



# Islamabad POST

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

**Pakistan proud of its relationship with Azerbaijan: Sanjrani**

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**Tour abolition: Govt to expose conspirators**

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**Sania bags 1st WTA title in 20 months**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

**Biden gets booster shot**

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden has received a Covid-19 booster shot Monday. Earlier, the White House said that President Biden will receive a Covid-19 vaccine booster shot on Monday. The 78-year-old leader, who is encouraging the boosters as a new tool against the coronavirus pandemic, will "receive a Covid-19 booster shot in line with" US government health authorities' guidelines, the White House said. Biden also delivered remarks on the fight against Covid. In remarks before getting his shot, Biden encouraged eligible Americans to get their booster shots. Those aged 65 and older along with people with underlying health conditions and in high-risk jobs can get the booster shot. "The bottom line is that if you're fully vaccinated, you're highly protected now from severe illness" Biden said.

**Quaid's vision came true: Fawad**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhary Fawad Hussain has voiced concerns over anti-Muslim policies of the Indian government. In a tweet, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting said Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had predicted eight decades ago that the Hindu imperialist government would be the greatest tragedy of India's future. He said the anti-Muslim policies of Narendra Modi and BJP, today, are a practical manifestation of this tragedy.

**Ghous Ali Shah joins PTI**

DNA

KARACHI: Former Sindh chief minister and PML-N leader Syed Ghous Ali Shah, former

minister of state for water and power Syed Zafar Ali Shah, and Barrister Murtaza Mahezar joined the PTI Monday. The politicians met Prime Minister Imran Khan at the Governor House on Monday, before formally announcing their decision to join the party. PM Imran Khan welcomed the new members and gifted them the party's mufflers as a welcoming gift. Meanwhile, the prime minister also met the Sindh United Party Chairman Jalal Mehmood Shah. Earlier in the day, the premier had performed the groundbreaking of the Karachi Circular Railway project during a ceremony held at the Cantonment Railway Station in the metropolis.

## Pak must not be blamed for US failure: PM

The underlying problem was an Afghan govt structure lacking legitimacy in the eyes of the average Afghan, PM says

CENTRELINE REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that Pakistan must not be blamed for the outcome of war in Afghanistan and for the losses of the United States and stressed on setting eyes on the future to avoid another conflict instead of sticking with the blame game. "Today, with Afghanistan at another crossroads, we must look to the future to prevent another violent conflict in that country rather than perpetuating the blame game of the past," he said in his article published in the Washington Post on Monday. Imran Khan said surely, Pakistan was not to blame for the fact that "300,000-plus well-trained and equipped Afghan security forces saw no reason to fight the lightly-armed Taliban". The underlying problem, he said, was an Afghan government structure lacking legitimacy in the eyes of the average Afghan. He also expressed "surprise" over the recent Congressional hearings on Afghanistan, where "no mention was made of Pakistan's sacrifices as a US ally in the war on terror for over two decades". "Instead, we were blamed for America's loss," he added. Khan recalled that since 2001, he repeatedly warned that the "Afghan war was unwinnable" and

Continued on Page 06

## Center-Sindh coordination vital: PM

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Prime Minister Imran Khan Monday while urging the Sindh government to reconsider Bundle Island project, called for renewed coordination between federal and provincial governments for successful accomplishment of mega projects. "Regarding problems of Karachi, both the federal and Sindh governments will have to move again together. All this is inter-connected. Some things federal government cannot do alone while others Sindh government cannot do solely without center's support," he said. Addressing the groundbreaking ceremony of Karachi Circular Railway project, the prime minister said the project would shift burden from Karachi's roads. Federal Ministers Asad Umar, Azam Swati, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain and Ali Haider Zaidi, Sindh Governor Imran Ismail and Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah attended the ceremony besides senior officers.



KARACHI: Prime Minister Imran Khan offers Dua after groundbreaking of KCR Infrastructure Project. - DNA

## Money Laundering Charges British court acquits Shehbaz Sharif, family

The NCA had initiated a probe against Shahbaz Sharif and his family at the government of Pakistan's request

MONITORING DESK

LONDON: A UK court has ordered the unfreezing of PML-N President Shahbaz Sharif and his family's bank accounts after UK authorities were unable to find evidence of corruption, money laundering or criminal activities against them. The UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) restored the frozen bank accounts of former Punjab chief minister Shahbaz Sharif and those of his son, Suleman Sharif, on Monday.

**Shahzad denies news of acquittal of Shehbaz**

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Accountability Shahzad Akbar on Monday refuted reports of 'acquittal' of PML-N President Shahbaz Sharif and his son Suleman Shahbaz in a money laundering case from a London court. In a series of messages from his Twitter handle, Shahzad Akbar said the reports about the alleged 'acquittal' of Shahbaz Sharif or his son Suleman Shahbaz are incorrect and misreporting. "The investigation by the NCA against Suleman Shahbaz and some of his family members was not initiated at the request of [Asset Recovery Unit] ARU or NAB," he said saying that it was a result of a suspicious transaction reported by a bank to NCA.

Continued on Page 06

The NCA submitted the investigation report of the bank accounts at the Westminster court in which it declared that the PML-N president and his family were not guilty of money laundering and corruption. The report said that Shahbaz and his son were not involved in money laundering practices in Pakistan, Dubai and the UK. The NCA's report said 20-year-old bank accounts of Shahbaz Sharif in Pakistan, UAE and the UK were traced but no

Continued on Page 06

## Germany's Social Democrats claim narrow election win

Social Democrats leader Scholz said the conservatives belonged in the opposition

NEWS DESK

BERLIN: Germany on Monday braced for a period of political unpredictability after the Social Democrats narrowly won a general election but faced a rival claim to power from outgoing Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative camp. For a country synonymous with stability after 16 years of Merkel's steady leadership, the coming weeks and months promise to be a rocky ride as both Finance Minister Olaf Scholz's SPD and the conservatives led by Armin Laschet scramble for coalition partners. The power struggle risks putting Germany out of play in the international scene for some time, even though



Continued on Page 06

## Kremlin wants 'continuity' in ties with Germany

"Of course, we count on continuity in our bilateral relations," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters

MOSCOW: The Kremlin said Monday it hoped for "continuity" in Moscow's ties with Berlin, after Germany was bracing for a period of political instability in the wake of a general election. "Of course, we count on continuity in our bilateral relations," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, adding that while there are disagreements between the countries, "we are united by an understanding that problems can and should be solved only through dialogue." - APP

## 'Murders rose 30 percent in US in 2020'

Crime Report, 77 percent of the murders in 2020 were committed with a firearm

WASHINGTON: The number of murders in the United States rose by around 30 percent in 2020 over the previous year, to some 21,500, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said Monday. A number of large US cities had already reported

Continued on Page 06

## ICC to resume Afghan war crime probe

However, the alleged war crimes by US forces will not be under scrutiny

DNA

**Afghan envoy withdraws from UNGA debate**

NEWS DESK

THE HAGUE: The International Criminal Court's (ICC) new chief prosecutor said on Monday he wanted to focus his investigation in Afghanistan on the Taliban and Islamic State-Khorasan, and to "deprioritise" alleged war crimes by US forces. Karim Khan said

NEW YORK: Afghanistan's ambassador to the United Nations pulled out of delivering an address to world leaders at the General Assembly later Monday, a UN spokesperson said. Ghulam Isacai, who represented president Ashraf Ghani's regime that was ousted last month, had been due to defy the Taliban with a speech but his name was removed from the list of speakers early Monday.

Continued on Page 06

## Pakistan proud of its relationship with Azerbaijan

Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani attends Remembrance Day event at Azerbaijan embassy; Ambassador Khazar Farhadov thanks Pakistan for support; Turkish ambassador praises bravery of Azerbaijani armed forces

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani has said Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoy excellent relations adding the victory in the Patriotic War against Armenia shows resilience and bravery of the Azerbaijani people. He said President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev led the country from the front during the 44 days war. The Chairman Senate made these remarks on the occasion of Remembrance Day, organized by the Azerbaijan embassy, in which Federal Ministers, Senators and members of the civil as well diplomatic fraternity attended the event. Sadiq Sanjrani thanked the Azerbaijan ambassador for inviting him as chief guest. He extended warm felicitations on behalf of the Pakistan government and people on the historic victory. He said Pakistan was one of the first countries that recognized Azerbaijan. Pakistan is proud of its companionship with Azerbaijan adding bilateral relations would continue to grow with each passing day. Pakistan also condemns the Armenia terrorism committed against the innocent people of Azerbaijan. Pakistan sincerely recognizes the sacrifices rendered by the valiant Azerbaijani soldiers



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani addressing the event at Azerbaijan embassy. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani, Ambassadors of Azerbaijan and Turkey in a group photo with other officials. - DNA

during the 44 day long war, he added. The Chairman Senate thanked Azerbaijan for its support on the issue of Indian occupied Kashmir. He also emphasized on further strengthening Pakistan-Azerbaijan parliamentary groups in order to further deepen the bilateral cooperation. Sadiq Sanjrani also congratulated President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev over the great success in the Patriotic War. He said the exemplary cooperation between the two countries shows mutual trust. In every hour of need, the two countries have stood by each other. Paying tribute to the martyrs of Azerbaijan's war of independence, the Sen-

ate Chairman said that the Azeri forces had shown great skill and bravery in the war of independence. Pakistan supports Azerbaijan's territorial integrity as per UN resolutions. The Chairman Senate further added that "There is an atmosphere of brotherhood among the public of both the countries. Pakistan, Azerbaijan and Turkey through a joint strategy are playing a positive role for peace and development in the region. Chairman Senate expressed his best wishes to the government, parliament, people and political leadership of Azerbaijan. Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan also attended the event.

Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov while speaking on the occasion gave a brief account of the Patriotic War. The ambassador also thanked Pakistan for unwavering support during the war. He said people of Azerbaijan also owe a great deal to their Pakistani brothers and sisters for extending whole-hearted support. The ambassador told the audience that Pakistani flags fluttered on the streets of Azerbaijan, which showed great love of Azerbaijani people for the people of Pakistan. The ambassador said, the Patriotic War under the leadership of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the

Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, President Ilham Aliyev that ended with a victory of the brave Azerbaijani Army, opened a new era in the history of the Republic of Azerbaijan, established international justice and changed the realities in the region. Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul also spoke on the occasion and said Azerbaijani forces fought bravely to re-take its territories from the Armenian occupation. He lauded efforts of the Azerbaijani leadership towards rehabilitation and reconstruction of the liberated territories in a very short span of time.

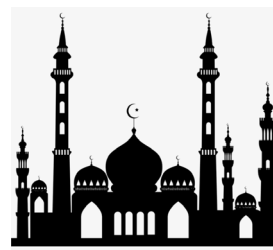
## Announcement

**Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugjo has written a piece on the potential of both Indonesia and Pakistan, in which he has suggested a number of ways to further improve tourism. His article appears on the Opinion pages today.**

- Editor



SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Table with 2 columns: Prayer Name, Time. Rows: Fajr, Zohr, Asr, Maghrib, Isha.



Hotels & Restaurants

Table with 2 columns: Hotel Name, Contact Info. Rows: Serena Hotel, Marriott, Monal.



Airlines

Table with 2 columns: Airline Name, Contact Info. Row: Turkish Airlines.



Emergency

Table with 2 columns: Service Name, Contact Info. Rows: Rescue (Police), Bomb Disposal, Fire Services, etc.



Enquiry

Table with 2 columns: Service Name, Contact Info. Rows: Edhi Ambulance, PIA Flight Info, PIA Cargo, etc.



Hospitals

Table with 2 columns: Hospital Name, Contact Info. Rows: CMH, MH, Cantt Hospital, etc.



Departments

Table with 2 columns: Department Name, Contact Info. Rows: CDA, Met Office, RDA, TMA, Cantonment Board.



Complaints

Table with 2 columns: Service Name, Contact Info. Rows: Water Tanker Service, G-5, G-6, etc.



Islamabad Metropolitan

Table with 2 columns: Location, Contact Info. Rows: Corporation, Potohar Town, Rawal Town.



Wasa Water Tank

Table with 2 columns: Location, Contact Info. Row: Rawalpindi.

Govt, UNDP launch DMDP for youth skills development

Digital Media Development Programme will bridge the gap between the students, Government of Pakistan and the digital media industry by training the youth

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Digital Media Development Programme (DMDP), a flagship initiative of the Government of Pakistan...

This will empower the youth of Pakistan in enhancing their digital skills and gain employment opportunities.

Graphic for Prime Minister's Digital Media Development Program Launch. Includes logos of UNDP and DMW.

Pakistan faces in this particular industry. Speaking at the event, the Prime Minister Mr. Imran Khan said, "The Pakistani Youth should never underestimate their abilities..."

Pakistan's digital media community has been growing rapidly, with over 100 million internet users, 185 million mobile subscriptions and over 50 million people active on social media.

The Programme has partnered with the world's leading social media organizations and digital media industry experts...

successful completion of tasks. During the internship period, the interns will also be guided to conduct digital media seminars in their respective universities to engage the youth of Pakistan.

Regarding UNDP's support to the internship programme, the UNDP Resident Representative Knut Ostby quoted, "UNDP is pleased to support the Government of Pakistan in this effort to empower youth by providing very relevant digital skills and on-the-job training to young men and women in government offices."

UNDP, through its Youth Empowerment Programme, has already been providing digital skills trainings, entrepreneurship trainings, internships and employment opportunities to the youth in Pakistan through its various interventions since 2018.



ISLAMABAD: Isphanyar Bhandara presenting coffee table book "Gems and Jewels" Religions of Pakistan to the president of Islamic republic of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi at the presidency Islamabad.

Govt to facilitate business community

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Monday said steps were being taken to facilitate the businessmen and the industrial sector by providing them an enabling environment to expand economic and commercial activities in the country.

Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry (JCST&SI), which led by JCST&SI President Liaqat Ali Malik called on him here at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

efforts to help the industrial sector by reducing the cost of production to enable businessmen to compete in the international markets.

MDCAT to continue as per schedule

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) on Monday said that the MDCAT exams will continue as per the schedule and all results will be subject to the post-exam analysis, any corrections required, and after rechecking.

Speakers express thoughts on WEHD

ARIJ GHAZNAVI

ISLAMABAD: National and international speakers expressed their thoughts on World Environmental Health Day (WEHD), the international dialogue was organized by The human security Institute (THIS) on Monday.

HEC, LUMS hold consultation workshop

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE), HEC in collaboration with the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) organized a two-day consultative workshop on 'National Twinning of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)' at LUMS.

A large number of Vice Chancellors from across Pakistan attended the event and expressed their views on an innovative concept of 'National Twinning of HEIs' to increase teaching effectiveness of HEIs.

FIA to grab fake vaccine certificate generators

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Director General Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Sana Ullah Abbasi on Monday said that an action has been initiated against individuals generating fake Covid vaccination certificates along with provincial departments.

Search operation launched in Kacha Stop

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Police on special directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi on Monday launched a search operation in Kacha Stop and adjoining areas in the jurisdiction of Westridge Police station to ensure law and order and net the outlaws, said a police spokesman.

Welfare of deceased artist' families demanded

ISLAMABAD: The artists' community on Monday urged the authorities concerned to pay attention to 'Artists Welfare Fund' with the objective to provide financial help to those performers' families who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

Razak addresses sellers at Daraz's seller summit

I want to thank both the Pakistan government and our sellers for helping to advance the operating environment for the Daraz platform over the past 12 months, says Razak

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading e-commerce platform, Daraz, hosted its annual Seller Summit on Sunday, with over 100,000 sellers from around the country attending the virtual event.

form over the past 12 months. We have been working hand-in-hand with the government to ensure that there is both a legislative and taxation framework that will allow the e-commerce industry to flourish.

den is carried by the seller." As the growth and sophistication of the e-commerce landscape in Pakistan continues to evolve, Daraz announced several other initiatives to enhance the seller experience after already reducing the payment cycle from 14 to 7 days earlier in the year.

its support for the platform. Head of Alibaba.com APAC, Stephen Kuoc, also spoke at the summit about Alibaba's B2B performance.

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## Briefs

## Lok Virsa to start cultural projects in GB

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage-Lok Virsa (NIFTH) would initiate culture promotion projects in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) with the aim to preserve, enhance and strengthen cultural traditions and heritage of the scenic region of GB. This was decided under a meeting held with Executive Director Lok Virsa and Secretary Tourism and Culture Department of Gilgit-Baltistan on Monday, Executive Director NIFTH Talha told APP.

Talha was of the view that it necessarily required to pay attention for expanding the project including augmenting the number of arts councils of GB which were the real curator and promoter of art and culture along with preparation of a culture policy for GB.

"Gilgit-Baltistan is inherited by people from different sects with rich cultural background and they have diverse culture, customs and traditions totally unique in the world. Pakistan manifests itself in local traditions, music and local dresses," he added.

He said the famous trio band music played in this region was very popular in most of the other regions due to the rhythm of its loud music, and men dancing in their typical way whereas there were some variations in lyrics from region to region. Instruments commonly used in Gilgit Baltistan were Dandang (drum), Damal and Surnai while some other instruments like Sitar, Gabi (flute) Rubab and duff represent the musical style and taste of different areas. - APP

## SC rejects pleas seeking Presidential system

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday maintained the Registrar Office's objections on petitions seeking introduction of Presidential system in the country and declared them inadmissible.

