



Islamabad POST

Saturday, May 21, 2022

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UN Rights Chief to begin landmark China visit from Monday

Detailed News On Page-08

Colonna named new French Foreign Minister

Detailed News On Page-08



Zaheer takes charge as HC to Canada

Detailed News On Page-07



Briefs

FM to leave for China today

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is scheduled to visit China on May 21-22, at the special invitation of State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. This will be the Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's first bilateral visit abroad since assuming office last month. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar and senior officials will be part of the foreign minister's delegation. During the visit, the foreign minister will hold extensive consultations with State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. The two leaders will review the entire gamut of bilateral relations, with a particular focus on stronger trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and China.

Will dissolve PA on Imran Khan's order

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Speaker Punjab Assembly Parvaiz Elahi on Friday said that he was Imran Khan's candidate for Chief Minister Punjab and will dissolve the Punjab Assembly within half an hour if PTI asks him to do so. Speaking to a private news channel after ECP de-seated 25 PTI MPAs of the Punjab Assembly for voting in favour of Hamza Shahbaz, Parvaiz Elahi said Imran Khan was their leader and they would sit with Imran Khan to decide on the election of the provincial assemblies. "We will have to devise a strategy on getting a two-third majority to rule the country," he said. Speaking on the dissolution of the National Assembly, Parvaiz Elahi said that people should wait for some time for dissolution of the National Assembly and early election is now a matter of days only. Earlier, the ECP de-seated 25 PTI MPAs who voted for PML-N's Hamza Shehbaz Sharif in Punjab chief minister election.

Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday. - Editor

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ECP de-seats 25 dissident PTI MPAs

'MPAs defected from the party by voting in favour of Hamza Shahbaz,' the ECP said

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday unseated the 25 dissident members of the PTI while announcing its verdict in a case pertaining to the dissident members of the Punjab Assembly (MPAs). The ECP announced the unanimous verdict while accepting the reference - submitted by Punjab Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi - against PTI's dissident members who voted for Hamza Shahbaz in the election of Punjab chief minister. "MPAs defected from the party by voting in favour of Hamza Shahbaz," the ECP said in the verdict. In the election for the chief minister's slot on April 16, 2022, PML-N leader Hamza Shahbaz received 197 votes as opposed to the required number of 186 in the House of 371, meaning the support of PTI's dissident members was crucial for his victory. Hamza will now lose the majority as the seats of the dissident members have

ECP's decision escalates political turmoil

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Political and constitutional turmoil in the Punjab Assembly escalated after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) decided to de-seat 25 dissident members of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). In the Punjab Assembly, the numbers game has become important again and an interesting situation has been created for both parties. Punjab CM Hamza Shehbaz currently has the support of a total of 172 members and after including 5 deviant members of PML-N, the

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Long march between 25, 29 May: Imran Demands immediate dissolution of assemblies



MULTAN: PTI Chairman Imran Khan addressing a big public rally in Multan.

BUREAU REPORT

MULTAN: Former prime minister Imran Khan said on Friday that he had called a session of the PTI core committee on Sunday in Peshawar, where a final decision on the date for his long march to Islamabad will be decided. Addressing a huge rally in Multan, Imran said the march could be held on any day between May 25 and May 29. He demanded that the National Assembly be dissolved immediately and a date for elections announced, lashing out at the current government for what he said was its inability to govern the country. Since his ouster as prime minister on April 10, Imran has held a series of large public rallies across the country, terming his ouster a foreign conspiracy and urging the public to prepare for a march

to the capital to pressure the authorities into accepting his demand for immediate elections in the country. Criticising the PML-N led coalition government, Imran said "they were busy conspiring but now that they have assumed power, they must tell us why they are struggling to govern the country." "A convict is taking decisions. Sometimes they are asking the National Security Committee to hike prices," he said. The former premier said his government collected record tax, IT exports surged by 75 per cent during his tenure and Pakistan's employment rate was the highest in the entire sub-continent. "You toppled our government and now I am happy comparisons are taking place." Imran said if he did not care for the

Continued on Page 06



KARACHI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing the launching ceremony of MILGEM Class Corvette PNS Badar at Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works. - DNA

Briefing on CPEC held for ASEAN Missions

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs today hosted a briefing on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for resident diplomatic missions of ASEAN member countries. Chaired by the Additional Secretary (Asia-Pacific), the panel of briefers included senior officials of the Ministry, CPEC Authority, and the Board of Investment. In her briefing, the Additional Secretary shared the underlying vision of CPEC, which was based on Pakistan's desire for connectivity with the region

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Pak-IMF talks: Govt to withdraw subsidies

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: In a major development on the third day of negotiations between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the federal government has decided to withdraw subsidies on petroleum products and electricity before Monday, media reported, citing sources. According to sources, during the ongoing technical talks with the Fund mission in Doha, the Pakistani delegation also

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PM Shehbaz Sharif for benefiting from Turkish expertise

The Premier lauds the govt and people of Turkey for their support on Kashmir issue

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Turkish Minister for National Defence, Hulusi Akar held delegation-level talks with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Karachi Friday. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister highly appreciated the deep-rooted strategic cooperation between the two brotherly countries in all fields including shipbuilding, engineering, solid waste management and transport. He also thanked the government and people of Turkey for their unwavering support to Pakistan's stance on Kashmir issue at all international fora. The Prime Minister directed the authorities concerned to benefit from Turkish expertise and experience in all possible avenues. Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif launched MILGEM-class ship PNS Badar, which has been jointly constructed by Pakistan and Turkey. Addressing

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Turkey to boost Pak military support

NEWS DESK

ISTANBUL: Turkey will provide all support needed to strengthen Pakistan's military infrastructure, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Friday. In a video message



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No one allowed to malign armed forces

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday informed the National Assembly that maligning of armed forces, judiciary and others constitutional institutions was against the constitution and no one could be allowed to do so. Replying to various supplementary questions during Question Hour, she said the government had absolutely zero tolerance policy in that regard and it was being monitored at three levels including PTA, FIA Cyber Wing and PEM-



RA. She said three institutions dealt such issues under Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2016, she said. Marriyum Aurangzeb regretted Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) targeted various institutions through twitter and a campaign was run against the state

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan to ensure peace, stability in region: FM

FM Bilawal says ties with India 'particularly complicated' by New Delhi's abuses in Kashmir



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari says Pakistan has always played a proactive role to ensure peace and stability in the region as peaceful coexistence is one of main objectives of our foreign policy. Talking to media in New York on Friday, the Pakistani Foreign Minister said that Islamabad adopted an integrated strate-

gy to counter terrorism and formulated an effective National Action Plan to tackle extremism and terrorism in country. "As far as the question of our relationship with India is concerned, it is particularly complicated" by New Delhi's actions in Kashmir - firstly the August 5, 2019 decision to unilaterally annex Jammu and Kashmir and now the delimitation commission move aimed at turning the disputed state's Muslim majority into a minority, he told the press confer-

Pakistan, India clash at the UN

DNA

NEW YORK: Delegates of Pakistan and India got into a fresh verbal duel in the UN Security Council ministerial-level meeting on food security, after Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari denounced New Delhi's repressive actions in Occupied Kashmir, saying it is "implementing a racist policy" in the disputed territory. The Indian delegate to the UN reacted to FM Bilawal's pointed words, claiming that Kashmir is an integral part of India and accusing Pakistan of being involved in terrorism. Exercising his right of reply, Pakistan's delegate Imran Khan rejected India's claim that Jammu and Kashmir was its part. "Jammu

and Kashmir is not and has never been a part of India," Khan, a counsellor in the Pakistan mission to the UN, said, adding that any official UN map can verify that the Himalayan state is "disputed territory". "As stipulated in the Security Council resolution 47(1948), the 'final disposition' of the State of Jammu and Kashmir is to be decided by the people of Jammu & Kashmir through a fair and impartial plebiscite, to be held under UN auspices," he said. Pointing out that India had accepted the UN Security Council resolutions, but he said they remain to be implemented. "India's refusal to do so, for over seven decades now, constitutes a flagrant and continuing violation of the Security Council resolutions, of the UN Charter,

and means for countries to engage with each other and resolve disputes," the foreign minister said in reply to a question. "I just note that, particularly at the

moment, given this aggressive, hostile behaviour, the practical space for that

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Power sector being rehabilitated on war-footing



ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Federal Minister for Energy Engineer Khurram Dastgir said on Friday that work was in full swing on an emergency basis for rehabilitation of the power sector and to cope with the current situation, being faced by the sector. During his visit to FESCO Headquarters here, he hoped that receiving of RLNG [Regassified Liquefied National Gas] supply would not only improve the power supply in the country but also help overcome the power crisis. Former MNA Haji Muhammad Akram Ansari also accompanied the minister. He said that after the supply of RLNG and furnace oil from the Ministry of Petroleum, more gas would be available which would significantly reduce load-shedding period during the next

few days. He expressed satisfaction on overall performance of Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) and said that in view of the current situation, the company officers and officials would have to work harder, diligently and enthusiastically so that not only FESCO but also the power sector could overcome the difficult situation. The minister said that due to wrong policies of the former government, the current government had to face the day and load-shedding was taking place across the country due to shortage of electricity. Due to unavailability of fuel, power was not being generated as per demand and as a result, consumers were facing load management, he added. Khurram Dastgir said that the coalition government was trying its best to solve the problems being confronted by the public. He said that revenue targets of all distribution companies

were also being reviewed. "We are the public representatives and our aim is to resolve the grievances of the distribution companies and to improve their performance," he said.

