different values, aspirations and culture. "Our education system has actually divided Pakistan on the one hand, Madarassas were producing an entirely different generation, while on the other hand the public and private schools were also adopting different curriculum standards". The minister urged upon the need to follow democratic norms so that the people can realize that their aspirations and demands were accepted truly in this democratic country". – APP

Islamabad Zoo's Brown bear Suzie dies in Jordan

ISLAMABAD: The long tormented Brown Bear Suzie shifted from the Islamabad Zoo to the Four Paws' bear Sanctuary Al-Ma'wa in Jordan passed away fighting worst tumors of cancer. The female brown bear was relocated with her male partner Babloo on the orders of the Islamabad High Court Chief Justice Athar Minallah for better looking after and well being under expert care. Chairperson Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) Dr Rina Saeed Khan on her Twitter handle shared the sad news of Suzie's demise. The Brown Bear were reported to develop some psychological complication after their cub passed away after accidentally consuming piece of a broken glass bottle thrown into their enclosure by some visitors. Both the bears used to attack each other considering each other responsible for the death of the baby bear, said an IWMB official. A global animal rights non-governmental organization (NGO) Four Paws took the initiative with the assistance of IWMB to transfer the Brown Bears that were

also injured at that time for better healthcare in Al-Ma'wa Sanctuary which was a partnership project between Princess Alia Foundation and FOUR PAWS in Jordan. Ms Khan tweeted, "IWMB has sad news to share: Suzie (our Himalayan Brown Bear sent to sanctuary in Jordan) has died after a valiant battle with cancer." The IWMB chair expressed her heartfelt feelings for the Brown Bear's demise to the Bear's well-wishers in the federal capital. "Suzie's condition got worse after her tumors returned, unfortunately. Al Mawa and Four Paws gave her best possible medical care," the Chairperson added. Ms Khan while narrating the life journey of the deceased animal wrote, "Suzie had a hard life: poached from beautiful Deosai as a cub & then a life of cruelty and suffering." In her last year she was well looked after by IWMB's Jibril and Anees and Four Paws but too late as her cancer returned, she noted. The IWMB chair prayed for Suzie in her tweet, saying, "May she rest in peace in bear heaven." – APP

IRSA releases 203090 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Wednesday released 203090 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 174993 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1250.95 feet, which was 137.78 feet higher than its dead level 128.95 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 102500 and 125000 cusecs respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1189.70 feet, which was 139.7 feet higher than its dead level of 1050 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 19403 and 25000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 127922, 137684 and 78010 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 17500 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 17500 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. – APP

Dacoit gang busted, five arrested

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district police have busted a dacoit gang and arrested its five members including a woman besides recovering cash Rs 30,000, five mobile phones, laptop and weapons. According to a police spokesman, Civil Lines Police team under the supervision of SHO managed to arrest five dacoits namely Muhammad Bilal, Ali Muhammad, Majid, Farhan and Sobia who were dacoit gang members and allegedly involved in number of dacoities and other crimes. They confessed to have committed dacoities and other crimes in different areas. According to police, the arrested accused are record holders. Superintendent of Police, Potohar appreciated performance of SHO Civil Lines and his team and directed to continue operation to net the lawbreakers. – APP

Ehsaas Scholarship portal to reopen on Sep 30

All students with family income of less than Rs. 45,000 a month studying in the undergraduate programme across any of the 129 public sector universities recognised by HEC will be eligible to apply

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The steering committee of Ehsaas Undergraduate Scholarship programme, during its ninth meeting decided to reopen the Ehsaas' scholarship application portal on September 30, 2021. To receive new applications for the academic year 2021-22, the online portal will remain open for next two months. Senator Dr. Sania Nishtar, SAPM and Dr. Shaista Sohail, Executive Director, Higher Education Commission (HEC) co-chaired the meeting. Dr. Sania stressed on the need for timely payments to students so that they do not have to take loans. "This is not a reimbursement model. Students have to be paid on time, to facilitate them", she said. She also instructed HEC to strictly reprimand universities who do not pay students on time and those who deduct money from the Ehsaas

scholarship stipend amount on account of other expenses. Further, she instructed that full visibility should be made of those universities which have done this and that they should be blacklisted. Dr. Sania also instructed staff to make a visibility dashboard and stressed on the need for each participating university to be transparent about when they receive money from Ehsaas, vis-a-vis, the cheque numbers and dates on which students have been given stipends. "This is very much in line with the transparency policy of Ehsaas where all benefits going to beneficiaries are publicly posted online,

as for Ehsaas Kafalaat", Dr. Sania added. All students with family income of less than Rs. 45,000 a month studying in the undergraduate programme across any of the 129 public sector universities recognised by HEC will be eligible to apply. In the last two academic years, over

142,000 need-cum-merit based Ehsaas undergraduate scholarships have been awarded. This year also, 50,000 scholarships will be awarded to deserving students. Students will be able to apply through the online portal: <https://ehsaas.hec.gov.pk/>. The need cum merit-based undergraduate scholarship of Ehsaas covers hundred percent tuition fee of the university and a living stipend. Ehsaas undergraduate Scholarship programme will support 200,000 students from low-income backgrounds over four years. Total budget is Rs. 24 Billion. The programme covers all the four provinces, AJK, GB and ICT. As part of the undergraduate scholarship policy of Ehsaas, fifty percent of awardees are girls. For already enrolled awardees, their academic performance will be tracked, and subject to satisfactory academic progress, they will continue to receive the Ehsaas scholarship till the completion of their undergraduate degree.



Return on investment

WITH Chinese investors of Independent Power Producers (IPP) and other CPEC expressing concerns about the delay in payables, the government has promised to give out \$1.4 billion to ease their tensions. Assuring a Return on Investment (ROI) is integral for proving the potential success of a business venture, especially one that is as massive as CPEC. The government must ensure that timely payments are made to protect these projects at their stage of infancy and encourage more confidence in the Pakistani market.

The authorities had admitted to the fact that there had been an immense delay in the payments that the investors were due. While we can appreciate how accommodating China has been, we must also not push those who have taken a chance on us. Millions of dollars were invested in Pakistan, and showing that it was not all in vain is imperative. Otherwise, we will have to deal with the inevitability of work being stalled and contractual payments being delayed long enough to change the fate of the project. So long as our investors are aware and reassured of the fact that their decision to funnel finances into our economy through CPEC was a good one, operations can continue with ease and perhaps even expanded with confidence.

Currently, we are at the initial stages of the project in which inspiring investor confidence ensures its longevity and also allows for the government to generate additional business. Our local market will be considered productive, less uncertain and profitable which, in turn, will attract further interest. In light of the possibilities that lie ahead, the government must work towards establishing a system that clears payments timely and rather automatically. A revolving fund is likely to help as consumer bills can be recovered and some of the money obtained can be used to give back to the 135 Chinese companies operating in Pakistan and for regaining their trust.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 02 Issue: 119

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Outreach programmes

DESPITE the fact that we have been inoculating over a million people every single day, vaccine hesitancy is still rampant across major sections of the public. The government has planned various community outreach programmes like the vaccination unit in Islamabad to nudge the public in the right direction. At this point, if not for the sake of preserving national health, the people must be urged to vaccinate themselves so that they are not left behind. Restrictions are easing across the country, but only for those who have shown to be responsible citizens. With a strategy that provides vaccination services in far-flung areas, there is hope still.

The last time that the government embarked upon such a project was when trying to curb the polio epidemic. Even then, medical teams were subjected to targeted violence, ridicule and were told to return by family heads who refused to get their children immunised against the virus.

The hesitancy came from beliefs like the antidote was laced, would reduce life expectancy, cause impotency or would cause children to become paralysed. Similarly, many communities believe that the Covid-19 vaccine has the same drawbacks and have been refusing to accept it as the cure to the pandemic.

