



# Islamabad POST

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

**Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily**

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**Scottish government launches a new independence campaign**

Detailed News On Page-07

**Bilawal visit to enhance Pak-Iran ties**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Modric gives Croatia victory in France**

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## Briefs

### Pak, Saudi friendship exemplary

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki called on Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar. The minister received the ambassador on his arrival at the ministry and discussed issues of mutual interest and further development of bilateral relations. The ambassador said that Pakistan was Saudi's best friend and its relationship was long standing. The minister said that Pakistan's relations with Saudi Arabia had always been good and had grown stronger over time. Saudi leadership was a progressive, far-sighted and business-minded leadership, he added. - APP

### People to be provided relief

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Maryam Nawaz on Tuesday said regardless of the current state of economy, the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led government would provide relief to the people at all cost. "There is no doubt that last four years of incompetency and sheer neglect have done everything possible to ruin the national economy, but the people have faith in PM Shehbaz Sharif and we will not disappoint them," she said in a tweet. Regardless of the devastation caused by the Imran-led government to the economy, the people would be given relief at all cost, she added. - APP

### Khar to lead delegation at FATF

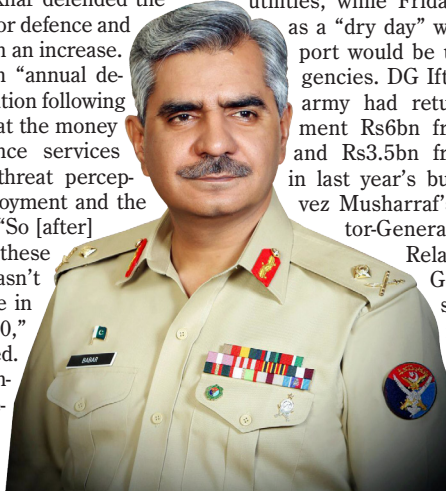
ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar will lead the country's delegation at the plenary meeting of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) being held in Berlin, Germany. Khar, also the Chair of Pakistan's National FATF Coordination Committee, will present a review of Pakistan's progress under the 2018 and 2021 FATF Action Plans, the Foreign Office said Tuesday. The plenary will review the recommendations of FATF's ICRG. - APP

## DG ISPR defends budget Army budget reduced, not increased

Says Army trying to reduce its expenditures, advocates former President Musharraf's return; rejects 'conspiracy' narrative

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

RAWALPINDI: Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General (DG) Major General Babar Iftikhar on Tuesday said that the defence budget allocation for the fiscal year 2022-23, contrary to perception, had decreased after factors such as inflation and rupee depreciation were accounted for, and was now 2.2 per cent of the GDP from 2.8pc last year. In an interview, DG Iftikhar defended the budgetary allocation for defence and denied that it has seen an increase. He said there was an "annual debate" on army's allocation following the budget, adding that the money earmarked for defence services was based on the "threat perception, challenges, deployment and the resources available". "So [after] considering all these things, the army hasn't had any [net] increase in the budget since 2020," the DG ISPR claimed. "When you look at inflation and rupee depreciation, it (defence budget) was actually reduced. It was 2.8pc



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of GDP last year and now we are at 2.2pc so the budget is continuously going down in GDP terms." He said that after factoring in this year's inflation, the defence budget had actually taken a hit of Rs100bn. "Despite these challenges, we did not allow any shortcoming in our capabilities," Iftikhar added. Elaborating on the measures taken by the army to curb its spending, he said instructions had been passed to conserve fuel and reduce expenditure on utilities, while Friday would be observed as a "dry day" where no official transport would be used except for emergencies. DG Iftikhar further said the army had returned to the government Rs6bn from Covid allotments and Rs3.5bn from other allotments in last year's budget. In light of Pervez Musharraf's ailing health, Director-General Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Major General Babar Iftikhar said Tuesday the military leadership believes that the former army chief should return to Pakistan.

## FO clarifies about Envoys' credentials presentation issue

US ambassador yet to present his credentials

ALI FURQAN

ISLAMABAD: Responding to media queries, the Spokesperson stated that the credentials ceremonies for incoming Heads of Diplomatic Missions are held according to State and diplomatic protocols. Such ceremonies are scheduled in consultation with the relevant Missions and in conformity with existing diplomatic practices and procedures. The credentials ceremony for the next batch of Ambassadors/Heads of Missions will take place in the near future. We urge that while reporting on diplomatic matters due caution must be exercised and speculative reporting strictly avoided. It may be mentioned here that some media groups have carried news about delay in credentials ceremony for the new US ambassador.

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## 'Enhancing ties with Pak top priority'

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: New US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome said on Tuesday that enhancing ties with Pakistan was his "top priority" and that they wanted more American companies to invest in Pakistan. "Enhancing ties is our top priority. We welcome US investment in the stock exchange, and

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TEHRAN: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in a meeting with President of Iran, Ayatollah Ebrahim Raisi. (News on Back Page) - DNA

## Elahi calls budget session today

Governor convenes session at another venue

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The deadlock between the Punjab government led by Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supported by Punjab Assembly Speaker Pervaiz Elahi entered its second day on Tuesday after both sides failed to reach an agreement. However Ch. Pervaiz Elahi called the Assembly session today and said the budget shall be presented. Meanwhile, the Punjab governor had also been approached to declare any hotel as Assembly so that the budget session could be convened there. A day earlier, the session was supposed to take up the budget for the next fiscal year, but was adjourned after PML-N did not agree to the demand made by the speaker and PTI for the presence of the Punjab Police chief and chief secretary in the house. The PTI had wanted the IG and the secretary to explain the treatment meted out to PTI workers on May 25 during the long march towards Islamabad. PTI's Dr Yasmin Rashid had said that her main concerns were about the chief secretary and the IGP. "We will not let the house run until they are called here," she had said during the budget session.

## Imran Khan lashes out at 'govt of crooks'

PTI chairman accuses PML-N govt of destroying evidence in corruption cases against its leaders

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan has said that the country's democratic system will be "destroyed" if the coalition government led by PML-N stayed in power any longer. "If they stay in power, the democracy cannot survive because a 'turncoat' Raja Riaz has been appointed Leader of Opposition [in National Assembly]," said Imran while addressing a ceremony at K-P House in Islamabad on Tuesday. The former premier said the incumbent rulers were "destroying" all institutions of the country to rig the next elections and close down

## Imran Khan, wife received land from Bahria Town

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Tuesday accused former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi of accepting Rs5 billion and hundreds of kanals of land from Bahria Town in return for "providing protection" to the real estate firm in a money laundering case during the PTI government. Addressing a

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First Pakistani woman MMA fighter Anita Karim - Page 06

US, Pakistan bolstering ties in all spheres: Masood Khan - Page 07

EU Forum in Peshawar seeks to widen trade - Page 08

## Comment

SHAMIM SHAHID

ONLY Pakistan People's Party and Awami National Party openly made reservations over dialogue between banned Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan and military high ups whereas the remaining political squads especially ruling Pakistan Muslim League (N) and opposition Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf are mum over ironical developments taking place across the border in Afghanistan. Interestingly, despite a quiet role of PTI, its Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government was represented in traditional jirga by advisor to Chief Minister Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif, means who has endorsed the "secret parleys" what the authorities concerned claim aimed at a "truce." No one can neglect the fact, Kabul parleys commencing since the end of previous April is not new or first ever between Pakistan's strong, top and powerful security organ and militants. Since April 2004 last, over 30 agreements were made between two

and almost all of these so-called truces have been broken by none other than the parties themselves. And in almost these broken truces, the Haqqanis-powerful and most effective portion of Afghan Taliban also called Emirate Islami Afghanistan played a key role. But earlier, the position of Haqqanis was a broker but this time the broker role was also converted into a role of host and mediator. The PPP is considered most effective in the new coalition, established after voting-out of PTI's Imran Khan led government in its high level meeting while making stock of reservations over military-TTP secret dialogues in Kabul, demanding tabling all "terms and conditions" before the parliament. Earlier Pushtoon nationalist Awami Party Khyber Pakhtunkhwa President had made similar but strongly-worded remarks, by saying "how it is possible to pardon killers of APS children, Peshawar Mandi Blast and thousands of others killed in targeted acts." No doubt to mention that ANP remained the prime target of militancy over the last four decades. But the price paid by PPP remained huge as its top leader, two times remained pre-

mier and globally recognized talented politician Benazir Bhutto's assassination is considered top on the list. Not only targeted killing of thousands of political leaders, activists, tribal chieftains and security forces personnel but assassination of Benazir Bhutto like great politician have been claimed by banned TTP from time to time. But all these stakeholders are being ignored in what the parties claim, peace talks in Kabul. How is it possible for the two sides to convince the main victims for endorse what has to be decided? Banned TTP in connection with its peace truce presented a number of conditions, challenging writ of the law and supremacy of constitutions. Likewise, banned TTP demanded a "free zone" which meant, "State within state." In such circumstances, PPP and ANP circles believe, "acceptance of banned TTP terms and conditions will be nothing else but surrender of State authorities." Banned TTP since long has been opposing parliament and constitution and striving for the enforcement of Islamic Sharia. Likewise, the very basic purpose of



# Business community recommends use of Yuan for trade

DNA

PESHAWAR: PAJCCI's legacy to engage all stakeholders was reflected in a meeting held in Lahore which was attended by large number of business community from diversified industries including Agri products, representatives of Lahore, Sargodha, Gujrat, Gujranwala, Jhelum, Bahawalpur & Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Pakistan Coating Association, Pakistan Carpet Manufacturer & Export Association and All Pakistan meat exporters & Processors association. Zia Sarhadi, VP PAJCCI chaired the session and informed the forum about continuous efforts of PAJCCI and its Chairman, Zubair Motiwala and Co-Chairman, Khan Jan Alokozai; both of them have not only provided insights to the government officials but have taken the concerns of business community to the level of respective premiers. Secretary General PAJCCI, Faiza, shared the quarterly updates and recent movement in development of Barter Trade mechanism with Afghanistan. She informed the house that joint house at 9th FGD meeting has agreed upon all components of barter trade mechanism, a project monitoring matrix has been designed with action items, responsibility and timelines

which will have oversight by AICC and PAJCCI as lead chamber. In coming weeks final barter trade mechanism will be presented to both governments for formal approval. The lead time is 90 days keeping in view all the existing trade barriers like SRO for TAD, Sales tax refund and duty draw back claims is issued for land route and barter trade, Cross stuffing and use of local containers to offset high cost charged by international shipping lines, further extension of E-Form & EIF waivers, special module in all regulatory systems for barter trade and its connectivity with PAJCCI online portal. In addition, formation of Special purpose vehicle for the transaction management of barter trade is imperative with facilitation by State Bank of Pakistan. PAJCCI will function as oversight and monitoring entity along with dispute resolution and arbitration with both governments support where necessary. Forum was also informed that State Bank of Pakistan has now provided written process for managing third party payments and bank counters at various border crossings which is being shared with all concerned. The active role of Afghan inter-ministerial committee was also highlighted & continuous expert support of Mr. Mohammad Sadiq, SAPM and Chairman AICC. Ministry of Commerce has already amended EPO & IPO to include barter

trade and special module for regulatory system is already under development. The house endorsed the joint press release of Zubair Motiwala; Chairman PAJCCI, Khan Jan Alokozai; Co-Chairman PAJCCI, Mohammad Sadiq, SAPM and Chairman AICC, and Maria Kazi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce which made it very clear that all existing trading options will remain operational and barter trade is one more tool to enhance trade and economic activity between two countries.

They categorically rejected baseless rumors that all other trading options will cease to function once barter trade is notified. Such anti-economic elements do not want strong, deep & sustainable trade and economic relationship between Pakistan & Afghanistan. It was unanimously agreed that business community on both sides will work together and put an end to all unscrupulous and parallel economy agents. The house jointly recommended that strong regional trade will bring prosperity to both Pakistan & Afghanistan, it requires reducing dependence on USD trading and it shall be replaced by PKR trading. A regional currency like Euro shall be considered and trading in Chinese currency can be immediately started. Delegates appreciated the efforts of PAJCCI in resolving the issues while arranging various engagement events of the stakeholders.



GILGIGT: President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo with the position holders during the 5th Convocation of University of Baltistan, Skardu. – DNA

## Quality education essential for GB's development: Alvi

GILGIGT: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Tuesday highlighting the importance of quality education and skilled manpower for sustainable development of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) said the vocational training was essential for students especially females. Dr. Alvi who was addressing the fifth graduation ceremony (Convocation) of the University of Baltistan at here Skardu said that students could realize the dream of financial self-sufficiency through digital skills and freelance trainings. President congratulated the graduating students, their parents and teachers and wished them a bright future. Talented and skilled manpower, he said, was required to utilize the natural resources for Gilgit-Baltistan's

development and prosperity which could also help achieve economic revolution. The president stressed that universities needed to promote research for tackling the effects of climate change a major global threat. "I am always happy to visit Gilgit-Baltistan as the people here have higher spirits and enthusiasm for the development and stability of the country", the president remarked. On the occasion, Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan Khalid Khursheed welcomed the visit of the President thanking him for his knowledge and special attachment to the people here. Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan announced that the provincial government was formulating a strategy for the establishment of three more universities

in GB with its own resources. Earlier, the President was received by the Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Khalid Khursheed, Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Syed Amjad Zaidi, provincial ministers, senior civil officials and the administration of the university at the commencement ceremony. Dr. Zakir Hussain Zakir, Vice Chancellor, University of Baltistan, while delivering the welcome address, covered the efforts and initiatives taken for the promotion of education and research in the university and also thanked the President for his special participation in the award ceremony. The President Alvi also distributed medals among the best performing students on the occasion. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development Ahsan Iqbal received Nawaf Saeed Al-Maliki, ambassador of Saudi Arabia at the Ministry. – DNA

## UoL, MAJ Hospital Kabul sign accord

ISLAMABAD, Jun 14 (APP):The University of Lahore and Muhammad Ali Jinnah Hospital in Kabul on Tuesday signed a letter of understanding for assisting the hospital and improving its operations to provide quality medical treatment to the Afghan citizens. In this regard, a simple ceremony was held at Jinnah hospital. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador of Pakistan in Afghanistan Mansoor Ahmad Khan highlighted Pakistan's continuing humanitarian assistance for the Afghan brothers and sisters during the current crisis, particularly in the health sector. He indicated that Pakistan's plans to upgrade all the three hospitals to provide international standard health facilities to the Afghans, a press release said. The ambassador said the main aim of this Memorandum of Understanding was to upgrade the health facilities at Muhammad Ali Jinnah Hospital and bring them at par with the global standards, besides turning it into a teaching hospital. He also appreciated the University of Lahore for undertaking this endeavour of engaging in a process of modernization of public sector hospitals in Afghanistan built by Pakistan in recent years. In future, the University of Lahore planned to open a Nursing and Allied Health Sciences Colleges to uplift the healthcare facilities at the hospital as well as capacity building to provide quality health care work force to meet the country's requirements, he added.

