



# Islamabad POST

Saturday, June 18, 2022

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

**Turkiye says support to terrorists threatens NATO**

Detailed News On Page-06

**Crown Prince to visit Turkiye next week**

Detailed News On Page-08



**'Quit sanctions lunacy', Iran urges US**

Detailed News On Page-06



**Briefs**

**British PM in Kyiv on 2nd visit**

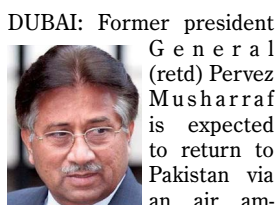
AGENCIES



KYIV: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was back in Kyiv on Friday, what was his second visit in just over two months, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky said, hailing Britain's "resolute" support for Ukraine. "Many days of this war have proved that Great Britain's support for Ukraine is firm and resolute. Glad to see our country's great friend Boris Johnson in Kyiv again," he wrote on Telegram with a video of him greeting the British leader at the presidential palace. "Mr President, Volodymyr, it is good to be in Kyiv again," wrote Johnson on his official Twitter account. Such a move would be a potent symbol of support for Kyiv in its conflict with Russia. A day earlier, France, Germany, Italy, and Romania were all in favour of Ukraine receiving "immediate" official status of an EU candidate, leaders of the four EU countries said during a visit to the war-torn country.

**Musharraf may return to Pakistan**

DNA



DUBAI: Former president General (ret'd) Pervez Musharraf is expected to return to Pakistan via an air ambulance and his treatment will continue in the country, sources said, after the ex-dictator's health deteriorated last week. Sources told media that Musharraf's family has decided to shift him to Pakistan. The former president has been in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for the last six years getting medical treatment. After the news of Musharraf's ill health, PML-N, a major stakeholder in the coalition government, and the military leadership had said that the former president should be brought to the country if he wants to come back.

**Holiday Notice**

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

**Inside...**

- CM KP chairs high level meeting over forestfire incidents - Page 02
- Collective efforts vital to save world from drought: President - Page 03
- Pakistan-UAE discuss further bolstering health cooperation - Page 04
- FATF satisfied - Page 05
- Pakistan to feature in three Int'l Taekwondo C' ships - Page 06
- Vladimir Norov receives the Ambassador of Pakistan - Page 07
- Forced disappearances: CJ IHC seeks those responsible - Page 08

**Pak to remain in grey list**

## FATF says Pakistan has met targets

The watchdog will schedule an on-site visit to verify the implementation before removing it from its list

NEWS DESK/DNA

BERLIN: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) said on Friday that Pakistan had met all 34 items on two separate action plans, adding that the watchdog will now schedule an on-site visit to verify the implementation and sustainability of the country's money laundering and counter-terrorism financing measures before removing it from its increased monitoring list, also known as the grey list. According to a statement by the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog, Pakistan has substantially completed all items on both its action plans, which showed that necessary political commitment was in place to sustain implementation and improvement in the future. While announcing the watchdog's decision, FATF President Dr Marcus Pleyer acknowledged the reforms implemented by the country, saying "they are good for the stability and security of the country". He, however, added that "Pakistan is not being removed from the grey list today. The country will be removed from the list if it successfully passes the on-site visit". Pleyer said Pakistan will

Continued on Page 06

## Govt urges to avoid speculation

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb has said no speculation should be made about the removal or stay of Pakistan in the grey list of FATF. In a tweet on Friday, she said the statement of FATF meeting being held in Germany will be issued tonight and the details of this will be issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs tomorrow. On the other hand, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabhani Khar also said that pre-judging the outcome of FATF plenary meeting and speculative reporting in this regard should be avoided. In a tweet on Friday, she said the FATF Plenary meetings are continuing in Berlin, Germany and FATF will

Continued on Page 06

## Pak seeks US help to revive IMF deal

Miftah, Aisha met Donald Blome, apprise him of govt actions

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has sought the United States support for the revival of the International Monetary Fund programme, as the global lender has yet to agree to a staff level pact despite the government having taken many difficult steps. The government's economic team met with US Ambassador Donald Blome and sought Washington's support and acknowledgement of the actions taken so far, The Express Tribune reported. Blome was apprised about measures that have been taken to revive the programme and bring stability in the economy, they added. Finance Minister Miftah Ismail and Minister of State for Finance Dr Aisha Pasha

Continued on Page 06

## Pakistan an important partner: US

DNA

WASHINGTON: US State Department spokesperson Ned Price has said that Pakistan is our important partner in the region. Addressing a media briefing, Ned Price said that foreign minister Antony Blinken met with his Pakistani counterpart in New York last month. They had constructive discussions on a number

Continued on Page 06

## European Union backs Ukraine's membership bid

NEWS DESK

BRUSSELS: The European Union gave its blessing on Friday for Ukraine and its neighbour Moldova to become candidates to join the bloc, reaching out deep into the former Soviet Union for what would be a major geopolitical shift resulting from Russia's invasion. "Ukrainians are ready to die for the European perspective," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told a news conference, wearing Ukrainian colours: a yellow blazer over a blue blouse. "We want them to live with us the European dream." Though only the start of a process that may take many years, it puts Kyiv on course to realise an aspiration that would have been beyond its reach just months ago. Ukraine applied to join the EU four days after Russian troops poured across its border in February. Another four days later, so did Moldova and Georgia - smaller ex-Soviet states also contending with separatist regions occupied by Russia. "It's the first step on the EU membership path that'll certainly bring our victory closer," tweeted President Volodymyr Zelenskiy. "Precisely because of the bravery of the Ukrainians, Europe can create a new history of freedom,

## Biden says briefed on Americans missing

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden Friday said he had been briefed on two Americans missing in Ukraine, and he urged US citizens to refrain from traveling to the war-torn country. Asked about the two Americans volunteer fighters who are feared captured by the Russian forces, Biden said, "I have been briefed." Biden told reporters he didn't know the men's whereabouts, adding "Americans should not be going to Ukraine." The US State Department on Thursday urged Russia to treat any Americans captured while fighting alongside Ukrainian troops as prisoners of war guaranteed humane treatment. It also said that a third American was believed to be missing in Ukraine in addition to the two military veterans who were reportedly seized by Russian forces in a pitched battle last week. Families and members of Congress say that Alexander Druke and Andy Huynh, who had both been living in Alabama, lost contact with their relatives while fighting with Ukrainian forces near the Russian border.

and finally remove the grey zone in Eastern Europe between the EU and Russia." One of President Vladimir Putin's main objectives in launching an invasion that has killed thousands of people, destroyed cities and driven millions to flight was to halt the eastward expansion of Western institutions. Friday's announcement underlined how the war has had the opposite effect: convincing Finland and Sweden to join transatlantic alliance NATO, and now the EU to embark on potentially its most ambitious expansion since welcoming Eastern European states after the Cold War. Leaders of EU countries are expected to endorse the decision at a summit next week. The leaders of the three biggest - Germany, France and Italy - conveyed their solidarity on Thursday by visiting Kyiv, along with the president of Romania.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif presenting a shield to Federal Minister for Industries and Production Makhdoom Murtaza Mehmood in recognition of his efforts for timely import of edible oil from Indonesia. - DNA

## PM praises edible oil import from Indonesia

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif says timely import of edible oil from Indonesia has averted the impending oil crisis in the country. Talking to Minister for Industries and Production Makhdoom Murtaza Mehmood in Islamabad on Friday, the Prime Minister said the 2.5 million metric tons of edible oil being imported from Indonesia will reduce oil prices in the country. The Prime Minister appreciated the special efforts of Federal Minister for importing edible oil from Indonesia.