Outside of trying to spread awareness to correct such notions, the authorities must also consider the challenges that the polio teams faced and come up with solutions proactively so that this process is smoother. We have come to a point where the positivity ratio is 4.22 percent, and it could be reduced further if this faction of the population also vaccinates itself.

Undoubtedly, this is a long-term process but it's good to see that the government is taking this measure to incorporate the masses and bring about massive change in society. Already, it has been using its coercive power to enforce adherence to preventive measures through imposing fines, limiting activities and creating strict laws for future official processes. A community outreach programme is just an extension of this that is the need of the hour currently. For as long as there remain millions that are unvaccinated, Covid-19 will linger for much longer than it has to.

UN has rare opportunity to forge global consensus

Ishtiaq Ahmad



Climate change is a potent long-term challenge. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change reported last week that the planet is careening toward warming to 2.7 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels – far above the 1.5 C limit scientists say is necessary to stave off the worst consequences of the climate crisis. Forging a global consensus on how to deal with nontraditional threats to international security emanating from digital technology constitutes another long-term agenda for the UN

THE 76th UN General Assembly's high-level session – the general debate, in which the leaders of 193 member states speak on global issues for more than a week – begins on Tuesday, with US President Joe Biden expected to advocate multilateralism in his address on the opening day. This is precisely what the UN currently needs, after having seen its founding role in preventing war and ensuring peace consistently eroded in the last three decades of rampant US unilateralism across the world. Even though the five permanent members of the Security Council – namely, the US, Russia, China, the UK and France – have the final say in matters of global peace and security because of their veto power, the UNGA, where all member states have equal representation, plays an important role by framing the annual global agenda, deliberating current world challenges and deciding requisite policy options.

Of course, from COVID-19 to climate change, and with so many conflicts burning or brewing, the issues facing the world body are so grave that only a rules-based international order grounded in the spirit of multilateralism can pave the way for their viable resolution. Multilateralism may help in building the necessary global consensus to deal with the effects of a conflict (which the UN does relatively well), but it also needs to tackle its root causes (where the UN is found seriously lacking). No surprise that the theme of the 75th anniversary session of the UNGA, held virtually last year, was on reinvigorating multilateral institutions. The report titled "Our Common Agenda," released by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres ahead of the current session, also calls for "multilateralism to the teeth," while offering more robust approaches to crisis management and the mitigation of persisting security conflicts and emerging nontraditional threats.

This augurs well. The UN's history since 1945 is replete with instances where geopolitical rivalries among great powers prevented meaningful progress in multilateralism, resulting in the global drift in managing persisting and emerging conflicts. However, between the superpower contest of the Cold War and the American unilateralism in its aftermath, there was a decade-long period when the UN emerged as a proactive global actor. In the 1990s, the world body intervened in several critical conflicts – from Bosnia and Kosovo to East Timor and Sierra Leone – to keep and make peace. More than half of the UN's 71 peacekeeping mis-

sions were undertaken during this decade alone. The UNGA also then became a key platform to debate the reformation of the UNSC for the purpose of greater representation, and novel concepts of humanitarian intervention, such as the responsibility to protect, entered the lexicon of international diplomacy.

Alas, the last 20 years have seen the UN's role being diminished by the day, as the US waged wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and intervened in conflicts like Syria and Libya without fulfilling the corresponding responsibilities these ventures entailed. In the process, US unilateralism also reduced to ashes the spirit of multilateralism on which the whole UN system is built. President Donald Trump's open disdain for UN institutions, including even the World Health Organization amid the global pandemic, was the last straw.

Hence, it will be crucial if Biden makes an unwavering commitment to "America is back" in the multilateral game at the 76th UNGA. Since assuming power, he has already rededicated the US to multilateral cooperation, including at the UN and other international bodies, as is clear from America's re-entry to the Paris Climate Accord and its renewed support for the WHO's COVAX program for equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines across the world. By ending the "forever war" in Afghanistan and deciding to withdraw all US troops from Iraq this year, Biden has also done away with the bitter legacy of neoconservative unilateralism in US foreign policy. He has also opted for a rather civil approach toward the UNSC by dealing with the emerging crises within its ambit, and letting China and Russia also voice their concerns as competing powers.

Unfortunately, the "war lobby" is so well entrenched in the US power structure that it may be difficult for Biden, just as it was for President Barack Obama, to pursue the multilateral path with ease. The US-UK agreement to provide nuclear submarines to Australia to patrol the Pacific has already created a serious rift with China and France – reinforcing Chinese fears about containment by the US post-Afghanistan. Moreover, China and Russia also differ with the US on dealing with the Taliban regime.

For now, neither the US nor its geopolitical rivals seem eager to move beyond diplomatic balancing toward taking substantive steps to deal with new crises, such as authorizing new sanctions regimes or peace operations. Therefore, the UN has to increase its political relevance and operational capacity within the limitations imposed by a fractured

UNSC for some time to come. This requires Guterres to be more politically active so as to ensure decisive UN actions in mitigating crises.

The most pressing issue is the worsening humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, where a third of the population is facing starvation, according to the World Food Program. The statistics on health and displacement are equally startling. A UN appeal has generated more than \$1 billion in humanitarian assistance, which the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan must provide in time. The UN can also help resolve other political and economic matters facing the war-torn nation, in consultation with the P5 and Afghanistan's neighboring countries.

Other crises that need proactive UN involvement include the Tigray conflict in Ethiopia, which is worsening with every passing day; Syria and Yemen, where civil wars have produced major humanitarian disasters; Libya, where the UN needs to build on the ceasefire it helped mediate; and Iraq, where the withdrawal of US troops may open up old wounds. The threat to global security from terrorist groups such as Daesh is far from over, and many conflicts such as Kashmir and Palestine have not been resolved for decades.

Dealing with the pandemic is also an urgent matter, which can be resolved by enabling the WHO's COVAX program to act as the sole distributor of COVID-19 vaccines the world over in an equitable manner. Currently, it is distributing only 4 percent of global supplies. Resultantly, fewer than 2 percent of people in poor countries are able to have a single dose of the vaccine. Now that there is no issue with the supply of vaccines, there should be no issue in meeting the global demand, especially of the poor nations of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Climate change is a potent long-term challenge. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change reported last week that the planet is careening toward warming to 2.7 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels – far above the 1.5 C limit scientists say is necessary to stave off the worst consequences of the climate crisis.

Forging a global consensus on how to deal with nontraditional threats to international security emanating from digital technology constitutes another long-term agenda for the UN.

Ultimately, all of the global issues, current or future, require a multilateral diplomatic path for sustainable settlement – a possibility that looks more promising today than ever before.

– Courtesy: Arab News

Australia just staked its future on US alliance

Sam Roggeveen

The Biden team agreed because it, too, is worried about China. But there is a difference. The United States is in Asia by choice; Australia has no such luxury. Washington's gesture, this commitment of American military and technological prowess, is hugely significant. But it is no guarantee the United States is prepared to enter into a new Cold War-style contest with China.

The United States is blessed by geography, friendly neighbours, a huge economy, an unrivalled military and a nuclear-weapons arsenal to help maintain its security

THE United States did not directly mention China in announcing its historic new security partnership with Australia and Britain last week, but it didn't have to. The defence deal is a clear escalation and indication that Washington views Beijing as an adversary. It also has thrust Australia into a central role in America's rivalry with China. After hinting at a more self-reliant defence posture for the past several years, Australia's government is now instead betting big on the future of its alliance with the United States with the new pact. Australia seems to be assuming that America will remain engaged in Asia for the long haul and will be prepared to face down China if necessary – but it shouldn't.

