



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Pakistan-Turkey trade may be conducted in their own currencies

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China to help implement Karachi project

Detailed News On Page-08



Greta Thunberg questions Italy climate talks

Detailed News On Page-06



Forces kill 10 terrorists in Waziristan

Four commanders among those killed; terrorists were planning to conduct acts of terrorism in Waziristan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

RAWALPINDI: Security Forces conducted Intelligence Based Operation in South Waziristan District on reported presence of a Terrorists' concentration, present inside a hide out. Security forces cordoned the hide out. According to an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release, 10 terrorists including 4 terrorist commanders were killed during intense exchange of fire. Weapons and large quantity of ammunition was also recovered from the hideout. All the killed terrorists remained actively involved in planting IEDs, conducting fire raids and target killing of innocent civilians. These terrorists were planning to conduct more acts of terrorism inside South Waziristan District. Pak Army is determined to root out the menace of terrorism from country at all costs. Last week, six alleged terrorists including two commanders were killed in an intelligence-based operation in Balochistan's Kharan district, the military's media wing said.

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Soldier martyred in cross border attack from Iran

DNA

RAWALPINDI: In a separate incident, terrorists targeted a Frontier Corps border post from Iranian territory with Small Arms fire in general area Chukab, Balochistan. According to an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release, Sepoy Maqbool Shah of Frontier Corps embraced shahadat while another soldier was injured due to fire. Iranian authorities concerned have been informed about the incident. Earlier, it was reported that a suicide bomber who targeted Chinese nationals in the Pakistani port city of Gwadar last month came from Iran, counterterrorism police in the southwestern Balochistan province said, adding that the mastermind behind the attack was a resident of Chahbahar in the neighboring country.



ISLAMABAD: Syed Fakhar Imam Federal Minister for Food Security, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed Chairman Senate Defence Committee, Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio and others cutting cake to mark the 76th Independence Day of Indonesia and ASEAN Day. The detailed coverage of the event shall be published in tomorrow's edition of Islamabad POST. – DNA

Briefs

Faisal warns of 5th covid wave

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's health chief Dr. Faisal Sultan said a fourth wave of COVID-19 infections was ending in Pakistan but the country could face a fifth wave in winter if the pace of the nationwide vaccination drive did not pick up. "According to the latest figures that we have it does seem that the fourth wave is gradually coming down in intensity," Sultan, told Arab News. "So yes, the fourth wave is coming down as far as the intensity is concerned, the number of [positive] cases and the percentage of positivity is concerned as well as the fill-up of the health system, which is the most crucial thing out of the things that we measure." Sultan, however, said Pakistan could experience a fifth wave of infections if the pace of vaccinations was not increased.

Inzamam stable after surgery

DNA

LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain and an all-time great batsman, Inzamamul Haq, suffered a heart attack and successfully underwent angioplasty on Monday evening. It is reported that Inzamam had been in a state of discomfort for the past three days, where the right-hand batter complained about chest pain. The initial test reports cleared him but upon further inspection, it was revealed that the 51-year-old had suffered a heart attack. Following this, he was rushed to the hospital for surgery. Previously, his agent confirmed that Inzamam is doing better. The latest update confirms that Inzamam has now been released from the hospital.

FM for Pak-UK joint working groups on Kashmir

FM Qureshi said that he shared a "well-researched dossier" with his UK counterpart on behalf of the Pakistani government

NEWS DESK / DNA

LONDON: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Tuesday suggested the United Kingdom form "joint working groups" with Pakistan to address the human rights violations in India-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Qureshi's comments came during a press conference at the Pakistan High Commission in London after he concluded a meeting with the United Kingdom's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women and Equality Elizabeth Truss at the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office in London. Qureshi said that he shared a "well-researched dossier" with his UK counterpart on behalf of the Pakistani government in which over 3,000 war crimes and other human rights violations by Indian occupation forces in Jammu and Kashmir have been documented. The minister lauded the UK for "playing [a] definitive role in addressing poor conditions of people of [the] disputed territory and help in securing Kashmiris' inalienable right of self-determination". He also touched upon the issue of Pakistan's red listing, as well as the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB)'s decision to pull out of the Pakistan tour. "I raised the issue with the UK foreign secretary that Pakistan not only bore

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Save Afghanistan from crisis; Qureshi tells UK

WEB DESK

LONDON: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said that Pakistan's foremost priority in the given situation is to save Afghanistan from a humanitarian crisis. The foreign minister said during a meeting with his counterpart Liz Truss at the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office in London. Both the leaders exchanged views on the important issues including Pakistan-UK bilateral relations. They also discussed promotion of bilateral cooperation in multi-faceted areas of mutual interest and regional security.

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Vaccination of children above 12 to start

In the first phase, vaccination will be approved for people in the age bracket of 15 and 18 while in the second phase, people aged between 12 and 15 will be inoculated

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) decided on Tuesday to start Covid-19 vaccination of children aged 12 years and above. Planning and Development Minister Asad Umar, who heads the NCOC, announced through his official Twitter account that the country's top platform overseeing Covid response in Tuesday's meeting decided to start vaccination of all children aged 12 years and older. A special drive will be launched for vaccination at schools to make it easier for students to get vaccinated against the viral disease, he said. On Sept 11, the government lowered Covid vaccination age to 15 years in the country.

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Maryam warns against party differences

Says the British court ruling has silenced govt and they do not understand what they should do now

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz said that her enemies will succeed wherever there are differences in the party. Addressing the party's Rawalpindi division meeting organized by PML-N Punjab chapter, Maryam Nawaz said that

Govt embarrassing itself, says PML-N

KHAYAM ABBASSI

ISLAMABAD: Calling Prime Minister Imran Khan, his aide Shahzad Akbar and federal ministers 'liars', former prime minister and senior Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said Tuesday that the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government had been blinded by its desire to

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Govt welcomes talks with Opp. on electoral reforms

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The PTI-led government on Tuesday welcomed the Opposition's readiness to discuss electoral reforms with the Centre, days after a committee from both houses was formed to address the matter. Federal Minister for Information Fawad Chaudhry, addressing a post-cabinet press conference in Islamabad, said the committee should move in the right direction to resolve the matter and not waste time. The information minister said the electronic voting machine (EVM) and i-voting were a crucial part of the reforms. "If we exclude overseas Pakistanis from the voting process [...] it will be an injustice with them," Chaudhry said Prime Minister Imran Khan, during the cabi-



net meeting, directed Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan, Advisor to PM on Parliamentary Affairs Babar Awan, and others who oversee parliamentary matters that these two elements – EVMs and i-voting – be discussed as a necessity with the Opposition.

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Taliban to adopt monarchy constitution

Anything in the text found in conflict with Sharia would be discarded

NEWS DESK

Afghan army's collapse surprised us all: Secy Austin

MONITORING DESK

WASHINGTON: US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin told Congress on Tuesday that the Afghan army's sudden collapse caught the Pentagon off-guard as he acknowledged miscalculations in America's longest war including corruption and damaged morale in Afghan ranks. "The fact that the Afghan army simply melted away in many cases without firing a shot took us all by surprise," Austin told the Senate Armed Services Committee. "It would be dishonest to claim otherwise." Austin was speaking at the start of two days of what is expected to be some of the most contentious hearings in memory over the chaotic end to

Continued on Page 06

KABUL: The Taliban said on Tuesday they will temporarily adopt a 1964 constitution that granted women the right to vote but eliminate any elements they disagree with. The Taliban's acting justice minister issued a statement saying the interim government planned to introduce a constitution used during Afghanistan's short-lived golden age of democracy, but only briefly and with amendments. "The Islamic Emirate will adopt the constitution of the former king Mohammad Zahir Shah's time for a temporary period," Maulvi Abdul Hakim Shararee said. But anything in the text found to conflict with Sharia (Islamic law) and the principles of the Islamic Emirate would be discarded, he added. Nearly six decades ago, before the world's superpowers intervened in

the country, Afghanistan enjoyed a brief period of constitutional monarchy during the reign of king Mohammad Zahir Shah. The king ratified the constitution a year after coming to power in 1963, ushering in nearly a decade of parliamentary democracy before he was overthrown in 1973. The 1964 constitution, which gave women the right to vote for the first time and opened the doors for their increased participation in politics, would appear an awkward fit with the Taliban's views. But the group, which swept to power in mid-August, has vowed a softer and more inclusive approach than during their brutal 1996 to 2001 rule, when women were largely excluded from public life, including work and education. Despite the promises, when they presented their caretaker government earlier this month, all the top positions went to hardliners and no women were included.

Taliban warns US against invading Afghan airspace

DNA

KABUL: The newly-formed Taliban government has called on all countries, especially the United States, to "act in accordance with international commitments and not encroach on Afghanistan's airspace". According to a statement issued by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), all countries are the sole owners of the territorial and air sovereignty of their states under the international law, "therefore, the Islamic Emirate, as the sole legal entity of Afghanistan, is the guardian of Afghanistan's land and airspace". The official communiqué added: "But the United States has recently acted in violation of

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Lowest virus cases in 3 months

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases recorded 49,968 with 1,400 more people tested positive for the deadly virus during the last 24 hours. According to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Tuesday, forty one patients died during past 24 hours, 38 of whom were under treatment in hospital and three out of the hospital in their respective quarantines or homes. During last 24 hours most of the deaths had occurred in Sindh followed by the Punjab. Out of the total 41 deaths occurred during last 24 hours, 15 of the deceased had died on ventilators during their treatment.