He said that at present, the circular debt is about Rs 2,450 billion. When the PML-N left the government in 2018, the circular debt was only Rs 1,060 billion and at that time, the load-shedding was zero, but at present, the circular debt had doubled.

He said that an increase in temperatures was also likely to increase hydropower generation. He said that there was no balance in affairs of the previous government; had there been a balance, these problems would have not come up. He said the present government is fully aware of the plight of people and is working to alleviate it. Earlier, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) FESCO, Engr. Bashir Ahmed briefed the minister and stated that FESCO's recovery is 100% while its line losses are the lowest. He said that FESCO's distribution system had been upgraded and now FESCO's distribution system was able to carry maximum load during the summer season. He further said that FESCO had provided 256 transformer trolleys in all the subdivisions with the aim of restoring power supply immediately in case of any fault in the transformer. He said that FESCO had set up a state-of-the-art Customer Service Center for instant solution of consumer electricity related issues. Similarly, FESCO has introduced a mobile app "FESCO Light" for online information and registration of consumers' complaints, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira chairing a briefing session on Kashmir issue. - DNA

Police crackdown on criminal elements

SAQIB MUSHTAQ

LODHHRAN: Police arrested a criminal gang involved in more than 18 incidents including dacoit gang leader. DPO Abdul Rauf Babar while giving a press conference told media that arrested dacoit gang leader Ayub boy accomplice Munawar and Irshad are involved in dacoit gang from Lodhran different Police Stations. More than 18 incidents of robbery, robbery and attempted murder have been revealed in President Qureshiwala. So far, Rs. One million The arrested accused were also involved in various incidents and firing at various stores and big shops at gunpoint. The accused were residents of Jalalpur pirwala, SHO Qureshi wala Nizakat Iqbal and CIA team arrested the gang from which further revelations are expected. Abdul Rauf Babar said that protection of life and property of citizens is the first priority and crackdown against criminal elements will continue. Investigating officers should give priority to justice and merit in disposing of cases.

Marri visits gem and jewelry exhibition



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Special measures need to be taken to overturn the ongoing fiscal deficit and to propel the economic growth of Pakistan, said Federal Minister, Shazia Marri during her media talk after visiting Gem and Jewelry exhibition.

The Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri, was invited by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce to visit their exhibition regarding Gems and Jewelry held at a local hotel.

The minister visited each stall set up at the event and appreciated the fact that there were participants from all over the country exhibiting their creative talent. She mentioned that Pakistan is a rich country when

it comes to gem stones and emphasized on the fact that there should be optimal utilization of such raw materials. She was pleased that there was international representation at the exhibition as there were stalls set by participants who had come all the way from South Africa, Qatar and Afghanistan. Shazia Marri stressed on the fact that all the reservations of the business community need to be dealt with on immediate basis. The Chamber of commerce was assured that all the issues faced by the business community would be forwarded to the relevant ministry and she would personally convey business community reservations to the Prime Minister. She thanked the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce for inviting her to the esteemed exhibition and wished everyone well to work for the utmost prosperity of Pakistan.

West concerned about a new bloc in Asia

LAHORE: Talking about the recent political instability in the country, PML-Q Deputy Secretary Information Khawaja Rameez Hassan said that West is deeply concerned about the formation of a new bloc in Asia. Under the CPEC, the Road Belt Initiative is the backbone of the block connecting the cold and hot water. Promoting an atmosphere of anarchy in the country is a link in the foreign conspiracy. Decisions in the region need time to be decided in the region. He demanded that the state should play its significant role in sabotaging the foreign agenda. - DNA

AKF providing best services to the people

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Al-Khidmat Foundation is undertaking mega welfare projects but providing the facilities of boarding, lodging, health and education etc to more than nineteen thousand orphans across the country is a unique distinction of this NGO. Addressing the Eid Milan party of Al-Khid-

mat Foundation, Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) said that Al-Khidmat Foundation has extended the best services to the calamity hit people in the most transparent manner. He said that the transparency has restored the confidence of donors and they feel free to donate generously for this NGO without any hesitation. He said the taking care of nineteen thousand orphans is a major initiative out of which one thousand children

are housed only in Faisalabad. He said that he himself is affiliated with the Lion International Club which is also a leading global NGO working for the welfare of neglected segments of the society. "I am highly impressed by the working of Al-Khidmat Foundation and shall try my best to convince the business community to donate for it generously", he added. During this



الخدمت فاؤنڈیشن پاکستان
ALKHIDMAT FOUNDATION PAKISTAN

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Research conference concludes at PMC

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: The two day 15th Undergraduate Medical Research (UMR) conference organized by Peshawar Medical and Dental Colleges concluded here at PMC main campus. Student researchers from 25 medical and dental colleges across the country participated in the conference. Prof. Dr. Shoab Shafi President of the College of Physicians & Surgeons, Pakistan presided over the plenary session on the second day, while Prof. Dr. Anis Ahmad vice chancellor Riphah International University, Islamabad was the chief guest at the concluding session and gave away prizes to the winners of various research competitions, students and staff organizers of the event. Prof. Dr. Shoab Shafi appreciated the successful and uninterrupted holding of the unique event since 2007.

Coordinator EOC renews resolve for polio eradication

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Additional Secretary Health (polio) and Coordinator Emergency Operations Center Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Abdul Basit renewed resolve for polio eradication saying that the government stand committed to wiping out the scourge from the last endemic region by vaccinating every eligible child against the crippling virus of polio. He said this while kicking off May round of anti-polio drive here Friday at EOC Headquarters by administering polio and vitamin A drops to the children. Deputy Coordinator EOC, Zamin Khan, Provincial Team Lead Polio UNICEF, Dr Andrew Etsano, Technical Lead N Stop, Dr Shabnam and EPI staff were also present on the occasion. Talking to media, Abdul Basit said provincial government was taking every measures to address ground challenges specially in the southern belt of the province and ensure conducive environment to frontline workers to achieve the target of vaccination. He said that polio eradication is our national responsibility and is a matter of our children's health that needs serious and concerted ef-

orts by all stakeholders. "May round of anti-polio drive is of critical importance given the reporting of three cases from North Waziristan and presence of virus in the environment", he added. EOC Coordinator informed media that during the May campaign over 7.28 million eligible children will be vaccinated against polio for which a total of 30981 teams have been established out of which 27763 are mobile teams, 1908 fixed teams, 1161 transit and 149 roaming teams. He said that adequate measures have been taken to ensure security to the teams and over 40 thousand law enforcement agencies (LEAs) personal will be deployed in the May campaign at various plugging points and with teams. The campaign will be carried out in all districts of the province including Afghan Refugees camps from May 23, 2022, he said. "People should not adhere to anti-polio propaganda by vested elements as ensuring healthy life to children was the prime obligations of the caregivers and every responsible citizen of the country", he stated. Earlier, he administered anti-polio drops to the children to formally inaugurate the May round of polio campaign in the province.

KP-EZDMC chief visits Mohmand EZ

PESHAWAR: CEO Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC), Javed Iqbal Khattak along with CFP and Chief Physical Planning & Development (PP&D) visited Mohmand Economic Zone on Friday. Zone Manager briefed CEO about the ongoing civil works and colonisation drive. The CEO inaugurated newly constructed industrial Facilitation Office in Zone. Various issues including infrastructure work, colonization drive and access road were discussed in detail and a way forward to resolve the long outstanding issues in Zone. Mr. Nouman Nadeem from KP-EZDMC assured full support and cooperation from KP-EZDMC for providing facilitation and support to enhance the linkages between academia and industry. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Delegation of British Pakistani Forum from Birmingham UK had very fruitful meeting with Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry at Marriott hotel. - DNA

Growing inequality in Pakistan

MOHSIN ULLAH

Pakistan's economy has been hit by serious macroeconomic issues over the past few decades. However, young nation like Pakistan can restart building their policies, as we see many other nations in the region have become best performing from a low point and have achieved consistent economic growth after implementing new reforms.

It is referred to capitalism which means rich get richer and poor become poorer. This is easily said but there are many reasons, which are enabling the industrialist and business owners to grow more and exploit the opportunities they get in their way as they have more resources than most of the population. United Nations Development Program highlighted the issue of inequality, they present it as an idea of two separate Pakistanis, as one

with unlimited opportunities to take quality education, facilities of health care, and living luxurious life style and the other for the poor with no access to even the bare minimum. It is said that Pakistan's most powerful groups accumulated to the tune

demic, the 10 percent of the world acquired three quarter of the wealth in the whole world. The evidence gathered in the report over the past 40 years, governments have gone poor but nations have become richer.

