



# Islamabad POST

Thursday, June 23, 2022

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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**French envoy hosts B-Int'l consortium delegation**

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**Saudi MBS in Turkey to normalize ties**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Yasir returns to Pakistan test squad**

Detailed News On Page-06



## World offers deepest condolences Thousands killed in Afghan earthquake

Wednesday's quake was the deadliest in Afghanistan since 2002. It struck about 44 km (27 miles) from the city of Khost

NEWS DESK

KABUL: The death toll from an earthquake in Afghanistan on Wednesday hit 1,000, disaster management officials said, with more than 600 injured and the toll expected to grow as information trickles in from remote mountain villages. Houses were reduced to rubble and bodies swathed in blankets lay on the ground, photographs on Afghan media showed Helicopters were deployed in the rescue effort to reach the injured and fly in medical supplies and food, interior ministry official Salahuddin Ayubi said. "The death toll is likely to rise as some of the villages are in remote areas in the mountains and it will take some time to collect details," he said. Wednesday's quake was the deadliest in Afghanistan since 2002. It struck about 44 km (27 miles) from the southeastern city of Khost, near the border with Pakistan, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) said. Disaster management officials said at least 1,000 are dead and 600 injured. However, local officials put the number of injured higher. "1,000 dead, 1,500 injured, and this number might go up, many families have been lost. Injured people have been taken to Kabul and Gardez," Mohammad Amin Hozaila, information and culture director of Paktika, told Reuters. Most of the confirmed deaths were in the eastern province of Paktika, where 255 people were killed and more than 200 injured, Ayubi added. In the province of Khost, 25 were dead and 90 had been taken to hospital. Haibatullah Akhundzada, the supreme leader of the ruling Taliban, offered his condolences in a statement. Mounting a rescue operation will prove a major test for the Taliban, who took over the country

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## Pakistan expresses deep sorrow

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Civil and military leadership of Pakistan has expressed grief and sorrow over loss of precious human lives in Afghanistan earthquake. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that Pakistan stands with Afghan brothers and sisters in this difficult time and it will provide all possible assistance to the people of Afghanistan. Shehbaz Sharif also directed the authorities concerned to assist the affected people in Afghanistan. Director General (DG) of Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) also took to Twitter and expressed "deepest condolences over tragic loss of precious lives and damage to infrastructure." Armed Forces of Pakistan are ready to provide all possible humanitarian assistance to people of Afghanistan, he said. In addition, former prime minister Imran Khan directed his KP government to facilitate medical facilities for the affected people in the neighboring country. "My condolences and prayers go to the government and people of Afghanistan for the loss of lives suffered in the earthquake," he said and added that he had asked the KP government to especially facilitate the provision of all medical assistance. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also expressed sorrow over

Continued on Page 06



RAWALPINDI: Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone, Chief of Defence, Italian Armed Forces calls on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ. - DNA

## Italian defense chief calls on COAS

Both sides discuss matters of mutual interest

MAHNOOR ANSAR

RAWALPINDI: Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone, Chief of Defence, Italian Armed Forces called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security situation and enhanced military cooperation in the fields of training and counter terrorism domains were discussed. COAS said that Pakistan values its relations with Italy and we earnestly look forward to enhance mutually beneficial multi-domain relations and forging strong defence cooperation based on common interests. The visiting dignitary acknowledged the professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces. He also appreciated Pakistan's role in regional stability and pledged to play his role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels. Meanwhile Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone, Chief of the Defence Staff Italian Armed Forces, who is on an official visit to Pakistan, called on General Nadeem Raza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee here at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi today. Matters of mutual professional interests including further strengthening of security and defence cooperation specifically in the field of defence production were discussed during the meeting. The Chairman JCSC reiterated that Pakistan and Italy enjoy cordial relations, which are based on convergence on all important issues relating to peace, defence and security.

## Never thought of picking army chief of my choice: Khan

Says Pakistan was exploited in the US-led war on terrorism; reiterates that the watchman cannot remain neutral when the house is being robbed



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Rejecting the notion of appointing favourite general as Pakistan's army chief in November 2022, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan made it clear that he was a strong believer in merit because appointments against merit ruin the institutions. Speaking at PTI's regime change conspiracy here on Wednesday, he said that PML-N leader Khurram Dastagir confessed that these crooks ganged up against him because I was planning to appoint Lt Gen Faiz Hameed as new army chief to materialize my agenda to rule the country for the next 15 years sans any interference. However, Imran Khan stated he had no such ambitious plan because he believed in meritocracy. Lashing out at fugitive Nawaz Sharif, Imran Khan said that Nawaz tried to

## Govt defends talks with TTP

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Wednesday said a meeting on national security, attended by civil and military leadership, had decided that the talks with the proscribed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) will be held only under the framework of the Constitution. He made the statement at a press conference after the meeting in Islamabad, and said it was also decided that an in-camera briefing will be held on the matter and later the prime minister will brief the parliament. "The talks [with the TTP] will be taken forward under the guidance of parliament," Sanaullah added. The outlawed TTP had on June 2 announced an "indefinite ceasefire"

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## Briefs

### PM thanks overseas Pakistanis

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif says the overseas Pakistanis are our precious asset whose hearts beat in love with Pakistan. In a tweet, he expressed happiness that Yesterday State Bank of Pakistan received 57 million dollars, the largest inflow in a day ever. The Prime Minister said our government stands firmly behind Roshan Digital Account Scheme. He said we have now crossed four point five billion dollars in total deposits. Shehbaz Sharif thanked overseas Pakistanis for reposing their trust in the motherland. He said the overseas Pakistanis always play a role in strengthening and improving the country's economy through foreign exchange.

## Pak, China sign \$2.3b loan facility agreement

Finance Minister Miftah Ismail announced the development on his Twitter handle, revealing that the inflows are expected within a couple of days

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday signed a RMB 15 billion (\$2.3 billion) loan facility agreement with a Chinese consortium of banks which is expected to aid the depleting foreign exchange reserves and depreciation of the local currency. Finance Minister Miftah Ismail announced the development on his Twitter handle, revealing that the inflows are expected within a couple of days. "We thank the Chinese government for facilitating this transaction," he said. The agreement with Chinese banks is expected to bolster the country's reserves and enable it to make import payments while lending some support to the rupee as well which has lost over 34% since the start of the outgoing fiscal year 2021-22. Taking to his Twitter, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari also acknowledged China for its support. He wrote: "Grateful to President Xi Jinping, Foreign Minister Wang Yi and the people of China." He added that the people of Pakistan are grateful for the continued support of our all-weather friends.

## Possible IMF deal still weeks away: Tarin

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader and former finance minister Shaukat Tarin said on Wednesday that a potential deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the revival of the extended fund facility (EFF) was still weeks away as he lashed out at the current coalition government for its economic policies. Speaking to the media in Islamabad, Tarin said: "We pray [an agreement is reached]. Because the country is ours and we are nothing without the country. We pray that they (government) agree on a deal [with the IMF] which does not burden the people." However, the former banker maintained that this was currently a work in progress.



## Govt intends to amend PEMRA rules

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb says the government intends to amend Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) rules. She was speaking in a meeting of Senate's Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting in Islamabad on Wednesday. Marriyum Aurangzeb said consultations are underway with the Joint Action Committee on the amendment regarding PEMRA rules. She assured the committee that all stakeholders will be taken on board in this regard. Marriyum Aurangzeb further said laws are being introduced regarding workers' salaries and contracts in media houses.

## Implementation of international conventions

# EU GSP+ mission arrives to assess the progress

This preferential status is conditional on GSP+ countries demonstrating tangible progress on the implementation of 27 international conventions

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A European Union monitoring mission comprising officials from the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission's Directorates-General for Trade and for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, arrived in Pakistan on 22 June. The mission will make an assessment of the effective implementation of 27 international conventions Pakistan is signatory to. The GSP+ (Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus) provides wide-ranging tariff preferences for imports to the EU from vulnerable developing countries to support poverty eradica-

tion, sustainable development and their participation in the global economy as well as reinforce good governance. Eligible countries like Pakistan can export goods to the EU market at zero duties for 66% of tariff lines. This preferential status is conditional on GSP+ countries demonstrating tangible progress on the implementation of 27 international conventions on human and labour rights, environmental protection, climate change and good governance. As stated by Executive Vice-President and Commissioner for Trade Valdis Dombrovskis in 2021 "For five decades, the EU GSP has supported vulnerable countries to grow in a sustainable manner by giving them preferential access to the EU market. This

has helped beneficiary countries to diversify their economies and create jobs. It has also galvanised beneficiary countries into improving human and labour rights, the environment and good governance". As underlined by High Representative/Vice President Josep Borrell Fontelles "The GSP scheme is all about the EU's and Pakistan's joint commitment to sustainable development." GSP+ has been very beneficial for Pakistani business increasing their exports to the EU market by 65% since the country joined GSP+ in 2014. The European Single Market, with over 440 million consumers, is Pakistan's most important destination.

Continued on Page 06



## Briefs

## Govt urged to lift ban on imported items

PESHAWAR: Importers hailing from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have urged the government to lift the ban on import items for next three months to prevent importers from huge financial and other losses and in the best interest of the country's economy. The demand was made by a delegation of importers led by Importers Association President Sultan Khan during a meeting with Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) president Hasnain Khurshid Ahmad here at the chamber's house on Wednesday. Other members of the delegation comprised of Abdul Hakim Shinwari, Saleem Khan, Haji Qadir, Laiq Khan, Haji Tariq Jamil, Khan Muhammad, Haji Aazazi, Zahid, Qais and Arif. Imran Khan Mohmand, senior vice president of the chamber, and former president SCCI Zahidullah Shinwari were present in the meeting. The delegation apprised the SCCI chief about apprehensions of importers regarding ban on imported items, owing to which, they were facing difficulties and losing investment worth billions of rupees since imposition of the decision. - APP

## ACP Karachi celebrates World Music Day

DNA

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi organized a colorful musical program on the occasion of "World Music Day" at Juan Elia Lawn, featuring open mics of various musical groups including Sound of Kolachi, Jambros, Cosmic Fluid and Auj Band. The performances tied the knot, with students from the Arts Council Music Academy performing alongside renowned singers, and participants flocked to the surreal fusion of pop and rock, classical and Sufi music. Speaking on the occasion, Special Program Director Ahsan Bari said that the purpose of the musical program is to highlight the importance of music. The Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi's Art school students pays tribute to the world famous singers.

## PBM, TIKA open stitching unit for women empowerment

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri Wednesday said Pakistan People's Party government has always prioritized uplift of women by offering excellent opportunities. She was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the first ever Stitching/processing unit for Women Empowerment Centres (WECs) of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) established in collaboration with Turkish International Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA). The best quality finished items being prepared in 161 WECs of PBM, will be brought in the stitching unit for necessary alteration, finishing, packaging and price tagging process, to sell out at centralised commercial location in the capital city. The federal minister along with the Ambassador Republic of Turkey in Pakistan, Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul and his spouse inaugurated the stitching unit. Shazia Marri said, today's event will serve as a milestone in the journey of women towards economic emancipation and self-reliance. "It is the vision of the Pakistan People's Party government to bring women in mainstream so as to ensure the economic stability in the country", she added while paying tribute to all the working women. She said that today's modern era demanded innovative interventions for high quality professional skills and PBM was now



implementing the concept to establish a stitching unit for on-ground and online selling of best quality finished products of PBM-WECs throughout the country. She appreciated the PBM-TIKA joint efforts for the betterment of poor women. Shazia Marri highlighted the historic, cultural and religious cordial Pak-Turk Relations and expressed her gratitude

to the Turkish Envoy and his spouse for extending their philanthropic cooperation with PBM. She also admired the worldwide humanitarian services of TIKA and highlighted the various collaborative initiatives with PBM. Addressing on the occasion, Turkish Ambassador, Ihsan Mustafa appreciated PBM's efforts to empower vulnerable women of

country. The Turkish envoy shared his wonderful experience while working in Pakistan and extending support to the vulnerable populace. He also vowed for a sustainable partnership with PBM for social services. Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) Muhsin Balci and Director Administration PBM, Dr. Zafar Khan Saifdar also participated in the ceremony.