Continued on Page 06

## FM remarks on India reported out of context

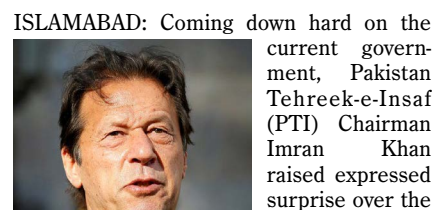
ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: In response to some media queries and press reports about remarks made by Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari regarding relations with India in his address at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), the

Continued on Page 06

## Mysterious deaths of investigators shocking: Imran Khan accuses rulers of using 'mafia tactics' to save corruption

SHUJAAT HAMZA



ISLAMABAD: Coming down hard on the current government, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan raised expressed surprise over the sudden and mysterious deaths of witnesses and investigators linked to the corruption cases of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his family members. Imran Khan on Friday shared details of the witnesses and investigators who died suddenly during the last few weeks since the imported government was imposed through the US-backed conspiracy.

Continued on Page 06

## Lauds Hammad, team for completing action plan

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan expressed optimism that the PTI government's tireless and well-coordinated efforts would yield results and Pakistan would be removed from Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list after four years. Imran Khan said that he was confident that prerequisite on-site visit of FATF

Continued on Page 06

## DINO VALLEY

10 minutes Drive from The Monal Islamabad

Pakistan's First Ever Dinosaur Themed Park



# CM KP chairs high level meeting over forestfire incidents

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: An important meeting regarding the recent fire incidents in various mountains/forests of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was held here on Friday with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan in the chair. The meeting reviewed in details the causes of the fire incidents and other related matters and took a number of important decisions to effectively prevent such incidents in future.

Briefing the participants about the recent incidents of fires, it was informed that a total of 283 incidents of fires were reported in various places across the province in recent days. In majority of the case fire took place on dry grass and shrubs on land surface, and only 22 trees in designated forests were damaged in the fire incidents across the province.

The meeting decided to formulate a comprehensive strategy for effective prevention of such incidents in future by tightening the relevant laws to punish those who set the mountains/forests on fires intentionally on the basis of personal enmities. It was also decided to constitute committees at district level to keep a vigilant eye on such destructive activities in future. The committees, to be headed by Deputy Commissioners, will have representation of Police, Special Branch, Rescue 1122, Forest Department and District Administrations.

The forum further decided to categorize the mountains/forests as high risk, medium risk and low risk areas further deciding that special units of Rescue 1122 would be set up in order to control fires in high risk areas whereas heavy duty drones would be used to monitor hills and forests as well as to take timely action in case of fire incident there. The meeting also gave consideration to the purchase of customized aircraft to control fires in remote and inaccessible areas and decided to restore the scientific forest management system. Similarly, it has been decided to devise a mechanism to pull out old wood and dry grass lying in the forests.

The meeting was informed that 72% of the total area affected by the fire was communal and private land adding that 89% of fire incidents was of Ground Fire, 20% Surface Fire and 4% Crown Fire. Similarly, it was told that 8.5% of the incidents were reported in reserved areas, 23 per cent in protected areas and 5.5% in Guzara Forest areas. It was further informed that 20% of the total fire incidents took place due to human error, 9% due to natural causes and 71% due to unknown causes.

While briefing about the action so far taken against those involved in setting the forests/mountains on fire, it was informed that a total of 56 FIRs had been registered whereas 32 accused of arson have been identified and 11 of them have been arrested. The meeting was informed that three persons including a rescue workers were martyred in attempts to extinguish fire in mountains. On this occasion, the Chief Minister paid tribute to the martyrs and lauded the role of District Administration, Rescue 1122 and Forest Department personnel in extinguishing the fire. He said that forests were our precious assets, we have to protect and preserve this asset at all costs. "Those who set the mountains on fire on the basis of personal enmity are terrorists", he remarked and directed that necessary legislation should be made to take action against such people under the provisions of anti-terrorism laws. Mahmood Khan directed that such destructive activities should be made non-bailable offence adding that pictures of the arrested accused in recent fire incidents be published in media. He directed the concerned authorities to devise a joint strategy of all the concerned departments for prevention of such incidents on permanent basis. Mahmood Khan also directed to have a transparent mechanism for the removal of dry wood and weed in the forests and an effective surveillance system in order to prevent fire incidents in the future.

## Bank manager jailed in fraud case

QUETTA: Accountability court Quetta on Friday sentenced a Bank Manager to a total of 05 years in prison and imposed a fine of Rs 60 million in a bank fraud case. Dost Mohammad Nasar, Bank Manager of a private Bank Quetta was facing charges of embezzlement in the amount deposited by the account holders.

Accountability Court Quetta Judge Aftab Ahmed Lone announced the verdict while prosecutor NAB Dawood Jan appeared on behalf of NAB. As per details, in response to the complaint lodged by over 60 victims, account holders of a private bank, NAB launched an investigation against the Bank Manager of the MeezanChowk branch of the private bank Quetta.

The investigation carried out by investigation officer Fayaz Afzal revealed that accused Dost Mohammad Nasar had adopted an illegal channel of parallel banking and by misusing his authority committed fraud. By cheating the public at large, he misappropriated the number of account holders to the tune of about Rs 60 million. In the light of the evidence against the accused the court ruled that Dost Mohammad Nasar is hereby convicted and sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment of five years and a fine of Rs 60 million.

"The accused is also seized to hold public office and shall stand disqualified for a period of 10 years to be reckoned from the date he was released after serving the sentence for seeking or from being elected, chosen, appointed, or nominated as a member or representative of any public body or in statutory or local authority or in service of Pakistan.", The amount of fine shall be recovered as arrears of Land Revenue provided under section 33(E) of NAO 1999. "Accused was on bail, he was taken into custody," ruling of court further read. - APP



KARACHI: German ambassador to Pakistan Bernhard Schlagheck enjoying a cup of Chai (tea) at a tea stall. - DNA

## AJK President seeks British PM's role for Kashmir

NEWS DESK

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry on Friday presented a memorandum to the British Prime Minister Boris Johnson urging him to use his political and diplomatic clout to resolve the lingering dispute in line with Kashmiris' wishes and aspirations. Seeking an early and amicable settlement of the long pending dispute, the AJK president asked the British PM to influence India to grant Kashmiris their promised right, the right to self-determination, put an immediate end to the human rights violations and

help secure early release of Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Muhammad Yasin Malik, who was convicted and sentenced to life in prison by an Indian court recently, says a message released to the media here on Friday evening.

The AJK president was accompanied by Lord Qurban Hussain and members of the British parliament including Mirza Khalid Mahmood, Azad Imran Hussain, Raja Yaseen, Jess Phillips and Paul Bristow.

Later, talking to local and international media, Barrister Chaudhry said that given the UK's role in world politics the British government can play an important role in the resolution of the Kashmir issue. Underling the

British government's responsibilities for the the resolution of Kashmir dispute, the president said that it was incumbent upon the UK to force New Delhi in stopping bloodshed and violence in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. "I, therefore, urge the UK to play a role in giving the Kashmiri people their right to self-determination," he said. The president said that during his visit he had presented Kashmiris' case at different forums of the country. "I'm optimistic that the people and the government of the United Kingdom will play their role so that the people of Kashmir can exercise their right to self-determination", he added.