The ambassador said a medical college would also be established next to the hospital which would be of the global standards and upgraded to a university offering standard education in both graduate and postgraduate programmes in Afghanistan. He informed that Lahore University was the largest private sector medical university with teaching hospital in Pakistan and having an active enrollment of more than 45,000 graduate and postgraduate students. Afghan Minister of Public Health Dr. Qalandar Ebad thanked Pakistan and the University of Lahore for this timely assistance which would go a long way in helping the hospital in providing much-needed medical treatment to the people of Afghanistan. He described this contribution as significant one at a time when Afghanistan's public health sector was facing economic challenges. He said that he expected continuation of the same kind of spirit from the government of Pakistan in future. The University of Lahore has also started a process of distribution of monthly salaries to the hospital staff. Muhammad Ali Jinnah Hospital, a state of the art 200-bed health facility equipped with modern facilities and located in Kabul, is one of the three hospitals built by Pakistan as a gift by its government and people to the Afghan people. The other two hospitals included Naib Aminullah Khan Logari Hospital in Logar and Nishtar Kidney centre Jalalabad. – APP

## Govt warns of action against unfit school vehicles from June 27

PESHAWAR: The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has decided to launch grand operation against outdated and unfit school buses and vehicles after June 27. Addressing a meeting, Director Transport Fahad Ikram Qazi said that students were our assets and that necessary steps would be taken to keep them safe. He said that a massive operation had been decided to avoid any untoward incident. Fahad said that transport department, police and district administration would examine fitness of vehicles used by educational institutions, and unfit vehicles would not be allowed to operate after June 27. The excise department, he said, would be contacted to cancel registration of unfit vehicles under Motor Vehicle Ordinance. He also directed the administration of schools to obtain fitness certificate from Motor Vehicle Examiner before June 27 to avoid punitive action. – APP

## Fare of passenger trains not to be increased

LAHORE: Railways Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique said on Tuesday that fares of passenger trains were not being increased, keeping in view to facilitate travellers of low-income group. Addressing a news conference at PR headquarters, he said fares of freight trains would be increased to 15 percent and 10 percent of Express trains. He said that when in past, he took over the charge of Pakistan Railways at that time the revenue of the department was Rs 18 billion and the deficit was of more than Rs 32 billion. In 2018 when the PML-N government was ousted, the railway income had been increased from Rs 18 billion to Rs 50 billion and deficit was Rs 36.6 billion, he added. – APP

LABIBA ZAKIR

Power is something our society is highly concerned with. the ultimate destination of an individual in this society is the gain of enough power so that one can live without the fear of ever being vulnerable to being overcome. This is the most understood definition of power we have encountered but factually It is a diverse thing, not only pertaining to the prestige or physical power but the words one utters, the feelings one carries, all are powerful. And if a thing possesses power it means it exerts an effect (as power is itself an effect). Like we all get hurt not only by physical abuse but also by the piercing words of others. Words do exert a force and the force is responsible for power. The power of words has not only a negative connotation but also a positive one. All the motivational speakers act on the same principle, they don't perform what they say in front of you but they just say and you perform. Doctor Ghulam Jilani



Barq (theologian), in his books of metaphysics (especially in Mann ki duniya), records that the words you utter create a circle of waves around you and their respective frequencies depend upon the intensity by which you said those words. The waves will attract the like-waves from surrounding and one will be entangled with the same sort of vibration, which is responsible for affecting his personality. BK Shivani (from India) has been affecting the sub-continent for years by revealing the power of words to a huge number of people. One interesting fact in this regard is that our brain acts in the form of pictures, it can create a picture of the word it hears. If someone says to you 'do not beat me' there's no picture of 'do not' that can be created but 'beat' has a picture your mind can recall and most probably the person will start beating you. The same is the case with positive words connotation, by saying good you can have good. The biggest evidence in this regard is the words of the Holy Book, it acts the same way. Understanding and comprehensive study is another thing but just uttering the words and mere reading of the highly powerful words (words of the Holy Book) can treat a lot of diseases, and can pacify

## Power of words

your heart, although you may not know the meaning of those words. Words have power and affect. But does every word has an equal effect? Not exactly because we encounter words all day, we do listen the whole day to thousands of words but not every word hits the same way. There is a factor on which it depends, and that is by which intensity, with what intent did you say the word. How much did you put with that one word, and this is the reason sometimes one word can change a lot and sometimes a lot does nothing. Maybe this is the reason our religion has emphasized the selection of words and it is the highest among all the ranks of good deeds. 'Words are magical' one can practice it if he really believes in the 'power of magic'. A book named 'Power of Words' is written by J. Martin Revenred. The author clearly depicts the significance of words that although they cost no money, everyone can speak them regardless of any restrictions, but we are very careful when choosing what we are supposed to say. Words can open doorways that hands can

not. A person lives a life of abundance or a life of misery, because of words. People who are not concerned about what they say have to endure serious problems caused by their own words because of the power they exert. Another book named 'Secret', by Rhonda Byrne, is based on the pseudo-scientific theory 'law of attraction' based on a principle that 'like attracts like'. Byrne in his books states that there is no bad luck or good luck, you can attract anything depending upon what you think. Your mind is a magnet which receives the same frequencies from Universe as it sends. Wealth, money, a big house, or your strong desire will attract the thing and it can ultimately be a part of your life. As it conforms to one of the best sayings of Brazilian writer Paulo Coelho: 'when you want to get something, the whole universe conspires for you to achieve it' (The Alchemist). If a person is fearful of losing money, his negative thought of fear will be realized and he will have to endure that loss. It is similar to watching TV. Your TV catches the signals regard-

ing the channel and if you want to bring change to what you are watching, you'll have to change the channel. So it is how positive and negative thinking works. In this respect, it is the origin of 'the power of words, in a way that you'll utter exactly what you'll think. The words you are spouting out or presenting, definitely come from your mind. This is the effect of 'hyper-intention' and 'hyper-attention'. The concept of hyper intention is elucidated in the book. "Man's search for meaning" by Viktor Frankl. It is basically a term for neurosis which retards a patient from achieving what he wants. If he is hyper-intended about something, the thought of fear would overcome which will lead to his failure. He will only get it when he has forgotten about it entirely. A hyper-attended or intended person will definitely be hyper-conscious about his selection of words and the intensity by which he will utter those words. The disturbed intensity of the person suffering from this neurosis would be another cause for his defame and non-performance. So, a balanced mind would choose balanced words and it can be a reason one would have balanced life too. *The author is student of University of Poonch Rawalakot*

## ISU-Finance Deptt supports several public sector reforms

PESHAWAR: Finance Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tuesday released the first progress report of its Internal Support Unit (ISU), established to resolve public sector reform challenges including problem solving, quantitative analysis, delivery and communication in different public sector departments. The unit, established in October 2019, provides operational support to public sector departments, an official document released by the Finance Department revealed. The improvement in key indicators in KP Finance department were introduced through institutional reforms, and rigorous monitoring and in-depth data analysis. The year 2019-20 progressed as a year of record revenue growth of 65 percent with Rs. 17.2 billion collection for the provincial exchequer. ISU also developed a new ADP release policy that was approved by the Cabinet, resulting in an increase in budget release from Rs. 24 billion in December 2019 to Rs. 72 billion in January 2020. The identification of Auqaf properties and proposed business plans to increase annu-

al revenue from Rs. 15.6 million to Rs. 231 million and identification of Rs. 200 billion share of KP in the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP). ISU's key indicators had played its role in improvement of different sectors of KP Health Department such as increase in medicines budget for secondary and primary healthcare facilities from Rs. 2.5 billion to 4.5 billion for year 2021-22, increase in operational budget from Rs. 8.7 billion to Rs 13.2 billion and Rs 36 billion to Rs 42 billion increase in MTT's grants. Increasing number of functional COVID Vaccination Centers over 1000 facilities. ISU supported in designing recruitment plans to enhance human resource capacity of the department. Similarly key milestones achieved during fiscal year 2019-20, 20-21 and 21-22 in Finance Department included approval of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) incentive plan and institutionalized the first performance-based incentive programme in government departments. – APP

### Court Notice

In the Court of Umar Rizwan Civil Judge Gujrat  
Title: Ghulam Kubra Versus Province of Punjab etc.  
Notice to:  
7. Iftikhar Ahmad S/O Muhammad Malak Cast Jatt Warraich R/O Shadi-Chourkey Tehsil and District Gujrat  
Suit for Declaration and permanent injunction Where as in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 16-06-2022, otherwise case will be decided ex party.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS  
NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY

**e-Bidding System**

شائف، تیز اور جدید

### NOTICE OF RE-INVITATION FOR e-BIDS

1. National Highway Authority (NHA) **Re-Invites e-Bids** from eligible constructors, registered with income tax department and who are on Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue, having valid PEC registration in category **C-3** or above with specialization in **CE-01 & CE-10** for the following Work:-

Sr. No.	CONTRACT NO.	SCOPE OF WORK	LOCATION (KM ~ KM)	ESTIMATED COST (RS.)
1.	PM-2019-20-PS-02	PERIODIC MAINTENANCE (STRUCTURAL OVERLAY)	KM: 650+000 ~ 680+000 (SBC) ON N-5 RAHIMYAR KHAN	138,477,532/-

2. The bidding shall be done through NHA e-Bidding System. Constructors, having valid PEC registration are required to create their "On-line User Account" for participation in the bidding of Maintenance Works. User Guide, illustrating the steps to create "On-line User Account", is available at [www.ebidding.nha.gov.pk](http://www.ebidding.nha.gov.pk). Access to "NHA e-bidding system" for bidding, will be granted upon submission of pre-requisite documents as per guide line. Bid submitted, by using NHA e-bidding system, will only be considered, whereas other bids will be rejected.

3. Complete set of bidding documents for the above mentioned Works, containing detailed terms & conditions, method of procurement (**Single Stage - Two Envelopes Procedure**), submission of e-Bids, Bid Security, bid validity, opening of e-Bid, Evaluation Criteria, etc. will be available on NHA website on **June 17, 2022** for downloading free of cost. Bidders are also advised to follow the NHA website for updates of bidding schedule and addendum(s), if any.

4. The e-bid must be prepared and submitted through NHA e-Bidding system in accordance with the instructions contained in the bidding documents. Hard copy of e-Bid prepared through NHA e-Bidding system, must reach at the address mentioned below on or before **July 04, 2022 (Monday) till 1100 Hours**. Technical e-Bids (submitted through NHA e-Bidding system) and envelope containing hard copy of Technical e-Bid, will be opened on the same day at **1130 Hours**.

5. The bidders providing unsubstantiated and/or incorrect information shall be liable to disqualification and/or legal action.

6. This advertisement is also available on PPRA website at [www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk).

**DIRECTOR (COORD) CENTRAL ZONE**  
National Highway Authority, Lahore  
Ministry of Communications  
Shahpur Interchange, Thokar Niaz Baig, Multan Road, Lahore  
PID (I) No. 8782/21 Tel: 042-99232565, Fax: 042-99232557, Email: [dircoord-cz@nha.gov.pk](mailto:dircoord-cz@nha.gov.pk)



National Days and Armed Forces Days

JUNE	
June 02 / <b>Italy</b>	National Day/ Independence Day
June 04 / <b>Finland</b>	Armed Forces Day
June 07 / <b>Sweden</b>	Natioal Day
June 10 / <b>Portugal</b>	Portugal Day (Natioal Day)
June 10 / <b>Jordan</b>	Arab Revolution & Army Day
June 11 / <b>United Kingdom</b>	Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth
June 12 / <b>Philippines</b>	Independence Day
June 12 / <b>Russian Federation</b>	Day of Sovereignty of the Russian Federation (National Day)
June 13 / <b>Zambia</b>	Armed Forces Day
June 17 / <b>Iceland</b>	National Day
June 18 / <b>Seychells</b>	National Day
June 25 / <b>Croatia</b>	National Day
June 25 / <b>Mozambique</b>	National Day
June 26 / <b>Azerbaijan</b>	Army Day



Hotels & Restaurants	
Serena Hotel.....	111 133 133
Marriott.....	051- 2826121
Monal.....	0334-5421812



Airlines	
Turkish Airlines.....	8494949



Emergency	
Rescue (Police).....	15
Bomb Disposal.....	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.....	1122
& Rescue Services.....	4451122
Motorway Police.....	9266044
Motorway Police.....	9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....	9222596
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Hospitals	
CMH.....	5611111
MH.....	5611116
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RGH.....	9290301-7
Holy Family.....	9290322-7
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Shifa International.....	4603666



Departments	
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# COMSTECH holds exhibition on research commercialization

## Prof Choudhary said that we all are aware of the societal and economic potential of science and technology in our age

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH organized international workshop and exhibition on research commercialization: challenges and opportunities on Tuesday. The Coordinator General COMSTECH welcomed the guests of the event. He said that the theme of this workshop is understanding the opportunities as well as the challenges that are present for the commercialization of research, which is of great significance for all our member states. Prof. Choudhary said that we all are aware of the societal and economic potential of science and technology in our age. He said academic research has begun to take off in most states as evidenced by the rapid growth in science publications emanating from OIC member states. However, a common problem is how to convert academic research into new products. Prof. Choudhary said that the lack of clear road map, sustained state support, institutional framework, entrepreneurial thinking in faculty, infrastructure, interest of industrial sector and investors, and innovation rejecting mindset of the academic leadership are the major challenges being faced by the science commercialization. He suggested to take these challenges seriously, formulate right and sustained policies and establish consortia of business and academia that work together to achieve targets. Prof. Zakri Abdul Hamid the Chairman of Atri Advisory and Science Advisor to the Campaign for Nature initiative in the ASEAN, from Malaysia appreciated the COMSTECH capacity building activities for OIC countries. He pointed out that the level of preparedness and infrastructure is the key reason of lacking behind. Prof. Zakri mentioned that science and technology is good, and research and development is great, but it must be relevant and must have impact and must contribute to the wellbeing of the society.