Government to evolve female entrepreneurs' potential: Mian Aslam

Mian Aslam Iqbal says that FWCCI must encourage the young talented girls to avail these opportunities and hoped that Incubation centre established by FWCCI will play a pivotal role in the mainstreaming of female

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Government is fully convinced to evolve untapped potential of female entrepreneurs and in this connection Punjab Government will encourage women chambers to launch innovative projects for the women empowerment, said Mian Aslam Iqbal, Provincial Minister for Industries, Commerce and Investment. Inaugurating first-ever women business incubation centre in Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FWCCI) he announced to give land for the construction of FWCCI complex at subsidized rate in M-3 Industrial Estate. He said that women are integral part of our society which have been crippled by the old mind set but the present Government under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief Minister Punjab Usman Buzdar, are taking pro-active steps to bring them into the mainstream so that they could also contribute their role in the growth of national economy. He specifically mentioned Kamyab Jawan program un-



der which women could also get subsidized loans to start their own businesses instead of running from pillar to post to get petty jobs. He said that FWCCI must encourage the young talented girls to avail these opportunities and hoped that Incubation centre established by FWCCI will play a pivotal role in the mainstreaming of female entrepreneurs. He assured that he will direct the concerned sectors to give due priority to the new female startups so that the ultimate objective of women involvement in national uplift programs could be materialized. He said that nine Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being established while similar number of technology zones are in process. He said that pandemic has opened up a

new approach which is most suitable for our female population. Many of them could start their own cottage industries and sell their products in international markets through on line mode. He said that in this connection, Punjab Skill Development Authority has been initiating training programs and interested females could also participate in it. He also requested local business community to cooperate with FWCCI for the earlier completion of FWCCI complex. Women Skill development Institute exclusive for the female population.

About Incubation Centre he said that it is most innovative idea which will enable young startups to learn skills and start their commercial activities within a short span of few months. He said that FWCCI should also consider to further enhance its capacity so that maximum females could get admission and play their role in the development of emerging sciences fields as artificial intelligence, computer fabrication etc. Earlier President FWCCI Mrs. Tehmina Pasha introduced this nestling FWCCI

and said that it was established just four years back but it is working with high hopes to enhance the role of women in this third major agro industrial city of Pakistan. She said that focus of FWCCI is mainly on women empowerment for which innovative approach has been adopted. She particularly appreciated the Founder President Mrs. Rubina Amjad and Mrs. Qurat-ul-Ain who had conceived the idea of first ever women incubation centre in this city for the females. She said that a large number of young females are being passed out from the universities and we must convince them to become a productive part of the society by launching their own businesses who will not only enhance the women role in overall development but also accelerate the economic development of the country. She said that role of women in labour force is very negligible which should also need our focus and FWCCI is contemplating to start awareness sessions for the females in addition to making efforts to improve the working condition in overall industrial sectors.



ISLAMABAD: Girls are taking keen interest in paintings regarding the awareness of SoPs of Corona Virus at National Library. – DNA

NEPRA public hearings a bluff

DNA

KARACHI: The Karachi Chambers of Commerce has Tuesday boycotted the announcement of the public hearing by the power regulator to decide on power tariffs alleging the decisions are always preordained to favor Karachi Electric. The business community of the KCOC alleged that the only reason of these public hearings, convened by the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), is to please KE and the exercise is a rubber stamp event to legitimize the process. They have always taken the decisions in advance but only to fool us they convince these public huddles, traders alleged. We will boycott the September 30 Nepra public hearing, the said.

Officials directed to solve complaints of overseas Pakistanis

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: The District Overseas Committee meeting was held in the DC Office. Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad and Chairperson Mirza Muhammad Asghar listened the complaints of overseas Pakistanis and directed the concerned departments for early redressal of complaints so that their problems were not delayed. Member Committee Talha Hameed, Police and other

officers were also present. Deputy Commissioner said that the Punjab Government has issued clear instructions for speedy resolution of the problems of Overseas Pakistanis so the applicants should look satisfied with the departmental progress. He said that serious steps were being taken to resolve the complaints and problems of Overseas Pakistanis in the district departments. He said that the provincial commission was also being informed by taking immedi-

ate notice of the complaints received and departmental proceedings along with reports. He said that strict instructions have been issued to Assistant Commissioners and Revenue Officers for expeditious disposal of property related cases. Chairperson urged the concerned departments to settle cases on merit, hearing the position of the migrants and their representatives. He said reconciliation written by the parties should be in the record on the requests being resolved.

Chairperson PWB reviews arrangements

STAFF REPORT

PESHAWAR: Chairperson Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Panahgah Welfare Board (PWB), Neelam Toru Tuesday paid a surprise visit to shelter home Mardan and inspected arrangements and other facilities being provided to needy persons.

On the occasion, she talked with people staying at Panahgah about quality of food and other facilities being provided. She also rejected media reports about closure of shelter home in Peshawar and said Panahgah at pajjagi road is model panahgah with best facilities including pick and drop service for destitute and night stay for families. She said establishment of the Panahgah Welfare Board is good decision of the government to streamline affairs of Panahgah.

The purpose of visit was to ensure provisions of quality facilities at shelter home. The administration of the Panahgah informed her about number of people getting two time meals and those registered for the night stay.

UAF observes Rabies Day to raise awareness



BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: World rabies day was observed at University of Agriculture, Faisalabad to raise the awareness among the masses regarding prevention against rabies. The event chaired by UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan was organized by Faculty of Veterinary Sciences at New Senate Hall. Besides, a vaccination camp was also established at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences. Prof Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan said that around 56,000 peo-

ple die from rabies worldwide. He said that around 40 percent of which are children under the age of 15. Majority of human deaths from rabies occur in Africa and Asia. He said we need to educate the children not to get near the pets when they were sleeping, eating or feeding their kids as in such a situation pets usually bite the irritants. He called for creating awareness of rabies disease by engaging communities to save themselves. Karakorum International University Gilgit Baltistan Vice Chancellor Prof Attullah Shah said that disease

was transmitted to humans through the saliva of infected animals. And it is the most commonly found in dogs and bats. He said that when humans are bitten by a rabid animal, the virus creeps through the nerves and quickly enters the central nervous system.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Anas Sarwar Qureshi urged the participants to always vaccinate the pets and make aware the children about bite prevention, telling them what is rabies, how to avoid dot bites and how to behave to a growing dog. He said that after bite, a virus moves through the nerves of the bitten animal towards brain. Dr. Sohail Sajid said that timely intervention and vaccination can destroy the virus by stringing the body's immune system. Dr. Ashar Mehfooz said that this year, the theme for World Rabies day is 'Rabies: Facts, not Fear'. He said that there is a dire need to create the awareness among the masses about the rabies. They also took out a walk.

2 shot dead by unknown assailants

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Two men were shot dead by unidentified motorcyclists here in Ramana police area on Monday night. According to details, unidentified assailants riding on bike opened fire on two pedestrians following which a person, later identified as Ejaz died on the spot. Another person identified as Siddique got bullet injuries and was rushed to hospital where he also succumbed to injuries. Following the incident, police officials reached the scene and cordoned off the area. Unidentified motorcyclists managed to escape from the scene and safe city cameras are being used to trace them. The deceased Ejaz belonged to Peshawar while Siddique was native of Charsadda.



Chehlum of Imam Hussain observed amid tight security

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and other martyrs of Karbala was observed here on Tuesday as the main procession to mark the day concluded at the Karbala Gamay Shah in the evening amid stringent security arrangements. Thousands of police officials and personnel of other law enforcement agencies had been deployed on the route of main procession and other majalis and processions across the provincial capital. The cellular service along the route and surrounding areas also remain suspended for several hours. Majalis were organized at

Imambargahs located in different parts of the city where religious scholars and orators highlighted the message of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA). They also explained how Imam Hussain (RA) stood against a cruel ruler for the rule of law and implementing the real spirit of Islam. Several processions were also taken out from different areas, including Model Town, Islampura, Dharampura, Imamia Colony, Nawab Town, Baghbanpura, Jaffria Colony and Raiwind. However, the main procession was taken out from historic Haveli Alif Shah in Mochi Gate, which concluded at Karbala Gamay Shah after passing through Masjid Wazir Khan and Rang Mehal.

APNS nominates Kazi Asad representative for CFPJMP

KARACHI: The All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) has nominated Kazi Asad Abid, Chief Editor, Ibrat Group of Publications as APNS representative on the Commission for the protection of journalists and media professionals (CFPJMP). The Sindh Assembly has recently passed the Sindh Protection of Journalists and Media Practitioners Act which provides est. of a Commission to oversee the implementation of the Protection of Journalists Act which consists of representatives of media organizations. Kazi Asad Abid, renowned Editor, will represent APNS in Commission. – DNA

163 new cases of dengue reported in city

DNA

PESHAWAR: KP Health Department on Tuesday informed that 163 new cases of dengue were reported in Peshawar from 18 different localities during the last 24 hours. From other districts of the province, the report said 32 news cases of dengue ailment were recorded while a total of 50 such patients were under treatment at various hospitals of the province. The report said the Health Department after receiving reports of spread of dengue ailments from different areas of the district, collected

water samples and conducted medical tests which showed 45 people with positive signs of dengue fever only in Achini area. In Sufaid Dheri 14 tests were received as positive while from Charsadda Road and Danish Abad 11 each, from Tehkal Bala 9 and from Academy Town 7 such cases were reported. The report further said that six cases were reported from Khazana Dheri while five from Northern Bypass, nine from Board Bazaar, five from Baghban Camp, three each from Palosai and Lalazar Colony and two each from Ring Road and Phandu area.

