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Father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb Abdul Qadeer Khan dies

Detailed News On Page-01

Taiwan says won't bow down to China

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Austrian chancellor steps down

Detailed News On Page-08



Briefs

FM reiterates support to Kashmiris

STAFF REPORT

MULTAN: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said we are committed to continue our diplomatic, moral and political support of Kashmiri people in their struggle of freedom. This he stated while addressing various meetings in Multan on Sunday. Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said we are trying to highlight the atrocities of Indian occupied forces at International forums. He said that we have presented dossier comprising on solid evidences of atrocities and criminal acts of Indian forces. The Foreign Minister said that Kashmir is now an International issue due to our diplomatic efforts.

Air Chief grieved over Dr Khan's demise

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Air Chief Marshal Zaher Ahmed Baber Sidhu on Sunday expressed his heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of Pakistan's renowned Nuclear scientist Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan. Lauding the meritorious services of the Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, the Air Chief said Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan played a key role in making defence of Pakistan invincible, said a PAF media release. - APP

Dr Khan true hero of Pakistan

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: National Security Adviser (NSA) Dr Moeed Yusuf on Sunday paid tribute to Nuclear Scientist Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan and said the nation gave an overwhelming response to Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan on his demise. The NSA tweeted, "As expected, overwhelming response by the nation on Dr. A Q Khan's passing, a true hero of Pakistan. May Allah grant his soul peace, and ease his family's loss."

Father of Pak nuclear bomb AQ Khan dies

President, Prime Minister, Chiefs of Services, Shehbaz Sharif, Bilawal Zardari, Sirajul Haq condole the death of Dr. Khan

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Architect of Pakistan's nuclear programme and renowned scientist Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, 85, died on Sunday morning after developing health complications. President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed their deep grief and sorrow over the demise of late Dr AQ Khan. They prayed for the high ranks of the departed soul and also expressed their condolences with the bereaved family. The president on his twitter handle posted "Deeply saddened to learn about the passing of Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan. Had known him personally since 1982. He helped us develop nation-saving nuclear deterrence, and a grateful nation will never forget his services in this regard. May Allah bless him." Prime Minister Imran Khan posted "Deeply saddened by the passing of Dr A Q Khan. He was loved by our nation bec (because) of his critical contribution in making us a nuclear weapon state. This has provided us security against an aggressive much larger nuclear neighbour. For the people of Pakistan, he was a national icon. "He will be buried in Faisal Mosque as per his wishes. My condolences & prayers go to his family," he further posted in a related tweet. According to Dr Khan's family members, his health condition started deteriorating on Saturday night, after which he was

FM Qureshi grieved

STAFF REPORT

MULTAN: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi, on Sunday, expressed deep sorrow and grief over the demise of renowned scientist Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan. In a condolence message issued by Bab ul Quraish, (a local media cell of Qureshi family), the foreign minister stated that Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan was a great man and a patriotic Pakistani. His services will always be remembered, said FM Qureshi. He extended his heartfelt condolences to the family of the late Abdul Qadeer Khan. May Allah Almighty grant him a high position in Paradise, stated Qureshi.

rushed to hospital, however, he could not survive. Condolences came pouring from all quarters after the nation heard the sad news on Sunday morning. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, Minister for Defence Pervaiz Khattak, Minister for Planning Asad Umar, Minister for Interior

Continued on Page 06

Balochistan crisis raging as CM refuses to quit

The JUI has refused to support Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal

DNA

QUETTA: Political crisis brewing in Balochistan with calls for resignation of Chief Minister Jam Kamal has intensified as the CM is adamant not to step down. Spokesperson of Balochistan government Liaquat Shahwani has rejected the demand of the chief minister's resignation from the estranged lawmakers of Balochistan Awami Party as well as the opposition parties. It is to be mentioned here that in a reception hosted by the chief minister, the assembly members of the BAP and coalition partners including deputy speaker Sardar Babar Khan Moosakhel expressed their confidence in the leadership of



Jam Kamal. The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) has refused to support Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal in the ongoing challenge from the estranged faction of his Balochistan Awami Party (BAP). Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri in a meeting with JUI chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman in Lahore while briefing him about his meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal, said "the JUI expressed its inability to back Jam Kamal's government," he said. "He had adopted an undemocratic and inappropriate behaviour with the opposition in last three years of his rule," Haideri said. Chief Minister Jam Kamal had earlier reiterated that he will not step down on the demand of 12 people. "The allies and most of the BAP members are supporting me," he said.

PDM leaders to meet today

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: A crucial meeting of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) led by its chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman will be held in Islamabad today (Monday). The meeting will be participated by heads of all political parties of the alliance formed against the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). According to reports in this regard, Fazl called prominent PDM leaders, wherein it was decided to offer the incumbent government a tough time from every front using the platform.



ISLAMABAD: Security personnel carrying the coffin of Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan to offer the funeral prayer at the premises of Faisal Masjid. - APP

Indonesian Batik exhibition today

Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio will inaugurate the exhibition

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A three-day exhibition titled "Indonesian Batik: A Cultural Beauty" would be held here from Monday (tomorrow), featuring a fine collection of batik and batik products. The exhibition organized by Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad would be inaugurated by the Indonesian Ambassador Adam Tugio at the "Batik Studio" Centaurus Mall, Islamabad, said a press release. "Indonesian Batik Exhibition" is being organized

Continued on Page 06

UNICEF sees end of polio in Pakistan

MONITORING DESK

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Executive Director of Unicef Omar Abdi has said his organization sees the possibility of an end to polio in Pakistan as only one polio case has been reported in the country this year. Talking to a media organization at the end of his visit to Pakistan, Mr Abdi said: "We have been looking at the trend for the last 20 years and twice before we came this close, but now we are closest to the finish line."

Covid-19 positivity rate drops below 2%

767 people contract virus; 19 more people succumbed to the virus across Pakistan

SUJUAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan continues to report a decline in new coronavirus infections, with the positivity rate falling to 1.8% Sunday. According to the National Command and Operation Centre's (NCOC) latest statistics, 40,584 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours across Pakistan, out of which 767 came back positive, pushing the total caseload to 1,257,955. Meanwhile, 19 more people succumbed to the virus across Pakistan on Saturday, taking the collective death toll due to the coronavirus to 28,106. In addition to this, 1,559 patients have recovered from COVID-19 in the last 24 hours across Pakistan, bringing the total number of recoveries to 1,187,308.

Sindh varsities to resume classes today

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Public and private universities across Sindh shall resume normal classes with 100% attendance starting October 11, a notification from the Universities and Boards Department said on Sunday. According to the notification: "All public and private universities/institutes under the administrative control of the Universities and Boards Department, Government of Sindh, are hereby allowed to resume regular academic activities w.e.f 11.10.2021 with 100% attendance." The relaxation is subject to strict observance of coronavirus safety measures announced from time to time by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), and the health department and home department of Sindh.

The number of active cases has reached 42,541 as of Sunday. During the last week reported, Pakistan averaged about

978,412 doses administered each day. At that rate, it will take a further 45 days to administer enough doses for another 10% of the population.

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PM Imran Khan terms rule of law crucial for progress

PM Khan announces the establishment of a Rehmatul-lil-Alameen Authority in the country to ensure the implementation of the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) in society

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday inaugurated the official celebrations for the month of Rabi ul Awwal with a special message for the Pakistani youth and said that countries, where the rule of law reigns supreme, are bound to progress. Speaking during the Rehmatul-lil-Alameen Conference in Islamabad, the premier said that societies that face moral decline are unable to move towards advancement. The conference was attended by government officials, civil society members, journalists, and members of minority communities. Federal Minister for Science and Technology Shibli Faraz, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry, and Minister of Education and Professional Development Shafiqat Mehmood



were also in attendance. The premier said that since Pakistan's population predominantly comprises the youth, he would like to send a special message to them. Providing examples of Islamic histori-

cal figures that ruled the world in the past, the premier said that the secret to their success was that they followed the true teachings of Islam based on humanitarianism. He said that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) was the first-ever personality in the history of the world who established a welfare state (riyasat-e-Madina). "For the first time in history, the state took the responsibility for the poor and the destitute, promoted and prioritised education, and made it compulsory for both men and women," he said. The premier said that the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) must be inculcated among Pakistani children through schools. "There should be role models for kids to follow and [no one could be a better role model for them than the prophet of Islam]" he said.

Continued on Page 06

Enhanced roads connectivity vital to bolster tourism

Swat Expressway has made a positive impact on tourism related businesses in Swat district where a record 1,500,000 tourists had arrived during Eidul Azha's holidays

KALAM: The scorching heat is on wane bidding adieu to various objects in the scenic Kalam valley in Swat district where tourists are enjoying its mesmerizing beauty and waterfalls amid winter heralding melodies and fresh cool breeze take them into new level of thrill and excitement. Blessed with over 50 lakes including the famous Mahodand lake covering two-kilometre area and 2,865 meters above the sea level at Usho valley, Kalam is attracting influx of tourists, trekkers and adventure sports lovers from plain areas of the country enjoying its cool weather, trout fish and boating at Gabral and Ushu rivers being two major tributaries of River Swat originating from high-peak mountains of upper Kalam.

Kalam's adjoining scenic hilly areas including Matiltan, Ushu, Utror, Gabral and Mohdand viz a viz Kundol lakes' hotels are jam-packed with tourists, hikers, mountaineers and sports lovers amid hide and seek between sun and clouds with moderate to erratic rainfalls over snow-clad mountains take them into state of ecstasy. Swat Expressway has made a positive impact on tourism related businesses in Swat district where a record 1,500,000 tourists had arrived during Eidul Azha's holidays. As result, hotels and transport sectors have witnessed a great boom in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where a record Rs. 66 billion revenue generated and Rs. 27 billion businesses has been achieved by the rural econ-

omy following the arrival of record 2.77 million tourists during the three days Eid vacations.

"Kalam's mountainous beauty is amazing. River Swat coming out of Kalam valley enhances its scenic beauty and make it an ideal tourist destination of Pakistan," said Riaz Khan, a government school teacher of Nowshera district while talking to APP at Kalam bazaar.

"Whenever I got an opportunity, I visit this scenic hilly station of Pakistan to spend a few days in its cool and pollution-free weather. Kalam's waterfalls, River Swat's whitish-blue water and hide and seek between the sun and clouds are adding colors to this awesome hilly station," he said, adding "I have been visiting

Kalam for the last four years and this year my joy was doubled after my two hours were saved by Swat Expressway".

Being a home to Ghandhara civilization, archeo-religious sites and mesmerizing natural beauty, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including Swat district had always remained a centre of attraction for tourists, archeologists, Buddhists and monks of Thailand, Sri Lanka and other countries by exploring Pakistan's archeological treasures. Recently, a-2000 year-old Buddhists fresco paintings at Abba Saib Cheena Swat believed to be used for archeo-religious and education purposes had been unearthed and preserved by KP Archeology Department. - APP

Qirat competition held in Faisalabad

CM Punjab had doubled the Rahmatul lil Alameen scholarship from 50mn to one billion that is gifted and 10574 needy students have been awarded Rehmatul lil Alameen scholarships in the province

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Under the arrangements of the district administration, the celebrations of Ashra Shan e Rahmatul lil Alameen (PBUH) have started in the district, in this regard the district level Qirat competition was held among boys and girls of high and higher secondary school. Member Provincial Assembly Firdous Rai was the chief guest on the occasion.

CEO Education Ali Ahmed Sian, Administrative Officer Riaz Hussain Anjum, Educationist Muhammad Akhtar Butt, Incharge Control Room Muhammad Sadiq besides Principals of Boys and Girls Schools were also present. According to the results of Qirat competitions, Noman Aziz of MC Higher Secondary School Hajjabad came first in the boys competition, Sohail of Government Comprehensive Higher Secondary School Samanabad came second and Saqleen of Government High School 353 Jaranwala came third and Sadia Amin of Government MC Girls High School Jaranwala got first, Rubab from Tehsil Faisal secured the



second position and Azka of Government Girls High School No. 2 Samundari secured the third position. MPA said that CM Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar had doubled the Rahmatul lil Alameen scholarship from 50 million to one billion that is gifted and 10574 needy students have been awarded Rehmatul lil Alameen scholarships in the province. She said that Serat Chair has been established in GCU

and support would be provided for research. She said that the greatness of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) is beyond human thinking and imagination. The admin officer said that Naat recitation and speech competitions on the theme of Shaan Rahmatul lil Alameen will be held among the students of schools and colleges on Monday in the Metropolitan Corporation Hall.