The crux of the partnership, called AUKUS, is an agreement for the United States and Britain to share their technology to help Australia deploy nuclear-powered submarines. But this is no ordinary arms agreement, nothing like exporting fighter jets or howitzers. Only a handful of nations have nuclear-powered submarines, and Australia will be just the second country, after Britain, to benefit from the top-secret US technology.

Why is Australia worthy of such favourable treatment? It's not just that it is one of America's oldest and closest allies. It's that for many American observers of China's behaviour, Australia is also the canary in the coal mine for great power competition with China. Australia has been subject to economic pressure from China against its exports, such as barley and coal. Last year, a Chinese dip-

lomat even released a list of 14 grievances Beijing holds against Australia – a document that featured in deliberations at the Group of 7 summit in June.

Those grievances reflect the tough line Australia has taken against Beijing, from barring Chinese telecom giant Huawei from competing for a 5G infrastructure project to introducing far-reaching legislation to curb foreign interference in politics and tearing up a state's Belt and Road agreements with China. Australia also has increased its defence spending over the past five years, particularly its naval procurement. AUKUS takes this to a new level. Like the United States, Australia's government has watched with increasing alarm the build-up of China's military capabilities, particularly its naval forces. For most of its history, Australia has relied on a friend or ally to help secure the Pacific Ocean. The only serious threat to Australia's territorial integrity since European settlement more than 200 years ago was during World War II.

So although the AUKUS initiative was a surprise to many around the world, the Australian government's motivation is clear. Saddled with a late and over-budget French submarine project, the Australian government saw an opportunity not only to bolster its naval strength by getting the world's leading submarine technology but also to bring the United States into a closer embrace.

The Biden team agreed because it, too, is worried about China. But there is a difference. The United States is in Asia by choice;

Australia has no such luxury. Washington's gesture, this commitment of American military and technological prowess, is hugely significant. But it is no guarantee the United States is prepared to enter into a new Cold War-style contest with China.

The United States is blessed by geography, friendly neighbours, a huge economy, an unrivalled military and a nuclear-weapons arsenal to help maintain its security. But China is strong too. The size of its economy alone makes it one of the mightiest adversaries the United States has faced in more than a century. So the United States would need a very good reason to take on a power as great as China.

The fact that America would be somehow diminished if and when China attains global supremacy should not be reason enough. There would need to be clear indications that China poses a threat to America's core national security interests, to its territory and to its way of life. Since China does not clear that bar, there's no urgent reason for the United States to undertake grievous risks to prevent its rise to regional leadership.

That doubt should be nagging at the minds of Australian decision makers who just staked their future on the alliance, and it should be on the minds of Americans, too. Why should the United States commit itself to a contest with China when the stakes are less than existential? Without a clear answer to that question, Australia must assume that it will ultimately need to ensure its security alone.

– Courtesy: Gulf News

Briefs

India behind cancellation of NZ tour

FROM PAGE 01
he said India had been hatching conspiracies against Pakistan but like the past it would fail to weaken Pakistan's standing at international level.
He said that India had done huge investment in Afghanistan to use its soil for operating terrorists in Pakistan but after fall of Kabul all its investment was wasted. The minister disclosed that the threatening email was generated from a secure service Proton mail and Pakistan has requested Interpol to assist for further probe.
He said that on August 19, a Facebook post was circulated from fabricated account made in the name of Ehsan Ullah Ehsan (ex spokesman of Tehreek e Taliban Pakistan) on social media asking New Zealand Cricket Board and government not to send the team to Pakistan, as plan had been made to target the New Zealand team but the post was not found on Facebook.
He said that after two days, Indian newspaper Sunday Guardian, Bureau Chief Abhinandan Mishra wrote an article claiming that the New Zealand cricket team may face a terrorist attack in Pakistan. The article was based on the fake post of Ehsan Ullah Ehsan.

Mishra was also found in contact with former Afghan Vice President Amrullah Saleh, he said. He said that projection of threat by publication of an article by the Bureau Chief of a reputed Indian paper based on a fake social media post suggested an orchestrated campaign to scuttle the tour. Fawad said that on August 24, Martin Gupthill's wife received a threat email from email ID: tehreekelabaik@protonmail.com, threatening to kill Martin Gupthill while on tour. The email ID was not associated with any SMN.

Interestingly the said email account was generated at 01:05 am, on Aug 24 and emailed on the same day at 11:59 am, he pointed out. It was obvious that the email was generated purposefully as no other activity was found from the same email. He said that despite all these tactics, New Zealand tour was not cancelled and its team arrived in Pakistan on September 11 and 12 in two chartered flights. The team attended practice sessions at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on September 13 and 14 from 4:30 to 7:30 pm and no threat alert was reported.

Both the teams again carried out practice in the evening on September 16. He said on September 17, NZ team/ government expressed concern over the reported credible threat and cancelled the tour unilaterally without sharing the details of the threat.

He said that on September 18, 2021, Interpol Wellington informed Interpol Islamabad about receipt of a threat email to New Zealand Police from hamzaafriidi7899@gmail.com at 06:25 am (NZ time), requesting further probe. He said that New Zealand police received a threat email at 06:25 am on Sep 18, according to Pakistan Standard Time 23:25 (11:25 pm on Sep 17). Fawad said Email hamzaafriidi7899@gmail.com was generated at 18:10 hrs, Sep 17 (UTC); 2310 hrs/ 11:10 PM (PST).

Fawad said that email was sent 15 minutes after the ID was created and it was generated for a specific purpose. The minister said email was sent from an associated device in India using VPN showing IP address/ location of Singapore. The device RMX 1971 (Realme) used thirteen email IDs; except Hamza Afridi all other 12 email IDs have Indian/ Hindi names. Apparently, Hamza Afridi was purposefully used to malign Pakistan which hints at involvement of Indian agencies. He said that that the subject mobile phone was launched in August 2019 in India and Reliance Jio mobile SIM was registered on this mobile phone on September 25, 2019 indicating single user.

He said that social media co-relation and exploitation revealed that the possible user of this email ID is an Indian Omparkash Mishra from Mumbai. He said that timing and text of the threat email suggest that this threat was not the reason for cancellation of the tour but was issued just after the cancellation to malign Pakistan and substantiate the security concerns of New Zealand and other touring countries.



ISLAMABAD: Captains of six participating teams of National T-20 starts from September 23rd in a group photo with trophy at Pakistan Monument. – DNA

US hegemony no longer credible, Iran tells UN

In a scathing speech hitting out at both US President Joe Biden and his predecessor Donald Trump, the newly elected conservative leader said the world “doesn’t care about America First or America is Back”

AGENCIES

TEHRAN: Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi, in a pre-recorded speech to the 76th UN General Assembly on Tuesday, said the US “hegemonic approach” is no longer credible, calling on the Biden administration to lift its sanctions on Tehran. In a scathing speech hitting out at both US President Joe Biden and his predecessor Donald Trump, the newly elected conservative leader said the world “doesn’t care about America First or America is Back,” asserting that the “perseverance of

nations is stronger than the power of superpowers.” Referring to two incidents that shook the world this year – the Jan. 6 attack on the US Capitol in January and young Afghans falling to their deaths from a US plane departing the Afghan capital Kabul on Aug. 16 – Raisi called these the result of the US “seeking global hegemony.”