ISLAMABAD: Turkish Ambassador Mustafa Yurdakul pays a farewell call on Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. - DNA

## PAF has capacity to timely respond to enemy: Air chief

LAHORE: Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu on Friday said the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) was a professional force having capacity to timely respond to any nefarious design against the country.

"Our armed forces remain poised to defend the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the nation," he said while addressing the course members of 51st PN Staff Course at Pakistan Navy War College (PNWC), Lahore, according to a PAF news release.

Dilating on prevailing security challenges and technological advancements, the air chief said the pace of technological advancement in warfare mandated self-reliance in defence production. The air chief appreciated the Pakistan Navy's valuable services in safeguarding the maritime frontiers of the country.

He commended the PN War College for imparting professional staff and military training to the officers of Pakistan Navy, sister services and friendly countries. He appreciated the quality academic stimulus and level of training imparted at the college.

Earlier on his arrival at the PNWC, the air chief was received by Commandant Pakistan Navy War College Rear Admiral Shifaat Ali Khan. - APP

## People demand restoration of Internet service in Wana

DNA

WANA: Locals people's in South Waziristan Tehsil Barmal AzamWarsak Bazaar protested against the closure of 3G & 4g Internet services. Protesters walked in AzamWarsak carrying placards in their hands. Restoration of peace, slogans of the government. The rally took the form of a protest in which political and social leaders delivered speeches criticizing the government for not providing internet service in the

last five weeks. He said that students, business people and general public have been severely affected by the internet outage. Participants said that there is peace in the region and people are supporting the government but internet service has not been restored yet. Secretary Imran Mukhlis, former mayoral candidate Taj Muhammad said in his address that members of district administration. The district administration said that the issue has been raised with the

government officials. The district administration said that the 3G internet service will be restored soon. Pakistan People's Party PPP Imran Mukhlis has said that if due to security concerns When 3G 4G service was shut down, unfortunate incidents took place in Peshawar and Dera Ismail Khan Islamabad on a daily basis. No internet service was shut down there. 3G 4G is suspended in our area until 3G in our areal G4G is not restored then the protest will continue.

## Sherry stresses need for drought preparedness

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman stressed the need to set in motion the work on improving drought preparedness and building drought resilience. The minister, in her message on the World Desertification and Drought Day being observed on Friday, said, "Droughts and desertification are critical issues worldwide. For the last two years, Pakistan has been amongst the top 23 countries facing a major drought emergency." By 2025, she said, droughts might affect estimated three-quarters of the world's population. "Pakistan will certainly be in its cross-hairs. Desertification is a global phenomenon caused by environmental and climatic factors and human activities but has left Paki-



massive deforestation, and anthropogenic activities a noticeable change in climate conditions have accelerated the fallout.

"In Pakistan, we see water stress and dry rivers all over the country due to prolonged heat waves and delayed rains, poor distribution of water. This worsens especially because the country is predominantly arid. "In addition, Pakistan's per capita water availability has dropped from 5060 cubic meters per annum in 1951 to only 908 cubic meters now. UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) states that Pakistan will dry up by 2025 if no urgent action is taken today. Our livestock is critically affected by the rising heat and lack of water in already water-stressed areas of Sindh and South Punjab. - APP

## Barrister Saif condemns federal govt

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Chief Minister for Information, Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif on Friday strongly condemned the biased and discriminatory attitude of the federal government towards Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by not giving its due rights. In a statement, he said that the people of merged districts played a leading role in the war on terror but now due rights were not being given. He said that PTI government had allocated Rs 131 billion for the merged districts in the financial year 2021-22 but now funds were reduced to Rs. 110 billion for the next financial year 23-2022. - APP

## New UNICEF's Representative in Pakistan Abdullah A. Fadil presents credentials

ISLAMABAD: Abdullah A. Fadil, the new Representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Pakistan has presented his credentials to Ambassador AsimFtikhar Ahmad, Additional Secretary (United Nations) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. According to a press release issued by UNICEF, Fadil has recently arrived in the country, where he will be leading the new multi-sectoral UNICEF Country Programme of Cooperation (2023-2027) in partnership with the Government, in support of the National Development Plan. Ambassador AsimFtikhar Ahmad appreciated UNICEF's continued support for Pakistan's national development priorities and its partnership with the government in pursuance of UNICEF's mandate for children. UNICEF works to help every girl and boy realize their right to health, including immunization, nutrition, education, child protection, water, sanitation and hygiene, and social protection - with a focus on children and adolescents living in the most deprived families and hardest-to-reach communities. - APP

## Pakistan, Mexico vow to further deepen ties

Pakistan side also underscored the importance of deeper diplomatic engagement including through reopening of Mexico's resident Mission in Islamabad

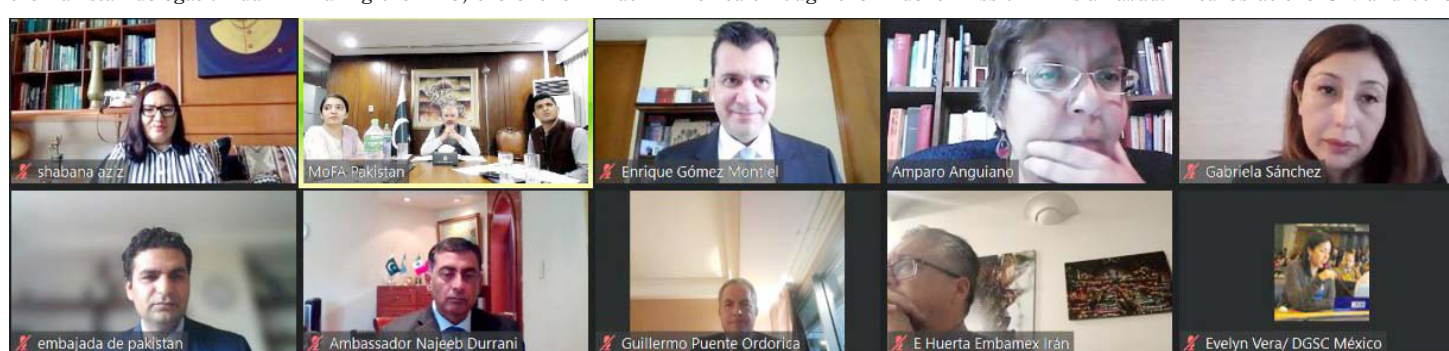
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday expressed its commitment to further deepen and broaden its ties with Mexico, particularly in the areas of trade, investment, science and technology, and people-to-people exchanges. This commitment was underscored by Faisal NiazTirmizi, Additional Secretary (Americas), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who led the Pakistan delegation during the 5th round of Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) between Pakistan and Mexico held in virtual mode. The Mexican delegation was headed by Ms. Amparo Anguiano, Director General for Africa, Central Asia and the Middle East at the Mexican Foreign Ministry. Pakistan's Ambassador to Mexico also participated in the meeting. During the BPC, the entire

spectrum of bilateral relations as well as regional and multilateral issues were discussed, a press release issued here by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said. The Additional Secretary thanked the Mexican government for supporting Pakistan in obtaining the Observer Status in the Pacific Alliance and hoped for enhanced cooperation with Latin America through the

Alliance. He highlighted that Pakistan was firmly focusing on imperatives of geo-economics and pursuing policies which would promote peace, growth, development, and regional connectivity. The Pakistan side also underscored the importance of deeper diplomatic engagement including through reopening of Mexico's resident Mission in Islamabad.