Govt urged to ensure availability of eggs, chicken

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Eggs and Chicken is the cheapest and readily available protein for human consumption and the Government must take steps to ensure its availability at the reasonable rates by facilitating poultry farmers. Addressing a function on "World Egg Day", Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) said that it is a privilege for him that his first official function falls on first Rabi-ul-Awal and its credit goes to our former Executive Member Dr. Rana Sajjad Arshad who has been elected as Central Chairman of the Pakistan Poultry Association (PPA).

He said that the poultry sector has emerged as the second largest sector after textile and it is providing cheap protein for human consumption at affordable rates. He said that this sector is not only catering to our domestic needs but has potential to export and earn precious foreign exchange for the country. However we must prefer domestic needs and only surplus could be exported to ensure its regular supply to the masses.

Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh condemned the negative propaganda unleashed against this sector.



Police cop's widow gets relief

SAQIB MUSHTAQ

LODHHRAN: Additional Inspector General Police Southern Punjab Captain Retired Zafar Iqbal Awan took notice of Martyr's widow's case in Police Darbar and issued orders to ensure the payment of her pension case. Additional Inspector General Police Southern Punjab Captain (R) Zafar Iqbal Awan chaired the meeting in DPO Office, in the meeting he accessed the progress of Officers and also type of crime being committed in the district, DPO Lodhran Abdul Rauf Babar gave briefing to the Additional Inspector General.

AIG Police South Punjab directed to include the forensic report in the completion of Challan while investigation of serious crimes should be done on facts. He also directed to formulate action plan for stopping cattle theft and asked to shrink the circle around gangs like Khapra Gang. He expressed satisfaction

over reduction of crime rate in District Lodhran.

He also directed to control the crime through community policing with the help of women and children.

Later AIG visited DPO Office and Police Station City.

Additional Inspector General Police South Punjab said that good behavior is the best way to create mutual trust between Public and Police. Honestly observe the duties and do not delay the justice to the oppressed.

He expressed these remarks while addressing with the Police Darbar at Police Lines Lodhran. At this time DPO Lodhran Abdul Rauf Babar and other officials were there.

On AIG's arrival to Lodhran he was warmly welcomed, Police Squad paid salute to AIG. Later AIG visited the martyr memorial, put flowers and said Fateha. AIG especially met with families of martyrs and said that their issues should be resolved on priority basis.

While addressing with the Darbar

AIG said that purpose of holding this Darbar is to hear and resolve the problems of Police Officials. He added that protection of people's lives, belongings and provision of justice is the duty of Police.

He said that Police Officials should help the oppressed and stop the hand of oppressor, promote community policing as this is the effective way of stopping the crime. All resources should be utilized to stop the drug dealings and put efforts in purging educational institutes from drugs.

He said that campaign against wanted criminals remain satisfactory and large number of dangerous criminals were arrested, he added that Police officers should stay active in reducing the crime rate. End of Khapra Gang is a much-appreciated step of Lodhran Police.

Earlier Additional inspector General Police South Punjab planted a plant in Police Lines and inaugurated the firing range so that Officials can get their professional skills polished.

Rs 12,000 Ehsaas relief cash to be provided to each family of Harnai

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection Dr. Sania Nishtar has announced Rs 12,000 Ehsaas relief cash each for all families of Harnai. The SAPM visited earthquake hit areas of Harnai the other day to assess the level of assistance needed from the federal government on the directives of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

She announced the federal government relief package for all families of Harnai, after the Prime Minister's approval. Expressing solidarity with the affected, Dr. Sania said "Social protection is critical to earthquake induced recovery. The federal government will give Rs 12,000 cash subsistence to each family of Harnai as an immediate relief. The relief cash assistance will be mobilized under the Ehsaas programme. This relief assistance will be in addition to compensation being planned for affected households after detailed damage assessment."



Dr. Sania expressed her grief over the human and property losses that she witnessed across the district and went to village Killi Shor and other areas of Tehsil Harnai to inquire after the affected families. Sympathizing with the affected, Dr. Sania said "the federal government is with people of Harnai during these hard times, and we will do whatever we can to provide them immediate relief. We are fully committed to supporting the earthquake affectees. Ehsaas' shock-responsive registry will also open its desks by Monday in the affected areas."

She also reviewed arrangements being made to open Ehsaas Registration Desks at the Irrigation Department of Harnai. The Ehsaas National Socio-economic registry survey has been completed in Harnai. Registration desks will facilitate self-enrolment of missed households who need Ehsaas' assistance.

THSI launches Centre for Securing Health

ARIJ GHAZNAVI

ISLAMABAD: Conference for shedding light on securing mental health was held on Friday by the The Human Security Institute in collaboration with Air University, Psych-Care, Free Medical Education and Health Services Academy.

The conference was attended by Ms. Andleeb Abbas, Chairperson, Pakistan Mental Health Task Force and Dr. Hamayon Mohmand, Senator Standing Committee Health where both guests accentuated on the subject matter. Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs also shed light on mental health and its importance. DG THSI, Rafique Ahmed Qureshi also shared his views on the subject and emphasized how mental health is as important as physical health. The Human Security Institute on this event of one day conference, inaugurated its Center for Securing Health which was inaugurated by Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan.

PCTP continues action against encroachments

Encroachments affect beauty of city which was not acceptable in any case, Chief Traffic Officer Abbas Majeed Khan Marwat said

PESHAWAR: The operation of the Peshawar City Traffic Police (PCTP) continued for the last five months under which it took action against 4006 persons during the operations.

This was stated by Chief Traffic Officer Abbas Majeed Khan Marwat while talking to media men here on Sunday. The team had taken action against 2103 motorcycle owners for violating nine parking zones, Abbas Majeed Khan Marwat said.

The operations had been carried out on the instructions of CCPO Peshawar Abbas Ahsan as per the vision of IG Police Moazzam Jahan Ansari, Chief Traffic Officer said, adding, City Traffic Police Peshawar was continuing to educate the encroachment mafia on voluntary elimination of encroachments and non-violation of new parking zones.

Chief Traffic Officer Abbas Majeed Khan Marwat said they had

issued first notices to the encroachment mafia while fulfilling Peshawar legal requirements and action was taken by arresting the encroachers.

The encroachment mafia should not exceed its limits keeping in view the beauty of the city and avoid creating any kind of trouble for the citizens, the Chief Traffic Officer said.

Encroachments affect beauty of city which was not acceptable in any case, Chief Traffic Officer Abbas Majeed Khan Marwat said, adding, strict legal action would be taken against the perpetrators of encroachments and no leniency would be shown to anyone.

He also requested the citizens not to violate the new parking zone. The traffic authorities should take stern action against violators of traffic rules in accordance with the law, Chief Traffic Officer Abbas Majeed Khan Marwat concluded. - APP

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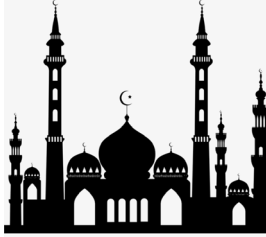
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Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	04:46 am
Zohr.....	11:55 am
Asr.....	04:00 pm
Maghrib.....	05:40 pm
Isha.....	07:03 pm



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Marriott.....	051-2826121
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Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation

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

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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Water scarcity a burning issue for G-13 residents

Issuance of property tax and occupancy charges from both the Capital Development Authority and FGEHA on annual basis described as no less than a joke for residents and termed a 'failure of coordination' between the authorities concerned

ISLAMABAD: Water scarcity has become a worrisome issue for the residents of sector G-13 of Islamabad where demand for supplying the water facility from external sources is escalating due to a sharp increase in its population and minimal availability of tanks and storage tanks in the sub-sectors. This was the crux of a meeting arranged by the United Residents Organization (URO) of Sector G-13 to discuss the residents' basic issues including water, security, taxation, maintenance, cleanliness and development work.

The meeting was informed that shortage of water was a major issue faced by residents who have been unable to perform their daily chores in a hassle-free way. Though, the civic agency has been helping

FGEHA by providing the limited number of water tankers, the increased population coupled with less availability of water resources and storage tanks had increased water's demand manifold, the meeting was told. It was observed that bringing water to G-13 from external dam sources was inevitable. It was also highlighted that water storage tanks were not available for all sub sectors and measures should be taken in that regard so that the residents could have a sigh of relief. Meanwhile, the URO executive council members and working committee heads also discussed the progress on key areas of concern from the residents.

The meeting's participants expressed concern over non-inclusion of URO representatives in high level meetings with

Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA).

It was unanimously decided that a well-devised strategy may be put into action to ensure participation of URO members in FGEHA high level meetings to accelerate and monitor the progress of action points from residents.

The forum also discussed that increased efforts may be directed towards attracting active and influential residents of G-13 under the umbrella of URO so that all the efforts made by notable residents could be synergized for the betterment of sector.

Matters pertaining to security issues including the increased theft and robbery cases in sector were discussed in the meeting and noted as a serious threat for innocent residents.

It was also discussed that the approved security wall encapsulating all sub sectors must be constructed to strengthen the existing security system of the sector.

The participants of the meeting also discussed the problem of issuance of home completion certificates to the residents and property tax.

Issuance of property tax and occupancy charges from both the Capital Development Authority and FGEHA on annual basis was described as no less than a joke for residents and termed a 'failure of coordination' between the authorities concerned.

It was also discussed that billing matters should be taken care at G-13 office instead of G-10 office for residents' facilitation. - APP

Business fraternity condoles death of Dr Qadeer

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shakeel Munir President, Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President and Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry expressed deep grief over the passing of nuclear scientist Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, who was a national hero and termed his demise as a great national loss to the country. They expressed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed that Allah the Almighty may keep the departed soul in eternal peace and give courage to his family members to bear this loss with courage.



ISLAMABAD: Zahid Latif Khan Chairman REIT hosted a dinner in honour of delegation from the USA. Seen in the picture are Ambassadors of Bosnia, Morocco, Sohail Altaf and others. - DNA

Preparations for Pakistan Int'l Property Exhibition in full swing

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Property Exhibition and Convention in association with Naya Pakistan Housing and Development Authority will be held on 26-27 November at Pak-China Friendship Center Islamabad - in which renowned builders and developers from all over Pakistan will display their projects.

It is a unique event of its kind in which people from Canada UK UK Turkey Dubai and different countries will participate in the Virtual Conference - this event will be called Physical Conference " Invest in Pakistan



" where Overseas Pakistanis have the best opportunity to invest. Diplomatic and Chamber Conferences will be held in this 3-day exhibition

- Business community of Rawalpindi, Islamabad and Peshawar will participate in large numbers with their families and people from abroad will join online - Chairman Pakistan International Property Exhibition & Convention Khurshid Barlas said that preparations for this three-day exhibition are being completed with full vigor in which we thank all the builders and developers who contributed to the success of this exhibition. He said that after the terrible wave of covid 19, the move by the government of Pakistan to further develop the construction industry is very good, which has restored employment to millions of people.

Work in full swing on PAL Literary Museum

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The development work on the country's first ever literature based museum in regional languages was in full swing at Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) aiming to conserve and promote unique linguistic taste of Pakistani culture.

Literary Museum also aimed at promoting the literature written in more than 70 languages of the

country that would unveil unheard narratives and history of multifaceted local norms and values forming a bouquet of the country's nation comprising numerous ethnicities. Chairman PAL Dr. Yousaf Khushk said in a statement that this initiative would preserve country languages and would attract the scholars' and foreign guests to delve into the local culture. He informed that the work on the museum was likely to be completed soon.

COMSTECH constitutes committee for Iqbal Forum

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary has constituted a technical committee to hold the International Iqbal Forum in 2022 in Kazakhstan on the occasion of 30-year anniversary of Pakistan-Kazakhstan relations.

COMSTECH would organize this forum in collaboration with Turkic Academy, Astana, and the government of Kazakhstan to celebrate the work and contribution of Allama Dr. Muhammad Iqbal: the world renowned Muslim philosopher of 20th century.

The technical committee consists upon: Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice-Chancellor, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad; Prof. Dr. Saiga Imtiaz, Vice-Chancellor, Government Sadiq Women University, Bahawalpur; Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Shahid, Chairperson, Department of Persian, Government College University, Lahore; Prof. Dr. Baseera Ambreen, Director, Allama Iqbal Academy, Lahore; Prof. Dr. Syed Muhammad Fareed, Director, Center for Iqbal Studies, University of the Punjab, Lahore; Prof. Dr. Muhammad Rafiq-ul-Islam, Head of the Department Iqbal Studies, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur; and Muhammad Murtaza Noor, National Coordinator, Inter-University Consortium for Promotion of Social Sciences, IUCPSS.

Young Jasim achieves Guinness World Record

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's 8-year-old gymnast Jasim Mehsud had broken the Guinness World Record of the 22 cup-ups in 30 seconds by doing 27 in the time-limit. Jasim who was the first to break this record at the world level was the student of 43-time Guinness World Record holder Irfan Mehsud who hailed from South Waziristan.