He said the US has been making the mistake of modifying its “way of war” with the world instead of changing its “way of life,” calling it a “mistaken path.” Throwing the ball in the US court, he said Iran is willing

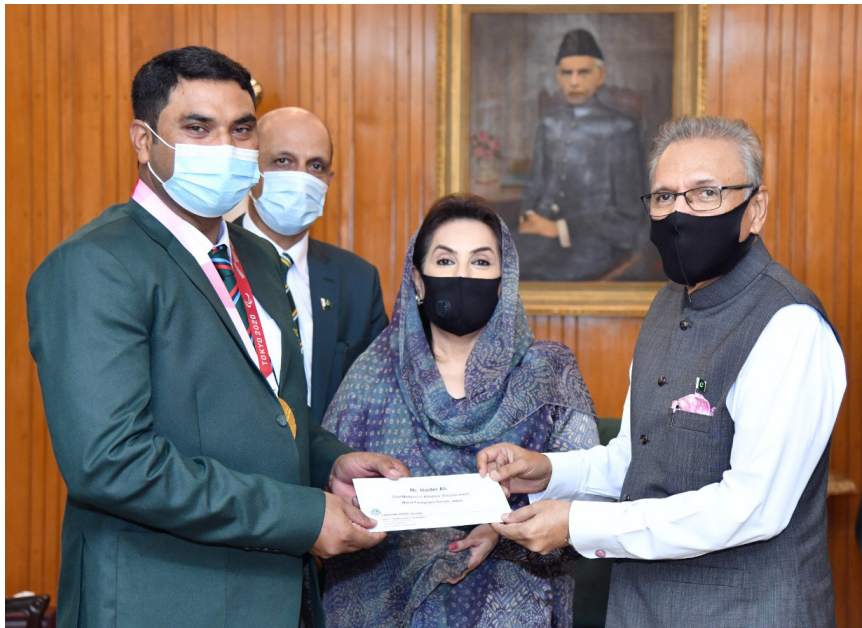
to negotiate with world powers to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, but the Biden administration must “lift sanctions at once” imposed on Iran under the Trump administration’s “maximum pressure” campaign. Iran’s president called US sanctions on Iran, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, a “crime against humanity,” accusing Washington of using sanctions as a “new way of waging war,” echoing the words of his reformist predecessor who often accused the US of “economic terrorism.” He said the US sanctions had “hampered Iran’s efforts” to import COVID-19

vaccines, adding that Iran was keen from the outset to purchase and import vaccines from “reliable international sources.”

He called the coronavirus pandemic a “wake-up call” for the world, a reminder that “the safety of all human beings is interdependent.” On recent events in Afghanistan, Raisi said in fact US forces “did not withdraw” from the region this summer but were “expelled,” adding that the US presence in countries like Iraq and Syria only “impedes democracy.” Earlier in the day, Iran’s newly appointed Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Ab-

dollahian held a series of meetings with his counterparts from India, Luxembourg, Vietnam, China, Britain, France, plus Germany). He also said the Vienna talks will resume in the “next few weeks” while stressing that Iran’s foreign policy team has not yet reached a final conclusion on the roadmap for the next round of talks to revive the nuclear deal. Importantly, Amir-Abdollahian is the first Iranian foreign minister to be allowed to visit New York since 2019, when his predecessor Javad Zarif was sanctioned and barred from entering US soil.

York between the foreign ministers of Iran and the P4+1 countries (Russia, China, Britain, France, plus Germany). He also said the Vienna talks will resume in the “next few weeks” while stressing that Iran’s foreign policy team has not yet reached a final conclusion on the roadmap for the next round of talks to revive the nuclear deal. Importantly, Amir-Abdollahian is the first Iranian foreign minister to be allowed to visit New York since 2019, when his predecessor Javad Zarif was sanctioned and barred from entering US soil.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi presenting a cheque of Rs 2.5 million to Mr Haider Ali, Paralympian, who won a Gold Medal in Tokyo Paralympics at Aiwan-e-Sadr. – DNA

PM urges world to incentivize...

FROM PAGE 01

spiral out of control if not supported by them. The prime minister was responding to different questions in a BBC programme hosted by John Simpson.

A part of programme was earlier broadcast by the British television network

on Tuesday. To a query, the prime minister said the international community must support and encourage the transition government in Afghanistan to fulfill their promises, they had made regarding forming of an inclusive government, safeguarding the human rights including women’s rights and that Afghan’s soil would

not be used against any country by the terrorists. “What will happen in Afghanistan now, no one can tell. Where Afghanistan will go from here, no one can predict,” he observed stressing that the country required peace and stability to move on. He further said, “I’m afraid, I’m not in position to tell what will happen.”

The toxic battle ripping FC Barcelona apart

SPORTS DESK

BARCELONA: When Joan Laporta was elected Barcelona president in March, one of the first things he did was make it abundantly clear that Ronald Koeman did not figure in his long-term plans. Six months later, he suggested he was on the verge of extending the Dutch manager’s contract for a further year. But six months and two weeks later, it now looks as if the only

thing keeping Koeman in the job is the fact he would be due a huge pay-off. And that he is the focus of attention – useful to the board in a time of crisis. What on earth could have occurred to bring about this lack of balanced thinking from Laporta? Unsurprisingly, money has a lot to do with it, or in the case of Barcelona, the lack of it. Let’s not mince our words here. Barcelona are skint, potless, brassic, broke. The finances dictate a lot of what is being decided.

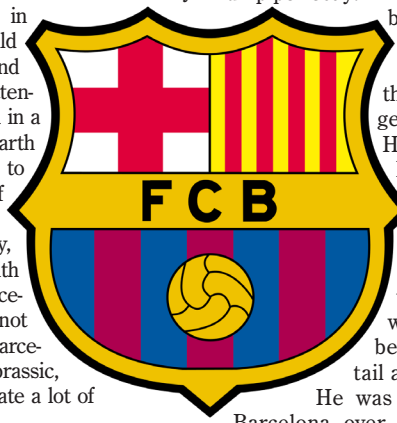
But the situation is becoming so tense between the president and the manager that the club are looking for alternatives and, depending on the next few results, they might have to use a big chunk of their small savings to get rid of a manager who does not follow the official line because he feels betrayed. Roberto Martinez, who wants to continue with Belgium at least until the end of the Nations League campaign, is one of

the candidates to replace him.

So how did we get to this point? Laporta and Koeman met before the start of this season. At the lunch, Laporta asked the Dutchman to give him 14 days to decide whether or not the club would continue to have him as their manager or, to put it a slightly different way, 14 days to see if they could find anyone they fancied for the job more than him. Koeman’s agent, Rob Jansen, summed it up perfectly: “Imagine: I want to marry you,

but I have doubts. Give me two weeks to find a better partner. If I can’t find the right person, we will get married anyway!” He couldn’t, of course. Laporta didn’t fancy bringing in Barca mid-field legend Xavi at that point and had absolutely no chance of getting Julian Nagelsmann, whom Laporta admires because of his love for detail and his modern methods.

He was never going to opt for Barcelona over Bayern Munich, having already reached an agreement with the Bavarians. So instead what we have now is a marriage of inconvenience – and it’s fair to say that since then, the two haven’t exactly walked hand in hand into the sunset to enjoy a life of wedded bliss. The situation inherited from the previous regime means the club now find themselves very much between a rock and a hard place. Koeman would have settled for a one-year deal.



Javeria led PCB Challengers to Pak Cup victory

In a live-telecasted match, Challengers’ bowlers dominated under the captaincy of Javeria who earlier performed with her bat for the team. While chasing 211, Blasters’ batters were completely failed despite GulFeroza and OmamaSohail settling for scoring 69 runs for the second wicket partnership

DNA

KARACHI: Skipper Javeria Khan-led PCB Challengers beat PCB Blasters to win Pakistan Cup Women’s One-Day Tournament here at National Stadium. In a live-telecasted match, Challengers’ bowlers dominated under the captaincy of Javeria who earlier performed with her bat for the team. While chasing 211, Blasters’ batters were completely failed despite GulFeroza and OmamaSohail settling for scoring 69 runs for the second wicket partnership. Opener Nahida Khan fell after scoring just nine runs, leaving her team suffering at 18-1. Gul scored 34 runs off 86 balls braced with three boundaries



whereas Omama made 38 runs including four boundaries. Captain Sidra Nawaz was the only third batter from Blasters who scored in double figures. Her inning accounted for 30 runs off 45 balls with the help of two boundaries. Dua Majid bagged three wickets whereas Anousha Nasir, Saba Nazir, and Diana Baig had two wickets each for Challengers. Earlier, Javeria’s 87 runs guided Challengers to score 210-8 in 50 overs. Javeria’s powerful knock included six boundaries. FareehaMehmood smoked 34 runs laced with four boundaries followed by Diana who smashed three fours and a six to score 25. For Blasters, Saima Malik bagged two wickets while Fatima Sana, Nida Dar, and Syed Aroob Shah shared a wicket apiece.