A three-member SC bench headed by Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Khan and Justice Munib Akhtar heard the petitions filed by Advocate Ahmed Raza Kasuri. During the course of proceedings, Kasuri urged the court to direct the prime minister to announce a referendum to introduce a presidential system in the country.

Upon this Justice Bandial said that the apex court did not have the authority to replace a political system in the country.

He said there were several political parties in Pakistan so why did the petitioner feel the need to move the court over a political issue.

Kasuri said that he was the only person alive who was among the authors of the 1973 Constitution. - APP

## 'Children getting education in prisons'

ISLAMABAD: A report of the Ministry of Human Rights (MOHR) on Sunday underscored that the Punjab Prisons was educating and providing basic facilities to children up to the age of six years in various jails accompanied by the women prisoners.

The Ministry's Report highlighted that the facilities available to children accompanying women prisoners included religious education, recreational facilities such as availability of toys and board games, as well as basic amenities such as air coolers and electric water coolers during summer season.

The report revealed that Television sets were also available in female wards, where the children were provided iron beds and special meal plans for proper wellbeing and nourishment of the children.

At Central Jail Rawalpindi, a perceptual room was available for children with a television and computer systems that was helping them in seeking education and keeping them abreast with developing trends, it added. - APP

## Air University, NTP sign MoU on World Tourism Day

"No doubt, our youth is very active in showcasing attractive and beautiful sites on various social media platforms"

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Air University, in order to mark the World Tourism Day, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a renowned tourism organization, National Tourism Pakistan (NTP), to extend mutual cooperation in various areas related to tourism and hospitality. World Tourism Day is being celebrated every year by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) with a purpose to raise awareness on the role of tourism within the international community and to demonstrate how it affects social, cultural, political and economic values worldwide.

Vice Chancellor Air Marshal (Retd) Javid Ahmed, in his worthy remarks, stated that Pakistan is endowed with a rich civilization and tourism sites. "Several countries on the world map are earning a huge amount of revenue only through tourism," he said, while appreciating the state policies of the current regime for promotion of tourism. "Pakistan has many historical, religious, cultural, archaeological, and adventurous sites that could attract a large number of tourists from around the globe," he expressed.

"No doubt, our youth is very active in showcasing attractive and beautiful sites on various social media platforms," Executive Director NTP Zeeshan Shahzad stated, adding



that many blogs, vlogs, and youtube channels are projecting a positive image of Pakistan at the international level." However, he further emphasized the need for a centralized national tourism portal to benefit the entire tourism industry.

Director Student Affairs Fazaila Ali, who signed the MoU on behalf of the Air University, emphasized that the tourism industry has a big potential to provide employ-

ment opportunities to the youth. According to her, Air University is committed to explore new horizons for the best interest of its students and the society. She further highlighted that Air University is one of the leading universities which is offering a four year degree programme in Tourism and Hospitality Management.

The participants, during the open discussion, endorsed that the

COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in having a massive socio-economic impact on the telecom industry overall. However, there is also a constant rise in domestic tourists to various tourist sites in Pakistan.

On the occasion, Vice Chancellor Air University Air Marshal (Retd) Javid Ahmed, Registrar Air Cdre (Retd) Abdul Wahab Motla, Director QEC Air Cdre (Retd) Ahmed Hassan, Director Academics Air

Vice Marshal (Retd) Tariq Matin, Dean AUSOM Dr. Mueen Aizaz Zafar, Director Student Affairs Fazaila Ali, Assistant Director (P&AA) Sabah Uddin Qazi, Placement Officer Gulnaz Batool and Assistant Officer Misbah Shahid represented the Air University whereas the delegate of NTP, led by its Executive Director Zeeshan Shahzad, was comprising of Prof Naveed Ashraf and Farah Yasin.

## COMSTECH, NTD Network hold webinar

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Professor Patrick G. Steel, Department of Chemistry and Biological Sciences Institute, Durham University, UK, delivered third lecture of COMSTECH-NTD Network joint lecture series on Monday. COMSTECH, in collaboration with the global network for neglected tropical diseases - NTD Network - has launched a virtual lecture series for researchers across the Muslim world, to build capacity to appropriately address Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, COMSTECH introduced the speaker. He said, neglected tropical diseases are a major health and economic burden in OIC

member states. The control and elimination of NTDs require both a scale-up and integration of global mass treatment programmes, along with new tools and technologies to tackle these diseases.

Professor Patrick G. Steel talked about the disease's genetic basis, current research work and future prospects to treat and control Leishmaniasis and Chagas disease. He also talked about the current techniques being used by the scientists in the field.

The NTD Network - funded by UKRI's Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) - is a consortium of academic researchers from South America, Asia, and the UK, seeking new therapeutic solutions to Leishmaniasis and Chagas disease.

## Islamabad makes covid vaccine mandatory for students

The government has decided to form mobile vaccination teams which will be sent to educational institutions across the capital city

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The district administration of Islamabad has made coronavirus vaccination mandatory for students between the ages of 15 and 18 years after advice from the National Command and Operation Centre.

They will be administered the Pfizer shot free of cost. The government has decided to form mobile vaccination teams which will be sent to educational institutions across the capital city. All private and public schools and colleges have been instructed to cooperate with the authorities.

The vaccination drive will be overseen by the depu-

ty commissioner and assistant commissioner of Islamabad. "Our aim is to immunise 100% population of Islamabad," Deputy Commissioner Hamza Shafiq said.

Students can also visit a vaccination centre near their house for the Covid jab. They have to carry their birth certificate, issued by NADRA, or passport at the time of immunisation.

There's, also, no need to send an SMS to 1166 to register for the shot. You can just walk into any centre.

Previously, NCOC announced some SOPs for the vaccination of students between ages 15 and 17. Immunocompromised stu-

dents between 12 and 17 years will be administered the Pfizer vaccine. They will be required to provide medical documents as proof of being immunocompromised.

The general public age group for vaccination has been lowered to 17 years. Pfizer vaccine will be administered to students under the age of 18 years. For people below the age of 18 years, the Child Registration Certificate (B-Form) number will be used for registration in NIMS (National Immunisation Management System). Are covid vaccines safe for students?

According to research, children between 12 and

15 years of age can only be administered Pfizer-BioNTech's Comirnaty and Moderna's Spikevax vaccines.

The WHO has concluded that the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine is suitable for use by people aged 12 years and above.

"Children aged between 12 and 15 who are at high risk may be offered this vaccine alongside other priority groups for vaccination. Vaccine trials for children are ongoing and WHO will update its recommendations when the evidence or epidemiological situation warrants a change in policy," WHO notes in a document available online.

## Power generation of Tarbela dam decreased

TARBELA: The water level of Tarbela Dam reservoir Monday has reduced to 1515.72 feet while power production also declined to 3283 megawatts.

According to the Tarbela dam spokesperson, water inflow and power production once again started reducing and today it was 4020 megawatts where 16 power generations units out of 17 were working with full capacity and one power unit was shut down.

The water inflow in the Tarbela Dam reservoir which remained 75000 cusec feet and outflow was 110000 cusecs.

It was also disclosed that today no water was released for Pehur High-Level Canal (PHLC) to supply water for some areas of KPK for irrigation. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser in a group photo with participants of inaugural session of the orientation programme for the MLAs of AJK Assembly at PIPS. - DNA

## Air Link to use IPO to bolster export

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A senior executive of Pakistan's premier cell phone distributor and manufacturer, Air Link Communication Ltd. said that the company will utilize the funds raised through IPO to expand its production base for enhancing export of Chinese smartphone brands assembled and manufactured in Pakistan.

According to Gwadar Pro, the Air Link executive, who wished anonymity, was commenting on the recent news that the company had exported 1,500 4G handsets to Dubai as a debut in the smartphone export market. In the end

of August, Air Link raised Rs6.43 billion in Pakistan's largest-ever private sector IPO (initial public offering).

"The exported sets included all four Chinese brands, TCL, iTel, Tecno, and Alcatel, which we assembled at our Lahore facility," the executive told Gwadar Pro over the phone from the company's head office.

About the scope of smartphones exported from Pakistan, the executive said, "We plan to use the IPO proceeds to expand our production base to further enhance our exports in line with the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan and the goals set under the second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)."

## IHC adjourns Zardari's case

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday adjourned hearing till November 4, on a petition seeking disqualification of Asif Ali Zardari as member parliament for concealment of his assets.

Chief Justice Athar Minalah remarked that why not the Parliament prepared a mechanism of accountability of its members. There were already a large number of pending cases of poor people before this court, he said.

The court said that it would issue an order pertaining to the subject on next hearing. It instructed the lawyers to satisfy the court that why it should hear such cases.