"Even before this, five students of Irfan Mehsud have registered their names in the Guinness World Records," Irfan told APP. Irfan said Jasim achieved the record in Dera Ismail Khan on July 2. "Jasim's goal is to become an international martial arts record holder," he said. It may be mentioned that, Irfan has bagged 13 titles of Guinness World Records from Indian athletes with his outstanding performances. - APP

Over 4.4mn saplings planted in Rwp Division

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Over 4.4 million saplings have been planted in Rawalpindi division, achieving overall 56 percent target of current Monsoon plantation campaign 2021.

According to Conservator of Forests (North) Sheikh Saqib Mehmood, the Monsoon plantation campaign which was kicked off here in July would continue till December 30.

He informed that over 2.7 million, 61 percent of the target set for the government forests for the current year Monsoon plantation campaign have been achieved.

Similarly, 35% of other departments' target, 54% of Defence and 56% of private lands target has been achieved.

He expressed hope that 7.96 million saplings plantation target set for the current Monsoon plantation campaign would be achieved till December.

The plantation of saplings for the growth of forests on barren and uncultivated privately owned land was also started by the Punjab Forest Department, Rawalpindi Division, under Prime Minister Imran Khan's Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Project (TBTP).

Only in Chakwal district, over 5,000 kanals of land had so far been turned into dense forests.

وزیر اعظم پاکستان کا خواب ریاستِ مدینہ کی طرز پر فلاحی نظام معاشی ترقی.. خوشحال عوام

کامیاب پاکستان

37 لاکھ محدود وسائل والے گھرانوں کیلئے 1400 ارب روپے کے بلاسود اور آسان قرضے

عملدرآمد کا طریقہ کار

پروگرام میں اندراج کیلئے اپنا قومی شناختی کارڈ نمبر
5771 پر ایس ایم ایس کریں

- 1 درخواست گزاروں کی تصدیق
- 2 دوسرے مرحلے میں خاندان نمبر کی نادر سے شناخت اور تصدیق
- 3 پروگرام کے بارے میں مزید تفصیلات اوپر دی ہوئی ویب سائٹ پر دستیاب ہونگی

مزید معلومات کیلئے کال نمبر پر 051-7062013

وزارت خزانہ حکومت پاکستان

پہلے مرحلے میں گلگت بلتستان، آزاد کشمیر، خیبر پختونخوا، بلوچستان اور پنجاب اور سندھ کے پسماندہ اضلاع شامل ہونگے۔

Briefs

4 members of pickpocket's gangs held

ISLAMABAD: Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) of Islamabad Police have arrested four members of snatchers and pickpocket's gangs and recovered 34 mobile phones, weapons and vehicle used in crime, a police spokesman said. According to the details, senior officers have categorically directed all police officers to accelerate their efforts to curb crime and secure the city. Following these directions, special police teams by using sophisticated technology, apprehended four gang members involved in robberies including inter-provincial pickpocketers gang members from Golra area and recovered 34 mobile phone, weapons and vehicle used in crime. Cases have been registered against the nabbed persons and further investigation is underway from them. The nabbed accused are former jail bird, identified as Hassan Abbas and Baber Hussain (snatchers gang) and Ghulam Abbas and Muhammad Tufail inter-provincial pickpocketers gang members. The pickpocketers gang was arrested in a dramatic manner from Golra Sharif Darbar. The gang consisted of ten to twelve people, most of which used new model vehicles. The gang members used to attend large gatherings, weddings, shrines and funerals across Pakistan and take full advantage of the rush to deprive the participants of valuables. — APP

3,907,086 challans issued to HTVs drivers

ISLAMABAD: A total of 3,907,086 challans were issued to the drivers of Heavy Transport Vehicles (HTVs) with a fine amount of Rs. 1,760,160,890 during the financial years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, in the area of Motorway M-2 (Islamabad-Lahore) and National Highway N-5 (Islamabad-Lahore) GT Road. According to Ministry of Communications, a total of 9,37,577 challans were issued against lane violations and 1,21,148 challans were issued against the use of unauthorized fancy/improper lights to the drivers of HTVs. Furthermore, stern implementation of the law was also exercised through utilization of all enforcement tools including impounding of vehicles, initiation of legal proceedings and cancellation/ suspension of route permit / driving license. Besides, strict enforcement, regular briefing of the road users/ general public was also being carried out through on-road briefing officers and Zonal /Sector Mobile Education Units (MEUs) for their through sensitization.

CDA chief inspects construction of low cost housing project

Excavation of 26 blocks has been carried out. Raft has been prepared in 2 blocks and steel cage for columns has been developed for 22 block. While lean in 24 blocks has been carried out

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman, CDA and DG FWO visited the Low Cost Housing project in Alipur Farash being carried out by CDA in collaboration with NAPHDA and inspected the ongoing construction work on the project being executed thru FWO. The Chairman, CDA was briefed that ground work has started for construction of these flats for low income citizen. It was informed that total 2400 flats are being constructed under this project. Out of which 400 flats have been reserved for rehabilitating dwellers of Katchi Abadies. Excavation of 26 blocks has been carried out. Raft has been prepared in 2 blocks and steel cage for columns has been developed for 22 block. While lean in 24 blocks has been carried out. Moreover earth work for road is being carried out.



While wall of more than 60% of site is already completed Chairman CDA whilst expressing satisfaction over the pace of the project, hoped that the pace of the work would gain further pace and project will be completed in stipulated time. A comprehensive logistic plan has been devised for early completion of the project. It was also informed that currently 1000 work force is deployed and shortly the number will swell to 3000 to 4000 work force which will not only help in completion of project in time but will also create employment opportunities. On-site Laboratory has been established inside the project to test the quality of the construction material, which will help not only test material used in construction but will also save time. Earlier the chairman and dg two planet a tree at the site to increase the green area of the project site.

NHMP issues 25,000 driving licences

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Highway and Motorway Police (NHMP), Driving Licencing Authority (DLA) had issued 25,000 driving licenses to those who have passed the driving test. NHMP had established a licencing authority with the aim to raise the standards of licencing in the country. The NHMP had started issuing modern credible drivers licences of international standards. NHMP driving licences were issued after the applicants qualify the theoretical and practical driving tests. The theoretical test assessed the knowledge of traffic laws/ rules of the candidate while the practical test examined his or her practical expertise. The authority had been compiled a practical test guidebook to help the applicants prepare better for the tests. The NHMP Driving Licencing Authority was the only driving licencing authority in the country which was remained open for the public on weekends from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, said a statement. Motorway Police helpline (130) had been made toll-free to ensure immediate assistance.

AIOU to hold prize distribution ceremony

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: AIOU has celebrated Independence Day with patriotic zeal and zest to keep its tradition alive. However, the Independence Day celebrations were unique in the sense that these were not only limited to August 14, 2021 but the entire month of August witnessed a diverse range of activities exhibiting a deep sense of patriotism and recognition of real value of independence. The wide range of activities included consciousness raising walks, special seminars, competitions of patriotic songs, speeches, quiz competitions, paintings and essay writing competitions which not only highlighted significance of freedom but also commemorated sacrifices made by the leaders and

masses during the freedom fighting movement to achieve an independent homeland for the Muslims of Indo Pak Subcontinent. The Directorate of Students Advisory and Counseling Services is organizing prize distribution ceremony to award cash prizes to the winners of these competitions on October 12, 2021 in the university auditorium. Rana Tariq Javed, Director, Directorate of Students Advisory and Counseling Services informed that all the position holders have been informed to participate in the ceremony via SMS, telephone calls and emails. Prof Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum will preside over the session while deans, principal officers and academia and employees have been invited to attend the ceremony. A documentary based on August celebrations will also be presented for the audience.

RCCI pays rich tribute to Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) paid rich tribute to renowned nuclear scientist, Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan. RCCI President Nadeem Rauf has expressed deep sorrow over the demise of eminent nuclear scientist Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan. In a statement, he said that Dr. Qadeer was undoubtedly a national hero and Pakistan's business community is grieved on the loss of Mohsin e Pakistan. RCCI President Nadeem Rauf, group Leader Sohail Altaf, former presidents and other officials attended the funeral of eminent scientist Dr Qadeer. "We are saddened by the demise of Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan and his death is a

great tragedy for the country", he said. Nadeem Rauf also expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed that Allah Almighty keep the deceased in His

mercy and encourage his family to bear this trauma. Group leader Sohail Altaf said Dr. Qadeer played an important role in making Pakistan's defense invincible. He has the status of

a national icon, he added. Pakistan will forever honour his services to the nation. The business community and the nation is heavily indebted to him for his contributions, he said.



EPA seals 9 brick kilns, 27 stone crushers

RAWALPINDI: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Sunday sealed nine brick kilns and 27 stone crushers on the charges of polluting the environment in its drive against violation of standard operating procedure (SOPs) regarding smog control. The team comprising EPA Deputy Director Muhammad Rafique, inspectors Inamul Haq, Maqbool Hussain, Amanullah and Ata Muhammad while taking action against polluting vehicles, brick kilns and stone crushers in various parts of the district checked 62 stone crushers in the areas of Taxila, Wah Cantt and sealed 27 besides registering First Information Reports against them. The teams checked 73 brick kilns in the areas of Gujjar Khan, Girja and Dhok Hamida and sealed nine while EPA teams inspected 18 hospitals and sealed two for not following the SOPs regarding disposal of hospital and clinical waste. The teams also checked 887 vehicles and challaned 155 which were emitting smoke beyond the prescribed limits of Punjab Environmental Quality Standards and imposed a fine amounting Rs 101,500. — APP

NPO to organize webinar on 'Production, Planning & Control'

Planning and control are essential ingredients of success, it ensures optimum utilization of production capacity

ISLAMABAD: The National Productivity Organization (NPO) would organize an on-line session on "Production, Planning, and Control" on Tuesday, October 12. The training program will impart knowledge on production planning and control which is a work process and involves the organization and planning of the manufacturing process and improves efficiency, coordination, and leverages the production, according to an official document. Planning and control are essential ingredients of success, it ensures optimum utilization of production capacity.

In this course applicant will learn the basic concepts of production, manufacturing, selection of systems for optimizing inventory, and production management, it added. The objective of the session is to equip top-line executives with the latest management tools to understand the norms of production management, methods of capacity planning, use quantitative methods of making better decisions as managers, effectively utilize various tools and techniques to improve the products and services in a production environment. This training would provide

information about introduction to production management, process selection and capacity planning, layout planning, cycle time calculation, line balancing, overall effective equipment, material requirement planning, setting production targets, productivity measurements, and work order planning and costing. The session would be attended by Production Managers, Inventory Managers, Supply Chain Managers, Store Managers, Material Managers, Production Executives, Schedulers, Production Planners, and Executive Member of the Planning department. — APP

Satrang exhibition "Tasawvr" in full swing

ISLAMABAD: Satrang Art Gallery exhibition titled "Tasawvr" is in full swing featuring artwork of Aakif Suri, Irfan Hasan, Noor Ali Chaghani and Suleman Khiji. Founder Director Satrang Gallery Asma Rashid Khan said "Tasawvr" which means to form or to imagine, considers the artists' versions of the portrait and the re-occurrence and use of it in their larger oeuvre. She said the exhibition also analysis the impact of the portrait and its importance or continued relevance. Asma said each of the artists in this exhibition has explored and incorporated the concept of portraiture in their own way, blurring the boundaries between reality and fiction, form and foundation and perhaps most importantly between individual and community. — DNA

Pakistan Post launches a variety of new special mail

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Post has launched a variety of new special mail and financial services which were running in competition with private courier services. According to Pakistan Post, the hallmarks of these premier postal services were cheaper rates, high efficiency and widest network etc. Pakistan Post having coun-

try wide network where others simply cannot reach provides efficient, cost effective, secures products and services to the people and organizations. The postal service was also offering special package for bulk mailers for delivery of utility bills, mails, delivery of packages and parcels and urgent mail services. Urgent Mail Service (UMS) a fast and reliable delivery network covers 214 destinations of the country.