Prof. Dr. Orkun Hasekio lu, the Vice President at TENMAK, the Energy, Nuclear and Mining Research Agency and advisor to the President of TUBITAK said some years ago we discussed the ways to realize the Astana STI Declaration and came out with some ideas, like commercializing science research and establishing development fund for COMSTECH countries, but could not realize those ideas because of obstacles and suggested to learn lessons from the best practices and implement them to achieve results. Prof. Dr.

Mustafa Guzel, the Director of Discovery and Development Center at Istanbul Medipol University, and the Chair of Medical Pharmacology Department and International Faculty of Medicine, Turkey, said that it is hard to find funding for your research, and it is really hard to find support from investors who support your idea to conduct a research to develop an innovative product. He suggested to make teams to support each other to become self-sufficient. Prof. Guzel said we need to rethink our habit, speak with each other

and break the ice. Vice Chancellor, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Dr. Nadeem ul Haque delivered the keynote address. He said that brining science to our countries needs attitude towards science. He said we need to have a holistic approach to collect knowledge. Dr. Haque said that science culture can bring science, that needs to be developed. He lamented that we want science without cultural change. He said that we have to learn to create ideas, just copying would not help.

## Faisal Mushtaq Dar appointed Chief (Legal-III), FBR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has appointed Muhammad Faisal Mushtaq Dar, a BS-20 officer of Inland Revenue Services (IRS), as chief (Legal-III), Legal-IR Wing, FBR (HQ), Islamabad. According to the FBR notification issued here on Monday, he has resigned from the post of Commissioner-IR, Benami Zone-I, Islamabad and has taken over the post. FBR also informed that Bahawal Sharyar, BS-18 Officer, has taken over the charge of Initiating Officer/Deputy Commissioner-IR, Benami Zone -II, Lahore. Bilal Qasim, BS-18 officer, IR services has also taken over the charge of Post Initiating Officer/Deputy Commissioner-IR, Benami Zone -II, Lahore. – APP

## ‘Drug-trafficking stopped in every possible manner’

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Nawabzada Shazain Bugti on Monday said drug trafficking through routes of Pakistan was being stopped in every possible manner. The minister said this during a meeting with a delegation of the UK National Crime Agency led by it's Director General (Operations) Stephen Rodhouse here. In the meeting, the minister was also briefed on the world-wide operations of the National Crime Agency to which he thanked for its support in preventing drug trafficking and its use. He also welcomed the provision of various tools and technical assistance from the British Crime Agency for the prevention of drug trafficking. In the meeting, both agreed on exchange of information between the Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) and relevant international bodies. The minister said Special Investigation Cells would be set up in coastal areas of Balochistan and Gwadar as it would not only help in proper remediation of drugs but will also complete the process of drug related investigation in a transparent manner. The minister said training of drug related judicial officers from British institutions was also under consideration. He said due to the security situation in the region, prevention of drug trafficking has become a challenge. “Pakistan has recently launched the next phase of the Country Program in collaboration with the World Anti-Doping Agency, which includes separate barracks in prisons for drug addicts and a national database of drug offenders, as well as anti-drug drugs. In addition, a total of 40,000 people will receive special training about drugs,” he said. During the meeting, it was decided on cooperation between Pakistan and British departments on various anti-narcotics matters. – APP

## OGRA asks CS to take action against 3 illegal oil agencies

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on Monday recommended to the Punjab Chief Secretary for taking action against the three illegal oil agencies, its team unearthed in different localities of the province. The authority's Enforcement (North) team inspected petrol pumps in the southern region of the province to check accurate measurements of oil, quality and price besides ensuring safety standards at different outlets, OGRA spokesman Imran Ghaznavi said in a news release. He said the team visited around 40 petrol pumps of different Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), collected samples of petrol and diesel and sent them to the laboratory for a quality check. “Show Cause Notices to be issued to the violators along with penalties as per law,” he added. The OGRA had adopted a ‘no tolerance policy on the accuracy of measurement, quality and safety at the outlets, he said. – APP

# PRCS pays tribute to voluntary blood donors

Abrar ul Haq said PRCS has developed short, medium- and long-term strategies to further increase its blood collection capacity and outreach to meet the growing demand in the country; urged youngsters to come forward and serve the humanity through their blood donations

## DNA

ISLAMABAD-June 14, 2022: Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) on Tuesday celebrated World Blood Donor Day in spirit of accolade to those who contribute with their blood donations to save lives. A webinar was organized under the theme “Donating blood is an act of solidarity, join the efforts & save lives”, to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products, and to pay tribute to voluntary blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood. Secretary General PRCS, regular voluntary blood donors, staff of PRCS Regional Blood Donor Centre (RBDC) and volunteers were among the participants of the webinar that was broadcasted live on the official social media platforms of PRCS. Regular voluntary blood donors from different occupations including Romulus Miranda, Fareed Rab Nawaz, Kashif Suleman and Head of Delegation Turkish Red Crescent Carlos Camilo attended the webinar and shared their experiences of blood donation and their motivation that compelled them to donate blood. In his message on this occasion, PRCS Chairman Abrar ul Haq said that World Blood Donor Day has provided us an opportunity to urge governments and national health authorities to provide adequate resources and put into place systems and infrastructures to increase the collec-

tion of blood from voluntary, non-remunerated blood donors. He said PRCS has developed short, medium- and long-term strategies to further increase its blood collection capacity and outreach to meet the growing demand in the country. He said it is time for urgent interventions to ensure uninterrupted supply of blood, especially for those whose life depends on regular blood transfusions. Abrar ul Haq said that the annual collection of RBDC is approximately 13,000 units of blood and to date, the RBDC has collected and distributed more than 89,000 units of blood and its components. He said 60-70% of the collected blood is distributed free of cost to most vulnerable patients suffering from thalassemia, cancer, renal failure, gynecological related issues, and road traffic accidents. Abrar ul Haq expressed his gratitude to all voluntary donors for their life-saving gift of blood to those in need. He said that blood donations not only make possible hundreds of thousands of transfusions, operations and other medical procedures but also serve blood storage to be used in accidental and medical emergencies. “Every blood donor is a life saver messiah for the patients in need. I urge youngsters to come forward and serve the humanity through blood donations”, he added.

# NUST realizes first indigenous embedded microprocessor

ISLAMABAD: Researchers at the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) have successfully completed full functional testing of the country's first truly indigenously designed microprocessor, ‘NTiny-E’. This was revealed by the Pro-Rector (Research, Innovation and Commercialization), National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Dr. Rizwan Riaz during a press Conference along with Principal SEECS, Dr. Ajmal Khan and NTiny design and development team Leader, Dr. Rehan Ahmed, on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Rizwan Riaz told that the embedded microprocessor chip was designed by the research team of the NUST School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (SEECS). He said that semiconductor chips are at the heart of all electronic devices and consumer appliances that we use every day. Global semiconductor sales reached US \$556 billion in 2021 but Pakistan has not been able to benefit from this lucrative market. However, NUST, in line with its vision of undertaking applied research and innovation, embarked upon the journey to make

Pakistan self-reliant in this critical technology. The unique aspect of the project is its completely in-house design as opposed to common practice of using open-source cores from other sources or foreign collaborations. This makes NTiny-E a truly indigenous product that provides the design team complete leverage and control over all aspects of the chip. NUST selected the world's largest and leading commercial foundry, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company Ltd. (TSMC) for chip fabrication utilizing the industry-standard 65 nm process node. This demonstrates researchers' ability to design chips that are compliant with international industrial design and fabrication standards. The event marks an important milestone in the national semiconductor landscape and puts Pakistan another step ahead on the path towards the realization of Quaid's vision of self-reliance. Dr. Rizwan Riaz said that the NUST team has not limited itself to the design of the chip itself but also developed a complete ecosystem required for chip testing and its incorporation into end products. – APP

# Strategy evolved to modernize agri sector

ISLAMABAD: The government has devised a comprehensive plan for agriculture modernization to enhance agriculture productivity on modern lines and help promote overall economic growth of the country. National Action Plan specially has focus on capacity building, germplasm resources, agricultural product processing, agricultural technology extension, fishery science and technology, aquaculture, and aquatic product processing, official sources said. The action plan also includes establishment of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) free zones, market information and agricultural trade and cooperation for agricultural development. According to official document, other initiatives proposed for fiscal year 2022-23 in agriculture sector include, corporate agriculture farming, deceleration of FMD Free Zones and local production of FMD vaccines and mechanization harvesting and post harvesting processes. Agriculture sector, the backbone of country's economy is expected to grow by 3.9 percent during the upcoming fiscal year

(2022-23). However, the projected agriculture growth performance at 3.9 percent would mainly contingent upon revival of cotton and wheat production, consistent availability of water, certified seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and agriculture credit facilities. Revival of both these crops would not only support growth momentum but will also ease out Balance of Payment pressures through lesser import requirements. It is pertinent to mention here that during the current fiscal year, agriculture sector exceeded its envisaged targets of Annual Plan 2021-22 (3.5 percent) given the strong crop sector performance. Agriculture sector posted growth of 4.4 percent against the last year growth of 3.5 percent. The Production of important crops including sugarcane, rice and maize crops achieved record production with impressive increase in per acre yield. Although, cotton production remained below target during 2021-22, however, it was 17.9 percent greater than the crop output of last year. – APP



## Briefs

**'Modern, quality educational facilities among our top priorities'**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanvir Hussain on Tuesday said that the promotion of modern and quality educational facilities in all government schools was among the top priorities of the government. The present government was taking various steps for bringing improvement in education sector in the country, he was speaking to a private news channel. "A balanced approach in all disciplines of primary and higher education would lead the country towards the road to progress", minister added. He also stress that the youth should learn skilled-based education as well to better contribute towards the economy of the country. Minister said the world was making rapid progress and without progress in the field of education, development of a country was not possible. Replying a question, the budget allocation and spending of HEC has also increased to facilitate areas of access, quality, research and governance. To another question, he while criticizing the previous government said that Imran Khan's deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and its violation were basic reason behind rising dollar and high inflation. He said PPP and the PML-N did not take that much loans in their previous regimes as much loan taken by the PTI government in three to four years. Previous regime of PTI, under Imran Khan, had ruined the national economy with his sheer incompetence and flawed policies, he added. – APP

**IRSA releases 160981 cusecs water**

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Monday released 160981 cusecs water from various rim stations with an inflow of 159391 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 070.00 feet, which was 20.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded a 21325 and 23715 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 79387,81814 and 48895 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River, a total of 21300 cusecs water was released at Nowshera and 27366 from the Chenab River at Marala. – APP

**CTP launches campaign against overcharging**

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) have launched campaign against the transporters who were overcharging fares to passengers. Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Naveed Irshad said that strict action in accordance with the law would be taken against the transporter, adding that their vehicles would be impounded on the violation. He said that special squads of city traffic police were formed to conduct raids and check overcharging. The CTO directed the DSPs traffic, sector in-charges and wardens to perform their duty effectively to check overcharging in public transport. A special cell had also been established to receive public complaints and people can lodge their complaints against overcharging by transporters. CTO also said that strict action was being taken against the vehicles for not completing the route. He further said that City Traffic Police Rawalpindi is working hard for better traffic management, effective implementation of traffic rules, prevention of road accidents on roads. – APP

# Pakistani engineer lauds Chinese staff's support

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani engineer working for Diamer Basha Dam lauded Chinese staff's support in running the project successfully, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. Touching on his Chinese colleagues, the Pakistani Engineer Nadeem Ilyas said, since joining the project, his Chinese colleagues have patiently taught him a lot of knowledge including technology, on-site construction management, as well as communication with the consultancy and the client's representative. We never make difference between Pakistani and Chinese. I feel that I am in safe hands working on such a project," he remarked. Working as a tunnel construction engineer at the Diamer Basha Dam project, Nadeem Ilyas's key responsibility is managing all the activities during tunnel construction including the execution and implementation of designs and drawings according to the specification. He also coordinates with the

consultant engineers to achieve working targets timely. "I usually start my work early in the morning, proactively plan my day, and make sure that the most urgent work gets done first like which area needs rock support, drill to blast or excavation. After getting approval from engineers, I inform relevant workers to assign their tasks," Nadeem said. "In my career, I am sure of one thing that I want to build a decent career in my current domain. Before this project, I worked on the Karot Hydropower project as a Tunnel Construction Engineer with PowerChina. My present job has shown me the path to move and attain what has been my long-term career objectives," Nadeem told Gwadar Pro. When asked what his family members think of his job, Nadeem said proudly, "I am the first family member to financially support my family. My parents want me to work in Pakistan so I can look after them when they need me. For being a part of Diamer Basha, my family is proud of me." "The project has many positive impacts on the local commu-

nity. At the very beginning, there was no proper source of income for the local people, When PowerChina came here, it provided many jobs for the local people. People are working in different positions such as technical staff, operators, drivers, and labors. PowerChina gave them opportunities to learn different technical skills. By working with Chinese experts many of them will get different skills." He is proud of the benefits the project has brought to Pakistan. "After starting of the project, the condition and environment of the local area have been totally changed. There are thousands of people who got jobs and employment made their lives easier. In addition, the lack of drinking water has been resolved and our company installed many water treatment plants for pure water," he said, referring to the project's contribution to raise the water storage capacity of Pakistan. "Water storage capacity is 56 days before. As well as big changes in environmental and climatic conditions, the huge amount of storage

capacity of water also makes the land more suitable for the production of crops and our irrigation system has also been improved," Nadeem added. Diamer Basha Dam contract was awarded to PowerChina and Frontier Works Organisation(Pakistan) in 2020. Upon completion, the dam would produce 4,800 megawatts of electricity through hydropower generation, store an extra 10.5 cubic kilometers of water for Pakistan that would be used for irrigation and drinking, extend the life of Tarbela Dam located downstream by 35 years, and control flood damage by the River Indus downstream during high floods in Pakistan, according to PowerChina. However, building such a super project will not be easy. "At the initial stage, we have faced hindrances such as raging COVID-19 pandemic and poor geological conditions. Among these risk factors, worker availability, site accessibility, shortage of construction materials, and inadequate epidemic prevention materials caused by the lockdown policy are the most fundamental challenges encountered by the projects."