Views were exchanged on closer collaboration on consular matters. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the cooperation between both countries at various international forums especially in the United Nations, and on the question of Security Council reforms. Pakistan and Mexico continue to support each other's candidatures at the UN and other

international bodies. Both sides committed for conclusion of a range of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) regarding enhanced cooperation in the fields of trade, investment, education, culture, and science and technology. Regional and international issues including Afghanistan, conflict in Ukraine, and the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) were discussed during the political consultations. Both sides agreed to hold the next round of Bilateral Political Consultations in-person. Additional Secretary Tirmizi extended an invitation to his Mexican counterpart to lead the Mexican delegation to the 6th session of the Bilateral Political Consultations in Pakistan. - APP



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### National Days and Armed Forces Days

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



### Hotels & Restaurants

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

### Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949

### Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15  
Bomb Disposal.....15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance..1122 & Rescue Services.4451122  
Motorway Police.....9266044  
Motorway Police.....9270601-20  
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596  
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20

### Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115  
PIAFlightInfo.....114  
PIA Cargo.....9280979  
Railway Inquiry.....117  
Railway Exchange9270831-5  
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

### Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister and Leader of the House in Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani presenting a gift to the outgoing DHM of Jordan embassy Dr. Maen on behalf of CEO Monal Group Luqman Ali Afzal. Luqman hosted a farewell dinner for the outgoing diplomat at the Asian Wok. – DNA

### Chairman CDA chairs board meeting

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Meeting of the CDA Board was held at CDA headquarters here on Friday. The meeting was chaired by Chairman CDA and attended by the members of the board. CDA board during its meeting approved the alignment and links of Margalla Highway i.e. Shah Allah dita and Bharaku. More over board in principle approved regularization of 140 lower staff subject to fulfillment of codal formalities, scrutiny, rules / regulations and recommendations of departmental recruitment committee. The CDA Board also approved the post of pediatrician in BPS-19 in the Capital Hospital to provide better health services to the staff and residents of Islamabad. In the meeting hearing was given to management of park view housing society at the direction of the court it was decided that the decision will be taken as per court orders and report from ICT.

## Collective efforts vital to save world from drought: President

He proposed that the solution lay in tree plantation, protecting riverbanks, shifting to drought-tolerant crops, and relocation of herds from vulnerable pastures

**AGENCIES**

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday stressed the need for joining hands with regional countries and the world to save the globe from droughts and ensure food security. In his message on the International Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, the president mentioned that many countries around the world, including Pakistan, were experiencing periodic low and unpredictable rainfall. The president said climate change, degradation of land, deforestation, and over exploitation of farmlands and grasslands were contributing factors to crop failure, water stress, land degradation and low

growth performance. This year's slogan 'Rising up from drought together', he said, will send a strong message to drought-prone countries to join hands and reiterate their commitment to encourage communities to act together to tackle the immediate impacts of drought and build long-term resilience. President Alvi said the drought impact can be mitigated by developing water sources – such as micro dams, ponds, and wells, water rationing, restoring pastures, and recovering the water holding capacity of soils. He proposed that the solution lay in tree plantation, protecting riverbanks, shifting to drought-tolerant crops, and relocation of herds from vulnerable pastures. "We need to adopt cogent drought poli-



cies at the federal and provincial levels, launch a well-thought-out and coordinated drought action plan, implement com-

prehensive drought-management strategies, improve water security through groundwater recharge, create more water reservoirs, ensure water availability, and enhance forest cover throughout the country," he said. The president expressed satisfaction that Pakistan was working in many areas to mitigate the impact of drought which include the implementation of a national-level programme to plant 3.29 billion plants over an area of One million hectares in desertification and drought-prone areas. Also, the launch of the Protected Areas Initiative to preserve the natural flora and fauna and achieving the voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Targets by 2030 are important areas, he added.

### Call for awareness through media to fight drug menace

ISLAMABAD: Senior Joint Secretary Ministry of Narcotics Control, Sabino Sikandar Jalal on Friday called for collective efforts and creating more awareness among the masses for curbing the menace of drugs from society. Addressing as chief guest a seminar titled "Control of drug abuse and narcotics smuggling" organized by Information Service Academy, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting here he said that information officers could play an important role in fighting this scourge by highlighting the issue in the media. – APP

### Agri exports to China to cross \$1b mark soon

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's agricultural exports to China will soon grow beyond US\$ 1 billion per annum. Gwadar Pro reported on Friday quoting Dr Gu Wenliang, Agricultural Counsellor here at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China. Speaking at a seminar in Rawalpindi regarding China-Pakistan agricultural cooperation under CPEC on Thursday, Dr Gu said that China offered a huge and lucrative market for Pakistani agricultural goods including rice, cherries, dry chillies, onions, mangoes and pine nuts. Pakistani cherries and pine nuts can be sold in China at much higher rates than in Pakistan, he said. The Agricultural Counsellor said that China and Pakistan had made several achievements in agricultural cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative. He mentioned several success stories including the chilli contract farming in Sindh and Punjab, which he said had now exceeded an area of more than 500 acres.

### Kashmiris to continue freedom struggle: Saghar

ISLAMABAD: The newly elected Convener of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter, Mahmood Ahmed Saghar has said that the Kashmiris will continue their peaceful struggle for securing their right to self-determination till it reached its logical conclusion. Mahmood Ahmed Saghar in an exclusive interview with the Kashmir Media Service said the Kashmiris have been rendering unprecedented sacrifices for their inalienable right to self-determination since 1947 and their freedom movement is one of the longest-running freedom movements in the world. He said that the only demand of the Kashmiris was to be given the right promised to them by the international community. Mahmood Ahmed Saghar said if the issues of East Timor and South Sudan could be resolved through referendum then why not Kashmir, therefore, the international community should give up its double standard and come forward to help the Kashmiris in securing their inalienable right. He said the Kashmiris are continuing their freedom movement with determination despite facing the worst Indian atrocities. – APP

## Air University organizes career fair for students

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: To enhance the professional growth of students and promote industry-academia linkages, Air University conducted Career Fair 2022 at its university premises on Friday. The career fair provides excellent opportunities to students for gainful employment as well as to strengthen its partnership with prospective employers. At the same time it provides an opportunity for prominent national and multinational companies to connect with fresh, energetic talent and position themselves as preferred employers. More than 100 national and international organizations representing multiple industries and sectors participated in the Career Fair. Students and recruiters took part in different activities including extensive on-spot screening interviews, sharing information as well as exchanging resumes. Moreover, company representatives also counseled students regarding their career choices and job market requirements. Vice Chancellor Air University, Air Marshal (Retd) Javed Ahmed said that such events provide common platform to students and job providers so the talent gets the recognition and ways to channelize



their inner strengths and energies and employers get the best for their companies. He mentioned that post COVID 19, virtual networking options are very important as employers and employees both prefer to connect through virtual platforms. He further added that as part of CPEC interventions government should ensure provision of university at every 1000 KMs which can serve as a major prosperity tool to help Pakistan promote education and overcome economic problems.