The petition was filed by Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI)'s Leader Khurram Sher Zaman challenging the eligibility of former president Asif Ali Zardari as member Parliament.

The petitioner's lawyer Faisal Chaudhry Advocate informed the court that he also wanted to submit power of attorney in case regarding the qualification of Federal Minister for Information Chaudhary Fawad Hussain.

The court observed that why it should hear the case when the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) was already probing the matter. The chief justice said that he was not talking about case merit as he has yet to study it, adding that why the court should hear cases against elected representatives. When the public was electing such leaders, then why the court should interfere into the matter. - APP

## ICCI delegation visits Balochistan

The delegation was representing various sectors including real estate & construction, IT, pharmaceuticals, steel, solar energy, edible oil, marble & granite and flour milling

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) leading a large delegation visited Turbat, Balochistan in order to explore the business and investment opportunities for its members in the Special Economic Zone that has been planned for the area.

The delegation was representing various sectors including real estate & construction, IT, pharmaceuticals, steel, solar energy, edible oil, marble & granite and flour milling. Turbat is a huge area in which a new Special Economic Zone has been planned that offers lucrative incentives for investment.

During its visit, the ICCI delegation met with Nasser Khan Kashani, Chairman, Gwadar Port Authority, Maj. Gen Ahmad Bilal, Inspector General Frontier Corps (North) and other relevant authorities to discuss with them the possibilities of business and investment for private sector in Turbat and Gwadar. The delegation was informed that the District Administration of Kech and the private sector are launching a Special Economic Zone, which is located on the crossroads of CPEC & Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). The Government of Pakistan has recently announced opening of new crossing sites at Pakistan Iran Border to increase bilateral trade, which will supplement the efforts to generate socio-economic ac-

new avenues of prosperity and development in the area.

Speaking at the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry thanked Chairman Gwadar Port Authority and Maj. Gen Ahmad Bilal, IGFC (North) for providing a comprehensive briefing to the ICCI delegation about investment opportunities in SEZs in Balochistan. He said that in terms of area, Balochistan is the largest province of Pakistan with a lot of natural resources, therefore, it should be given more focus for business and investment promotion in order to harness its natural resources for the better economic development of the country and uplift the living standards of its poor people. He said that currently most of the products includ-

ing dairy items are coming from Iran to Turbat and other areas of Balochistan, therefore, the Pakistani business community has a huge opportunity to supply local products to the people of these areas at competitive prices. He emphasized that the government should provide more incentives and security to the business community for JVs and investment in SEZs of Balochistan so that with the better growth of business and investment activities, this province could achieve more progress & prosperity and play a far more effective role in the development of the national economy.

He assured that ICCI would play a role to highlight the investment opportunities available in SEZs in Balochistan to attract maximum investment in them.



## Another dengue outbreak

As the country struggles to keep up with one pandemic, the remnants of a previous epidemic threaten to rear their ugly head. Dengue, an infectious mosquito-borne disease, has been having increasingly frequent outbreaks in Pakistan, with epidemics in 2011, 2017 and 2019. Unfortunately, there are signs of another deadly outbreak this September. Across the country, there have been several diagnoses of dengue fever. In Lahore, there have been a total of 73 new positive cases, with 60 reported in one day. The total number of dengue positive cases this year reached 824 in Lahore and 992 in other parts of the Punjab province. More than 20 patients have been confirmed positive for dengue fever on Saturday from the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. KPK is another danger point—the 2017 dengue epidemic, which mainly targeted Peshawar, still haunts the province. Alarm bells went off then when Peshawar reported 213 new cases of the fever in the last 24 hours. However, whereas the world was woefully unprepared for the coronavirus pandemic, this time we are all too familiar with dengue outbreaks. The successive governments have had years and example upon example to keep mechanisms in place to curb the spread of dengue fever and kickstart an anti-dengue drive immediately. Considering our previous experience of hundreds of deaths due to this disease, and that our health infrastructure is already strained due to the coronavirus pandemic and cannot bear any more burden, the government cannot afford to delay taking vigilant action to curb the spread of dengue. The government is responding—the anti-dengue drive which was initiated by the district administration is already in full swing under which surveillance is being carried out at various points in the provincial capital. Yet considering our vast experience in this, the response is still too slow. The situation should not have been allowed to get this bad. The government needs to tap into the procedures and resources already in place.

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## Expanding CPEC

THE federal government has announced the Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone (KCCDZ) project under the umbrella of CPEC where direct Chinese investment worth \$3.5 billion has been promised to urbanise the area entirely. The economic potential for this is immense, just like the promise of our maritime trade taking off after its completion. For the benefits to materialise, the government must ensure the process is smooth all the while ensuring security, meeting deadlines and taking charge of the humanitarian implications of revamping the coastline. Karachi may become an even larger port that has the ability to cater to international needs through KCCDZ's diversified facilities—strengthening our blue economy as a result. A water treatment plant aimed at reducing pollution and improving the quality of marine life near and around Karachi will be made. The port will also become accessible to the main city through a connecting bridge, further linking it to the economic center of the province. All this is bound to open up an array of opportunities for Pakistan. However, before absorbing ourselves with visions of success, there are a few problems that must be addressed. Half a million people would have to be relocated into a suitable area that is fully equipped for everyday life before the project begins. These people must be informed about this reality well before time, given a comprehensive plan as to where they will be resettled, whether a housing scheme will be built and how affordability will be ensured. Secondly, any incident like the Dasu attack is unacceptable especially if China is still open to diversifying CPEC projects. The government must go above and beyond to prevent jeopardising our partnership with China through ensuring the security of all those involved. Lastly, we must remain diligent with our payables to investors because otherwise, delays become inevitable as investors lose confidence and discourage progress on the project as we observed while paying partial payables of \$1.4 billion last week. These are just a few concerns that are well within the capacity of our government to resolve. Taking a proactive approach now will lead to a smoother process for the well-needed initiative to urbanise Karachi.

## Reviving tourism amid the pandemic

Adam M. Tugio



As the health situation is gradually improving, I expect travelers between the two countries will start coming to explore the appealing tourist destinations on sites. The Indonesian tourism industry is well geared to welcome and serve the Pakistani tourism sector for an enjoyable experience of adventure and hospitality

TOURISM is a great way to explore new destinations, learn about culture and history, and break out of our routine lives by tapping into the world of adventure. At another level, tourism also plays a critical role in helping nations build their economies. To raise awareness about the role of tourism at the international level, every year September 27 is celebrated as the World Tourism Day. Over the years, tourism has been one of the fastest growing industries

in the world. In addition to the opportunities for recreation and cultural exchange, tourism industry has emerged as a big source to generate employment opportunities, grow service sector and help earn foreign exchange. The tourism sector unlike other industries incorporates many industries, including lodging, transport, attractions, travel companies, and more. Hence, tourism is a remarkable phenomenon that spurs the overall economic growth worldwide. Traveling both internationally and domestically has become increasingly common all over the world. As a result, both leisure travel spending and business travel spending have seen consistent growth over the last many years. Prior to the pandemic, Travel & Tourism (T&T) including its direct, indirect and induced impacts accounted for 1 in 4 of all new jobs created across the world, 10.6% of all jobs (334 million), and 10.4% of global GDP (USD 9.2 trillion). Meanwhile, international visitor spending amounted to USD 1.7 trillion in 2019 (6.8% of total exports, 27.4% of global services exports). T&T direct contribution to GDP for Indonesia was USD 21.8 billion in 2019 while its total contribution to employment sector was at 10.1%. In Pakistan's case total T&T contribution to the national GDP was USD 7.9 billion and accounted for 5.5 % of total employment. The pandemic has brought a significant impact on the tourist sector. The sharp drop in visitor numbers is having severe economic and social consequences both inside and outside the tourism industry. As a result, the topic for this year's World Tourism Day, "Tourism for Inclusive Growth" is appropriate in the sense that it strives to assist those involved in the tourism sector in every possible manner. Many nations are ready to reopen their borders to overseas tourists after a successful vaccination campaign. The CHSE (Clean, Health, Safety, and Environment) certification program has helped to adopt new health protocols. There is great optimism and confidence globally about recovery in the tourism sector and many countries are now gearing up to reopen tourist destinations as the vaccination campaign is getting into full swing. To begin, one of the important strategies for reviving tourism is to promote domestic tourism in places or locales where the health situation is under control. In many economies the domestic tourists could replace a considerable portion of international visitors, if fully mobilized. The situation is unprecedented, and the coming months will show how successful governments will be in tapping domestic tourism to fill the void left by international travelers. Simultaneously, efforts must be made to improve hard infrastructure in order to reach touristic destinations and amenities facilities in order to provide visitors with

