



# Islamabad POST

Friday, September 24, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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**Boris Johnson praises Imran Khan's Ten Billion Trees Project**

Detailed News On Page-01

**Sadiq Sanjrani felicitates Saudi Arabia**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Mike Atherton backs Pakistan, slams ECB**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

**PM Imran to address UNGA today**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan will deliver the policy address, through video link, at the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly today (Friday) outlining Pakistan's perspective on key regional and global issues. The Prime Minister's policy address will serve to enhance Pakistan's diplomatic outreach and engagement with its international partners and key institutions. Pakistan has always played an active and constructive role in the United Nations framework and supported the Organization in the effective discharge of its mandate for addressing various regional and global issues as well as contemporary challenges.

**JI backs demands of students**

DNA

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Sirajul Haq has backed the demands of the students protesting against the irregularities in examinations and tests being conducted under the Pakistan Medical Commission. Students from across the country had taken to the streets against the National Licensing Exam and the Medical and Dental Colleges Admission Test but the government was not paying any heed to the issue, he said in a statement issued from Mansoor on Thursday.

**Maryam voices support for ECP**

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that it is the habit of the government to take on anybody who exposes its inefficiencies, explaining same is the case with the ECP which is being hammered by the government for raising objections over the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). She was talking to the media after attending the hearing of her and Capt © Muhammad Safdar appeals against their convictions in Avenfield reference in IHC.

## Pak-Saudi relationship exemplary

The president was addressing a seminar on Pak-Saudi Relations, also attended by Federal Minister Chaudhry Fawad Hussain and Saudi envoy Nawaf Bin Saeed

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Thursday while lauding their approach on international issues, said the leadership of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia was capable to lead the world through their vision. The president, addressing a seminar on "Pak-Saudi Relations: Past, Present and Future" held here, said having their religious affinity, the people of Pakistan were devoted for security of the holy land of Saudi Arabia. Federal Ministers Chaudhry Fawad Hussain and Pir Nurul Haq Qadri, Special Assistants to PM Allama Tahir Ashrafi and Shabaz Gill, Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood, Saudi Ambassador Nawaf Bin Said Al Maliki attended the event held in connection with the celebration of 91st National Day of Saudi Arabia. The president said the first treaty of friendship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia was signed in 1951 and that both the countries had a long history of friendship. He said even after India carried out atomic explosion, Pakistan's friendly countries stood by it to build the capacity and achieve deterrence. The president especially lauded the treatment of Pakistani workers in Saudi Arabia who also contributed to Saudi development besides sending remittances to Pakistan. He viewed that no incident in the history could hurt the Pak-Saudi relationship as both the countries showed their exemplary friendship even at international forums.

Continued on Page 06

**Pakistan-KSA enjoy cordial ties: Fawad**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain Thursday said that Pakistan Saudi and Pakistan enjoyed strong and cordial religious and historical relations based on Islamic brotherhood. Speaking at a seminar marking the 91st National Day of Saudi Arabia here, he said that the people of Pakistan had relationship of heart with Saudi Arabia as holy cities of Makkah Mulkarrma and Medina Munawwara were located in the kingdom. He said every Pakistani considered Saudi Arabia as their second home. Al Saud family had rendered valuable services for Saudi Arabia, he said adding that King Abdul Aziz was an extraordinary personality known all over the world. Pakistan's relationship with Saudi Arabia, he said, dated back to pre-independence times when King Abdul Aziz visited Karachi in 1940 along with his five brothers. He said that when in 1946, Bengal was hit by famine, on the request of the

Continued on Page 06

## ‘Economic sanctions on Afghanistan must end’

Afghanistan's foreign exchange reserves belong to the people, Wang Yi says



NEWS DESK

BEIJING: China's State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said the various unilateral sanctions or restrictions on Afghanistan should be lifted as soon as possible. Economic sanctions on Afghanistan must end, the Chinese foreign ministry said in a statement, citing Wang at a virtual G20 foreign ministers meeting on Afghanistan on Wednesday. Afghanistan's foreign exchange reserves are national assets that should belong to the country's people and be used by its own people, and not be used as a bargaining chip to exert political pressure on Afghanistan, he said. Earlier, China stated that it is ready to deepen "friendly and cooperative" relations with Afghanistan. China shares a rugged 76-kilometre (47-mile) border with Afghanistan. A top-level Taliban delegation met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Tianjin in July, promising that Afghanistan would not be used as a base for militants. In exchange, China offered economic support and investment for Afghanistan's reconstruction. For Beijing, a stable and cooperative administration in

Continued on Page 06

**Taliban UN envoy urges recognition**

AGENCIES



DOHA: The Taliban's newly appointed envoy to the United Nations on Wednesday urged quick world recognition of Afghanistan's new rulers even as the World Health Organisation raised the alarm of an impending health care disaster in the war-ravaged country. Earlier, the Taliban had written to the United Nations announcing that Suhail Shaheen,

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan Tapas Adhikari calls on Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan. – DNA

**UK PM lauds PM Imran's initiative**



MONITORING DESK

NEW YORK: In yet another acknowledgement of Prime Minister Imran Khan's efforts to counter the affects of climate change, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson highlighted

Continued on Page 06

## Pakistan ready to work closely with Nepal: PM

The Prime Minister expressed these remarks in a meeting with Nepalese envoy Tapas Adhikari

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan Tapas Adhikari called on Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan in Islamabad on Wednesday. Ambassador Adhikari expressed that the bilateral relationships between Nepal and Pakistan have always been cordial based on goodwill, mutual trust and cooperation.

Ambassador Adhikari further expressed Nepal's desire for a deeper relationship with Pakistan and said he would make sincere efforts to further enhance bilateral relations between Nepal and Pakistan. Ambassador Adhikari briefed the recent political development and covid-19 situation in Nepal to the Prime Minister of Pakistan. He also thanked the Government and the people of Pakistan

for their continued support to Nepal and in particular recent material and financial support to Nepal to fight against Covid-19 pandemic. Ambassador Adhikari also appreciated Prime Minister Khan for his vision to promote tourism in Pakistan and shared Nepal's interest to work with Pakistan to promote tourism since both countries have

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## Inside...

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Atherton again backs Pakistan, slams ECB – Page 06

Fakhar reaffirms govt's resolve to achieve zero hunger, SDGs – Page 07

Pak students protest against nonchalance of Australian govt – Page 08

## OIC calls upon world to hold India accountable

(OIC) Contact Group called upon the int'l community to "take immediate cognisance of the compelling evidence" in a dossier issued

DNA

NEW YORK: The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday called upon the international community to "take immediate cognisance of the compelling evidence" contained in a dossier issued by Pakistan on September 12 against India's heinous crimes in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The foreign ministers of the contact group met on the sidelines of

Continued on Page 06

**Qureshi meets US, Turkish, Saudi FM's**

DNA

NEW YORK: At the UN, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi held key meetings with his United States', Saudi Arabian, Austrian and Turkish counterparts. During his meeting with the American Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Qureshi apprised him of Pakistan's efforts for peace in Afghanistan. Both the leaders discussed Afghan situation in detail. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood stressed the need to promote lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan through active and sustained engagement of the international community on political, economic and humanitarian fronts.

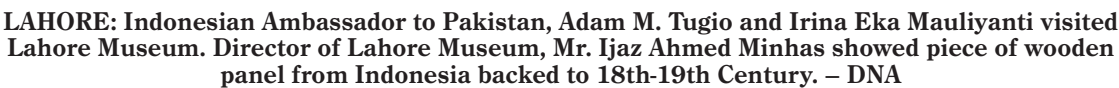
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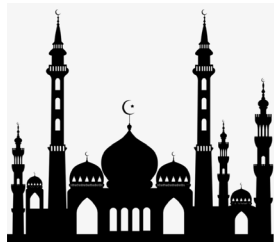
**PESHAWAR:** Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Finance and Health Taimur Salim Jhagra Thursday said the newly constructed courts in Hayatabad sector would provide facilities to local people besides reducing burden on city courts.

Talking to a delegation of Federal Lawyers' Forum here at his office, he assured that the government would soon make these courts operational, adding that it would provide a considerable relief to people of PK-73 constituency. — DNA

[illegible]



## SERVICES



### Namaz Timings

Fajr..... 04:33 am  
Zohr..... 12:00 pm  
Asr..... 04:20 pm  
Maghrib..... 06:03 pm  
Isha..... 07:21 pm



### Hotels & Restaurants

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Wapda Rawalpindi 111-309-309

### Islamabad Metropolitan

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Rawal Town.....5773343

### Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....0331-5022125

# President for framework to facilitate foreign businesses

Dr. Arif Alvi emphasized the need to develop a comprehensive strategy to cope with the cyber threats by ensuring the safety of cyberspace for citizens, businesses

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi has called for establishing an institutional framework to facilitate and encourage Multinational companies and Pakistani diaspora to extend their business setups in Pakistan, particularly in the IT Sector. He underlined the need to improve the business environment by simplifying the procedure for registration of companies and capital movement in order to attract foreign investments to Pakistan. He made these remarks while addressing a meeting, through video link, of the Pakistani diaspora from Silicon Valley, USA, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. The meeting deliberated upon the issues being faced by the foreign investors and Pakistani diaspora while setting up business and making investments in Pakistan. The leading IT experts of Pakistani diaspora from Silicon Valley highlighted the issues being faced by



them such as the complicated procedure for registration of companies, lengthy process of opening of bank accounts and lack of one window operation which hindered foreign businesses and investors come to the country. They suggested various measures to improve the business environment to make Pakistan an attractive destination for investments in the IT Sector.

Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) informed the meeting that the registration process for companies had been simplified that took only four hours to register a company with SECP. Secretary, BOI apprised that Commercial Courts had been set up in 23 districts of the country to resolve commercial and trade disputes. Governor State

Bank of Pakistan (SBP) informed the meeting that the State Bank was making efforts to provide an enabling environment to businesses and foreign investors. The meeting also stressed the need to amend and simplify the existing Notarization procedure to facilitate foreign investors. Addressing the meeting, the President said that the Government

was taking serious measures to provide an enabling environment to foreign businesses and investors. He added that the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector was being strengthened as it had great potential to put the country on fast-track development. He emphasized the need to develop a comprehensive and coordinated strategy to cope with the cyber threats by ensuring the safety of cyberspace for citizens and businesses. The President highlighted that Pakistan produced 30 thousand IT Graduates every year and only 5 thousand of them got employment while the rest were facing difficulties in getting jobs due to the lack of marketable skills. He also emphasized the need to improve the skills of IT experts/graduates by training them as per market requirements. The President assured the Pakistani diaspora of his support to help address their concerns by providing them a business-friendly environment.