Director Digital Time Communications, Nazakat Hussain appreciated the role this industry-academia-youth linkage is playing in the youth employment. He said that such collaborations will go a long way in the economic and social development of country by polishing talent and creating a talent pool. The Diabetes Centre also participated in the career fair not only to hire fresh graduates but also raised awareness among the youth about the diabetes and its symptoms.

### CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MAINTENANCE DIVISION NO.III (SB)

**Tender Notice**

Scaled tenders are hereby invited on percentage basis on NIT cost from the contractors registered with FBR and duly enlisted with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in appropriate category and PEC license having validity upto 30-06-2021-22 for the works as detailed below:-

S. #	Name of work	NIT Cost	Earnest Money	Tender Cost	Date & Time of Receiving of tenders	Date and Time of opening of Tenders
1.	Rehabilitation / Replacement of damaged 03 Nos bridge between blocks phase-I, Pak Secretariat, Islamabad	2,810,000/-	84,300/-	2,000/-	29-06-2022 at 11.30 am	29-06-2022 at 12.00 PM
2.	Renovation of Office of Addl. Secretary-III (429) P.S to AS-III (431), R.No.433, 435 (FIA/Section) and construction of new wash room attached AS-III, 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor "R" Block Pak Secretariat, Islamabad.	946,526/-	28,396/-	1,000/-	29-06-2022 at 11.30 am	29-06-2022 at 12.00 PM
3.	External & Internal Paint at Jinnah Convention Centre, Islamabad.	937,638/-	28,129/-	1,000/-	29-06-2022 at 11.30 am	29-06-2022 at 12.00 PM
4.	Renovation of Committee Room No.48 at Jinnah Convention Centre, Islamabad.	916,950/-	27,509/-	1,000/-	29-06-2022 at 11.30 am	29-06-2022 at 12.00 PM
5.	Providing / Fixing of tiles VIP Gate No.4 at Jinnah Convention Centre, Islamabad.	937,110/-	28,113/-	1,000/-	29-06-2022 at 11.30 am	29-06-2022 at 12.00 PM
6.	Renovation of Room No.606-Cand 606-A and 606-B "R" Block, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor Pak Secretariat, Islamabad.	840,395/-	25,212/-	1,000/-	29-06-2022 at 11.30 am	29-06-2022 at 12.00 PM
7.	Replacement of ceiling 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor "S" Block ministry of Safran and Repainting Corridors 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor "R" Block, Pak Secretariat.	799,517/-	23,986/-	1,000/-	29-06-2022 at 11.30 am	29-06-2022 at 12.00 PM
8.	Renovation of Offices of Addl Secretary-I, Room No.434 & 435 and Construction of New attached Rooms 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor "R" Block, Interior Division, Pak Secretariat, Islamabad.	710,439/-	21,313/-	1,000/-	29-06-2022 at 11.30 am	29-06-2022 at 12.00 PM

**CONDITIONS**

- Application for the tender document for above mention work shall be received upto 27-06-2022 till 11 P.M
- Tender will be issued to only those firms who will provide attested copies of active (PEC) License for the current year and NTN & active GST having appropriate Category for the work. PEC Certificate, professional Tax Certificate in original will also be seen at the time of application submission (All documents should be Tax Certificate in original will also be seen at the time of application submission (all documents should be current year and attested). Bidder must also be on active Tax Payers List.
- That deposit at call/Earnest money should be generated only from firms account and in the name of firm.
- Power of attorney duly registered in respective court for the each work/work.
- That the attorney holder may not be the employee of any Government/Semi Government institute.
- That only legitimate attorney holder may be allowed to get tender documents.
- The bid security of all bidders would be deposited in the CDA Bank account and same may be returned after the acceptance of the contract with the successful bidders.
- The eligibility criteria of the firms with the relevant experience i.e. at least 03 Nos wok orders in last two financial years may be attached with the application.
- Tender will be issued only to those firms who provide an undertaking on stamp paper worth not less than Rs.50/- for each work in original shape that the firm/contractor are neither involved in any litigation nor black listed by any government, semi government or autonomous body in Pakistan and also undertakes that if any information or document provided by firm for issuance of tender document is found incorrect or fictitious the firm is liable for legal action under the law. Without the undertaking under will not be issued to firm.
- Tender documents can be obtained on receipt of pay order (Nonrefundable) in the Name of Dy: Director Maint-III (SB) of the prescribed fee for the work as mentioned above from the office of the undersigned.
- No tender documents will be sold on the day of opening of the tender.
- Bid Security/Earnest Money shall be accompanied with the request in the shape of Deposit at Call (CDR) clearly indicating the Name of Firm issued by local schedule bank in favor of Dy: Director Maint-III (SB) CDA, Cash/Cheque or open CDR without indicating Name of firm will not be accepted and no application without Bid Security/Earnest Money will be accepted for issuance of tender. Bank certificate to the effect that CDR mane from the firm account must be attached.
- Bidder must submit affidavit on stamp paper regarding integrity Pct
- The tender document shall only be issued to the owner of firms or legitimate attorney holder, if the contractor or his legitimate attorney holder does not sign the tender opening register their call deposit will be liable forfeited.
- Affidavit on stamp paper that bidder will comply with the BOQ and instructions of the CDA.
- Satisfactory performance certificate must be submitted by the bidder.
- Certificate on stamp paper must be provided regarding reliability and guarantee of work performed by the bidder.
- Tender should be received and open by the Director Maintenance, CDA as per schedule given above. CDA may reject all bid or proposal at any time prior to the acceptance of a bidder or proposal as per PPRa rule. In case of any Gazetted/occasional Holidays, the tenders will be opened on the next working day.
- Non relationship certificate.
- Tender notice can be view both on CDA website www.cda.gov.pk ppra website www.ppra.org.pk whereas tender notice can also be downloaded from CDA website.

(MUHAMMAD RIAZ)  
Deputy Director Maint-III (SB)

PID NO 8857

## Briefs

## Legendary host Tariq Aziz remembered

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Renowned radio and television host, film star, poet, and writer Tariq Aziz was remembered on his 2nd death anniversary on Friday (today). He was born on April 28, 1936, in Jalandhar. After the partition, his family migrated to Pakistan and settled in Sahiwal, Radio Pakistan reported. Tariq Aziz started his career with Radio Pakistan in the 1960s and later became Pakistan's first television host. He became popular from his famous program NeelamGhar which started in 1974 and was later renamed Tariq Aziz Show which continued for four decades. He appeared in various movies including Chiragh-KahanRoshniKahan, Salgirah, Qasam Us Waqt Ki, Katari, Haar Gaya Insan and Insaniyat. He was awarded the Pride of Performance Award by the Government of Pakistan in 1994 for his services to the entertainment industry. Tariq Aziz died in Lahore on June 17, 2020, at the age of 84 from a heart attack.