KP Govt gives right to access of info

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister for Information and Higher Education, Kamran Bangash here Tuesday said the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was the first government, which allowed right to access of information (RTI) to general public. In a statement on International Day of Access to Rights of Information here, the CM aide said RTI provides strong base to ensure transparency

and corruption free society. He said RTI Act was the foundation of basic human rights. The aims of introducing RTI Act by KP Government was providing timely information to citizens. He said KP Information was the first department with 88 percent marks has become the most transparent official department in the country, which was a great honour. – DNA

PM lauded for valiant address to UNGA

MULTAN: Multan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) newly elected president, Khawaja Muhammad Hussain, extolled Prime Minister, Imran Khan, address to United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Talking to APP here, he informed that Imran Khan presented Pakistan's point of view at UNGA in superb manner. He stated that after a long time any leader of the country had spoken boldly at an international forum. MCCI president said that in a wide-ranging address PM touched on the impacts of climate change, the ongoing fallout from the pandemic, and the need to achieve sustainable development for all. He also warned of looming "serious repercussions" in the wake of the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan last month, not just for that country's neighbours, but everywhere, Khawaja Hussain maintained. Describing Islamophobia as a detrimental phenomenon that must be combatted collectively, he said and added that Imran Khan spoke of a post-9/11 tendency for xenophobic and violent nationalists, as well as extremists and terrorist groups to target Muslims. – APP

Professionalism of doctors to be enhanced

Dr Yasmin says that Special Secretary Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti would be the focal person for modern training of doctors

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Dr Yasmin Rashid on Tuesday said that modern training courses would be conducted to enhance the professionalism of doctors across Punjab. She said this while presiding over a meeting here at the Department of Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education (SH&ME) to review various models for professional trainings of doctors. SH&ME Secretary Dr Ahmed Javed Qazi, P&SHD Secretary Imran Sikandar Baloch, Special Secretary Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti, Additional Secretary Dr Asif Tufail and others were present in the meeting. The provincial minister said that advanced training courses would be imparted to doctors by the institutes, adding that modern courses on financial management, human resource management, administration manage-



ment, research papers and information technology were being designed for doctors. She said that Special Secretary Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti would be the focal person for modern training of doctors. The provincial health minister further said that they were striving to make government hospitals the best treatment centers for the common man. She said that no previous ruler had given relief to the people of Punjab in the field of health. Under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar, the Punjab government was striving to provide best medical facilities to the people of the province, she added.

Capital Development Authority Road Division No.III

Sealed tenders are hereby invited on percentage basis from the approved contractors of PEC enlisting up-to-date in Category C-4 or above, with Project Code CE-01 for the year 2021-22, as per following details:-

S. #	Name of Work	N.L.T Cost	Earnest Money	Date & Time of Opening
1	CONSTRUCTION OF ACCESS ROAD FROM KURI ROAD LEADING TO THE PLOTS ALLOTTED TO SPECIAL TECHNOLOGY ZONE (STZ) CHAK SHAHZAD, ISLAMABAD.	Rs.108,463,583/-	Rs.3,253,908/-	18.10.2021 (Box closed at 11:30AM & opened on 12:00 Noon)

Detailed terms & conditions can be seen from CDA Website www.cda.gov.pk and PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk

- Tender documents can be obtained on Non-refundable cash payment of Rs. 5,000/- per set. Open in the office of Director Roads (South), CDA on during office hours. Application for issuance of tender documents will be received up to 14.10.2021, 12:00 Noon and tender documents will be issued on 15.10.2021 and no tender will be issue on the opening date.
- E/Money in the shape of deposit at call from firm bank account in favor of Dy. Director Roads Division-III, CDA must accompany the tender application. Cash / Cheque will not be accepted. No tender document will be issued without showing deposit at call.
- The authority (CDA) may reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of the bid or proposal. The authority (CDA) shall upon request communicate to any supplier or contractor who submitted a bid or proposal, the grounds for its rejection of all bids or proposals, but is not required to justify those grounds.
- The bid security of all bidders would be deposited in the CDA Bank Account and same may be returned after the acceptance of the Contract with the successful bidder.
- The eligibility criteria of the firms with the relevant experience i.e. at least three (03) No. of works in last two (02) financial years may be observed / fulfill before issuance of tender documents.
- The firm shall provide all relevant attested documents according to laid down in invitation for bids in bidding documents otherwise bids will be considered as a non responsive bid.
- Authority letter in favor of the person denoted by the contractor to submit the application and collect the tender from along with CNIC {original} is to be provided.
- Certificate is required on Judicial Stamp Paper worth of Rs.50/- their firm are not involved in any litigations.

Deputy Director
Road Division-III
051-9212719

PID (I) No. 1961/21

Sugar imports

THE exorbitant rates at which the latest tranche of sugar imports have arrived are absolutely outrageous. Rs 109.09 per kg for this essential commodity is a big problem, especially since this means that the government will have to heavily subsidise sugar. The Utility Stores Cooperation—the retailer—will have to provide each kilogramme at Rs 85 to the end consumer. Rs 24.09 per each kilogramme on 200,000 tonnes of sugar means that the government will have to pay over Rs 4.37 billion in subsidy for this import. This is a staggering amount.

Questions must also be asked on the way our government does business. This import would have cost a lot less had it been procured when the decision to import had been made over a month ago in August. The Trading Corporation of Pakistan hesitated because of the high prices back then—which stood at Rs 102-3 a kg at the time—and this has cost us even more.

The inquiry on the sugar crisis and how excess amounts were exported even though it caused a shortage at home has not led to anything concrete. Questions still need to be asked about how we have consistently made bad judgement calls in the trade of such an important commodity, leading to an unnecessary burden.

Global prices of essential goods have been volatile ever since the pandemic disrupted supply lines. Our own inflation rates have spiked because of the rupee continuing to lose value against the dollar. This subsidy might not end up making prices higher directly for the end consumer immediately, but it costs the country because of the exponentially large subsidy it has to provide to support the price. We have botched the issue of sugar horribly this past financial year, the best we can do now is to ensure that the same mistakes are not repeated.

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Investing in tech

IN the last nine months, tech startups in Pakistan have been attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) worth millions of dollars. It seems as though the potential of the tech industry has been tapped into and the government must maximise on the gains being made. By reducing online restrictions and surveillance, a conducive environment can be created to foster more growth within the industry, attract international investors and enhance the export of services around the globe. Recently, Airlift secured \$85 million, Bazar \$30 million, BridgeLinx \$10 million, Oraan \$3 million and Maqsad \$2.1 million. In totality, these startups have remarkably attracted over 130 million dollars out of the total of 240 million in 2021 through seed funding alone. This is something worth celebrating, especially during the time of a pandemic when global economic activity stagnated substantially. Local entrepreneurs have cracked the code to success within the industry and now, it is time for the government to offer incentives to amplify the rate of FDI that is funnelled into the country.

Awarding zero-interest loans and grants, venture capital to start companies off, employment support schemes as well as national and international advertising avenues to open up various opportunities will ultimately alleviate the country's economic standing. Simultaneously, digital rights must also be preserved if the government wants these tech companies to retain their customers for the long-term. These startups will transform into full-fledged businesses with a loyal, and expanding, customer base only if freedoms like privacy are guaranteed.

The prospects are immense as of now, the only step forward is for these tech companies to perform consistently and for the authorities to mould the environment to increase their chances of success.

CHINA – a confident global player

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani



China's "quiet rise" has given way to more vocal expressions of great power aspirations and a more assertive international posture. Combined with Chinese military modernization program that has put Asia, as well as the United States, on notice that China's economic power will have geopolitical implications. Now even the global spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has opened up opportunities for China to expand its influence...

PEOPLE Republic of China's rise over the past two decades has reshaped the landscape of global politics. After joining WTO, China has rapidly transformed its economy from a low-cost "factory to the world" to a global leader in advanced technologies and also successfully transformed the supply chains around the globe with international diplomacy, leveraging its success to become the primary trading and development partner for emerging economies across Asia, Africa and Latin America.

China's emergence as a global power has also created tensions within the ranks of Western block as it was early expected that China's integration into the global economy would lead to liberalization at home and moderation abroad have proven overly optimistic for the western block, especially since President Xi Jinping rose to power in 2012.

China's "quiet rise" has given way to more vocal expressions of great power aspirations and a more assertive international posture. Combined with Chinese military modernization program that has put Asia, as well as the United States, on notice that China's economic power will have geopolitical implications. Now even the global spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has opened up opportunities for China to expand its influence, even as it has called into question both China's credibility as a responsible stakeholder and the future of the supply chains that have fueled its economic success story. The think tanks around world are covering regularly China in detail, and continues to examine key questions about what will happen next. Like can China sustain its economic miracle in the face of demographic and environmental challenges? Will China's military modernization program change the balance of power in Asia and beyond? Is China seeking to reshape the rules-based international system to better reflect its interests, or is China's goal to undermine and replace it? These types of questions are their topics of study in routine.

Although, China has a long history of aid and investment in the developing world. Now since 2013 President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of global infrastructure investment is making inroads not only in Asia and Africa, but also Europe. BRI, at present has grown up in to one of the most attractive platform for international cooper-

ation new pathway enabling China successfully attract more than 126 countries and 29 International organizations successfully which clearly shows its influence. China's Military Modernization is another reason of its global presence and modernizations of its forces not only enhanced its professional capabilities to fight at ground air and in sea. The Chinese defense industry that has itself become a global player with confidence.