**ISLAMABAD:** Major General Muhammad Majeed Mahdi Mahmood, Deputy Commander Iraqi Air Force calling on Air Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babur Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, during his visit to Air Headquarters. – DNA

## Iraqi Air Force delegation visits Air HQs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation led by Major General (Pilot) Muhammad Majeed Mahdi Mahmood, Deputy Commander Iraqi Air Force, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babur Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office today. During the meeting, both the dignitaries discussed matters of professional and mutual interest. Major General (Pilot) Muhammad Majeed, commended the professionalism of PAF and acknowledged its rising indigenous capacity in aviation industry. The Air Chief said that Pakistan and Iraq enjoy longstanding religious, cultural and historical bonds which are manifested through strong ties between the Air Forces of two countries. The Air Chief assured the visiting dignitary that PAF would continue to provide training and technical support to Iraqi Air Force in meeting its air power requirements. Both the commanders also agreed to explore further avenues of cooperation including JF-17 program.

## Nanbhai's passing miserable lives

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A nanbhai Hamid Khan working at a kiosk at Sector H-13 while deploring on his current plight said that he is passing miserable life as he is unable to pay everyday increasing prices of daily use items. So much so he said he is thinking to commit suicide to get rid of present financial problems. He said this while talking to media here on Thursday. "Low-income families are now facing difficulties in paying extra prices as they could not afford high cost of almost all daily use items. I am pocketing only Rs 8,000 per month salary that is insufficient to meet day-to-day expenditures of my small family," he said. "Tandoori roti which now costs Rs 10 as against the previous price of Rs 8 in many areas of the federal city cannot fulfill my needs and that the price should be increased," Khan said. He said he has been taking loans from his kith and kins since the inception of incumbent government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). He demanded the government to lower the prices of daily use items otherwise he will be forced to commit suicide. "I have had never seen such rulers who are totally ignorant of the problems of a lay man. I can't feed my small family comprising only three members.

## PRCS organizes Marathon Race to raise awareness on blood donation

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) on Thursday organized a marathon race under the theme "Give blood and keep the world beating". The aim of this activity was to raise awareness on the need for safe blood transfusion and of the critical contribution voluntary, unpaid blood donors make to national health systems. Around 200 volunteers participated in the marathon race that started from PRCS National Headquarters and ended at the same point while passing through Professor Ashfaq Ahmed

and Pitras Bukhari roads. A ceremony was held in the end in connection with the blood donation awareness campaign and to award the winners of the race that was attended by PRCS Chairman Abrar ul Haq said that the need for blood is universal, but access to blood for all those who need it is not and blood shortages are particularly acute in developing countries. He said that the pandemic had brought voluntary blood donations to a virtual standstill, adding that the closure of educational institutions, which had been a major source of blood collection, had also severely impacted the blood donations. He said PRCS Regional Blood Donor Centre (RBDC) housed at the National Headquarters in Islamabad would usually collect 500-1000 donations in any given month, which have now fallen to around few dozen units only. Around 90% of PRCS blood supply has been threatened by cancellation of community blood drives due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Adel Nawaz, Heads of Delegation of IFRC and Turkish Red Crescent, staff, volunteers and others. Speaking on the occasion, PRCS Chairman Abrar ul Haq said that the need for blood is universal, but access to blood for all those who need it is not and blood shortages are particularly acute in developing countries. He said that the pandemic had brought voluntary blood donations to a virtual standstill, adding that the closure of educational institutions, which had been a major source of blood collection, had also severely impacted the blood donations. He said PRCS Regional Blood Donor Centre (RBDC) housed at the National Headquarters in Islamabad would usually collect 500-1000 donations in any given month, which have now fallen to around few dozen units only. Around 90% of PRCS blood supply has been threatened by cancellation of community blood drives due to Covid-19 pandemic.



# Capacity building for clinical trials crucial: experts

Dr. Abdur Rasheed, Director, Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan, informed about the current clinical trials being conducted in Pakistan and stressed the need of capacity building through training of researchers in conducting clinical trials

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: COMSTech & Maroof International Hospital jointly inaugurated 2-day international training in randomized controlled trials, at COMSTech Secretariat, on Thursday. Prof. K. H. Mujtaba Quadri, Chair Research and Head of Nephrology, Maroof Clinical Investigation Center, Maroof International Hospital, Islamabad, stressed the need of training in conducting controlled trials and called for joint strategy. He has delivered keynote speech at the occasion. Prof. Quadri, talked about history, and legacy of clinical trials initiation and gave a comprehensive guidelines of the current course, including etiquettes to be followed during the course, in his speech.

Dr. Abdur Rasheed, Director, Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan, informed about the current clinical trials being conducted in Pakistan and stressed the need of capacity building through training of researchers in conducting clinical trials. Dr. Ghazna Khalid, Member Prime Minister's Task Force for COVID19, said that we have potential of conducting clinical trials, and

we should train our researchers to perform quality trials. Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan, Vice-Chancellor, Health Services Academy (HSA), chaired the inaugural session. He said that HSA and COMSTech has joined hands to carry out joint projects for capacity building in public health sector as well as health care research. He appreciated the idea of Prof.

Choudhary, Coordinator General COMSTech that we should outreach to the OIC countries that are in urgent need of strengthening of their public health system. Coordinator General, COMSTech, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary welcomed the participants and appreciated the contribution of key institutions involved in clinical trials. Prof. Choudhary, stressed

the need of training in conducting world-class clinical trials and termed it immensely important as first step towards drug security. Prof. Choudhary guided the researchers to prove our immense treasure of traditional medicine through clinical trials and develop modern drugs from them for not only indigenous use but also for export to the other nations and earn foreign exchange. He also stressed the need of developing drugs for diabetes and neglected diseases like Leishmaniasis, and Leprosy. More than 540 researchers got registered, in this hybrid course, from some 15 OIC member states, and over 50 participants have joined it in-person at COMSTech. This ten sessions long, 2-day training, is being conducted by national and international experts working in the field.



## IHC reserves verdict for Zahir Jaffer's parents

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A bench of Islamabad High Court on Thursday reserved its verdict over bail petitions of prime suspect Zahir Jaffer's parents in Noor Mukadam murder case. Justice Aamer Farooq reserved the decision after conclusion of arguments of lawyers. The lawyer of plaintiff Shaukat Mukadam, Advocate Shah Khawar while opposing the bail said "It was a grisly murder, the suspects should not be granted bail." He said the murder case should be heard in a special court.

"It seems as if you want to delay the trial," Justice Aamer Farooq said. Advocate Khawar responded that was not the objective of his request. "The prosecution has not included unnecessary witnesses in the case. There are 18 witnesses in the case, including two private witnesses. We will soon complete the trial, don't grant them bail," the counsel pleaded.

The bench asked the lawyer how the parents of the suspect and the Therapy Works employees were connected. "We have evidence that prime accused Zahir Jaffer was constantly in touch with the parents, they are connected to the murder," he said. "We have yet to receive forensic report of the mobile phones from the FIA," Police informed the court. "The screen of Zahir Jaffer's cellphone has been broken," the police said. "We have not yet traced the password of the victim's iPhone," police informed the court. "There are so many experts in market used to do everything," Justice Farooq said.

## 20,134 persons get anti Covid jabs

RAWALPINDI: The total district tally of coronavirus vaccination Thursday reached 25, 48,653 with the inoculation of 20,134 more persons against the deadly virus during the last 24 hours. According to fresh data released by the District Health Authority, 41,794 health workers while 25, 06,859 other people had received their dose so far. The report said that the district health authority had registered 76 new infections during the last 24 hours including 68 of Rawalpindi and eight from outside the district while two persons had lost their battle of life against the virus.

It updated that patients reported during the last 24 hours included 12 who belonged to Rawal Town, 16 from Potohar town, 14 from Rawalpindi Cantt, 10 from Kalar Syeda, seven from Taxila, six from Gujjar Khan, two each from Attock, Islamabad and Jehlum while one each was reported from Kotli Sattian, Murree, Kahuta, KPK and Okara. "Presently 129 confirmed patients were admitted to various facilities of the city including eight in Holy Family Hospital, 53 in Benazir Bhutto Hospital, 50 in Institute of Urology, 20 in Fauji Foundation Hospital, four in District Headquarter Hospital, three in Bilal hospital and one each in Hearts international hospital and Akhtar Rukhsana Memorial Trust" he added. – APP

## IESCO notifies power suspension program

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Thursday notified a power suspension programme for Friday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 08:00 am to 01:00 pm KRL, Faziya, Jinnah Camp, Falcon, CDA, FHS, I-8/4, Shakrial, Noor Muhammad, Service Road, Tariq Shaheed, Muslim Town, Sarai Kharboza, Pindpadian, ECHS, Sangiani, Paswal, Shahullah Dutta, Wahdat Colony, Nogzi feeders and surrounding areas.



## Briefs

## 'New Odyssey' exhibition concludes

ISLAMABAD: A 20-day long exhibition titled 'The New Odyssey' concluded on Thursday here at Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) in which skilled and fresh art graduates of various universities and educational institutions actively presented their unique artworks.

Talking to APP, PNCA Director General Hassan Raza Saeed said various universities of Pakistan including National College of Arts, Lahore and Rawalpindi campus, Beacon house National University, Punjab University, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, University of Sindh Jamshoro, University of Peshawar, University of Balochistan and University of Karachi had participated in the exhibition.

The show consisted of 70 artists and 93 skilled arts graduates who presented interesting artworks for display at the exhibition. The 'New Odyssey' was an art shown by the top graduating students from different art universities across Pakistan.

He said PNCA was committed to promote significant aspects of national culture that encouraged community participation in gallery activities, fostering curatorial practice to artists' own understanding of their work and encouraging a healthy and sustainable local arts industry.

The DG said that PNCA had provided an opportunity to fresh talented graduates to showcase their work at this platform.

The platform had not only broaden their vision about the art industry but also helped them gain their exposure towards the national art scene, he added.

The exhibition was conducted under complete Standard Operating Procedures (SOPS). – APP

## 6 arrested for possessing illegal weapons

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police in their crackdown against illegal weapons conducted raids in different areas and rounded up six persons besides recovering five 30 bore pistols, a Kalashnikov and ammunition from their possession, said a police spokesman on Thursday.

He informed that City police held Zafar and recovered a Kalashnikov and ammunition from his possession.

Waris Khan police held Fahad Waheed and Muhammad Tayyab for having two 30 bore pistols and ammunition.

Pirwadhai, Naseerabad and Jati police arrested Muhammad Bilal, Usman Ghani and Khurshed for possessing three 30 bore pistols and ammunition.

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. – APP

## Two thieves, 3 members of a dacoit gang arrested

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district police have busted a dacoit gang and arrested its three members besides arresting two thieves and recovered three 30 bore pistols, two mobile phones and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Airport Police team under the supervision of SHO conducted a raid and rounded up three namely Umar, Sajid and Hassan, three members of a dacoit gang.

Police also recovered three 30 bore pistols, ammunition and other items from their possession.