"They are busy in making money through real estate. Business class needs to think as money is projected to non-productive activities, which can create, disparities' effecting the business"

of Rs 2,660 billion in 2017-2018, which is equivalent to 7% of the country's GDP". It states that income and wealth inequality is rising from 1980s. It has pointed the increasing control of wealth within few individuals, and by the Covid-19 pan-

Governments in Pakistan create Opportunities for elites to capture these opportunities. The amnesty scheme on real estate is a supreme example which has not only provided cover to untaxed income and black money but has also pro-

vided a way to the elite to increase the worth of their assets while the poor are struggling two times meal a day. The elite class in Pakistan is also responsible for neither paying proper taxes nor investing in industrialization, which can create employment for the new generation. They are busy in making money through real estate. Business class needs to think as money is projected to non-productive activities, which can create, disparities' effecting the business.

There should be creation of assets for the society's relatively less well-off classes by transparently distributing agricultural state land; launching programs to increase the availability of more productive dairy animals, making credit available to small farmers to purchase better quality livestock, and providing subsidies on livestock insurance; and developing small plots and building houses for the poor and lower middle class.

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

- MAY**
 May 03 / **Poland**
National Day
 May 06 / **Bulgaria**
Armed Forces Day
 May 06 / **UAE**
Armed Forces Day
 May 07 / **Kazakhstan**
Armed Forces Day
 May 08 / **Czech Republic**
National Day
 May 09 / **European Union**
National Day
 May 17 / **Norway**
Constitution Day
 May 21 / **Hungary**
Armed Forces Day
 May 22 / **Yemen Republic**
Re-unification Day (National Day)
 May 24 / **Eritrea**
National Day
 May 25 / **Lebanon**
Liberation and Resistance Day
 May 25 / **Argentina**
National Day
 May 25 / **Jordan**
Independence Day
 May 28 / **Azerbaijan**
Republic Day
 May 28 / **Ethiopia**
National Day
 May 31 / **Brunei**
Armed Forces Day



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 Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

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Diplomats' wives assure to play role for Women Entrepreneurs

SHUJAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Madam Albana Planeja, wife of Ambassador of Italy and Ms. Mariana Neves Pochino, wife of Ambassador of Portugal visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry to discuss matters for promoting women entrepreneurs in Pakistan. They interacted with women entrepreneurs of various sectors including IT, automobile, real estate, fashion designing, handmade products, health, education and discussed with them various options for better promotion of women entrepreneurs. Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that women are half of our total population and without bringing them in the mainstream of economy, it is not possible for Pakistan to realize its full economic potential. He said that ICCI has always been raising a strong voice for the economic empowerment of women so that they could achieve a prosperous career and play a more effective role in the economic development of the country. He briefed the wives of diplomats about the various initiatives of ICCI to promote women entrepreneurs in the region.

Ms. Fatma Azim former Senior Vice President ICCI, Dr. Afshan Malik, Irum Pirzada, Zaibun Nisa, Arifa Li-aquat, Safeena Shah, Nasira Ali, Nageena Khaleeq and others briefed the wives of diplomats about the products being produced by women entrepreneurs in the region and their potential in international market. They also highlighted the key issues being faced by the businessmen in Pakistan. They said that Pakistani women are very talented and have great potential to excel in the business field. However, lack of easy access to finance, stringent collateral requirements of banks and lack of supportive measures from the government side were major barriers for women start-ups and stressed that the government should address these issues to promote women entrepreneurs. They said that women entrepreneurs needed support to connect them with the international market and emphasized that the diplomatic sector should play a role to provide them opportunities in potential world markets. Madam Albana Planeja, wife of Ambassador of Italy and Ms. Mariana Neves Pochino, wife of Ambassador of Portugal appreciated the resilience and entrepreneurial spirit of businesswomen,



who are doing successful businesses despite many challenges. They assured that they would positively play a role for women entrepreneurs in every possible manner so that they could further grow in business and contribute more effectively towards the economic development of Pakistan. Jamsheed Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President and Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President, ICCI thanked the wives of diplomats for visiting ICCI and hoped that diplomatic sector would cooperate in promoting women entrepreneurs in Pakistan.

'Generating 60% electricity through clean energy'

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman on Friday informed the National Assembly that we have to make commitment to generate 60 per cent of electricity through clean renewable energy by 2030. Replying to various supplementary questions during Question Hour, the minister said that Pakistan had vast resources to generate clean energy. Currently 32 per cent electricity was being generated through clean while 68 per cent from other resources called dirty energy, she said. She said there were 11 coal based power plants out of which six were operational. Coal based generated energy was not environment friendly as per international standard, she added. The minister said Pakistan Clean Air Programme had been initiated to cope with the issue of pollution and improve air quality. Under the Clean Green Programme, ministries of Energy, Petroleum and Industries would work jointly, she said. She said that zigzag technology had been installed at around 20,000 brick-kilns to reduce air pollution with the assistance of foreign donors. After 18 constitution Amendment, Ministry of Climate Change had been mandated to conserve, rehabilitate and protect the environment within territorial jurisdiction of Islamabad, she said. - APP

FDI inflows down 1.6% in 10 months

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Pakistan declined to US\$1.455 billion in July-April (2021-22) compared to the FDI inflows of \$1.48 billion recorded during same period, a year ago, showing a negative growth of 1.6 per cent. On year-on-year basis, the FDI rose to US\$170.6 million in April 2022 against US\$169.0 million recorded during the same month of the preceding year, according to the data released by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Friday. The country-wise data shows that China remained the top country posting US\$355.8 million FDI during first 10 months of current fiscal year compared to the investment worth of US\$699.6 million recorded during same period of last year. United States was the second largest country with investment of US\$223.4 million during the period under review against the net investment of US\$112.7 million recorded during first 10 months of the fiscal year 2020-21. Foreign Direct Investment from Hongkong rose to \$133.9 million in during the period under review compared to the net FDI of \$127.6 million in Jul-April 2020-21. The foreign investment from Netherlands



posted a growth as it surged to US\$80.8 million compared to the FDI of US\$46.6 million during July-April 2020-21. Similarly, the FDI from Singapore witnessed a surge of 2,532 percent as it rose to \$97.4 million from mere \$3.7 million in the first 10 months of the preceding fiscal year. The FDI from Switzerland also surged to \$119.8 million from \$54.3 million and that of U.A.E. rose to \$118.2 million in Jul-April (2021-22) from \$94.3 million. Investment from Malaysia also increased from \$36.0 million last year to \$71.0 million in the corresponding period of current fiscal year. Similarly the FDI from Kuwait also rose to \$40.1 million from zero investment in same period of previous fiscal year. - APP

NEPRA holds awareness session

ISLAMABAD: As part of its "Power with Safety" drive, National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Friday organized a webinar on "Workplace Stress Management" in collaboration with Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) and K-Electric. Jawad Syed, Professor of LUMS and Muhammad Taimoor Khan, head of HSE, K-Electric shared their ideas and skills to control stress, said a press release. Chairman NEPRA, Tauseef H. Farooqi in his opening remarks, highlighted the importance of stress management given the very challenging nature of jobs in power sector and hoped that this awareness session would impart practical ideas and skills to manage stress. The webinar was attended by hundreds of HSE professionals from the entire power sector of Pakistan, as well as NEPRA officials. - APP

Students witness NA proceeding

ISLAMABAD: A group of students of postgraduate college Mansehra and National University of Modern Languages (NUMLS) on Friday visited the National Assembly and witnessed its proceedings. Deputy Speaker National Assembly Zahid Akram Durran announced their presence in the guests' gallery; parliamentarians welcomed them by thumping the desk. - APP

NAB Chairman bans transfers/postings in bureau

ISLAMABAD: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Chairman Justice Javed Iqbal on Friday immediately banned transfer/postings in anti-graft watchdog. The chairman also immediately stopped postings/transfers that have been made recently in the bureau besides directing the NAB Headquarters as well as its all regional bureaux to abide by the decision of the Supreme Court of Pakistan in true letter and spirit. - APP

Overall punctuality of trains improved by 90 percent last month

ISLAMABAD: The overall punctuality ratio of Pakistan Railways trains improved by 90 percent in last month due to untiring efforts of the management to improve facilities on tracks. "Pakistan Railways has observed 77 percent punctuality of mail and express, 100 percent in intercity and over 90 percent punctuality in the month of April," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. He said that with the punctuality of trains and concrete measures taken by the government, over 20 million passengers have been added in the system, which is an ample proof of department's achievement. "The quality of food served in the passenger trains had been improved considerably as it had been officially supervised by the authorities that passengers should get pure and quality food on the trains," he added. To a question, he said in pursuance to the policy of the Federal Government, Pakistan Railways had outsourced some of its trains under Public Private Policy (PPP). According to policy decision given by Railways Board, Ministry of Railways, the bids more than the Railways earning would be accepted, he added. The official said a number of steps had been initiated by the coalition government to rationalize and improve the affairs of Pakistan Railways including the hiring of a new Chief Finance Officer (CFO) from private sector to ensure strict financial discipline in Pakistan Railways. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio paid courtesy call to Minister of Human Rights, Mian Riaz Hussein Pirzada, at his office, on Friday. - DNA