## 1440 kg dead chicken seized, destroyed

FAISALABAD: Punjab Food Authority (PFA) team has seized 1,440 kilograms (kg) dead chicken from the area of Sheikhpura road. PFA spokesman said on Wednesday that PFA team nabbed two accused red handed while transporting 1,440 kg dead chicken. The accused during initial interrogation confessed that meat of these chickens was supplied to various hotels and restaurants. Later, the PFA team destroyed these dead chickens at dumping site with the help of workers of Faisalabad Waste Management Authority and the accused were locked behind bars in Balochi police station. Further investigation against them was under progress, he added. Meanwhile, PFA team also unearthed an illegal juice factory near Islam Nagar where spurious and unhygienic beverage was being prepared. The PFA team seized 1,000 liter injurious juice along with 570 liters chemical and other items and destroyed them later on. The team also confiscated juice making machines, packet sealing guns and other material from the spot while further investigation was under progress, spokesman said. - APP

## Pakistan continues to maintain co-op with Turkmenistan: Asif

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Wednesday said Pakistan continued to maintain and further enhance cooperation with Turkmenistan within the framework of ECO and other Regional and International organisations. Ambassador of Turkmenistan, Atadjan Movlamov met with the Defence Minister here at the Ministry and the focus of the meeting was to look into ways to enhance and strengthen mutual coop-

eration in the field of defence between two countries, said a news release. Khawaja further reiterated that the memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Defence cooperation (2015) between the two countries should be implemented in its true letter and spirit. "Pakistan and Turkmenistan share common goal of regional stability, security, peace and thus both countries can closely collaborate in implementation of counter-terrorism meas-

ures", the Minister said. Ambassador of Turkmenistan, Atadjan Movlamov appreciated Pakistan's Defence capabilities and opined that two countries have good potential for extensive collaboration in the field of defence and for economic cooperation. Both sides showed satisfaction and intended to collaborate in various areas of common interest, including security, counter terrorism and ensuring regional economic connectivity. - APP



## KP CM launches E-summary system

PESHAWAR: The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has introduced a Summary Automation System (E-summary system) for provincial departments. Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has formally launched the newly introduced E-summary system during a ceremony held here in Chief Minister's House on Wednesday. Besides, provincial ministers Atif Khan, Taimur Salim Jhagra, Shaikat Ali Yousufzai and Special Assistant to KP CM on Information, Barrister Mohammad Ali Saif, Chief Secretary Shahzad Bangash, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Amjad Ali Khan, administrative secretaries of concerned departments, Director Performance Management and Reforms Unit (PMRU) and other relevant officials also attended the inaugural ceremony. The participants were briefed in detail about the features, workflow and other important aspects of the newly introduced system. Briefing about the important features of the system, it was informed that all the activities related to the summaries including creation of summary, process, approval and review would be carried out through Automation System adding that a dedicated mobile app has been prepared for the purpose. It was a secure automation system as only relevant authorities would have access to the system through particular QR code. Other features of the system include Summary & Note Management, Para Management, Summary & Note Highlights, Video/Audio Highlights, Alerts and Notifications and Centralized Dashboard. The system would also have the facility of Digital Signature enabled through Pin Code. Similarly, the system has been integrated with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa knowledge-base i.e Rules and Regulations. The participants were further informed that all provincial departments have been trained with regard to the use of this summary automation system adding that all the updates regarding the summaries in process would be available for the chief minister and chief secretary on dashboards. - APP

## MoHR organizes capacity building workshop for prisons' staff

PESHAWAR: Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) organized a two-day capacity building training workshop for KP Prison Department in Prisons' Staff Training Academy, Haripur, said a press release issued here on Wednesday. The workshop was chaired by Director General (DG) Ministry of Human Rights Muhammad Arshad, DD (HR) Arfan Shabbir, and legal expert Maimna Khattak. The panel apprised the officers of the prison department about Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights issues faced by the contemporary world. The panel also distributed certificate of participation among the participants of the department. It was first workshop which was arranged at PSTA Haripur by the Human Rights Commission and pledged to continue arranging similar events in the future. - APP

## Court Notice

In The court of Muhammad Saleem Malik Naib Tehsildar Gujrat  
Title Muhammad Saleem versus: Parveen etc.  
Suit for Separation of Land etc.

Notice to:

Parveen W/o. Muhammad Ishaq, Muhammad Abbas S/o. Muhammad Hussain, Shehzad Ahmad S/o. Shabir Hussain, Abid Hussain S/o. Shabir Hussain Cast Jutt R/o. P.O. SA Fan Gujrat. Ghulam Fatima W/o. Muhammad Afzal R/o. Makkah Colony Gujrat. Rashid Mehmood, Muhammad Irfan Sons Shabbir Hussain, Rifat Afza, Qaisra Shaheen, Ghulam Zahra, Amina Shabir, Tayyaba Shabir Daughters of Shabir Hussain, Muhammad Jameel S/o. Sadiq Hussain, Muhammad Asghar, Muhammad Sarwar, Amir Shahzad S/o. Bilal Ali Cast Muslim Sheikh, Arshad Mehmood, Ijaz Ahmad Sons Shabir Hussain Cast Jutt, Muhammad Amin S/o. Sadiq Hussain Jutt R/o. Banth, Muhammad Akram S/o. Fazal Hussain Cast Jutt R/o. Fatupora Gujrat. Major Ghulam Sarwar S/o. Fazal Hussain, Muhammad Munir uraf Manzoor Hussain S/o. Talib Hussain, Fahad Hussain, Jawad Hussain Sons Sajjad Hussain, Sadiq Hussain S/o. Sobidar Shah Muhammad Cast jut R/o. Banth, Muhammad Azam S/o. Rehmat Ali Janjua, Parveen Akhtar, Nasreen Akhtar D/o. Sadiq Hussain Cast Jutt, Ansar Zahira D/o. Shabir Hussain R/o. Banth, Muhammad Imran Shahid, Amir Ali, Azeem, Ghulam Nabi, Majid Hussain, Muhammad Rizwan, Usman, Shahbaz Ahmad, Abid Hussain, Azhar Ali All S/o. Unknown, Muhammad Irfan Ishaq S/o. Ishaq R/o. Banth, Nadeem Masih, Ilyas Masih S/o. unknown, Qamar S/o. Muhammad Ashraf Masih, Kamran S/o. unknown, Altaf Hussain S/o. Ghulam Sarwar Cast Darr R/o. Fatupora City Gujrat. Parveen Akhtar D/o. Khadim Hussain Cast Jutt R/o. Banth, Um-e-Kalsoom, Rab Nawaz, Imran Javed Khan, Syed Shafiq Ahmad, Tanveer Ahmad, Bashir Ahmad, Urooj Sarwar, Zaram Khan S/o. unknown, Zaman Ishaq S/o. Muhammad Ishaq R/o. Banth, Asif Riaz S/o. unknown, Muhammad Afzal, Muhammad Akbar, Muhammad Riaz, Parvez Ahmad, Javed Ahmad S/o. Sultan Ahmad Cast jut R/o. Banth, Iftikhar Ahmad, Waqar Ahmad, Rukhsar Ahmad Sons Muhammad Asghar, Wazhat Hussain, Naveed Afzal, Tayab Afzal S/o. Muhammad Afzal Cast Jutt, Akhtar Zafar Mian Widow of Muhammad Zafar, Robina Shaheen, Ghusan Jalal, Hisan Jalal Mian Sons Muhammad Zafar Cast Rajpoot, Masood Ahmad, Mehboob Akhtar S/o. Noor Baha ul Din Cast Rajpoot, Nazam Muhammad S/o. Atta Muhammad Rajpoot, Muhammad Ashraf S/o. Ghulam Rasool, Muhammad Arshad S/o. GHulam Rasool, Hussain BiBi W/o. Fazal Hussain, Muhammad Hussain, Shabir Hussain Sons Shah Muhammad, Sardar Khan, Ghulam Qadir, Mian Khan Sons Kamal, Sardar BiBi, Aamna BiBi D/o. Kamal Cast Jutt, Mushtaq Ahmad, Riaz Ahmad, Muhammad Riaz Sons Nawab Khan, Sakina Nazir BiBi D/o. Nawab, Ghulam Qadir H/o. Khurshid BiBi, Muhammad Ilyas S/o. Ghulam Qadir, Ghulam Sarwar, Jamshaid Iqbal Sons Ghulam Qadir, Saeeda Rasheed D/o. Ghulam Qadir, Munawar Iqbal D/o. Khurshid, Ghulam Haider S/o. Ghulam Rasool cast Jutt R/o. Banth, Rasoolan Widow of Noor ul Hassan, Shoukat Ali Son, Safia Begum, Razia Begum, Anwar Begum, Khurshid Begum D/o. Noor ul Hassan cast Rajpoot R/o. Gujrat. Ghull Muhammad S/o. Karam Din Cast Jutt R2/o. Kharian.

Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendant is not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendant will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 25-06-2022. Otherwise case will be decided ex party.

## Pak-Saudi relations beyond domestic politics

The way, Muslim Ummah and Arab Islamic world boycotted the Indian products was a testament of unity of the Muslim Ummah

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Inter-faith Harmony and Middle East, Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi has said that the Saudi government always stood by Pakistan in trying times as these ties were beyond the domestic politics. Talking to reporters of national and international media the other day, he expressed the hope that this cooperation and coordination would continue in the future with the same zeal and zest. Ashrafi, who is also the chairman

of Pakistan Ulema Council, said Pakistan and Saudi Arab relations were flourishing in the economic sectors as the Saudi business community was showing their great interest to invest in different sectors in Pakistan. He urged the stakeholders to improve the investment environment and facilitate the investors of Arab Islamic countries. He made it clear that Pak-Saudi relations were not based on person specific; these were between the two nations which were strengthening with every passing day. There were

positive news regarding the financial assistance and provision of oil from Saudi Arabia while certain elements were passing inappropriate and irresponsible remarks without credibility which was totally unjustified, he remarked. Appreciating the 'Road to Makkah' project, initiated by the Saudi government, he said this facility was a great source of relief for the pilgrims. Ashrafi said the Saudi government was providing every possible assistance to the pilgrims adding the Saudi Vision 2030 program of Crown Prince Mu-

hammad bin Salman would facilitate Hajj and Umrah pilgrims to a larger extent. To a query, he responded that the visit of crown prince Muhammad bin Salman to Egypt, Turkey and Jordan was a matter of great pleasure for the Muslim Ummah. He said the solution of all issues including Palestine and Kashmir was lying in unity and stability of the Muslim Ummah. He said at present, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was headed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and a score of expectations were pinned with the

visits of Muhammad bin Salman, which would be fulfilled. He said Pakistan wanted to see the Islamic world united and OIC stronger adding Pakistan would never support any other organization parallel to it. In response to another question, he said the stance of the Muslim Ummah on blasphemy issue was very clear and unanimous. He said the Friday sermons delivered in Harmain Al-Sharifain during last Friday's congregations had clearly expressed sentiments and pain of Muslim Ummah. - APP

## 'Trying to improve ties between Imran, army'

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League Zia-ul-Haq (PML-Z) chief Ijaz-ul-Haq on Wednesday said he is trying to improve relations between former prime minister Imran Khan and the establishment. In an exclusive interview with a private television channel, Ijaz-ul-Haq said he recently met PTI chairman Imran Khan and gave an important message to him. "The ice has started to melt at both the sides." He said the situation can be controlled through a grand dialogue between all the stakeholders of the country. It's not about 'liking' or 'disliking' someone, he added. Ijaz-ul-Haq said that on the other hand, they are also thinking about how to get the country out of the quagmire. The PML-Z chief said that if the situation worsens then the 'institution' will be harmed, which our enemy desperately wants.

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Serena Hotels organise Qawwali night

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## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### JUNE

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| June 02 / <b>Italy</b>              | National Day/<br>Independence Day                                 |
| June 04 / <b>Finland</b>            | Armed Forces Day  |
| June 07 / <b>Sweden</b>             | Natioal Day   |
| June 10 / <b>Portugal</b>           | Portugal Day<br>(Natioal Day)                                     |
| June 10 / <b>Jordan</b>             | Arab Revolution &<br>Army Day                                     |
| June 11 / <b>United Kingdom</b>     | Birthday of Her Majesty<br>The Queen Elizabeth                    |
| June 12 / <b>Philippines</b>        | Independence Day  |
| June 12 / <b>Russian Federation</b> | Day of Sovereignty of<br>the Russian Federation<br>(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/<br>Islamabad..... | 1122 & 16  |
| Emergency Ambulance.....                    | 1122       |
| & Rescue Services.....                      | 4451122    |
| Motorway Police.....                        | 9266044    |
| Motorway Police.....                        | 9270601-20 |
| Women Police Stations<br>Islamabad.....     | 9222596    |
| Rawalpindi.....                             | 9270601-20 |



## Enquiry

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Edhi Ambulance.....   | 115       |
| PIA Flight Info.....  | 114       |
| PIA Cargo.....        | 9280979   |
| Railway Inquiry.....  | 117       |
| Railway Exchange..... | 9270831-5 |
| WASA Rawalpindi.....  | 5555489   |
| CAA.....              | 9281092   |



## Hospitals

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| CMH.....                 | 5611111    |
| MH.....                  | 5611116    |
| Cantt Hospital.....      | 9270907-11 |
| DHQ.....                 | 5556311-4  |
| RGH.....                 | 9290301-7  |
| Holy Family.....         | 9290322-7  |
| PIMS.....                | 9261170-79 |
| Polyclinic.....          | 9218300-09 |
| Shifa International..... | 4603666    |



## Departments

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| CDA.....              | 9221334-43 |
| CDA.....              | 9208301-04 |
| Met Office.....       | 9250360-6  |
| RDA.....              | 5555864    |
| TMA.....              | 5770886    |
| Cantonment Board..... | 9270151-3  |

## Islamabad Metropolitan

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Corporation.....  | 9209224 |
| Potohar Town..... | 9209224 |
| Rawal Town.....   | 5773343 |

## Water Tank

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Islamabad..... | 0321-5744480 |
|----------------|--------------|

# Up gradation of special education centre started



## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The project "Up-gradation of National Special Education Centre for Visually Handicapped Children" is started under the administrative control of Directorate General of Special Education, Ministry of Human Rights. This project is created for the diagnosis and screening of visually impaired persons through the use of advance technological services. In this project, a diagnostic/ screening unit headed by Ophthalmologist and an Optometrist carries out assessment/ screening of visually handicapped persons/ students is providing services. After visual screening and diagno-

sis, the beneficiaries are trained to use the proposed technology in National Library & Resource Centre. Two I.T Experts provide technical support in imparting these training orientations to visually impaired persons on these latest digital assistive devices which are available under this project. An inaugural ceremony of the project was held on June 22, 2022 at the National Library and Resource Center, Islamabad. Federal Minister for Human Rights Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada was the Chief Guest of the occasion. Addressing the audience, he said that in the present age everyone is well aware of the usefulness of technology and it is impossible to deny it. Without technology, we will not be able to



make real progress, nor will we be able to compete with other nations. So everyone should use modern technology as much as possible but when we talk about visually impaired people, the assistive devices based on modern technology become a source of education and rehabilitation for them and these people pass their advanced exams and others can prepare for competitive exams and use their abilities to become important members of society. He further said that he was very happy to see the provision of sophisticated and assistive devices for the visually impaired under this project and to provide technical assistance to the visually impaired using these facilities. Training is also being provided

which will be a stepping stone for the rehabilitation and practical life of these visually impaired people in the society. Mr. Afzal Latif, Secretary, Ministry of Human Rights, Mr. Tariq Mahmood (Joint Secretary), Dr. Abdul Rahim (Director General Legal Aid & Justice Authority), and Mr. Abdul Sattar, Director General (Social Welfare) also attended the function. On this occasion Director General (Special Education) Mr. Sheikh Azhar Sajjad also gave an introductory speech highlighting the objectives of the project and introduced the latest digital assistive devices available for the visually impaired. The event was attended by a large number of dignitaries and visually impaired persons / students.