The arrested dacoit gang members have been sent to jail for identification parade. City police arrested two thieves namely Naem Ali and Ubaid Khan and recovered two stolen mobile phones from their possession. Meanwhile, Civil Line Police team recovered a 30 bore pistol, ammunition and 24 bottles liquor from the possession of an accused namely Iqbal Masih. – APP

## Nigerian envoy keen to increase trade volume with Pakistan

The high Commissioner said that Pakistan with a population of 220 million and Nigeria with a population of 200 million are prominent countries in Asia and Africa and there is a huge potential for trade volume between the two countries

## STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Nigerian High Commissioner Abioye Mohammed Bello has said that defense cooperation between Pakistan and Nigeria is excellent while trade volume is very low and he is trying to boost trade and economic ties between the two countries. An exhibition of Pakistani products would be held in Nigeria in the last week of November this year. He expressed these views during a meeting with prominent businessmen of Dwatson Group Zafar Bakhtawari, Ahsan Bakhtawari and Waqar Bakhtawari at his High Commission in Islamabad today.

The high Commissioner said that Pakistan with a population of 220 million and Nigeria with a population of 200 million are prominent countries in Asia and Africa and there is a huge potential for trade volume between the two countries.

Nigeria's trade volume with India is 14 billion dollar whereas with Pakistan is around 150 million dollars. We will work together to increase it up to 1 billion dollar.

He further said that I have started efforts to increase this trade volume and within 3 months I have visited Karachi, Lahore, Sialkot and Islamabad Chambers of Commerce in this regard. He said



ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Nigeria Abioye Mohammed Bello With Secretary General UBG, Zafar Bakhtawari, Former Vice President ICCI Ahsan Bakhtawari and Secretary General Traders Wing Islamabad PTI Waqar Bakhtawari at a meeting in Nigeria High Commission in Islamabad. – DNA

with exports of textile, pharmaceutical, Surgical and Sports the trade volume could be increased. We can also include the area of agricultural for cooperation he added. UBG Secretary General

Zafar Bakhtawari said that the two countries have many similarities and common issues. Pakistan and Nigeria are victims of terrorism in the Muslim world. The two countries should also benefit from each

other's experiences in eradicating corruption. Ahsan Bakhtawari stressed the need for direct flights between the two countries and said that the two countries have vast potential for tourism. Waqar

Bakhtawari stressed the importance of exchanging trade delegation between the two countries. Zafar Bakhtawari also presented his book to the high commissioner of Nigeria.

## ICCI congratulates Ch. Yaseen Group on winning referendum



## ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: A 35-member delegation of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) led by President Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan visited election camp of the CDA labor union in Sitara Market, Islamabad and congratulated Chaudhry Yasin Group on achieving landslide victory in CDA Labor Union referendum. They facilitated the newly elected Secretary-General of CDA Labor Union Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, Chairman Shakir Zaman Kayani, President Raja Aurangzeb Khan, and Additional Secretary Ali Asghar alias

Mani Butt among others.

ICCI Vice President Abdul Rehman Khan, Chairman Founder Group Mian Akram Farid, Former Presidents ICCI Tariq Sadiq, Khalid Iqbal Malik, Ejaz Abbasi, Zafar Bakhtawari, newly elected President ICCI Muhammad Shakeel Munir, Senior Vice President Jamshed Akhtar Sheikh, Vice President Muhammad Fahim Khan as well as Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Aslam Khokhar, Khalid Chaudhry, Naveed Malik, Saifur-Rehman Khan, Ashfaq Chatha, Waqar Bakhtawari, Imran Minhas, Nisar Mirza, Tahir Mahmood, Zia Khalid Chaudhry, Naveed Satti, Chaudhry Abdul Ghaffar, Abdul Hameed Abbasi, Tahmas Butt, and others were included in the delegation.

Speaking at the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, ICCI, said that the business community of the federal capital was proud of the great victory of the Chaudhry Yasin Group in CDA Labor Union's referendum as Chaudhry Muhammad Yaseen has always cooperated with the Chamber in resolving the key issues of the business community. He said that CDA Labor Union is the largest union in Islamabad and vowed that ICCI and CDA Union would make collaborative efforts to serve the citizens and the business community.

## CTP launches drive against encroachment

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) on Thursday launched grand anti-encroachment operation against illegal car/motorcycle parking and encroachments in Raja Bazaar and its adjoining areas, informed a spokesman.

The CTP have picked up some 51 motorcycles and cars through lifters and issued fine tickets to the owners, he said.

He informed several other encroachments including tables, stalls, hand push carts and others goods were also removed by the traffic police for the smooth flow of traffic.

The anti-encroachment operation was launched on directives of Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rai Mazhar Iqbal, he said.

The Chief Traffic Officer, while taking strict action on complaints about traffic jam in Raja Bazaar and its adjoining areas, have constituted a special squad tasking it to remove all the encroachments from the roads and facilitate the smooth flow of traffic, he added.

He said the special squad comprised DSP Traffic City Circle Zabi ul Hassan and Incharge Traffic City Sector along with lifter staff carried out anti-encroachment operation in Raja Bazaar, City Saddar Road, Gunjmandi Road, Iqbal Road, Bohar Bazaar, Bara Bazaar and Imperial Market. – APP

## Time to engage with Afghanistan: Peter Jouvenal

## SHUJAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: "The worst you could do was to walk away as happened in 1989, and the best was to engage in a friendly manner, said Peter Jouvenal, a British TV Producer and Former Video Journalist. The history of Afghanistan was replete with mistakes committed by the international community said the British Journalist, adding that turning back on Afghanistan has always resulted in civil wars, deaths of many Afghans, and conflict spillover to regional countries. Backing selected groups in Afghanistan and neglecting other potential stakeholders was also a big mistake that regional countries made in the past, and we were in a similar position today, he cautioned.

Peter Jouvenal was invited by the Institute of Regional Studies to talk on the post-Taliban takeover and its implications for the west. The session took place virtually.

For Jouvenal, it was neither an end nor the beginning of a conflict in Afghanistan, rather, regime change was a new chapter added to the long turbulent history of Afghanistan. While sharing his thoughts on the new government in Afghanistan, Mr. Jouvenal said that there were challenges ahead since the Taliban gov-

ernment was not inclusive, but it had a kind of legitimacy of being honest as compared to the previous one that was notoriously corrupt.

The culture of sitting down and trying to resolve their differences in Afghanistan was an added advantage to the Taliban where one can hope they could reach some sort of understandings among differing factions said Mr. Jouvenal, adding that the international community needed to be encouraged that consultation processes. Commenting on the transition of the Taliban, Mr. Jouvenal said that it was time taking process, and could not be swift as the Taliban were passing through the trauma of the past twenty years of war and this was another area where friends of Afghanistan could encourage the Taliban, he added.

On governance, Mr. Jouvenal suggested that responsibilities be given on the basis of technical knowledge rather than war contributions as this had been a practice in the past, and such practices had caused massive brain-drain in Afghanistan, he added. He also suggested that the Taliban should pay more attention to broad-based representation since the international community at the moment was keen to see a breakthrough in that regard.

## Dacoit gang busted, three arrested

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district police have busted a dacoit gang and arrested its three members including ring leader besides recovering two stolen motorcycles, cash 29,000, weapons and other items.

According to a police spokesman, Gujjar Khan Police team under the supervision of SHO made hectic efforts and managed to net three dacoits namely Ali ali-as Alia, ring leader and two group members, Irshad and Ibrahim who were allegedly involved in number of dacoities and other crimes.

They confessed to have committed dacoities and other crimes in different areas.

Police recovered two stolen motorcycles, snatched cash Rs 29,000 and weapons from their possession. SHO informed that the dacoits have been sent to jail for identification parade.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Operations) appreciated the SHO and police team and directed to continue raids to net lawbreakers. – APP

## ITP issues over 67,000 vehicles fine tickets

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) issued more than 67,000 fine tickets to the motorists using unauthorized number plates and tinted glasses during ongoing year.

Following the directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman, special campaign is underway to check use of fancy number plates and tinted glasses on vehicles.

Special squads have been constituted to check major violation on various roads of the city and take action against the violators.

During the ongoing year, more than 32,000 motorists having fancy number plates and 35,000 with tinted glasses were issued fine tickets worth Rs. 23.9 million.

The IGP said that that campaign was underway to ensure disciplinary traffic system in the city.

He said that ITP personnel have been directed to ensure implementation on traffic rules and regulation irrespective of status and rank.

He said that ITP was utilizing all available resources to facilitate the general public. The force issues traffic violation tickets not as a punitive measure but the purpose is to ensure safe road environment in the Capital and secure the lives of the people.

Islamabad police chief has appreciated the performance of ITP and said that traffic policemen have to perform duties in tough weather and they deserve appreciation for dedication towards their responsibilities. – APP

## PIMA to organize workshops to train citizens

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA) would organize Basic Life Support (BLS) workshops to educate and train common citizens about the importance of "first aid" across the country on Saturday under its "Lifesaving Initiative".

PIMA has chosen around 189 Mosques across the country for these BLS workshops, said a press release issued here.

The initiative was aimed to train common citizens about the "first aid" that can be provided for any victim of sudden cardiac, heart failure or respiratory arrest especially where basic facilities to save a precious life are not available.

Director PIMA Relief Dr. Muhammad Afzal Mian said that a large number of people suffered cardiac arrests at home or at workplace and lost their lives due to non awareness of basic life support techniques.

He assured that many lives can be saved with this Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training which is simple to learn.

He explained, "CPR is an emergency first-aid procedure that is applied to maintain respiration and blood circulation in a person, whose breathing and heartbeat suddenly stops". – APP

## World Tourism Day: Tourism for inclusive growth

United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the global body responsible for the promotion of tourism, has been celebrating World Tourism Day on September 27 since 1980

## MUNAZA KAZMI

WORLD Tourism Day is celebrated each year on September 27 to spread awareness about the importance of tourism and its impact on our society. The day is also celebrated to spread awareness about global challenges outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to underline the efforts the tourism industry can make achieving the sustainable development goals.

United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the global body responsible for the promotion of tourism, has been celebrating World Tourism Day on September 27 since 1980.

However, this specific date was chosen, since back on this day the UNWTO adopted its Statutes. The Statutes are considered milestones in the global tourism space.

The UNWTO General Assembly however, in October 1997 in Turkey, decided to designate a host country each year to act as the Organization's partner in the celebration of World Tourism Day.

Last year in 2020 the theme was, "Tourism and Rural Development" and the event was celebrated in Argentina, however "Tourism for Inclusive Growth" is the theme for World Tourism Day 2021. This year's official celebration will be hosted by Cote d'Ivoire, celebrating tourism's ability to drive inclusive development and the role it plays in promoting respect while generating opportunities for many millions across the globe.

The message along is to fully showcase the potential of tourism to create jobs for all and bring communities together.

Talking about the Global tourism industry,



the tourism industry has become one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the world today. Over the last few years, the tourism industry has seen a tremendous expansion and growth. International tourist arrivals have grown significantly in the past few decades. However, now it has grown from 25 million in 1950 to 1.3 billion in 2019. The revenues earned have also increased from \$2 billion in 1950 to \$1,260 trillion in 2015. Tourism industry is estimated to be worth 10% of the global GDP and provides one in ten jobs globally. The UNWTO expects an annual growth of 3% in the tourism industry until 2030.

In Pakistan, the collective hospitality and tourism industry is estimated to be worth \$20 billion and contributing 3% to the GDP in year 2021. Moreover, the industry provides employment to an estimated 3 million

people directly and indirectly.