Industrialists demand a new industrial estate in the region to boost exports



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Islamabad Industrial Association (IIA) led by its President Sheikh Tariq Sadiq visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry and discussed the importance of the establishment of a new industrial estate in the region to boost industrialization, investment and exports. Mian Akram Farid Chairman Founder Group, Khalid Javed, Mian Shaikat Masud, Sheikh

Amir Waheed, Nasir Khan, Muhammad Ahmed, Nasir Qureshi, Karim Aziz Malik, Abdul Rehman Khan, Ch. Mukhtar Ahmed, Shaikat Ali Sheikh, Umar Farooq, Usman Khalid, Shaikat Hayat Khan, Muhammad Ali Mirza, Malik Sohail Hussain and others were in the delegation. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President and Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI were also present at the occasion. Addressing the delegation, Muhammad Shakeel Munir,

President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that about 1200 industries are working in Islamabad region including steel, marble, flour mills, pharmaceuticals, IT & light engineering, chemicals & soap, edible oil, cement, furniture etc. and there is a dire need of a new industrial estate in the region to set up more industries as the existing three industrial estates in the region have insufficient space for new industries and expanding existing industries. Due

to this situation, potential investors are shifting to other regions. He urged that the government should cooperate with ICCI and IIA for the establishment of an industrial zone in the region that would help in promoting industrialization, employment creation, investment promotion and tax revenue generation for the government. Mian Akram Farid, Chairman, Founder Group and Sheikh Tariq Sadiq, President, Islamabad Industrial Association said that ICCI

has been making efforts since long with the federal government, CDA and recently with RDA, but this important project could not be materialized as yet. They urged that the government should cooperate with ICCI and IIA to realize this important project that would help promote regional trade and exports. They further said that the government should announce a special incentives package for industries on the pattern of construction package to accelerate industrialization in the country that would bring multiple benefits to the economy. It would also attract more FDI and foreign companies to Pakistan with technology transfer for JVs. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President, Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI, Khalid Javed, Mian Shaikat Masud, Sheikh Amir Waheed, Nasir Khan and other members of delegation emphasized that the government should allow duty free import of industrial machinery to upgrade the domestic industries for producing value added products that would help boost exports significantly.

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IIOJK violence

THE Indian government would like for the world to move on from the Kashmir issue. But its actions there all but ensure that the occupied region keeps featuring in the news for all the wrong reasons. Indian Illegally Occupied Kashmir (IIOK) continues to suffer under the oppressive siege laid by the Indian security forces.

In recent times, even with the curfew in full force—as it has been for over two years now—the Indian government has attempted to open up the region to Indian tourists and to Hindu families for settlement. The irony of the Indian government opening up IIOK for tourists but not its inhabitants should not be missed.

This is no different than the Israeli settlements forcibly occupying Palestine, and has naturally been met by a violent reaction. These 'migrants' have been attacked by a new generation of freedom fighters; those that India has bred through years of murders, pellet attacks and arrests on innocent citizens at the hands of the state.

This is not all. The Swedish parliament will soon be debating the human rights situation in the occupied territory, alongside its continuous militarisation by the Indian armed forces.

The Indian government is the only party to blame in this situation. It has created resentment and strife among various religious communities in the country by pitting them against one another and marginalising Muslims wherever possible. In IIOK, this repression has taken a more dangerous shape. The complete eradication of any political outlet has also all but ensured that violence is the only option for Kashmiris to strive for their rights. It is only natural to see inhabitants of the valley react in whatever way possible.

The use of violence is never the answer, especially when there is a political solution available. If the Indian government tries to forcibly adjust the demography of the region and subjugate the population, there is bound to be a reaction. It is time that the state-sponsored violence in IIOK ends. Otherwise, the Indian government will only deprive more generations of normal lives and also open up its majority to bouts of communal violence.



Right to clean environment

A potentially ground-breaking development occurred in the global fight against climate change. On Friday, the UN Human Rights Council passed a resolution recognising access to a clean and healthy environment as a fundamental right.

What is the impact of this move? It must be remembered that this resolution passed by the UNHRC is not legally binding—it only has persuasive authority. Considering that a binding deal and international pressure could not stop a superpower like the US from unilaterally backing out of a climate-change deal shows that resolutions and votes in the UN, apart from the Security Council, can only have limited power. Secondly, it must be noted that there are currently 47 members in the UNHRC, elected for staggered three-year terms. This means that the resolution was not voted on by some major countries, like the US which is not in the UNHRC this term. However, there is still quite a lot of symbolic importance of this resolution which must not be undermined. Firstly a successful vote has diplomatic power nonetheless. This resolution can serve as a path for the global community to lead the conversation towards climate change. It can also help in drafting guidelines and strengthening the case for many civil rights activists in pursuing pro-environment policies in their regions. Lawyers involved in climate litigation say it could help them build arguments in cases involving the environment and human rights. This is the first step and if built on, it could lead to more binding decisions in the International Court of Justice or with other international organisations. Secondly, there have been some surprising successful powerful votes—that of Britain for example, which was persuaded to change its vote to a yes. Countries' votes are powerful tools, which their citizens can use to challenge their leaders to follow through.

Tens of thousands of people from every corner of the globe are now preparing to gather in Glasgow for a two-week United Nations summit on slowing climate change. This resolution must be leveraged to obtain concessions from world powers to do more on curbing climate change.

The US considerations and Taliban's victory

Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Pakistan's had already fragile relationship with the West and is now to more doubtful as the Taliban take control of Afghanistan. The Taliban government will encourage the Pakistani Taliban and various Islamist militant groups in Pakistan that may destabilize the border area

PAKISTAN was a leading American ally in the war against al-Qaeda and Taliban in Afghanistan. It has amassed tens of billions of dollars in the shape of aid from America over the past two decades. Washington admitting that more and more cash has long gone into informal treasuries of Pakistanis. This relationship between the two states started after 9/11 because of their own needs and interests. At the very least, the Afghan Taliban that turned into fighting against the United States was the production of Pakistan, which cultivated the Taliban and protected their property inside Pakistan during the struggle.

Pakistan's had already fragile relationship with the West and is now to more doubtful as the Taliban take control of Afghanistan. The Taliban government will encourage the Pakistani Taliban and various Islamist militant groups in Pakistan that may destabilize the border area. The relationship of Pakistan and the United States are already in decline. To keep an eye on Pakistan's nuclear weapons activities, the Americans now have a little or no chance of dealing with Pakistan. On the other hand, Pakistan believes that Afghanistan has been strategically facilitating its opponent India, which is its concern. Bruce Riddle, a former South Asia adviser to the Bush and Obama administrations, once said that the United States advised India to assist US aid program in Afghanistan. Former President Barack Obama visited India in 2015 but he clearly boycotted Pakistan and Pakistan was disappointed about their attitude.

The former CIA Chief for South and Southwest Asia says relations between Pakistanis and the Haqqanis have become simpler and more important for the Taliban's victory. He also claimed that Pakistani military leader Qamar Javed Bajwa and ISI Chief Hamid Faiz had met Haqqani group. In addition, Haqqani's circle of relatives has long lived in

areas under Pakistan's administration along the Afghan border. Bajwa is constantly being forced by the United States to arrest Khalil Haqqani and other Haqqani leaders but Bajwa has repeatedly said, 'Tell us where they are. "You just have to come to my office and we will go to use the helicopter and will pick them up. In addition, Pakistani police had been patrolling outside the compound where US forces killed Osama bin Laden on May 5, 2011 in Abbottabad. He added that Pakistan's border areas, especially inside Quetta, there are homes for Afghan refugees and their families, wounded fighters were treated in the occasional shelters in hospitals in big cities like Karachi and Peshawar. The Taliban emerged in 1994 amid unrest following the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan in 1989. They used brutal public punishments to enforce their rules, including flogging and mass executions. Here's more about their stories and their files of their leaders.

They are the principled leaders of the Taliban, the boys who have spent years fleeing, hiding, in prison and dodging American drones. Little is known about them or how they intend to govern, including that they will be as tolerant as they claim to be. Find out how the Taliban restored power to Afghanistan for months, and find out how their vision enabled them to do so.

The last time Taliban banned girls and women from getting more jobs or going to school. Afghan girls have made great strides since the Taliban was overthrown, but now they are worried about leaving the country. Taliban officials are trying to reassure the girls that things may be different, but there are signs that in at least a few areas, they have begun re-enforcing their antique order. The United States has invaded Afghanistan in the past 20 years in response to terrorism, and there have been fears that al Qaeda and various radical businesses will

find safe havens there again. Mr Douglas London has said ISI generally kept its fighters out of the real conflict, fearing they might be caught in Afghanistan and leave Americans a smoking gun. Taliban are also provided property by Pakistan that enhanced their global standing. Taliban leader Abdul Ghani Baradar, with a Pakistani passport and traveled for peace talks in Doha, Qatar, and has met with Foreign Minister Wang Yi in the Chinese city of Tianjin. "The Afghan Taliban can no longer live where they are. This would have forced the Americans to end their support for Pakistan and this in turn would have led to Pakistan blocking American war supplies from passing through Pakistan, increasing the cost of the war.

The bin Laden raid fueled long-standing fears within the Pakistani military that the Americans wanted to dismantle Pakistan's nuclear arsenal and would rape Pakistani territory to do so. Despite strained relations, the United States continues to work with Pakistan through the Department of Energy to help ensure the security of weapons and fissile material, said Toby Dalton, co-director of the country's nuclear policy program. Until now, Pakistan is active in the United States alliances but Pakistan is also a long-standing partner of China and will continue to grow at the same pace in coming days because Beijing and Islamabad call themselves "close to the lips and the teeth" - is investing heavily in Pakistani infrastructure. Beijing is also happy to see Americans pulling out of Afghanistan and ready to step in Afghanistan with One Belt One Road project. According to Sajin Gohil, director of international security at the Asia-Pacific Foundation in London, China relies on Pakistan as a facilitator in Afghanistan. The Chinese seem confident that they can get more security guarantees from the Taliban due to their bilateral relations with Pakistan.

Reducing Middle East tensions

James M. Dorsey

To be sure, women in Iran enjoy education rights and populate universities. They can occupy senior positions in business and government even if Iran remains a patriarchal society. However, the ban on women in stadia, coupled with the chador, the head to foot covering of women, has come to dominate the perception of Iran's gender policies

TWO separate developments involving improved relations between Sunni and Shiite Muslims and women's sporting rights demonstrate major shifts in how rivalry for leadership of the Muslim world and competition to define Islam in the 21st century is playing out in a world in which Middle Eastern states can no longer depend on the United States coming to their defence. The developments fit into a regional effort by conservative, status quo states, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt; and proponents of different forms of political Islam, Iran, Turkey, and Qatar; to manage rather than resolve their differences in a bid to ensure that they do not spin out of control. The efforts have had the greatest success with the lifting in January of a 3.5-year-long Saudi-UAE-Egyptian-led diplomatic and economic boycott of Qatar. The reconciliation moves also signal the pressure

on Middle Eastern players in what amounts to a battle for the soul of Islam to change perceptions of the region as being wracked by civil wars, sectarian tensions, extremism, jihadism, and autocracy. Altering that perception is key to the successful implementation of plans to diversify oil and gas export dependent economies in the Gulf, develop resource-poor countries in the region, tackle an economic crisis in Turkey, and enable Iran to cope with crippling US sanctions.

Finally, these developments are also the harbinger of the next phase in the competition for religious soft power and leadership of the Muslim world. In a break with the past decade, lofty declarations extolling Islam's embrace of tolerance, pluralism and respect for others' rights that are not followed up by deeds no longer cut ice. Similarly, proponents of socially conservative expressions of political Islam need to be seen as adopting degrees of moderation that so far have been the preserve of their rivals who prefer the geopolitical status quo ante.

That next phase of the battle is being shaped not only by doubts among US allies in the Middle East about the reliability of the United States as a security guarantor, reinforced by America's withdrawal from Afghanistan. It is also being informed by a realisation that neither China nor Russia can (or will) attempt to replace the US defence umbrella in the Gulf.

The battles' shifting playing field is further being determined by setbacks suffered by political Islam starting with the 2013 military coup that toppled Mohammed Morsi, a Muslim Brother and Egypt's first and only democratically elected president and brutally decimated the Muslim Brotherhood. More recently, political Islamists suffered a stunning electoral defeat in Morocco and witnessed the autocratic takeover of power in Tunisia by President Kais Saied.

A just published survey of Tunisian public opinion showed 45 percent of those polled blaming Rachid Ghannouchi, the leader of the Islamist Ennahada party, for the country's crisis and 66 percent saying they had no confidence in the party.

The Middle East's rivalries and shifting sands lend added significance to a planned visit in the coming weeks to Najaf, an Iraqi citadel of Shiite Muslim learning and home of 91-year-old Shiite religious authority, Grand Ayatollah Ali Al-Sistani, by Ahmed

El-Tayeb, the grand imam of Al-Azhar, Sunni Islam's foremost historic educational institution.

The visit takes place against the backdrop of Iraqi-mediated talks between Saudi Arabia and Iran, the two major centres of Islam's two main strands, that are aimed at dialling down tensions between them that reverberate throughout the Muslim world. The talks are likely to help the two regional powers manage rather than resolve their differences.