## PPP to transform vision of ZA Bhutto into reality: Kaira

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to PM on Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira said on Wednesday that Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) would transform the vision of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto into reality. "PPP would continue the struggle of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and all other martyrs of the party to fulfill their promise and accomplish their unfinished mission", he said while speaking to Radio Pakistan's current affair programme. "PPP would use all possible resources to resolve the issues confronting the country and its people", he added. Benazir Bhutto Shaheed was not only a great leader of Pakistan and Muslim world, but also a role model for all Muslim women of the world, he mentioned. - APP

## Decision to fix business hours to save energy: Rana

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah on Tuesday said the decision to fix hours for commercial operations was being implemented uniformly across the country. Talking to a delegation of business community from the Federal Capital, he said the decision had been taken to conserve energy. He assured the delegation to review their new proposals, adding that the decision would be taken after consultation with the provincial governments. The minister said the government believed in providing the best opportunities to business community. "As soon as the energy shortage is resolved, business hours will be reviewed again," he said. He said practical steps were being taken to end load-shedding during the business hours. "We saved the country from load-shedding in the past too, and will overcome the crisis once again." He asked shopkeepers and restaurant owners to ensure compliance with the orders of Islamabad District Administration. He said the business culture needed to be changed to make the maximum use of daylight. - APP

## Monsoon may cause widespread rainfall from June 29 office

ISLAMABAD: Most parts of the country including federal capital are expected to receive monsoon rains from June 29, Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) Director General Mehar Sahibzada Khan said on Wednesday. Heavy rainfall during monsoon may trigger flash flooding in hilly and urban areas, he said while speaking to PTV News. He said that the National and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities following the Pakistan Meteorological Department's weather alerts of torrential rains have issued directives to the departments concerned to scale up disaster management activities to cope with the impending risk of flooding in urban areas. - APP

## Abu Bakr takes oath as MNA

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf here on Wednesday administered the oath from the newly elected member of Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Abu Bakr who recently won by-election from NA-240 Karachi's District Korangi. After taking the oath, the elected member signed the roll. The constituency had fallen vacant after the death of MQM-P MNA and senior leader Iqbal Muhammad Ali Khan on April 19. Muhammad Abu Bakr had won the by-election after securing 10,683 votes while Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) candidate, Shahzada Shahbaz, became the runner-up after obtaining 10,618 votes. - APP

## Heavy rain spells to improve aquatic life of Rawal Dam

ISLAMABAD: The recent pre-Monsoon rain spells that lashed various parts of the country and dropped mercury drastically after scorching heatwaves would help improve aquatic life of Rawal Dam as the reservoir is filled near to its maximum capacity. Rawal lake, which supplies drinking water to the city of Rawalpindi, is home of various fish species, turtles, and aquaculture that created a unique ecosystem threatened by man-made pollution in the reservoir, said an official of the Fisheries Department of the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). The water in the Rawal Dam was collected through the rainwater coming from the Margalla hills catchments which ultimately improves the growth of aquatic life. "The rainwater along with dust and sludge brings various nutrients, micro plant species and organisms that help the aqua culture in the reservoir improve the quality of water which in turn helps synthesis of healthy habitat for the marine life", the Fisheries Department official told APP. He said the opening of spillways of the Dam was also another challenge that poses risk to the fish that faced damage during the process. "The dam authorities are advised to avoid abrupt aperture of spillways that cause big fish to fall down rendering loss of precious species". The people used to catch the falling out fish by physically venturing into running water of the spillways which directly jeopardized those individuals' lives. However, in order to tackle this nuisance, the fisheries department has installed nets at a distance of 200-

300 feet from the spillways to avoid drifting out of fish. The Executive Engineer (XEN) of Rawal Dam Amir Mumtaz told APP that the total storage capacity of the reservoir was 1752 which was at the moment filled up till 1745.5 feet with an extra cushion of 7.5 feet storage capacity available. He said the rainwater during the monsoon downpour used to fill the reservoir to its maximum capacity whereas the rains have stopped and this water would start receding in the coming days. When contacted Deputy Director Fisheries Rawalpindi, Mir Latif, in his expert opinion, said rains used to bring nutrients and soil enriched with essential minerals that prove to be supportive for aquatic growth especially fish which are under threat during drought season. He said sudden water rise in the reservoir causes fish mortality with immediate water bed turn over. Latif said, "The rain water accumulated in the dam turns greenish due to micro-plants brought with the deluge from the catchments gives healthy habitat for the growth of fish". He said the water settles in the dam within 3-4 weeks at the same time as the aquatic life develops, however, if the thunderstorm and heavy rainfall persists then it could disturb water species synthesis. "It develops instantly in favourable conditions", he added. While commenting on the water pollution jeopardizing the water life, he said the direct flow of household or sewage waste of Lakhwal village; Bani Gala residential area and Murree Brewery were the major polluters. He said the small scale drainage of the waste is not harmful while the large scale can prove to be fatal. - APP

## Police distributes Rs1 million among investigation officers

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police distributed Rs1 million among 33 investigation officers to make the investigation process more transparent, merit-oriented and end corruption during the process. The cost of investigation has been distributed among the investigation officers in a ceremony held at the office of the DIG (Operations). DIG Operations Sohail Zafar Chatha among SSP Investigation Farhat Abbas Kazmi distributed the cheques of Rs 01 million among 33 investigation officers and this process will be continued in future as well. Rs 34.8 million were sanctioned as cost of investigation

and Rs 34.55 million have been distributed among the investigation officers. IGP Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan said that the cost of investigation is being distributed among investigation officers timely and this process will be continued in future adding that initiative will help ensure transparency in the investigation process, end corruption and dispense justice to complainants. He hoped that the investigation officers will work diligently on their cases after getting the required expenses. "There is zero tolerance on corruption and those officials involved in corrupt practices will be dealt with iron hands", the IGP maintained. The investigation officers will submit their bills and payment will be reimbursed to them after a verification process completed by SSP Investigation.

## Pre-monsoon rains bring cheers for farmers

ISLAMABAD: The much-awaited recent spell of pre-monsoon rains have brought smile on the faces of farmers who were bearing the burden of economic crisis, heatwaves, skyrocketing prices of fuel, seeds and fertilizers as it would cast positive impact on cultivation zones of the country. The farmers after the rains were hopeful for better crop yields for this season especially of sugar cane, rice, cotton and other staple crops. Muhammad Irfan, a farmer from district Muzaffargarh, talking to APP said, "Thank God for the spell of rains in the country which gave new life to our crops which were decaying before the current rains". - APP

## Recent rains to reduce water scarcity: Shah

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Water Resources Syed Khurshed Ahmed Shah on Tuesday hoped that the ongoing rains would reduce the prevailing water scarcity in the country. He, chairing the meeting of a special committee on water supply to Balochistan, said the government was trying to provide equal access to water to all the provinces. Khurshed Shah said it was his top priority to provide Balochistan and Sindh their due share of water timely. He said the fact-finding committee formed to address the issue of water supply to Balochistan, visited the sites in question and reached the conclusion that Sindh was not stealing the water of Balochistan. He said Balochistan would have no complaint regarding water supply in the coming days. Khurshed Shah said a comprehensive report would be presented to the prime minister in the light this special committee's findings. In the meeting, Minister for Economic Affairs Ayaz-Sadiq, Minister for Science and Technology Agha Hassan Baloch, Member of National Assembly Khalid Hussain Magsi, Indus River System Authority (IRSA) chairman and other officials were present. The officials of Water Resources ministry and IRSA presented the report of their visit to Sindh in detail. They were of the view that Balochistan would get its due share in water in a couple of days. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov met with Shoukat Ali, Secretary Aviation & Chairman Civil Aviation Authority of Pakistan. Further strengthening of cooperation in the field of civil aviation including the importance of direct flights was main topic of our discussion. - DNA

## Coordinated efforts needed to beat challenges

### DNA

ISLAMABAD, Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman on Wednesday stressed the need for making coordinated efforts by all the stakeholders to overcome the confrontational challenges related to the national economy, climate change, energy and depleting water resources to achieve sustainable economic growth and bringing the country out of the looming crisis. Participating in the federal budget 2022-23 debate, she said the government would have to take tough decisions to break the debt trap and bringing fundamental changes in economic model, putting it back on the right track. She apprised the House that climate change was a serious matter that required special and coordinated attention to minimize its adverse impact on local agriculture and

eco-system. Expressing concerns over the wastage of water, she said Pakistan was among the top four countries having highest per-capita water consumption. She urged rationalizing the water usage for both domestic and irrigation purposes, besides taking measures to stop polluting the water resources. Senator Sherry Rehman also expressed concern over the rising pollution of Indus-delta which threatened marine life, asking for collective efforts to overcome the challenge. Sherry Rehman said the incumbent coalition government had inherited a fragile economy, which was the result of inefficiencies and incompetence and mismanagement of the last government. While criticizing the poli-

cies of the PTI government, she said unwise and irrational commitments and agreements signed with international financial institutions had put the local economy on ventilator. She said, "the accountability government (PTI)" when came into power, the corruption index had reached 140 position from 117th, adding there were stories of corruption in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) system, billion trees project and other cartels including sugar, wheat and crushing of national airline. She said the previous regime had pushed the economy into a growing debt trap and agreed with International Monetary Fund on tough conditions,

adding the borrowed money had been spent on fulfilling the demands of the elite class for leading luxurious life. The common man in the country had badly affected due to the increasing prices of petroleum products and daily essential items, terming them "gifts" by the last regime that remained showed least interest in tackling such issues during his four years tenure. Despite severe fiscal constraints, she said the coalition partners had decided to sacrifice their political capital and put their image at stake and decided to bring the country out of crisis by taking unpopular decisions. She apprised the House that during last 70 years different governments negotiated about 25 IMF programs but always tried to put minimum burden on the common man. But unfortunately, she said the past regime of PTI took all decisions with a non-serious attitude bypassing the parliament, which divided the society.



## Briefs

President  
grieved over  
life loss in  
Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Wednesday expressed grief and sorrow over the loss of lives in an earthquake in Afghanistan. The president said Pakistan stands with its Afghan brethren in this hour of grief. He prayed for the departed souls to rest in peace and extended sympathies to the injured families. The Foreign Office in a statement said the government and people of Pakistan extended deepest condolences and sympathies over the loss of precious lives and damage to property caused by the tragic earthquake in Paktika province of Afghanistan and its adjoining areas, and torrential floods in various provinces across the country. "The people of Pakistan stand in strong solidarity with their Afghan brethren in this difficult time. We have no doubt that the brotherly Afghan people will overcome the effects of this natural calamity with their characteristic resilience," it said. The FO said, "Our authorities and institutions are working to extend required assistance to Afghanistan in coordination with their relevant institutions". - APP

USC to  
continue  
providing  
subsidized  
commodities

ISLAMABAD: As per the directions of the Prime Minister, the Utility Store Corporation (USC) will continue to provide subsidies on basic food items through all stores across the country. As many as 30 branded companies that supply groceries to the utility store have increased the prices of 952 branded items, said a press release issued here. With this, there has also been an increase in the prices of pulses. USC has maintained these prices from Sep/Oct 2021 after successful negotiations with the vendors, even after the price influx of these branded items in the open market during the month of March 2022, USC stayed consistent with the old prices (except for a few changes) due to Ramadan. However, with the recent increased prices of these branded items, the utility store management is compelled to increase the prices, for the availability at USC outlets. The Utility Store Corporation does not have its own manufacturing and production units and make its purchases from the open market because of which when there is an increase in the open market, the management of the utility store must increase the prices accordingly to ensure these products/brands available. Besides this increase, the utility stores are working hard to provide branded and non branded items to the public at comparatively lower prices. The prices of these items in utility stores are still less than in the retail/open market. - APP

Hira Mani  
to star in  
upcoming  
song 'Yadaan'

ISLAMABAD: Junaid Khan unveiled first look of upcoming song 'Yadaan', starring the gorgeous Hira Mani and netizens can't get enough of it. The singer-turned actor took to Instagram and treated fans with song's official poster along with the caption "Jeem Films is all set to launch its song Yadaan" To keep the fans in anticipation, Junaid wrote "The story, the location, the music has a special place in my heart. Once it's released, you all will know why". While admiring his reel life heroine, the singer stated "It was also a pleasure to star Hira Mani in Jeem Film's new venture. My reel life heroine". Junaid's much-awaited song is penned by Hassan Badshah, produced by the leading Pakistani producer Raheel Dildar and directed by the very talented Sadiq Azeem. While, Junaid is playing multiple roles, singer, executive producer and also behind the song composition. - APP

Pakistan regaining confidence  
of int'l financial institutions

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) on Wednesday expressed strong conviction that Pakistan would regain the confidence of international financial institutions after the incumbent government took corrective measures in the Federal Budget 2022-23 to improve the national economy. Participating in the budget debate in the National Assembly, Chaudhry Faqir Ahmed of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) said the national economy would progress in a sustainable way after the budget approval from the House. With the budget's passage, he said financial institutions like International Monetary Fund (IMF) would be extending more cooperation to Pakistan, and the health of ailing national economy would improve. Terming the budget 2022-23 'good one' in the

prevailing economic situation, he stressed the need for all institutions' full support to the government in execution of its fiscal plan to steer the country out of financial crisis. The lawmaker asked for providing improved health and education facilities across the country, suggesting provision of free medicines and transport to patients in the public sector hospitals and make education compulsory for all children up to the Matric level. He said once agriculture sector was considered backbone of the national economy and the country was self-sufficient in almost all major crops, but now there were the challenges of food security and Pakistan was importing various products. He said there were a number of research institutes to improve the agriculture sector, but it was unfortunat that not even a single new seed had been introduced since long. Waheed Alam Khan of the PML-N said his leadership was taking tough decisions to revive the na-

tional economy that was badly ruined by the past regime of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). He criticized the previous regime of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for adopting wrong economic policies and signing unrealistic agreements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which were major reasons behind the prevailing situation of inflation in the country. The MNA said it was unfortunate the PTI leadership, despite being ousted in a democratic and constitutional way, was still wanted to create chaos in the country by threatening long march against the democratic government. He said the PTI leaders were trying to hoodwink the public using the name of Islam and patriotism for personal gains. Commenting on the budgetary proposals, he said there was no mention of minimum wage of Rs25,000 per month of a labourer, and suggested providing interest-free loans to those wanted to install so-

lar panels besides gradually switching over to alternative fuel to meet energy needs. He said the size of cultivable land was decreasing in the country due to certain reasons and ensuring maximum incentives to the farming community aimed at tackling confronted food security challenges. He strongly condemned the blasphemous remarks uttered by leaders of India's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), demanding strict action against them for hurting sentiments of the Muslim Ummah. Maulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali of Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal Pakistan (MMAP) urged for early arrest of the elements involved in carrying out terrorism activities and killers of four social activists in North Waziristan. Saira Bano of Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) said the House was discussing the next fiscal plan and there should be maximum presence of lawmakers and their active participation in the parliamentary proceedings.