Afghanistan says want...

FROM PAGE 01

The Taliban are yet to announce a policy on women playing sport, but a senior official has said it would be “not necessary”. Avoiding commenting on the latest developments, Fazli said he planned to visit other regional cricketing powers. “I am taking a tour of Pakistan from September 25 and then will go to India, Bangladesh and the United Arab Emirates to meet officials of cricket boards,” he told AFP over the phone from Kabul. Fazli said he would meet new Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ramiz Raja, “and offer to host Pakistan for the series which we were due to play in Sri Lanka in September”.

COAS inaugurates latest...

FROM PAGE 01

It added that Pakistan Army Air Defence was equipped with sophisticated, highly accurate and lethal long range weapon systems. CIADBAM will provide an integrated environment for synchronised and effective articulation of Air Defence battle from top tier of command down to individual weapon system. Simulator complex in the facility is capable of projecting various dynamic scenarios which can be configured and developed as per the latest intricacies and challenges of Air Defence Battle.

GSP plus status...

FROM PAGE 01

two important conditions for the Commission to grant or extend a GSP Plus status. The continuation of Pakistan’s GSP Plus status will provide a major boost to an economic decline that had begun in 2017. Sources said that since less than two years remain for the status to lapse, parties sympathetic with Pakistan at the EU, despite the presence of major anti-Pakistan lobbies, are trying to drag the review so that Pakistan continues to benefit from the status till the end. In March 2020, the EU extended Pakistan’s GSP plus status till 2022. Pakistan had ratified and signed 27 conventions prior to getting the GSP Plus back in 2014 and a compliance report is released periodically, reviewing progress on the desired objectives.

FM discusses bilateral...

FROM PAGE 01

Pakistan and the region. He called for sustained and positive engagement of the international community, particularly of the EU, for supporting stability and socio-economic development in Afghanistan. The Foreign Minister conveyed Pakistan’s concern to the High Representative over the unwarranted and negative references to Pakistan in a recent resolution of the EU Parliament on Afghanistan. He recalled the efforts made by Pakistan for the promotion of peace and stability in Afghanistan, sacrifices rendered by Pakistan in the fight against terrorism, and the assistance of Pakistan to ensure safe evacuation of diplomats and other officials from Afghanistan. The Foreign Minister and EU High Representative discussed the modalities for establishing closer cooperation between the EU and the neighbouring countries of Afghanistan to prevent a humanitarian crisis, avert an economic collapse, and preclude a mass exodus from Afghanistan.

Three Brothers...

FROM PAGE 01

weapons including Kamikaze drone, helicopters and small arms. In addition sea assault, fast rope and close interdiction by Azerbaijani Air Force and Air Defence was also part of the joint exercise. Meanwhile, opening ceremony of the exercise Peace Mission under the ambit of SCO platform held at Donguz training area, Orenburg Region, Russia. Colonel General Alexander Pavlovich Lapin Commander of Central Military District Russian Armed Forces was the chief guest at the opening ceremony.

Briefs

State control information system launched

WEB DESK

BAKU: Azerbaijan has launched an information system of state control under President Ilham Aliyev's decree, local news sources have reported.

On January 30, 2021, Aliyev signed a decree "on the creation of the information system of state control" to monitor electronically the status of implementation of decrees, orders and instruction of the head of state and evaluate the activities of local executive authorities on the basis of key performance indicators.

Under the decree, an electronic system was created in the presidential administration, which will ensure increased control over the timely and full implementation of the orders and decrees signed by the president in all directions.

The new system will facilitate the monitoring of all orders electronically. It will simplify reporting, identify problems on orders whose execution is delayed, take appropriate measures to eliminate them and conduct a thorough evaluation of the work performed.

Israeli settlers storm Al-Aqsa

NEWS DESK

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM: Hundreds of Israeli settlers forced their way into the flashpoint Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East Jerusalem on Wednesday to mark the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, according to a Palestinian agency.

In a statement, the Jordan-run Islamic Waqf Department, which oversees the holy sites in Jerusalem, said 530 settlers entered the complex under police protection. More settlers are expected to visit the site in the afternoon.

Israeli extremist groups have called on settlers to converge on the Al-Aqsa compound during the week-long Jewish holiday, which started on Monday.

Since the start of September, Israeli settlers marked a number of Jewish holidays, including the Rosh Hashanah – the Jewish New Year and Yom Kippur.

For Muslims, Al-Aqsa represents the world's third holiest site. Jews, for their part, refer to the area as the "Temple Mount," claiming it was the site of two Jewish temples in ancient times.

ADB forecasts GDP growth in Azerbaijan

FOREIGN DESK

BAKU: The Asian Development Bank has increased its forecast for the GDP growth in Azerbaijan by 0.3 percentage points for 2021.

The bank forecasts the 2.2-percent GDP growth in Azerbaijan for 2021. It should be noted that in its April report, Azerbaijan's GDP growth was predicted to be at 1.9 percent.

"Among hydrocarbon exporters, Azerbaijan grew by 2.1 percent in the first six months of 2021 on gains outside of the hydrocarbon industry and higher net exports. The 2021 growth forecast for Azerbaijan is therefore raised from 1.9 percent in ADO 2021 to 2.2 percent in this update," the report reads.

Moreover, ADB has forecasted the 2.5-percent GDP growth in Azerbaijan's economy for 2022.

Furthermore, the bank states that Azerbaijan's current account surplus reached 5.6 percent of GDP in the first quarter of 2021, and this upward trend is expected to continue with relatively high oil prices.

"The prospect of sharply rising oil export earnings motivates upward revisions to Azerbaijan's projected current account surpluses from 3.9 percent of GDP to 7 percent in 2021 and from 5.5 percent to 8.1 percent in 2022," the report reads.

Additionally, inflation is forecasted to accelerate to 4.5 percent in 2021 and to 3 percent in 2022.

Uzbek President says we need to help Afghan people

Says Afghanistan is an integral part of Central Asia

DNA

NEW YORK: President of Uzbekistan SHAHKAT MIRZIYOYEV while addressing the UN General Assembly has said that It is the United Nations that must continue to play a leading role in these important processes of global destiny with new substance and quality. I would like to underscore once again that Afghanistan is an integral part of Central Asia. It is not only us and the neighboring states, but also the whole world are interested in the establishment of peace and tranquility in this country. Therefore, we are always doing our best to help the Afghan people.

Here is the text of his speech: 'First of all, I sincerely congratulate Mr. Antonio Guterres on his re-election as the UN Secretary-General. Today, humanity is at a turning point in its path of development and the nature of international relations is changing dramatically.

The transnational threats to peace, security and sustainable development are growing. The climate is rapidly changing. The mass migration flows are increasing and traditional values are declining. I am convinced that in such a complex environment, the importance and role of the United Nations and its specialized agencies on a global scale is growing.

We support the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen solidarity and accord in the international relations, increase the efficiency and transparency of the Organization.

Today, the COVID-19 pandemic, which became a global disaster, and its not only social and economic, but also spiritual and political consequences are in the focus of our attention.