Uzbek envoy hinted at possibility of Pak- Uzbek FTA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Aybek Arif Usmanov on Friday said that the possibility of signing a free trade agreement between Pakistan and Uzbekistan cannot be ruled out. A Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) has been signed for the promotion of bilateral liberal trade between the two countries, which has a great potential to increase bilateral trade in the future, Ambassador Aybek Arif Usmanov told APP here. The Ambassador said that a bilateral PTA and Transit Trade Agreement had been signed between Pakistan and Uzbekistan which also facilitated the movement of land trade between the two countries including trucks. He said that the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in Pakistan and Uzbekistan could play a better role in promoting bilateral trade if there was a similar trilateral agreement in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan. He said that after signing such an agreement, economic integration in Central Asia and South Asian countries would increase and regional trade also would increase. He said that regional trade is needed at this time and in regional trade we have the best examples of the European Union (EU) and Association of South East Asian

Nations (ASEAN) where regional trade and economic connectivity is the best example. Replying to a question he said that promotion of trade and trade connectivity between Pakistan and Uzbekistan and other Central Asian States is essential for regional trade. Thus, according to the government policy of the Uzbek government, region to region trade will also be promoted, which will bring the countries of the region into a common trade and economic power. The envoy said that work was underway on a railway line project between Pakistan and Uzbekistan which was being carried out by engineers and technical staff of both the countries and all the three parties including Afghanistan had agreed to implement it. The Afghan province of Mazar-e-Sharif is already connected to Uzbekistan by railway line, he said. He added that the railway link between Pakistan, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan would not only link our trade with the countries of the region but also give them access to Euro-Asian and European markets. He also said that he would like to complete all major gas pipeline projects including the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan and India (TAPI) for economic and trade integration of the countries of the region. He said that for the energy needs of Pakistan, Central Asia South Asia (CASA-1000) should be completed, which would be able to meet the energy needs. In response to another question, he said that the foundation of economic relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan was laid by former Prime Minister, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. In the past, bilateral trade was only \$20 million, which has now reached \$185 million in 2021. He said that the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) has been signed between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, which will increase bilateral trade. He said that now agreements have been signed also between the provinces and cities of Pakistan and Uzbekistan on mutual cooperation. While talking Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), annual summit of the Heads of State Council to be held in Samarkand (Uzbekistan), he said the role of Pakistan and Uzbekistan in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is of paramount importance and is a milestone in regional and global economic integration. Uzbekistan is at the center of Central Asian countries and Pakistan has its own geostrategic importance which can play a significant role in its economic and trade integration in the SCO, he said. The Ambassador said that Uzbekistan, as the chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization annual summit 2022 of the SCO Heads of State Council hoisting by on September 15-16 in Samarkand. He said that this SCO annual summit would be attended by the Heads of State and Foreign Ministers of all the member countries and economic, trade and political cooperation among the member countries would be discussed. He said that the SCO summit would have a total of 80 sessions in which 40 sessions would be of foreign ministers in which delegations of member countries would discuss issues of mutual interest. The Ambassador said that region-



Briefs

Court awards death sentence in a murder case

RAWALPINDI: Additional and Sessions Judge Masood Akhtar Kiani on Friday awarded the death sentence to an accused in a murder case. The accused, Abid Ali, was found guilty of killing a citizen in the area of the City Police station. After recording evidence of the witnesses and final arguments by the defence and prosecution, the Court also imposed a fine of Rs 400,000 on him besides giving a death sentence. The convict had killed the victim by firing over a motorcycle parking dispute in December 2020. - APP

Four more diagnosed with corona

RAWALPINDI: Four more Corona cases had been reported during the last 24 hours, raising the district's tally of confirmed cases to 46,586. According to the District Health Authority here Friday, the total infected cases included 43,080 from Rawalpindi and 3,506 from other districts. Among the news cases, three had arrived from Rawalpindi Cantonment and one from the Taxila area. "Presently, 23 confirmed patients are quarantined at homes and no one at health facilities", the report added. The report further said that 6,873,791 people, including 44,788 health workers, had jabbed themselves against the lethal coronavirus (COVID-19) across the district since the vaccination administering drive launched on March 10, 2021. District Health Authority updated that during the last 24 hours, 1,026 samples were collected, out of which 1,022 were declared negative, while the positivity rate was recorded at 0.4 per cent. - APP

IHC grants protective bail to MPA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday granted protective bail to Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI)'s member Sindh Assembly Haleem Adil Sheikh in matter pertaining to Masjid e Nabvi incident. Chief Justice Athar Minallah heard the case filed by Haleem Adil Sheikh against his possible arrest. The petitioner adopted the stance that although he was not named in the FIR regarding the incident but still there was chances of his arrest by the police. He prayed the court to stop the police from harassing and arresting him. The court granted the protective bail and instructed the petitioner to submit surety bonds. - APP

PTI govt responsible for load shedding

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal on Friday criticized the previous PTI government over the current load shedding in the country, saying the PTI had failed to procure fuel or repair power plants in a timely manner due to its incompetence. Talking to PTV News Channel, he said that the previous government had shut down the power units, which were used by our PML-N government to generate low-cost electricity, adding that now the country's situation will get better with each passing day. He lashed out at the economic policies of the PTI government and vowed that maximum efforts would be made to move the country on the path of economic growth and development. Responding to a question, he said that the government has banned the import of unnecessary and luxury items to control inflation and strengthen the economy, adding that the present government would provide maximum relief to the common man. - APP

NHM police hold awareness seminar at Agosh College

DNA

MURREE: National Highways Motorway police conducted Road safety briefing session at AGOSH COLLEGE MUREE on the topic (Road Safety is shared responsibility of community and State) incharge ROAD SAFETY WING Atif Ghafoor BHATTI along with his team highlighted the importance of road safety and emphasised on shared responsibility of community along with state to ensure traffic safety on Highways and Motorways. AZAM KHAN PRINCIPAL AGOSH COLLEGE MUREE also addressed the audience/participants



PCJCCI to establish online Pakistan-China Tech Gateway

ISLAMABAD: President of Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) Wang Zihai pledged that after the successful working of Pakistan-China Knowledge Portal, an online Pakistan-China Technology Gateway will be established soon, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro. Speaking at a think-tank session held at PCJCCI premises, he maintained that technological advancement for human resource development is the prime agenda of PCJCCI. "After the successful working of Pakistan-China Knowledge Portal, we are keen to establish an online Pakistan-China Technology Gateway," he informed. Wang Zihai elaborated that this project would be initiated with collaboration with China, and the purpose for this project would be primarily the transfer of redundant technology from China. He promised to spur the pace of technological advancement in Pakistan through Chinese cooperation.

On the occasion, Ehsan Chaudhry, Senior Vice President PCJCCI said that the acquisition of appropriate technology from China in the field of renewable energy and alternative sources of energy such as solar, nanotechnology, wind power and run of the river power plants were also included on priority. Sarfaraz Butt, Vice President PCJCCI mentioned that PCJCCI was planning to establish state-of-the-art Chinese information and material center that would be executed in two phases, he added. Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI told the audience that they will also initiate online technological courses for youth through this Pakistan-China Technology Gateway. "These courses will convey contemporary knowledge and information related to various sectors which include electronic and automotive advancement, insurance, agriculture, textiles, shoe manufacturing, chemicals, battery recycling plant and real estate advisory," he explained.