Conference  
held under  
umbrella  
of SCO

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The first China-Pakistan 'Belt and Road' Transportation and Logistics conference was held on Wednesday under the umbrella of Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The forum was jointly initiated by the Shandong Jiaotong University, Kashgar University and National University of Sciences and Technology keeping in view the rapid development of world logistics, significant progress in the construction of China Pakistan Economic Corridor and the deepening of China-Pakistan friendship. Renowned researchers from the Research Institute of the Ministry of Transport of China, professors from other world-renowned universities delivered keynote speeches. At the same time, several presidents and branch deans from Shandong Jiaotong University, Xinjiang Kashgar University and Pakistan National University of Sciences and Technology also attended the forum.

From Pakistan, National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Pro Rector Academics Dr. Usman, Principal of School of Social Sciences and Humanities Dr. Ashfaq Hassan Khan, Director NIPS Brig (R) Amir Yaqoob and Assistant Professor Farah Naz participated. China Study Centre at NUST played a vital role in connecting with Chinese Universities believing that Pakistan and China will work together, grow together and the successful project of CPEC will contribute to the prosperity of both countries.

President reprimands HBL  
over delay in refunding money

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Wednesday reprimanded Habib Bank Limited (HBL) for unnecessarily delaying the matter of reimbursement of a trivial amount of Rs 39,000 to the victim of bank fraud. He directed the bank to reimburse the defrauded amount, along with the payment of transportation charges, within fifteen days to the victim and termed the action of the HBL an act of malpractice and maladministration. The president reprimanded the HBL for preferring representation before his Office against the order passed by the Banking Ombudsman in favour of the victim of the bank fraud involving a meagre amount. He observed that the transfer of

money from one account to another through cheating was a common incident of fraudulent activity, but despite the knowledge of the account where the money landed and was then withdrawn, no action was taken against the beneficiary of the transaction. The president emphasized that the bank was liable to make good the loss of their customers and advised the bank management to look into the issue and take remedial measures to safeguard the interest of its customers, especially the small depositors and account holders. The president directed the State Bank of Pakistan, being a regulatory body, to take earnest action against both the banks and their branches

by adopting regulatory and punitive action to redress the fraudulent activities which result from non-compliance with Rules and Regulations issued by the State Bank of Pakistan. According to the details, an unknown person tricked Nazeer Ahmad Bhutta to provide the last digits of his ATM card and later deprived him of his deposit. The victim preferred an appeal before the Banking Ombudsman who decided the case in favour of the victim. However, HBL, instead of implementing the decision, preferred representation to the president. The president upheld the decision of the Banking Ombudsman and directed the bank to reimburse the defrauded money to the complainant. - APP

Imposing sanctions on  
India inevitable to stop  
terror reign: Mushaal

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussein Mullick, wife of jailed Kashmiri Hurriyat Leader Yasin Malik Wednesday urged the world to shun duplicity and impose sanctions on fascist Narendra Modi-led India for trampling laws and unleashing wave of terrorism and barbarism in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Speaking at a seminar organized by Islamabad High Court Bar Association to condemn India and to discuss the disputed judgment against JKLF chief Yasin Malik here on Wednesday, she thanked the Bar for holding the event to raise voice against unjust and inhuman treatment meted out to the lion of Kashmir, said a news release. She said that the world should build pressure on Indian imposed severe sanctions or else it would be next to impossible to stop the reign of terror in the occupied valley. Mushaal, who is Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organistaion, said that it was the right time to highlight the issue of Yasin Malik's illegal detention at every forum because he was battling for life. - APP

Karot hydropower  
plant put to final  
pre-commissioning

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 720 megawatts Karot hydropower plant is now a week away from starting commercial operations after it was put to 168 hours long reliability run test (RTT) on Tuesday. According to Gwadar Pro, RTT is the last test before the commissioning of the project, a senior official of Karot Power Co. told Gwadar Pro. Karot Power is a special-purpose vehicle incorporated in Pakistan for executing the project by China Three Gorges (CTG) South Asia Investment Ltd., a subsidiary of CTG.

The test run was launched at 9:30 am on June 21 and will conclude on June 28, after which all four units of the plant will be ready for full-scale electricity generation, the official said. Karot is the first-ever hydropower project under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative to be completed at a cost of \$1.72 billion. The project will play a vital role in Pakistan's energy security by providing clean and affordable electricity. The run-of-river facility is already contributing electricity to the national grid free of cost. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said during a recent visit to Karot that the plant will provide free electricity worth Rs4 billion to the national grid as a gift to the Pakistani people until it starts commercial operations. According to the Central Power Purchasing Authority (CPPA), the project contributed 244.25 million units of free electricity to the national grid in May. The RTT is being witnessed by independent international engineers and officials of the relevant government departments, the official said. He added that before the RTT, the plant successfully went through the load rejection test at a full capacity of 720MW. This is a vital test in which load from a running unit is suddenly removed to check that if it safely shuts down without damage to electro-mechanical installations and the civil foundations in case of tripping of the power plant. The reactive capability test was also successful, the official said.

Two arrested  
for street crimes

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested two members of a gang involved in street crimes and recovered cash, gold ornaments and weapons from their possession, said the police spokesman here on Wednesday. Police have recovered Rs 24,000 cash, mobile phones, gold ornaments and weapons from the accused who have been identified as Haroon and Abbas. Police managed to recover cash, gold ornaments and weapons after identification parade. Superintendent of Police, Rawal, Babar Javed Joya appreciated the performance of Pirwadhai police adding that whoever deprives citizens of their valuable assets cannot escape the grip of law. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio visited the Head Office of Freeline Movers and was welcomed by CEO Alamgir Shah. - DNA

Police arrest  
three drug  
peddlers

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police on Wednesday arrested three alleged drug pushers and recovered over five kgs marijuana from their possession. A police spokesman informed that during the course of action, Gujjar Khan police held an accused namely Noor Muhammad and recovered 2200 grams marijuana while Saddar Wah police managed to net a drug peddler namely Mehboob Elahi and seized 1330 grams marijuana. Phagwari police also arrested a drug pusher namely Muhammad Shahbaz for possessing 1560 grams marijuana. Police have registered separate cases against the accused while further investigations were in progress. Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations Rawalpindi Waseem Riaz Khan appreciated performance of the SHOs concerned and directed to continue operation against law-breakers and drug peddlers.

Researchers discovered  
'antioxidant activity'  
in donkey meat

ISLAMABAD: Chinese and Pakistani researchers have conducted a study on "The Extracting Technology for Antioxidant Oligopeptides from Donkey Meat" which proved that donkey meat has a "good antioxidant activity", Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday. Antioxidants are molecules/substances that fight free radicals in the body. Free radicals can cause harm if their level surges in the body; they can cause multiple illnesses including heart disease, diabetes, cancer, etc. The Chinese researchers include Lanjie Li and Guiqin Liu from Liaocheng University and Jingjing Zhang, Ruiyan Zhang, Ning Zhang, and Zixiang Wei from Liaocheng University. Pakistani researchers include Riaz Hussain Pasha, Muhammad Akram Khan, and Saif-Ur-Rehman from PMAS-Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi. The researchers, while using Two-Step Enzymatic Hydrolysis during the study, developed the technology of enzymatic hydrolysis for antioxidant peptides derived from donkey meat. The findings determined that at optimum

conditions, a degree of hydrolysis (DH) of 25.4%, protein recovery (PR) of 95%, DSA of 69.75% were obtained and hydrolysates (3 h) had similar molecular weight distribution (MWD) to Ejjao Oligopeptide, which had been "proved to have good antioxidant activity". "These results provide fundamental data for the application of donkey hydrolysates, such as protein supplementation in food systems," reads the findings. As per the introduction of the study, donkey is an important source of medicinal products in China. Donkey's hide could enrich the blood and enhances white blood cells and is used in adjuvant chemotherapy. Similarly, donkey meat improves liver and kidney functions, promotes blood tonic, body immunity, anti-aging, profit lung, and eyesight effects. The donkey population continues to grow at a steady speed in Pakistan. Earlier this month, Pakistan Economic Survey (PES) 2021-22 was released, showing that Pakistan's donkey population grew to 5.7 million from 5.6 million in 2020-21. - DNA

IRSA releases  
185100  
cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Wednesday released 185100 cusecs water from various rim stations with an inflow of 173523 cases. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1079.70 feet, which was 29.07 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded a 31009 and 29186 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 70355 ,112425 and 59767 cases respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River, a total of 27800 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 26214 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. - APP

PAL launches  
elaborate  
genesis of  
Ghazal

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) ahead of the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day celebrations has published the first volume of "A Research and Analytic Study of Urdu Ghazal in Pakistan" to present a detailed genesis of the literary genre over the decades. The purpose of the book was to provide a documented evidence of development of Urdu Ghazal as a separate genre of poetry in Pakistan and on the same hand it was an enjoyable event for the avid readers to cherish their longing for quality poetry, said Chairman PAL, Dr Yousuf Khushk. The Chairman PAL while highlighting details of the book told APP on Wednesday that it included the poetic works of only those poets who paid their valuable and unconditional contributions to foster and embellish Urdu ghazal in the region, whereas, the work of new poets had also been added in this book who had earned a great name in Urdu ghazal during a short period of time. "Every poet in this book has been discussed in three different parts. First part briefly introduces the profile and second part highlights the poetic identity of the poet, whereas, the best poetic items of the said poet are added in the third part", he said. He apprised that this series comprised of two volumes whose first edition was available for the readers and its second edition would be made available soon in the market. - APP

## KSA played vital role for Pakistan: Asad

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Saudi Arabia in Pakistan Nawaf Bin Said Al-Maliki called on Federal Minister of Communications and Postal Services Mr. Asad Mahmood at the Ministry of Communications here today. Federal Secretary Communications and Chairman National Highway Authority Capt (R) Muhammad Khurram Agha alongwith senior officials of the Ministry of Communications and National Highway Authority were also present. On this occasion, the Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services, Mr. Asad Mahmood said, Mecca and Medina are the center of our faith and this sense of devotion cannot be expressed in words. He said, Saudi Arabia has always played a vital role in stabilizing Pakistan's economy and the well-being of its people. He added that Saudi Arabia is the largest supplier of petroleum to Pakistan. He also said, that remittances amounting to Rs. 5.8 Billion Dollar from Two Million Pakistani expatriates residing in Saudi Arabia are an important



source of foreign exchange for Pakistan. He said that Saudi Arabia has also provided extensive religious and educational assistance

to Pakistan, under which it has played an important role in the construction of Mosques and Madrassas across Pakistan, including

the Faisal Mosque. He also said, under the Pak-Saudi Supreme Coordination Council, Joint Working Group on Infrastructure and Communications was formed in 2019 to further enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries. Mr. Asad Mahmood said that it is gratifying that high quality roads and tunnels have been constructed in Pakistan with Saudi funds. Recommendations have also been made for further cooperation in construction sector, which will be presented to Saudi Arabia. Saudi Ambassador Mr. Nawaf Bin Saeed Al-Maliki said that Pakistan is our second home and Pakistan's development and security is important for the whole Muslim world. He said that Saudi Arabia is ready to cooperate with Pakistan in all the fields. The scope of economic cooperation between the two countries will be further expanded. The ambassador also conveyed his special thanks to the Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services, Mr. Asad Mahmood and expressed desire to further strengthen cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

## Strikes in Britain

BRITAIN faces a rolling wave of strikes over pay and conditions in the coming months. The country's railways will be effectively shut down for a week. Barristers will walk out from next Monday, stopping criminal trials in courts. Wage disputes have led to rubbish piling up in some parts of the country, while other regions have suffered late postal deliveries. Teachers and doctors are the latest professions threatening to strike if the government doesn't meet their pay demands. But the country is not heading back to the 1970s. Trade unions in Britain have lost much of their clout in the workplace. Despite the headlines, the number of days lost to strikes has collapsed. At their peak, about half of employees were union members. Now the figure is 24% and these are disproportionately found in the public sector – which is why the government is facing off against so many groups. With pay deals yet to be signed, ministers find themselves facing calls for inflation-linked wage increases for 5 million workers, including those in the NHS, the armed forces, the civil service and local government. What makes the crisis seem familiar is the sequence of an energy shock, caused by a geopolitical crisis, followed by stagnating growth and inflation hitting highs not seen for decades. It would be hard to argue that key workers' pay offers shouldn't match inflation, which is projected to reach 11% this year. The Institute for Fiscal Studies says in the public sector employees have done even worse than those in the private sector, both over the past decade and during the pandemic. Boris Johnson's government appears more interested in pushing the interests of business than that of workers. It was the Polish economist Michał Kalecki who emphasised that class conflict lay at the heart of economics. If we are dealing, as Kalecki suggested, with a power struggle between capital and labour, then workers have been comprehensively defeated. Even with inflation shooting skywards, real wages are falling while company profits are rising. Employees are forced to take what the market pays. Such an imbalance won't benefit the wider economy in the long run. Workers and bosses have a shared interest. Productivity incentives from greater employee power can boost profits as well. Without ministers stepping in on the side of workers to mediate class conflict and ensure the spoils – or the pain – of economic activity is evenly shared, Britain risks remaining trapped in a low-wage, low-growth spiral.