This is fact that in recent past the Chinese President Xi Jinping rose as a strong leader at world platform. The twin goals, to be achieved by 2049, are the "rejuvenation of the Chinese nation" both economically and territorially by reunifying with Taiwan. President Xi has reason to be grandiloquent. China's \$14tn economy is second only to the US; Standard Chartered reckons that on the basis of purchasing power parity, China will take the number one slot as early as next year. Chinese economy is expected to surpass the US at some point in the 2030s even some key areas earlier. China is also the world's largest trading nation in goods. Chinese companies successfully improved their ranking every year at Global Fortune 500. It ranks in the world's top countries for receiving and giving foreign direct investment and is the second biggest spender on research and development at some \$300bn.

The Chinese Leadership in recent past has made a top priority in its economic planning through a number of high-profile initiatives, such as "Made in China 2025," a plan announced in 2015 to upgrade and modernize China's manufacturing in 10 key sectors through extensive government assistance in order to make China a major global player in these sectors. However, such measures have increasingly raised concerns that China intends to use industrial policies to decrease the country's reliance on foreign technology.

The rise of China will undoubtedly be one of the great real time dramas of the twenty-first century. China's extraordinary economic growth and active diplomacy are already transforming East Asia, and future decades will see even greater increases in Chinese power and influence. The famous historian Niall Ferguson has written that the bloody twentieth century witnessed "the descent of the West" and "a reorientation of the world" toward the East.

Realists go on to note that as China gets more powerful and the West position erodes, two things are likely to happen: China will try to use its growing influence to reshape the rules and institutions of the international system to better serve its interests, and other states in the system.

This year 2021 was very important for the China as the leadership made important decisions, the adaptation of 14th Five-Year Plan in spring. It set the agenda for achieving China's ambition to become more economically independent and for taking the next steps to modernizing China's industry. Innovation strategies – not least in fields like climate protection and environmental technology – will be at the forefront. At the same time, spending on "national security" and investments in digital surveillance systems are likely to rise significantly.

Learning from the adverse experience of others, the Chinese leadership resolved to build a moderately prosperous society instead of some entrepreneurs becoming filthy rich while others languished in poverty. China's eradication of poverty has been an enigma for foreign scholars. They have summarized the solution as "5Ds"—Determined Leadership, Detailed Blueprint, Development Oriented, Data-based Governance and Decentralized Delivery.

China's role in world affairs is bound to increase, given its growing weight and relevance due to its population size, its role as the globe's second, eventually largest economy, its military capabilities, its technological advances as well as its status as a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council. China's growing impact therefore raises the central question whether it will uphold the very order that enabled it to rise to prosperity and eminence. China undeniably plays a greater role in international affairs, and as this continues it is important to understand grand overarching questions like what its policies are, why they are, where change is occurring, and how they are changing.

— (1st October 2021 is 72nd Founding Anniversary of the People's Republic of China)
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How should Pakistan handle the blame game?

Mushahid Hussain



Interestingly, so far, neither the US President, in his policy speech of August 31 or of September 7, nor his vocal predecessor who may well become his successor in 2024, nor the serving American Generals have blamed Pakistan for the debacle in Afghanistan

of the Afghanistan issue", to which I retorted "since we didn't get a single medal at the Tokyo Olympics, this is a welcome gesture!" Pakistani policymakers should have anticipated the fallout because of Islamabad's perceived 'success' in Afghanistan, given also the 'I told you so' smug satisfaction being expressed within the country, both publicly and privately. Interestingly, so far, neither the US President, in his policy speech of August 31 or of September 7, nor his vocal predecessor who may well become his successor in 2024, nor the serving American Generals have blamed Pakistan for the debacle in Afghanistan. Secretary of State Tony Blinken has made some critical noises of 'reassessment' of US relations with Pakistan. Blinken should be asked what is it precisely that he's so upset about, which warrants plans to 'reassess' US ties with Pakistan. It was the American war and the American strategy in Afghanistan that failed, a failure which we as friends had forewarned them in writing, way back in 2010, via General Kayani's 14-page memo to President Obama.

The US asked Pakistan for release of the Taliban leadership and then pleaded with us to push the Taliban to start talks with them in Doha. The US also unilaterally released 5 top Taliban leaders they had imprisoned in Gitmo to ensure their participation in the Doha talks. The US then held formal, direct talks for 18 months with the Taliban, including Sirajuddin Haqqani. And the US President personally phoned to congratulate Mullah Baradar on the successful signing of the peace deal with the Taliban on February 29, 2020, all these developments conferring legitimacy on the Taliban and facilitating their return to power. The US Centcom Commander personally negotiated in Kabul with the Taliban on August 15, 2021, on the 'rules of the game' of the American evacuation, which was completed by August 31. During this period, the CIA chief also visited Kabul to meet the Taliban leadership and came twice to Islamabad seeking help during the 'last lap' of the American occupation, which Pakistan happily provided.

Blinken is talking of 'reassessment' when the US has already taken two strategic decisions that directly impinge on Pakistan's national security: our adversary, India, as their best friend and strategic partner in

South Asia, and our closest ally, China, as their strategic rival, competitor and adversary, along with Russia. No ambiguity at all, on both these counts.

The more serious issue is the resolution of the European Parliament on Afghanistan passed on September 16, which is quite comprehensive, with a damning indictment of the 'corrupt Kabul political elite'. The long resolution is also a critique of the hasty American exit, and takes a few pot-shots at Pakistan too. While stating Pakistan "bears responsibility for security and stability in Afghanistan", there's a Blinken-like threat to review the EU's GSP-Plus given to Pakistan. However, there is no appreciation of Pakistan's pivotal role in the evacuation of EU citizens post-Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. The resolution also outlines future steps that EU must take, for instance, "a comprehensive lesson-based strategy as regards Afghanistan and other countries in the surrounding region". This provides an opening for Pakistan to engage with the EU and its Parliament to present its fact-based perspective on our role.

And this is where Pakistan's problem lies. There's a propensity for blaming others, cribbing or criticising, or whining about our own victimhood, or attributing events like the New Zealand cricket tour's cancellation to unsubstantiated conspiracy theories. Let's get the facts right to resolve the core issue in the current scenario: our abysmal failure to craft or sell a credible narrative. Three problems are noteworthy. First, at the level of the Pakistani government or state, there has been no serious strategic engagement with either the international (read, Western) media, the US Congress or the European Parliament, or the international think tank circuit. Second, as far as foreign policy goes, it's a case of 'confusion worse confounded'. Five power centres are currently dabbling in foreign policy: a) the PM who likes to pontificate on foreign policy from time to time; b) the Foreign Office, which presents the 'officially-certified truth' in a somewhat sanitised manner; c) the COAS, who directly handles Military Diplomacy in four key areas: China, US, India and Afghanistan; d) the ISI Chief, who executes the directions of his Boss; e) 'Talk Show Ministers', who peddle, in their own convoluted manner, the 'all is well' man-

tra on every foreign policy issue on TV. The end result: a half-baked product for domestic consumption fails to find any traction abroad, except as an ad hoc 'fire-fighting exercise'.

Third, there's the problem of the Pakistani DNA, a proclivity for passivity, plus a reactive or a waiting approach. During my student days I came across an article by a reputed scholar and psychologist, Dr Ajmal, who later became Punjab University VC. In the article 'A Nation of Waiters', Dr Ajmal noted the passivity of most Pakistanis who were always 'waiting' for something to happen: some are 'waiting' to get a job, others 'waiting' to get married and some even 'waiting' for a Revolution! Similarly, for most of 2021, the foreign policy machinery of the Pakistan government has been 'waiting' for a phone call from President Biden, as if it's a test of our diplomatic manhood! So, what are the do's and don'ts in the single most important national security and foreign policy challenge for Pakistan since 9/11. First the don'ts: don't act as spokesman for the Afghan Taliban; don't crib all the time about 'conspiracies being hatched against Pakistan'; don't overpromise on what we can deliver. Regarding the Do's: first and foremost, behave with dignity, Pakistan's destiny will not be determined by one phone call from a faraway capital; strategic clarity about 'red lines' on foreign policy (nuclear programme, Kashmir, Indian hegemony, ties with China, Russia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Iran, CPEC and regional connectivity, no new Cold War); offer cooperation to US/West on counterterrorism, Afghanistan stability, Pakistan's willingness to participate as hub of regional connectivity: BRI, TAPI, EU's Global Gateway, Biden's B3W, revival of IPI Pipeline. Recent developments provide Pakistan with 'strategic space' and more autonomy and greater regional room to manoeuvre, together with our friends and partners. Pakistan's importance has been enhanced, as Islamabad is viewed as the key conduit to Kabul. Therefore, it's time to get cracking for a national, above partisan politics, proactive and prudent strategy that seizes the opportunity to promote peace and stability in the region, after 42 years of conflict.

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DURING a recent webinar hosted by an Indian General, while there was a lot of sulking at the Taliban capture of Kabul on Indian Independence Day, August 15, 2021, the General facetiously concluded the event announcing that "I want to hand over a gold medal to Pakistan for its superb handling

Briefs

Forces kill 10 terrorists in Waziristan

FROM PAGE 01
The operation was launched by the paramilitary Balochistan Frontier Corps on "confirmed intelligence about the presence of terrorists in a hideout near Kharan", the Inter-Services Public Relations statement said. "As soon as [the] troops cordoned the area, the terrorists opened fire to flee from the hideout," it added. During an intense exchange of fire that ensued, six terrorists including commanders Gul Mir alias Pullen and Kaleemullah Bolani were killed. A large cache of arms and ammunition was also recovered from the area, according to the ISPR.

Afghan army's...