Senate body on Climate Change visits fire pickets, control room in MHNP

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change led by Senator Seemee Ezedi on Friday visited the fire control room and pickets in the Margalla Hills National Park. On the occasion, they were informed about the firefighting arrangements by the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) and the Capital Development Authority (CDA). The chairperson of the Committee was accompanied by Senator Abida Muhammad Azeem, Senator Keshoo Bai, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed who also visited two firefighting pickets at Pir Sohawa Road and Gokina top in the national park. Chairperson IWMB Rina Saeed Khan further briefed on the IWMB endeavours to protect the national park. She said the fire season started from April to June in Margallas, where pine needles, that are highly inflammable and the reason for bush fires in the national park, fall in this season. Khan said the Board had recruited 36 individuals through proper recruitment process that also included forest and firefighting staff, adding that the Board had a total of 60 staffers. "Moreover, 400 CDA fire staff and locals also chip in during firefighting efforts to put out the fire amicably". This season, she said seven fires flared up in Margalla Hills National

Park (MHNP), of which five were minor ones. The recent fire in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, that also entered into the MHNP, was severe, and was controlled by joint efforts of IWMB, CDA and the KP Forest department. "We cannot leave our pickets, as the key areas become vulnerable to man-made fires. However, strict vigilance is maintained as wildfires increase in fire season", Rina added. She informed that 90% fires were man-made in the MHNP, whereas the TikTokers involved in glamourising bushfire were taken to task, while three of them were detained and search for the remaining culprits was underway. The Board, she said had completed the inquiry and the perpetrators were tracked, where the Divisional Forest Officer Abbottabad was pursuing the case. According to Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), six months to three years imprisonment was the penalty for starting a deliberate bushfire, she told the Committee members. Senator Abida Azeem raised her concerns over serious bushfire in Balochistan's Koh-e-Sulaiman range that damaged very valuable pine trees, wildlife and birdlife. Responding to Senator Abida, Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman commented

that the fire incident occurred in the Koh-e-Sulaiman range of Balochistan was a matter of grave concern. "We cannot intervene in the matters of the provincial government, but as citizens can share our concerns on the matter". The TikToker glamourised the fire incident in KP, which was a criminal misconduct, and should be held accountable as per the law, she added. Senator Mushahid Hussain queried the Board chairperson for no use of firefighting kits by the staff and suggested that instead of makeshift arrangements, holistic, modern and well-designed gadgets should be used for firefighting. Senior IWMB Member Z.B. Mirza also explained the MHNP ecology and challenges to the Committee members. Secretary MoCC Asif Shah said the forest fires were handled manually, which was a drawback and there should be some advanced facilities as well. "We need to coordinate with KP Forest department to control such fires which can help to improve early warning mechanisms. We can use firefighting kits and improve rock climbing techniques for better response to bush fires", he suggested. Director General Environment CDA Irfan Niazi also briefed the Committee. - APP

Health minister for making Pakistan polio-free

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Health Services (NHS) Abdul Qadir Patel on Friday reiterated his commitment to make Pakistan polio-free and asked parents to play their part in making the polio campaign a success. "The entire nation should actively take part in the administration of polio vaccine to children in order to defeat the menace", he urged while speaking to the PTV news channel. He said that the role of parents had great importance in a successful anti-polio campaign, adding, that parents should administer polio drops to their children to protect them from lifelong disability. He also appreciated the efforts of workers of polio eradication teams who always reach out to children in far-flung and hard areas of the country, adding, that the safety of polio workers topmost priority of the government. The Pakistan Army and other security forces would provide their full support to polio vaccination teams in their efforts to reach out to the children in far-flung areas of the country, he mentioned. Qadir Patel also expressed his serious concern over the recent polio cases. - APP

Minister shares Eid-e-Rizwan's happiness

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Mufti Abdul Shakoor shared the happiness of Eid-e-Rizwan with Baha'i community the other day. Addressing the participants here at the auditorium of National Library of Pakistan, he said the religious festival conveyed message of peace to the masses and let the world know that Pakistan was a land of religious coexistence. He said it was a good omen that they were celebrating Eid-e-Rizwan with the same zeal and zest like every year. He said celebrating minority communities' festivals created an environment of religious harmony and a feeling of positivity in the society. The mufti said that Eid-e-Rizwan was a living evidence that all minority communities were enjoying the equal rights enshrined in the Constitution of the country. He said today, the world was confronted with sectarianism, racism and extremism which had been projecting negative sentiments in the society. The minister said it was need of the hour to put aside all the differences, and instead regard for each other's social and religious values. Appreciating the role of minorities, he said, the minorities had been playing a constructive role in the development and prosperity of the country since day one. - APP

NA Speaker, Acting Speaker condole of Asif Ali's demise

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and Acting Speaker Zahid Akram Khan Duranni have condoled the death of former Federal Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali. In their separate condolence messages to bereaved family, Speaker and Acting Speaker expressed their heartfelt grief and sorrow over the sad demise of former Minister and paid rich tribute to his political and social services. Speaker and Acting Speaker prayed Almighty Allah to rest departed soul in eternal peace and grant strength and courage to bereaved family to bear irreparable loss with equanimity. - APP



PSAI arranges Salat-ul-istasqa for rains in twin cities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The scorching summer with extreme heat waves has struck the whole country and the twin cities of Islamabad & Rawalpindi have

witnessed the highest temperature of the season and more to be seen in the days ahead. PSAI with collaboration of Aims Education System Who is known an Islamic School in town with its norms and values provide venue's to arranged a special day of Prayer for

rains i.e. Nimaz e Istasqa in Islamabad on Friday. The prayer was arranged on special appeal of private schools association Islamabad. Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, President PSAI Mr Zofran Ellahi, Chairman AIMS Almass Ayoub Sabir, Secretary General PSAI Abdul Waheed Khan, media persons prominent personalities of town were also present at this occasion. A huge gathering of all students, faculty members and entire management has participated to perform these prayers at the main campus of AES for more rains in the coming days for better crops and to battle against the water scarcity. This has always been an initiative taken by PSAI to inculcate all Islamic values in students commonly trended amongst Boys and Girls to adopt the values for a better life ahead. In the special prayer for rain (Salat-ul-istasqa) khutbah (sermon) emphasized on repentance and reliance on Allah SWT who is Merciful and magnificent.



Positive talks with IMF underway

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail said here on Friday that talks were underway with International Monetary Fund (IMF) and expressed the hope that there would be a turnaround in country's economic situation very soon. In a tweet, the federal minister said that the country's current account deficit (CAD) during the month of April has come down to \$623 million, less than half of the average for the first nine months of the fiscal year 2021-22. "The Current Account Deficit for April came in at \$623 million, less than half the average for the first 9 months of the fiscal year. This is a very good sign for external stability. With positive IMF

talks underway, we expect a turnaround in the economic situation very soon," he tweeted. The minister thanked the foreign multinationals that operate in Pakistan and pay a large amount of taxes, provide employment and bring in technology. He requested all of them to present a plan to export out of Pakistan also and offered to give them tax breaks for that. "I am truly grateful to all the foreign multinationals that operate in Pakistan, pay a large amount of taxes, provide employment and bring in technology. However I request all of them to present to me a plan to export out of Pakistan also. I will give them tax breaks for that," he tweeted. - APP

NEPRA imposes Rs 65m fine on IESCO

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Friday has imposed a fine of Rs 65 million on Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) for its negligence resulting in fatal incidents during the period from July 2019 to June 2021. The NEPRA upon receipt of reports of 39 deaths in different electrocution incidents during the aforementioned period, constituted two member Investigation Committee under Section 27A of NEPRA Act 1997 to visit the respective areas, conduct investigation, ascertain and determine the facts and possible violations of NEPRA Laws, Rules and Regulations, said a press release. The Authority has therefore, imposed a fine of Rs 65 million on IESCO. The Authority has also observed that IESCO has awarded compensation to the tune of Rs. 3.5 million to the families of its employees who lost their lives in these electrocution accidents, however, compensation of Rs. 750,000/ has been awarded to some of the families of deceased persons from the general public but not all (15 Victims). - APP

Positive side of currency devaluations

MANAHIL KHAN

Pakistan's currency is devaluing with speed losing its value against dollar since last 10 years constantly, everybody is cursing it and only looking at the bad picture of the story, but the depreciation of the currency somehow can be beneficial to stable the economy and help controlling inflation in the long run as depreciation of currency has its positive sides to if we look them from macro approach. Today 1 \$ worth approx 195 Pakistani rupee which means it will take large sum of Pakistani rupee

to buy anything which is in dollars. when any currency depreciates its goods abroad becomes cheaper and import becomes more expensive for the individuals in the country because they are more reasonable

few amount of the population will be able to purchase imported products as majority will give preference to home manufactured products because they are more reasonable

This will helps the home manufacturers and industries businesses to grow and in the long run it will create employment curb inflation and reduce poverty.

individuals who are gaining and benefiting from the appreciation of dollar against Pakistani rupee. depreciation of currency have increased the source of income for many individuals and companies such as freelancers, you tubers companies like call center who are earning in dollars and also this is motivating many other individuals to work on these platforms and earn reducing the unemployed rate in Pakistan. Everything has its positive and negative side to it but it is us who choose in which way we have to take it.

The writer is a student of Szabist

"Nigeria is an example who has succeeded in improving its balance of payments through depreciation of currency from 1961 to 2012"

cause of this depreciation of the currency can give boost to the exports of the country which will improve the situation of balance of payments of the country as the demand for imports will be reduced as only

now. On the other hand in abroad the products from Pakistan will be cheaper so the consumer over there will also prefer Pakistani products it also give rises to the tourism industry in Pakistan.