The rivalry was long marked by Saudi-inspired, religiously-cloaked anti-Shiite rhetoric and violence in a limited number of cases and Iranian concerns about the country's Sunni minority and its opting for a strategy centred on Shiite Muslim proxies in third countries and support for the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Implicit in Saudi and Iranian sectarianism was the perception of Shiite minorities in Saudi Arabia and other Sunni majority countries, and Sunnis in Iran and Iraq after the 2003 toppling of Saddam Hussein, as fifth wheels of the other.

Imam El-Tayeb's visit, a signal of improvement in long-strained Egyptian-Iraqi relations, as well as a possible later meeting between the Sunni cleric, a Shiite cleric other than Ayatollah Al-Sistani who is too old and fragile to travel, and Pope Francis, are intended to put sectarianism on the backburner. Ayatollah Al-Sistani met with the pope during his visit to Iraq in March.

The visit takes on added significance in the wake of this week's suicide bombing of a Hazara Shiite mosque in the northern Afghan city of Kunduz that killed at least 50 people and wounded 100 others. The South Asian affiliate of the Islamic State, Islamic State-Khorasan, claimed responsibility for the attack, the worst since the Taliban came to power in August. It was likely designed to fuel tension between the Sunni Muslim group and the Hazara who account for 20 percent of the Afghan population.

Imam El-Tayeb's travel to Najaf is likely to be followed by a visit by Mohamed al-Issa, secretary-general of the Saudi-dominated Muslim World League. The League was long a prime vehicle for the propagation of anti-Shiite Saudi ultra-conservatism. Since coming to office, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has recast the League as a tool to project his vaguely defined notion of a state-controlled 'moderate' Islam that is tolerant and pluralistic.

In a similar vein, hard-line Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi took many by surprise by allowing women into Tehran's Azadi Stadium to attend this month's World Cup qualifier between Iran and South Korea. Iran is the only country to ban women from attending men's sporting events. It was unclear whether the move was a one-off measure or signalled a loosening or lifting of the ban.

Mr Raisi was believed to see it as a way to rally domestic support and improve the Islamic republic's image as much in China and Russia as in the West. No doubt, Mr. Raisi will have noted that China and Russia have joined the United States, Europe, and others in pressuring the Taliban in Afghanistan to recognize women's rights.

To be sure, women in Iran enjoy education rights and populate universities. They can occupy senior positions in business and government even if Iran remains a patriarchal society. However, the ban on women in stadia, coupled with the chador, the head to foot covering of women, has come to dominate the perception of Iran's gender policies.

Allowing women to attend the World Cup qualifier suggests a degree of flexibility on Mr. Raisi's part. During his presidential campaign Mr. Raisi argued that granting women access to stadiums would not solve their problems.

It also demonstrates that the government, with hardliners in control of all branches, can shave off sharp edges of its Islamic rule far easier than reformists like Mr. Raisi's predecessor, Hassan Rouhani, were able to do.

The question is whether that is Mr. Raisi's intention. Mr. Raisi may be testing the waters with this month's soccer match, only time will tell.

It may be too big a leap in the immediate future but, like Imam El-Tayeb's visit to Najaf, it indicates that the dialling down of regional tensions puts a greater premium on soft power which in turn builds up pressure for less harsh expressions of religion. A podcast version of this story is available on Soundcloud, iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher, TuneIn, Speaker, Pocket Casts, Tumblr, Podbean, Audible, Patreon and Castbox.

Dr. James M. Dorsey is an award-winning journalist and scholar and a Senior Fellow at the National University of Singapore's Middle East Institute.

Briefs

SP end National T20 Cup campaign

LAHORE: Southern Punjab have ended their National T20 Cup campaign with an 11-run win over Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) in the 27th match of the National T20 Cup.

While defending 194, SP restricted KP to 182/6 in 20 overs. KP moved to the third spot after this loss with one match remaining. Earlier, SP posted 193/6 after KP opted to bowl first. Tayyab Tahir was SP's mainstay as he smashed 78 off 48 balls, powered by eight fours and three sixes.

Azam Khan and skipper Aamer Yamin later starred with a quick-fire 25 and 24 respectively. KP's Imran Khan and Niaz Khan bagged two wicket each.

KP lost three wickets early in the chase, however, Kamran Gulam and Nabi Gul put them back into the game.

SP put extra pressure on KP and eventually partnership was broken by Yamin by rattling Kamran's stumps. Kamran scored 33-ball 46 while Nabi made 31-ball 54. KP's captain Iftikhar tried to produce heroics but it was too much to ask for. He remained not out on 33. Mohammad Ilyas with his pace bagged two wickets. — APP

Ramiz for introducing foreign coaches

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ramiz Raja has told local players about introducing foreign coaches in domestic cricket.

Ramiz met domestic cricketers where he briefed them about his vision. The coaches and managers of the teams and other support staff members were not part of the meeting.

"My doors are always open to all young cricketers. I have come here not as chairman PCB but as a cricketer. Ramiz's message to cricketers. Ramiz assured players of taking all possible steps to improve domestic cricket. "Your paycheck will increase further in the coming days. We will take all possible steps to improve the performance of the players and the quality of the game."

"We will also bring in foreign coaches to improve the quality of first-class cricket," he added.

The former captain also answered the players' questions. "Convince yourself with hard work, no shortcuts. Fitness is very important in modern cricket," he maintained.

ICC announces prize money for T20 WC

WEB DESK

DUBAI: The winners of the 2021 ICC Men's T20 World Cup will be awarded prize money of \$1.6 million while the runners-up will take home \$800,000. The two losing semi-finalists will be rewarded a prize money of \$400,000 each.

Overall, a sum of \$5.6 million will be allocated for the tournament which will be shared by all the 16 participating teams.

The ICC will also continue to award a bonus amount for every win during the Super 12 stage of the tournament, as was the case during the 2016 edition of the tournament. The victors during all the 30 matches during the Super 12 stage will take home an amount of \$40,000 — amounting to a total pot of \$1,200,000.

The teams which get knocked out in the Super 12 stage will be awarded \$70,000 each, amounting to a total sum of \$560,000. The same set-up is in place to reward teams during their Round 1 victories, where again, they will be rewarded \$40,000 during the 12 matches during the stage, totalling \$480,000. The four teams which get knocked out during round one will get \$40,000 each from an overall prize pool of \$160,000.

UNHCR: World must urgently provide aid to Afghanistan

"The humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan remains really dire," Babar Baloch, spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said in an interview

AGENCIES

GENEVA: Only 35% of \$600 million needed for humanitarian operations in Afghanistan is provided by international donors, despite promises made in Geneva. The world should urgently provide promised aid to Afghanistan, the UN refugee agency said on Saturday, warning that a lack of resources is hampering efforts to avert an economic crisis that could push fresh flows of refugees to its neighbours and beyond.

"The humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan remains really dire," Babar Baloch, spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said in an interview in Islamabad.

"The focus has to be inside Afghanistan to avoid and avert another refugee crisis."

Since the Taliban took over Afghanistan on August 15, the country — already struggling with drought and severe poverty from decades

of war — has seen its economy all but collapse.

Most of the nation's international assistance has been cut off, though there are exceptions for humanitarian aid. Billions of dollars in central bank assets held abroad have also been frozen, which has put pressure on the banking system.

The total needed for humanitarian operations in Afghanistan in the next few months is \$600 million, Baloch said, and only 35% of that had been provided by international donors, despite promises at a recent conference in Geneva where donors pledged more than \$1 billion in aid.

"Those pledges have to turn into reality, the cash has to be there for us to step in and support...Afghans," he said.

Baloch added there were new challenges since the collapse of the government and the takeover of the country by the Taliban administration. The lack of commercial flights meant supplies needed to be taken



in on special flights or by road.

He said a humanitarian hub had been set up in Uzbekistan to fly in supplies which were then driven across the border into northern Afghanistan.

UN agencies are engaging with members of the Taliban administration, he said, adding there were some positive signs but one key issue was ensuring female local staff were able to get back to work in all parts of the country.

Earlier, Filippo Grandi urged donor nations to hon-

our their financial pledges swiftly, saying: "can you please concretely pledge support where it is immediately necessary".

"Pledges were made, so it's a matter of disbursing them because we need those resources quickly," Grandi, who visited Afghanistan after the August 15 takeover by the Taliban, told a news conference.

Mindful that winter — which is harsh in the mountainous and predominantly rural country — is approaching, he spoke of a "race against time to address humanitar-

ian needs". "The meltdown of services — the banking system, the economy — really risks generating a much bigger humanitarian crisis," he said. On September 17, just over a month after the fall of Kabul, a ministerial conference in Geneva chaired by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres saw donor countries pledge \$1.2 billion in aid.

But it was unclear how much of this amount was going into the \$606 million specifically requested by the UN to finance humanitarian aid for 11 million Afghans by the end of 2021. Grandi said only 35 percent of this amount had been disbursed to date. And of the 300 million requested by his organisation, the UNHCR, only 18 percent had been received.

He said UN agencies such as the World Health Organization, the World Food Programme and the UN Children's Fund UNICEF had infrastructure in place in Afghanistan. Grandi also urged countries

to continue development aid for a nation which, before the Taliban took power, was heavily dependent on such assistance.

"The Taliban are not a recognised government, so how to interact for development agencies will be more complicated than humanitarian agencies but I do hope that a solution is found," he said.

"Unless that is found, I foresee a bigger humanitarian crisis. I foresee massive displacement, for sure."

The European Union's top diplomat Josep Borrell meanwhile Friday urged the bloc to take in "between 10,000 and 20,000 more" Afghan refugees.

Borrell told a forum in Madrid that some 22,000 Afghans were in the EU after being evacuated from their country.

The EU said Thursday a demand by Grandi to take in 42,500 Afghan refugees over five years could be achieved — although any decision would lie with its member states.

Italy edge Belgium 2-1 to finish third in Nations League

SPORTS DESK

TURIN: Nicolò Barella's thunderous strike and a penalty converted by Domenico Berardi earned hosts Italy a 2-1 victory over Belgium on Sunday and third place in this year's Nations League. It offered some consolation for the European champions, whose semi-final loss to Spain in Milan on Wednesday ended their record 37-match unbeaten run. They returned to winning ways as Barella volleyed a poor corner clearance into the net one minute into the second half and Berardi added the second from the spot in the 65th minute, after Timothy Castagne had brought down the tricky Federico Chiesa.

Belgium claimed a consolation in the 86th minute when substitute Charles De Ketelaere finished off a quick counter-attack.

Belgium, who were without Eden Hazard and Romelu Lukaku and only brought on Kevin De Bruyne in the second half, hit the woodwork three times but were outplayed for large portions



of the contest by the hosts at the Juventus Stadium. Early chances for Berardi and Giacomo Raspadori were dealt with by the Belgian defence before Alexis Saelemaekers, who plays in Serie A with AC Milan, slammed a shot against the Italian crossbar in the 28th minute.

But immediately after the break, the Belgians fell be-

hind to Barella's snap effort, cleanly hit after a clearing header from a corner fell perfectly into his path. Michy Batshuayi then had an effort come back off the woodwork as Belgium came close to a 60th minute equaliser but fell 2-0 behind when Castagne mistimed a tackle on Chiesa to offer Italy a chance to extend their lead from the penalty spot.

Berardi's kick squeezed past Belgium goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois. Toby Alderweireld then proved an unlikely attacking threat with two efforts that brought out fine stops from Italy's goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma before Yannick Carrasco smashed a curling shot against the Italian post in the final 10 minutes.

Medvedev moves forward at Indian Wells

AGENCIES

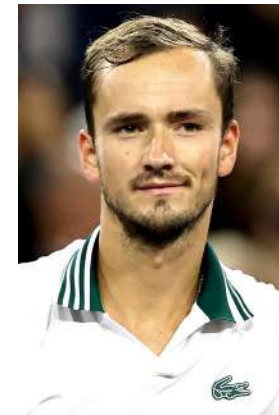
LOS ANGELES: US Open champion Daniil Medvedev made a smooth return to ATP action Saturday, downing American Mackenzie McDonald 6-4, 6-2 to reach the third round at Indian Wells.

The second-ranked Russian — the top men's seed in the combined WTA and ATP Masters hard court tournament — played his first ATP match since capturing his maiden Grand Slam title at Flushing Meadows — where he denied Novak Djokovic a rare calendar Grand Slam sweep.

Since then, Medvedev helped Team Europe beat Team World at the Laver Cup, and kept things rolling with a convincing win over 57th-ranked McDonald.

Medvedev didn't face a break point, and converted three of his seven break chances against the American to wrap things up in 72 minutes.

"I'm actually really pleased, because usually I haven't played well in Indian Wells and I haven't been playing



that well in practices before (the tournament)," said Medvedev, who was 3-3 in prior appearances in the California desert.

"Mackenzie is a really strong opponent, he can put pressure on everybody," he added. "I'm happy to be through quite fast."