FROM PAGE 01
The war in Afghanistan, which cost the lives of US troops and civilians and left the Taliban back in power. The Senate and House committees overseeing the US military are holding hearings on Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively, where Republicans are hoping to zero in on what they see as mistakes that President Joe Biden's administration made towards the end of the two-decade-old war. Austin praised American personnel who helped airlift 124,000 Afghans out of the country, an operation that also cost the lives of 13 US troops and scores of Afghans in a suicide bombing outside the Kabul airport. Meanwhile, Gen. Mark Milley told Republican Sen. Tom Cotton "there's no way" he would resign after US withdrawal from Afghanistan led to chaos and his recommendations to President Biden on the matter were rejected. "As a senior military officer, resigning is a really serious thing. It's a political act if I'm resigning in protest. My job is to provide advice," he told Congress. "The President doesn't have to agree with that advice. He doesn't have to make those decisions just because we're generals. It would be an incredible act of political defiance for a commissioned officer to just resign because my advice is not taken." Additionally, Milley said he feels a sense of duty toward his troops. Mark Milley also warned al-Qaeda terrorists in Afghanistan could threaten the US in as little as 12 months. At the end of his remarks about Afghanistan, Gen. Mark Milley turned to calls he held in January and last October with his Chinese counterpart. He told lawmakers key Trump leaders and military officials were aware of the calls.

Taliban warns US...

FROM PAGE 01
all international law and its commitments to the Islamic Emirate in Doha, Qatar." US drones, the IEA officials said, are invading Afghanistan's sacred airspace and such violations must be rectified and prevented. The interim government in Afghanistan has urged all countries to respect the international laws under the guise of mutual respect and commitment to "prevent any negative consequences".

Vaccination of children..

FROM PAGE 01
Subsequently, the vaccination drive for children between 15 to 18 years began from September 13. It was decided to inoculate them with the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine. The federal government had earlier disclosed its plan to begin COVID vaccination for people aged below 18 in the country. "In the first phase, vaccination will be approved for people in the age bracket of 15 and 18 while in the second phase, people aged between 12 and 15 will be inoculated," sources said.

FM for Pak-UK joint..

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financial loss but the unilateral decision also affected Pakistan's image," he said during the press conference. "Truss said that the decision was taken by the ECB and not the UK government, but she would convey Pakistan's message to the board."

NBP wins 3rd CNS All Pak Hockey Tournament

Mr Muhammad Iqbal of Pakistan Navy team and Mr Dilbar of NBP teams were declared best Goalkeeper and best scorer of the tournament, respectively

DNA

KARACHI: Closing ceremony of 3rd Chief of the Naval Staff Hockey Tournament was held at Abdul SattarEdhi International Hockey Stadium, Karachi. Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, Chief of the Naval Staff graced the occasion as Chief Guest and gave away prizes to the winning and runner up teams. 8 x top national teams competed for the title which included WAPDA, MPCL, NBP, PN, PAF, ARMY, Punjab and PQA. Final match of the championship was played between WAPDA and NBP teams. After a tough competition NBP won the match, whereas Wapda & Pakistan Navy secured second and third position, respectively. NBP received a cash prize of Rs 1.7 M for winning the championship. Wapda and Pakistan Navy won Rs 1.3 M and 1 M for securing 2nd and 3rd position respectively. Mr Dilbar of NBP team



was declared as Man of the tournament. Mr Muhammad Iqbal of Pakistan Navy team and Mr Dilbar of NBP teams were declared best Goalkeeper and best scorer of the tournament, respectively. The seven days long championship, held from 21 to 28 September 2021, has become a quintessential

tournament at the national circuit since 2016. Around 12 x pool matches followed by 2 x semi finals and final matches were conducted through professional umpires of Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF). With a prize money of PKR 4.2M, the event continues to be the highest prize money

hockey tournament of the country. More than 128 enthusiastic players of the country participated in this prestigious event. In closing remarks, worthy Chief Guest congratulated the winning teams and applauded efforts put in by the Patron PN Hockey, Commander Karachi, PHF and

sponsors. He hoped that this tournament will certainly contribute in raising public interest in the national game and will help in revival of hockey. Chief of the Naval Staff appreciated the role played by media in promotion of sports especially the wide coverage given to 3rd Chief of the Naval Staff All Pakistan

Hockey Tournament 2021. Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi also urged the public and private departments/ organizations to come forward and help in revival of the national game. The ceremony was attended by dignitaries from Armed forces, civil notables and ex-Olympians.

Federer calls for evolution in player-media relationship

DNA

LONDON: The relationship between tennis players and the media needs to evolve and the sport must also do more to help the younger generation deal with negative comments on social media, Roger Federer said. The issue of players' mental health came into the spotlight after Japan's Naomi Osaka withdrew from the French Open in a row with tournament officials over media duties. Osaka said she had been suffering from depression and anxiety and that interacting with the media had sometimes had a negative impact on her. Federer, who shares the men's record of 20 major titles with Rafa Nadal and Novak Djokovic, said the situation needed a rethink. "I think players, the tour-



naments, journalists, we need to sit down together in a room and go, 'OK, what would work for you and what works for us...'" Federer told the British GQ magazine on Monday (Sep 27). "We need a revolution. Or at least an evolution of where we are today. Even when I am feeling down I know I need to act

a certain way in front of the world's press. We need to remember that tennis players are athletes and professionals, but we are also human too." The 40-year-old Swiss, who is recovering from recent knee surgery, also praised Briton Emma Raducanu's journey to the top in the wake of the 18-year-old's

U.S. Open triumph. Raducanu had previously come in for criticism from pundits and the media when she pulled out of her Wimbledon last-16 match due to breathing difficulties, with some saying she had failed to handle the pressure. "I was following Emma Raducanu's incredible run in Wimbledon and also Naomi Osaka these last few years - it's been amazing, both of their stories," he said. "But it hurts when you see what happens and when they don't feel well. I think we do need to help, coach and mentor the younger generation more. I can't imagine going through the beginning of my career with social media," he added. "For every 10 nice comments there's always one negative comment and, of course, that is the one you focus on. It's a horrible situation."

UEFA drops case against European Super League rebels

LAUSANNE: UEFA says that it is dropping its disciplinary case against Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus over their involvement in the controversial European Super League, to comply with a ruling from a Madrid court. European football's governing body said late Monday that "the proceedings (are) null and void, as if the proceedings had never been opened". It is the latest chapter in an affair that sent shockwaves through football. The three heavyweight clubs were among 12 "founders" who caused uproar in April with their proposal for the elite breakaway league. The nine others quickly backed down when fans and other clubs reacted with fury to the initiative, but Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus have refused to buckle. UEFA, which had been pursuing the three clubs over what it called a potential violation of UEFA's legal framework, also said that it "will not request payment" from the other nine clubs including English sides Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur. The Premier League clubs had agreed to pay a combined £22 million as a gesture of "goodwill" over the affair. The other three clubs among the 12 were Atletico Madrid, AC Milan and Inter Milan. Experts say that the notion of a Super League is by no means dead in the water and Barcelona president Joan Laporta recently warned that the Super League was "still alive". He said that the Super League would mean "financial sustainability for the clubs and make for a more attractive competition". UEFA on Monday signalled its intention to continue fighting its corner. - APP

Russia reports record daily virus deaths

MOSCOW: Russia on Tuesday recorded its highest daily coronavirus death toll yet, following an increase in cases linked to the Delta variant and a lacklustre vaccination drive. A government tally reported 852 fatalities over the past 24 hours, a record in Russia since the start of the pandemic. The new figure brings the country's total deaths from Covid-19 to 205,531 - the highest toll in Europe. Under a broader definition for deaths linked to the coronavirus, statistics agency Rosstat reported in late August that Russia had seen more than 350,000 fatalities. Russia, the world's fifth worst-hit country with more than seven million infections, has seen cases climb since last month as vaccinations stall. Moscow, the epicentre of Russia's outbreak, has experienced a spike over the past week, with authorities warning of rising hospital admissions. Deputy mayor Anastasia Rakova has said that the highly contagious Delta variant now accounts for all of the cases in the Russian capital. Authorities face a vaccine-sceptic population, with polls showing that a majority of Russians do not plan to get jabbed. The Kremlin initially set a goal of fully inoculating 60 percent of Russia's population by September, but later dropped that target even though free jabs have been available since early December. As of Tuesday, only 28 percent of the population had been fully vaccinated, according to the Gogov website, which tallies Covid data from the regions. - DNA



LONDON: Neal Maupay scores a late equalizer for Brighton against Crystal Palace in a Premier League match. - DNA

Thunberg lambastes leaders over climate crisis

WEB DESK

MILAN: Greta Thunberg and fellow youth campaigners struck a sceptical tone for this week's climate talks in Italy, saying much has been promised but little done to tackle global warming in almost three decades since the landmark Earth Summit. Fears that climate change is worsening grew after a U.N. report in August warned the situation was dangerously close to spiralling out of control, with the world certain to face further disruptions for generations to come. read more "Thirty years of blah, blah, blah," Thunberg told the opening session of a Youth4Climate event on Tuesday. Thousands of young activists have converged on Milan this week with some 400, from about 190 countries, due to engage with policymakers to hammer out proposals for possible solutions. "So-called leaders have cherry picked young people to meetings like this to pretend they are listening to us, but they are not listening," Thunberg said. "There is no planet B... Change is not only possible but necessary, but not if we go on like we have until today." The youth activists, who fought to get climate change to the top of the global agenda years after leaders at the 1992 Rio Summit

in Brazil pledged to tackle environmental problems, are being challenged to help come up with the solutions ahead of the COP26 United Nations summit in November. Their proposals will be vetted by climate and energy ministers gathering at the same venue for their pre-COP26 meeting, and some will find their way to the Glasgow summit. The meetings come as soaring energy prices on world markets stoke fears of



a popular backlash against climate reform. The U.N. COP26 conference aims to secure more ambitious climate action from the nearly 200 countries who signed the 2015 Paris Agreement and agreed to try to limit human-caused global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. "Young people need to start getting involved in the actual negotiations," said Rose Kobusinge, a youth delegate from Uganda. "We want 1.5 (degrees) and we won't go beyond that." At their pre-COP26 summit, which starts on Thursday, some 50 climate ministers will tackle hurdles, including differing views on the pace of transition and who pays for it. While new energy and funding pledges from the U.S. and China have left negotiators more upbeat, many G20 countries, including major polluters like China and India, are yet to deliver updates of their short-term climate action plans. "Now is the time for leaders of the biggest economies and the biggest greenhouse gas emitters to make much bolder commitments," Britain's COP26 President Alok Sharma, said in a video message on Tuesday. Climate activists are demanding policymakers match rhetoric with action and stump up the billions of dollars needed to wean the world off fossil fuels to cleaner energy during a year that has seen record-breaking heatwaves, floods and fires.