Nigeria is an example who has succeeded in improving its balance of payments through depreciation of currency from 1961 to 2012. Added to these future benefits there are many industries and

Low Covid vaccination rates

When Covid-19 first emerged, the “Hermit Kingdom” lived up to its nickname – shutting its borders in January 2020, long before most of the world had taken real heed of the disease spreading in China. With healthcare already on its knees and a malnourished population, North Korea was exceptionally badly placed to cope with any serious outbreak of illness.

For more than two years, it insisted that it had no cases whatsoever. Then, last week, it announced its first cases, of Omicron. The country’s leader, Kim Jong-un, warned of “great turmoil”. Now it has reported almost 2m cases of unspecified “fever” – probably because it can’t test for the virus – with 741,000 still being treated, and 63 deaths. Mr Kim, due to celebrate his 10th anniversary in power this year, has blamed officials for an “immature” response. But underlings can hardly be blamed. Closing the country off for so long, when it is heavily dependent on China and ordinary people were already struggling to survive, has left many in even direr straits. Yet the leadership failed to use the time to vaccinate the population, ignoring offers of doses from the Covax pooling scheme. For years, it has impoverished its people and allowed healthcare to deteriorate, while pouring money into a weapons programme, the chief function of which is to safeguard the regime. Within hours of announcing the Covid outbreak, the country had launched yet another missile test.

Since admitting the outbreak, it has stonewalled offers of help from South Korea and the World Health Organization, although it has accepted basic medical supplies from China. Not only are medicine and oxygen supplies scarce, even power is limited, with blackouts frequent.

The wealthier world should also remember that North Korea is not alone in its lack of protection. Other countries are not much better covered. The more than 12bn vaccine doses delivered globally have overwhelmingly gone to richer nations. More than 75% of people in upper- and middle-income countries have received at least two doses. For low-income countries, the figure is just 13%. Across Africa, only 16.7% have received two doses or more.

As WHO officials noted, when asked about North Korea and Eritrea – which has also snubbed offers of vaccines – unchecked transmission could spur the emergence of new variants. Though wealthier countries are far better protected, they too could still be at risk from the pandemic – or new diseases in future. Self-interest, as well as a sense of responsibility, should persuade them to do the right thing.

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The need to become an exporter

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

In a recent turn of events, the government of Pakistan banned the import of luxury and non-essential items. This step was taken to strengthen the economy and stop the devaluation of the Rupee. While the step will and may have its consequences in one form or the other – or will have a positive impact – the current scenario must be explored. While this step will reduce the country’s reliance on imports, do we have an industrial base where the same products can be manufactured? Pakistan has manufacturing zones and it has the resources to do so. The problem is that we never stood up as a country that produced goods and exported them to the world.

Imagine a country like Vietnam exporting electronic goods (2021: US\$50.8 billion); Machinery (2021: US\$38.3 billion); and footwear (2021: US\$17.8 billion). If a country like Vietnam can do it, then why are we behind? The government’s decision to ban luxury items should be seen as a blessing in disguise. The concerned ministries of the government of Pakistan should join hands, collaborate and plan the production of goods that we can export to the region and the world. Competing against China will not be fruitful and not advisable, but we can export items to the countries in South Asia, Far East Asia, the Middle East, etc. We must focus our attention on building Pakistan as a brand – at the regional and global levels.

Moreover, our freelance and tech base is evolving and attracting billions of dollars annually. We must foster a plan to create regional offices of global tech companies in Pakistan so that these tech-based initiatives can attract foreign investment into Pakistan. The government’s emergency fiscal plan should turn into a Future Economic Plan to guide the country out of its monetary and economic predicaments, so it may stand without external help.

China’s growing footprint bodes well for the Middle East

Ishtiaq Ahmad



Being a global power with global interests, China would naturally like to gain a greater foothold in strategically important regions like the Middle East.

Through the Belt and Road Initiative, China seeks to capture new markets and invest and export its surplus capital and industrial capacity. However, a key driver of China’s interest in the Middle East is to secure access to its critical energy resources and maritime trade routes, as well as seaports like Dubai, through which 60 percent of its trade bound for Europe and East Africa passes. China also has a huge stake in the region’s expanding consumer markets and its own investments in the development sector

As the US reduces its security engagement in the Middle East, China is stepping up its diplomatic and economic footprint in the region. While most Middle Eastern countries have aligned their interests with rising China for economic reasons, the pundits in Washington tend to present this development as a reflection of China’s hegemonic ambitions in the region. The evidence on the ground, however, suggests otherwise. This is clear from the nature of China’s emerging role in the Middle East and the key drivers that are shaping the contours of its strategic partnerships in the region. There is no doubt that China’s economic footprint is extensive – and increasing. It is

the outcome of proactive diplomacy by both Chinese and Middle Eastern leaders. In the past decade, President Xi Jinping and Foreign Minister Wang Yi have traveled to the region and concluded “comprehensive strategic partnerships” with Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Algeria and Egypt. China has also hosted prominent Middle Eastern officials, including the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Turkey and Iran in January. This diplomatic push has enabled China to emerge as the biggest source of foreign direct investment in the region and the largest trading partner for several countries in the Middle East, especially the Gulf Cooperation Council. Most of the Arab League member states in the Middle East and North Africa have joined China’s Belt and Road Initiative, which seeks to revive the old Silk Road by financing infrastructure development across the world. Syria and Morocco are the latest additions. The rest are waiting for the opportunity. China’s state-owned and private companies have invested close to \$250 billion in development projects in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt, Iraq, Turkey and Israel in the past two decades. These investments are operational in diverse areas such as the development of seaport and transportation facilities, industrial complexes, 5G networks, artificial intelligence, emerging technologies and renewable energy. China has also concluded a 25-year deal with Iran worth \$400 billion, but its implementation remains on paper. As for trade, a third of China’s energy imports come from the GCC countries, including the largest portion from Saudi Arabia. China also imports a fifth of Iran’s oil and half of Iraq’s oil. It is the largest trading partner of the GCC, accounting for \$180 billion in 2020. China is also the largest trading partner of Saudi Arabia, with bilateral trade growing exponentially from a mere \$3 billion in 2000 to more than \$72 billion in 2019. Being a global power with global interests, China

would naturally like to gain a greater foothold in strategically important regions like the Middle East. Through the Belt and Road Initiative, China seeks to capture new markets and invest and export its surplus capital and industrial capacity. However, a key driver of China’s interest in the Middle East is to secure access to its critical energy resources and maritime trade routes, as well as seaports like Dubai, through which 60 percent of its trade bound for Europe and East Africa passes. China also has a huge stake in the region’s expanding consumer markets and its own investments in the development sector. For their part, the Middle East’s states are responding to the opportunities of engagement with China, while simultaneously reacting to the perceived unreliability of American protection. Three factors drive their growing interest in China. First, China is the largest oil importer globally and thus a critical patron of the Middle East’s oil economy. The Gulf states, in particular, want to diversify investments and reap the benefits of rising China. They seek to develop critical infrastructure, for which Beijing provides a better alternative in terms of efficiency and productivity. China also has the technological edge in telecommunications, which is why Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the UAE have opted for Huawei’s 5G cellular network.

Second, China is a role model for economic development in the Middle East, especially the Gulf states. All of them are in the process of economic diversification away from oil and gas, as is clear from the Saudi Vision 2030 and other states’ programs. They want to emulate China’s journey to global economic power through infrastructure development and the subsequent acquisition of surplus capital and industrial capacity, which is being channeled globally through the Belt and Road Initiative. Third, China provides the Middle Eastern states with an escape from US hegemony. China adheres to the principle of noninterference and does not, therefore, link its diplomatic and economic role with issues of democracy and human rights, as the US does. That is why China enjoys a favorable public image in the region. The Arab regimes and people are also disillusioned with the US for waging imperial wars, such as in Iraq, and refusing to tackle their deadly consequences, particularly the persistent danger from Iran and its proxies. They perceive no such danger from China, which is focused on economic issues.

Hence, the question arises: Does China intend to play a security role in the Middle East or emerge as a geopolitical rival to the US? Several indicators suggest it does not.

First, even in East Asia, where China’s vital nation-

al interests lie in Taiwan and the South China Sea, it is the Biden administration’s deliberate strategy of containment that has compelled Beijing to undertake countervailing security measures. And China is a beneficiary of America’s role in protecting energy resources and maritime trade routes in the Middle East. Therefore, it would like the status quo to persist.

Second, China’s security relations with the Gulf nations are also modest and restricted to developing their indigenous defense capabilities in drone and ballistic missile technologies in the UAE and Saudi Arabia, respectively. Their respective vision programs also emphasize achieving self-sufficiency in defense production.

Third, China does not want to embroil itself in Middle Eastern conflicts. It does not invest in unstable countries. Belt and Road Initiative investments are conditioned on peace and stability in the partner nations or regions. The Arabian Gulf is stable and hence the development projects are operational. Iran is unwilling to make peace with the Arabs, meaning the long-term investments are put on hold. There is also least interest in strife-torn Syria. The region’s states are responding to the opportunities of engagement with China, while simultaneously reacting to the perceived unreliability of American protection.