a pleasant and pleasurable stay. Let us not overlook the power of word-of-mouth marketing as a powerful instrument for promoting certain locations. Second, in the recovery phase, countries can negotiate so-called travel bubbles to encourage international visitors. Establishing bilateral travel bubbles is an interesting option to revive tourism. The growing number of travel agreements is a testament to this. To revive tourism successfully, governments together with travel and tourism sectors should prepare phased tourism recovery plans, in which travel bubbles can be a stepping stone to a fully open regime. During the recovery phase, governments need to rebuild tourist confidence and encourage innovation and investment for a resilient and sustainable tourism sector. Third, consumer behaviors have changed as a result of the pandemic, and the significance of having a strong social media presence has grown. To secure a stronger position for recovery, Destination Management Organizations (DMOs) should engage with influencers and operate across multi-channel platforms. Social media traffic has dramatically increased as consumers have utilized this as a tool to escape stringent lockdown restrictions. Certain changes are likely to become long-standing, as individuals will be more dependent on this to alleviate anxieties, and influencers should be a key consideration in travel recovery strategies. International surveys have suggested that younger groups will be the first to resume international leisure tourism, once restrictions are lifted. The social-media influencers, many of whom are drawn from these key demographics, will play a pivotal role in restoring that confidence and contributing to the recovery of the tourism industry at large. This smart marketing through social media influencers will complement conventional approach with participation to international T&T Fairs. Fourth, growing articulation between tourism and creativity has been encouraged by the search for alternative models of tourism development and the expanding creative economy. Adding creativity to tourism will become even more common diversification strategy, particularly in the field of cultural tourism. The role of calendar of events in tourism destination development should also be noted. Today, it is not surprising that events have the power to affect the formation of a destination's image and can help with promoting, positioning, and branding it across the globe. A fruitful integration of event management into touristic activities will win success and attract numerous customers to the target destinations. Fifth, one major trend that travel agencies and the tourism industry will have to adapt to in the future is

the increasing global interest in environment friendly travel. Nowadays, a growing number of tourists have begun recognizing the negative impact their trips can have on affected regions. As a result, more and more global travelers believe in the importance of sustainable travel and green travel choices. People also prefer to avoid in-house congested areas in post-pandemic situations, thus open air and back-to-nature activities or eco-tourism might become a new trend for tourism attractions. Finally, visual storytelling has been a big part of the tourism industry's toolkit. Visual imagery can say so much more than words alone, and under present scenario many travel brands from individual hotel chains to entire destination marketing initiatives will have to take their storytelling to new heights for the travel and tourism sector recovery from the negative impacts of the COVID pandemic. I recently visited Taxila and Lahore Museums and was highly impressed by the grandeur of the monuments there. I strongly felt the need of promoting and highlighting the Gandhara civilization not only through visual and performing arts but also essentially through the virtual reconstruction using computer-based simulations to bring these marvelous heritage sites to the wider international audience. Taxila could become a new holiest site for Buddhist pilgrimages to pay respect and devotion to Gautama Buddha like Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib for Sikh community. Pakistan has the capacity to do so since it has talented and creative workforce in the IT development industries. Both Indonesia and Pakistan with roughly half a billion combined population offer great opportunities for the growth of bilateral tourism and only needed synergized modern marketing methods and visa facilitations to match its true potential. Interestingly, the two countries have a lot of interesting social and cultural similarities to share. Moreover, both are gifted with enormous natural beauty, rich diverse heritage and unbeatable hospitality. From scenic natural beauty to unique culture and traditions, from delicious cuisines to creative minds, from indigenous art to attractive life style, the similarities are abundant and captivating. They serve as a binding element to strengthen the cultural bridge between the two nations. As the health situation is gradually improving, I expect travelers between the two countries will start coming to explore the appealing tourist destinations on sites. The Indonesian tourism industry is well geared to welcome and serve the Pakistani tourism sector for an enjoyable experience of adventure and hospitality.

— The writer is the Indonesian Ambassador to Pakistan. Views expressed here are personal.

## Indian conspiracy against Pakistan debunked

Muhammad Akhter



India also used the name of Louis B. Sohan, an international human rights scholar, after his death. In the name of Professor Sohan, who died in 2006, these things were spread only to tarnish Pakistan's image that had nothing to do with him. A fresh episode in this regard took place by India last month due to which the NZ cricket team abruptly gone backhome without playing the scheduled match

TO DAY, in the world of automation, propaganda is considered as the most lethal weapon. In this regard, no action is taken by the international community against the countries those poses a serious threat to the regional and global peace and security in Cyber Sphere. However, many countries are creating so many problems through propaganda and circulating fake news. Additionally, India is one of the most notorious country that uses mainstream and social media to spread fake news with intent to discredit Pakistan's efforts and sacrifices for peace and stability in the region. On the one hand, Afghanistan's instability in the region is a major and serious issue at the moment, which is being addressed not only by countries within the region, but also by forces outside the region in an effort to somehow regularize Afghanistan as soon as possible. While, on the other hand, despite all this, a country in the region is not shying away from pursuing its nefarious intentions even in these circumstances. This is the same India that never misses an opportunity to defame Pakistan. In the recent past, India has used and continues to use all sorts of tactics to destabilize Pakistan, from spreading false news and information for carrying out acts of sabotage. As far as spreading false news and information is concerned, the report of the EU Disinformation Lab in this regard is eye-opening in which (NGOs) used to negatively influence the views of the United Nations and the European Union on Pakistan. India also used the name of Louis B. Sohan, an international human rights scholar, after his death. In the name of Professor Sohan, who died in 2006, these things were spread only to tarnish Pakistan's image that had nothing to do with him. A fresh episode in this regard took place by India last month due to which the New Zealand cricket team abruptly gone backhome without

playing the scheduled match. In order to thwart the New Zealand cricket team Tour to Pakistan, a fake Facebook account was created by India in the name of a spokesperson of the banned outfit to withdraw the team from touring Pakistan. According to the Federal authorities' of Pakistan, the account from which the threat was made was fake and made in India. Furthermore, On August 19, 2021, a post was made from this account in the name of Ehsanullah Ehsan in which it was said that if the New Zealand cricket team came to play in Pakistan, the people of ISIS could target it. Interestingly, two days after this post, on August 21, 2021, the bureau chief of the Indian newspaper "The Sunday Guardian" Abhinandan Mishra published an article in which it was said that the New Zealand cricket team could face a terrorist attack in Pakistan. Now it is pertinent to mention here, that the article was based on a fake post by Ehsanullah Ehsan. Moreover, Abhinandan Mishra, who is the bureau chief of the newspaper has strong ties with former Afghan Vice President Amrullah Saleh. According to authorities, on August 24, 2021, the wife of New Zealand opener Martin Gupthill received a threatening e-mail from naming a banned outfit with an e-mail ID saying that Martin Gupthill will be killed in Pakistan. Meanwhile, only one email has been generated from this email account so far. This email ID was created on Proton Mail, a secure mail service, so no details are available. In this connection, Pakistan has contacted Interpol and requested to provide the details of this email ID and how this email was created. Later, on September 18, 2021, Interpol Wellington informed Interpol Islamabad about a post in the name of Hamza Afridi which was published at 6:25 New Zealand time and according to Pakistan the time was set at 11:25 pm on September 17, in which the New Zealand cricket team was threat-

ened that they had made a mistake by visiting. It should be noted, a review of the e-mail revealed that it was sent from a device in India, which was relocated to Singapore via VPN. The device from which this e-mail was sent has 13 more IDs containing all Hindi names and was created under the names of Hindi film industry, drama and music. Only one name, Hamza Afridi, was different from the one used to indicate that the email was generated from Pakistan. The mobile device used for e-mail was launched in India in August 2019. The mobile SIM was registered in the name of Om Prakash Mishra on September 25, 2019, its user has also been confirmed. Om Prakash Mishra used Hamza Afridi's fake ID from Mumbai Maharashtra. Hence, it is finalized that above mentioned all information makes sound clear that India is behind the threat to the New Zealand team and is doing all this to discredit and destabilize Pakistan in the world. The International Cricket Council (ICC) and other international bodies should take concrete action against India on the basis of this information, otherwise it would create problems not only for Pakistan but also for other countries in the region to achieve its nefarious goals. However, in my opinion, this Indian ambition to defame Pakistan needs to be included in the agenda of the current annual session of the General Assembly so that world leaders are fully aware of Indian conspiracies to undermine regional and global peace and security and made them able to come up with a solid plan of action. In conclusion, international bodies should keep in mind, that in these circumstances' they are also primarily responsible as they did not taken any concrete action against India in the past, despite all the evidence and proofs.