Govt welcomes...

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The information minister said a majority of the conflicts arise as the vote count comes in and that the government had shared a study of the Philippines with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), where 300 officials had died during conflicts when the final count came in. "This happened when the Philippines did not use EVMs." The federal minister said the government had imported 20 machines and hoped that they could be used in upcoming elections. "No sitting government in Pakistan has ever focused on electoral reforms, it is the PTI-led government that aims to introduce them," the minister said, highlighting that the incumbent regime had also run campaigns in this regard.

Maryam warns...

FROM PAGE 01

once again Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif have emerged as victorious, referring to the UK's court ruling to unfreeze Shehbaz Sharif and family's accounts. PML-N Punjab President Rana Sanaullah, PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz, former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, senior leader Ahsan Iqbal, former Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider, Jamal Kakar, Owais Leghari, Hanif Abbasi, Mushtaq Minhas, Ata Tarar, Tahira Aurangzeb and others attended the meeting. Maryam while criticizing incumbent PTI government and its ministers said that the British court ruling has silenced them and they do not understand what they should do now.

Government embarrassing itself, says...

FROM PAGE 01

take revenge on its opponents. Addressing a press conference along with other PML-N leaders, he said it was a 'pity' that these people were suppressing the opposition by telling 'lies' to the nation. "The government is not bothered about the country's prestige and honour. When UK's investigation agency has said that no proof of money laundering has been found against PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif, then what is the logic behind pursuing cases against him in Pakistan?" he asked.

Save Afghanistan from crisis...

FROM PAGE 01

About the Afghan situation, Shah Mahmood Qureshi called upon the international community not to isolate Afghanistan learning from the past mistakes. He said the international community must ensure human and economic assistance to Afghanistan. FM Qureshi has presented Liz Truss a dossier comprising of concrete and irrefutable evidence of over 3000 war crimes of Indian forces in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He also apprised his British counterpart of the grave human rights violations in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. "We hope that the United Kingdom will play an effective role to get the innocent Kashmiris freed of the Indian oppression and provided with their due right to self-determination." FM Qureshi extended an invitation to the British foreign secretary to visit Pakistan in connection with the 5th review session of the Pak-UK Enhanced Strategic Dialogue, which she gratefully accepted. In a series of tweets, the minister said, "On IIOJK, shared view on the UK playing definitive role in addressing poor conditions of people of disputed territory & help in securing Kashmiri's inalienable right of self-determination. Also shared dossier documenting over 3000 war crimes by Indian occupation forces." "Good to meet Sec of State for Foreign Affairs & Minister for Women & Equality @trussliz. Will be working closely for elevation of our historic bilateral relationship. Look forward to welcoming you to Pakistan for 5th review session of Enhanced Strategic Dialogue," he tweeted.

Briefs

Dubai Expo to welcome millions

NEWS DESK

DUBAI: Millions of people will begin converging on Dubai this week as the Covid-delayed Expo 2020, the world's biggest event since the pandemic, finally unveils its gleaming pavilions in the desert. The Expo site in the dusty Dubai suburbs has remained strictly off-limits during its year-long postponement but the wraps will come off on Thursday at an opening ceremony attended by Emirati royalty. Architectural marvels and a long list of technological innovations will feature among the exhibits, or pavilions, showcasing the ingenuity of more than 190 countries. The first world fair was held in London in 1851, when it was housed in the purpose-built Crystal Palace, and it featured the Eiffel Tower - intended as a temporary attraction - in Paris in 1889. Dubai's edition, the first in the Middle East, is expected to be the biggest event ever held in the region with estimates of 25 million visitors over its six-month lifespan. The next biggest event held in the world during the pandemic was the Tokyo Olympics, where strict virus rules saw spectators banned from nearly all venues. - APP

Bangkok on alert as 70,000 homes flooded

FOREIGN DESK

BANGKOK: Thai authorities on Tuesday rushed to protect parts of Bangkok from floodwaters that have already inundated 70,000 homes and killed six people in the country's northern and central provinces. Tropical storm Dianmu has caused flooding in 30 provinces, with the kingdom's central region the worst hit, the Thai Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department said. The level of the Chao Phraya River - which snakes through Bangkok after winding almost 400 kilometres from the north - is steadily rising as authorities release water from dams further upstream. Soldiers on Tuesday set up barriers and sandbags to protect ancient archaeological ruins and landmarks as well as neighbourhoods in the old royal capital Ayutthaya, some 60 km (40 miles) north of Bangkok. There are hopes Bangkok can avoid a repeat of the catastrophic 2011 monsoon season, when it experienced its worst flooding in decades - a fifth of the city was underwater and more than 500 people died. The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration says it is closely monitoring the Chao Phraya's water level and has water pumps and sandbags ready. "We will give people a warning if there is a sign the water level is rising and if there is a risk of flash floods," Bangkok governor Aswin Kwanmuang said on Tuesday.

UK fuel crisis: Prices rise to 8 year high as army on standby

The average price of a litre of petrol rose to 1.366 pounds (\$1.86) on Sunday, the highest level since September 2013, according to figures collated by the RAC

AGENCIES

LONDON: Britain's army has been put on standby to deliver fuel as panic buying worsened a supply crisis, sending prices to an eight-year high. Announcing the move late on Monday, the government said a "limited number" of military tanker drivers were ready to be deployed if needed. "While the fuel industry expects demand will return to its normal levels in the coming days, it's right that we take this sensible, precautionary step," Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng said in a statement, without specifying how many drivers had been readied. The Petrol Retailers Association (PRA) had earlier warned that up to 90 percent of petrol pumps were running dry in some areas of the United Kingdom due to supply chain issues, which were caused by a shortage of truck drivers. The PRA represents independent fuel retailers, who account for 65 percent of all UK forecourts. Government ministers, fuel companies and petrol stations say there are sufficient supplies of fuel but that the lack of trucks, combined with the rush to fill up cars and jerry cans, has drained the system. Long lines of vehicles have formed at many filling stations around the UK since Friday, causing spillover traffic jams on busy roads. Tempers have frayed as some drivers waited for hours, with sporadic fights breaking out as

Calls to prioritize key workers

LONDON: The UK government on Tuesday faced calls for nurses, police and other key workers to be given priority at petrol pumps, as the army was put on standby to ease a fuel supply crisis. Filling stations across the country have seen long, snaking queues of frustrated motorists concerned that a shortage of tanker drivers could lead to pumps running dry. But four days of panic-buying, even as the government insisted there was no shortage of fuel stocks, has left some frontline public sector workers unable to get to work. The deputy chair of the British Medical Association, David Wrigley, called for "urgent action from the government today" to give healthcare workers priority access to fuel. "We can't be waiting in queues for two or three hours for petrol or diesel when we

people jostled for access to petrol pumps. Meanwhile, the average price of a litre of petrol rose to 1.366 pounds (\$1.86) on Sunday, the highest level since September 2013, according to figures collated by the RAC, a motoring group. "We are also aware of a small number of re-

tailers taking advantage of the current delivery situation by hiking prices," RAC fuel spokesman Simon Williams said on Monday. Major suppliers, including BP, Shell and Esso, said in a joint statement on Monday they expected demand to return to normal levels in days, easing pressures on fuel sta-

tion forecourts". "We would encourage people to buy fuel as they usually would," they said. As the chaos unfolds, however, calls have grown for the government to prioritise healthcare workers and emergency services staff. British Medical Association chief Dr Chaand Nagpaul said they should be given first access to fuel so they can continue crucial work. "Everyone will have their own reasons for needing to fill up, but as pumps run dry there is a real risk that NHS staff won't be able to do their jobs, and provide vital services and care to people who urgently need it," he said. To ease the crunch, the government has temporarily suspended competition laws so fuel firms can share information and target areas where supplies are running low. It is bringing in military driving examiners to help clear a backlog of new truckers awaiting tests. After weeks of mounting pressure, ministers have also announced a plan to issue temporary visas for 5,000 foreign truck drivers. But that falls far short of the number needed, and critics said the proposed three-month visas were too short to attract hauliers from abroad. The haulage industry says the UK is short of up to 100,000 truckers due to several factors, including the coronavirus pandemic and an exodus of foreign workers following Britain's departure from the European Union last year. Post-Brexit immigration rules mean EU citizens can no longer live and work visa-free in Britain, as they could when the UK was a member of the bloc.