Pakistan tourism industry was in heydays in 70's when Karachi was supposed as Mini Dubai, however after decades Pakistan came once again into the highlights, a personal thanks to the efforts of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Pakistan's tourism industry is an emergent market; at least from the international perspective, its wealth of scenic landscapes, particularly its stunning mountain vistas in the north, has increasingly been getting noticed. The British Backpacker Society ranked Pakistan as its top travel destination for 2018, and last year Forbes termed it "one of the coolest countries to visit". Unfortunately, the authorities failed to build on that momentum and goodwill, even though the prime minister has often correctly cited the potential for tourism to become a major

source of foreign exchange. Even as recently as December 2019, Wanderlust, the UK travel magazine, singled out Pakistan as its "hot list destination" for 2020 along US life and luxury magazine Conde Nast traveler highlighted Pakistan as "The best holiday destination 2020".

However, the pandemic, of course, has derailed tourism everywhere.

More to say, the contemporary government has redesigned the tourism policy, but its affects have not seen so far, one example is there are dozens of PTDC motels in top tourism destination even in "Sust" that is the home to the world recognized mountains and gateway to Khunjab however barren. I believe Pakistan have the destinations, the policies, along the infrastructure but no one to manage and implement.

Let me tell you one more thing, in the year 2006 a heavy earthquake was reported in the Northern region and then the policy was made to involve no concrete in the construction of buildings because that area was spotted for regular catastrophes, however negligence can be seen. Moreover, there's no idea of Eco-tourism, in the clear waters you would find garbage and plastic: ignorant society.

Recently I came back from Gwadar as I heard of its exotic beaches, however I found plastic more or less, I question the society, do you not belong this planet and have heads and heels in polluting what you can. I don't know how many people would understand the grave importance of Sustainable-tourism, but I believe there would be some at least. However, those are enough to make Pakistan's tourism sustainable and inclusive for growth. Moreover, with our combine efforts next year Pakistan can be seen as hosting the World Tourism Day with theme of Eco-tourism.



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## Another change

**C**HANGES in the cabinet have become a regularity for the government. This time, it is the post of Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Power and Petroleum which is set to be replaced. Tabish Gauhar, who had been appointed as SAPM on Power and Petroleum in October of last year, announced this week that he had resigned from the post, almost a year after his appointment.

While officially it is being stated that Gauhar has resigned, there are reports that he was asked to leave. There have been murmurings that Prime Minister Imran Khan and Minister of Energy Hamid Hammar were not happy with Gauhar's performance. Gauhar's leaving of the post should not be surprising since he had earlier despatched his resignation to PM Imran Khan in January of this year, indicating that the tenure had always had problems.

One resignation is not an issue, but if the management of the important office catering to one of the most consequential sectors of the country faces hurdle upon hurdle, it needs to be taken seriously. Earlier SAPM Syed Shahzad Qasim resigned and then SAPM Nadeem Babar was asked to resign because of the petrol crisis. Gohar is the second technocrat to leave the post of SAPM on Power in such a short time, indicating that there are some deep-rooted problems in the department. Sources said Gohar had complained about his limited scope of work and that he was confused about the official authority to report to, which reflects that there is ambiguity and lack of organisation about the hierarchy.

A department like power and petroleum requires consistency and stability. Any setback in the power policies of the country has a severe impact on all industries. The leadership needs to consider every replacement extremely seriously, keeping in mind that this will affect dire matters—circular debt, shifting from gas and oil and a host of other issues could be on the plate of replacement.

## Online freedoms

**A**US Think-tank, Freedom House, released their report detailing the decline of online rights across the world for the 11 consecutive years. Blocking internet access, carrying out content surveillance and enacting laws that restrict access to certain platforms seems to be a practice common across 20 countries that the report problematised—Pakistan being one of them. For the sake of protecting cyber freedom and liberty, the government must reconsider some of its policing strategies on the internet. From the threats of banning TikTok to proposing the Removal and Blocking of Unlawful Online Content Rules, internet regulations seem to have crossed the point of being merely protective for users. Demands made by the government entail for social media platforms and internet companies to provide decrypted and readable copies of personal data of their users when the Federal Investigation Agency asks for it. This means that the end-to-end encryption laws promised by these platforms are violated and the average user cannot be confident in the fact that their personal information will be kept secure. This is a gross violation of operational norms and practices that must be corrected immediately, as urged by the Freedom on the Net report as well.

Strict surveillance of content on the internet is also an issue that must be addressed and rectified. More often than not, users are subjected to attacks and penalisation by regulatory bodies because the content they upload does not fit ambiguous notions like morality or acceptability.

This effectively curbs any right to expression that the people are entitled to. We have made leaps in the field of technology and the internet in recent times; now, we must focus on bringing ourselves up to date with the more contemporary debates and issues, guaranteeing the freedoms that they bring along with them. Otherwise, we are depriving our population from availing diverse opportunities that may help them financially, socially and intellectually.

# Karbala—The spirit of immortality

Wajeha Bilal



Ours is a small yet hypothetically more united world with large divisions, and tyrannical regimes, still carried out at an international level by despotic rulers, demonstrating a power struggle. Many Islamic states including Iraq and other cities, where Hz. Ali once struggled against Muawiyah and Hz. Hussein against Yazid, a power struggle through repressive foreign invasions and political manipulation continues

**F**ROM defining our sense of purpose to building nations, heroes have shaped the course of history. No matter how great a personality, eventually the one true reality of being a mortal dominated the lives of those gallant heroes, but real legends outlived their mortal nature, dwelling in the minds and hearts of their descendants. Defying the laws of mortality, great legends have created moments of glory that live on to chant the memories of their descendants for eternity. “Heroes get remembered, but legends never die.” Immortality is the supreme aspiration that has been achieved by those in history, who have sacrificed their own lives to raise humanity towards the light of hope and virtue. One such epitome of eternal valor is Hz. Imam Hussein (RA), whose sacrifice is a lesson for all those who believe in rising against the evils in their society.

In September of the year 680, Hz. Imam Hussein, set out on an eternal journey with his family and just seventy-two armed men, unaware of the fact that he was fated to become perpetual, the prince of Martyrs. Nineteen years had gone by since Hz. Imam Hussein and his brother had buried their father, Hz. Ali (RA), outside Kufa, and waited in patience when Muawiyah established his rule then. Muawiyah was dead and Hz. Hussein was determined to free the followers of Islam from the reins of a treacherous monarchy and bring the caliphate to its right place. Muawiyah may have cautioned his son Yazid about the consequences of any perilous attack against The Holy Prophet's grandson, but it seemed to have no impact, for history is often sabotaged by the villainy of the reckless.

By declining to collaborate or to be coerced into silence, and by acknowledging that this would mean his own demise, Hz. Hussein attained “a revolution in consciousness”, that transcended the attributes of its historical time and placeturning into an eternal sensation. Ali Shariati, a revolutionary activist, and a sociology professor, acclaimed Hz. Hussein as the most authentic example of martyrdom. “Martyrdom

has a unique radiance,” Shariati declared. “It creates light and heat in the world. It creates movement, vision, and hope. By his death the martyr condemns the oppressor and provides commitment for the oppressed.”

Hz. Imam Hussein's sacrifice revolutionized the ten-day memorial of the events at Karbala from suffering and grief into an activism of rising up against oppression and tyranny. After he had reached his last destination, Hz. Imam Hussein and his followers passed from that physical state of antiquity to the immortal realm of valiant legends. The fighters and the survivors related their memories of those ten days leading up to Ashura, that are still remembered and recalled centuries later, with every detail that loses its momentary pledge and ascends into an endless beam. While Shimr, the ruthless general and his four thousand men lingered on for heat and thirst to cause despair, engaging in random conflicts with Hz. Hussein's warriors: everlasting reminiscences were formed. The accounts that are central to Islamic history have been kept alive through centuries by the heartfelt force of memory and commemoration.

It is not possible to determine the degree of shock, anguish and outrage that grabbed the days following the events at Karbala. So keenly felt was the dread, so enormous was the burden, and so painful was the impact in diminishing the souls that are touched through many years, as the events still continue to agonize our communal recollections like a fresh bruise. The Day of Arba'een marks forty days after the Day of Ashura, the day Hz. Imam Hussain ibn Ali was killed in the Battle of Karbala. Muslims all over the world mourn and commemorate the seventh century killing of the Holy Prophet's grandson, Hz. Imam Hussein, during the Arba'een. The days and events that followed the battle of Karbala not only divided everyone but also left a lasting historical legacy that belongs to all of us who dwell in this small world. Ours is a small yet hypothetically more united world with large divisions, and tyrannical regimes, still carried out at an international level by despotic rulers, demonstrating a power

struggle. Many Islamic states including Iraq and other cities, where Hz. Ali once struggled against Muawiyah and Hz. Hussein against Yazid, a power struggle through repressive foreign invasions and political manipulation continues. Western powers have manipulated the religious divisions through their powerful influence to serve their own purpose. The disharmony and division within the followers are manipulated at a higher level, fostered by the enemies of Islam by exploiting it to weaken the Islamic platform. It may seem only wishful on their part, for as long as the spirit of Karbala and the glorious martyrdom is alive among true believers, the purity of faith shall remain whole through all ages. Just like with Yazid in the seventh century, the western powers in the twenty first century confirm the notion that history is often sabotaged by the villainy of the reckless.

Echoed through the plains of creation it was a day that changed the world and our leading role in a supposedly more globalized multifaceted world has been to not only remember those undying souls but also to keep their spirit alive in our lives. The Karbala story has prevailed and persisted testing faith and politics through time, bearing witness to the fact that what unites the people of Islam is far greater than what divides them, and every Muslim treasures the essence of harmony preached by Hz. Mohammad (P-BUH). We mourn the memory of that crucial day, honouring the martyrs of Karbala and expressing our affection and respect for Hz. Imam Hussein. The accounts of the tragedies of Karbala evoke a deep sensation instilling the audacity to rise up against tyranny and oppression, no matter the odds. It invokes a desire to fight for justice and humanity. The esteemed human rights activist, Nelson Mandela once said, “I have spent more than 20 years in prison, then on one night I decided to surrender by signing all the terms and conditions of government. But suddenly I thought about Imam Hussain and Karbala movement and Imam Hussain gave me strength to stand for right of freedom and liberation and I did.” @WajehaBilal

# Wilful ignorance: India's unabashed disregard for facts

Sundas Malik

Although this Master Plan of Psychological Projection has been India's 'Go To' solution against Pakistan for decades, it has become more aggressive and malevolent since BJP under the leadership of RSS hero Modi has taken over its administration. Even more alarmingly, parallel to its skewed hyperbole against Pakistan, blatant disregard and moulding of facts has taken the front row and norms such as research, critical thinking and journalistic integrity have become a rarity within India

**O**N December 9th, 2020 An Independent Europe Based NGO – The EU Disinfo Lab, in its report Titled Indian Chronicles, exposed one of the longest and largest disinformation campaign aimed at the European Union and the United Nations. This 15 year long offensive, run by an Indian 'entity' used hundreds of fake media outlets and websites to target Pakistan. The sole purpose of this malicious operation was to discredit Pakistan and consequently its policies. India- a nation quadruple in land and population in comparison to its most unfavoured neighbour Pakistan, has always preferred to take an adversarial approach rather than a friendly one, when it comes to handling of affairs between the two territories. Despite the aforementioned exposé and other damning evidence regarding Indian meddling with the actualities, the blasé approach towards reality continues. A recent example regarding this mode of operation came when in September 2021 Indian involvement was once again revealed concerning the New Zealand cricket team and the 'threat' to its safety during their visit. Although this Master Plan of Psychological Projection has been India's 'Go To' solution against Pakistan for decades, it has become more aggressive and malevolent since BJP under the leadership of RSS hero Modi has taken over its administration. Even more alarmingly, parallel to its skewed hyperbole against Pakistan, blatant disregard and

moulding of facts has taken the front row and norms such as research, critical thinking and journalistic integrity have become a rarity within India.