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



## Briefs

## UK to issue 5,000 temporary visas

ANKARA: The British government has announced that it will issue temporary visas to 5,000 heavy goods vehicle (HGV) drivers and 5,500 poultry workers until Christmas 2021 to ease supply chain problems. According to a statement by the Department for Transport on Saturday, 5,000 HGV drivers will be able to come to the UK for 3 months in the run-up to Christmas in order to provide "short-term relief for the haulage industry". Some 5,500 poultry workers will also be added to the visa scheme to "avoid any potential further pressures on the food industry during this exceptional period." "Up to 4,000 people will soon be able to take advantage of training courses to become HGV drivers," the statement added. Ruby McGregor-Smith, president of the British Chambers of Commerce, said the measures were inadequate, adding: "This announcement is the equivalent of throwing a thimble of water on a bonfire." British Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said refineries in the country had "plenty of petrol", adding that he had checked with the six refineries and 47 storage centers in the country. Shapps added that if necessary, British soldiers can be assigned to drive fuel tankers. — APP

## French photographer in hot water over Macron vacation shot

PARIS: French police are investigating a photographer for violation of privacy over a picture showing President Emmanuel Macron in swimming trunks on holiday in the Mediterranean, prosecutors confirmed to AFP. "An investigation is under way," the Paris prosecutor's office said on Sunday evening, confirming a report by Europe 1 radio. The picture was one of a set of paparazzi shots published by the Voici gossip magazine in August 2020 that reportedly angered the 43-year-old president. Some showed Macron, who was holidaying at the Bregancon fort belonging to the French state on the French Riviera, relaxing with his wife Brigitte and other family members on a boat in his swimming trunks. Others showed him riding a jet ski, bare-chested but for a life jacket. One of the jet ski pictures was later included in an exhibition of shots of French presidents on holiday hosted by a Parisian art gallery. Macron's office refused to comment on the affair, but Europe 1 said he and Brigitte had filed a criminal complaint for invasion of privacy. The photographer behind the shots, Thibault Daliphard, told AFP he had been summoned to appear at a police station near his home in southern France on Tuesday. — APP

## Sep 27 turning point in Azerbaijan history: FM

"On that day, in response to Armenian provocations, Azerbaijan launched a counter-offensive operation using its right to self-defence"

DNA

BAKU: Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has described September 27, 2020, as a turning point in Azerbaijan's history. He made the remarks at a meeting of the Turkic Council foreign ministers. "On that day, in response to Armenian provocations, Azerbaijan launched a counter-offensive operation using its right to self-defence," Bayramov stated. The minister emphasized that the 30-year Armenian occupation of the Azerbaijani territories ended within 44 days. He stressed that Azerbaijan highly appreciates the solidarity shown by the Turkic Council members states during the 44-day Second Karabakh War, and during the post-war rehabilitation on the liberated lands. Bayramov also invited the meeting participants to honor the memory of the martyrs of the Second Karabakh War with a minute of silence. Thus, the memory of Azerbaijani martyrs was honored with a minute of silence at the meeting. Moreover, addressing the meeting Turkish FM Mevlut Cavusoglu noted that today marks the anniversary of the start of the 44-day war, as a result of which the country's territories were liberated from occupation. "We respectfully honor the memory of the martyrs of Azerbaijan, who gave their lives for their motherland," said Cavusoglu. As a sign of deep respect for the soldiers and officers who gave their lives for Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, September 27 is marked as Remembrance Day under President Ilham Aliyev's relevant decree. The decree was signed on December 2, 2020. A



number of events are planned to be held on Remembrance Day. The memory of the martyrs has been honored in the religious sites operating in Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijani public visits the graves of martyrs in the second Honorary Alley in Baku and offers prayers for their souls. The streets of Baku are decorated with Azerbaijani flags on Remembrance Day. In addition, Azerbaijan's national flag will be projected on a number of buildings, including the Heydar Aliyev Center and the Flame Towers in the evening. The Heydar Aliyev Foundation's public association Regional Development will hold commemorative events. A Moscow-brokered ceasefire deal that Baku and Yerevan signed on November 10, 2020, brought an end to six weeks of fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijani army declared a victory against the Armenian troops. The signed

## Baku urges int'l probe into Armenian aggression

BAKU: Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) Sabina Aliyeva has called on international organizations to investigate facts of human rights violations committed as a result of Armenia's aggressive and occupant policy against Azerbaijan. Sabina Aliyeva made the remarks in a statement made on the occasion of the first anniversary of the outbreak of the Second Karabakh War on September 27. "I call on international organizations to investigate the facts of human rights violations committed as a result of the aggressive and occupant policy, including war crimes in severe violation of the right to a life committed by the Armenian military and political leadership that is non-compliant with UN Security Council Resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884, UN General Assembly

Resolutions 'Situation in the Occupied Territories of Azerbaijan' adopted in 2006 and 2008, that ignores the appeals of the UN, the World Health Organization and other influential international organizations on the current pandemic," she stated. The ombudsman further called on Armenia to respect Azerbaijan's internationally recognized territorial integrity, to refrain from provocative actions aimed at threatening the life and health of the civilians, as well as at gross violations of fundamental human rights. "I further call on international and regional organizations, foreign ombudspersons, and National Human Rights Institutions to respond to the human rights violations committed by Armenia in the region, to make joint efforts for peace and global solidarity," Aliyeva added. — DNA

agreement obliged Armenia to withdraw its troops from the Azerbaijani lands that it has occupied since the early 1990s. The peace agreement stipulated

the return of Azerbaijan's Armenian-occupied Kalbajar, Aghdam and Lachin regions and withdraw its troops from the Azerbaijani lands that it has occupied since

the early 1990s. Before the signing of the deal, the Azerbaijani army had liberated around 300 villages, settlements, city centers, and historic Shusha city.

## Mahmood Qureshi meets British Pakistani leaders from Kashmir



LONDON: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi meeting with UK based Kashmiri Leaders at Pakistan House London. — DNA

DNA

LONDON: Foreign Minister Mahmood Shah Mahmood Qureshi who is on an official visit to the UK met with eminent British Pakistani leaders and community representatives hailing from Kashmir at the Pakistan House on September 26, 2021. Lauding the positive role being played by the Pakistani Kashmiri community in highlighting Indian human rights abuses in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir

(IIOJK), the Foreign Minister apprised them of the steps being taken by the Government of Pakistan to advance the Kashmir cause, and raise awareness about the humanitarian and human rights situation in IIOJK. In this regard, the Government of Pakistan, relying on credible international sources, had recently compiled a Dossier detailing over 3,000 war crimes perpetrated by the Indian occupation forces. Foreign Minister Qureshi lauded the recent debate in the British Parlia-

ment, laying bare once more, Indian atrocities in IIOJK. He encouraged the British Pakistani community to play its role in bringing to light the human rights and humanitarian abuses. He assured the Kashmiri leadership that Pakistan will continue to lend the Kashmiris' just struggle for self-determination, full political, moral and diplomatic support till the realization of their inalienable right in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions, and the wishes of the people of IIOJK.

## BMP has now narrow escape to survive in FPCCI

DNA

KARACHI: Spokesman of the United Business Group (UBG) Gulzar Feroz on Monday said BMP days are numbered in FPCCI as it has now narrow escape to survive. He said that the unlawful, unauthorized and immoral stay of Nasir Hayat Magoon for eight months in FPCCI as its president is to end soon. He said that Nasir Magoon has exhausted all his energies throwing dust in the eyes of concerned quarters to prolong his illegitimate stay causing a great deal of damage to FPCCI on the national and international levels. Gulzar Feroz said that BMP and Nasir Magoon are emanating frustration by issuing false, fictitious, baseless, contrary to the actual facts statements and making another attempt to hide the realities. It is utterly surprising that BMP which was against the DGTO is now proving their loyalty and favoritism with him, the spokesperson added. UBG spokesperson Gulzar Feroz said the record also

reveals that Nasir Magoon had filed a suit 2021 (-758) dated 14-04-21 in Honorable High Court Sindh against DGTO alleging various charges which include his being biased, mala-fide, unfair, involved in misconduct, exercising his powers beyond his jurisdiction, having prejudice mind. Interim order of DGTO dated of March 2021 for scrutiny of record of FPCCI ballot was also challenged in the said suit as his exercise of jurisdiction of power was termed illegal. It was prayed by Nasir Magoon in the said suit to appoint any other officer to act as Regulator as he (Nasir Magoon) was afraid of the decision under subsection 3 (f) of section 14 of TOA which empowers DGTO to annul the results of any election of trade body within 14 days. The said petition of Nasir Magoon was rejected by the Hon'ble High Court under section 30 of TO Act on 19-05-21. The suit filed by Nasir Magoon was not maintainable as the entire mechanism is provided in TO Act for adjudication of election dispute which was already sub-judice before the DGTO.