"We have resolved almost these problems and the residential area is shifted near the working site, proper rest area for workers has been set aside by local community, facilities have been provided at the working site and the security is also increased," Nadeem said. The local employees are the backbone of Diamer Basha Dam, and Nadeem is one of them. As an engineer, Nadeem has grown with the project. "Diamer Basha dam is the largest dam in the history of Pakistan and will be the tallest roller compacted concrete dam in the world, where I can learn more technical skills to build my career." "In 2021, the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan hosted an awarding ceremony to commend outstanding Pakistani staff of CPEC projects. PowerChina nominated me for the prize which was an honor for me and my family. I am sincerely appreciating PowerChina for offering me the opportunity of working here. I have enhanced my capability, improved my work efficiency, and received a higher salary," he said. "I am proud to work at PowerChina."

**KPK to buy 86 new buses from China**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial government announced to buy another 86 new buses from China for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service with an estimated cost of Rs 1 billion, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. In its annual budget for 2022-23, the provincial government informed that six new feeder routes and 86 buses would be added to the BRT. Already dozens of China-made buses are serving the public on the BRT routes. The budget document mentioned that with the 86 new buses from China its new feeder routes would be made functional. With induction of these new buses, the capacity of BRT would enhance up to 350,000 passengers on a daily basis. The six new feeder routes to be included in BRT service are Hayatabad Phase-1, Nasir Bagh Road, Chamkani-Pabbi Bazaar, Warsak Road, Khyber Road and Charsadda Road Extension.

**AIOU organizes National Seerat Writers Conference**

ISLAMABAD: A two-day National Seerat Writers Conference will be commencing tomorrow (Wednesday) here at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on "History and Services of Seerat Nigari in Pakistan: Contemporary Trends and New Perspectives". Renowned Scholars and Seerat writers from all over Pakistan are invited to participate in the conference. Scholars and researchers who have written books on the life of Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) and highlighted the various aspects of Hazrat Muhammad (SAW)'s life will also be participating from all over the country. Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Rana Tanveer Hussain is the chief guest of the opening ceremony while Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum will preside over the session. Prof. Dr. Sahibzada Sajid-ur-Rehman, Head for Seerat-Un-Nabi chair will explain the aims and objectives of the conference. Muhammad Rafiq Tahir, Senior Advisor, Center of Excellence/Head of the Project Management Unit will introduce the three chairs established by AIOU and highlight their objectives and goals. Chairman, Council of Islamic Ideology, Prof. Dr. Qibla Ayaz is the keynote speaker of the inaugural session. – APP

**NEPRA imposes Rs 10 mln fine on HESCO**

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has imposed a fine of Rs 10 million on Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) on account of transformer blast at Islamabad Chowk, Hyderabad on June 18, 2021 in which 3 persons died and 4 persons sustained injuries. NEPRA upon receipt of reports of the subject incident constituted a two member Investigation Committee under Section 27A of NEPRA Act 1997 which investigated the matter by visiting the respective area of incident, recording statements of the residents, inquiring the concerned officials/officers of HESCO, conducting analysis of the damaged transformer, said a press release issued here Tuesday. The committee presented a detailed report to the Authority. The report revealed that a total of 03 fatalities occurred and 04 persons were injured. In light of the above, the Authority issued a Show Cause notice to HESCO under Section 27B of the NEPRA Act, 1997 and subsequently provided an opportunity of hearing to HESCO. The Authority has also directed HESCO to compensate Rs. 3.5 million each to the bereaved families who lost their lives in the said incident and documentary evidence of the same shall be submitted to the Authority. – APP

## Blood donation's benefits highlighted

ISLAMABAD: Health experts on 'World Blood Donor Day' have highlighted the benefits of blood donation for both the donors and recipients stressing media to raise awareness about the importance of blood transfusions. They also urged the authorities concerned to speed up the process for establishing modern Blood Transfusion centers across the country. Speaking to a private news channel, renowned Hematologist & Consultant transplant physician Dr. Saqib Hussain Ansari said every year countries around the world including Pakistan celebrate World Blood Donor Day on June 14 to highlight the need for safe blood and blood transfusion products. He regretted that there were many myths surround-

ing blood donation that often make people wary of donating, adding he said blood donation was a healthy process and a healthy person must donate which was beneficial for both donor and the recipient. Talking about health benefits associating with donating blood, he explained that if an individual makes a habit of donating blood every 120 days it can improve their health. "It is a huge misconception that giving blood will make you weak or lead to other medical complications," he added. He further said that 'Thalassemia' is an inherited blood disorder in which the affected children are unable to maintain hemoglobin (HB) at a normal range and their bone marrow cannot form sufficient red blood cells which is critical to their survival. – APP

## 'Inter-provincial migration major cause of polio'

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Health, Abdul Qadir Patel Monday said that government was committed to eradicate polio from Pakistan, however, refusal of Polio drops to kids and inter-provincial migration were the basic challenges to eliminate this crippling virus. Talking to a private news channel, he said that Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only remaining countries in the world with circulating wild polio-virus, adding, government had established state of art Polio center to review the current situation. He said that due to refusal around eighth case of polio was reported this year, adding, all eight cases have been reported in North Waziristan, where parents in the region often refuse to get their children inoculated. Replying to a question, he said that government was taking all practical steps to control the high prices of medicines. – APP

## Ayaz Sadiq stresses to enhance coordination

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Monday stressed the need for regular follow-up weekly meetings by the focal ministries with executing agencies to prompt resolution of economic issues. Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq chaired the second follow up meeting of National Coordination Committee on Foreign Funded Projects (NCC-FPP) to review Balochistan Projects.

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Projects (NCC-FPP) at the Ministry of Economic Affairs here to review Foreign-Funded Balochistan Sector projects. The meeting was attended by Secretary Ministry of Economic Affairs, Ex-DCPC, Chairman GPA, Chairman GDA, DG CAA, representatives of Finance Division, Planning Commission and CEO's, Managing Director's of all implementing agencies. Minister for Economic Affairs welcomed the participants and highlighted that Projects in Balochistan are key driver for socioeconomic development, provide access to jobs markets, increase economic mobility

and connectivity that enable people to rise out of poverty. The Minister, briefed the committee on the background and purpose of the meeting, and highlighted the problematic and moderately satisfactory projects and issues thereof. He apprised the Committee that EAD is managing an ongoing portfolio of \$34.8 billion foreign funded projects of various sectors of the economy. Out of total portfolio, \$13.5 billion (39%) is considered as problematic. The share of Balochistan projects are \$1.1 billion, of which \$0.848 billion is rated as problematic. – APP



ISLAMABAD: First Lady Samina Alvi doing floral arrangement during a workshop organized by the Islamabad Floral Art Society at Islamabad Serena Hotel. – DNA

## NSFC, PSF to launch joint exchange programme

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) will soon launch the first batch of joint exchange programmes for 2022, a source told Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. The programme aims at funding up to 15 pairs of researchers from both nations to undertake a joint research project, the source added, requesting anonymity. The priority areas include Computer Science, Internet of Things, Blockchain, Biometrics, Big Data, Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, Deep Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and 3D Printing as well as Climate Change and water, food and ecosystem security etc.

PSF will provide a Rs4 million grant to each Pakistani researcher, while NSFC will fund the Chinese researchers, the source disclosed. Under the programme, the Chinese and Pakistani researchers are required to submit joint research proposals with NSFC and PSF. The two organizations do not facilitate the matchmaking but researchers from both sides establish connections on their own. This will give a boost to collaboration among Chinese and Pakistani researchers and will further deepen scientific cooperation between the two nations, the source said. The programme has a two-year tenure during which researchers from China can visit Pakistan and vice versa to train their collaborators or attend scientific seminars or workshops. The source said that the process to evaluate the joint research proposals was

already underway, adding that the programme will be launched after approval of the federal government's budget for the fiscal year 2022-23, starting July 1st, 2022. "The budget will determine our capacity to sponsor how many researchers but tentatively the number will be up to 15," the source added. In Pakistan, scholars and researchers from the universities duly chartered by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) as well as public-sector research centres and institutes are eligible to participate in the programme. The program will open a new window for Pakistani students and researchers to step into the world of advanced technologies and learn about emerging concepts of modern science and high tech together with their Chinese collaborators, the source said.

## Prohibitory orders imposed in Assam

ISLAMABAD: Indian authorities have imposed restrictions in several areas of Assam state of India to prevent protests against blasphemous remarks by the ruling BJP leaders. According to Kashmir Media Service, the authorities stopped and restricted protests in Muslim dominated Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakhandi districts of the state. The prohibitory orders have been promulgated after the protests erupted against blasphemous remarks by BJP leaders in many places of India. "There is an ample apprehension of breach of public peace and tranquility, loss of human life and property due to public gathering on the issue in the district," separate orders of the Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakhandi district administrations added. The DMs' orders said that no procession, rally, dharna (demonstration), distribution of leaflets, banners and posters will be allowed in these three districts. Several rallies were also taken out in certain places of the three districts on Friday and Saturday and the police stopped them leading to the imposition of the prohibitory orders. – APP

# Pakistan should open up to outside world

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is a very strong and resourceful country which needs to open up to outside world for commercial activities including multinational trade, promotion of SMEs, industrialization, agriculture research, IT projects, tourism, communication infrastructure, health and education. For this purpose we need to enhance our interaction with EU, African Union, OIC and last but not the least 54 Common Wealth countries which is led by Britain as Her Majesty the Queen is the head of Common Wealth "said Former Senator Lt. Gen. Abdul Qayyum while chairing a Common Wealth Entrepreneur Club (CEC) meeting today in Islamabad as the president of CEC Pakistan chapter. Addressing the meeting of Commonwealth Entrepreneurs Club (CEC), Zafar Bakhtawari, President of CEC Islamabad Chapter, Secretary General of United



Business Group and former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce said that all national, airlines including PIA should have direct air link with all Commonwealth

countries. This will increase Pakistan's trade and public relations with these countries and boost trade. He said that British Airlines should also be revived so that trade

and public relations and cooperation could be further enhanced. He said that Pakistan is an ideal country for investment from all over the world. We want to deliver our products, this club was founded by a dynamic Pakistani internationally renowned business tycoon Mr. Mobin Rafiq who is chairman of CEC and stationed in London. Common wealth was created after decolonization of British Empire in mid-20th century. CEC is in fact a global Think Tank and nourishing platform consisting of thousands of SMEs, Multinationals, Entrepreneurs technocrats and industrialists to trade, collaborate and fund globally. They deal the energy, wealth management, textile, infrastructure, industrial parks, mining housing, education, automobile, agriculture, IT and tourism etc. The meeting was attended by Senator Dilawar Khan, Lt. Gen. © Qadir Baloch, Air Marshal Pervaiz Nawaz, Mr. Zafar Bakhtawari, Sheikh Ijaz, Waseem Qureshi, Mr. Safdar, Mirza Amir, Sabur Sethi, Ch.Sohail Fahad Rashdi and Advocate Jaffer Zaidi.



## Growing air pollution

The air pollution is coming on as one of the biggest threats faced by environment and earth. With ever increasing industries, vehicles and other pollution emitters, the air we breathe in has vastly been polluted.

Microscopic air pollution caused mostly by burning fossil fuels shortens lives worldwide by more than two years, researchers reported. Across South Asia, the average person would live five years longer if levels of fine particulate matter met World Health Organization standards, according to a report from the University of Chicago's Energy Policy Institute.

In the Indian states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, home to 300 million, crippling lung and heart disease caused by so-called PM2.5 pollution reduces life expectancy by eight years, and in the capital city of New Delhi by a decade.

PM2.5 pollution – 2.5 microns across or less, roughly the diameter of a human hair – penetrates deep into the lungs and enters the bloodstream.

In 2013, the United Nations classified it as a cancer-causing agent. Faced with mounting evidence of damaging health impacts, the WHO tightened these standards last year, the first change since establishing air quality guidance in 2005.

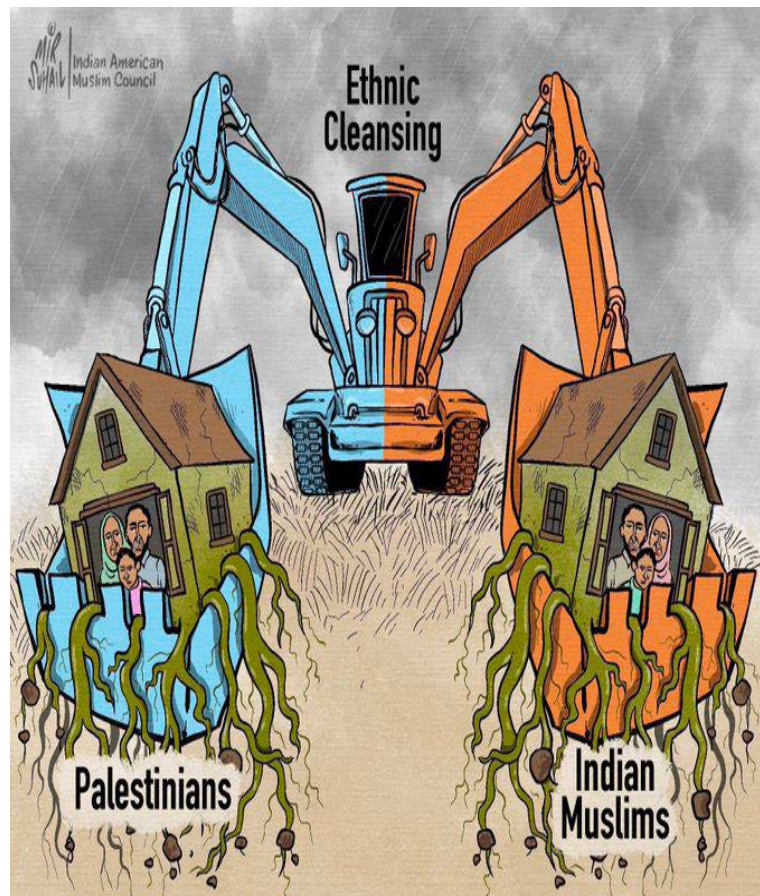
“Clean air pays back in additional years of life for people across the world,” lead research Crista Hasenkopf and colleagues said in the Air Quality Life Index report.

“Permanently reducing global air pollution to meet the WHO's guidelines would add 2.2 years onto average life expectancy.”