We fully support the United Nations' approach that ensures equal and fair access to vaccines based on the principle of «no one should be left behind». I would like to take this opportunity to express my special gratitude to our foreign partners, who have provided us the practical



assistance in the framework of the COVAX global platform. In this regard, we propose to hold an international conference in Tashkent dedicated to studying the problems of global economic recovery, the implementation of the best practices in poverty reduction in the post-pandemic period.

It is well-known that the World Conference on Involving Youth in Global Action was successfully held in our country. We are going to organize a Global Educational Forum in the framework of a regular dialogue on human rights in the ancient city of Samarkand in Uzbekistan to continue our efforts in this direction.

We are consolidating a completely new political environment in the Central Asian region in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect, good neighborliness and strategic partnership. Our main objective is to make Central Asia a place of prosperity and sustainable development, trust and friendship. To this end,

we attach priority to strengthening the interactions with neighboring and adjacent regions. In this regard, we have put forward a proposal to adopt a special Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on strengthening the interconnectivity of Central and South Asia.

We have recently opened the Uzbek-Afghan border and resumed the supply of basic-needs and oil products, as well as electricity to this country.

During these challenging times, it is impossible to isolate Afghanistan and leave it within the range of its problems. As it is well known, last year, from this high rostrum, we proposed to establish a permanent UN Committee on Afghanistan. The influence and voice of the United Nations on Afghanistan must be heard louder than ever. The growing number of threats and conflicts, transnational threats in the world requires further strengthening of the international cooperation.



BERN: Ambassador designate of Pakistan to Switzerland, Aamir Shouket met with Head of the Asia Division. Matters of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting. – DNA

Azerbaijan to bring renewable energy share to 30 pct by 2030

DNA

BAKU: Energy Minister Parviz Shahbazov has said that Azerbaijan, which is an exporter of traditional energy resources, aims to bring the share of renewable energy in the total installed capacity of electricity to 30 percent by 2030.

He made the remarks at the ministerial panel on "policy to support the rapid expansion of the hydrogen supply chain" at the Gastech 2021 exhibition and conference being held in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates.

The minister spoke about

the measures taken in Azerbaijan in connection with the energy transit process, as well as about projects and prospects in the renewable energy field.

Shahbazov noted that the Azerbaijani president defined achieving a "clean environment" and becoming a "green growth" country by 2030 as one of the five national priorities for the country's socio-economic development.

Moreover, he noted that Azerbaijan and leading international wind and solar energy companies had recently signed investment and implementation agreements.

The minister added that auctions for renewable energy are planned to be held in the near future. Furthermore, he stressed that climate change is a reality contributing to the global energy transition.

The minister highlighted the importance of expanding urgently the use of green energy to achieve a balance between energy security and environmental security.

He said that the effectiveness of the energy transition process necessitates a broad dialogue between energy producers and consumers.

As part of the event, the minister also took part in the Gastech Awards 2021, where

the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline was named the winner in the Gas, LNG, or Hydrogen Project of the Year category.

He held a number of meetings as part of the visit to the UAE.

At their meeting, Shahbazov and UAE Energy and Infrastructure Minister Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei focused on bilateral and multi-lateral effective partnerships in the energy sector.

The minister assessed the implementation of the project for the construction of a solar power plant with Masdar as an indicator of confidence in Azerbaijan's business environment.

France should 'get a grip' about AUKUS, Boris Johnson says

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: France should "get a grip" about the new Australia, UK, and US partnership, the British prime minister said Wednesday.

"What I want to say about that is I just think it's time for some of our dearest friends around the world to prenez un grip (get a grip) about all this and donnez-moi un break (give me a break)," said Boris Johnson, who is currently in the US.

Johnson's comments came as Paris got angered because of a multibillion-dollar submarine deal with Australia collapsed as the country signed the trilateral security pact, dubbed the AUKUS, with the US and UK.

"This is fundamentally a great step forward for global security. It's three very like-minded allies standing shoulder to shoulder and creating a new partnership for

the sharing of technology," Johnson said.

"It's not exclusive, it's not trying to shoulder anybody out. It is not adversarial towards China, for instance," he added.

Johnson underlined that the AUKUS is "there to intensify links and friendship between three countries in a way that I think will be beneficial for things that we believe in."

France expressed its disappointment after a major submarine procurement contract was canceled by Australia to sign with the AUKUS pact to build nuclear-powered submarines.

It recalled its ambassadors to Washington and Canberra for consultations.

France's Defense Minister Florence Parly has also canceled talks that were due this week in London with her British counterpart Ben Wallace after the cancellation of the submarine deal, which was worth \$66 billion.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan Kuninori Matsuda in a meeting with Advisor to the PM on Commerce & Investment, Razak Dawood. – DNA

Azerbaijani civilian killed in mine blast

FOREIGN DESK

BAKU: An Azerbaijani civilian has been killed in a mine explosion in western Gazakh region, the Interior Ministry reported on September 22. Khanliglar village resident Mammad Mardanov (33) was killed by the mine blast in the region's Bala Jafarli village.

An investigation, which has been launched into the case, is underway, the report added.

Earlier, Gubadli region resident Zafar Agayev, the driver of an excavator belonging to Korpu-Bina-Tikinti LLC, who was performing the construction work, hit a mine while driving the excavator. The injured tractor driver was hospitalized in Barda region's central hospital. The Aghdam region prosecutor's office filed a criminal case into the mine blast that wounded Agayev at about 0100 (GMT +4) on September 21 in Aghdam's Garvand village.

Some 160 Azerbaijanis have been killed or injured in the explosion of mines planted by Armenians in Azerbaijan's formerly occupied regions since the end of the war in autumn 2020 that saw Azerbaijan liberate most of its territories in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Rare Australia earthquake triggers panic in Melbourne

MELBOURNE: A rare quake rattled southeastern Australia on Wednesday, shaking buildings, knocking down walls and sending panicked Melbourne residents running into the streets.

The shallow 5.9 magnitude tremor hit east of the country's second-largest city at the start of the working day and was one of the largest to hit the country in decades.

With Melbourne beginning its eighth week of pandemic lockdown and braced for a third straight day of violent anti-vaccine protests, most residents were at home when the quake struck.

Zume Phim, 33, owner of Melbourne's Oppen cafe, said he rushed onto the street as the tremor hit.

"The whole building was shaking. All the windows, the glass, was shaking – like a wave of shaking," he told AFP.

"I have never experienced that before. It was a little bit scary." In a popular shopping area around Melbourne's Chapel Street, masonry debris tumbled from buildings and littered the roads. – Agencies

Experts call for Pak-China cooperation on decarbonisation

DNA

BEIJING: Experts called for Pak-China cooperation on decarbonisation to achieve the target of global carbon emission.

According to China Economic Net, "Belt and Road (BRI) countries account for over 60% of global carbon emission.

Faced with the prominent common challenge of climate change, a BRI carbon market could be introduced to reduce the overall emission of BRI countries", proposed Zhang Jianyu, Executive Director of the BRI Green Development Institute, in a recent conference on carbon peak and carbon neutrality.

The carbon market featuring emissions trading system (ETS) is booming internationally in recent years as the most important policy tool to promote green, low-carbon development. By 2019, over 46 countries had signed 58 carbon pricing initiatives.

"With greenhouse gas emission quota or emission reduction credit as the subject matter, ETS is conducive to controlling greenhouse gas emissions", introduced Zhang. Different from the traditional market of goods, it is a policy-based market arising from artificial design to properly allocate the right to emission.

For BRI countries, as most members are undergoing industrialisation, their share of global CO2 emissions will continue to grow. In June this year, Pakistan, China, and other BRI countries launched the BRI Partnership for Green Development, which reaffirms climate change as one of the most prominent issues human beings are facing.

"Pakistan is not heavily industrialized, we have to be very careful in our planning and avoid polluting technologies and industries", said Prof. Engr. Zamir Awan, Deputy Director, Center for Chinese Studies, National University of Science & Technology.