## Turkey produces new electric bus models

WEB DESK

ANKARA: The Turkish bus manufacturer Karsan has introduced its new electric bus model family, e-ATA, at its factory in Bursa, Yeni Shafak newspaper reported on September 27. The e-ATA series have been produced in line with the ecological standards to meet the needs of crowded cities and offered in three different models with a length of 10, 12, and 18 meters. The models can be ordered with seven different battery packs from 150 kWh to 600 kWh, which provides 450 kilometers driving range, the report added. "There is interest from municipalities such as Istanbul, Ankara, Eskisehir, zmir, Mersin and Kocaeli. We will even do it at the Road Show soon. So I don't think it will take too long. I think we will be able to see it in the coming years, months," CEO of the Karsan Company Okan Bash said. Commenting on the conversion from diesel to electric buses, Bash predicted that 35 percent of vehicles sold in 2024 and at least 50 percent by 2030 will be all-electric. "In order to support this transformation, big cities such as Paris, London and Hamburg now require zero emission vehicles in new bus purchases. Karsan, on the other hand, predicted this transformation and made all its plans accordingly five years ago," he added. In his words, Europe will need 100 percent big electric buses such as the e-ATA series in the near future.

## One dead in strong quake on Greek island of Crete

ATHENS: A strong earthquake struck the Greek island of Crete early Monday, killing a man who was working in a church that collapsed and injuring nine others, the civil protection agency said. The quake, measuring magnitude 5.8 according to the National Observatory of Athens, struck at 0617 GMT, 23 kilometres (14 miles) from Heraklion, the capital of Greece's largest island. The quake sent panicked residents rushing into the streets and damaged old buildings. The man died in the farming town of Arkalochori which was particularly badly hit, said Spiros Georgiou, spokesman for the civil protection agency. He said nine people were slightly injured. Images on ERT public television showed old buildings that had collapsed in Arkalochori and surrounding villages near Heraklion. "It's an earthquake that we did not expect, for the moment there are aftershocks of 4.5," said seismologist Eftymis Lekkas, quoted by the ANA news agency. The minister for civil protection Christos Stylianides, accompanied by Lekkas and other experts were to visit the site later Monday, ERT said. Greece is located on a number of fault lines, and is sporadically hit by earthquakes. — APP

## Pakistan hosts UNGA's event on women

DNA

NEW YORK: On the side-lines of 76th UNGA, Government of Pakistan hosted the high-level event on "Uplifting women and girls through access to education, financial inclusion and economic empowerment" in collaboration with United Nations' Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to UN in New York formally opened the event. Senator Dr. Sania Nishtar, SAPM was the keynote speaker. The event aimed to emphasize that in order for countries everywhere to thrive and build back better, women and girls must be given the same opportunities to grow, learn and contribute to the workforce as their male counterparts. Ambassador Munir Akram, in his welcome remarks highlighted that gender equality is central to the well-being of societies and communities. He referred to the COVID induced poverty that has impacted women and girls both as frontline workers as well at home. He emphasized that to build back better, women and girls must be given the same opportunities to grow, learn and contribute to the workforce as their male counterparts. Keynoting the event, Dr. Sania said, "Wom-

en contribute nearly half the population of our country and as a government, we are deeply conscious that their contributions, their talent, skills, capabilities and leadership acumen stand to contribute significantly towards national development. There has been a progress in gender related indicators such as political representation where women have 25% representation in our Parliament." At the event, Dr. Sania was joined by Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary General, DESA; Mirjana Spoljaric Egger, ASG and UNDP Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia; Anita, Deputy Executive Director, UN-Women. Other eminent speakers on the panel were Pascale A. Allotey, Director, United Nations University, International Institute for Global Health; Maki Hayashikawa, Director of the Division of Education 2030 Support and Coordination at UNESCO; Anita Zaidi, President of the Gate's Foundation Gender Equality Division; and Sharmeela Rasool, Country Representative UN-Women Pakistan. Ameena Zia, Adj. Professor of Political Science at Virginia Technical University and UN NGO Representative – ECOSOC moderated the panel discussion. Giving snapshot of where government of Pakistan is on the women and girls agenda, Dr. Sania stated, "Our government pronounced the "50% Plus Benefits" policy for women in the framework of Ehsaas.

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## Briefs

### Covid-19 positivity plummets below 4%

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of Covid-19 active cases on Monday was recorded 50,651 with 1,757 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 1,765 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. Thirty-one corona patients died during past 24 hours, 29 of whom were under treatment in different hospitals and two of them perished in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). Most of the deaths occurred in Sindh followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Out of the total 31 deaths occurred, 12 of them died were under treatment on ventilators. There were 4,033 Covid infected patients under treatment in critical condition in various Covid dedicated healthcare facilities of the country. National Covid positivity ratio during past 24 hours was recorded 3.6 percent. The maximum ventilators were occupied in four major cities including Sargodha 60 percent, Peshawar 37 percent, Lahore 49 percent and Multan 86 percent.

### Fuel pumps run dry in UK

AGENCIES

LONDON: Fuel pumps ran dry in parts of Britain on Monday as panic-buying drained tanks at filling stations, while the government tries to tackle a shortage of lorry drivers with a dramatic post-Brexit immigration policy U-turn. Other stations across the British capital and south-east England simply posted signs stating that “no fuel” was available and apologised for pumps being out of use. The Petrol Retailers Association claimed that almost half of the UK’s 8,000 fuel pumps had run out of petrol on Sunday, as desperate drivers — including key workers — formed long queues to fill up. London’s Mayor Sadiq Khan said public transport and emergency services had stocks in reserve but hospital and care workers, as well as taxi drivers, were struggling to find fuel to go to work. The government maintains it has enough fuel in stock but not enough lorry drivers to deliver it, with critics blaming an exodus of truckers from Europe after Brexit.

### PML-N leader denounces ‘fake’ video

DNA

LAHORE: After footage purportedly showing Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Muhammad Zubair engaging in sex acts with an unidentified woman went viral, the former governor of Sindh categorically denied his involvement terming it to be a “new low in politics” along with claiming the video is “fake and doctored”. “Whoever is behind this has done an extremely poor and shameful act. I have served my country with honesty, integrity and commitment. Will continue to raise my voice for betterment of Pakistan,” Zubair wrote on Twitter. Earlier in the day, the mobile footage, which allegedly shows the PML-N leader in a bedroom with a blurred out woman spread like wildfire on social media with #ZubairUmar becoming the top trend on Pakistani Twitter.

# Azerbaijan remembers martyrs of Patriotic War

## Azerbaijan is ready to normalize relations with Armenia, on the basis of strict observance of the principles of the international law, in particular sovereignty, territorial integrity, and inviolability of international borders

DNA

BAKU: One year ago on September 27, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan began responsive measures to counter another military provocation from the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia. These measures were undertaken within the framework of the right to self-defense. They were in full compliance with the international humanitarian law in order to prevent another military aggression from Armenia and to provide for the security of the civilian population. This marked the beginning of the 44-day Patriotic War. The Patriotic War put an end to Armenia’s nearly 30-year-long policy of aggression. Azerbaijan ensured its territorial integrity, and the fundamental rights of nearly one million displaced Azerbaijanis were restored. Azerbaijan alone ensured the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions of 1993. The end of the occupation of the Azerbaijani territories revealed the full extent of the illegal activities undertaken by Armenia for decades. This includes extensive mining; the deliberate destruction and misappropriation of Azer-



baijan’s historical, cultural and religious heritage; plundering of natural resources; destruction of infrastructure; and other violations of international law. Evidence of Armenia’s numerous war crimes was also revealed. In order to hold Armenia accountable for

its breaches of international humanitarian and human rights law, Azerbaijan filed inter-state applications against Armenia in the European Court of Human Rights and International Court of Justice. The Government of Azerbaijan is carrying out restoration and

reconstruction works in the liberated territories and taking consistent steps to ensure the safe and dignified return of nearly one million displaced Azerbaijanis, as well as the reintegration of these lands. The Government is also taking all necessary measures to

ensure lasting peace, security, and prosperity in the region in accordance with the Trilateral Statement of November 10, 2020.

The Patriotic War under the leadership of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, President Ilham Aliyev that ended with a victory of the brave Azerbaijani Army, opened a new era in the history of the Republic of Azerbaijan, established international justice and changed the realities in the region.

Azerbaijan is ready to normalize relations with Armenia, on the basis of strict observance of the principles of the international law, in particular sovereignty, territorial integrity, and inviolability of international borders. We call on Armenia to respect these fundamental principles to ensure peace, security, and prosperity in the region and comply with its international obligations.