## Departments prepared to deal with monsoon rains

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Federal Flood Commission Ahmed Kamal Friday said that all departments concerned are on high alert to cope with any emergency situation during an on-set monsoon season. Talking to PTV News on Friday, Chairman said that twin cities administration has intensified drain cleaning drive to ensure that there is no water stagnation. He said that Federal Flood Commission is continuously working in close liaison with all national institutions, including NDMA, WASA and WAPDA to cope with any emergency situation arising out of likely floods during current monsoon rains. He said Capital Development Authority (CDA) teams are already clearing nullahs and launched a project of stone pitching which aims to clear the passage by removing garbage for the uninterrupted flow of water. Replying to a question, Chairman expressed his satisfaction over the steps taken by departments for Monsoon asking the district administration officers to focus on low lying areas more. He said that people living close to river plains and watercourses had been issued timely alerts and all provincial health departments have also been advised to ensure pre-placement of necessary staff and medicines where required. - APP

## Cost of gov't Hajj package still lowest

ISLAMABAD: This year's cost of government Hajj 2022 scheme is still lowest among other countries and three star accommodation with comfortable rooms have also been provided to intending pilgrims in both holy cities under government hajj scheme, Director General Abrar Ahmed Mirza in Saudi Arabia said on Friday. Three times quality meal is being provided to Hajj pilgrims, and buildings are fully air-conditioned with state-of-the-art elevators, DG said while speaking to a private news channel. He said special office of facilitation, complaint cells, toll free numbers and coordination had also been set up at the Pakistan House in Medina to facilitate the pilgrims. Replying to a question, he said that the overall market situation are favorable for hajj pilgrims and the standards of services were being ensured to facilitate Pakistani hujaj in Makkah and Medina. DG said that he had deputed their dedicated staffers at the airports of Makkah and Medina for the assistance of pilgrims, while hospitals and dispensaries had also been set up in both the cities and Jeddah under the Pakistan Hajj Medical Mission. He further said that the staff of each wing has been assigned to perform duties in shifts to provide 24-hour facilities to the pilgrims. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Incharge Education wing NHMP head Quarters Atif Ghafoor Bhatti along with team arranged a stall at Air university for counseling of students at career fair 2022. Students showed great concern for job and internship with National Highways Motorway police. - DNA

## Pakistan-UAE discuss further bolstering health cooperation

The Pakistani delegation was also briefed about the various medical advancements in the digital and medical sciences sector in the UAE including the Emirati Human Genome Program run by the G42 Group

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Health Abdul Qadir Patel visited the United Arab Emirates and held meetings with Sheikh Ahmed Dalmoock Al Maktoum (Member of the Dubai Royal Family) and his group. The delegation from Pakistan led by Abdul Qadir Patel comprising Special Secretary Health IftikharShallwani and DrShabanaSaleem, Director General Health. The meeting was also attended by Consul General of Pakistan, Hasan Afzal. Different teams from the UAE government briefed the Pakistani delegation. The office of Royal

Family along with Hayat Biotech Group discussed various areas of collaboration where they especially showed interest in setting up a Plasma Farming and Harvesting Facilities in Pakistan. These facilities will provide assistance directly to the public. The Pakistani delegation was also briefed about the various medical advancements in the digital and medical sciences sector in the UAE including the Emirati Human Genome Program run by the G42 Group. Research and development capabilities of the applied sciences programme were also

presented. Further deliberations on this end were suggested by the Pakistani delegation. The royal family group showed keen interest in up-gradation of public sector hospitals in Pakistan. They expressed that various UAE companies and international health sector partners from the Office of His Highness want to partner with the Pakistani government on this front. The Pakistani delegation appreciated this interest and encouraged to take this further with mutual support from each side. The minister noted that the government

will facilitate in every way to provide the best services to the people of Pakistan. Both countries should work together and share skills and services that each has expertise in. "Pakistan and UAE have had a long standing relationship and we must take this forward" said the minister. The visit starts an important collaboration between the two countries, which will directly benefit the people. The meetings concluded on a positive note and with both groups looking forward to these ventures. - APP

## Sino-Pak connectivity to reduce trade deficit

DNA

BEIJING, June 17 (): Enhancing Sino-Pak national quality infrastructure connectivity will reduce trade deficit between the two countries, says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Friday. According to the report, to reduce Sino-Pak trade deficit and boost trade facilitation, a research on China-Pakistan quality infrastructure establishment and connectivity was initiated by the Development Research Center, State Administration of Market Regulation of China. Data from China Customs

shows that the trade deficit between China and Pakistan from Jan to Dec 2021 amounted to \$20.66 billion. Currently, lack of connectivity between the two countries' National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) has inevitably built trade barriers, which requires more attention from both sides. Undertaken by Taizhou Institute of Standardization and Chinese universities, etc., the research is to study the trade deficit between China and Pakistan, by discovering the difficulties and obstacles hindering trade facilitation, to promote Sino-Pak industrial cooperation in agriculture, machinery, etc. through quality

infrastructure connectivity. In recent years, increasing more economic cooperation is happening between Taizhou and Pakistan, which provides experience and a frame of reference for further connecting the two countries' national quality infrastructure. It's learned that in the agricultural sector, the research team will formulate a China-Pakistan Agricultural NQI Cooperation Agreement by using the experience of Jiangsu Hongqi Seed Industry Co., Ltd.'s rice seed business with overseas for reference. For electronics, the team will complete an NQI mutual recognition standard, too.

## PSW holds Media Dialogue

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Single Window (PSW) organized a Media Dialogue titled 'Developing an Enabling Media Network Towards International Trade Facilitation.' The dialogue provided a forum for the PSW team and media professionals to reflect on the media's role in generating and promoting trade facilitation initiatives such as the PSW in collaboration with other public and private sector stakeholders forming the cross-border trade ecosystem. The event was aimed at developing mutual understanding of the PSW, its organizational structure and role, as well as to benefit from the media experts advice on shaping the trade facilitation narrative in the public consciousness. In addition, the event helped

forgeand deepen the personal relationships and networks between PSW and the media. Over 40renowned media heads, journalists, anchors, and reportersparticipated in the event to understand, plan, and develop a partnership to raise awareness ofthe public services PSW provides. In his welcome address, the CEO of PSW Mr. Syed AftabHaider said, "It is important to promote the role of media and its ability to decode, communicate and create media content that highlightsgovernment initiatives for trade facilitation. PSW is one of the most transformative programs to have come up in the public sector in the recent years. It not only aims to completely digitize Pakistan's cross border trade but is also triggering a deeper set of procedural and regulatory reforms in Customs and Other Government Agencies to reduce the time and cost of doing business and enhance Pakistan's trade competitiveness." - DNA

## Rising cost of energy haunting tile Industry

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Rising Cost of Energy and taxation haunting Ceramic tile Industry and what is the way-out needed to be considered, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Friday. Since 2018, with strong policy support, the ceramic tile industry, which used to be highly dependent on imports, began to turn to local production. Now, 80% of tiles in Pakistan are produced domestically, while the demand for Chinese and Spanish tiles, once 2 major import sources, drastically declined— thanks to the government's reconsidered import custom duty in Ceramic/Porcelain Tiles from major export countries to Pakistan, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Friday. Statistics from UN COMTRADE indicated that in 2020, Pakistan's import volume of ceramic goods reached US \$81.17 million, the lowest in the past decade. Total import of goods in 2020 was US \$45 billion, while

ceramic goods accounted for 0.18% of the country's total import. Currently, Pakistan's domestic ceramics market demonstrated high price sensitivity, a few words from practitioners are very revealing, "We have products from both Pakistan and other countries, but Pakistani products are the most popular since they are cheap." SadamYaqub, a ceramics businessman from Lahore told Gwadar Pro, "However, certain groups of customers will always take brand and quality as their priority, these customers always go for the imported products." Pricing is important, but not in the long-term, especially now since the world-wide rising cost of energy has put a threat to the price advantage of Pakistani ceramics. "We use two types of energy during ceramics manufacturing, either LPG or Sui gas (natural gas). The cost of Sui gas is doubled as compared to before, price for LPG is around PKR170 to180 per kg (PKR218.76 per kg to date). Obviously, all the cost will fall on us and our customers will bear the load."