SEPTEMBER 2021

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Briefs

Military plane with six on board disappears

MOSCOW: A Russian An-26 military transport aircraft with six people on board disappeared Wednesday near the Far Eastern city of Khabarovsk, the emergencies ministry said. The ministry said that at 6:45 pm local time (0845 GMT) it learned that "an An-26 aircraft had disappeared from radar 38 kilometres (23 miles) from Khabarovsk airport". "According to preliminary data, there are six people on board," the ministry added on its Telegram channel. The ministry said that a helicopter had been dispatched to search for the aircraft. The search, however, was complicated by the onset of darkness in Khabarovsk and "unfavourable weather conditions", the ministry said. Once notorious for plane accidents, Russia has improved its air traffic safety record in recent years. The country's major airlines have shifted from ageing Soviet aircraft to more modern planes. But poor aircraft maintenance and lax safety standards still persist, and the country has seen several deadly air accidents in recent years. In July, an An-26 aircraft flying over the Far Eastern Kamchatka peninsula with 28 people on board disappeared and crashed. — APP

Afghan women MPs arrive in Greece

ATHENS: Greece on Wednesday said it was temporarily hosting seven Afghan women MPs and their families who fled Afghanistan ahead of eventual resettlement in the United States. "Seven Afghan MPs arrived in Athens via Tbilisi (Georgia) a few hours ago, accompanied by family members," the Greek foreign ministry said in a statement. "(They) will be hosted in Greece for a short time until resettlement procedures to the United States are completed," it said. The women, whose identities were not revealed, left Afghanistan with assistance from the New York-based NGO Zaka Khan, the ministry said. Greece took part in US-led evacuation efforts in August to remove a small number of people from Afghanistan following the Taliban return to power after two decades. Greece is currently home to 40,000 long-term Afghan refugees and asylum seekers, making it the largest migrant population in the country, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. — APP

IMF talks on Oct 4 for \$1b tranche

MONITORING DESK

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has appointed a new country head for Pakistan ahead of high-stake talks for the release of \$1 billion loan tranche and holding a comprehensive review of health of Pakistan's economy under Article-IV. Pakistan and International Monetary Fund will hold staff-level discussions from October 4 to decide the thorny issues like further increase in electricity tariffs and approval of a highly controversial State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Amendment Bill 2021 by the Parliament, the government sources told media. The successful conclusion of the talks would facilitate immediate disbursements of \$1 billion by the IMF and another \$1.6 billion by the Asian Development Bank (\$600 million) and the World Bank (\$1 billion) over the course of the current fiscal year. Neither the finance ministry nor the International Monetary Fund gave comments and preferred to officially remain tightlipped.

ADB projects Pakistan's GDP to rise by 4% in FY 2022

The report noted that investment was expected to strengthen as global sentiment improves and the International Monetary Fund-supported stabilisation program continues to progress

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has projected Pakistan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth to reach 4 per cent in the fiscal year 2021-22 (FY22) as business activity gradually resumed in the second year of the Covid-19 pandemic. According to the Asian Development Outlook 2021, the growth forecast witnessed recovery in private investment as consumer confidence and business activity improved amid the ongoing vaccination rollout and various economic stimulus measures announced in the budget for 2021-22. The report noted that investment was expected to strengthen as global sentiment improves and the International Monetary Fund-supported stabilisation program continues to progress.

On the supply side, the outlook for agriculture is encouraging in view of the government's ambitious Agriculture Transformation Plan. "The plan aims to achieve food security for a growing population by expanding land under cultivation, revamping extension services, boosting water-use efficiency, developing post-harvest storage and food processing plants, augmenting bank credit, and introducing the 'Kissan Card' as a digital wallet for the direct and swift transfer of subsidies for seed, pesticides, and fertiliser." Similarly, steady normalisation of global merchandise trade, improved market sentiment and stronger business and consumer confidence was expected from the continuing roll-



out of Covid-19 vaccination programme and an accommodative monetary policy, according to the report. It also said that enhanced growth in agriculture and industry and an expected improvement in domestic demand were projected to raise growth in the services sector which will add to improvement in growth in FY22. "Inflationary pressures will likely come from

ongoing economic recovery and rising global oil prices but should be tempered by expenditure reform and the government's commitment not to borrow directly from the central bank." The ADB report said the risk of inflation being higher than forecast derived from any unusual increase in oil prices or from potential currency depreciation in the wake of any early wind-

ing down of the ongoing IMF programme. The fiscal deficit is projected to narrow to the equivalent of 6.9pc of the GDP in FY22, which is still higher than the target set earlier under a medium-term fiscal consolidation program supported by the IMF. "Growth in revenue is projected to accelerate with the rapid pickup in domestic economic activity and higher imports," the report said. Expenditure is also projected to rise in FY22 as the government has budgeted substantial increases in subsidies and in social and development spending to protect the vulnerable and fortify growth and economic recovery. Pakistan's public debt outlook is sustainable in the medium term. "With primary and fiscal deficits, high borrowing costs, and cur-

rency depreciation, public external debt reached \$95.2 billion in the fiscal year 2021," the report said. However, the government has been implementing a medium-term debt strategy for fiscal years 2020-2023. "The maturity structure of public debt has improved by re-profiling public debt into longer-term instruments. With strong economic growth prospects for FY22 and beyond, public debt remains on a downward path over the medium term," it said. As domestic demand picks up and international oil prices rise, the current account deficit is seen widening to the equivalent of 1.5pc of GDP in the fiscal year 2022. Likewise, export growth is expected to accelerate, supported by a projected upturn in economic activity in Pakistan's major trade partners.

US and Pakistan convene energy dialogue

ISLAMABAD: The US Department of State's Acting Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Energy Resources Harry Kamian and Pakistan's Secretary of Power Ali Raza Bhutta co-hosted an Energy Dialogue to renew and reinforce the longstanding partnership between the United States and Pakistan in the energy sector. In Wednesday's dialogue, Pakistan and the United States reaffirmed their commitment to mitigate power sector emissions and to help Pakistan reach its commendable target of 60 percent renewable power generation by 2030. "The United States has part-

nered with Pakistan to build clean and efficient energy infrastructure for over half a century," said Chargé d'affaires Angela P. Aggeler. "It is an enduring partnership, and we have much to show for it: the U.S. government has supported the generation, transmission, and distribution of more than 4,000 megawatts of clean energy in Pakistan, over 10 percent of Pakistan's current electric generation capacity, providing power for more than 47 million Pakistanis." The partnership is more important than ever, with over half of Pakistan's greenhouse gas emissions coming from the energy sector. — DNA



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, Nawaf Bin Saeed Al Malki. — DNA

'Flawed' probe sees release of five men in Noor case

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Police's 'flawed' investigation into murder of former Pakistan envoy's daughter Noor Muqaddam has been exposed as five, out of total 12 people nominated in the case, including Zahir Zakir Jaffer, the main accused, were released after they managed to obtain bail. It has emerged that police have named not a single person as an eyewitness in the case; not even the gardener and the security guard who were present at the time of commission of the crime. Rather they were nominated as suspects in the murder case. And several witnesses named in the case, including policemen and doctors, are all state witnesses. Legal experts have said that ignoring eyewitnesses in the case amounts to benefitting accused in the case, particularly main accused namely Zahir Zakir Jaffer.

Even Khawaja Haris, counsel for the accused, has played to the court for the release of Zahir, his father Zakir and mother Asmat Adamji precisely for the same reason. Earlier during the hearing of a bail petition filed by main accused's parents in the Islamabad High Court (IHC), counsel for the state argued that the petition should be heard by a division, and not a single bench. Justice Amir Farooq asked as to on what legal basis the petition should be heard by a division bench rather than a single bench. Justice Farooq directed the counsel to ask the advocate general of Pakistan (AGP) to himself give arguments in the court. "Despite the sensitivity as well as extreme importance of the issue, you are behaving like this. The discussion on the case lasted for three days and still you are not prepared," the judge remarked while addressing the state counsel.