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## The World has a choice

IT is a natural human impulse, and a political one, to turn inward when threatened by a crisis that appears beyond our control. The world is facing several such forces at once: food shortages, inflation, the persistence of Covid-19 and the effects of global warming. Taken together, they threaten the stability and prosperity of nations around the world. That threat could hasten the retreat that many countries are already making away from globalization and international cooperation. The United States can help itself and the rest of the world by working with other nations – especially the countries in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia that are most at risk – to address a major impending food crisis. Shortages are already acute in parts of Africa, and some of the reasons are well known: the extreme weather of climate change, the economic ravages of Covid-19, the inequality of resources. But a new and devastating problem has been created by Russia's cruel war on Ukraine. Ukraine is the fourth-largest exporter of grain and seeds in the world, mostly corn and wheat, but with its ports either occupied or blockaded by Russia, its ability to ship its grain has been sharply reduced. It is essential to get the Ukrainian grain moving. Much of it normally goes to developing countries facing the worst food shortages, and Ukrainian silos have to be emptied to make room for grain about to be harvested. As is so often the case, it is the poorest countries that suffer the sharpest blow, and history shows that hunger can quickly turn lethal. Nigeria, Somalia, Ethiopia, Egypt and Yemen are already feeling the pain of food shortages. The Washington Post notes; rising prices have set off protests in Argentina, Indonesia, Tunisia and Sri Lanka, among other countries. What might yet work is a joint appeal to Mr. Putin by the countries that stand to be most affected by the food crisis. Mr. Putin has met separately with the leaders of Turkey, Israel and the African Union, among others, and has insisted publicly that responsibility for the emerging global food and energy crises falls entirely on Western greed and Western sanctions. He repeated that message forcefully in a speech on Friday at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, blaming the United States for the world's instability. But he may find it harder to brush off an appeal from nations that are threatened by hunger, especially those that have so far resisted Western pressures to join in the ostracism of Russia. The United States should encourage and support such an appeal, which would get these countries involved in a way that serves their critical interests. And if an appeal includes a proposal to provide an escort of ships flying Ukrainian flags, Ukraine might feel less distrustful. International trust and cooperation are in desperately short supply, but it's the only way out of any of these intertwined crises. The Biden administration should see this moment as a critical one for America's leadership in the world, and step up to meet it.

# Iran's foreign policy and Persian Gulf States

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The current rapprochement with the P5+1 is the best example. Since Rouhani's regime, the Iranian foreign policy has undergone changes. The orientation of Tehran's foreign policy vindicated the activities...

SINCE the Shah's regime, Iran has portrayed herself as a strategic independent state in the Middle East, particularly in Persian Gulf due to her demography, strategic location, and resources. Post-Islamic Revolution Ayatullah Khomeini promoted the idea of strategically independent Iran and efficiently transformed the state from being marginalized in the region to an assertive geopolitical power. Tehran washed its hands of the Shah's foreign policy and figured out how to maintain a balance of power in the region through its engagements with Lebanon, Yemen, and Afghanistan. The Islamic Republic of Iran prioritizes its strategic independence while taking full advantages of her geographical location to increase her security and influence in the region as well as the world. It has established its own strategic policy that is in contrast to the Shah's strategic policy of gaining US support and guarantees of security in exchange for keeping watch over the Persian Gulf's security on the behalf of US. Khomeini left Iran far different as he had taken it from the Shah. It was an economically devastated and internationally isolated country. It was the country whose population experienced a 50 percent reduction in their real per capita income. The nation was exhausted from the consequences of revolution and war in a single decade. In July 1989, Ali Akbar Rafsanjani made economic reconstruction his priority and warned his headline

rivals to stop their extremism. The five year plan was for attracting foreign capital, importing technologies, increasing oil revenue, and borrowing \$27 billion on the international market. He began pursuing rapprochement with the West and improving relations with Iran's neighbors. This was a new posture after the revolution. These new directions of Iran's foreign policy were visible very soon in Persian Gulf affairs. Tehran hoped that the new policy would help to contain Iraq and succeed in rapprochement with the West. Now the champion of radical changes was advocating regional stability. This was the beginning of Iran's major role in the Persian Gulf. The 2013 presidential election was a clear vote against the previous government's policy towards its international and regional relationships. Rouhani's support for broader social freedom and the country's economic insecurity because of the imposition of sanctions by the Western world in response to Iran's nuclear program were key factors behind his victory. As a matter of fact, Rouhani did a lot to improve relations with the West. The current rapprochement with the P5+1 is the best example. Since Rouhani's regime, the Iranian foreign policy has undergone changes. The orientation of Tehran's foreign policy vindicated the activities of the new Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He visited almost all the states in the region with the exception of Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. It showed the great importance of reconciliation in the Persian Gulf. In December 2013, he also met with the Prime Minister of Iraq in Tehran and both sides agreed to do their best in economic arena and regarding shared national interests. He also said that he regrets the devastating terrorist acts in Iraq and Syria because terrorism is one of the main obstacles for further Iran-Iraq relations. In March 2014, the Iran-Qatar Joint Political Committee was established in Tehran, showing the direction of Iranian foreign policy. The meeting was dedicated to the further development of relations and rapprochement. For the first time, Iran and Qatar agreed to cooperate on the matter of the humanitarian crisis in Syria, but Iran still supports the Assad regime while Qatar backs anti-Assad groups in Syria. The Syrian situation seems complicated, even Iran-Qatar cooperation might not be enough to settle the conflict. Good relations with the Persian Gulf states will be a prerequisite too and Rouhani seems to share some such point of views. In the past, Oman had good relations with Iran but during Ahmadinejad's regime and Rohani's, diplomatic relations were upgraded. On March 2014, the meeting of Rouhani and Sultan Qaboos was an example of détente in the Persian Gulf region. The Iranian President stressed the development of relations between these two countries in all fields and their interest in maintaining security in the Strait of Hormuz. Rouhani added that Iran attaches great importance to ties with Islamic countries, particularly the littoral states

of the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman due to the significance of the Strait of Hormuz. Iran-Oman relations have significance for both of them and the other Persian Gulf states because they jointly control Strait of Hormuz. Any serious tension between them can lead to a blockade of the maritime transport of oil in the Strait of Hormuz and an oil crisis. Iran's relations with Saudi Arabia have been strained for a long time. Political and religious issues are the main reason for their delicate relation. Iran is a Shia-dominated population while Saudi Arab is defender of Sunni Muslims. For example, Bahrain and Syria have become obstacles to Iran-Saudi competition recently. In March 2014, Rouhani tried to improve relations with Saudi Arabia. During the meeting with the new Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Iran, Rouhani declared that the expansion of relations with regional Muslim countries, particularly with Riyadh, is a priority in Iran's foreign policy. Good relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia would halt the instability in regional countries and might prevent sectarian violence in the Persian Gulf. Lack of cooperation between these two countries will hinder any peace initiatives in the region. Tehran tried to take advantages of the Qatar-Saudi Arabia rivalry in the Gulf. Iran-Qatar rapprochement is an example of this new attitude. The above activities and initiatives by the Rouhani Government are very positive and indicative of the new Iranian foreign policy towards the Persian Gulf. Tehran's relations with Riyadh and Doha are still the biggest threat to regional cooperation and stability. Everything depends on the Shia-Sunni rivalry in the Middle East and Persian Gulf, negotiations concerning the Iranian nuclear program, and the Iran-Saudi Arabia attitude towards political and social changes in Arab States and Syria. Undoubtedly, Arab-Iran rapprochements have to be undertaken in the Persian Gulf without the earlier normalization of political relations between Iran and the West, particularly Washington. The breakthrough with regard to the P5+1 and the process and the consequences of Iran-West negotiations seem to be essential if Iran really intends to cooperate. Iran and its neighbors in the Persian Gulf have had a confused relationship since the Islamic Revolution. Having emerged isolated and scarred economically by war, Tehran immediately looked for rapprochement with its neighbors. However, rapprochement has not been easy at any stage. On the one hand, Iran sees itself in terms of its ancient history, vast terrain, long coastline, and large population. It has a sense of superiority towards its neighbors in the Persian Gulf. On the other hand, the Arab states of the Persian Gulf have been influenced by Arab nationalism and distrusted their Persian neighbor. The approach of Iranian policy towards the Arab states of the Persian Gulf is very interesting. Tehran did not like its neighbors for their support of Saddam during the war. It also took a hostile stand

when they militarily aligned with the US. The Iranian government has been worried by their alliance with the United States. Iranian policy towards the Persian Gulf states seems to be influenced by its religious ideology and national interests. Ideology and national interest continue living side by side to varying degrees. The export of revolution is not only ideological, but also a political tool. This tool may not succeed in overthrowing their government but it is not without consequences in the Arab states of the region. With the losses of war and realization that "Iran could not afford to antagonize the rest of the world, a slow shift from ideology to national interest and deliberately pragmatic foreign policy has been observed" (Shagafi-Ameri, January 29, 2009). Tehran sent envoys to neighboring countries, even Saudi delegations with Foreign Minister Saud and King Fahad also visited Tehran but this did not last for too long. Before and during the Iran-Iraq war, Iranian policy can be characterized as more unthinking than driven by any well thought-out policy toward its neighbors. After the ceasefire, Tehran openly shifted to pragmatism and developed a foreign policy for the Persian Gulf region. As the result of its Gulf policy, Oman and Qatar began talking of the inclusion of Iran into regional security arrangements. A collective security arrangement between the littoral states of the Gulf without the presence foreign forces had been at the core of Iranian policy. Tehran advocated this policy strongly after Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. During the Khatami regime, this policy became more pronounced. Tehran changed its behavior and attempted to improve relations with its neighbors in the 1990s in spite of their alliance with the United States. Iranian Persian Gulf policy is now purely pragmatic and free of any territorial ambitions. The Persian Gulf became important in its own right and Iran has been able to portray itself as the bridge between its southern and northern neighbors. Tehran's charm offensive was positively welcomed in the Persian Gulf capitals. Iran and the GGC were calling for a new era in their relationship but this did not succeed due to their different opinion on the Arab/Islamic awakening, especially the Syrian crisis and Persian Gulf states' fears of the Iranian nuclear program. The earlier development of Tehran's rapprochement with the West, particularly the US on the nuclear program, proved that it briefly managed to improve its foreign policy. To sum up the Iranian policy towards its neighbors, it moved from being ideologically driven to pragmatic and based on geopolitics ever since the Islamic Revolution of 1979. Tehran is increasingly interested in good relations with its neighbors in order to tension in the region. The main hurdle is distrust, which is difficult to overcome, but many serious efforts have been made from all sides since the revolution.

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# Pakistan an epitome of crisis management

Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi

Identification of crisis and the preparedness, the whole life in Islam moves around the preparedness for the life hereafter, 'the unseen'. To be prepared for the unseen is exactly according to the teachings, norms and centuries of practices of followers of Islamic way of life. Identifying what can lead to bitter outcomes in the life spreads over entire body of teachings in Islam. Therefore, to identify factors which can exacerbate the experience during the times of crisis are aligned with the spirit of Islamic teachings

I WAS amazed listening to the Minister of State (MoS) for Foreign Affairs that Pakistan is now ahead of some developed countries in compliance of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) regulations and fulfilled requirements on thirty four indicators of FATF while the process of whitelisting has started with the recent announcement of the global body. It is not the first time that Pakistan emerged out of the crisis as a strong nation. I am sure, most of us cannot forget March 03, 2009, a terrible day for Pakistan cricket, when terrorists attacked Sri Lankan cricket team and suddenly international cricket vanished from Pakistan. I remember the passion during the final of second PSL held in Lahore on March 05, 2017, we decided to join Qaddafi Stadium to witness the return of cricket to Pakistan. We boarded the bus from Barkat Market for the stadium; Arham was almost four years old and I was educating him to cling around my chest if there is any blast; everyone can imagine the uncertainty, the fear, and the panic surrounding cricketing events during those times. Then what happened, Pakistan the Champions Trophy winner, Babar Azam the number one batter of ODIs and T20Is, and several others among top five rankings. Devastations of 2005 earthquake are in our memories with exemplary response of entire nation to extend every support to the victims. Extensive mobilization of resources from tents, blankets, medicines, and prefabricated houses by local artisans to the groceries, people donated abundantly for the restoration of normal life in affected areas. The response and the recovery from the floods during 2010 exemplify innate abilities of the nation to manage crisis effectively. Managing pandemics such as dengue, covid-19 and to the extent polio are also good examples of Country's ability to successfully respond to the crisis. Pakistan has surprised the world with her abilities to counter terrorism. We suffered the most, we sacrificed the most, we lost the most but we arose as the most successful nation in combating the terrorism. Our skills, our abilities, our determination and probably above all our engagement with every component of the society from rebels to internally displaced people made it a model for other nations to follow. We achieved what remained impossible for an alliance of 30 countries.

It is because of our exceptional abilities of crisis management as a nation. Our able professionals in every sphere of life from pure sciences to administrative and management sciences have always delivered their responsibilities religiously thus leading the nation to the achievements such as recent announcements by the MoS for foreign affairs. According to Kash and Darling from University of Pittsburgh, Kansas, USA, "a crisis is defined as any unplanned event that can cause serious damage to the public; shut down the businesses; disrupt operations; cause physical or environmental calamity; or threaten financial standing or image of the nation. Crisis management is defined as a series of functions or processes to identify, study and forecast the crisis, and set forth specific ways that would enable an organization to prevent or cope with a crisis. Crisis can be managed much more effectively if we prepare for them. Most crises do not occur suddenly. The signals can usually be picked up and the symptoms checked as they emerge. People determined to address these issues realize that the real challenge is not just to recognize crises, but to recognize them in a timely fashion." Crisis management consists of four distinct stages. Identification of crisis and the preparedness, the whole life in Islam moves around the preparedness for the life hereafter, 'the unseen'. To be prepared for the unseen is exactly according to the teachings, norms and centuries of practices of followers of Islamic way of life. Identifying what can lead to bitter outcomes in the life spreads over entire body of teachings in Islam. Therefore, to identify factors which can exacerbate the experience during the times of crisis are aligned with the spirit of Islamic teachings. Then, being prepared with all known aspects and resources to handle the crisis is the essence of teachings on Islamic way of life. In today's dynamic environment despite all the efforts a country can put forth to scan the environmental issues, crises can still occur and have to be managed. Acknowledging a crisis and communicating with the stakeholders are as important as planning the prevention, diagnosis, and intervention to solve crisis situations. Mitigation and prevention of crisis, during day-to-day operations one cannot predict every unseen aspect of operations.