Finally, on the Ukraine war, the real issue is not that China and its Middle Eastern partners are hedging their bets by being neutral, while navigating the complex ties with the US and Russia. They simply do not want to entangle themselves in a European war being driven by contested historical narratives.

Of course, if push comes to shove, China may assume responsibility for protecting energy resources and trade routes, as well as its investments and expatriate populations in the Middle East. There is no indication yet that Beijing intends to play such a role in the foreseeable future, though it has offered to share the security burden with the US. China is also lobbying for a self-sustaining regionally integrated security order, which is a perfect recipe for resolving Middle Eastern conflicts.

We can therefore safely argue that China neither seeks animosity with the US nor aspires to export illiberal values to the region. It wants safe returns on its investments so as to sustain national economic growth. This promising trend has the potential to liberate the Middle East from the catastrophic implications of the Arab Spring and American imperialism.

Ishtiaq Ahmad is a former journalist who has been vice chancellor of Sargodha University in Pakistan and Quaid-e-Azam Fellow at the University of Oxford.

Türkiye’s operation in Iraq benefits both countries

Ibrahim Karatas

The TAF cross-border preventive measures have been so effective that the number of armed PKK terrorists in the mountains has fallen below 200.

The terror group has moved outside Türkiye and rarely conducts attacks in the country. Turkish territories have never been so secure in terms of terrorist attacks. If TAF simply waited at the border, casualties would be much higher

Baghdad’s condemnation of Ankara’s latest operation is out of step with reality. On April 18, the Turkish Armed Forces (TAF) launched Claw-Lock, its latest military operation in northern Iraq, as part of its ongoing series of operations to eliminate the PKK. Tens of terrorists have been killed in the mountainous region, which is home to several PKK strongholds, including the headquarters of the terror organisation. Besides clearing the region from terrorists, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also hinted

qi government and the Arab League has been critical of Türkiye’s latest cross-border operation, arguing that it violates Iraq’s security and sovereignty.

Yet these statements show a misplaced critique on the part of those parties. Ankara’s operations work to save lives in both Türkiye and Iraq from the terrorist threat in the Qandil Mountains and ultimately support, not hurt, Iraq’s sovereignty. Turkish authorities have repeatedly underlined that Ankara’s actions are in line with Article 51 of the UN Charter, which gives the right to

use self-defensive measures in case of armed attacks. In addition, bilateral agreements between Türkiye and Iraq allow the former to conduct anti-terror operations on the latter’s territories. The PKK has launched countless attacks from Qandil Mountains, killing thousands of Turkish security staff and civilians. The attacks on Turkish lands are conducted with orders sent via radio and other methods from Iraq.

The TAF cross-border preventive measures have been so effective that the number of armed PKK terrorists in the mountains has fallen below 200. The terror group has moved outside Türkiye and rarely conducts attacks in the country. Turkish territories have never been so secure in terms of terrorist attacks. If TAF simply waited at the border, casualties would be much higher.

Turkish military bases and operations conducted in Iraq only target the terrorist organisation. If Türkiye really intended to violate Iraq’s sovereignty or occupy its territory, it would not focus on the treacherous terrain of the Qandil Mountains.

Furthermore, the Turkish army never assaulted or targeted Iraqi troops. It is not the Turkish army but the PKK – which aims to control the north of the country per its goal of creating an independent state – that is a threat to Iraq’s sovereignty. Ultimately, Türkiye’s operations against the PKK help Iraq further assert its sovereignty over its territory. The semi-autonomous KRG – which hasn’t objected to Ankara’s operations – is also disturbed

by the presence of the PKK. The terror group controls some towns and villages and even gives municipal services there. KRG’s peshmerga forces are blocked from entering those areas and clashes erupt at times over their control.

On the other hand, it is apparent that the Iraqi army doesn’t have the capacity to uproot the PKK on its own. It already faces myriad issues, including ensuring central government authority across the country and fighting Daesh.

Today, the PKK also has access to US-supplied weapons from the YPG, its Syrian offshoot, and collaborates with Shia militant groups. In other words, the Iraqi army is facing challenges on multiple fronts.

But it is still Baghdad’s duty to prevent foreign armed groups, particularly terrorist organisations, from taking root on its soil. In fact, it successfully fought Daesh with the help of the international coalition. When it comes to its fight against the PKK, it also needs support in carrying out operations among the sharp rocks of Qandil.

Instead of directing accusations at Ankara for its operations – which does nothing to improve relations between the two countries – the Iraqi government can do its part in the fight against terrorism. Ankara continuously underlines that it wants the unity and security of Iraq. While the Daesh threat has been minimised, the PKK is still a threat to both countries. Iraqi officials should admit that a terror-free Iraq means no Turkish intervention and better relations with Türkiye.

Courtesy: TRT World

Briefs

Biden approves \$691M TOW missile sale to Egypt

WASHINGTON: The Biden administration notified Congress on Thursday that it has approved a prospective \$691 million sale of anti-tank missiles to Egypt. The sale, if it is finalized, would include 5,070 TOW 2A Radio Frequency (RF) Missiles, spare parts, tools, test equipment and training, according to the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA).

"This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO Ally that continues to be an important strategic partner in the Middle East," the agency said in a statement. The sale will help Egypt replenish its existing stockpiles and the TOW missiles will be used for counter-terrorism operations and border security operations, according to DSCA.

The state of Arizona-based Raytheon Missiles & Defense will be the sale's primary contractor. The notification to lawmakers sets off a 30-day legislative review period in which Congress can pass a joint resolution disapproving the sale, but it has never been able to successfully block a transaction, according to the Congressional Research Service. — Agencies

Belgium lowers voting age to 16

MONITORING DESK

BRUSSELS: Belgian residents from the age of 16 will be able to vote in the European elections as the federal parliament approved lowering the voting age. Over 283,000 additional Belgian and EU citizens residing in the country can cast their votes on the composition of the European Parliament in 2024 after the decision of the Belgian federal parliament adopted late Thursday. "By giving young people the opportunity to actively participate in our democracy, we allow them to make their voices heard and we further stimulate their interest in politics," Interior Minister Annelies Verlinden said in a statement, calling the decision "a historic step."

The young people have to first register for the vote, and in line with the Belgian constitutions, they will be obliged to participate in elections afterwards. The decision only concerns European elections because lowering the general voting age for federal and local referenda would have required constitutional change and a two-third majority in the parliament. Belgium is the fourth country in Europe that allows young people to have their say in European elections after Austria, Greece, and Malta.

Occupation forces injure 4 Palestinians

WEB DESK

QALQILIA, Friday, May 20, 2022 (WAFA) — At least four Palestinians were injured by Israeli occupation forces today during the weekly protest against Israeli settlement construction in the village of Kafr Qaddum, in the West Bank province of Qalqilia. Morad Shtewi, a local anti-occupation activist, told WAFA that Israeli soldiers attacked the protesters with rubber-coated rounds and tear gas canisters, injuring four of them by rubber-coated rounds and causing many cases of suffocation from gas inhalation. All of the injured protesters were treated at the scene of the clashes. For many years, villagers from Kafr Qaddum and neighboring villages have been protesting every Friday against illegal Israeli settlement construction. Between 500,000 and 600,000 Israelis live in Jewish-only settlements across the occupied Palestinian Territories in violation of international law. — APP



VATICAN CITY: Ambassador Aamir Shouket presented credentials to Pope Francis as Ambassador of Pakistan to the Holy See, in the Vatican City. — DNA

Baku prepared for coop with Yerevan to bolster peace

DNA

BAKU: Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has reiterated Azerbaijan's commitment to cooperation with Armenia to bolster regional peace and security, Azernews reports, citing the ministry. Bayramov made the remark at the 132nd session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (CoE) in Turin, Italy on May 20. The minister emphasized that Azerbaijan adheres to international norms of law and principles, such as state sovereignty and territorial integrity within internationally recognized boundaries, and that these principles are the foundation of international peace, security, and stability. Further, Bayramov briefed the participants in the meeting on the

current regional situation and the steps taken to normalize relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia. The top diplomat stated that Azerbaijan continues its efforts to improve ties with Armenia, noting that the April 6 meeting of Azerbaijani and Armenian leaders in Brussels, which was mediated and attended by the President of the EU Council, had a positive impact on the process. Following the meeting, the foreign ministers of the two countries were instructed to start drafting a peace agreement, and agreed to establish a Joint Border Commission on delimitation and demarcation of the border between the two countries, he added. Welcoming the organization of a meeting between the Azerbaijani and Armenian civil society representatives at the initiative of the Council of Europe Secretary-General, Bayramov underlined that the organization could



contribute to the implementation of confidence-building measures between the two nations that are vital to this effect. Among the problems Azerbaijan is facing, the minister named the threat of landmines and the lack of information about 4,000 citizens, who went missing during the war in

the early 1990s. Bayramov called on the international community to actively support and contribute to overcoming these problems for the sake of lasting peace and stability in the region. Noting that Azerbaijan is committed to cooperation with the member states and bodies of the Council of Europe, the minister noted that during the visit of the secretary-general to Azerbaijan in April 2022, cooperation with Azerbaijan was widely discussed. The Council of Europe presented a new action plan for Azerbaijan in 2022-2025 that has laid a new foundation for joint action. The minister said that during the presidency of Ireland, Azerbaijan will continue its results-oriented cooperation in line with the priorities of the Council of Europe on the basis of common values.