Even as the world including the Indian Nation dealt with the deadly Covid-19 virus and its atrocities- self projection, blame game, disinformation and crackdown on decent seemed to be the States top priorities rather than saving lives. From the facade of inculcating 'Tableeghi Jamaat' members for intentionally introducing the novel virus in India, to facilitating the promulgation of false information regarding its treatment, the so-called Independent Media has morphed into the Populist and Propagandist Wing of BJP and Hindutva. In 2020 alone, more than 60 journalists were arrested in India for performing their duties.

Although this method of manoeuvring reality is petrifying as it is, this devious stratagem only intensifies as one turns towards the world's largest 'open air prison' – Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Ashraf Zehra, Qazi Shibli, Peerzada Asghar, Mushtaq Ahmed and Gowhar Geelani are just a few amongst many journalists who have been arrested, interrogated and gagged for merely reporting facts. Despotic Laws such as Information Technology Rules 2021, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967, Public Safety Act 1978 and even the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act 1985 (against Senior Journalist Ghulam Geelani Qadri and others in 2019,

pertaining to a 27 year old case) are being exerted to retrench information.

In addition dehumanisation of freedom fighters into militant, attempts to disengage the citizens of the Occupied Territory from demanding their basic rights with the lure of progress and economic stability coupled with the threat to their own and subsequently their kin's life, are all pre-planned programs being employed to shift the narrative in the Occupiers favour.

Threatened by even the slightest revelation about its draconian practices in the Occupied Territory the Indian Government acting against all legal and social conventions not just overlooked but backed the tyranny being imposed by its military and paramilitary to stifle the truth.

From down playing the judicial murder of Ashraf Sehrai Shaheed to the forced burial of Saeed Ali Geelani, these attempts of keeping the masses of the world ignorant regarding the misdeeds of the India continue to plague its claims of freedom and democracy. Not withstanding the evidence and the continued condemnation of its policies on journalistic freedom or lack thereof by several Human Rights Organisations and the world at large, India continues unabashed onslaught of disinformation within and without. Only time can tell, if this assault on information will be recognised by the world for what it is – a certain and serious threat or will it just remain a cry of the afflicted ignored by the powerful until it's too late.

– The writer is a Kashmiri Lawyer



## Briefs

Pak-Saudia  
relationship  
exemplary

FROM PAGE 01  
President Alvi said the whole Muslim world looked at the Saudi leadership for guidance on international issues. He said at a time when the commercial and other vested interests dominated the international affairs, the world needed a leadership which formulated its policies on the basis of morality. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia can fill the gap, he added. Lamenting the phenomenon of fake news, the president said the Holy Quran had also warned about the same tendency which also led to the prevailing situation in Afghanistan and Iraq. The president appreciated the vision of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman for environment protection as well as Saudi Vision 2030 which featured the development of a modern and unique city. He said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia effectively handled the COVID pandemic regardless of whatsoever the fake news said about the two friendly states. Later, the president gave shields to Saudi Ambassador, Tahir Ashrafi and four overseas Pakistanis for their remarkable contribution to strengthen Pak-Saudia ties.

Pakistan-  
KSA enjoy  
cordial ties..

FROM PAGE 01  
Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Saudi Arabia gave generous donations in All India Muslim League relief fund. The minister said that since creation of Pakistan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had always supported Pakistan in difficult times.

Pakistan  
ready to...

FROM PAGE 01  
high potentiality of cultural and adventure tourism. While recalling his personal visit to Nepal before joining politics, Prime Minister Khan said that Pakistan is always ready to work with Nepal to further promote bilateral relations between our two countries. During the call on, Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood and high official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan were present. During the meeting, Nepalese ambassador conveyed the greetings and best wishes of Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Sher Bahadur Deuba to Prime Minister Khan. During the call on, Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood and high official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan were also present.

UK PM  
lauds PM...

FROM PAGE 01  
Pakistan's 10 billion trees project during his speech at the United Nations. The UK PM called for following the example of Imran Khan to plant 10 billion trees and told world leaders that humanity has to "grow up" and tackle climate change. "I invite everybody to follow the example of Imran Khan of Pakistan who has pledged to plant 10 billion trees," he said. The billion tree project has been acknowledged worldwide as a much-needed step towards minimising environmental losses. In his speech to the UN General Assembly on Wednesday, Johnson said it's now or never if the world is to meet its goal of limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels. Prime Minister Johnson is due to host a major United Nations climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland, in six weeks' time. He is using his trip to UN Headquarters in New York to press governments for tougher emissions-cutting targets and more money to help poor countries clean up their economies.

Taliban UN  
envoy...

FROM PAGE 01  
a former peace negotiator and spokesman for the Taliban political office, is their new UN representative. They requested that Shaheen be allowed to address the UN General Assembly underway in New York.

Atherton again backs  
Pakistan, slams ECB

"Its (ECB) performance shows English cricket in a poor light. It has done significant damage to an already low reputation and ruined a relationship with a full-member nation, Pakistan"

LAHORE: Former England captain Michael Atherton has again slammed the England and Wales Cricket Board saying Monday's decision-making had further weakened it. He also branded the International Cricket Council (ICC) as an event-organising company instead of the game's governing body. "In its decision-making this week, the ECB has been weak beyond measure," declared Atherton in Thursday's The Times, adding: "At the same time that the players have become more powerful, so some governing bodies have become weaker. "The ICC, the game's supposedly

ultimate powerbroker, has been reduced to an events-organising company. It runs its properties well – World Cups, World Test Championships and the like – but has little standing where the game's moral issues are concerned and little influence over the game's direction." The ECB, in 'a poorly drafted press release' on Monday, announced it was withdrawing its sides from next month's tours of Pakistan due to 'mental and physical well-being of our players and support staff' and unideal "preparation for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup". "Its (ECB) performance shows



English cricket in a poor light. It has done significant damage to an already low reputation and ruined a relationship with a full-member

nation, Pakistan, who have been gracious visitors to this country in five out of the past six summers. "While England and Pakistan relations have not always been good on the cricket field, they have been lately and, as Ramiz (Raja) has pointed out, the links for Pakistan with England are of a different emotional level from, say, New Zealand or Australia. They feel totally let down," Atherton wrote a day after he written England had failed to repay debt they owed to Pakistan in the same newsaoer. Atherton was also unimpressed with the absence of ECB Chairman Ian Whatmore and the composition of the ECB that lacked cricket

knowledge and insight. "(Ian) Watmore has been missing in action, nowhere to be seen, when the decision to abandon Pakistan needed to be explained. Hiding behind a poorly drafted press release is not good enough. "A board needs broad-based expertise, and there are those with experiences in law enforcement, banking, private equity, corporate law and accountancy but the lack of feel for or knowledge of the game is apparent. "There was puzzlement in the voice of Ramiz Raja, the chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board, as though he couldn't quite work out what was going on. – APP



RAWALPINDI: A view of cricket match playing between Balochistan and Northern teams during National T-20 Cup 21-22 T20 cricket match at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. – APP

Haider Ali and Asif Ali star in  
Northern's comfortable victory

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Northern recorded a comfortable six-wicket win over Balochistan in the opening match of the National T20 tournament at the Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi on Thursday evening. Haider Ali and Asif Ali made light work of Northern's 140-run chase scoring 58 not out and 43 not out and adding 51 runs for the unbeaten fifth-wicket partnership to ensure a comprehensive victory for their side with 18 balls to spare. Haider gave another glimpse of his incredible batting talent as he hit seven fours and two sixes in his 41-ball knock. Asif played the finisher's role to perfection clubbing four sixes and three fours in his

20-ball innings, Asif finished the match with a six down the ground off pacer AkifJaved. Umar Amin (2) and Zeeshan Malik (19) fell early in Northern's innings but Haider and Asif ensured an emphatic victory for their side with their unbeaten alliance. Batting first, Balochistan were restricted to a 139 for seven total. SohailTanvir got Northern off to a fine start by dismissing Balochistan captain Immanuel-Haq for six in the opening over of the match. Fast bowler Zaman Khan who was making his debut for Northern sent Bismillah Khan packing in the fifth over with the score on 26. Young opener Abdul Wahid Bangalzai played some sparking shots in his run-a-ball 24 before falling to Mohammad Nawaz.

Northern bowlers kept Balochistan in check by making regular breakthroughs in the middle-overs, Akbar-ur-Rehman (24) and AyazTasawar's (4) dismissal left Balochistan struggling at 70 for five in 12.1 overs. Balochistan were revived by a 66-run stand for the sixth-wicket between all-rounders Amad Butt and Kashif Bhatti. Amad hit two fours and two sixes in his 34 while Kashif contributed 24 off 25 balls (two sixes). HarisRauf and Nawaz took two wickets each for Northern conceding 18 and 31 runs, respectively. On Thursday, Pakistani cricketers stepped into the ground for the first match of 18th edition of the National T20 Cup in Rawalpindi. Since its inception, the tournament has been one of the key features of Paki-

stan's domestic cricket and this year will also serve as robust preparation for ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021. Sialkot Stallions are the most successful team in the tournament winning it on six occasions [in 2006 twice, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011]. The next best region is Lahore who have won the title on five occasions – Lahore Lions thrice, Lahore Blues and Lahore Whites once each. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, also the defending champions as they won the final against Southern Punjab in 2020, are the third most successful region in a way that their city Peshawar has also won National T20 twice (in 2014 and 2015). The remaining three titles have gone to Faisalabad Wolves (2005), Karachi Blues (2016) and Northern (2019).