No-confidence vote threat to Romanian government

AGENCIES

BUCHAREST: Romania's largest opposition party on Tuesday filed a no-confidence motion against the government as the country with one of Europe's lowest vaccination rates sees a spike in coronavirus cases. The motion, to be voted on in parliament next Tuesday, threatens to overthrow Florin Cîtu's liberal government with his former junior coalition partner USR-PLUS and another party already announcing they would support it. "We filed a censure motion today so that we can send home this government", Sorin Grindeanu, first vice-president of the Social Democratic Party (PSD), told reporters. The party has accused the government of having "impoverished Romanians, heavily indebted the country and botched the vaccination campaign". The EU member on Monday recorded more than 11,000 new infections in the last 24 hours, a record high since the pandemic started, and 208 new deaths. Only a third of the country's 19 million people is vaccinated, the second lowest rate in the bloc after Bulgaria. PSD - together with USR-PLUS and nationalist party AUR - have 284 MPs in the 465-seat parliament. A no-confidence motion needs at least 234 votes to succeed.

Philippines approves jabs for kids as young as 12

MANILA: The Philippines has approved Covid-19 jabs for children as young as 12, an aide to President Rodrigo Duterte said Tuesday, as the country battles surging infections fuelled by the hyper-contagious Delta variant. Duterte's government has been skewered over the glacial rollout of vaccines, with just over a quarter of the adult population fully vaccinated nearly seven months after the first doses were delivered. The daily case rate has soared, often exceeding 20,000, with hospitals struggling to handle the influx of patients as vaccine supplies dribble into the country. Inoculating children is seen as a key step towards reopening schools in the Philippines, which is one of the few countries in the world to have kept them shut since the start of the pandemic. The government recently announced plans for a pilot reopening of 120 primary and high schools, but few details have been released. Kids will be allowed to receive the jabs from next month, presidential spokesman Harry Roque told reporters, as the vaccination drive is widened to include all adults not previously prioritised for shots. The Philippines' food and drug regulator recently approved the Pfizer and Moderna jabs for kids aged 12 and above. - APP



KABUL: Pakistan ambassador to Afghanistan Mansoor Ahmad Khan received UN SRSG to Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons and discuss constructive engagement with Afghanistan for peace, stability, inclusive governance, human rights and women participation respecting religious/cultural norms. - DNA

Pak-China experts to build a digital payment system

AGENCIES

BEIJING: Pakistan government is focusing on the development of e-commerce. China is leading the world in the field of e-commerce. Last year, its e-commerce transaction was \$2 trillion, which is more than the added-up figure of e-commerce trades done in the US and Europe," said Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque. "We would like to promote our e-commerce infrastructure to benefit from this huge market, and to upgrade our telecommunication sector and modernize the e-payment system," he said during a dialogue themed by Digital Belt

and Road on the 4th Belt and Road Service Trade Cooperation Forum held in Beijing. "As a payment infrastructure builder, our payment services overall Belt and Road countries with 50 supported currencies. As Pakistan's e-commerce is developing fast, many of our customers, especially e-commerce customers, have frequent economic exchanges with Pakistan," said Wu Kai, Airwallex Greater China CEO, who also joined the dialogue and discussed digital payment development with Moinul Haque. "We can make payment more efficiently with lower cost, and we can help customers control their financial risks." The COVID-19 is accelerating the digital economy development of Belt and Road countries and there are more and more international trades, which provide a big demand.

At least 16 injured in Gothenburg apartment blast

Emergency responders added that the blast did not look like an accident, in a country that has suffered dozens of actual or attempted bombings linked to violent criminal gangs

FOREIGN DESK

STOCKHOLM: At least 16 people were injured, including four seriously, in an explosion that tore through an apartment building in Swedish city Gothenburg early Tuesday, authorities said. Emergency responders added that the blast did not look like an accident, in a country that has suffered dozens of actual or attempted bombings linked to violent criminal gangs in recent years. Ambulances, fire trucks and emergency crews swarmed the scene on Tuesday morning as thick smoke rose from the building, television

images showed. The cause of the blast, which triggered a fire in the building after it occurred just before 5:00 am (0300 GMT) in central Gothenburg, was not immediately known, police told AFP. "The site has been closed off and rescue operations are under way," said Hans-Jorgen Ostler, press spokesman for Sweden's western regional police. "As soon as the site is secured, we will begin a technical investigation to determine the cause of the fire and explosion," Ostler added. Local newspaper GP quoted police sources saying that they believed an explosive device could have been placed

in one of the doorways. Rescue operation chief John Pile told AFP that while an investigation was needed "an explosion in a housing area, or an explosion in general, is not usually from natural causes". Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Gothenburg's largest, took in 16 people with injuries related to the blast and subsequent fire, press officer Ingrid Fredriksson said. "But it's not certain there won't be more, as this is an ongoing event," she told AFP just before 10:00 am (0800 GMT). Four of the people, three women and one man, were seriously injured, according to Fredriksson.

Residents in the building told broadcaster TV4 that the blast caused massive damage to the building. Media reports said some residents standing on their balconies were evacuated by fire crews with ladders, while others tied sheets together to climb down. Sweden has for years struggled to counter a rise in crime tied to criminal gangs, which has resulted in a spike of fatal shootings and bombings in an otherwise peaceful country. In 2020, police recorded 107 detonations in the country of 10.3 million inhabitants, with another 102 recorded incidents involving attempted blasts or preparations.

China-Pakistan ties 'unique and exemplary'

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan-China relationship of friendship, cooperation and mutual respect is "unique and exemplary." Ambassador Munir Akram has said. Speaking at a virtual event marking China's founding in 1949 and the 50th Anniversary of the restoration of its lawful seat at the UN, the Pakistani envoy said that Chinese all round progress was an "inspirational" example for the rest of the developing world. This year, he pointed out, that Pakistan and China are also celebrating the 70th Anniversary of their bilateral relations. Pakistan was a leading co-sponsor of a General Assembly resolution, which restored China's lawful right to its UN seat, which until 1971 was occupied by Taiwan, it was pointed out. "On 25 October 1971, I was fortunate, as a junior diplomat, to be present in the UN General Assembly when it adopted Resolution 2758 to the great satisfaction of all of China's friends," Ambassador Akram told diplomats and UN officials participating online in the event. "Since the founding of the People's Republic, the progress which China has achieved is unprecedented in human history," he said, noting that from depths of underdevelopment, the country has emerged as the world's second largest economy, with 770 million people taken out of extreme poverty in a span of 35

years. The fruit of this "victory" against poverty, the Pakistani envoy said, had promoted human rights, fostered social development, and encouraged implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). China's development achievements - eradicating poverty, modernizing industry, agriculture, infrastructure, and leading the way in digitalization and breakthrough technologies, - are an "inspirational example" for the rest of the developing world," he added, highlighting Prime Minister Imran Khan's remark that "China's experience can be a source of guidance for all developing countries". China has also made significant contributions to the purposes of the UN - promoting equal security for all states in the Security Council; advancing the development objectives of the developing countries, including as a member of Group of 77 (Developing countries); contributing to Peacekeeping Operations (PKO), as largest troop contributor among the Security Council's permanent members; and upholding the norms of world order based on the principles of the UN Charter, the Pakistani envoy said. Beijing's support to multilateralism - at a time when it is under immense pressure - is vita, Ambassador Akram said. As a responsible major country, China's championing of free trade and open multilateralism provides hope for a just and equitable international order based on the principles and purposes of the UN Charter. - APP

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Briefs

Saudi envoy, Minister discuss investment

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Maliki called on Federal Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar here on Tuesday to discuss matters of mutual interest relating to on-going bilateral cooperation in the energy sector. Minister apprised the Ambassador of government's initiatives in energy sector focusing on induction of renewable energy policy to harness local resources for power generation, said a press release. He said that revival of exploration and production activities in oil & gas sector would attract investment in the country. Minister also highlighted expeditious steps taken by incumbent government for energy infrastructure development across the country. The ambassador lauded the efforts made by the Minister & his team for Pak-Saudi projects in the energy sector. He reaffirmed the commitment of the kingdom to work with Pakistan for strengthening economic bilateral relations between the two brotherly Islamic countries. He also invited the Minister over Clean and Sustainable Energy Conference scheduled next month in Saudi Arabia which the Minister cordially accepted.

11 flights cancelled at Lahore Airport

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: At least 11 flights were cancelled at the Lahore International Airport on Tuesday due to shortage of aircraft and operational reasons. The flights which were called off included both international and domestic. Among the cancelled international flights were PIA's two-way flight to Dubai 203/204, FlyNaz's two flight from Lahore to Riyadh 317/318 and Qatar Airways' two-way flight from Lahore to Doha 628/629. Among the cancelled domestic flights were Air-Blue's two-way flight from Lahore to Karachi 403/404, PIA's flight from Gilgit to Lahore 610, PIA's flight from Nairobi to Lahore 6716 and Air-Blue's flight from Karachi to Lahore.