Like the climate change, this is one big issue that needs immediate global attention. Resources must be put on the field to counter this problem. The latest report is an eye opener about how the air pollution is threatening the lives of people.

The humans have already damaged the planet to an extreme, now its time to do our part in order to preserve it for the future generations.

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## US bipartisan gun deal a vital step

Democrats and Republicans in the US Senate have finally come to an agreement on a bipartisan deal over gun safety measures. The move, which has sufficient support in the Senate, is a significant step forward towards ending a congressional deadlock on the highly contentious issue. It attains even more significance because the development comes in the wake of the recent gun massacre at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, that killed 19 children and two teachers, and a racist shooting attack in Buffalo that killed 10 Black people in a supermarket. Widespread public outrage over those shock killings proved to be a turning point, pushing the debate on issue of gun violence to the forefront in Washington DC. The latest agreement arrived at by negotiators – subject to passing by the US Congress – would be the most significant piece of gun-safety legislation in America in more than quarter of a century. This is not what activists and critics would agree with in totality, and many might even call the package too modest but the framework marks an important first step in gun control. It calls for several gun restrictions and new investments in school security and mental health services. US states will get incentives to pass and implement ‘red-flag’ laws to remove firearms from potentially dangerous people, per the deal.

Importantly, the deal calls for stricter gun background checks for people between the ages of 18 and 21 to include a mandatory search of juvenile justice records; and closing what is known as the “boyfriend loophole” to bar partners from owning guns if they have been convicted of domestic violence. Provision worth billions has been made for mental health care and school security programmes across the US. US President Joe Biden also lend his support, noting, “Obviously, it does not do everything that I think is needed, but it reflects important steps in the right direction, and would be the most significant gun safety legislation to pass Congress in decades.” The agreement, which falls short of sweeping changes, proposed by anti-gun activists, is nonetheless a significant step towards ending a long spell of non-action over gun reform legislation in America. The US Congress must approve it without further ado.

# The birth of the Second Republic of Kazakhstan and why it matters to us

**Ruslanas Iržikevičius**



The state of emergency was lifted, but Kazakhs still find it hard to believe that this could happen in their country. Some 238 people were killed, including 19 officials.

The mayors' offices, other government buildings, as well as shops were on fire. It is difficult to comment on this because the Kazakhs themselves are still in the process of search. Officials keep mentioning extremists and criminal and terrorist organisations

The German word “Zeitenwende” perfectly reflects the year 2022. This year is only halfway through, but it marks a turning point in the post-Cold War era. The end of the Cold War led to the creation of Kazakhstan, and the referendum that took place on 5 June was the day that gave birth to the New Kazakhstan. The real “Zeitenwende” is a turning point in time. Why is this referendum important for Kazakhstan, the region, and us?

It is no secret that the collapse of the Soviet Union was an unexpected event for most Soviet republics. Many of the newly created states in the post-Soviet space needed to reinvent themselves. In 1861, after the proclamation of the Kingdom of Italy, a wise Italian said “We have created Italy; now we must create the Italians.” Thirty years ago, Kazakhstan was created. A country that was concerned about how to preserve and strengthen its borders, how to build its national economy, and how to embed the republic in the world diplomatic system. Although the fate of the Soviet Union was also prophesied for Kazakhstan, those prophecies did not come true. Mission accomplished.

The ninth largest country in the world has created an economy within its own borders, with a gross domestic product per capita that is expected to surpass that of the Russian Federation later this year. Kazakhs do not go to Russia to work to the same extent as people in surrounding countries. Kazakhstan's economy is larger than that of all the other post-Soviet Central Asian republics put together. And Kazakhstan's multi-vector diplomacy has meant that the country has good relations with its neighbours and most countries.

The relatively stable economic and political situation has changed the country's demographics: over 50% of Kazakhs were born after independence. In the context of the region, this may not be unique. However, Kazakhstan was different from other countries in the region in terms of strategic forward planning and investing in its young people. President Nursultan Nazarbayev created a programme that allowed the brightest Kazakh children to study at the best universities in the West, thus contributing to the birth of a new and modern elite. The impression was that the country was developing, had discovered its own model of success, and would continue to move forward on its chosen path of economic consolidation for a long time to come.

Especially after the first president of the republic, Mr Nazarbayev, peacefully handed over the helm of power not to a member of his family or clan but to a diplomat and politi-

cian, Mr Kassym Tokayev, who speaks not only Kazakh and Russian, but also English, French, and even Chinese. The country's stable economic development has raised a generation of Kazakhs who feel that they need more than a stable economy. The growing inequalities and the innumerable riches of the “chosen few” (mostly belonging to President Nazarbayev's clan) were an eyesore. It was pretty clear that change was needed, a modernisation of the country's governance. In 2019, the country's new President started reforms: he lowered the number of signatures for registering political parties and the barrier to their entry into the Mazhilis (Parliament) from 7% to 5%. He legalised the opposition in the Mazhilis, direct mayoral elections, and expanded freedoms of assembly and demonstration.

For some, these reforms were too slow; for others, they were too much and too fast. The rise in the price of liquefied petroleum gas was the last straw in the cup of patience for the wealth inequality of ordinary Kazakhs. In early January 2022, peaceful protests that began in the country's West spread throughout basically all of Kazakhstan. What started as peaceful protests turned into riots. A state of emergency was imposed, and the Russian-dominated Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) was called in. The riots were quelled, the protests ended, and the 2050 CSTO troops left Kazakhstan on 19 January without having fired a shot.

The state of emergency was lifted, but Kazakhs still find it hard to believe that this could happen in their country. Some 238 people were killed, including 19 officials. The mayors' offices, other government buildings, as well as shops were on fire. It is difficult to comment on this because the Kazakhs themselves are still in the process of search. Officials keep mentioning extremists and criminal and terrorist organisations. There were undoubtedly such people among the rioters. However, in my opinion, the unrest was organised by those who wanted to exploit the peaceful protests to turn the clock on change and return to the 2019 status quo. And the change is complete to the disadvantage of the political and economic establishment, which has been unwilling to give up its levers of influence and share its wealth. I do not think that former President Nazarbayev was behind them. Still, they were probably people who wanted to preserve the state governance system established during Nazarbayev's presidency.

When the bloody unrest broke out, the security structures, dominated by the old clans, delayed carrying out their duties, thus allowing the unrest to spread rapidly throughout the country. The inviting of the CSTO-dominated forces of the Russian Federation to help was, in my opinion, a clever manoeuvre by President Tokayev. This wise move: showing initiative by involving the Russian Federation in managing the January events under the framework of the CSTO. By doing this, President Tokayev made it difficult for the Kremlin to support Nazarbayev's clan actively. The Kazakhs constantly emphasise that the CSTO is made up of six countries, of which Russia is only one. However, no matter how many members there are, everyone knows which country has the final say in the organisation. Yes, it was very risky, but it worked for the Kazakh Government, and this manoeuvre has succeeded, at least so far. Against the backdrop of Russia's current aggression against Ukraine, many in Kazakh-

stan are well aware that, after the “January events”, Kazakhstan has been given a little more time to consolidate its independence further. They also understand that only a modern country will be able to stand up to Russian and Chinese pressure in the very near future. Only a modern country will be much more attractive to the West and will open up many more opportunities to continue the multi-vector diplomacy that has served Kazakhstan well so far. On the other hand, Russia also understands that modern Kazakhstan is not a welcome development for it. And the Kremlin will try to do its best to derail the modernisation of Kazakhstan. A journalist from the Russian Federation asked a senior Kazakh official whether the aims of this referendum do not remind them of the Perestroika, and we all remember very well what happened to the country that tried to implement it. The answer was a perfect reflection of Kazakhstan's current multi-vector diplomacy. According to the official, Kazakhstan has already been on the road to reform since 2019. It is done step-by-step and, most importantly, in the context of a change in the consciousness and mentality of our society. The absolute majority is already ready for even more significant reforms, and Kazakhstan has the economic basis for such reforms. Finally, he mentioned that most of the amendments to the Constitution are present in the Constitution of the Russian Federation, so, you see, we are just trying to catch up with you now. You, the Russian Federation, really have nothing to fear.

The sheep stay healthy, and the wolf is full, as we say in Lithuania. Of course, the ninth largest country in the world does not pretend to be a “sheep”. But you have to remember that Kazakhstan, a territory the size of Western Europe, has almost as many inhabitants as the Netherlands, which is half the size of Lithuania. And Kazakhstan's border with Russia is the second-longest land border in the world. It may not be an appropriate comparison, but the behaviour of the Kazakhs reminds me in many ways of the behaviour of the Finns, who have the longest land border with Russia in the European Union. Before Russia's aggression against Ukraine, there was a lot of talk about the need for friendship and trade with neighbours. But subconsciously, the Finns knew exactly what they were dealing with and kept their true feelings towards the Russian Federation to themselves. With the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine outbreak, these true feelings have come out into the open, and the Finns are already applying to join NATO. Of course, it is difficult to deny that the influence of the Russian Federation is felt in Kazakhstan. To begin with, the political elite often communicates among themselves in Russian, and in general, Russian is still the Franca lingua of many Kazakhs. But the importance and influence of the Kazakh language is growing all the time, and the Kazakhs are seriously engaged in creating their own historical narrative. Yes, there is influence from the north, but I did not sense there being any pride about it. On the contrary, I felt that careful steps were being taken to get rid of this legacy.

An intern at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan asked me what Lithuania would do if it were geographically in Kazakhstan's place. It is a wonderful question to which there is no answer. Still, this question perfectly reflects Kazakhstan's situation. We in Lithuania should be more careful about throwing out epithets such as “Kazakhstan is a perpetual ally of Russia, and it will always be that way.” Kazakhstan is a neighbour of Russia, which is very aware that it has one of the longest land borders in the world and cherishes its independence and is trying to preserve it. That is my impression, and that is the message I heard during my visit to this country.

The events of January could have been the beginning of the end of the modernisation of Kazakhstan. Instead, the organisers of the unrest were probably hoping that President Tokayev's administration would resort to repressions and would go into reverse gear. The reforms will fail, and then it is only a matter of time before Tokayev's presidency comes to an end.

The opposite has happened, and it has been decided to accelerate the reforms. It was agreed that the time had come for a New Kazakhstan and the Second Republic. On 16

March, President Tokayev announced the creation of the New Kazakhstan and a referendum. On 5 June, the referendum will ask voters whether they agree with the changes to the Constitution of Kazakhstan. One-third of the articles of the Constitution will be amended, and two new articles will be added. On political reforms, President Tokayev noted that the reforms and changes to be implemented include transitioning from a super-presidential form of government to a presidential republic with a strong parliament. Such a system will provide an optimal balance of power for institutions and contribute to the country's sustainable development. Legislation that obliges the President to terminate membership in the party for the period of his powers will also be included. This norm will increase political competition and provide equal conditions for the development of all parties. Furthermore, it was proposed legally prohibit akims (governors and mayors) and their deputies from holding positions in party branches. Such decisions will enhance a multiparty system. Also, a legislative ban for the closest relatives of the President from holding positions of top-level civil servants and managers in the quasipublic sector. Provisions to increase the independence of governors will be there. For example, currently, the President has the right to dismiss district and rural akims. Such legal provisions should be abolished.

Another significant change will be in procedures for registration of political parties that



will be greatly simplified. For example, the registration threshold will be reduced from 20,000 to 5,000 people – a fourfold reduction (eightfold over since 2019!), in regional branches – from 600 to 200 people. In addition, the rights and obligations of observers of electoral legislation should be clearly defined. The establishment of a Constitutional Court is another important milestone. The Prosecutor General and the Commissioner for Human Rights will be given the right to appeal to the Court, the President and the Parliament. Furthermore, specific reforms in the parliamentary and local government system are there. These include reducing the quota for presidential appointments in the Senate from 15 to 10 members to give more voice to social groups under-represented in Parliament.

The Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan quota in the Mazhilis (the Parliament) will be abolished to reflect the more parliamentary powers. This quota is transferred to the Senate and reduced from 9 to 5 members. Accordingly, the total number of deputy seats in the Mazhilis will decrease. The Assembly is a constitutional body that is designed to represent the interests of numerous ethnic communities of the nations. The right of the Senate should only be to approve or reject the laws already adopted by the Mazhilis. Consequently, the Mazhilis is vested with the right to pass laws. Parliament should strengthen control over the quality of execution of the state budget. The Supreme Accounts Chamber will be created instead of the Accounts Committee for Control over the Execution of the National Budget. The system of election of deputies of the Majilis will be reformed the following way: 70% of MPs will be elected on a proportional basis, while 30% will be elected on a majoritarian basis. In addition, a mixed model will be introduced in the elections of maslikhats (local Parliament) of regions and cities of national significance. This will pave the way for individual non-party candidates to run for a seat in the Parliament and increase political competition and the citizens' direct engagement with their elected MPs.

Additional reforms and revisions of the law “On Mass Media” will be implemented. The vision is that the media should have opportunities to be more competitive and independent.

The article of the Constitution states that land and wealth belonging to the state is replaced by land and wealth belonging to the people. Institutes will also be set up to audit Kazakhstan's assets inside and outside the country. I believe this is one of the key changes that will determine the success of Kazakhstan's modernisation. And this success is very important for us. Why?

Perhaps we should start by saying that we, as a country that wants as many countries in the world as possible to follow the path of democracy, have a vested interest in seeing Kazakhstan succeed. We, Lithuania, no longer need to convince the Kazakh establishment of the advantages and benefits of democracy. Kazakhstan has decided to reform, not because there is any European perspective, but because they are well aware of the importance and benefits of this path. They are doing it “for themselves” and not “for Brussels”, not to score points. Therefore, we, Lithuania, have a unique opportunity to contribute to the success story of this country. We ourselves are a success story. The Kazakhs remember us, know us and know Lithuania, and want to communicate with us. It may sound a bit cliché, but we have the opportunity to become Kazakhstan's advocate and bridge to the West.