We commemorate with deep respect and esteem the memory of all our Martyrs who died for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan on September 27, which is celebrated as the Commemoration Day in our country by the order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

## State Dept No. 2 to visit Pakistan after Taliban takeover

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman will travel next month to Pakistan and India, bitter rivals that have clashed on the way forward in Afghanistan, the State Department announced Monday. Sherman, after CIA chief Bill Burns, will be one of the first high-level officials under President Joe Biden to visit Pakistan, which has long irritated the United States over its relationship with the Taliban. Sherman will meet senior officials in Islamabad on October 7-8 after an earlier visit to New Delhi and Mumbai on October 6-7, when she will meet officials and civil society leaders and address the US-India Business Council’s annual “ideas summit,” the

State Department said. The trip comes as India, one of the top allies of the Western-backed Afghan government that collapsed last month, urges the world to pay closer attention to Pakistan’s role in the turmoil. Pakistan was the primary backer of the 1996-2001 Taliban regime, and has been accused by US officials of keeping the insurgents alive through covert support. Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, in an opinion piece published Monday in The Washington Post, called his country a “convenient scapegoat.” “In Afghanistan, the lack of legitimacy for an outsider’s protracted war was compounded by a corrupt and inept Afghan government, seen as a puppet regime without credibility, especially by rural Afghans,” he wrote.

## Govt to expose conspirators behind NZ tour cancellation

### Special directions had been issued to NADRA to have a check on fake Coronavirus vaccine certificates

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmad on Monday said that the government would soon expose those elements involved in the conspiracy behind the cancellation of the New Zealand cricket team tour to Pakistan as the investigation was in the final stages. Addressing a press conference, he said that the summary for approval of on-arrival visas to citizens of 15 countries was being sent to the cabinet including the USA, Canada, France, and Iran as earlier citizens of 50 countries were eligible to get on arrival visas. He said that the cases of cy-

ber-crime were increasing and the Ministry of Interior had received around 100,000 complaints during his tenure. Keeping in view the situation the government had decided to immediately release a fund of Rs 2 billion to upgrade this wing for appointing technical persons to get results. He said that special directions had been issued to National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) to have a check on fake Coronavirus vaccine certificates. He added unfortunately some elements were trying to disrespect the Pakistani identity card, passport, and vaccination which was a pre-planned conspiracy. The minister said that 15 new



security entries had been planned for further safety of passport while CNIC was also being reviewed. He assured that CNIC, passport, and vaccination would be fully secured. Sheikh Rashid said that civil armed forces had been provided to the provinces while a command and control office would remain open round the clock to support the admin-

istrations on the occasion of Chehram. Mobile service would be suspended on the recommendation of local administrations, he added. The minister said that the International Border Management System (IBMS) had been installed at Torkham and Chaman border to have data of incoming and outgoing people. He said that the NADRA had issued COVID-19 vaccine certificate to 7.5 million while the government had completed the vaccination of 76.1 million citizens across the country. The minister said that the ministry had decided to start work on e-passport to avoid all issues related to the passport.



LONDON: Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK, Moazzam Ahmad Khan, Chair of House of Commons Select Committee for Defence Tobias Ellwood MP, Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Henry Smith MP and Chair of House of Commons Select Committee for Foreign Affairs Tom Tugendhat MP at the Pakistan High Commission. —APP

## European envoys celebrate World Tourism Day

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: On Monday, the envoys of the EU Member States stationed in Islamabad celebrated the World Tourism Day in a unique way by sharing photos of their favourite tourist destinations ranging from North to South of Pakistan collected in video for social media platforms to highlight the significance of tourism. Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan Androulla Kaminara said, “Pakistan is blessed with rich cultural heritage and enormous natural beauty. It has full potential to be main attraction for the regional as well as international tourism leading to more economic opportunities for com-

mon people and preservation of their cultural heritage.” Every year the World Tourism Day is celebrated on 27 September to mark its importance. Tourism stimulates economy creating jobs, preserves and promotes cultural heritage, establishes bonds and leads of social cohesion and harmony. Tourism is considered one of the main drivers for social and economic development. It is also a key player in global trade as well as main source of income for many developing nations. Growth in tourism is linked to diversification and therefore also stimulates competition at the destinations generating further economic activities and many associated sectors like hotels, food and communications.

## EU, US urge Iran to allow UN watchdog access

### At a Vienna meeting of the IAEA board of governors on Monday, the EU said it urged Iran to allow access “without any further delay”, expressing its “deepest concern”

AGENCIES

VIENNA: The EU and the US on Monday urged Iran to allow inspectors access to a nuclear site, while Tehran argued the facility was exempt from a recent agreement with the UN watchdog. The Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said on Sunday it had been denied “indispensable” access to the TESA Karaj centrifuge component manufacturing workshop near Tehran contrary to a September 12 agreement with Iran.

Iran’s ambassador to the IAEA Kazem Gharibabadi on Monday rejected the charge. “During the discussions in Tehran and Vienna, Iran indicated that... equipment related to this Complex are not included for servicing,” he tweeted, referring to IAEA work on its surveillance equipment. Sunday’s IAEA statement “isn’t accurate and goes beyond the agreed terms,” he added. At a Vienna meeting of the IAEA board of governors on Monday, the EU said it urged Iran to allow access “without any further delay”,

expressing its “deepest concern”. “This is a worrying development,” a statement said. The US likewise said it was “deeply troubled” and urged access “without further delay”. “If Iran fails to do so, we will be closely consulting with other board members in the coming days on an appropriate response,” Louis Bono, the US representative to the IAEA, said without giving further details. Earlier this month, discussions of a resolution at the board of governors censuring Iran were dropped, according to diplo-

mats, after the IAEA and Tehran agreed on limited but continued access for the agency. The agreement came days after the nuclear watchdog had decried a lack of cooperation from Tehran. But in his latest report on Iran to members Sunday, IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi said that agency inspectors had been allowed access to “all necessary locations” except the TESA Karaj workshop from September 20-22. The news comes amid stalled EU-brokered negotiations to re-

view a 2015 landmark agreement scaling back Iran’s nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief. That deal started to fall apart in 2018 when the US withdrew from it and reinstated sanctions. Iran in turn again started to ramp up its nuclear activities. Talks began in April in Vienna between Tehran and the remaining five parties to the 2015 deal aimed at bringing Washington back. But that dialogue has been stalled since June, when ultra-conservative Ebrahim Raisi won Iran’s presidential election.

## More than 60 killed in clashes for Marib

DUBAI: Sixty-seven Yemeni rebels and pro-government troops have been killed as fighting intensifies for the key city of Marib, military and medical sources said Monday. “Fifty-eight Huthi insurgents and nine loyalists were killed in fighting and air strikes in the provinces of Marib and Shabwa in the past 24 hours,” military sources told AFP, in figures that were confirmed by medical sources. — APP

## Khuzdar-Kuchlak Road’s dualization hailed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In another step towards the prosperity of Balochistan, National Highway Authority (NHA) is launching the dualization work of Khuzdar-Kuchlak Section of National Highway (N-25), Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. “Alhamdulillah another milestone achieved. One of the most needed and important roads in Balochistan,” Chief Minister Balochistan Jam Kamal Khan tweeted. According to Home Minister Balochistan Meer Zia ullah Langau, CM Kamal Khan has laid the foundation for “Emerging Balochistan”, and the dualization of Khuzdar-Kuchlak Section of N-25 is the fulfillment of the Government’s commitment to the people of Balochistan. “We will build a prosperous and emerging Balochistan,” Mr. Langau added. NHA, Ministry of Communications, has invited e-bidding for the project and is providing an online platform to carry out procurement activities and to ensure efficiency, transparency and accountability in the process. The eligible contractors are taking part in the bidding, which will be closed on September 27. Earlier in May, Central Development Working Party Meeting (CDWP) had approved 15 projects including ‘Dualization of Khuzdar Kuchlak’ section of N-25 with a length of 330.52 km. The project will cost Rs. 81,582,219 million. People from different walks of life in Balochistan hailed the “most needed” connectivity project that would usher in a new era of development in the province.

## 50 pilots terminated over fake degrees

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Aviation Minister Ghulam Sarwar Khan on Monday said that they have terminated the services of 50 pilots after scrutiny found degrees possessed by them as fake. “We had launched an inquiry against 262 pilots over suspicious credentials and 50 of them were terminated after a probe found them guilty,” he said while responding to queries during the National Assembly session regarding the fake pilot license scandal. He further shared that 73 people were recruited in the national flag carrier during the incumbent tenure and all recruitments were based on merit and given after following all procedures. He said that previously jobs were given in the aviation sector based on political affiliations and fake degrees and they have terminated the services of such officials. Sharing details of flight operations, Ghulam Sarwar Khan said that two flights were operating between Karachi and Sukkur while Dalbandin airport has also been made operational. On Jan 29, a pilot and five officers of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) were arrested by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in fake pilots’ licence scandal. The FIA corporate crime circle completed its investigation into the issuance of fake licences.