Medvedev booked a third-round meeting with Serbian Filip Krajinovic, who pulled off a 7-6 (7/2), 7-5 winner over American Marcos Giron. Russian fourth seed Andrey Rublev also advanced, beating Spain's Carlos Taberner 6-3, 6-4.

Father of Pak nuclear bomb AQ Khan dies

FROM PAGE 01

Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, Minister of State for Information Farrukh Habib, Minister for Education Shafiqat Mahmood and others expressed their deep grief and condolences.

Dr Khan's Namaz-e-Janaza was offered at Faisal Mosque on Sunday afternoon.

Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, was born on April 1, 1936, in Bhopal, India. He became a national hero and was held in high esteem in the Muslim world after Pakistan conducted its nuclear tests during May 1998 in a befitting response to earlier tests performed by India.

After developing nuclear deterrence, Pakistan emerged as the sole nuclear power in the Muslim world. The achievement also enabled Pakistan to counter Indian growing aggression.

In 1960, Dr Khan graduated from the University of Karachi. Later, he pursued his studies abroad, in the West Berlin and then in Netherlands, from where he received a master's degree in metallurgy in 1967. During 1972, he earned a doctorate in metallurgical engineering from the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium.

Dr Khan was a recipient of Nishan-e-Imtiaz and Hilal-e-Imtiaz as the highest acknowledgement for his meritorious services to the nation and country.

Indonesian Batik...

FROM PAGE 01

with the spirit of transmitting values and inspiring innovative ideas and skill development in creative mediums and fashion industry and would be an opportunity for the art & design enthusiasts to inspire their aesthetics talent.

Batik is among the most recognizable manifestations of Indonesia's cultural heritage and it is one of the world's most treasured arts. Batik is an ancient method of decorating textiles through dye resistance. Boosted by the dynamic development of aesthetics and technology its fascinating and intricate colorful eye catching designs are becoming even more widespread and appreciated worldwide especially in fashion whether it is traditional or modern.

Batik by all means has the potential to serve as a powerful medium to enhance cultural linkages between Indonesia and Pakistan.

Batik has also been added to the Representative List of UNESCO's World Intangible Cultural Heritage by recognizing Indonesia as the origin and home to this exclusive art form and an historical fabric of human civilization.

PM Imran Khan terms...

FROM PAGE 01

The prime minister said that the only way to put Pakistan on the way to progress is to follow the sunnah of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) in letter and spirit.

"It is my belief that the country cannot progress without following the true teachings of Islam because certain things have crept into the Pakistani society to stop it from advancing," PM Imran Khan said.

Providing the examples of the West and China, the premier said that countries therein adopted principles of fairness and justice which led to their success.

PM Imran Khan also said that many people in Pakistan readily adopt western values without knowing their repercussions.

Talking about sexual crimes against women and children, he said that a governmental probe into the horrific incidents of paedophilia in Kasur revealed that such vices crept into society through Hollywood and Bollywood.

"Unfortunately, whenever vulgarity is condemned, certain liberal factions of society start making noise," he said.

PM Khan also announced the establishment of a Rehmatul-Hil-Alameen Authority in the country to ensure the implementation of the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) in society.

"I will supervise the authority myself and will decide how to impart the teachings of the Holy Prophet to children and adults alike," the premier said, adding that the government has already started searching for a chairman to head the authority.

More matches decided in Inter-School Cricket

PESHAWAR: Several matches decided in School Cricket Championship organized by Pakistan Cricket Board and Directorate General Sports and Education Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa being played on 68 different venues across the province.

Teams from 300 different schools, more than 4,000 players, 585 matches are being played at 68 different venues in the province with number of matches have been decided. The matches are being played at various sports grounds in the province.

A match was played between Government High School Tarajaba and Government High School Rasha Kai in which GHS Tarajaba team scored 269 runs in the allotted 30 overs while opener Ishtiaq scored 56 and Waheed scored 54 runs. Aftab took 3 wickets while Mohammad Ilyas and Mohammad Halal took 2 wickets each for GHS Rasha Kai. In reply, GHS Rasha Kai's entire team piled up 138 runs. In which Sahil Shah remained prominent batsman with 25 runs. Samiullah and Shahid of GHS Tarajaba took three wickets each. — APP

UK to resettle teenage Afghan women footballers

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: Dozens of Afghan girls with promising football careers, who fled the Taliban, have been told they can come to the UK to be resettled, along with their families.

The 35-member squad — aged 13-19 — fled Kabul last month and have been staying for the past few weeks in a hotel in Pakistan, where their temporary visas were due to expire on Monday.

"We are working to finalise visas to the Afghan Women's Development Team and look forward to welcoming them to the UK shortly," a UK government spokesman said.

The girls faced having to return to Afghanistan if another country had not accepted them.

"This is fantastic news, and we are most grateful to Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Home Secretary Priti Patel for this life-saving decision," said Siu-Anne Marie Gill, CEO of the ROKIT Foundation, which supported their escape. "I'm absolutely thrilled

for them to have a second chance at life," said the chairman of the foundation, Jonathan Kendrick, who financed the operation to get them on buses out of Afghanistan and to stay in Lahore. "This is a whole new world they are taking on and I'm sure with the football community supportive to their plight, they will settle in and be able to experience all of the joys life gives."

Ms Gill told the BBC the girls had become extremely nervous about what would happen to them, but were now hugely relieved. She

said they would come to the UK in two to three weeks. Leeds United and Chelsea are among a number of British football clubs who have promised to support them in the UK.

The young squad members have all been through an extraordinary ordeal. Most of them are from Herat in western Afghanistan and had made their way to Kabul when the Western airlift started, staying in safe houses. "Seventy percent of them had received death threats," said Ms Gill. "They were terrified."

'Best of era' Fury hailed after Wilder classic

SPORTS DESK

LAS VEGAS: Tyson Fury believes he is the greatest heavyweight of his era after producing a scintillating display to beat Deontay Wilder in a boxing classic on Saturday.

The 33-year-old undefeated Englishman recovered from two knockdowns against the hard-hitting Wilder before knocking out the American in the 11th round to retain his WBC crown. "I know I'm the greatest heavyweight of my era, without doubt. Number one," Fury said following an epic battle at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas.

"I've fought the most devastating puncher in the history of our sport, not once, not twice, but three times." At a towering 6ft 9in tall and weighing in at 277lbs, Fury is unarguably one of the biggest heavyweight champions of all time.

Icons of the heavyweight division like Muhammad Ali or Joe Frazier would be giving away massive advantages in height and weight in any theoretical match-up with the reigning champion.

Fury was initially reluctant on Saturday to rank his chances against



past greats. "I don't like competing with fighters from the past because it's fantasy, not reality," he said. "I can only beat the best of my day. And I've done that. I'm the

best fighter in my era." However, he later could not resist comparing himself favorably to the greatest heavyweights to have graced the division.

"There's been so many of them, so many great champions," he said. "Without sounding too clever, I place myself at the top of the pile. I believe I can beat any man in his

era, any man." Saturday's thriller meanwhile left many at ringside struggling to think of a better heavyweight contest in boxing history.

"Listen, I've been in this business 57 years promoting fights and I truly have to say I have never seen a heavyweight fight as magnificent as this," said Fury's US promoter Bob Arum, who promoted 27 of Muhammad Ali's fights including the 1975 classic "Thrilla in Manila" against Joe Frazier.

Frank Warren, Fury's veteran English promoter, said Saturday's bout was "boxing history."

"It's the best live heavyweight fight I've seen," Warren said. "It was just amazing. Two warriors and just so absorbing. Tyson is the standout heavyweight of his generation."

"I have seen him box better. But the heart and the bravery he showed tonight were just amazing. Boxing should be proud of what he did tonight."

Fury, who now plans to take a break from the sport before contemplating a potential unification fight with WBA, IBF and WBO champion Oleksandr Usyk, or British rival Anthony Joshua, insisted he had never felt in danger against Wilder.

Briefs

PIA to expand charter flights to UK, Europe

DNA

KARACHI: The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has decided to expand its charter flights operation for the UK and European Union countries.

Keeping in view the recent lifting of restrictions on Pakistani travellers by the UK government, the PIA has sought bids from the charter aircraft companies to boost its flights operations to Britain and Europe, an airline spokesman on Saturday.

The PIA sought the service for charter flights for six months - from November 2021 to April 2022. The charter aircraft company must have International Air Transport Association's (IATA) operational audit operator certificate.

The PIA needs 250-seater planes for the charter service. According to the PIA, charter flights will be operated to London, Manchester, Birmingham, Paris and Milan from Islamabad and Lahore.

The PIA was operating charter flights as an alternative to keep running its flight operation after a ban on the airline's flights in the UK and Europe and European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), the PIA spokesman said, adding the new charter flights will facilitate the travellers as well as boost the revenue for the airline. On Friday, UK had ended quarantine restriction for the passengers arriving from Pakistan to the country with UK-approved vaccine.

The passengers who had received Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine doses are exempted from the self-isolation after arriving in UK from Pakistan.

Gunmen kill 19 traders in Nigeria market raid

KANO: Gunmen from gangs of cattle thieves and kidnapers have opened fire on a market in northwest Nigeria, killing at least 19 people, officials and local residents said Sunday. Northwest and central Nigeria are plagued by criminal gangs of cattle thieves and kidnapers for ransom called bandits, who raid villages, killing and abducting residents as well as looting and burning homes.

The gangs have been targeting schools where they abduct students. Officials and local residents said the gunmen Friday raided a market in Ungwan Lalle village in Sabon Birni district of Sokoto state, near the border with Niger. "They attacked the market in the afternoon, killing 19 people," said Aminu Al-Mustapha Gobir, a local lawmaker representing the district in the Sokoto parliament.

Several people injured in the attack were taken to a hospital in Sabon Birni town, said Gobir, who attended the funeral of two of the victims in the state capital Sokoto. - APP

No solution in UK govt talks with industry

LONDON: The British government and industry are still trying to solve an energy crisis that bosses have warned could shut down production in a matter of days, business secretary Kwasi Kwarteng said on Sunday.

Faced with spiking global energy prices driven by fears over high winter bills, Kwarteng told broadcaster Sky News there was no plan so far for heavy industry, but added he was "very confident" in the resilience of the UK's energy supply. "I can't promise anything as yet," Kwarteng said. "I can't come on your programme and say that we're going to have a price cap, because we're trying to work out what the nature of that support might be." Heavy industry bosses in sectors like ceramics, paper and steel manufacturing have called for a price cap, but talks with government on Friday failed to reach a solution. - APP

Taiwan leader says island will not bow to China

The two sides have been ruled separately since the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949

AGENCIES

TAIPEI: Taiwan will not bow to pressure by Beijing and will defend its democratic way of life, President Tsai Ing-wen said Sunday, following a spike in incursions by Chinese warplanes into its air defence zone.

Self-governed Taiwan's 23 million people live under the constant threat of invasion by authoritarian China, which views the island as its territory and has vowed to one day seize it, by force if necessary. "The more we achieve, the greater the pressure we face from China," Tsai said in a speech marking Taiwan's National Day, adding: "No body can force Taiwan to take the path China has laid out for us." She described Taiwan as "standing on democracy's first line of defence".

"We hope for an easing of... rela-

tions (with Beijing) and will not act rashly, but there should be absolutely no illusions that the Taiwanese people will bow to pressure," she added.

The two sides have been ruled separately since the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949.

Tensions have risen to their highest in decades under Chinese President Xi Jinping, who broke off official communication with Taipei following Tsai's election five years ago and ramped up economic, diplomatic and military pressure.

The latest flare-up has been a surge in flights by Chinese fighter jets and nuclear-capable bombers into Taiwan's air defence identification zone (ADIZ).

Some 150 sorties were made into the zone in the days surrounding China's own National Day on 1 October - a record number.

Xi has made taking Taiwan a key goal of his leadership which he

looks set to extend to a third term in 2022.

On Saturday, he declared in a speech that "the complete reunification of our country will be and can be realised".

He said he favoured "peaceful reunification" but his words come after months of increased military threats, including the recent surge in air incursions as well as heavily publicised military drills simulating an invasion of Taiwan.

Last year, there were a record 380 sorties. There have already been more than 600 this year.

The ADIZ is not the same as Taiwan's territorial airspace. It includes a far greater area that overlaps with part of China's own air defence identification zone and even includes some of the mainland.

Tsai, who has won two elections, is loathed by Beijing because she regards Taiwan as an "already inde-

pendent" country, not part of "one China".

But she has also made no move to declare formal independence, something Beijing has long warned would be a "red line" that would trigger an invasion.

She has also made offers for talks with Beijing that have been rejected.

During Sunday's speech, Tsai reiterated her call for Beijing "to engage in dialogue on the basis of parity" and said she supported maintaining the current status quo between the two neighbours.