If Kazakhstan succeeds in reforming the country, it will hugely impact the whole Central Asian region. It will also have an impact on Russia. This is because the more reformed and modern Kazakhstan, Russia and other autocratic states have less influence on it. It is very important because we need to consider Kazakhstan's enormous economic potential. In terms of area, Kazakhstan has vast arable land (sixth in the world), deposits of 99 of the 105 elements on the periodic table, and the world's second-largest uranium reserves. The World Bank estimates that Kazakhstan's deposits contain mineral resources worth USD 46 trillion. It is in Lithuania's interest to make this country as modern and democratic as possible. Because, as we have seen time and again, it is not viable to do business with authoritarian states, but it is beneficial to trade with modern countries. Kazakhstan's Zeitenwende is unique: in the referendum on 5 June, 77% of the voters decided that Kazakhstan must change and turn towards modernisation. The ambitions and goals are huge, and these goals are in the direction for which we, Lithuania, have been fighting for thirty years. As a result, we have become a success story for the world and share this success with others. After announcing the results of the referendum, I have often heard that this is only the beginning of the road, the beginning of the New Kazakhstan, the Second Republic. They understand that the road will be long and winding, but the Kazakhs are determined to start this journey, and we in the West must support them as much as we can along the way. A wise Kazakh told me: my dad used to tell me that if you want to achieve something, you have to stand up and start acting. And then half the job is done. The Kazakhs, having strengthened themselves economically, stood up. Thus a new political nation was born. It is up to this nation to pass this test, and it is up to us to wish them well and, if necessary, to stand by them and support them.

*Ruslanas Iržikevičius is the Editor-in-Chief of Lithuania Tribune.*



## Briefs

## Army budget reduced, not increased

FROM PAGE 01

The military's spokesperson, during an interview with a private television channel, said the final call for the return of the ex-president — who resides in the United Arab Emirates — to Pakistan would be made by his family. "We have contacted his family. Once his family responds, we can make the required arrangements," the military's spokesperson said as he prayed for Musharraf's speedy recovery. Musharraf, 78, is critically ill these days as he is suffering from a condition called amyloidosis, his office said Friday. The military's spokesperson further highlighted that the Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa's visit to China was very important and added that China has played a crucial role in increasing Pakistan's defence prowess. Maj Gen Iftikhar emphasised that ties between Islamabad and Beijing held "strategic importance" and were crucial for regional peace. He also stated that the security of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects has remained unaffected, adding that the work related to the project's security has been happening round the clock. The DG ISPR made it clear that all three service chiefs were present in the National Security meetings. The participants were briefed by the agencies that there was no evidence of regime change conspiracy, he added. The Pak Army spokesman said that no one has the right to distort the facts. Pak army leadership has been being subjected to propaganda, everyone has the right to express their opinion but opinions should not be supported with lies.

## Banned TTP's terms' acceptance..

FROM PAGE 01

Tehrik-e Taliban established by Mullah Muhammad Omar Akhund is to establish an Islamic State-called Khurasan. Though the exact map or combination of Khurasan is not yet made public besides Afghanistan it would consist of some parts or portions of Pakistan, Iran, and the Central Asian Republics and China. PPP and ANP in the light of its reservations, now are insisting that Taliban should be bound to surrender before the state and in the light of Taliban's unconditional surrender, parliament may make decisions regarding its fate. PPP is in coalition, therefore it needs to table the issue in parliament, which is the sole way for settling the issue. Likewise ANP leadership believes that Pushtoon traditions allow settling of blood feuds but it should be made according to rich traditions. If Taliban wants return, reconciliation and settlement, then its leadership should follow the well established ways otherwise the world will continue to consider Taliban as part of the problem and not part of the solution.

## FO clarifies about Envoys'...

FROM PAGE 01

The news suggested as if the president of Pakistan did not want to receive the US ambassador. DIPLOMATIC sources say it is up to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to decide about such a ceremonies. The United States Senate had confirmed in early March the appointment of Donald Armin Blome as country's next ambassador to Pakistan. The appointment of a US ambassador to the South Asian country was made around three years after Blome's predecessor David Hale left Islamabad in August 2018. The US state department confirmed the developing on Twitter. "Congratulations to Donald Blome on being confirmed by the Senate as our next Ambassador to Pakistan," it said. "Partnership with Pakistan is key to progress on regional security, trade and investment, the climate crisis, and human rights," it wrote.



LAHORE: British High Commissioner Christian Turner met PCB Chairman Ramiz Raja at the Pakistan cricket headquarters in Lahore to discuss this autumn's England cricket teams' tours to Pakistan. England will play seven T20Is in September and three Tests in November/December. — DNA

## A new unicorn

## First Pakistani woman MMA fighter Anita Karim

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD: MMA is a growing sport in Pakistan, and the first professional female fighter Anita Karim is an exception. Karim recently won her fight against Australia's Uyen Ha with a unanimous decision under Fairtex Fight Promotion at Lumpinee Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand. The 25-year-old beat her opponent in all three rounds of the bantamweight fight. Karim told ThePrint, "I want women in my country to think that if one girl from Pakistan can do this much, coming out of the same area, other girls can too." On a national level, there is almost zero recognition for MMA and no regulatory body for the sport despite having roots in Pakistan for over 15 years. Anita's coach, Ehtisham Karim, said in an interview that women—from housewives to law enforcement officers—came for MMA training before Anita. But he would always caution them: "There is no future in this sport. If men can't make it professionally, for women it's near impossible." But Anita turned out to be a 'unicorn' who persisted. Karim's story might bring to mind the story of Indian sisters Babita and Geeta Phogat, made even more popular through the movie Dangal (2018), where the Haryana-born wrestlers competed with boys in their preliminary training. While the Phogat sisters had each other to train with, Karim only had the option of training with her brother and other male competitors. In an interview with The Tribune, Karim said that she didn't like that women were expected to 'stay within their limits'. "The bodies of the women in our region are trained to do hard work. From an early age, we carry a lot of load on our backs and climb up the hills. A woman carries around

20 to 30 kilogrammes of wood, crop and other necessities for many kilometres. This makes our muscles adapted to hard work," she said. Born in Hunza valley of Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan region, Karim took up her MMA training under Uloomi Karim Shaheen, Ehtisham Karim and Ali Sultan, who are also founders of "Fight Fortress"—an MMA gym and research setup established in 2008. Karim reportedly chose MMA over higher studies, and, in 2019, won the ONE Warrior Series (OWS), defeating Gita Suharonono from Indonesia. A year later, she beat Marie Rummer of Estonia in the same event. Karim's win has been widely lauded on social media. A Twitter user shared an image of Anita with her brother Uloomi Karim and wrote how encouraging and emotional it was to see the two on stage together. Anita's parents have been supportive of their daughter's journey even in the face of criticism. "Even when I lost, they supported me and with my wins they're over the moon," she said. While Karim is being hailed as 'Pakistan's daughter' for 'making her country proud', stereotypes continue to follow her. "People talk about me wearing shorts during the fights but I have no other option. But then there are so many people who understand that that is the need of the sport and a 'uniform' when we go to fight," she said. The going was tough for Karim as she could

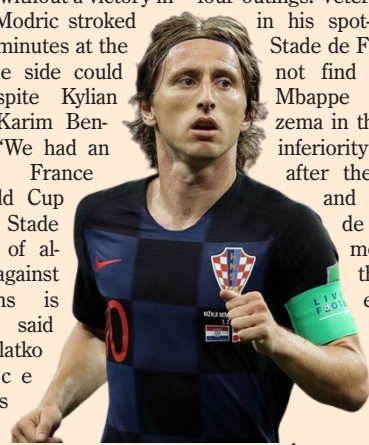


only play a few professional matches in Pakistan due to a lack of competitions, facilities, and other female professional fighters. She lost her debut international match before winning the ONE Warrior Series in 2019. Karim said, "There are multiple challenges for becoming a professional athlete like getting quality training, getting a growing environment, financial management/difficulties for nutrition and travel." Ehtisham also highlighted Anita's struggles but also the fact that she managed to overcome them. He said, "Imagine how tough it must have been for Anita who landed in Singapore directly from her hometown and had to face criticism and stereotypes while fighting. I told her to focus on her game plan, and that eventually worked." Karim is the country's first female MMA fighter but others have

emerged too. From Eman Khan, known as 'Falcon' to Munar Sultana, an advocate, women are taking up the sport despite the obstacles. Eman has pointed out how the sport is also beneficial for other aspects of life, even if it is not taken up professionally. She said in an interview with Bol News, "I want to see a shift in the attitude regarding their health and safety among women in Pakistan. Training kickboxing helped me move better, made me feel stronger physically as well as mentally." Ehtisham says that out of 100 students at his academy, 30-35 are now women. Some of them even want to take up the sport professionally. And that, in itself, might be a ray of hope for both the sport and for female professional MMA fighters in the country. **Source: The print**

## Modric gives Croatia victory in France

PARIS: Luka Modric's early penalty gave Croatia a 1-0 win over off-form France in Paris on Monday as the World Cup holders finished their June run of UEFA Nations League matches without a victory in four outings. Veteran Croatia captain Modric stroked in his spot-kick after just five minutes at the home side could iser despite Kylian to join Karim Benline-up. "We had an against France the World Cup at the Stade in front of al-people against champions is dinary," said coach Zlatko France previous of the League last year but they have managed just two points from their four outings this month, with home defeats against Denmark and now Croatia sandwiching draws away to the Croats and in Austria. "We will need everyone at the start of next season to be in the right frame of mind and in the right athletic condition." This clash was the latest meeting between the sides who contested the 2018 World Cup final in Moscow, although Mbappe, Modric and Marcelo Brozovic were the only players who started that day to line up at kick-off here. — Agencies



## IFAB approves permanent use of five substitutes

SPORTS DESK

DOHA: Football's rules body on Monday said five substitutes would be permanently introduced for all top-level matches and a semi-automated offside detector is closer to being used at this year's World Cup. FIFA president Gianni Infantino said the change to more substitutes, which was first allowed in 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic, followed "strong support from the entire football community". He said after the annual meeting of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) that experts would decide on whether offside detection technology would be used for the World Cup that starts November 21. FIFA's Referees Committee chairman Pierluigi Collina said he was "confident" the system would be introduced in time for the 32-nation tournament. Tests were carried out at the FIFA Arab Cup last year and Club World Cup this year. The system monitors

data points on the limbs of players to create a model that is reviewed pitchside by the referee. "We are very satisfied so far and our experts are looking into it before deciding whether it will be introduced for the World Cup," Infantino told a press conference. It is officially known as 'semi-automated' as it will be the referee that makes a final decision on an offside. FIFA is also looking into introducing a VAR system with fewer cameras to a wider number of competitions. It is currently only used at international tournaments and in some domestic competitions. Tests on the less-tech heavy, cheaper system have already been held at 100 matches in Europe and will now be extended. As well as making the five substitutions permanent, IFAB said that teams can now name 15 substitutes on a team sheet instead of 12. IFAB said that trials of referees wearing body cameras may be started in a bid to counter a growing number of attacks on match officials.

"The members agreed to establish initiatives to tackle these issues including potential trials with body cameras worn by referees in adult grassroots football." The English FA has pressed for action to protect referees. IFAB — made up of the game's founding national associations from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland with FIFA — could also start trials for kick-ins as an alternative to throw-ins. "Proposals were made to test kick-ins," said Infantino. "Whilst we may be a bit sceptical on some of these measures... If some proposals are there to help the game, we will not know it before we look into it, so we will look into these proposals as well." The rules body ordered trials on the use of concussion substitutes — which has been tested in 140 domestic leagues and tournaments — to be extended until August 2023. Growing concern has been raised about the impact of head injuries on players — with many suffering from dementia and Parkinson's disease in later life.

## 'Enhancing ties with Pak top priority'

FROM PAGE 01

we want more and more companies to come to Pakistan," he said. Blome expressed these views during a visit to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) where he rang the bourse's gong to mark the beginning of the trading session. The US envoy highlighted the need for measures to "strengthen trade ties with Pakistan" and said that US companies were manufacturing excellent products. The US envoy said on the occasion that it was his first visit to Karachi and he was pleased to have visited the PSX. "This is my first trip to Karachi and I am feeling really good after arriving here," he said. He added this year would mark the completion of 75 years of ties between the US and Pakistan.

## Imran Khan lashes out...

FROM PAGE 01

all corruption cases against them. While casting doubts on the death of investigating officer Dr Rizwan, the PTI chief said the PML-N government was destroying FIA record pertaining to the corruption cases. "They are destroying the justice system... they will inflict immense damages to the country which even our enemy has failed to achieve." He also accused the government of muzzling freedom of media, saying TV channels were being pressured not to give coverage to him. The former premier said the United States "installed" the incumbent rulers into power because they can be controlled easily as their assets were stashed abroad. Speaking about inflation, Imran compared the performance of the incumbent regime with his government, saying the prices of all essential commodities have skyrocketed in only two months. He said his government provided subsidies worth Rs200 billion on fuel and electricity prices despite IMF pressure because they did not want to burden the masses with more inflation. "They don't care about the people of Pakistan... they only take orders from America... a group of thieves has been imposed upon us by the US and their local abettors," he remarked. Moreover, he said his government was the first in the country's history which provided health cards to the people of Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa to enable them to avail free treatment at any private or public hospital. "Entire opposition pressured me to impose a blanket lockdown during Covid-19 pandemic but I refused to do so considering its impact on daily wagers." Imran said that Pakistan was among the five nations in the world which successfully saved the poor and economy from the pandemic. Likewise, my government was the first in the country's history which opened shelter homes for labourers, he added.

## Imran, wife received...

FROM PAGE 01

press conference in Islamabad, Sanaullah said Bahria Town had "illegally transferred" Rs50bn to a Pakistani national in the UK. The transfer, he said, was identified by the UK's National Crime Agency, which subsequently informed the then PTI government of the crime. Sanaullah claimed that Imran, the prime minister at the time, had tasked Shehzad Akbar, ex-PM's aide on accountability, to resolve the matter. Akbar "settled" the entire case, while the Rs50bn — which was state property and belonged to the national treasury — was adjusted against Bahria Town's liability, the interior minister alleged. He said the former prime minister accepted a graft of Rs5bn as "his share" through Akbar before the case was wrapped. Sanaullah said the federal cabinet has formed a sub-committee to investigate the scandal and deal with it as per the law. "The case did not just end here. Bahria Town, after its Rs50bn was protected by the government, entered an agreement and allotted a 458-kanal land with an on-paper value of Rs530 million to a trust owned by Imran and his wife," he claimed.