Management of unforeseen issues which usually lead to a crisis is mostly missing in number of organisations around the world. Sometimes, despite appropriate measures, crisis surprises organisations with new and unique dimensions. Therefore, experience curve has its place in strategic planning and management about learning from mistakes. Managerial activities such as scenario analysis, contingency planning and focusing on the negatives of risk management to bring balance have evolved in contemporary studies. Minimising the risk and zero tolerance for violation of codes needs good management and governance practices with wide-ranging command and control systems for people with authority to develop efficient communities. Response and monitoring, we are prone to sudden and extensive crises due to complex operations and technological vulnerabilities. Organisations are now equipped to precisely predict when and what types of crises are expected to face. It is important for strong communities to ensure regular evaluation to determine preparations to deal with probable devastations. Four factors including people & leadership, financial position, stakeholder support, and supply chain risk management can provide sustainable recovery and effective review of the crisis to avoid incessant shocks. An able pool of professionals and technically trained people in the country has usually proved their abilities, such as the recent FATF crisis, to prevent the nation from complete breakdown and chaos. Our leadership despite several challenges rose to the occasion on several strategic fronts. We remained fortunate to have a close liaison with key stakeholders both globally and in the region, however, we certainly failed at some key occasions. Our supply chain of essential goods and services is no more stable as evident by recurrent shortages, therefore needs serious attention and long-term planning for stable future, it is certainly not possible without strong financial position which is currently on default lines thus needs instant and reliable measure to avoid greater crisis. - The writer is Associate Professor Management Sciences Head, Center of Islamic Finance COMSATS University (CUI) Lahore Campus, Email: drabdussattar@cui.edu.pk

## Briefs

## Thousands killed in Afghan earthquake

FROM PAGE 01

last August and have been cut off from much international assistance because of sanctions. Shaking was felt by about 119 million people in Pakistan, Afghanistan and India, the EMSC said on Twitter, but there were no immediate reports of damage or casualties in Pakistan. The EMSC put the earthquake's magnitude at 6.1, though the USGS said it was 5.9. Adding to the challenge for Afghan authorities is recent flooding in many regions, which the disaster agency said had killed 11, injured 50 and blocked stretches of highway. The disaster comes as Afghanistan grapples with a severe economic crisis since the Taliban took over as U.S.-led international forces withdrew following two decades of war. In response to the Taliban takeover, many nations imposed sanctions on Afghanistan's banking sector and cut billions of dollars worth of development aid. Humanitarian aid has continued, however, with international agencies, such as the United Nations, operating.

## EU GSP+ mission arrives...

FROM PAGE 01

Pakistan exports worth EUR 5.4 billion (approx. PKR 1.2 trillion), namely garments, bedlinen, terry towels, hosiery, leather, sports and surgical goods. During the mission, meetings with the government, the UN Country Team, International Labour Organization (ILO), business and civil society representatives as well as other stakeholders will take place. The findings of the mission will be part of the next GSP report, which is due to be presented to the European Parliament and the Council towards end of 2022. The European Union continuously monitors the implementation of relevant 27 international conventions drawing inter alia on the reports and information by the UN and other international agencies that are custodian of the respective convention. The EU regularly sends monitoring missions to assess the situation on the ground and to subsequently reflect its evaluation in the publicly available report to the European Parliament and to the EU Member States in the Council. So far, three biennial reviews have been concluded in 2016, 2018 and 2020, respectively. Apart from Pakistan, the EU currently unilaterally grants GSP+ tariff concessions to Bolivia, Cabo Verde, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan. The current GSP framework is coming to an end in December 2023. Legislative process on its successor for 2024-2033 is ongoing.

## Govt defends talks with TPP

FROM PAGE 01

in view of the "substantial progress" made in talks with the Pakistani government during a round of meetings in Kabul. According to a statement issued after the meeting today, the institutions "responsible for national security" briefed the committee on the overall security situation of the country. The meeting was apprised of internal and external threats and the measures being taken by the agencies to handle the security situation. The meeting was informed that talks were underway with the TPP, facilitated by the government of Afghanistan, in which a government-led committee comprising civil and military representatives were negotiating within the framework of the Constitution of Pakistan. "The decision in this regard will be made in the light of the Constitution, and with the approval of parliament, which will also provide guidance for the future and strike consensus on the matter," the meeting was told. The officials were also briefed on administrative matters pertaining to the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

## Pak IT delegation meets over 50 Canadian IT companies

The Pakistani delegation comprising 15 executives from leading ITC companies is visiting Toronto on the invitation of the Consulate General to attend Collision Toronto Conference 2022, one of the biggest Tech events across the globe, especially in North America

DNA

TORONTO: The Consulate General of Pakistan, Toronto, arranged a networking event for the visiting delegation of ITC executives from Pakistan on 21 June 2022. The event was attended by more than 50 executives / entrepreneurs from different ITC companies in Toronto, including representatives from Organization of Pakistani Entrepreneurs (OPEN), and FAST-NU Alumni Association, North America (FAA-NA). The Pakistani delegation comprising 15 executives from leading ITC companies is visiting Toronto on the invitation of the Consulate General to attend Collision Toronto Conference 2022, one of the biggest Tech events across the globe, especially in North America. In his welcome remarks, Consul General Abdul Hameed urged the Pakistani ITC entrepreneurs to enhance their focus on Canadian market, as the ITC sector in Canada had been posting stronger annual growth than the total economy. He said that the ITC sector was well positioned



to benefit from the economy-wide recovery. He noted that demand was expected to reflect accelerating adoption of many technology solutions and private and public investments in digital infrastructure. The ITC executives appreciated the ef-

forts made by the Consulate General for making the visit of the delegation from Pakistan possible and arranging the networking event.

The speakers from Pakistan, inter alia, highlighted the role and efforts made by Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) and Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA) towards improving the overall policy environment and ITC infrastructure in Pakistan. They noted that Pakistani ITC industry had a lot to offer to the Canadian companies, such as a large and skilled young population, ease of communicating in English, and an enabling policy and IT infrastructure.

The leading ITC officials from Canada presented their vision and activities for promotion of Pakistani startups. They emphasized the need for the companies to monitor the latest trends in the industry and develop a mechanism to adapt to the changing environment quickly. The Canadian companies also expressed deep interest in collaborating with the Pakistani companies working in healthtech, startups, FinTech, Games & Animations, etc.

## Yasir returns as Pakistan confirm squad for SL Tests

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Leg-spinner Yasir Shah marks his return to the national men's side as chief selector Muhammad Wasim today announced an 18-member squad for next month's two-match Test series against Sri Lanka. Yasir was instrumental in Pakistan's 2-1 victory over Sri Lanka on their last tour of the island in 2015, snaring 24 wickets at 19.33. He comes back into the side after regaining full fitness. Yasir played his 46th and last Test, to date, against the West Indies in August 2021. Salman Ali Agha, who has scored 4,224 runs and taken 88 wickets in first-class, is another addition to the squad. Mohammad Nawaz is the third player to be recalled. He was named in the squad for Australia Tests but was withdrawn due to injury. The squad named for the latest ICC World Test Championship fixtures include three openers, four



middle-order batters, three all-rounders, two wicket-keepers, two spinners and four fast bowlers. Pakistan squad for Sri Lanka Tests: Babar Azam (captain), Mohammad Rizwan (vice-captain), wicketkeeper, Abdullah Shafique, Azhar Ali, Faheem Ashraf, Fawad Alam, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Nawaz, Naseem Shah, Nauman Ali, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed (wicketkeeper), Saud Shakeel, Shaheen Afridi, Shan Masood and Yasir

Shah Chief selector Muhammad Wasim: "We have selected this squad considering the conditions in Sri Lanka and have equipped the team with the best possible resources. "Our spin department is boosted with the return of Yasir Shah, who proved himself as a match-winner in Sri Lanka on our last tour and Sajid Khan has made the way for him. The spin department also includes two spin all-rounders in Mohammad Nawaz and Salman Ali Agha and

left-arm orthodox Nauman Ali. "Salman Ali Agha has shown consistent performances with the bat in the past three seasons and he is a handy off-spin option. "Our team has recently put strong performances in Bangladesh and although results against Australia were not ideal we displayed solid cricket and for that reason we have retained the core to instil consistency and continuity and have trimmed the squad size following the relaxation in Covid-19-induced travel restrictions. "These two matches are extremely crucial for our side as we have World Test Championship points at stake. I wish our boys all the best and I am sure they will make us proud." Babar Azam's side will converge in Islamabad on 25 June to finalise their preparations for the Test series at the Pindi Cricket Stadium with a seven-day camp that stretches from 26 June to 2 July before departing for Sri Lanka on 6 July.

## Roy's century leads England to victory in third ODI

DNA

LONDON: Jason Roy hammered 101 off 86 balls and stand-in skipper Jos Buttler blasted 86 off 64 to help England clinch a comfortable eight-wicket victory over the Netherlands to seal an emphatic 3-0 one-day international series win. Buttler deputised for injured captain Eoin Morgan, who was suffering with a groin injury, and saw the Dutch dismissed for 244 as Scott Edwards (64) top-scored. David Willey finished the pick of the attack with 4-36 before England made light work of the total in 30.1 overs as Buttler and Roy guided them home with unbeaten knocks. This was the ninth time Buttler has skippered England in ODIs and his record reads won six and lost three. Morgan's enforced absence meant he

was denied the chance to atone for two consecutive ducks in the first and second matches in Amstelveen due to injury. It will inevitably raise question marks over whether, at 35 with his form and fitness seemingly deserting him, he will continue as England captain. Irrespective, the side Morgan built in his image continued their buccaneering approach to comfortably dispose of a Dutch side ranked 14th in the world. Buttler's innings was not quite as breathtaking as his incredible 162 off 70 balls in the first ODI but it was chanceless as he and Roy took England home relatively serenely. The win gave England 10 points in the ICC Cricket World Cup Super League, as they leapfrogged Bangladesh into top spot in the competition which determines qualification for the tournament in India in 16 months' time.

## Williams wins comeback match

DNA

EASTBOURNE: After nearly a year since her last competitive match and just a few weeks after many people had predicted that Serena Williams, the 23-time Grand Slam singles champion, would never play again, she made her comeback on the tennis court. Williams took centre stage at Devonshire Park, which is often the centre of the sedate Sussex beach town's cultural activity and home to a variety of theatres. On an interesting evening,

the 40-year-old American won their opening match in the Eastbourne doubles tournament alongside Ons Jabeur of Tunisia. Williams hopes to compete in the Wimbledon singles event the following week, where she has won seven of her major championships. She admitted that after the game, she "definitely" had moments of uncertainty about continuing to play. "You know what, I'm literally taking it one day at a time," she said. "I really took my time with my hamstring injury, so I'm just not making a ton of decisions after this."

## Schedule of Pakistan's Test tour of Sri Lanka

LHAORE: The schedule of the Pakistan men's team tour to Sri Lanka has been announced. The side will play two Tests from July 16 to 28. According to the details, the tour will start with a three-day warm-up game. The series will be part of ICC World Test Championship. Babar Azam's side will arrive on July 6. Pakistan last toured Sri Lanka in 2015. 16 Aug - 1st ODI; VOC Cricket Ground, Rotterdam Schedule: 11-13 July - Three-Day Warm-up game; Colts, Colombo 16-20 July - First Test; G/CS, Galle 24-28 July - Second Test; R/PICS, Colombo. - APP

## Bayern complete signing of Senegal star Mane

"The fact that he's joining FC Bayern shows that our club and he have big aims"

BERLIN: Bayern Munich confirmed the signing of Sadio Mane from Liverpool on Wednesday, as the Senegal forward signed a three-year deal with the Bundesliga champions. Bayern have reportedly paid a fee which could rise to 41 million euros (\$43 million) for Mane. The 30-year-old won the Champions League, Premier League, FA Cup, League Cup and Club World Cup titles during six years on Merseyside. "My agent told me that there were also enquiries from other clubs, but for me, the feeling was right from the start when Bayern presented their plan with me," Mane told German daily Bild.

"It was the right club at the right time. "It is one of the biggest clubs in the world and the team are always fighting for all the titles." Mane added he wants to "do everything to make sure I win titles with my teammates". Bayern won a 10th straight Bundesliga title last season. Mane, voted African footballer of the year in 2019, is a versatile attacker who has spent the majority of his career on the wing but can also play through the middle. His arrival will ease the pain for Bayern if wantaway striker Robert Lewandowski leaves the club, while Serge Gnabry is also stalling over a con-

tract extension. "Sadio Mane is a global star, who underlines the appeal of Bayern and will increase the attractiveness of the Bundesliga as a whole," said Bayern president Herbert Hainer. "Fans come to the stadiums to see unique players like this." The signing of Mane takes some pressure off Bayern

sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic after Lewandowski made it clear he would not extend his contract which expires next year. Mane netted 120 goals in 269 games for Liverpool. "In Sadio Mane, a top international star is coming to FC Bayern, who has left his mark on world football," said Salihamidzic. "We're proud to have brought him to Munich. "The fact that he's joining FC Bayern shows that our club and he have big aims." Mane left Senegal at the age of 19 to join Metz and spent a season in France before joining RB Salzburg, where he learned German. He switched to the Premier

League when he joined Southampton in 2014 and moved to Liverpool two years later. Mane played leading roles as Liverpool won the 2019 Champions League and ended their 30-year wait for the English league title in 2020. "It is really strange to no longer be a Liverpool player but I had an unbelievable time," he told Liverpool's website. "I am going to be Liverpool's number one fan forever." Mane, Senegal's record goalscorer, was part of the team which won the Africa Cup of Nations in February, converting the winning penalty in the final shootout against Egypt. - APP

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## Never thought of picking army chief of my choice: Khan

FROM PAGE 01

pick his favourites for such prestigious positions because he had to protect his ill-gotten wealth and looted money. "I have never even forced Shaukat Khan Hospital to appoint a person on my orders, how can I do it as a prime minister," he added. Imran Khan said that he had started struggle against them 26 years ago against Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari whose sole purpose of politics were loots and plunderers.