Qadri lauds China over religious freedom

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sahibzada Noor-ul-Haq Qadri on Tuesday lauded Chinese government for ensuring liberty to the Muslims in performing religious rituals such as Hajj, and observing sacred months like Ramadan and other festivals. Addressing a webinar titled "Xinjiang is a Beautiful and Unique Area" Hosted by Chinese ambassador, he said China guaranteed protection of religious freedom to Muslims residing there through its laws. He said the peoples of Pakistan have a religious and cultural connection with the people of the Xinjiang. There were some 24,000 beautiful mosques in the area that currently represent religious and ethnic harmony. He lauded Chinese government for facilitating standard translations of Quran Pak, Sahih Bukhari in different Chinese languages for the benefit of Muslims and establishing Islamic School in Xinjiang. He expressed the hope that these facilities would help promoting religious education and Islamic principles. The people of Pakistan have a lot of love and devotion for China and the Chinese people. Pakistan has religious and cultural affiliation with the people of China. - APP

China shows off new drones and jets at Zhuhai airshow

The CH-6, a prototype drone with a wingspan of 20.5 metres, was among the domestic tech unveiled. It is designed for surveillance and can also carry weapons for strike missions

WEB DESK

ZHUHAI: China on Tuesday showed off its increasingly sophisticated air power including surveillance drones, with an eye on disputed territories from Taiwan to the South China Sea and its rivalry with the United States. The country's biggest airshow, in the southern coastal city of Zhuhai, comes as Beijing pushes to meet a 2035 deadline to retool its military for modern warfare. China still lags the United States in terms of tech and investment in its war machine, but experts say it is narrowing the gap. A US intelligence report this year flagged China's growing influence as one of America's biggest threats. On Tuesday, the air force aerobatic team left colourful vapour trails as it manoeuvred in formation, while visitors inspected new jets, drones and attack helicopters on the tarmac. The CH-6, a prototype drone with a wingspan of 20.5 metres (67 feet), was among the domestic tech unveiled. It is designed for surveillance and can also carry weapons for strike missions,



according to open-source intelligence agency Janes. The drone has a cruising altitude of 10,000 metres, "but it can go as high as 15,000 metres," Qin Yongming, general manager of drone maker Aerospace CH UAV Co, told AFP. "It can fly for longer periods (than previous models)... it can carry out longer missions, with higher efficiency without any time limits."

Other debutants included the WZ-7 high-altitude drone for border reconnaissance and maritime patrol, as well as the J-16D fighter that has the ability to jam electronic equipment. Both have already entered service with the Chinese air force, state media reported. "They will play a major role in both the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea," military commentator Song Zhongping told AFP.

Beijing claims virtually all of the South China Sea - disputed with several other nations - and says the self-ruled island of Taiwan is an inalienable part of its territory. Under president Donald Trump, the United States authorised arms sales to Taiwan worth around \$18 billion worth, including advanced missile platforms - sales that have angered Beijing. China is also "clearly positioning itself to be an alternative supplier" of advanced drones, with relative affordability, said Janes analyst Kelvin Wong. The United States and European countries have been hesitant to supply such equipment outside a select group of partners, he added. Chinese drones have already combat action in the Middle East, and have been sold to customers in other regions too. The J-16D, meanwhile, improves the combat capabilities of the People's Liberation Army, said James Char, a Chinese military expert at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University. The jet has wingtip pods to disrupt enemy electronic equipment, and has drawn comparisons with the US-made EA-18G Growler.

France slashes visas for Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia

NEWS DESK

PARIS: Paris will sharply reduce the number of visas granted to people from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, accusing the former French colonies of not doing enough to allow illegal immigrants to return, a government spokesman said Tuesday. "It's a drastic decision, and unprecedented, but one made necessary by the fact that these countries are refusing to take back nationals who we do not want or cannot keep in France," Gabriel Attal told Europe 1 radio. The station first reported the visa clampdown earlier Tuesday, saying President Emmanuel Macron took the decision a month ago after failed diplomatic efforts with the three North African countries. Immigration is shaping up to be a key issue in next year's French presidential election, when Macron is widely expected to face off against the far-right leader Marine Le Pen. When visa requests are denied, French authorities must still secure a consular pass in order to forcibly expel individuals to their home countries, a document that Paris says Algeria, Rabat and Tunis are refusing to provide. "There was dialogue, then there were threats, and today we're carrying out those threats," Attal said. "We're hoping that the response will be more cooperation with France so that we can apply our immigration rules," he said. According to Europe 1, citing administration figures, Macron has ordered the number of visa deliveries to Algeria and Morocco to be halved from 2020 levels, and by a third for Tunisia.



TEHRAN: Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Iran Ali Alizada paying respects to the martyrs of the Patriotic War. - DNA

Greece to buy three frigates from France

AGENCIES

PARIS: Greece will buy three frigates from France as part of a deeper "strategic partnership" between the two countries to defend their shared interests in the Mediterranean, French President Emmanuel Macron said Tuesday. The deal marks "an audacious first step towards European strategic autonomy", Macron said at a signing ceremony with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis at the Elysee Palace. He called Athens' decision to buy the Belharrha ships "a sign of confidence" in France's defence industry, against competition notably from the American group Lockheed Martin, according to press reports. The deal also sends a signal from Paris after its stinging loss of a multibillion-euro contract for submarines with Australia, which announced it would instead sign a deal for nuclear-powered subs from the US.

Shahzad lashes out at opposition

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the House in the Senate Dr. Shahzad Waseem on Monday lashed out at the opposition parties for their undue criticism on the state institutions. Taking part in debate in Senate session, he said the opposition alliance against the government had been shattered completely. Pakistan Peoples Party would never return to Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)—a multi-party opposition alliance, he added. He said that now Pakistan Democratic Movement was just a so called alliance and completely disintegrated. Dr. Shahzad said the opposition parties had no right to comment on employment creation as many of them during their regime instead of providing employment opportunities had plundered the national kitty in the name of job creation. The government was striving hard to create massive employment opportunities for the youth and also ensuring merit for the provi-

sion of jobs, he added. Leader of the House in the Senate said, "We are standing by them [sacked employees] and will extend all possible legal assistance to them," he said. He reminded the House that it was the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government that had sacked the employees in 1997 whom the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) had regularized in 1996. He said Pakistan Peoples Party had reinstated the employees after coming into the power in 2008 through an act of the parliament. In the recent judgment, Leader of the House in the Senate Dr. Shahzad Waseem said few employees had approached the court because their seniority had affected due to reinstatement of the sacked employees, adding the incumbent government had nothing to do with it. - DNA



Rupee drops to historic low against US dollar

KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee closed at a historic low of Rs169.97 against the US dollar on Tuesday, according to data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). With a fresh fall of 0.22%, the local currency breached the lowest level of Rs169.6 registered a day earlier. The Pakistani currency closed at 169.97 against the greenback, a decline of 52 paisas or 0.31%, the central bank's data showed. The rupee has cumulatively shed 11.62% (or Rs17.7) since its recent high of Rs152.27 recorded on May 14. Since June, it has lost around 7.89% or Rs12.43. - APP

Tarin for expanding Pak-Turkey economic collaboration

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Shaukat Tarin on Tuesday highlighted key areas for expanding economic collaboration between Pakistan and Turkey. The minister was talking to Ambassador of Turkey, Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul who called on him here, said a press statement issued by the Finance Ministry, adding Federal Secretary Finance also participated in the meeting. Pakistan and Turkey enjoyed close political, economic, cultural & social relations over the years, he said. He said, people of both the countries had deep sentiments of brotherhood for each other while the cultural and historical affinity pro-



vided a solid foundation for further fortifying the existing bilateral trade and economic relations. Tarin commended the valuable contribution of the Turkish firms in the field of construction worldwide. He informed the Ambassador that Under Naya Pakistan initiative, the government had extended a very attractive construction package to stimulate economic recovery amid COVID-19 as well as in

tourism industry could benefit from the Turkish experience and make Pakistan a hub for international tourism as envisaged by the PM. The Finance Minister suggested collaboration between the ZTBL and the Ziraat Bank of Turkey. The Minister further suggested that Pakistan may follow the footsteps of Turkey for value addition in agricultural produce, particularly in cotton crops in order to boost agricultural productivity in the country. The minister also welcomed the idea, presented by the Ambassador to conduct trade between the two brotherly countries in their own currencies. He said, people of Pakistan had deep love and affection for the people of Turkey and people-to-people contact was an important component of bilateral relations. He underlined that Pakistan's

China to work with Pakistan in Karachi project

DNA

BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying Tuesday said China was willing to work with Pakistan to implement the outcomes of the recently held 10th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of the CPEC including the Karachi project. "In the recently held 10th meeting of the joint cooperation committee of CPEC, China and Pakistan agreed to include the Karachi project in the CPEC framework and listed as an outcome of the meeting," she said during her regular briefing while

commenting on inclusion of \$3.5 billion Karachi Comprehensive Coastal Development Zone (KCCDZ) in the CPEC framework. In a tweet, PM Imran termed the inclusion of Karachi coastal zone in the CPEC as game changer and expressed the hope that it would help in cleaning up marine habitat for fishermen, develop low income housing units and creating investment opportunities. It would put Karachi at par with the developed port cities. Hua Chunying said China and Pakistan were all weather strategic cooperation partners and the CPEC was a flagship project of the BRI. "China is willing to work with Pakistan to implement the common understanding of the two leaders and also outcome of the JCC meeting."

Peace in Afghanistan a must for regional stability: Sheikh

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad on Tuesday said that long-lasting peace in Afghanistan was a prerequisite for stability in the region and the international world. He was talking to the Canadian High Commissioner to Pakistan Ms. Wendy Christine Gilmour, who called on him to discuss matters of mutual interest between the two countries and the regional situation including Afghanistan. Sheikh Rasheed said that peace in Afghanistan was inevitable for peace in Pakistan and that Pakistan wants peace and stability in Afghanistan. He said that the government of Pakistan was providing full assistance to those Afghan citizens and foreigners leaving

Afghanistan. He added a facilitation desk was set up in this regard at the ministry to provide support round the clock. He said that Pakistan was fulfilling its responsibilities and providing full assistance on humanitarian grounds. He however said that Afghanistan was facing a shortage of funds and human resources and the new setup was facing this challenge. He expressed the hope that the international community while fulfilling their commitments, will ensure the provision of resources for the Afghan government. He said that Pakistan will continue its support in the evacuation of the international community from Afghanistan. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Canadian High Commissioner for Pakistan Ms. Wendy Christine Gilmour calls on Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed. - DNA