## AFS promotes equality through Film

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The US Mission to Pakistan is pleased to announce this year's American Film Showcase (AFS), which will connect two American filmmakers with Pakistani filmmakers to develop new production skills. The program runs from June 17 through June 27, 2022. This year's online film festival will focus on the theme of equality and feature the screening of seven American documentaries, including: Cinemability; The Dominican Dream; Girls in Chess; Hamtramck-USA; Madame Mars; Search On: Between Worlds, and Share. In addition to the film festival, U.S. film envoys Elizabeth Polans and Lisa Srivatsava will lead two virtual documentary film workshops for Pakistani students, filmmakers, and industry experts. During the workshops, the envoys will share their expertise in the art of digital storytelling about social justice and equality. They will focus on common challenges faced by filmmakers in both countries and instruct participants on the tradecraft of film marketing, distribution, broadcasting, and entering international film festivals.

## Pakistani teams gear up for Huawei competition

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani teams has geared up for China's 6th Huawei ICT Competition Global Final, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Friday. "Since 2019-2020, our students have excelled in Huawei ICT Middle-East (ME) and Global Finals. Last year, they secured first and second on the Middle East stage. It is a privilege and honor to represent Pakistan in Huawei ICT Competition 2021 and Global Final happening in June 2022." ME Regional Winner and Pakistani team instructor Dr. Faheem Yarkhuahar said in a statement. He is full of confidence in the Pakistani team this year. The Global Finals of the Huawei ICT Competition 2021-2022, under the theme of "I. C. The Future Foreseeable" and "I. C. The Future You at the Center" is set to take place tomorrow and will last until 19 June. The competition, to be held in Shenzhen and online, consists of the opening ceremony, launching conference, closing ceremony, practice competition, and innovation competition. The practice competition focuses on the participants' knowledge and skills. It comprises the written exam and the lab exam, and the ranking will be based on the score. The innovation competition focuses on the comprehensive capabilities of the participants. Participants are required to design works or solutions with commercial and social benefits using new ICT such as AI, IoT, big data, and Cloud. This marks the sixth iteration of the Huawei ICT Global Competition in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. The competition is an annual initiative designed to nurture global ICT talent. The competition has always been well received in Pakistan as it promotes innovation and creativity while serving as a link between the classroom and the professional workplace. While nurturing the talents of university students in Pakistan, it also contributes to enhancing national ICT competitiveness and digital transformation. "One of Huawei's most prestigious programs to cultivate local ICT talent and sow its investment in the country's potential has been an annual international ICT competition that allows the winners of the domestic chapter of the competition to travel to China to compete in the final for a grand prize of US \$ 20,000. In the upcoming Global finals from 17-22 June 2022, Bhagchand is set to take the global stage along with his esteemed teammates, aiming to win at that level as well," highlighted Dr. Waqar Mahmood, Director of AI-Kharizmi Institute of Computer Science (KICS), UET.

## BAP lawmakers' stage walkout from Senate

ISLAMABAD: Senators of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) on Friday staged a token walkout from the Senate to protest the theft of Balochistan province's water share. Speaking on point of order, Senator Danesh Kumar raised the issue of water shortage in Balochistan province. He claimed that Balochistan was getting 65 per cent less water of his share due to water theft. He said that we can not sit in the House and lodging protest walk out. Chairman Senate Muhammad SadiqSanjrani asked the minister of state for Law and Justice to get a report from IRSA regarding water issue and submit it in the House. Responding to point of order, Minister of State for Law and Justice Shahadat Awan said that distribution of equal share of water would be ensured to all the provinces. He said that we can not blame one province but this was an issue of all the provinces and we will resolve it. - APP

## World Refugee Day to be observed on June 20

ISLAMABAD: World Refugee Day will be observed on June 20 across the world including Pakistan to honour the courage, strength and determination of women, men and children who are forced to flee their homeland under threat of persecution, conflict and violence. It is a day to recognize the contributions of refugees in their communities. Organizations such as Amnesty International and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) often get involved in various activities for the day. Some communities dedicate an entire week that includes World Refugee Day to encourage people to think about the lives of refugees and the human right to a secure place to that one can see as "home". For years, many countries and regions have been holding their own events similar to World Refugee Day. One of the most widespread events is Africa Refugee Day, which was celebrated on June 20 in many countries. The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to express its solidarity with Africa on December 4, 2000. - APP

## RPO visits Traffic Headquarters

RAWALPINDI: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Rawalpindi, Imran Ahmar on Friday visited Traffic Headquarters and directed the policemen to render their services in accordance with the law and without any discrimination. Chief Traffic Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi, Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari welcomed the RPO, said a news release. The CPO briefed the RPO about the most modern One Window Driving License Branch, Radio Station 88.6, Ghulam Asghar Shaheed Driving School and other important branches including Police Welfare Center. On this occasion, Imran Ahmar said that usage of modern technology by the traffic police would provide timely assistance to road users in difficult times and facilitate licensing as per modern requirements and traffic. Appreciating the steps taken to control accidents and save human lives, he said that it was a matter of pride for him to work with the Pindi Police officials. - APP

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## FATF satisfied

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Friday expressed satisfaction with Pakistan's performance but the anti-money laundering watchdog stopped short of removing it from its 'grey list'. In a delayed press conference about decisions taken in its plenary, the body's president Dr Marcus Pleyer said that a team would conduct an on-site visit of Pakistan at the earliest possible date. It acknowledged the "significant progress" the country has made in strengthening its Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) regime.

"Since June 2018, when Pakistan made a high-level political commitment to work with the FATF and APG to strengthen its AML/CFT regime and to address its strategic counter-terrorist financing-related deficiencies, Pakistan's continued political commitment to combating both terrorist financing and money laundering has led to significant progress," it said in a statement.

The FATF will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and conduct an on-site visit at the earliest possible date: FATF statement on Pakistan. Earlier in the day, reports started making the rounds that Pakistan has been removed from the FATF's increased monitoring list. However, Business Recorder reported that the FATF has categorically stated that all announcements pertaining to the outcome of its plenary meeting will be made at the press conference. The foreign ministry has stressed the need for avoiding speculation regarding the outcomes of the meeting. The government of Pakistan has arranged a media briefing at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Saturday morning on the issue, State Minister Hina Rabbani Khar said in a tweet. Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb reiterated the same. Pakistan was placed on the FATF 'grey list' in June 2018 after the country apparently failed to act against terror financing on its soil.

FATF delegates meet three times a year, in February, June, and October to review the compliance report. The decision to keep/remove a country on/from the "blacklist" or the "grey list" is made after the submission of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering, a subsidiary organisation of FATF. In a February meeting, the watchdog said Pakistan had complied with 32 out of the total 34 points and asked the country to address the remaining deficiencies in its financial system. Sources said that the country lacked diplomacy and lobbying.

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## Ukraine's suffering

Kyiv is reckoning not only with Russia's brutal military assault but the difficulties of maintaining European solidarity. In the hours following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February, every moment that Kyiv could hold out was regarded as a victory. Many – not only in the Kremlin – expected it to fall within days. Vladimir Putin's hubris, Russian military shortcomings, courageous Ukrainian resistance and the sight of western nations rushing to show support created a glimmer of hope. Three and a half months on, the picture has darkened again. After Mariupol, Bucha and others, the eastern city of Sievierodonetsk is the latest scene of civilian suffering.