UN warns of  
HR catastrophe  
in Myanmar

WEB DESK

NEW YORK: United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet on Thursday warned of a "human rights catastrophe" in Myanmar, and called on international leaders to do more to prevent the conflict from becoming worse. Her warning came in a new report issued by the UN Human Rights Office, detailing widespread violations made by the military, the Tatmadaw, against the people in Myanmar. The report said Myanmar was facing a "human rights catastrophe that shows no sign of abating." "The national consequences are terrible and tragic – the regional consequences could also be profound," Bachelet said in a statement. "The international community must redouble its efforts to restore democracy and prevent wider conflict before it is too late." The UN scorned the use of lethal force and mass arrests of protesters since the military coup on February 1. "Serious violations have been committed – of the rights to life, liberty and security of person, the prohibition against torture, the right to a fair trial, as well as the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly," the statement said. The UN chief also cited reports that indicate that security forces have used interrogation techniques amounting to torture, including beating detainees and depriving them of food, water and sleep. "Military authorities have also arrested over 8,000 people, including elected officials, protesters and journalists during arrests and raids," the UN said. "At least 120 people have reportedly died in custody, and some have been denied access to medical treatment." It also cited an increase in military activity, along with greater resistance by armed groups in the country in recent weeks. Over 800 people have been killed since the military coup, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners.

Ntozakhe  
allowed  
to resume  
bowling

ISLAMABAD: International Cricket Council (ICC) on Thursday said the bowling action of South Africa off-spinner RaisibeNtozakhe has been found to be legal, and she can resume bowling in international cricket. Ntozakhe was suspended from bowling in international cricket after being reported during an ICC Women's

Championship ODI against the West Indies in Barbados on September 16, 2018, said a press release issued here. Ntozakhe's remodeled bowling action was assessed at University of Pretoria on September 10, where it was revealed that the amount of elbow extension was within the 15-degree level of tolerance permitted under the ICC Illegal Bowling Regulations. Match Officials may still report Ntozakhe if they believe she was displaying a suspect action and not reproducing the legal action from the reassessment. – APP

UEFA doubles prize  
for women's Euro

LAUSANNE: UEFA has doubled prize money for the 2022 Women's European Championship in England, the continent's governing body for football announced on Thursday. The 16 qualified teams will share a total of 16 million euros (\$18.7m), up from just eight million euros at the last Euro in the Netherlands in 2017. "The financial distribution will include increased guaranteed amounts and performance-based bonuses for the group stage," UEFA said following a meeting of its executive committee in the Moldovan capital Chisinau. The development of women's football is in the spotlight amid pushes by FIFA to radically reshape the men's international calendar by staging the World Cup every two years, alternating with continental championships like the Euro. That threatens to have a negative impact on women's international tournaments. The Euro in England was due to be staged this year but was put back by 12 months to avoid clashing with the men's Euro 2020, after the pandemic forced it to be postponed by 12 months. – APP

'No special deals' for England  
cricketers: Australian PM

SYDNEY: England cricketers heading to Australia for the Ashes this year will get "no special deals" allowing their families to join them, Prime Minister Scott Morrison has declared. The five-Test series is due to start in Brisbane on December 8, but whether England bring a full-strength squad remains to be seen. Some players, particularly those with young children, have expressed concern that their families may be unable to travel with them because of strict Australian border controls. Morrison told reporters following a meeting with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson in Washington on Wednesday night that he would "love" to see the Ashes go ahead, but there would be no favours. "There's no special deals there, because what we're looking to have is vaccinated people being able to travel," he said referring to Australia's national plan out of the pandemic, under which international borders are set to re-open to vaccinated people when 80 percent of the population over 16 are fully jabbed. The figure currently stands at almost 50 percent, although officials in some states have indicated they will set their own timetables for opening up. The prime minister added that he does not see "a great deal of difference" between cricketers and people attempting to come to the country for work or to study even after the vaccination goals have been reached. Morrison faces a complicated situation with thousands of Australians still stranded overseas due to border closures and limited space in quarantine facilities, and giving special treatment to the families of England cricketers would likely spark an outcry. Johnson had told reporters after having dinner with Morrison that "I raised it and he said he was going to do his best for the families." – DNA

## Asensio bags hat-trick as Real Madrid hit Mallorca for six

Asensio completed his treble with a bending shot of his own in the second half and went off to a standing ovation, leaving Benzema to add his second and Isco to tap in Madrid's sixth late on

DNA

MADRID: Marco Asensio scored his first hat-trick for Real Madrid on Wednesday against Mallorca, his boyhood club, as Madrid cruised to a 6-1 win to go top of La Liga. Karim Benzemacapitalised on an early Mallorca mistake at the Santiago Bernabeu before three goals in five minutes put Madrid 3-1 ahead, two Asensio strikes coming either side of a curling effort from Mallorca's Lee Kang-in. Asensio completed his treble with a bending shot of his own in the second half and went off to a standing ovation, leaving Benzema to add his second and Isco to tap in Madrid's sixth late on. Benzema's second goal was his 200th in La Liga, making him only the 10th player to reach the milestone. "Clearly Karim is playing very well," said Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti. "Not just himself but for the team. He is a complete striker." Victory lifts Real Madrid two points clear of Atletico at the top of La Liga, with Sevilla up to third after they had



earlier eased past Valencia 3-1. Asensio was born in Palma and began playing for Mallorca aged 10, only to join Real Madrid in 2016. He declined to celebrate any of his three goals but will have made an impression on Ancelotti, who was giving the 25-year-old

his first start of the season. "Asensio did very well. It is true that from that position he can hurt the opponent, between the lines he has a lot of quality," Ancelotti said. Benzema now has eight goals this term and there were noteworthy displays

too from Eduardo Camavinga, the hugely exciting 18-year-old midfielder, as well as Madrid's two central defenders, David Alaba and Eder Militao, whose distribution was instrumental in almost all the goals. Despite scoring two late goals to beat Valencia on Sunday, Ancelotticriticised his team for again being too open at the back. Mallorca had chances but they were blown away by Madrid's revitalised attack. The first goal, though, was a gift, as Josep Gaya failed to control a routine pass across the defence and then slipped trying to recover, allowing Benzema to race clear and finish. Militao instigated the second with a driven pass out to Vinicius, whose angled pass sent Rodrygo in behind. His deflected cross was prodded out by Mallorca goalkeeper Manolo Reina, for Asensio to finish. Lee hit back almost immediately, weaving past Militao and Alaba and curving a shot into the bottom corner. But hope of a comeback was brief, as Asensio scored his second, latching onto a slick Benzema touch before sliding home.

'Economic  
sanctions...

FROM PAGE 01

Kabul would pave the way for an expansion of its Belt and Road Initiative into Afghanistan and through the Central Asian republics, analysts say. The Taliban meanwhile may consider China a crucial source of investment and economic support, either directly or via Pakistan – a close Beijing ally. China has so far stopped short of officially recognising the Taliban as the new leaders of Afghanistan, but Wang Yi called them a "decisive military and political force" during the meeting in Tianjin.

OIC calls  
upon world...

FROM PAGE 01

the 76th session of the UN General Assembly in New York today. They called upon the world powers to "hold India accountable" for the crimes committed by Indian occupation forces in Jammu and Kashmir. According to a joint communiqué released after the meeting, the session was chaired by the Secretary General of the OIC. A report was shared by the secretary general and the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHR), besides a briefing given by Foreign Minister of Pakistan Shah Mahmood Qureshi, as well as foreign ministers of other states and representatives of the Kashmiri people.

Qureshi  
meets...

FROM PAGE 01

The foreign minister, in a meeting with Austrian counterpart Alexander Schallenberg on the sidelines of the 76th United Nations General Assembly session here, elaborated Pakistan's perspective on the developments in Afghanistan. Recalling their telephone conversation of September 2, 2021, the two foreign ministers discussed the situation in Afghanistan as well as bilateral relations between Pakistan and Austria. The foreign minister apprised the Austrian counterpart regarding his recent interactions on the situation in Afghanistan with foreign ministers from various countries. He also highlighted the efforts made by Pakistan to facilitate the evacuation and relocation of diplomats and staff of embassies and international organisations from Afghanistan. The foreign minister underscored that Pakistan valued its relationship with Austria and was keen to further expand and consolidate bilateral ties.

Coman  
returns to  
training

DNA

BERLIN: France winger Kingsley Coman returned to training with Bayern Munich on Thursday just days after undergoing heart surgery, the Bundesliga leaders confirmed Thursday. "King" (Coman) has been running again. We are happy that he was back on the pitch," Bayern head coach Julian Nagelsmann said ahead of Friday's Bundesliga game at bottom side GreutherFuerth. Last week, Bayern revealed the 25-year-old Coman had undergone surgery to correct an irregular heartbeat, but Nagelsmann said the France international is "not an option" for Friday's league match. However, Germany midfielders Jamal Musiala and Serge Gnabry could both play after shaking off an ankle injury and flu respectively.

USA, Canada  
replace  
Australia,  
NZ in Jr WC

ISLAMABAD: USA and Canada would replace Australia and New Zealand in the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2021 to take place from November 24 to December 5 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Following last week's announcement by Hockey Australia and Hockey New Zealand that they would no longer be able to participate to the Hockey Men's Junior World Cup Bhubaneswar 2021 due to COVID-related international travel restrictions put in place by their respective governments, both teams have been replaced by the USA and Canada, said a press release issued here.



## Briefs

## Six die in plane crash in Russia's Far East

MOSCOW: All six crew members on board a Russian transport plane died when it crashed earlier outside the Far Eastern city of Khabarovsk, local officials said on Thursday.

The wreckage was discovered by a search team after it disappeared from radars on Wednesday evening.

Photos from the scene showed debris from the Antonov An-26 transport aircraft scattered across broken tree branches.

"All members of the crew died. We extend our condolences to the families," the Khabarovsk branch of the health ministry said in a statement.

Antonov planes were manufactured during the Soviet era and are still used throughout the former Soviet Union for civilian and military transport. They have been involved in a number of accidents in recent years.

Investigators said remnants of the plane were discovered on a ridge in the Bolshekhokhtsirsky Nature Reserve, some 20 kilometres (12 miles) south of Khabarovsk.

They said they were now looking into the cause of the crash. The emergencies ministry said it had taken more than five hours to reach the remote crash site. Once notorious for plane accidents, Russia's major airlines have shifted from ageing Soviet aircraft to more modern planes. But poor aircraft maintenance and lax safety standards persist, and the country has recently seen several deadly air accidents. — APP

## Indonesia reports 2,881 new Covid-19 cases

JAKARTA: The number of COVID-19 cases in Indonesia rose by 2,881 within one day to 4,201,559, with the death toll adding by 160 to 141,114, the country's Health Ministry said on Thursday.

According to the ministry, 4,386 more people were discharged from hospitals, bringing the total number of patients recovering from COVID-19 to 4,012,448.

To date, at least 46.98 million people in Indonesia have received two shots of vaccines, while 83.24 million have taken the first doses, the ministry said.

Indonesia is targeting to vaccinate 208.2 million people. — APP

## Thailand likely to delay reopening of tourist spots

BANGKOK: Thailand plans to postpone its reopening of the capital Bangkok and other major tourist destinations to foreign visitors until November, citing that the vaccination rate in these regions are still behind the targets.

The planned reopening to fully-vaccinated foreign visitors without quarantine of major tourist destinations including Bangkok, Hua Hin, Pattaya and Chiang Mai in October could be extended to Nov. 1, the Tourism and Sports Minister Pipat Ratchakitprakan said in an interview with local media.

He added that the ministry would submit the adjustment to the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA), the country's COVID-19 task force, for approval on Sept. 27.