PTI Chairman recalled that he had already hinted that all these corrupt and crooks would unite the day he would come to power, adding that now the arch rival PPP and PML-N were allied partners in the coalition government because their only purpose was to protect themselves from accountability. Talking about the US regime conspiracy, Imran Khan revealed that the US did not want the betterment of any country but to safeguard their interests. "He said that providing military bases to the US was not in Pakistan's interest that was the reason; he flatly refused and said absolutely not for the sake of Pakistan. "I am not an anti-American, I want to have good relations with the US, but I cannot let them use us like 'Issue papers'. The US wants us to recognize Israel and not talk about Kashmir so that India is strengthened, to curtail China's power," he maintained.

Imran Khan went on to say that Pakistan was exploited in the US-led war on terrorism, as the then President was threatened by the US administration that they would bomb Pakistan into the stone age in case of non-compliance of orders. PTI chairman raised question as what Pakistan got to become partner with the US in its war against terrorism, as Washington gave a total aid of \$20 billion to Pakistan, but the country suffered lost over \$150 billion in this war. Talking about the military operations in ex-FATA, PTI Chairman stated that the government did a blunder to send troops to the tribal areas and launched military offensive, causing huge loss to the area as well as to the country.

He lamented that anybody who opposed the military operations against own countrymen they were instantly labeled as terrorist. "Pakistan is standing at crossroads, as people will have to choose between a hard path of real independence or being ruled by these cabal of crooks and dacoits," he said. Talking about the conspiracy to topple PTI government, he said that all economic indicators were positive in his government and he informed the neutrals about the conspiracy and it's hazardous implications for the country, which was evident within few weeks, as the current government destroyed everything and reversed the PTI hard gained. Imran Khan shocked that he even can't imagine that Shehbaz Sharif would be made the Prime Minister of the country who was facing billions of corruption cases against him and recently on bail. Talking about the ECP, he said that electoral body has lots of its credibility and even could not hold a free, fair and peaceful election in one constituency, which would dent the democratic process the most.

## Pakistan expresses deep sorrow

FROM PAGE 01

loss of innocent lives and reiterated that Pakistan stands with its neighbor in these testing times. He urged international community to play its role to help Afghan people. KP Chief Minister Mahmood Khan has also expressed sorrow and decided to send medical teams and aid to the quake-hit areas of the neighboring country. "We stand by the people of Afghanistan in testing times and will offer support and resources to deal with the situation," he said.

## Briefs

## Finland hopeful of resolving problems with Türkiye

## FOREIGN DESK

BELGRADE: Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin said that she believes the problem regarding Türkiye's opposition to Finland and Sweden's NATO membership will be resolved before the alliance's summit in Madrid later this month. Marin's remarks came at a joint press conference with her Croatian counterpart Andrej Plenkovic in the capital Zagreb. Marin said that NATO should be united and Finland and Sweden would make the alliance stronger in the long run. Replying to a question, she said she believed a solution would be reached to Türkiye's opposition to the two Nordic countries' NATO memberships given NATO's open-door policy. The NATO leaders' summit is scheduled to be held from June 29-30. Plenkovic for his part said Croatia supports Finland in its bid for NATO membership. "We respect Finland's decision to become a member of NATO. Finland and Sweden also want NATO's security umbrella. Croatia is aware of the importance of NATO in today's world. Finland has a border with Russia," he said. Sweden and Finland formally applied to join NATO last month, a decision spurred by Russia's war on Ukraine, which began on Feb. 24. But Türkiye, a long-standing member of the alliance, has voiced objections to the membership bids, criticizing the countries for tolerating and even supporting terrorist groups.

## UK govt criticized for railway strikes

## WEB DESK

LONDON: The British government on Wednesday came under fire as the country saw the highest inflation with 9.1% and the transport across the UK is on a standstill due to railway workers' strike this week. The opposition's Labour Party leader Keir Starmer said Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Transport Minister Grants Shapps did not do enough to stop the railway strikes, biggest in the last 30 years at the House of Commons during the prime minister's questions session. Johnson responded to criticism, saying his government is doing all it can to avoid the strikes, but it is up to the rail network's managers to negotiate with the unions. Johnson said 25 MPs joined the picket lines because the Labour Party takes £10 million (\$12 million) from workers unions. The Scottish National Party (SNP) leader at Westminster, Ian Blackford, questioned why the UK was doing worse than other European economies as the inflation in the country has reached the 40-year high. Johnson said inflation has become a global problem.

## Russia records 3,058 COVID-19 cases

## NEWS DESK

MOSCOW: Russia's COVID-19 case tally rose by 3,058 over the past day to 18,406,485, the anti-coronavirus crisis center reported on Wednesday, TASS reports. As many as 1,282 people were hospitalized with COVID-19 in Russia over the past day, down 14.6% from a day earlier. The number of hospitalized patients increased in 28 regions, while in 47 regions the figure decreased. The situation remained unchanged in ten regions. A day earlier, 1,501 people were rushed to hospitals. Moscow's COVID-19 cases surged by 256 over the past day versus 146 cases a day earlier, reaching 2,775,497, according to the anti-coronavirus crisis center. St. Petersburg's COVID-19 cases increased by 225 over the past day versus 214 a day earlier, reaching 1,534,624.



GWADAR: Agreement signed with Iranian company Sunir for construction of Polan-Gabd/ Gwadar electricity transmission line. – APP

## Saudi investors keen to invest in Pakistan

Speaking at the occasion, Fahad Bin Mohammed Al-Bash, Chairman, Saudi-Pak Business Council said that the Saudi investors were keen to leverage business and investment opportunities in Pakistan

## KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: A high-level trade delegation of Saudi Arabia visited Pakistan led by Fahad Bin Mohammed Al-Bash, Chairman, Saudi-Pak Business Council and held B2B meetings with the members of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI). The delegation discussed to explore business collaborations in areas of interest. They were representing various sectors including edible oil and fats, food processing, trading, building materials, tourism & hospitality, manufacturing, medical tools and equipment, fintech, pharmaceuticals and infrastructure services, said a press release. The delegation would also visit Lahore and Karachi. Speaking at the occasion, Fahad Bin Mohammed Al-Bash, Chairman, Saudi-Pak Business Council said that the Saudi investors were keen to leverage business and investment opportunities in Pakistan. He stressed that the high-level government-to-government relations between the two countries should be matched with strong trade relations to achieve better results. He said that 20 percent workforce in Saudi Arabia was from Pakistan and his country wanted to import more trained workers from Pakistan. He said that many sectors of Saudi economy including chemical industry, real estate and tourism offered good opportunities to Pakistani investors. He said that they have seen lot of business opportunities in Pakistan and were working with the embassies of both countries to leverage them up to maximum level. He said that exhibitions of Saudi products in Pakistan and Pakistani products in Saudi Arabia

would be organized to introduce the export potential of both countries. He hoped that the visit of Saudi trade delegation to Pakistan would help in further promoting bilateral trade between the two countries. Addressing the delegation, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that Pakistan offers great opportunities of JVs and investment in various sectors of its economy including mines & minerals, oil & gas, housing & construction, infrastructure development, renewable energy, information technology, food processing, edible oil, logistics, sports, tourism & hospitality. He stressed that Saudi investors should capitalize on them to earn lucrative returns. He said that Saudi delegation should also explore textile, agriculture, construction materials, medical equipment, pharmaceu-

ticals, fruits, vegetables, dry fruits, consumer goods, agro-processing technologies, machinery & equipment and other sectors for business opportunities. He stressed that it was the right time for Saudi investors to focus on Pakistan for JVs and investment. Khalid Iqbal Malik, Chairman Founder Group briefed the Saudi delegation members about the investment opportunities in CPEC and stressed that they should exploit them for business development. He said that Saudi Arabia had agreed in principle to establish a multi-billion-dollar refinery complex in Gwadar that should be transformed into a reality. Muhammad Faheem Khan, Vice President ICCI thanked the Saudi trade delegation for visiting Pakistan and hoped that their visit would start a new era of growing trade and economic relations between the two countries.

## Sabina condemns Armenian crimes

## NEWS DESK

BAKU: Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudswoman) Sabina Aliyeva condemned the attack by a group of Armenians on the Azerbaijani Cultural Center in Paris, France, Azernews reports, citing the Ombudswoman's Office. "I strongly condemn criminal actions of Armenia, based on hatred against Azerbaijan, as well as members of the Azerbaijani community abroad, and call on the Armenian side to refrain from attempts that impede peace talks and to fulfill its obligations and to respect human rights and freedoms," the ombudsperson stressed. As previously reported, a group

of Armenians attacked the Cultural Center of the Azerbaijani Embassy in Paris in order to disrupt the screening of the film "The Road to Karabakh". The protestors screamed offensive slogans about Shusha and Azerbaijan's Karabakh region, assaulted citizens, and showed violence. Aytan Muradova, vice-president of the French-Azerbaijani Dialogue Association, and other attendees were hurt in the incident. The provocation was stopped when police got to the site. "We regret that in many parts of the world, Azerbaijanis who try to convey the truth of Azerbaijani culture and history to the world community using freedom of speech, opinion, and expression have been repeatedly attacked on the basis of ethnicity and hatred," Aliyeva underlined.

## Pak students excited upon arrival in China

## DNA

BEIJING: The first batch of 90 Pakistani students who arrived in Xi'an, China by Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) charter flight showed overriding excitement upon long awaiting their return to China, according to Gwadar Pro. Salman Ali Bettani, a Ph.D. student at SIRPA Fudan University Shanghai, told Gwadar Pro that all students of the first batch are very happy and he hopes to join the campus soon for academic activities after the quarantine in Xi'an for 14-days. "I hope all Pakistani students will resume their study here and other around 7000 Pakistani will join us soon. I thank all Pakistani and Chinese authorities who made this possible," he expressed. Rabia Zeb Khan, a Ph.D. student at Xiamen University told Gwadar Pro that she is very excited to arrive in China and hopes to enter her school soon. "I'm thankful to the Chinese and Pakistani governments to provide us opportunities that we could resume our study on campus. All the arrangements from the airport to the hotel are excellent and we don't have any difficulty here. The Chinese staff is very cooperative," she expressed. Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque also expressed delight for the Pakistan students in China. "PIA Special Flight bringing the first batch of Pakistani students has just landed in Xi'an. Students were seen off by Minister of Education Rana Tanveer Hussain at Islamabad airport. This is the first step yet an important one to safely bring back the remaining students to China," the Pakistani ambassador tweeted. Muhammad Rehman, a student at the Southeast University of China, expressed his satisfaction with the arrangements made by the Chinese and Pakistani authorities to return to China. "All the facilities in a hotel are admirable including food and COVID-19 testing. I wish other Pakistani students to join us soon and resume their studies," he added.



BERN: Pakistan's ambassador to Switzerland Amir Shaukat called on Ambassador of Indonesia to Switzerland. Pakistan-Indonesia enjoy close, cordial and brotherly relations. – DNA

## UK plans to rewrite human rights law

If approved by Parliament – where it faces a battle – the legislation will raise the bar for bringing human rights legal claims. It will reduce the ability of foreign nationals convicted of a crime in Britain to challenge deportation on the basis of their human rights

## AGENCIES

LONDON: The British government on Wednesday unveiled plans for a Bill of Rights it says will strengthen free speech and the power of Parliament – but that critics argue will rip up human rights protections for ordinary people. The government published the bill days after courts in the UK and Europe, on human rights grounds, stopped Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative administration deporting people seeking asylum in Britain to Rwanda. If approved by Parliament – where it faces a battle – the legislation will raise the bar for bringing human rights legal claims. It will reduce the ability of foreign nationals convicted of a crime in Britain to challenge deportation on the basis of their human rights. The government says the goal is to

reduce "trivial" and "frivolous" claims. The law will also give British courts the power to ignore rulings by the European Court of Human Rights, currently the ultimate arbiter of rights law for dozens of countries, including the UK. It was an ECHR judge who ruled last week that an Iraqi man should not be sent to Rwanda under the government's controversial deportation plan, a judgment that led to the flight being grounded. Justice Secretary Dominic Raab said the

bill, which would replace the UK's Human Rights Act, would "curb abuses of the system and inject a bit more common sense" into human rights law. Raab said Britain would retain its "fundamental commitment" to the European Convention on Human Rights, but its move could set it on a collision course with the Council of Europe, which oversees the Strasbourg-based rights court. The government depicted the Bill of Rights as an assertion of British sovereignty

in the wake of the country's departure from the European Union. However, the European Court of Human Rights is unconnected to the EU; it is an international tribunal supported by 46 countries. Rights groups said the government's move would remove some of the main tools the public has to hold the powerful to account. Sacha Deshmukh, chief executive of Amnesty International UK, said "the public is being stripped of its most powerful tool to challenge wrongdoing by the government and other public bodies." Stephanie Boyce, president of the Law Society of England and Wales, said the Bill of Rights was "a lurch backwards for British justice." "Authorities may begin to consider some rights violations as acceptable, because these could no longer be challenged under the bill of rights despite being against the law," she said.