But she warned what happens to Taiwan would have major regional and global repercussions. "Every step we take will influence our world's future direction, and our world's future direction will likewise affect the future of Taiwan itself," she said.

Polling shows the vast majority of Taiwanese have no desire to be

ruled by Beijing.

Most favour maintaining the status quo although there is a growing Taiwanese nationalist sentiment, especially among younger people. China's crackdown in Hong Kong, a city Beijing said would be a model for how it would rule Taiwan, has also done little to endear Taiwanese to assurances that their way of life would continue under communist party rule.

"As a Taiwanese I don't think we can accept (reunification), just look at what happened in Hong Kong," Hung Chen-lun, who came with his two children to watch Sunday's National Day celebrations, told AFP. Chan Yun-ching, another spectator, said many Taiwanese simply felt helpless.

"Reunification now is not appropriate. But we are in no position to declare independence because the international community will not recognise us. It's useless," he said.



BAKU: Baku Zoo was opened after reconstruction. President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva attended the opening. - DNA

PHMA for duty-free cotton yarn import from India

DNA

KARACHI: The Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PHMA) on Sunday asked the government to abolish custom duty and regulatory duty on import of cotton yarn, besides allowing its arrival from all land routes including India, as cotton yarn is the major raw material of the value-added knitwear export industry.

PHMA Central Chairman Shahzad Azam Khan observed that the value-added garment and home textile exporters are facing severest ever shortage of cotton

yarn which is basic raw material. If the cotton yarn is available in the country it is of substandard quality, he said and added that the export orders of value-added textile goods are available but the exporters are reluctant to materialize these orders in view of ongoing crisis of cotton yarn. In this scenario, such export orders meant for Pakistan can be diverted to other regional countries, he warned. Presently, the value-added knitwear exports have been increasing which indicates that the demand of cotton yarn by the exporters has also been increasing.

Only vaccinated pilgrims allowed to perform Umrah

ISLAMABAD: The Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah had announced that only fully vaccinated pilgrims with two doses would be allowed to apply for the permit for performing Umrah and prayer at the Grand Mosque in Makkah starting from Sunday. The same condition would apply for the application of a permit to visit the Rawdah Sharif and the grave of the Prophet (peace be upon him) at the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah. The ministry clarified that categories exempted from taking vaccinations, as shown by Tawakkalna application, would not be affected by the rule, Saudi Gazette reported.

The ministry asked all those who had been issued permits to take the second dose 48 hours before the date of the permit to avoid cancellation.

It's worth mentioning that appointments were available at the vaccination centers throughout the Kingdom, the report said. The ministry said that

the categories of pilgrims who had taken one dose of vaccine or recovered from infection would no longer enjoy the right to book an appointment to obtain permit for performing Umrah and prayer at the Grand Mosque besides for the visit of the Rawdah Sharif and the grave of the Prophet (pbuh) at the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah through the Eatmarna and Tawakkalna applications. The ministry indicated that all precautionary and preventive measures related to the pandemic were subject to continuous evaluation by the Public Health Authority (Weqaya), according to the developments in the epidemiological situation. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health had announced that the health status on the Tawakkalna application would be updated effective after Oct. 10 and under which the status of immunization would be given only for those people who had completed vaccination. - APP

CPEC power project in Sindh Making progress: Nong Rong Sound safety SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) at the construction site are strictly followed, the safety of all staff at the site is fully ensured

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) power project in Sindh province was making steady progress.

According to Gwadar Pro on Sunday the envoy appreciated the work on the Thar Energy Limited (TEL) Power Plant under CPEC.

"Good news that the TEL 330MW Power Plant Project in Thar Block II is making steady progress by joint efforts of both Chinese and Pakistani staff," he tweeted with pictures of the project.

The envoy added: "Sound safety SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) at the construction site are strictly followed, the safety of all staff at the site is fully ensured."

The TEL power plant is a 330MW mine-mouth lignite-fired power project being

built by Thar Energy, which is owned by Hub Power Company (Hubco), China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC), and Fauji Fertilizer Company (FFC). The TEL power plant will supply electricity to the national grid under a 30-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).

Two more coal-fired power plants named Engro Thar Block II power plant and ThaNova are also being developed in Thar Block II.

The Engro Thar Block II power plant is a coal-fired power station in the Tharparkar district, Sindh. It is Pakistan's first power plant to use the indigenous coal reserves of Thar. The 660MW power plant, which is part of CPEC, is developed by Engro Powergen Thar (EPTL), a joint venture of Engro Powergen (EPL), China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC), Habib Bank, and Liberty Mills.

Construction on the Engro



Thar Block II power plant commenced in April 2016. Trial operations at the plant began in July 2018 while commercial operations began in July 2019.

The coal-fired subcritical power plant is located 5 kilometres away from Thar Block II near Thar coalfields in Sindh province. It consists of two 330MW subcritical units, which integrate circulating fluidised bed (CFB) boilers, tandem compound steam turbine units, and generators.

CFB is an ideal option for the low-calorific-value Thar lignite coal. It helps to regulate the plant's environmental footprint by reducing nitrogen oxide emissions and capturing sulphur oxides.

The 20kV, 50Hz, three-phase intercooled generators feature a hydrogen-cooled rotor and stator core, as well as water-cooled rotor windings.

The power plant is also equipped with associated equipment and systems such as cyclones, air pre-heaters, and water walls. Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) supplies approximately 3.8 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of coal for the coal-fired power plant from a new opencast mine.

SECMC is a joint venture (JV) by the Government of Sindh (GoS) and Engro Powergen (EPGL). The JV was formed to extract the coal reserves available at the seventh biggest coal mine site in the Thar Desert in Sindh province.

Harmonization of GST to improve tax collection: FEBR

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Friends of Economic and Business Reforms (FEBR) on Sunday said that the launching of single portal for filing of tax returns will cut the compliance cost for the taxpayers and help increase Pakistan's rating on Ease-of-Doing Index, asking the FEBR to also invite the detailed input from Provincial Revenue Authorities for development of single sales tax portal acceptable to all, besides also developing a standardized income tax return format, in consultation with the business community.

FEBR President and LCCI former vice president Kashif Anwar appreciated the government's resolve to implement the much-needed single portal for filing sales tax returns, as harmonization of general sales tax on services and goods among the federating units to enhance revenue collection ratio.

There is an urgent need of reforming and simplifying the taxation system with the consultation of real stakeholders, besides addressing the issue of double taxation through integration of provincial and federal government laws and harmonization of FBR and Punjab Revenue Authority.

FEBR President hailed the recent decision of the National Tax Council (NTC) to develop the portal, calling it the right decisions in the right direction for harmonization, involving agreement between the federal government and the provinces to apply the same rates for general sales tax (GST) on goods and services.

He suggested that taxes should be charged one time by any provincial or federal government, as provinces levy same kind of tax which the federal government has already imposed, escalating the cost of production and discouraging the registered manufacturers.

Pakistani expats send US \$ 2.7bln remittances

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Saturday said the overseas Pakistanis had sent US \$ 2.7 billion remittances in September (2021), registering growth of 16.9 per cent over the same month last year.

In a tweet, he said overall remittances in the first quarter of current Fiscal Year (2021-22) were stood at US \$ eight billion. The remittances grew by 12.5 per cent in the first quarter compared to the corresponding period last year.

Turkish red crescent sends aid to Afghanistan

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: Turkish Red Crescent, in collaboration with Pakistan Red Crescent Society and Pak-Afghan Cooperation Forum has sent a Humanitarian Relief convoy of 33 tons of food aid to Afghanistan.

The food relief sent would be provided to 16,000 people for a month, said a press release.

Humanitarian Relief was handed over by Ibrahim Carlos Camilo, Head of Turkish Red Crescent delegation to Pakistan, Obaid Ullah Khan, Pakistan Red Crescent Society Joint Director Operations and officials from the Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Torkham Border for further distribution to the most needy people in our neighboring country, Afghanistan.

Turkish Red Crescent thanked all the stakeholders including Pak-Afghan Cooperation Forum and the Government of Pakistan who facilitated the crossover of the Humanitarian Convoy. Half a million people have been displaced in Afghanistan in recent months, according to UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, a number which would grow if health services, schools and the economy break down.

Biden and Xi have a chance to reframe relationship

ANDREW HAMMOND

PERHAPS the most important remaining meeting in international relations this year is neither the G20 summit or the COP 26 climate conference, but the newly announced encounter between Joe Biden and Xi Jinping. Since Biden's inauguration the US and Chinese leaders have spoken only twice, in February and September, in what has been a frosty start to their relationship. A key question is whether the third Biden-Xi session may presage a thaw in ties as part of an ongoing effort to responsibly manage the competition between the countries. In support of this claim, Biden said last week that he and Xi had discussed Taiwan, where China has stepped up its military maneuvers. The US president says Beijing agreed to "abide by the Taiwan agreement, and we made it clear that I don't think he should be doing anything other than abiding by it."

Biden appeared to be referring to Washington's longstanding "one China" policy under which it recognizes China, diplomatically, rather than Taiwan. However, this agreement also allows Washington to maintain a robust unofficial relationship with Taipei, selling arms as part of the Taiwan Relations Act which states that the US must help the island defend itself.

That aside, expectations around the meeting are already being played down, but it will nevertheless set the tone for the world's most critical bilateral relationship for at



least the remaining three years of Biden's term of office. This is because, while economic and security fundamentals will largely determine the course of ties in coming years, personal chemistry could also be key. The importance of this personal factor was shown during the Trump era when the US president's erratic nature accentuated the natural volatility in ties. During the Obama years, by contrast, when Biden was vice president, the fact that relations remained generally cordial reflected, in significant part, the commitment of Xi Jinping and Barack Obama to bilateral stability.

While Biden was a key part of the Obama team, he knows that the dynamics of the relationship have changed significantly since then. This is not just because of the controversies of the pandemic, and the extra

uncertainty injected by Trump. Many of China's policies that the US finds troubling, including Hong Kong and the South China Sea, were a feature of the Obama era too. And the Obama team's constructive engagement with China did not produce many of the longer-term desired results in terms of shaping Beijing's behavior.

Both sides will put these issues on the table when Biden and Xi meet, with the goal of forestalling significant further tensions. The inbuilt hazards in the US-China landscape that could cause tensions in coming years include legislation requiring the US Commerce Secretary to deliver a "Report on Chinese Investment" in the US to Congress and the Committee on Foreign Investment every two years up to 2026. It singles out Chinese investment as a security threat,

and homes in on Beijing's "Made in China 2015" plan. This law, and others, sowed the seeds for potential future strife, with the Chinese Defense Ministry asserting that they "abound in Cold War thinking, exaggerates the level of the China-US confrontation ... undermine the atmosphere of development of China-US military ties, and damage China-US mutual trust and cooperation."

With the two sides far apart on many key issues, the meeting is an opportunity to size each other up and gauge intent. This is true just as much for Beijing as for Washington, as Xi tries to get a better sense of what Biden's election means for relations. For all of the new US president's indications that he might row back some of Trump's overt hostility to China, he has yet to reverse any of his predecessor's key policies.

Amid all the (mainly security-related) disagreements, what remains unclear is the extent to which the Biden team may seek to work with Beijing in areas where there are clearly defined common interests, such as climate change. Tackling global warming is a key political priority of both nations, both before and after November's COP 26.

If measures in such areas can be agreed, it would show that US relations with Beijing need not inevitably head in a direction of greater tension. Instead, it may yet indicate that there is still potential to evolve a strategic partnership to underpin a renewed basis for relations in the post-pandemic era.

- ARAB NEWS

Briefs

Czech PM meets ailing president after election defeat

AGENCIES

PRAGUE: Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis met the country's president on Sunday, with the populist billionaire hoping to hold on to power despite a narrow election defeat at the hands of a centre-right alliance. Babis, a long-time political ally of President Milos Zeman, on Saturday lost the cliffhanger vote to the Together alliance which is ready to form a majority government with another grouping. But Zeman made it clear earlier that he would appoint the head of a party, not an alliance, following the election, suggesting Babis would get the first attempt at negotiating a viable cabinet.

"I can't see many reasons why he would do something else," Tomas Lebeda, an analyst at Palacky University in the eastern Czech city of Olomouc, told AFP. Zeman received Babis in his residence outside Prague, Czech television reported. Another meeting between the two is scheduled for Wednesday.

"We'll see what the president will say," Babis said as he conceded defeat on Saturday. The president cast his ballot in the residence because of poor health, with Czech media suggesting he has serious liver problems. Zeman's office has been secretive about his illness, giving no details for weeks. The Together alliance of the right-wing Civic Democrats, the centre-right TOP 09 and the centrist Christian Democrats won 27.79 percent of the vote, while Babis's ANO party earned 27.13 percent.