"From the assessment of the current COVID-19 situation and the overall readiness in various fields, we would like to postpone the reopening timeline of these key cities further," said Pipat.

"One of the important criteria that we have to meet before reopening is to have at least 70 percent of the population in those areas fully vaccinated, but this target has not been met," he said.

According to Bangkok Governor Aswin Kwanmuang, about 44 percent of the city's residents have been fully vaccinated so far, and Bangkok is now accelerating the pace of vaccine roll-out to achieve the 70-percent vaccination coverage. — APP

## Fakhar reaffirms govt's resolve to achieve zero hunger, SDGs

Addressing the United Nations–States Food Systems Pre–Summit 2021, Imam said that Pakistan was facing food and nutritional insecurity challenges for its population of above 215 million

ISLAMABAD: Minister of National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam on Thursday reaffirmed the government's resolve for achieving zero hunger and other Sustainable Development Goals by bringing diversification in agriculture sector and establishing robust partnership and coalitions.

Addressing the United Nations–States Food Systems Pre–Summit 2021, Imam said that Pakistan was facing food and nutritional insecurity challenges for its population of above 215 million.

It is costing us US\$ 7.6 billion annually or 3% of our national GDP, he said adding that Pakistan agriculture sector's share in national GDP was 19.2% which was a lifeline of national economy from many perspectives.

Pakistan was blessed with diversified climate and 10 highly productive agro-ecologies available for agriculture production, adding that over 23 million hectares of cultivable land, 1000 km of coastal line with 3 big dams and more than 100 small dams, which signifies that system-based approach was



more appropriate to achieve best results.

The minister said that Pakistan also considers UN-FSS-2021 as an opportunity to review progress on SDGs

and meeting the challenges in achieving zero hunger through establishing robust partnerships and coalitions, adding that it has prepared working papers on all five ac-

tion tracks through inclusive consultative process and have chalked out action plans to implement its proposed game changing solutions.

Fakhar reaffirmed that Pakistan intended to enhance diversified food production in all agro-ecologies, minimizing post-harvest losses and promoting kitchen gardening and promoting value chains. Furthermore, Pakistan also wants to promote organic farming, cultivation of green manure crops, use of resource conservation technologies, build the capacity of all

stakeholders and the SMEs it also focus on building resilience through devising innovative site-specific technologies, he said adding that the underlying intention was to shift our consumers from staple cereals dominated diets to sustainable diversified and healthy consumption patterns.

The minister also apprised the forum that government has set-up agriculture innovation fund and appreciated great support from the international development partners including FAO, GAIN, IFAD and WFP. — APP

## Kyrgyzstan receives food, anti-pandemic aid from China

BISHKEK: An official hand-over ceremony of Chinese food and anti-pandemic assistance to Kyrgyzstan was held here on Wednesday.

The humanitarian aid, donated by China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, is to assist the friendly Kyrgyz people in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, said a press release of the Chinese Embassy in Kyrgyzstan.

Speaking at the ceremony, Chinese Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan Du Dwen noted that China and Kyrgyzstan have helped each other and cooperated sincerely in the fight against the epidemic, which has further deepened the traditional friendship between the two countries.

Kyrgyzstan's Minister of Health and Social Development Aлымкдыр Бейшеналиев and State Secretary of the Ministry of Emergency Situations Azamat Mambeov also attended the event.

On behalf of the government of Kyrgyzstan, the officials expressed gratitude to China for the assistance, noting that the anti-epidemic materials and vaccines have played an important role in promoting Kyrgyzstan's anti-epidemic efforts and mass vaccination campaign. — APP

## EU to push for universal phone charger

## AGENCIES

BRUSSELS: Manufacturers will be forced to create a universal charging solution for phones and small electronic devices, under a new rule proposed by the European Commission (EC).

The aim is to reduce waste by encouraging consumers to re-use existing chargers when buying a new device.

All smartphones sold in the EU must have USB-C chargers, the proposal said.

Apple has warned such a move would harm innovation. The tech giant is the main manufacturer of smartphones using a custom charging port, as its iPhone series uses an Apple-made "Lightning" connector.

"We remain concerned that strict regulation mandating just one type of connector stifles innovation rather than encouraging it, which in turn will harm consumers in Europe and around the world," the firm told the BBC.

It added that it aims to make every Apple device and usage carbon neutral by 2030.

Most Android phones come with USB micro-B charging ports, or have already moved to the more modern USB-C standard.

New models of the iPad and MacBook use USB-C charging ports, as do high-end phone models from popular Android manufacturers such as Samsung and Huawei.

The changes would apply to the charging port on the device body, whereas the end of the cable connecting to a plug could be USB-C or USB-A.

Around half of chargers sold with mobile phones in the European Union in 2018 had a USB micro-B connector, while 29% had a USB C connector and 21% a Lightning connector, a Commission impact assessment study in 2019 found.



MADRID: Pakistan's Ambassador to Spain Shujat Rathore met Ms. Margarita Robles, Minister of Defence of Spain. Candid views were exchanged on areas of mutual interest. Both agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Spain. — DNA

## Modi's rights abuses in spotlight ahead of UNGA address

ISLAMABAD: As Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to address the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) forum in New York this week, the Human Rights Watch (HRW) has urged the international community to "spotlight the human rights abuses" of his government.

The address of the Indian prime minister is expected to outline "global issues" and list his government's "achievements on the domestic front".

But back home, the authorities are criticizing his government for politically motivated prosecutions, human rights abuse particularly against minorities and not allowing the watchdogs to monitor the grim situation.

On September 22, the U.S. congressional briefing on 'Religious freedom in India' by the Human Rights Watch revealed an appalling record of the human rights violations by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The testimony of John Sifton, Asia Advocacy Director put forward "scathing criticism" of the Indian government's assault on religious minorities in India.

The U.S. congressmen were briefed that the attacks against religious minorities in India, especially Muslims, had increased especially since the BJP came to power in 2014.

The testimony also documented the Indian laws and policies to discriminate against religious minorities, the bias against Muslims in the Indian justice system, ongoing clampdown in Jammu and Kashmir, BJP's government's empowering of vigilantes and crackdown on civil society for raising these issues. It was highlighted that the BJP leaders and affiliated groups had long stigmatized minority communities as a "threat to national security and to the Hindu way of life", and making hate-filled remarks against Muslims around state and national elections.

The experts are of the view that while the Indian citizens struggle to cope with the pandemic, their government spends on trophy projects. — APP

## Russia's daily virus deaths match record high

MOSCOW: Russia on Thursday matched its record coronavirus death toll, as the Delta variant and a slowing vaccine drive push up infections.

A government tally reported 820 fatalities over the past 24 hours and 21,438 new cases. It previously reported the same death toll in late August.

Russia, the fifth worst-hit country globally by overall number of cases, has seen infections climb since August as vaccinations stall.

The capital Moscow – the epicentre of Russia's pandemic – has seen a spike over the past week with officials warning of rising hospital admissions.

Daily cases in the capital rose to 3,445, compared to 1,991 a day earlier.

Deputy mayor Anastasia Rakova said Wednesday the increase was due in part to a seasonal spike in respiratory illnesses and contact between people after the summer vacation.

She said the Delta variant now accounted for all cases in Moscow. — APP

## Second UK data breach exposes details of Afghans

"Steps have now been taken to ensure this does not happen in the future. We apologise to those affected and extra support is being offered to them"

## FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: A second data breach by Britain's Ministry of Defence (MoD) has exposed the email addresses of dozens more Afghans who may be eligible for relocation in the United Kingdom, potentially risking their safety.

The latest blunder saw MoD officials mistakenly copy 55 people into an email, making their details visible to all recipients, the BBC reported on Thursday.

The individuals – at least one of whom was a member of the Afghan National Army – were reportedly asked to update their details because UK relocation officials had been unable to contact them.

A spokesperson for the MoD told Al Jazeera the department was "aware" of the error, which took place earlier this month, by its Afghan

Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) team.

"Steps have now been taken to ensure this does not happen in the future. We apologise to those affected and extra support is being offered to them," the spokesperson said.

"This week, the defence secretary instigated an investigation into data handling within that team."

The first data breach, revealed on Tuesday, saw the email addresses of Afghan interpreters who worked with British forces mistakenly shared by the MoD.

That error saw more than 250 people – some of whom are hiding from the Taliban following its takeover in Afghanistan – copied into an email by the ARAP team pledging assistance with their relocation to the UK.

Some of the addresses showed people's names and

associated profile pictures, with one interpreter warning the mistake could "cost lives".

In the email, British officials told the interpreters that the MoD was doing everything it could to help them reach the UK, but warned they should not risk leaving their current location if it was unsafe to do so.

Following the error, officials reportedly sent another message 30 minutes later advising the recipients to change their email addresses.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said the mistake was "unacceptable" and announced one official had been suspended pending the outcome of an investigation into the incident.

He told parliament on Tuesday that processes for "data handling and correspondence processing" had already been changed following the incident.

## China, Pak to finalize deal on industrial co-op

ISLAMABAD: China and Pakistan on Thursday agreed to finalize, "Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation" under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) before the next Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of CPEC.

Federal Secretary Board of Investment (BOI), Ms. Fareena Mazhar disclosed this during the much-awaited 10th meeting of the apex Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of CPEC held here September 23, wherein it was also mutually agreed by the Pakistani and Chinese sides that the Draft Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation under CPEC will be finalized and signed before the next JCC meeting. It is pertinent to mention that the said Framework Agreement was initiated by the Board of Investment (BOI) and, it was shared with the Chinese side after fulfilling all Codal formalities in November 2020.

Ms. Fareena Mazhar stated

that BOI, as the convener of Joint working Group (JWG) on Industrial Cooperation under CPEC, has undertaken rigorous efforts to facilitate the signing of a MoU between Karachi Port Trust (KPT) and China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) on Karachi Comprehensive Coastal Development Zone (KCCDZ) project, said a press release issued by BOI here.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will pave way for resolution of infrastructure issues plaguing the city of Karachi, besides fostering maritime development, and providing job opportunities through generation of sustainable economic activity based on transfer of technology to the country's Maritime Industry. Consensus was reached to make the KCCDZ project a part of the CPEC framework during the 5th meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) on Industrial Cooperation held on 15th December 2020. — APP

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## Briefs

Samina Alvi  
tests positive  
for COVID 19

ISLAMABAD: First Lady Samina Alvi Thursday tweeted that she had tested positive for COVID 19 and sought prayers of her well wishers.

In a tweet on social media platform Twitter, she said, "I was tested positive for covid, day before. I have a little bit of weakness but Alhamdulillah doing well otherwise. Request all to keep me in your prayers please." — APP

Anti-forced  
conversion  
bill sent back  
with objection

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sahibzada Noor-ul-Haq Qadri on Thursday said draft of the "Prohibition of Forced Conversion" bill had been sent back to the Ministry of Human Rights with various objections highlighting violation of fundamental rights of the citizens.