Japan pledges \$2.1m for IAEA

FOREIGN DESK

TOKYO: Japan has pledged nearly \$2.1 million to support activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to ensure the safety of nuclear power plants in Ukraine. Japan's Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said at a joint press conference Thursday in Tokyo after a meeting that they agreed to continue cooperation in ensuring the security of nuclear power plants in Ukraine, where Russia continues its war. Japan is funding the dispatch of IAEA experts and necessary equipment for the Ukrainian nuclear facilities, said Hayashi. Grossi expressed his gratitude to Japan for its efforts to ensure the safety of Ukrainian nuclear plants. As a part of his visit to Japan, Grossi was also briefed on the status of a plan to release radioactive water into the sea at the tsunami-wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant.

Zaheer Janjua assumes charge as Pakistan's HC to Canada

DNA

OTTAWA: Zaheer Aslam Janjua has assumed his new responsibilities as Pakistan's High Commissioner to Canada. Before assuming his assignment in Canada, Ambassador Janjua had been serving as Pakistan's Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union since 7th September, 2019. Previous to that, he served at the headquarters as Additional Secretary for Europe as well as Pakistan's Ambassador to the Russian Federation from 2014 to 2016.

In a statement, High Commissioner Janjua vowed to work for strengthening the bilateral partnership between Pakistan and Canada and also expressed his resolve to serve the Pakistani diaspora in Canada with full commitment. As a career diplomat, Ambassador Zaheer A. Janjua joined the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1988. He has held various diplomatic assignments in Pakistan's bilateral and multilateral missions including Amman (2007-2011), Moscow (2002-2005) Geneva (1999-2002) and Tashkent (1992-1996). At the headquarters he held the posts of Additional Secretary



(2016-2019), Chief of State Protocol (2013), Director General (2011-2012), Director (2005-2007) and Section Officer (1990-1992 and 1996-1999).



KARACHI: Turkish Minister of National Defense Hulusi Akar visits the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan. — DNA

Kazakhstan raises level of flight safety

NUR SULTAN: An official assessment of the current situation of flight safety in Kazakhstan will be published by the EU in early June 2022, Trend reports citing the press service of the Civil Aviation Committee of Kazakhstan Industry and Infrastructural Development Ministry. The EASA conference was held in Brussels with the participation of the heads of aviation authorities from 27 EU countries, on May 17, which heard a report on Kazakhstan's situation in the sphere of civil aviation. Kazakh delegation included: Chairman of Civil

aviation Committee of the Ministry of industry and infrastructure development Talgat Lastayev, Adviser to the Minister of Industry and Infrastructure Development Azat Bekturev, Director General of "Aviation Administration of Kazakhstan" JSC Katalin Radu, representatives of Kazakh Embassy in Belgium and Air Astana airline group. Kazakh delegation reported on the progress and measures taken by the country in the sphere of aviation safety and also informed about the independent audit of the ICAO. — Agencies

Armenia shells Azerbaijani military positions

NEWS DESK

BAKU: Positions of the Azerbaijani army have come under fire by the Armenian armed forces in the direction of the liberated Kalbajar region near the border with Armenia, Azernews reports, citing the Defense Ministry. On May 19, in the afternoon, the units of the Armenian armed forces stationed in Basarkechar region's Ashaghi Shorzha settlement near the state border fired at Azerbaijani army positions in the direction of Kalbajar's Yellija settlement, using small arms, the ministry said.

The Azerbaijani army units took adequate retaliatory measures to suppress the opposite side. Armenia periodically shells Azerbaijani military positions located on its liberated territories. Since early May Azerbaijani positions have multiple times come under Armenian fire. The previous truce violation took place on May 18 in the same direction.

In the same vein, the army's engineering troops continue the engineering activities in Azerbaijan's de-occupied lands, the Defense Ministry said in a separate report on May 19. Units and subunits of the Azerbaijani army are demining and upgrading the roads to enable safe and uninterrupted vehicle movement, working on fortifying combat positions and trenches, as well as creating new supply routes for the units stationed in complicated terrain. As a result of the demining activities carried out by the engineer-sapper units in the liberated lands on May 1-19, over 950 hectares of land were totally cleaned of mines and explosive ordnance. "To date, more than 17,200 hectares of area in the liberated territories have been cleared of mines and unexploded ordnance by the engineer-sapper units. In total, more than 6,000 anti-personnel mines, more than 2,100 anti-tank mines, and more than 9,400 unexploded ordnances have been detected and neutralized," the ministry said.

The major efforts in the liberated regions are focused on demining settlements, agricultural fields, highways, and infrastructural facilities. Over 140 km of new supply roads have been paved for the units of the armed forces stationed in mountainous and challenging terrain. Other vital efforts such as identifying and neutralizing mines and explosive ordnance, as well as engineering support in the liberated lands are continuing.

Australia confirms 1st case of monkeypox

SYDNEY: Australia on Friday confirmed its first case of monkeypox from the Victoria state while another one is under investigation in Sydney, officials said.

The affected man, 30, developed mild symptoms before returning to Melbourne on May 16 and immediately sought medical attention, the state Health Ministry said in a statement. "Testing has confirmed that he has the virus, and he remains in isolation at The Alfred with mild symptoms," said the ministry. Monkeypox is a rare virus that starts with flu-like symptoms, such as fever, headaches and muscle aches, and pains. It causes a distinctive blistering rash and swollen lymph nodes. Cases have recently been identified in the UK, Spain, Portugal, the US, Italy, Sweden, France, and Canada.

Meanwhile, the state Health Ministry of New South Wales also reported that a man in his 40s, who recently returned from Europe, has been isolated at home due to symptoms clinically compatible with monkeypox. "NSW Health Ministry has issued a clinician alert to GPs (general practitioners) and hospitals across the state and has also been in contact with sexual health services to increase awareness of the cases identified overseas and to provide advice on diagnosis and referral. We will be speaking with GPs about this issue again today," said NSW chief health officer Kerry Chant. — Agencies

Saving money in recession

MUHAMMAD FAKHAR ABBAS

A global recession and an eventual market crash are just around the corner. After one of the most profitable bull-runs it is high time for a trend shift and understandable that the subsequent downturn will cut fast and slash deep. Inflation will spin out of control and your money is at risk. Pakistan has the third highest inflation in the world, clocking in 13.37 percent in April 2022. Right at the end of 2021 Turkish lira lost half of its value in a matter of days against US Dollar. Last month Sri Lanka defaulted on its sovereign debt payments and is cut off from global trade. Pakistan is stuck between a rock and a hard place and a fate similar to that of Türkiye or Sri Lanka awaits if a solution cannot be found sooner rather than later. The IMF represents a rock, which wants Pakistan to stop subsidizing oil and

start taxing it. The hard place is the sheer unwillingness of the government to do the bidding of the IMF because it would translate in immense negative public opinion and would be akin to political suicide.

"The third option is a lot more risky and potentially more rewarding. This article is for educational purposes and should be considered as financial advice"

In these dark days it is essential to know just where to bury your money so that at the very least it would retain its original value or if your risk tolerance is sufficiently high enough even turn a profit out of your investment. There are three options at your disposal: Exchange your Pakistani Rupee and be done with it. GBP, EURO, JPY, USD are the most stable options out there. The secret of foreign currencies is that even if both countries are performing horribly, whichever country performs the worst comes out on the losing end and Pakistan is major contender for the worst performing country in the current global down trend.

Exchanging your money for a foreign currency is double-edged however; as it would mean that you will be actively contributing to the manifold economic crises of Pakistan. Buy gold and hoard it — you can use the traditional method and buy it from a jeweler or if you do not want to assume the responsibility of your precious metal's safety then you can use the government approved and recommended

Meta Trader 4 app and buy your gold virtually. Buy Bitcoin and Hold on for Dear Life. Bitcoin is classified as a high-risk asset and is powered by the block-chain technology. Tech based markets generally perform worse than the traditional markets during the downturn but it also means that it will be a bargain if you do decide to invest in it and on the plus side technological markets usually are the first to ones to recover. Bitcoin is, at the time of writing almost 60 percent down from its all time high and could very well go all the way down to 80 to 90 percent and hence an opportune time to buy and hold it until the next all time high. The first two options will for the most part help you in retaining the value of money and safest. The third option is a lot more risky and potentially more rewarding. This article is for educational purposes and should be considered as financial advice.

The writer is student of SZABIST Islamabad