Afghan health care system on brink of collapse

UNITED NATIONS: Afghanistan's health system is on the brink of collapse, the head of the World Health Organization (WHO), Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, warned on Wednesday. His warning came as the United Nations' top humanitarian official, Martin Griffiths, announced the release of US \$ 45 million from an emergency fund to support Afghanistan's crumbling health-care system. "Allowing Afghanistan's healthcare delivery system to fall apart would be disastrous," Griffiths said. "People across the country would be denied access to primary healthcare such as emergency caesarean sections and trauma care." Echoing that message from the Afghan capital, Kabul, Tedros, the WHO director-general, said international funding cuts had forced health providers to decide "who to save and who to let die". — APP



Minister lauds Amb. Kuninori's role in bolstering Pak-Japan ties

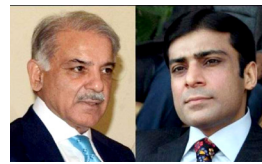
STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Japanese Ambassador, Kuninori Matsuda called on the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Mr. Omar Ayub Khan in his office. The Minister for Economic Affairs commended the prodigious efforts of Japanese Ambassador H.E. Kuninori Matsuda for strengthening Pak-Japan economic relations during his 3-year tenure in Pakistan, Said a press release here today. The Minister for Economic Affairs lauded that during his tenure, Mr. Kuninori Matsuda played a key role to enhance the bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries. The proactive role of Japanese Ambassador helped to accelerate the implementation of development projects in the field of education, health, water & sanitation, energy and disaster management. Furthermore,

a "Project for Human Resource Development under Japanese Grant Aid (JDS)" was also launched during his tenure in Pakistan. The JDS is designed to support social and economic development of the country by providing government officials an opportunity to obtain master's and doctoral degrees in Japan in order to strengthen the administrative capacity of government officials. H.E. Kuninori Matsuda, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan expressed that there is huge potential for enhancing bilateral trade & investment between the two countries and exporting skilled human resources to Japan. The Ambassador informed keen interest of Japanese companies for investment in Pakistan, especially in auto sector. He further shared that one of the top Japanese auto companies is expected to make huge investment in Pakistan in near future for enhancing its production ca-

capacity of hybrid vehicles for meeting the needs of local market as well as for exporting to other countries. He also commended the efforts of Government to effectively control polio in Pakistan as only one case of polio is reported in this year. The Ambassador also highlighted the importance of regional integration and connectivity with the Central Asia which would help to unleash economic opportunities in the region through enhanced trade, investment and tourism. The Minister for Economic Affairs thanked the Japanese Ambassador for his extraordinary efforts for strengthening bilateral economic cooperation. The Minister also reiterated full support of the Government of Pakistan to the potential Japanese investors to facilitate their investment in Pakistan. The Minister expressed his best wishes for the Ambassador on his future assignments and career progression.

FIA summons Shahbaz, Hamza on Sep 25



DNA

LAHORE: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has summoned the Opposition Leader in the National Assembly, Shahbaz Sharif and officials of Mian Mansha group on September 25 in an inquiry related to money laundering of Rs25 billion through illegal bank transactions. As per details, Shahbaz Sharif, Hamza Shahbaz Sharif, Vice President Muslim Commercial Bank (MCB) Asim Suri and Azhar Mahmood have been asked to appear before FIA Lahore on September 25. Azhar Mahmood and Asim Suri, are accused of asserting pressure on the witnesses in the case against Shahbaz Sharif and his family members. It is to be noted that Asim Suri is currently on judicial remand in the case, while Azhar Mahmood has acquired interim bail. Earlier this week, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) had served a legal notice to business tycoon Mian Muhammad Mansha over illegal transactions worth Rs25 billion in a money laundering case. The notice issued by the FIA had said that bank accounts of Ramzan Sugar Mills employees with low income were opened from 2008 to 2018.

Pakistan receives 10m more Covid vaccines

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ten million more doses of two Chinese vaccines have arrived in Pakistan, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said on Wednesday. A spokesperson for the NDMA said in a Twitter statement said three million doses of SinoVac vaccine and seven million doses of Sinopharm vaccine arrived in Pakistan on September 19-21. The jabs have been handed over to the Ministry of National Health Services for onward distribution among the provinces. On September 16, 0.5 million doses of Russia's Sputnik V vaccine had arrived in Pakistan. In a statement on its official Twitter handle, the NDMA said the vaccine purchased by it arrived on September 16 and has been handed over to Ministry of National Health and Services, Regulations and Coordination.

Pakistan passengers left helpless at Tashkent Airport

TASHKENT: The Pakistani passengers of a British Airways flight BA-260 have been left helpless and unattended at Tashkent airport after their plane made an emergency landing to the death of a woman mid-flight. A British Airways flight that took off from Islamabad made an emergency landing at Tashkent airport today after a woman passed away after suffering a cardiac arrest. It emerged that the passengers have been forced to sit inside the plane by the foreign airline's administration for about eight hours and later sent to the airport's lounge. The passengers were now left unattended at the airport's lounge for over three hours. A passenger said that the officials of British Airways informed the passengers about a fault developed in the aircraft during filling and another plane will be sent to the Tashkent airport to transport the travellers. He added that they were told that another plane will arrive at the airport after 13 hours. He complained about passengers including children and patients facing troubles for being stranded and left helpless at the Tashkent airport without food and essential facilities including the internet. — DNA

Six billion anti-Covid shots injected worldwide

It took around 140 days to get the first billion doses into people's arms

AGENCIES

PARIS: More than six billion doses of anti-Covid vaccines have been administered around the world, according to an AFP tally based on official sources on Wednesday at 0930 GMT. The vaccination drive has reached a steady rhythm as it took 29 days to clock up the sixth billion, almost the same speed as the fourth and fifth billion at 30 and 26 days respectively. It took around 140 days to get the first billion doses into people's arms. Nearly 40 percent (2.18 billion) of the six billion shots have been administered in China. India (826.5 million) and the United States (386.8 million) make up



the trio of countries that have administered the most jabs. Among countries with a population of over one million, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) leads the way with 198 doses per 100 inhabitants and more than 81 percent of the population fully vaccinated. Uruguay comes next with 175 doses per 100 inhabitants, followed by Israel (171), Cuba (163), Qatar (162) and Portugal

(154). Some of these countries, including Israel, the UAE and Uruguay, have started to give booster jabs with the aim of extending immunity among the fully vaccinated. While most poorer countries have now started vaccination drives, mainly thanks to the Covax scheme, coverage remains very unequal, although injections have picked up in recent weeks after donations by richer countries. High-income countries, as defined by the World Bank, administered an average of 124 doses per 100 inhabitants compared with just four doses per 100 inhabitants in low-income countries. Three countries are not yet vaccinating at all: Burundi, Eritrea and North Korea.

Biden says US donating extra 500m vaccines

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden opened a Covid-19 summit of world leaders Wednesday with a promise to donate a "historic" extra 500 million vaccines to countries struggling to push back against the pandemic. "This is an all-hands-on-deck crisis," Biden said. "America will become the arsenal for vaccine crises as we were the arsenal for democracy in World War II." The pledge from Biden at the summit, held virtually from the White House, brings the total US commitment of donated vaccines to 1.1 billion — more than the rest of the world combined. "The US has already shipped 160 million of these doses to 100 countries," the White House said in a statement. "For every one shot we've put in an American arm to date, we are now donating three shots globally." The new tranche of half a billion vaccines will be from Pfizer and aimed at poorer countries. Biden was also due to challenge world leaders to vaccinate 70 percent of every country by September 2022, the White House said. — Web Desk