In a news statement, he said, the decision was taken in line with the recommendations of the Council of Islamic Ideology, and after an extensive consultation process in which the leading religious scholars of various schools of thought were taken on board. The objections were made on different clauses of the proposed law especially pertaining to the minimum age for conversion and 90 days for comparative study of religions before confirming to the conversion. The said clauses as negating the basic rights enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan for a citizen were termed 'un-Islamic' and 'unlawful', he added.

The minister said it was observed that the bill in current shape might be used for prohibiting a non-Muslim to enter the fold of Islam and creating religious hatred between Muslims and non-Muslims.

He said it was made clear that there was no room for forced conversion in Islam. Therefore, its prohibition was imperative. — APP

Germany  
readies for  
election

## FOREIGN DESK

FRANKFURT: Germans vote in an election on Sunday that will mark the end of Merkel's 16 years in power and the beginning of a rare period of unpredictability in Europe's top economy, with the race too close to call.

The first chancellor not to seek re-election since 1949, Merkel's decision to bow out sets the country synonymous with stability on course for change no matter who wins when the final count is in. Western allies are watching nervously, wary of an uncertain outcome and coalition negotiations that would blunt for weeks, if not months participation on the international scene by Europe's biggest power of 83 million people.

For Merkel's centre-right CDU-CSU bloc, the stakes could hardly be higher. Their pick for chancellor, the affable but gaffe-prone Armin Laschet, 60, has seen his popularity dwindle since he was caught chuckling during a tribute to victims of deadly floods in July.

The line of succession to Merkel's tenure has been the source of speculation since her second term in office, when names whispered in Berlin's corridors of power were the since-disgraced Bavarian defence minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, and Ursula von der Leyen, now the president of the European Commission. Since then, that line has been redrawn, rubbed out and sketched anew so many times that its final destination looks less like a work of draftsmanship than the result of a slip of the pen.

Pak students protest against  
nonchalance of Australian govt

It has been nearly 18 months now; the Australian borders haven't opened for temporary visa holders

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The students who have been denied entry in Australia despite having valid visas protested against the Australian government in Islamabad.

Every year approximately 6500 to 7500 students travel to Australia for higher education. The average investment of Pakistan in Australia in the education sector is approximately PKR 15 billion per year. As of today, the current number of Pakistani International students is approximately 20 to 25 thousand and their investment in Australia is nearly PKR 30 billion.

The Government of Australia has decided to close its international border for all temporary visa holders until further notice due to COVID 19 situation all around the world. It has been nearly 18 months now; the Australian borders haven't opened for temporary visa holders. Australian Universities and other education providers are pushing students to study online but students have serious reservations toward online education; some of the students who took a few online classes are not satisfied with the quality and standard.

The essential reason for selecting these western countries is because of their high quality of education and educational facilities such as libraries, labs, workshops, work



placements, and most importantly a foreign exposure. Unfortunately, all this is not available in online study platforms.

Due to these circumstances, many students are now facing severe mental health issues; they are severely depressed, frustrated, and worried about their future. Many students are suffering from severe stress, depression, anxiety, high blood pressure, etc. In fact, one of the students has committed suicide which is deeply saddening.

The main cause of this frustration and de-

pression is because students can see that the life savings of their parents have been wasted. Furthermore, another issue is regarding those students who were in their final year or final semester of their studies in March 2020 and are unable to complete them. All the students who are not able to go back to Australia have their savings in Australian banks, their cars, houses, important documents such as original education documents, employment documents, property documents, tax papers and other important stuff are in Australia and they

themselves are in their home country. Unfortunately, in the past 18 months, the Australian Government has not given any plan or even a policy statement to accommodate these students, who were a major part of their society and community a few months back.

The situation of 485 Graduate Visa holders is even worse than international students because they already have invested thousands of dollars in Australia in academic and non-academic ways and as per promise; they have not been given a fair chance to gain relevant work experience while living in Australia.

Temporary Visa holders in the category of skilled workers, such as subclass (485, 476, 491, 189, 190 & 489) are also not able to return to Australia and their visas are now at the edge of expiry. As per decent calculation, there are approximately 25 thousand Australian international students and temporary visa holders stuck in Pakistan and are not able to go back to Australia due to the travel ban. Unfortunately, the Australian government does not have any plan for the return.

To date, the current number of students & temporary graduate visa holders has increased up to 25 thousand. These students and Temporary Visa Holders have already invested approximately PKR 32 billion in the Australian economy.

Sanjrani felicitates  
Saudi Arabia on  
National day

## STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani congratulated the leadership of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of National Day of Saudi Arabia. The Chairman Senate in his message said that the people of Pakistan, the Parliament and the Government, share in the happiness of the people of Saudi Arabia.

The Chairman Senate in his message on the occasion said that National Day is very important for any country. Bilateral relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are historic and exemplary, he added.

The Chairman Senate asserted that common religious, cultural and social similarities keep Pakistan and Saudi Arabia close to each other. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia share a common vision of develop-

ment and prosperity and look forward to taking bilateral cooperation to new heights.

Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani said that we pray for the development, prosperity and stability of Saudi Arabia. "The exchange of high level delegations has ushered in a new era of bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia", underscored Sanjrani in his message.

The Chairman Senate wished the King and The Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia all the best and said that the people of Pakistan share in the happiness of the brothers of Saudi Arabia. Relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are getting stronger and stronger with the passage of time.

The Chairman Senate said that apart from religious and cultural similarities, a common vision for peace and prosperity strengthens bilateral relations.

Use of  
technology  
imperative for  
fair elections

ISLAMABAD: Minister for

Science and Technology Syed Shibli Faraz on Thursday said that use of tech-

nology was imperative to ensure accuracy, transparency in the elections and the use of EVM in election would help prevent rigging and eliminating mistrust over the polling as well as results compilation process.

Addressing a press conference, he said, political parties used to win elections through rigging were not willing to adopt modern technology in elections due to their vested interests.

The minister said, transparent elections were imperative to strengthen parliament and democracy. He requested the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Technical Committee to hold day to day meetings. "We request the election commission of Pakistan to arrange day to day meetings of the technical committee set up to review EVMs developed by the ministry of Science and Technology, he added.

He said that Electronic Voting Machines was a concept and it was not necessary to use this specific EVM prototype prepared by his ministry as "we only want technology driven elections to ensure transparency in results". He said that the government will have no objections in using of imported machine for the holding of elections, if it feels doubt in the EVM prepared locally. He said that holding transparent, free and fair elections is the prime responsibility and mandate of ECP and the government does not believe in interfering to its domain. He urged ECP to encourage the use of modern technology to ensure credible results. — APP

Coronavirus  
kills another  
58 in  
Pakistan

## SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Another 2,357 people in Pakistan have tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the total number of coronavirus cases in the country to 1,232,595, according to official figures released Thursday morning. The country also reported another 58 coronavirus-related deaths in the last 24 hours. The total number of coronavirus-related deaths in Pakistan now stands at 27,432.

The latest data came from the National Command and Operation Centre's daily report on the status of COVID-19 across the country.

The NCOC data placed the country's positivity rate at 4.89%. The country has been reporting a positivity rate less than 5% for the last six days. The country's active number of cases fell to 61,558. The active cases have fallen consistently since more than a week. Among the active cases, 4,561 patients are under critical care. COVID-19 infections are decreasing in Pakistan, with 2,489 new infections reported on average each day. That's 42% of the peak — the highest daily average reported on June 17.

Qureshi discusses  
Afghan situation  
with ICRC chief

## DNA

NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met Mr. Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on the sidelines of the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

The Foreign Minister appreciated the efforts of ICRC in providing humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people in challenging and complex situations and for upholding the principles of international humanitarian law.

The Foreign Minister stressed the importance of the international community's earnest engagement with Afghanistan and provision of necessary human-

itarian and development assistance to the Afghan people. He outlined the contributions made by Pakistan towards the mitigation of the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, especially through its support for the establishment of a humanitarian corridor and provision of in-kind assistance comprising food and medicines. The Foreign Minister underscored the importance of economic stability for consolidating peace in Afghanistan and promoting sustainable development. He added that the world community must also provide support to the large Afghan refugee hosting countries in line with the principle of international responsibility and burden sharing.

Asad stresses enhanced  
security for Chinese investments

## SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Asad Umar stressed on Thursday the need to increase security for projects backed by the Chinese, as the country's investment in Pakistan rises.

"The investment through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is increasing. Chinese investors are investing in [projects] besides special economic zones," the federal minister said while addressing a press conference in Islamabad after a meeting of the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) on the CPEC.

The federal minister noted that the need for ramping up security had increased

after the Dasu incident, where at least 12 people, including nine Chinese nationals working on the hydel project, were killed when a bus carrying them fell into a ravine following an explosion.

In a press conference in August, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security (NDS) were involved in the Dasu incident. Umar, shedding light on the government's steps taken in this regard, said that the Centre has devised a strategy to ramp up security for China-backed projects.

The federal minister said China had also stressed on ramping up security on projects backed by investors from their country.



Umar noted that neighbouring countries were envious of the CPEC.

"Pakistan and China remain committed to the CPEC," he said, adding that the Ministry of Interior had set up a special cell for monitoring the security situation in the country.

The federal minister stated that half of the Pakistan's foreign investment comes from China, and Pakistan

could "not have a better friend" than Beijing, which has stood by the country at all times.

"CPEC-level security is being provided to all projects backed by Chinese investment [...] Pakistan has a clear foreign policy: we will not step back one inch when it comes to our friendship with China."

The federal minister said Pakistan made such decisions in its foreign policy for which it had to pay a huge price. "We were a part of other [countries'] wars and cold wars."

Umar said that work on CPEC projects did not come to a stop despite the tough conditions that had arisen due to coronavirus, and the workers who were involved in the projects had also returned to Pakistan last year.

WHO urges donors to resume  
Afghanistan health funding

The deteriorating situation underscored the dilemma faced by many international donors, many of which are reticent to fund the Taliban-led administration

## AGENCIES

KABUL: The World Health Organisation's representative to Afghanistan called on the international community on Thursday to resume funding of the war-torn country's health program which was suspended when the Taliban took over governing the country, as the healthcare system had plunged into crisis.

The deteriorating situation underscored the dilemma faced by many international donors, many of which are reticent to fund the Taliban-led administration, some of whose members

are on international sanctions lists, but fear that the country is veering towards a humanitarian crisis.

"In the recent weeks, access to health care has significantly declined for hundreds of thousands of some of the most vulnerable Afghans," Luo Dapeng, WHO's representative to Afghanistan, said at a press conference in Geneva. "The country's already fragile health system is overwhelmed," he said, adding they were coordinating with donors to find alternative funding mechanisms for health facilities.

International governments have pledged millions in urgent humanitarian aid but questions remain over

longer term development and other funding to an economy highly dependent on international assistance. Billions of dollars in central bank assets held outside the country have also been frozen.

A roughly \$600 million three-year health project administered by the World Bank in Afghanistan has funded the operation of hundreds of health facilities, and WHO estimated less than a fifth were now fully functional. That has contributed to a surge in cases of measles and diarrhoea, with half of Afghan children at risk of malnutrition and millions of COVID-19 vaccines sitting unused, Dapeng said.