## China calls for joint efforts with US for stability in APAC

AGENCIES

LONDON: China has urged the US for "joint efforts" to ensure the stability of the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region as the two sides agreed to keep communication channels open to "manage differences." The call for joint efforts came at a meeting between Yang Jiechi, a top official of the Communist Party of China, and Jake Sullivan, the US national security advisor, in Luxembourg on Monday. A readout from Beijing said Yang "emphasized that the United States should have positive interactions with China and make joint efforts for the prosperity, stability and development of the Asia-Pacific region." The statement comes as Washington moves to cement its so-called Indo-Pacific policy to contain China's expanding economic and military influence in the wider Asia-Pacific region, by forging new bilateral and multilateral alliances including Quad, AUKUS, and Indo-Pacific Economic Framework. A brief readout from the White House said

the two sides discussed a "number of regional and global security issues, as well as key issues in US-China relations." Interestingly, both Beijing and Washington called the meeting a "candid, substantive, and productive discussion." "Mr. Sullivan underscored the importance of maintaining open lines of communication to manage competition between our two countries," said the White House statement, similar to Beijing's that said: "It is necessary and beneficial to keep communication channels unimpeded." The meeting of top Chinese and American officials follows statements made by defense chiefs of the two countries at the Shangri-La Dialogue last weekend in Singapore. While US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin accused China of a "more coercive and aggressive" approach to its territorial claims, the Chinese defense minister vowed to "resolutely safeguard China's sovereignty, security and development interests." Beijing said Yang stressed that China's position on "safeguarding national sovereignty and

territorial integrity is unequivocal and firm." "China's internal affairs brook no interference from other countries," he said, referring to self-ruled Taiwan. "Any attempt to obstruct or undermine China's national reunification will be doomed to failure," the Chinese diplomat told the US national security advisor. "The Taiwan question concerns the political foundation of China-US relations, and if it is not handled properly, it will have a subversive impact," Yang said, adding: "This risk not only exists, but will continue to rise as the United States attempts to 'use the Taiwan question to contain China' and the Taiwan authorities attempt to seek 'Taiwan independence' by soliciting US support." Yang regretted: "For some time now, the United States has insisted on stepping up all-round containment and repression against China." He warned Washington to "not have any miscalculation or illusion." "It must abide by the one-China principle and the provisions of the three joint communiques between China and the United

States; it must prudently and properly handle questions related to Taiwan," he added. "Instead of solving the problems facing the United States, it has put China-US relations in a very difficult situation and greatly damaged bilateral exchanges and cooperation," said Yang. "This situation is not in the interests of China, the United States and the rest of the world," he said, adding the bilateral relations with Washington "stand at an important crossroads." Yang said three principles of "mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation" put forward by Chinese President Xi Jinping "are the right way for China and the United States to get along with each other." "China is ready to discuss ways and means to realize this vision with the United States," he said, adding that Beijing "opposes the definition of China-US relations by competition." Yang, director of the CPC's Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, and Sullivan also had a phone call in May and had met in person last year in Switzerland.



## Briefs

OSCE  
commends  
results of  
referendum  
in Kazakhstan

## NEWS DESK

VIENNA: Under the Chairmanship of Poland, at the OSCE Permanent Council, the delegation of Kazakhstan presented information to the participating States of the Organization on the results of the nationwide referendum on amendments and additions to the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which took place on June 5, 2022, Kazinform has learned from the press service of the Kazakh Foreign Ministry. Representatives of the participating States of Azerbaijan, the United Kingdom, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and the European Union, including North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova, who joined to the statement, welcomed the holding of the referendum in Kazakhstan and noted the importance of the decision taken by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, to hold a referendum aimed at democratizing society. According to the speakers, the high voter turnout is a manifestation of the population's increased confidence in the political and democratic reforms being carried out by President Tokayev in the country.

Turkey to  
rebrand  
national  
flag carrier

## FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: "Turkey no longer exists. It is Türkiye. From now on, Türkiye Hava Yollari will be inscribed on the bodies of our planes instead of Turkish Airlines," President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday, announcing a name change for the country's flag carrier. The move is seen as part of a push by Ankara to rebrand the country and dissociate its name from the bird, turkey, and some negative connotations that are associated with it. Meanwhile, it was unclear whether Airlines in the name would be changed to the Turkish format, "Hava Yollari." Earlier this month, Ankara sent a letter to the United Nations, formally registering the country's name as "Türkiye" – as it is spelled and pronounced in Turkish. The country called itself "Türkiye" in 1923 after its declaration of independence. In December, Erdogan called for the use of "Türkiye" to better represent Turkish culture and values, including demanding that "Made in Türkiye" be used instead of "Made in Turkey" on exported products. Turkish ministries began using "Türkiye" in official documents.

Scottish govt  
launches new  
independence  
campaign

## NEWS DESK

LONDON: Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon on Tuesday launched a fresh campaign for Scotland's independence from the UK. Speaking at a news conference in Edinburgh, Sturgeon unveiled the first set of new papers, titled Wealthier, Happier, Fairer: Why Not Scotland? Insisting that she has a clear mandate for the independence bid as the majority of Scots voted for her Scottish National Party (SNP) in the last election, Sturgeon said Scotland is being "held back" under the control of Westminster. Sturgeon said Scottish people are suffering from a worsening cost of living crisis, low growth and increasing inequality and all the country's problems are worse because Scotland is not independent. "Do we stay tied to a UK economic model that consigns us to relatively poor economic and social outcomes which are likely to get worse, not better outside the European Union, or do we instead lift our eyes with hope and optimism and take inspiration from comparable countries across Europe?," she questioned.



ISLAMABAD: Asian Development Bank delegation calls on Federal Minister Shazia Marri in Islamabad at BISP Headquarters. – DNA

US, Pakistan bolstering ties  
in all sphere: Masood Khan

The NDU delegation, comprising senior officers from Pakistan's Armed Forces and Civil Service as well as allied officers from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Saudi Arabia, visited the Embassy of Pakistan in Washington DC on Monday

WASHINGTON: Pakistan's Ambassador to the US, Masood Khan, has said that Islamabad and Washington are engaged in strengthening their relationship in all spheres, including defence cooperation. He made that statement while briefing a 15-member delegation of Pakistan's National Defence University (NDU) now visiting the United States. The NDU delegation, comprising senior officers from Pakistan's Armed Forces and Civil Service as well as allied officers from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Saudi Arabia,

visited the Embassy of Pakistan in Washington DC on Monday.

"While promoting military-to-military and security cooperation, equal importance is being given to expand ties in the trade, investment, climate, health, energy and education sectors," the Pakistani envoy said. "There is immense connectivity between Pakistan and United States spanning 75 years; our shared objective is to maximize its potential," he added. The Ambassador hailed the delegation's trip as an "ice breaker" after a three-year hiatus in such

visits due to the coronavirus pandemic.

After giving the history and current status of Pakistan-US bilateral relations as well as Pakistan's perspective on important regional and global issues, Masood Khan said that the two countries will continue to work on the shared objectives of a peaceful and stable Afghanistan and averting the humanitarian crisis in the country. They are also working on providing a solid base to the bilateral relationship by tapping the immense potential in the economic, trade, defence, education, IT, climate

change, energy and cultural fields.

"The longstanding Pakistan-US relations, cemented by the dynamic Pakistani-American diaspora, would be further strengthened by investment in the tech, agriculture and health sectors." The Ambassador underlined the urgent need for proactive diplomacy to resolve the ongoing Ukraine crisis. The humanitarian crisis, deteriorating by the day has become a global crisis for which a collective response is required in line with the purposes and principles of United Nations' Charter, Masood Khan said.

The briefing was followed by an interactive session during which the Ambassador answered questions from the delegation members on a wide range of issues.

Responding to a question, Masood Khan said Pakistan has always worked for creating conditions for peace and stability in the region. For that purpose, he said, it would be imperative to resolve outstanding issues on the basis of international law and justice. During their weeklong stay in Washington DC, the NDU delegation will visit various US defence and civil institutions. – APP

Türksat 5B satellite  
comes online to boost  
Turkey's domain

ANKARA: Turkey on Tuesday put into service its latest telecommunication satellite that will offer services over Turkey, the Middle East and parts of Africa, in what President Recep Tayyip Erdogan dubbed a new phase in the country's space journey. Türksat 5B satellite was launched in December on SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral in Florida.

It was launched to geostationary transfer orbit, where it reached 42 degrees East to provide high throughput Ka and Ku-band services. "The Türksat 5B satellite will make our TV and broadband satellite capacity uninterrupted from Africa and the Middle East to Asia," Erdogan told a ceremony in the capital Ankara. "Geographical problems will now disappear. Everyone will be able to use the internet easily from anywhere." The orbiter that will serve for 30 years will ensure that the "frequency and territorial rights of our country are also protected," Erdogan said. Turkey signed an agreement with the global aerospace company Airbus in 2017 for the production of the Türksat 5B and 5A satellites, the latter of which was sent into space in January last year. Türksat 5B reached its destination on May 17 and underwent successful performance and orbit tests. It will cover a wide area that includes the whole Middle East, the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea, the Mediterranean, parts of Africa, as well as neighboring countries. It will have a useful payload capacity that will exceed all satellites to date and will boost Turkey's communication capacity by fifteenfold, officials have said. Erdogan stressed that Türksat 5B would add pace to Turkey's efforts to further extend communication and internet infrastructure. –DNA

Kazakhstan President to  
visit Russia, Iran this week

## FOREIGN DESK

NURSULTAN: Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev is set to visit Russia and Iran this week, Kazinform has learned from the president's Telegram channel. On June 16 the Head of State is set to take part in the maiden meeting of Ulttyg quryltai in the newly established Ulytau region. President Tokayev is expected to participate in the jubilee 25th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum on June 17. At the forum, the Head of State will deliver a speech at a plenary session, as well as hold a number of bilateral meetings. On June 19 the Kazakh leader will pay an official visit to Iran at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart President Ebrahim Raisi. In Tehran President Tokayev will hold top-level bilateral talks and sign a number of intergovernmental documents.



MINSK: Pakistan ambassador to Belarus Sajjad Haider attended the wreath laying ceremony at the Victory Monument in connection with the international parliamentary conference "Historical Memory; The Great Victory Gained by Unity". – DNA

Pakistan E-Commerce startup  
raises record \$37mln Series A

## MONITORING DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Dastgyr Technologies Pvt., which aims to create an e-commerce platform similar to Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. for emerging markets, raised \$37 million in the country's largest-ever Series A funding. The venture arm of telecommunications operator Veon Ltd. led the fundrais-

ing by contributing about 40% of the investment. The Dutch-domiciled giant serves more than 217 million customers in nine countries and is the largest mobile phone service provider in Pakistan.

Dastgyr's funding is a bright spot for the South Asian nation that has suffered from the global tech downturn after a breakout year in 2021. Uber Technologies Inc.'s Careem Inc. unit has

suspended food deliveries in the country, Dubai-based Swvl Holdings has paused operations and Airlift Technologies Pvt. has fired a third of its workforce.

"Pakistan's startup ecosystem is at a critical juncture and only startups focused on addressing key challenges and adopting local solutions will survive and thrive," said Aamir Ibrahim, chief executive officer at Jazz, Veon's local unit.

Pakistan is mostly a cash-based economy but startups are looking to change that. Dastgyr, which means "helper," is a one-stop platform that connects retailers such as grocery stores with multiple suppliers such as Nestle SA and Reckitt Benckiser Group Plc. Most traditional stores currently meet 100 suppliers a week or physically browse different markets to stock their shelves.

Britain  
records  
104 more  
monkeypox  
cases

## AGENCIES

LONDON: Another 104 cases of monkeypox have been recorded in England, taking the national count to 470, the Health Security Agency said. The agency told people in Britain to contact a sexual health clinic if they have a rash with blisters, and if in the past three weeks they have been in close contact, including sexual contact, with someone who has or might have monkeypox (even if they've not been tested yet), or have been to West or Central Africa.

"Anyone can get monkeypox, particularly if you have had close contact, including sexual contact, with an individual with symptoms," it said. As of Sunday, there were currently 452 confirmed cases in England, 12 in Scotland, 4 in Wales and 2 in Northern Ireland, according to the statement.

Currently, most cases have been detected in men who are gay, bisexual or have sex with men, the agency said.

The agency's updates highlighted the risks of the disease being spread, Paul Hunter, professor of medicine with the Norwich Medical School at the University of East Anglia, told Xinhua Saturday. "Transmission of monkeypox seems to be almost exclusively being transmitted by close and intimate contact. So people should avoid contact with people who could be infected, especially if they have a rash," he said.

Kazakhstan  
records 4.6%  
economic  
growth

## NEWS DESK

NURSULTAN: Growth is observed in trade, construction, transport, warehousing sectors, information and communications, processing and ore-mining industries, water supply and agriculture, Kazinform correspondent reports.

According to Minister of National Economy Alibek Kuantyrov, pace of economic growth in Kazakhstan in January-May 2022 reached 4.6%. Stable dynamics is observed in real sector, services and export sectors, Kuantyrov said at a Governmental meeting on Tuesday. Real sector growth made 4.8%. Services sector demonstrates a 3.9% rise in the reporting period.

The Minister also pointed out an increasing level of fixed investments. Thus, in his words, investments in education rose by 71.7%. Investments in social support sector increased by 55.1%, in research and technical activity – by 35.9%, in health-care – by 27.8%, in real estate activities – by 20.4%, in trade – by 13.9% and in construction – by 10.7%. The highest indicators are observed in Shymkent and Almaty cities as well as in Akmol region.

Google  
engineer  
claims AI  
chatbot "has  
emotions"

## WEB DESK

NEW YORK: Asenior engineer working at leading U.S. technology company Google claimed that the artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot used by the company has reached the level of a "sentimental" 7.8-year-old child.

Speaking to the Washington Post, Blake Lemoine, senior engineer at the Google Responsible Artificial Intelligence organization, stated that he witnessed the improvements that AI had had during his work where he was tasked to test whether the interface, called the Language Model for Dialogue Applications (LaMDA), contains "discriminatory" or "hate speech." "If I didn't know exactly what this computer program we built recently, I would have thought it was a 7.8-year-old boy who knew physics," Lemoine said of AI.

The senior engineer, who completed his education in cognitive computer science, said that when he presented the report titled "Is LaMDA emotional?" to the senior managers of Google, his concerns weren't taken into consideration.