## Kuwait dissolves parliament

## AGENCIES

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait decided on Wednesday to dissolve the parliament and called for general elections as per legal and constitutional guidelines, Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Sabah announced in a televised speech. The decision, made based on Article 107 of the constitution, aims to correct the political path in the country. "We have decided to dissolve the National Assembly and call for general elections... The people themselves will have the final word in rectifying the political scene by selecting those who properly represent them," Sheikh Meshal said in a speech on behalf of Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah. Sheikh Meshal attributed the current situation of the political scene – which he described as one marred by disagreements and guided by personal interests – to the fractured relation between the legislative and executive authorities as well as to the former's interference in the latter's work. He also said that the executive authority has not performed its duties "properly," adding that some officials have not "committed to the pledge to work toward achieving political stability and serving the country and its people."

## Early heatwaves, drought hit Europe

## FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Extended drought conditions in several Mediterranean countries, a heat wave last week that reached northern Germany and high fuel costs for aircraft needed to fight wildfires have heightened concerns across Europe this summer. And it's only June. "Much of the continent is in drought," said Cathelijne Stoof, an environmental science professor at the Netherlands' Wageningen University, who called the wildfire outlook "very challenging across Europe." Fires last summer blackened more than 11,000 square kilometers (4,250 square miles) of land – an area more than four times the size of Luxembourg. About half of the damage was in the European Union. And, experts say, Europe's wildfires aren't just a problem for the southern, hotter countries. "What scientists are warning us is that (fires) are obviously going north and in countries such as the U.K., in countries such as Germany as well as in Scandinavian countries, in the future, we need to expect wildfires to happen more often," said Catherine Gamper, a climate change adaptation specialist at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Wildfires across Spain have destroyed tens of thousands of acres of wooded land, though a recent sharp drop in temperatures is helping firefighters contain them. Spain's problems began with the arrival in spring of the earliest heat wave in two decades. Temperatures as high as those normally recorded in August rose above 40 C (104 F) in many Spanish cities.

## Hamis decides to restore Syria ties

## WEB DESK

RAMALLAH: A decade after breaking relations with Syrian President Bashar Assad and decamping from Damascus, Hamas is in talks to resume ties with Syria, according to a source in the Gaza-ruling group. "The return of relations was part of discussions that took place for years with Iran and the Lebanese Hezbollah," the Hamas source told Egyptian media. "Hamas insisted that it was neutral and did not interfere, and gave positive indications to all mediators, and also obtained positive indications from Syria," the source added. According to the source, Hamas resuming ties with Damascus is not a matter that hasn't been discussed before. Speaking under the conditions of anonymity, the source added that the decision has been made over 10 months ago.

**Briefs**

**Turkish ship leaves Mariupol after grain talks with Moscow**

**FOREIGN DESK**

ISTANBUL: A Turkish cargo ship on Wednesday left Ukraine's Russian-occupied port of Mariupol after a round of "constructive" grain talks with Moscow, Turkey's defence ministry said, without specifying if it was carrying wheat. "The meeting in Moscow gave its first concrete result," the Turkish ministry said in a statement. "Just a few hours after the end of the long meeting, the Turkish dry cargo ship, which had been waiting for days, left the Ukrainian port."

The statement added that the Azov Concord became the first foreign ship to leave the port in Mariupol - a city devastated by a weeks-long siege. Ukrainian officials estimate claimed 20,000 lives - since Russia's invasion in February. Turkey has been spearheading efforts to resume grain deliveries across the Black Sea that have been stalled by minefields and a Russian military blockade of Ukrainian ports. The meeting between Turkish generals and their Russian counterparts in Moscow reached "an understanding for future negotiations between Turkey, Russia, Ukraine and the UN", the Turkish statement said. "In this context, it was decided that a four-way meeting should be held in Turkey in the coming weeks, after a meeting with the Ukrainian side and the UN," said the defence ministry.

**Flood response at highest level in China's Pearl River basin**

**AGENCIES**

BEIJING: Flood control authority in south China's Pearl River basin activated a Level-III emergency response on Tuesday. The response was taken to the highest level as escalating torrents in Beijing and Xijiang, both main rivers of the basin, are expected to make water levels continue to rise and maintain high for a long period, according to the Ministry of Water Resources. China has a further flood-control emergency response system, with level I being the most urgent and severe. The authority asked the Guangdong provincial government to strengthen monitoring and early warning, scientifically arrange flood detention and diversion measures, safeguard reservoirs and dikes, and well implement evacuation and rescue work in a bid to ensure safety of major dikes in Beijing and Xijiang and the Pearl River Delta city cluster.

**ECP decides to deploy army for NA-245 by-polls**

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Wednesday decided to deploy the Pakistan army's soldiers for the upcoming by-elections in the NA-245 constituency of Karachi. The ECP has written a letter to the Secretary of the Ministry of Defence in this regard. According to the letter, the ECP has requested to keep the Pak army's soldiers on standby from July 26-28 to ensure transparent and peaceful elections for the constituency. The army soldiers will be deployed outside the polling station on the day of polling to keep them peaceful. The ECP has made the decision in wake of an earlier by-polls in Karachi this month which turned violent with different political groups resorting to firing and violence that also led to the death of a political worker. The votes will be cast in NA-245 on July 27. The seat became vacant after the passing of the PTI's estranged MNA Aamir Liaquat Hussain.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors of France Nicolas Galey, Ambassador of Spain Manuel Duran, Ambassador of Italy Mr. Andreas posing for a picture along with the staff and representatives of Pakistani and foreign universities during a reception hosted at the French residence. - DNA

**French envoy hosts B-Int'l consortium delegation**

Ambassador Galey in his remarks welcomed the initiative and termed the project a step in the right direction in terms of promotion of educational links between Pakistan and its partners

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

ISLAMABAD: French Ambassador to Pakistan, Nicolas Galey hosted a reception at his residence for the representatives of 8 universities, along with the ambassadors of Italy, Spain and a representative of the EU delegation. The representatives from the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan also attended the event. Ambassador Galey in his remarks welcomed the initiative and termed the project a step in the right direction in terms of promotion of educational links between Pakistan and its partners.

He further said, B-International was a collaborative capacity building project in higher education between Pakistan, the UK, France, Italy, and Spain, and is co-funded

by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union. The project brings together 4 prestigious universities in Pakistan; COMSATS University Islamabad; LUMS; NUST and PIFS, and 4 top-notch European Universities: Cardiff Metropolitan University (UK), Ecole Centrale de Nantes (France), University of Bologna (Italy), University of Salamanca (Spain) - all working together in the spirit of internationalisation.

The Ambassador further said, the French Embassy in Pakistan strongly supports academic cooperation between Pakistani universities and their counterparts in France and Europe. Such a project deserves to be celebrated: the B-International project will reinforce the Pakistan's HEC Vision 2025 on internationalization through building capacity within the Higher Education

sector, enhancing international collaboration, and supporting the development of global mind-sets of the youth.

"The first two years of the B-International project has coincided with a global pandemic, meaning all of the B-International Partners are yet to meet face-to-face. Nevertheless, colleagues from the 8 universities across Europe and Pakistan have worked passionately and tirelessly for the last two and a half years adapting work plans and delivering to achieve endless success in the name of internationalisation and B-International. He added, this international visit to Islamabad marks the very first time that the B-International consortium members from both Europe and Pakistan have met in person.

It is a key milestone in the projects. Colleagues from Europe will have the first opportunity to deepen their understanding of Pakistan. This trip is also the start of many visits to all partner nations in EU across the remainder of the project, he added.

In conclusion the ambassador said, connecting in person, peer to peer, faculty to faculty, Institution to institution will bolster the collaborative and capacity building efforts and ensure sustainable impact of the B-International project and the connections regarding Higher Education between Pakistan, UK, France, Italy and Spain.

The representative of the French university in her speech thanked the French embassy for hosting the reception and the participants for attending the event. She said this collaboration will go a long way in strengthening of educational links among these institutions.

**Passenger jet catches fire while landing at Miami airport**

**FOREIGN DESK**

MIAMI: Investigators were headed to Miami Wednesday after a passenger jet's landing gear collapsed and it caught fire as it touched down at the US city's international airport, forcing more than 100 people to flee the burning and mangled aircraft. Three people were hospitalized after the crash of Red Air Flight 203 late Tuesday, according to Miami-Dade fire officials, but no deaths or serious injuries have been reported

among those on board. Dramatic video footage showed people being evacuated from the McDonnell Douglas MD-82 aircraft, lying askew on the runway with its nose crumpled as thick black smoke billows from its body. Red Air, a Dominican budget carrier which only launched in November last year, said the plane was arriving from Santo Domingo when it met with "technical difficulties." "Red Air #203 from Santo Domingo had its landing gear in the nose of the plane collapse, which seems

to have caused a fire," said a statement on the Miami International Airport's Twitter account.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), the US government agency in charge of probing civil aviation accidents, tweeted that its team would arrive in Miami on Wednesday. Red Air said there were 130 passengers and 10 crew on board. A Miami airport spokesman said there was "a total of 126 people on board" the plane. The reason for the discrepancy was not immediately clear.

**20 killed as Russia rains rockets**

**NEWS DESK**

KYIV: Russian forces pounded Ukraine's second largest city Kharkiv and surrounding countryside with rockets, killing at least 20 people in what Kyiv called a bid to force it to pull resources from the main battlefield to protect civilians from attack. Inside Russia, a fire tore through an oil refinery just 8 km (5 miles) from the Ukrainian border, after what the refinery described as a cross border attack by two drones. In the main battlefield city of Sievierodonetsk, where Russia has claimed to have Ukrainian forces surrounded since last week, scenes filmed by a freelance journalist made clear the battle was not over, with Ukrainian troops able to resupply their garrison by crossing a river in inflatable rafts. The Russian strikes on Kharkiv, throughout Tuesday and continuing on Wednesday morning, were the worst for weeks in the area where normal life had been returning since Ukraine pushed Russian forces back in a major counter-offensive last month. "It was shelling by Russian troops. It was probably multiple rocket launchers. And it's the missile impact, it's all the missile impact," Kharkiv prosecutor Mikhailo Mar-tosh told Reuters amid the ruins of cottages struck on Tuesday in a rural area on the city's outskirts. Medical workers carried the body of an elderly woman out of the rubble of a burnt-out garage and into a nearby van. "She was 85 years old. A child of the war (World War Two). She survived one war, but didn't make it through this one," said her grandson Mykyta. "There is nowhere to flee to. Especially grandmother herself, she didn't want to go anywhere from here." Ukrainian authorities said 15 people were killed and 16 wounded on Tuesday in the Kharkiv region, and regional governor Oleh Sinegubov described shelling incidents on Wednesday morning that had killed at least another five. "Russian forces are now hitting the city of Kharkiv in the same way that they previously were hitting Mariupol - with the aim of terrorising the population," Ukrainian presidential adviser Oleksiy Arestovych said in a video address.

**Dua's father moves SC to stop couple from leaving Pakistan**

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Dua Zahra's father Mehdi Ali Kazmi has approached the Supreme Court, once again, (SC) to stop his daughter and her husband from leaving Pakistan. Zahra who had mysteriously gone missing from Karachi in April but later declared that she had run away from her home to marry 21-year-old Zaheer Ahmed. Zaheer, in an interview, had hinted about taking Zahra out of Pakistan as they have seen the entire country, while responding to the question where the couple would have a "honeymoon." However, Kazmi on Wednesday filed a petition in the SC's Karachi registry, stating "Zahra has talked about travelling out of the country." The plea requests the court to restrict Zahra from giving more interviews and going out of Pakistan. Kazmi has also requested the court to order Zahra's "recovery" and production in the court.

**Covid subvariants cast shadow over European summer**

**AGENCIES**

PARIS: A resurgence of Covid-19 cases in Europe, this time driven by new, fast-spreading Omicron subvariants, is once again threatening to disrupt people's summer plans. Several Western European nations have recently recorded their highest daily case numbers in months, due in part to Omicron sub-variants BA.4 and BA.5. The increase in cases has spurred calls for increased vigilance across a continent that has relaxed most if not all coronavirus restrictions. The first resurgence came in May in Portugal, where BA.5 propelled a wave that hit almost 30,000 cases a day at the beginning of June.

**MBS heads to Turkey as countries normalise ties**

The crown prince's visit is a reminder that Saudi-Turkish relations have progressed rapidly in the last two years

**MONITORING DESK**

ANKARA: Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) has travelled to Turkey for the first time in years for talks with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, aiming to fully normalise ties that were ruptured after the 2018 killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. The Turkish president was due to welcome the crown prince at the presidential palace in Ankara for talks on Wednesday afternoon. No public statements are expected. The visit comes as part of a tour that included stops in Egypt and Jordan earlier this week. It is expected to bring "a full normalisation and a restoration of the pre-crisis period," a senior Turkish official told Reuters. "A new era will begin." Ties between

Ankara and Riyadh took a turn for the worse after a Saudi hit squad killed and dismembered Khashoggi in October 2018. Erdogan at the time blamed it on the "highest levels" of the Saudi government. MBS has denied any involvement in the murder. However, Ankara halted its murder trial in April, after a months-long drive to mend relations. The rapprochement was marked by Ankara's approval of a request to

transfer the trial to Riyadh. Human rights groups condemned the move, saying Saudi Arabia could not be expected to hold a fair trial.

MBS has been leveraging Saudi Arabia's vast wealth and oil production capacity to soften criticism of the country's human rights record. In turn, Erdogan is seeking financial support that could help relieve Turkey's beleaguered economy ahead of tight elections for the presidency, expected in 2023. Turkish officials said agreements on

energy, economy and security would be signed during the visit, while a plan was also in the works for Saudi funds to enter capital markets in Turkey. However, negotiations on a possible currency swap line that could help restore Turkey's diminished foreign reserves were not moving "as fast as desired" and would be discussed privately between the two leaders. Turkey's economy is badly strained by a slumping lira and inflation soaring beyond 70 percent. Saudi funds and foreign currency could help Erdogan shore up support ahead of elections, analysts say. The leaders will also discuss the possible sale of Turkish armed drones to Riyadh, Turkish officials told Reuters. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi received MBS at the airport on Monday evening, on the first leg of a Middle East tour that comes ahead of United States President Joe Biden's trip to the region next month.