Power restored in Lebanon, officials say

WEB DESK

BEIRUT: Power has been restored in Lebanon, officials say, after a 24-hour shutdown of the country's energy supply. The energy ministry says the central bank has granted it \$100m (£73m) of credit to buy fuel and keep its power stations operating. The power grid shut down yesterday and officials said it was unlikely to restart for several days. For the past 18 months Lebanon has endured an economic crisis and extreme fuel shortages. That crisis has left half its population in poverty, crippled its currency and sparked major demonstrations against politicians. A lack of foreign currency has made it hard to pay overseas energy suppliers.

Russian plane crashes killing 16

MONITORING DESK

MOSCOW: An L-410 plane crashed near a city in Tatarstan region on Sunday, killing 16 people and injuring seven, the RIA news agency cited the emergency services as saying. The plane had been carrying a group of parachute jumpers on board, the Emergencies Ministry said, according to the TASS news agency. Seven people were pulled alive from the wreckage, it said. The plane was a Let L-410 Turbolet, which is a twin-engine short-range transport aircraft. Russian aviation safety standards have improved in recent years but accidents, especially involving aging planes in far-flung regions, are not uncommon. An aging Antonov An-26 transport plane crashed in the Russian far east last month killing six people. All 28 people on board an Antonov An-26 twin-engine turboprop died in a crash in Kamchatka in July.

Envoy lauds Pakistan's 'peace building' efforts in Yemen

Pakistan is a peace loving country and is progressing at a good pace says Ambassador Motahar Alashabi

MONITORING REPORT

ISLAMABAD, Ambassador of Yemen to Pakistan Mohammed Motahar Alashabi on Sunday termed Pakistan 'a peace loving country' and appreciated its 'peace building' efforts in Yemen. "Pakistan is a peace loving country and is progressing at a good pace," the envoy said in an exclusive interview with News and Current Affairs Channel of Radio Pakistan. MotaharAlashabi said his country and Pakistan were intertwined in shared bonds of religion, culture and values, enjoying 'excellent' brotherly relations. He said Yemen and Pakistan established diplomatic relations in 1981 by establishing their respective embassies in Islamabad and Sana'a. Both countries shared views on important regional and

international issues of concern, besides reciprocating each other at various world forums, he added.

He said around three hundred Yemeni students were studying at various institutions of higher learning in Pakistan as part of bilateral cooperation.

Referring to trade potential between the two countries, MotaharAlashabi said the volume of commerce between Yemen and Pakistan needed much to be desired and could be enhanced in the years to come.

He said Pakistan exported food items like wheat, rice, cereals as well as leather and medical goods to Yemen. The ambassador said Pakistan was blessed with scenic and historic places with lot of potential in tourism. Commenting on the conflict raging in Yemen for the last seven years, he said the ordinary people were paying



the price of power struggle between warring groups. Criticizing the Houthi rebels, he said the militant group was perpetrating conflict against the legitimate government of Yemen and wanted to rule the country by force. He said the group had been part of various negotiations but resorted to violence to

achieve their political objectives. Mentioning diplomatic efforts at various levels to stop war in his country, the Ambassador said the government of Yemen had supported peace initiatives and participated in various international forums to defuse the situation. It also tried to start a national dia-

logue for peace.

MotaharAlashabi said their main concern was to stop the violence and killing as majority of Yemenis were tired of the war.

The Yemeni ambassador said the rebels were not sparing even mosques, homes and businesses of ordinary people in this war. He said there were also incidents of enforced disappearances and other crimes against civilians committed by the rebels.

Appreciating the role of Saudi Arabia, the ambassador said Riyadh had been providing food and other essential supplies to Yemeni people but the most of it did not reach to them due to blockade by rebels.

He said Saudi Arabian government was also taking steps to bring down the conflict, but the militant group in Yemen was not sincere in stopping it.

As regards to rapproche-

ment between Saudi Arabia and Iran lately, especially the meeting held in Baghdad in recent weeks, he said the Yemeni government hoped that few positive result would come out of these negotiations.

He said Yemeni government believed that the United Nations and international community would play their role in bringing peace in Yemen and the region.

"The only solution is the complete stoppage of war and holding of peace talks. In 2014 we were about to have referendum and elections and new system to solve all our problems, but unfortunately it could not lateralize due to intransigence of Houthis," he maintained.

He said the only viable solution of Yemeni conflict was to stop the war and holding elections to give democracy a chance to flourish in the country.

PIA plane makes emergency landing in Bulgaria

DNA

ISLAMABAD, A Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) plane flying from Paris to Islamabad made an emergency landing at a Bulgaria airport after a woman passenger suffered a heart attack during the flight.

The woman passenger fell unconscious after the heart attack and the pilot after declaring emergency landed his plane at the nearest airport.

The woman was rushed to a hospital after the PIA plane was landed at Bulgaria's Sofia International Airport. According to a PIA spokesman, due to the emergency, the PIA flight got delayed by over three hours and reached Islamabad International Airport at 2:30am. The PIA is operating charter flights between Paris and Islamabad.

Thousands protest against Tunisia leader

NEWS DESK

TUNIS: Thousands of Tunisians opposing President Kais Saied's seizure of almost total power protested in the capital on Sunday as a very heavy police presence tried to stop them advancing along the central Habib Bourguiba Avenue.

A week after thousands demonstrated in support of Saied, the growing number of protesters on each side raises the possibility of Tunisia's political divisions spiraling into street confrontations between the two camps. "We will not accept the coup. Enough is enough," said Yassin ben Amor, a protester. Police blocked the march without violence, as some demonstrators threw plastic bottles. Saied dismissed the prime minister, suspended parliament and assumed executive authority in July in moves his foes call a coup. Last month he brushed aside much of the constitution, which he said he would appoint a committee to amend, adding that he could rule by decree.

His intervention has cast into doubt the democratic gains made by Tunisians during a 2011 revolution that triggered the Arab Spring uprisings. He has appointed Najla Bouden Romdhane as prime minister, but she has not yet named a government, an important precursor to any efforts to resolve Tunisia's looming crisis in public finances, though Saied said on Saturday she would do so soon.

Austrian chancellor steps down

DNA

VIENNA: Austria's Chancellor Sebastian Kurz has stepped down, after pressure triggered by a corruption scandal. He has proposed Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg as his replacement. Mr Kurz and nine others were placed under investigation after raids at a number of locations linked to his conservative People's Party (ÖVP).

He denies claims he used government money to ensure positive coverage in a tabloid newspaper. The allegations this week took his coalition government to the brink of collapse after its junior partner, the Greens, said Mr Kurz was no longer fit to be chancellor.

The Greens began talks with opposition parties, who were threatening to bring a vote of no confidence against the chancellor next week. Greens leader and Vice Chancellor Werner Kogler welcomed Mr Kurz's resignation and indicated he would be willing to work with Mr Schallenberg, saying they had a "very constructive" relationship.

Poland: Thousands expected at pro-EU rallies

FOREIGN DESK

WARSAW: Thousands of Poles are expected to rally on Sunday in defence of their country's EU membership, after Poland's top court last week issued a landmark ruling against the primacy of EU law.

The pro-EU demonstrations have been called by former EU chief Donald Tusk, now leader of the country's main opposition grouping, Civic Platform, who has warned of the prospect of a "Polexit". Tusk asked people to "defend a European Poland" after a wave of criticism against the

ruling both in Poland and from around the European Union.

"We have to save Poland, no one will do it for us," he said on Twitter.

The demonstrations are set to start at 1600 GMT. After the collapse of the Communist regime in 1989, Poland joined the EU in 2004 along with several countries in Central and Eastern Europe. EU membership remains very popular according to opinion polls but relations between Warsaw and Brussels have become strained since the populist Law and Justice (PiS) party came to power in 2015.



ISLAMABAD: To Celebrate the 70 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Thailand MOFA organized the bicycle friendship event. - DNA

UNHRC adopts first resolution prepared by Uzbekistan

WEB DESK

TASHKENT: In Geneva, during the 48th session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), a resolution was adopted on the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for the human rights of youth, initiated by Uzbekistan.

It should be noted that it received the unanimous approval of all 47 member states of the UN Human Rights Council without exception.

Following the development of the Resolution, it was supported and joined as co-sponsors by 37 states representing all regional groups existing in the UN system. Based on the text of the draft document prepared

by the National Center for Human Rights of Uzbekistan, the Permanent Mission of Uzbekistan to the UN Office in Geneva held 2 rounds of informal consultations, in which over 400 representatives from 70 countries, as well as staff of the UN Secretariat and others, took part.

During the consultations, more than 300 comments were received on the provisions of the draft document, which were grouped, classified and selected taking into account their compliance with the main idea and content developed by the Uzbek side of the draft document. In particular, special attention was paid to the exclusion of recommendations that could contradict the national legislation of Uzbekistan.

In general, thanks to targeted work, the Uzbek side managed to get the support of most countries from all continents.

In addition, as a result of the negotiations, the delegation of Uzbekistan formed the so-called "core group" of co-authors, covering almost all regional groups in the HRC.

The adoption of the resolution on the basis of consensus is proof of the widespread support of the world community for international initiatives and reform programs carried out in the country under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

The idea of developing and adopting a resolution of the UN Human Rights Council on the rights of youth during a pandemic was put forward by the country's leader at the 46th session of the HRC on 22 February 2021.

The document calls on states to create equal opportunities for young people, to assist in ensuring their rights and freedoms in the context of reducing the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The resolution also mandates a detailed study by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on ways to mitigate the impact of the global pandemic on youth rights, including identifying cases of discrimination against young people in the exercise of their human rights, including young women and girls.

The document is posted on the UN document management system in all 6 official languages.

Pak, Italy business co-op should be cemented

The Ambassador urged that Pakistani businessmen and traders should move forward and work together for promoting bilateral trade and economic ties between both the countries

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese on Sunday said the business communities of Pakistan and Italy needed to be brought closer for enhancing bilateral trade and investment cooperation. There were vast opportunities for bilateral trade and investment cooperation between Pakistan and Italy from which businessmen and traders of both the countries could reap the benefits, the Ambassador said after negotiating with the senior business leaders in Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) here. The Ambassador urged that Pakistani businessmen and traders should move forward and work together for promoting bilateral trade and economic ties between both the countries. At present, there were ample opportunities for business and investment promotion in both the countries, which required further

cooperation, he said.

He said the Italian embassy in Islamabad would make every effort to assist the local business communities and the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) in this regard. "Our embassy is ready to negotiate with local investors and businesses, especially the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to facilitate for business visas to the traders" he said.

The Italian envoy said the right businessmen and people certified by the chamber were also ready to provide visa facilitation. He said our government was taking a number of steps to enhance cooperation between the two countries. At present, business and new economic mission were being opened in all major cities including Karachi. The new economic mission had been deployed in Pakistan to further promote bilateral trade and economic cooperation in different potential areas, he said. Initially the new economic mission had been established in major cit-



ies of Pakistan including Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad, adding that later it would be expanded to other potential trade hubs to increase the economic and trade integration between Pakistan and Italy. The senior diplomat said Italy was committed to extend the cooperation of a diverse potential sector to enhance the bilateral economic and cooperation between Pakistan and Italy. A new Italian embassy was being set up in Islamabad, the work of which would be completed soon and then "We will increase the level of work in many new fields." He said after

establishing the new embassy both sides could move forward on many new aspects of mutual trade promotion and cooperation with the business community.

The Ambassador said they also need to enhance cooperation in the field of technology transfer. Whereas Andreas Ferrarese was of the view that Italy wanted to start a new era of economic and trade cooperation with Pakistan through transfer of technology and for upgradation of Pakistan's textile industry.

He said green economy, transfer of technology for the industrial sector including textiles and agro industry, construction sector, education and health were major areas of focus to extend the bilateral cooperation. The ambassador said through the green economy, Italy wanted to cooperate with Pakistan for environment protection, circular economy, resource saving and management, ecosystem protection and recovery, water conservation and natural disaster prevention.

"Our embassy in Islamabad is working hard to promote cultural cooperation in both countries." He underlined the importance of promoting cultural connectivity to promote bilateral trade.

He said he would also encourage exchange of students to further strengthen bilateral relations. More needed to be done to boost bilateral tourism between the two countries, he commented. In 2020, 13 million people came to Italy for tourism.

Economic, trade and cultural relations between Italy and Pakistan were at an all-time high stage, he commented. The Ambassador informed that Italy hosted the largest Pakistani diaspora in the European Union (EU) countries. He said there was huge trade potential in different sectors of the economy which needed to be explored and in this regard both sides were engaged in the dialogue process through the Pak-Italy Joint Economic Commission was the forum for bilateral economic engagements.