## Italy becomes a 'Billion Dollar' export market for Pak

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: At a time when Pakistan's economy is struggling with ever widening trade deficit, some of our export markets are displaying exceptional growth. Italy is among the countries where Pakistan's exports have been rising phenomenally despite the tough market conditions caused by the COVID health emergency, said a statement issued here on Tuesday. Italy has become 'billion dollar' export market for Pakistan for the first time ever. In the first 11 months of this year, our exports to Italy increased 46% which is highest growth rate among all of our export destinations in Europe. In this period, Pakistan's trade surplus with Italy has increased 84%. Just three years ago, Pakistan actually had a trade deficit of \$148 million with Italy. In the last three years, despite the pandemic driven market disruptions, Pakistani trade with Italy not

only recovered from the deficit but has turned around to post a trade surplus of half a billion dollar. This remarkable achievement owes much to the resilience and dynamism of Pakistani entrepreneurs in the export sector, ably supported by Pakistan embassy in Italy. Ambassador to Italy, Jauhar Saleem, has been regularly briefing media about the Embassy's initiatives for trade, investment and remittances enhancement, including engagement with the host government, industry associations, business leaders, chambers of commerce and SMEs. Pakistan's exports to Italy have crossed \$ 1002 million during the first 11 months of this financial year with the value added sectors becoming the main driver of growth that has produced a trade surplus of around half a billion dollar. That too at a crunch time for the country reeling from record trade deficits. From an increasingly diversified export basket, home textiles, leather, rice, plastic products, surgical instruments,

general fitness equipment and auto-parts have been the top performing product lines.

In the wake of the pandemic led health consciousness, Pakistan's exports of articles of general fitness have also increased by over 100%, while export of plastic products has increased 356 %, making Italy Pakistan's 4th largest export destination for plastic products. Pakistan also further improved its position as the market leader in rice sector with its exports increasing by another 31%. The embassy has been specially engaging with sourcing firms and investors so as to leverage the pandemic hit conditions to Pakistan's advantage in terms of enhanced focus of Italian importers on Pakistan, which has helped promote greater B2B interaction as well as exchange of delegations. Recently, a 10- member buying mission from Italian leather sector visited Pakistan, and another delegation will be visiting TEXPO Pakistan in August 2022. On the other

side, a 22-member delegation of PFMA is visiting Italy from 11-15 June 2022 and a 35 member delegation from leather sector will be visiting Italy in September 2022. Chairman Pakistan Footwear Manufacturers Association (PFMA), Zahid Hussain has, in a press statement, recognized the support of Pakistan Embassy Rome for footwear exporters in recovering from the challenging conditions and getting back on growth trajectory in the Italian market. He appreciated the role of the Embassy in establishing Pak-Italy Footwear Technology Institute at Lahore that is playing a vital role in inducing competitiveness and modernization of Pakistan's footwear sector. There has also been an unprecedented inflow of workers remittances from Italy to Pakistan in the last couple of years. The overall growth in workers remittances from Italy has been almost 50% in the first 10 months of this year, making Italy Pakistan's biggest source of remittances in the EU and

the 7th largest in the world. Workers remittances are expected to cross 850 million by the end of the current financial year. Both countries are also working on a Labour Agreement which would open new opportunities for Pakistani skilled and semi-skilled workers in the Italian market. The FDI from Italy has also witnessed promising growth during the current year. As health concerns and travel restrictions relating to COVID abate, corporate travelling from Italian businesses to Pakistan is picking up fast. Many Italian investors are currently negotiating and finalizing investment deals; especially in the areas of food processing, construction, chemicals, energy, textile, leather, and IT. Italy's largest player in the energy sector ENEL is also exploring Pakistani market for investment. The embassy is providing all required support to facilitate the growing investments, particularly in a JV mode so to promote the flow of technology and know how as well.



## Briefs

CM Shah  
unveils 'tax-free' Rs1.71tr  
Sindh budget

DNA

KARACHI: Amid ruckus in the assembly, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday presented an Rs1.7 trillion "pro-poor" and "tax-free" budget for the next fiscal year 2022-23. The chief minister said the past year witnessed "extraordinary changes" — both nationally and internationally — and it ultimately impacted the common man. "Despite that, the Government of Sindh vows to leave no stone unturned to ensure economic and political stability in the province, contributing its shares [to] the common national effort, which is in line with the vision of the PPP," CM Shah said. The chief minister prayed that Pakistan and its democracy be protected from the dangers and challenges that it is facing.

"May democratic forces always rise and shine in this country. May Almighty Allah bestow us with courage and ability to serve the people of our motherland."

Key relief measures

- Special programmes to support the hard-hit social and agricultural sector
- Government targeting specific sectors, including health, law and order, infrastructure development, and revamping and rehabilitation of the irrigation system
- For a second consecutive year, Sindh proposes no taxes, reduces some as well
- Cotton fees, professional tax, entertainment duty, and infrastructure development cess for export-oriented units have been proposed to be waived off
- Pro-poor relief package worth Rs26.85 billion has been proposed in this budget
- To address the issue of food security, Sindh has proposed to provide a Rs23.324 billion subsidy on wheat for common people.

EU to buy  
110,000 doses  
of Monkeypox  
vaccine

ANKARA: The European Union will sign on Tuesday an agreement to purchase 110,000 doses of vaccine to combat the ongoing outbreak of monkey pox, a senior EU official said.

"Today, we will conclude a contract for nearly 110,000 monkey pox vaccine doses. Funded by EU4Health, they will be available quickly to Member States most in need," European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Stella Kyriakides tweeted. Speaking on the sidelines of an EU health ministers meeting in Luxembourg, Kyriakides said deliveries will begin by the end of June. While COVID-19 vaccines were procured by the European Commission but paid individually by EU countries, the monkey pox contract will be initially funded under the common EU budget. "This is the first time that we're using EU funds in order to purchase vaccines that we can then distribute to member states," the commissioner said. — APP

Rupee dives  
to all-time low  
of 205.16

DNA

KARACHI: Volatility emerged on Tuesday once again in the foreign exchange market as the Pakistani rupee depreciated over Re1 against the US dollar to Rs205.16 in the interbank market.

According to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the local currency shed Rs1.3, or 0.63%, against the greenback today surpassing the last day's historic low of 203.86. The local currency dipped to an all-time low against the greenback owing to a delay in the revival of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) \$6 billion loan programme. However, \$2.4 billion in financial assistance from China coupled with the constant assurances by Finance Minister Miftah Ismail regarding economic stability slightly arrested the rupee's slide.

EU Forum in Peshawar  
seeks to widen trade

EU Charge'd Affaires to Pakistan Mr. Thomas Seiler a.i. said, "We have come to Peshawar today to hold 4th EU-Pakistan Business Forum, with hope and confidence that it will widen trade opportunities - especially for small and medium enterprises

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: European Union hosted the fourth edition of EU-Pakistan Business Forum in Peshawar to widen bilateral trade opportunities for both the EU and Pakistani businesses. After three previous programmes held at Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi on 8 September, 13 October & 17 November respectively last year, the current event in Peshawar was attended by representatives of local SMEs from key sectors including: Handicrafts & Carpets, Tourism, Stone and Gems.

During the Peshawar session of the Business Forum, the participants were informed about making the Pakistani SMEs a part of the country's export supply chains using the GSP+ scheme granted to Pakistan by the European Union. The programme will also help identify new sectors for expanding the export base and diversifying exports. EU-granted GSP+ status to Pakistan provides two thirds of tariff lines duty free access to the EU market with the rest on preferential duties.

The EU Charge'd Affaires to Pakistan Mr. Thomas Seiler a.i. said, "We have come to Peshawar today to hold the 4th EU-Pakistan Business Forum, with the hope and



confidence that it will widen trade opportunities - especially for the small and medium enterprises. We also expect that the

programme will enable exporters to reap full benefits from the EU-granted GSP+ concessions to Pakistan by developing con-

tacts in the EU market and thus pave the way for the SMEs to become real engines for economic development."

Top Generals discuss Pak,  
Argentina defense coop

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Teniente General Juan Martin Paleo, Chief of Joint Staff Argentina Armed Forces called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the

Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office. The visiting dignitary appreciated sound professionalism of PAF personnel and also acknowledged the achievements made by PAF over the years, especially through indigenization. The Air Chief highlighted that both countries enjoy cordial relations and

reiterated his resolve to further augment the existing bilateral cooperation between the two Air Forces. Both the dignitaries agreed to further revitalize defence ties including training and indigenous production. Various matters of professional interest and regional security also came under discussion during the meeting. Separately, Teniente General Juan Martin Paleo also called on General Nadeem Raza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi.

Matters of bilateral defence cooperation including security, military exchanges, training and prevailing regional environment were discussed during the meeting.

Chief of the Joint Staff of the Argentina said that these mutually beneficial interactions have deepened the bilateral defence relationship, strengthened the cooperation and enhanced mutual understanding between the two armies. Chairman JCSC reaffirmed the strong and long-standing bilateral defence relationship between Argentine and Pakistan. Earlier upon arrival at Joint Staff Headquarters, Teniente General Juan Martin Paleo was presented Guard of Honour by a smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Armed Forces.

ECL Amends  
Persons in  
authority  
benefited: CJP

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Tuesday directed those part of the Exit Control List (ECL) to seek the interior ministry's permission to travel abroad. The directive came as a five-member larger bench of the SC resumed the hearing on a suo motu notice on the perceived apprehension of "persons in authority" undermining the criminal justice system.

"Persons in authority made amendments in the ECL rules and benefited from it. The cabinet members apparently abolished the ECL," Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial remarked. Later, the court adjourned the hearing till June 27. At the outset of the hearing, Attorney General of Pakistan Ashtar Ausaf appeared before the court. "Did the cabinet approve amendments in the ECL rules?" Justice Ijazul Ahsan inquired. At this, AGP Ausaf maintained that the matter is under review under a Cabinet committee for legislation. CJP Bandial remarked that the accused who wants to travel abroad for official work should get permission from the interior ministry. "Let the system work. Everyone has to work together," the top judge remarked. — DNA

IMF tells  
Pakistan  
to do more

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Additional measures will be needed to bring Pakistan's budget for fiscal year 2022-23 in line with the key objectives of its International Monetary Fund programme, the lender's resident representative in Islamabad said on Monday. The federal government unveiled a Rs9.5 trillion budget for 2022-23 on Friday aimed at tight fiscal consolidation in a bid to convince the IMF to restart much-needed bailout payments.

"Our preliminary estimate is that additional measures will be needed to strengthen the budget and bring it in line with key programme objectives," Esther Perez Ruiz told Reuters. Finance Minister Miftah Ismail told Reuters on Saturday that the IMF had expressed concerns about the budget numbers, including fuel subsidies, a widening current account deficit, and the need to raise more direct taxes. He, however, added that his government was confident they could adjust the budget to bring the IMF on board and was hopeful of securing a successful review this month. "Discussions with the authorities continue to obtain more clarity on certain revenue and spending items and allow for a full assessment," Ruiz said.

US officials  
confirm  
Biden to visit  
Saudi Arabia

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: The White House has confirmed details of US President Joe Biden's first trip to the Middle East, including a controversial stop in Saudi Arabia and an expected meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS). The Biden administration on Tuesday confirmed the trip, which had previously been reported by US media, would take place between July 13 and 16. Biden will also visit Israel and the occupied West Bank.

The stop in Saudi Arabia — and particularly the meeting with MBS — represent an about-face for Biden, who as a candidate said the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, which US intelligence later directly linked to the crown prince, made the kingdom a "pariah". During his July visit, Biden is widely expected to try to secure a boost in Saudi oil production, as his administration scrambles to tame spiralling fuel costs — spurred by the Russian invasion of Ukraine — and inflation at home that are projected to hurt his Democratic Party in the upcoming midterm congressional elections. In a statement, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said that while in Jeddah, Biden will attend a meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) plus Egypt, Iraq, and Jordan.

AI urges India  
to stop 'vicious'  
Muslim  
crackdown

MONITORING DESK

NEW DELHI: India must immediately end a "vicious" crackdown on Muslims who took to the streets to protest a ruling party official's remarks about the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH), Amnesty International said Tuesday. Two demonstrators were killed and hundreds of others arrested last week in nationwide protests over the comments, which embroiled India in a diplomatic furore and caused widespread outrage in the Islamic world. Footage of bulldozers demolishing homes of those arrested or identified as protesters has since been spread on social media. Authorities are "selectively and viciously cracking down on Muslims who dare to speak up... against the discrimination faced by them," Amnesty's Aakar Patel said in a statement. "Cracking down on protesters with excessive use of force, arbitrary detention and punitive house demolitions... is in complete violation of India's commitments under international human rights law."



ISLAMABAD: Editor Daily Islamabad POST and DNA News Agency Ansar Mahmood Bhatti meeting with the newly appointed Press Secretary to the President of Pakistan, Qamar Bashir, who is a senior officer of the Information Group. Previously Qamar Bashir was serving as the Joint Secretary Ministry of Information and the Managing Director Shamir SRBC. — DNA

## Building close ties with Iran top priority: Bilawal

Bilawal said: "We also discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan especially the dire humanitarian saturation there as both Pakistan and Iran are directly affected by conflict and instability in Afghanistan"

DNA

TEHRAN: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who is on a two-day official visit to Iran, called on the President of Iran, Ayatollah Ebrahim Raisi, at his office in Tehran. The Foreign Minister conveyed greetings to President Raisi on behalf of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and reiterated the official invitation to him to visit Pakistan at his convenience. The Foreign Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's keen desire to strengthen bilateral relations, which are rooted deep in shared history and commonalities of faith, culture and heritage. He highlighted the importance of regular exchanges to advance economic and energy cooperation, regional connectivity, operationalization of barter trade and border sustenance marketplaces, and facilitation of Zaireen visiting Iran for pilgrimage.



years and the senior officials from both countries are resolved to further boost such relations. He noted that Iran and Pakistan have constructive bilateral and regional cooperation in the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). — DNA

The Foreign Minister also took up the issue of release/transfer of Pakistani prisoners detained in Iranian prisons.

President Raisi welcomed the Foreign Minister and underscored that the two nations were bound by close historic linkages and strong fraternal ties. He noted that Iran attached great importance to its economic and trade relations with Pakistan, which had considerable potential for further growth. Earlier during the day, the Foreign Minister held presser with his Iranian counterpart followed by delegation-level talks. Foreign Minister Dr. Amir Abdollahian also hosted a working luncheon in honour of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and his delegation. A joint press stakeout was also held by the two Foreign Ministers. During the discussions, the two sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations, including expansion of economic relations and trade volume.