Kyiv faces two immense challenges. The first is that Russia's military has regrouped, concentrating its efforts on the Donbas, improving logistics and making other adjustments. The war has, for now at least, turned in its favour. It continues to make incremental gains while suffering severe losses of personnel and equipment. Ukraine has the will, but Russia has a tenfold advantage in firepower, according to Ukraine's commander-in-chief, Valeriy Zaluzhnyi. It is also easier to take a town if you do not mind destroying it. Ukraine, on its own estimates, is losing more than 100 soldiers a day, with hundreds more injured, and is increasingly reliant on enthusiastic but inexperienced newer recruits. The second challenge is maintaining external support. European nations are already divided over how much assistance to provide and how hard to press Moscow, and domestic political pressures will grow as countries struggle with the rising cost of living and soaring energy costs as winter approaches. The response to Ukraine's very ambitious request for more heavy weaponry this week will be critical.

Ukraine's will is hardened not only by such rhetoric, but by the suffering its people have endured and the war crimes they have witnessed. A peace deal cannot be imposed upon it, and no one is foolish or cruel enough to say that it should be. But it can only continue to withstand Moscow with sufficient backing. If it can maintain substantial support – and if, therefore, its forces can successfully transition off Soviet-standard weaponry to western, and sanctions begin to really bite in Russia – the military balance might start to tilt towards Ukraine. Set against that, in the US, by far the largest supplier of arms, Joe Biden is increasingly preoccupied by domestic problems and Russia may hope for a more amenable president in a few years. While some military analysts anticipate an operational pause in the near future, due to the exhaustion of forces on both sides, they foresee at best a brief respite, not a path to resolution. Given all that Ukrainians have endured, the prospect of months and years more of war is unbearable. But hopes of bringing this conflict to a swift end appear as ill-founded as Mr Putin's initial belief that he could rapidly unseat Mr Zelenskiy.

## CPEC will provide long term welfare for local residents

Kaiser Nawab



During the first phase of construction, China and Pakistan are not only committed to improving energy shortage problems, but also focused on infrastructure constructions. There are many highlight projects, including Gwadar Port, Lahore Rail Transit Orange Line Project, Karakoram Highway upgrading and reconstruction project Phase II, China-Pakistan Cross-Border Optical Cable Project, etc

China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners. The two countries have formed a rock-solid friendship. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a landmark project of the co-construction of the "Belt and Road Initiative" by China and Pakistan, and an important manifestation of the ever-growing "Iron Friendship" between the two countries. The CPEC is of over 3000 kilometers, it is a bond, connecting the Silk Road Economic Belt to the north and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road to the south. While building a bridge for economic and trade exchanges between China and Pakistan, the CPEC is also constantly enriching the connotation of a China-Pakistan community with

CPEC construction bears fruitful results. Since its start of construction in 2013, the CPEC has created miracles one after another: China-Pakistan cross-border optical cable, Karakoram Highway upgrading and reconstruction project, Karot Hydropower Station, Lahore Rail Transit Orange Line Project, second stage of dam cut-off achieved at the Sugejinaree Hydropower Project, etc. As of September 2021, the 22 priority projects from the first phase of the CPEC is almost complete, half of which are energy projects. For example, the Port Qasim coal-fired power station, since it entered commercial operation in April 2018, has generated about 10% of the power sup-

ply of Pakistan's national grid. It is reported that the coal-fired power station will exceed 4.6 billion kWh in 2021. While accelerating its construction as a power supply base, the CPEC also attaches great importance to the development of clean energy. In November 2021, the Karot Hydropower Station, the first hydropower investment project under the CPEC, has successfully completed the closure of its diversion tunnel and officially started storing water in the reservoir, laying a foundation for the commissioning of subsequent generators. It is reported that the construction of the Karot Hydropower Station and the Sugjinari Hydropower Station is progressing smoothly, and the construction of the Kohala Hydropower Station project will also begin after the signing of the franchise agreement in May 2021.

During the first phase of construction, China and Pakistan are not only committed to improving energy shortage problems, but also focused on infrastructure constructions. There are many highlight projects, including Gwadar Port, Lahore Rail Transit Orange Line Project, Karakoram Highway upgrading and reconstruction project Phase II, China-Pakistan Cross-Border Optical Cable Project, etc. These mass transport infrastructure constructions are of great significance to Pakistan's economic development. Thanks to highways and energy infrastructures, an increasing number of Chinese enterprises have come to invest in Pakistan, effectively promoting Pakistan's economic development and at the same time, laid down a solid foundation for industrial cooperation in the second phase of the corridor. Under the framework of the CPEC, China and Pakistan have greatly facilitated inter-regional connectivity through the construction of various infrastructure facilities. Taking Gwadar port in Balochistan as an example, it is not only one of the four key points of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, but also a pilot project for the co-construction of the "Belt and Road Initiative" between China and Pakistan. In November 2016, Gwadar port was officially opened, and from this place, the first Chinese commercial ships set sail. From its humble beginnings as a small fishing village, over years of development, Gwadar port gradually turned into a regional logistics hub. Even during the epidemic period, the construction of Gwadar port continued to advance. It is worth mentioning that Gwadar Port has also created many "firsts" in 2020: for example, the launch of transit trade through Afghanistan, fully showing its transshipment potentials; for

the first time, it is expected that 10,000 tons of LPG will be shipped to Pakistan each month through Gwadar Port; and it is the first time where commercial operation was realized.

In July 2020, a medium-sized cargo ship loaded with 16,000 tons of chemical fertilizers docked at Gwadar port for the first time, and completed the unloading, warehousing, and storage of all goods, this marks the official launch of Afghanistan's re-export business. It also shows that the CPEC can be extended to Afghanistan and further to Central Asia. From this point on, Afghanistan and the landlocked countries of Central Asia have a connecting access channel. Relying on the location advantage and connectivity of Gwadar port, in July 2020, a series of industrial projects such as Gwadar Fertilizer Factory, Gwadar Exhibition Center, and Gwadar Lubricating Oil Factory also started construction in Gwadar port Free Trade Zone. Bajwa, who once served as the chairman of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Affairs Bureau, said: "The construction of Gwadar Port also has radiating benefits to the development and prosperity of Balochistan and other surrounding areas." CPEC construction continues to benefit people's livelihoods. The changes brought about by the construction of the CPEC are noticeable. According to a 2012 study by PricewaterhouseCoopers, the power shortage has resulted in an average annual loss of \$13.5 billion in Pakistan's GDP.

The shortage of electricity has led to chronic power shortages in Pakistan, with rotating blackouts in all regions of the country, ranging from about 10 hours per day in major cities to 22 hours per day in rural areas, with an average national power shortage of 4,000 megawatts. Khalid Mansoor, the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on the CPEC, once said, "the construction of the CPEC has transformed Pakistan from a country suffering power shortage to a country with power surplus, meeting Pakistan's energy needs and reducing the cost of electricity production and overall electricity prices in Pakistan." Since the construction of the CPEC, Pakistan's domestic power shortage has been greatly alleviated. According to Pakistan's CPEC Affairs Bureau, as of January 2022, the total capacity of completed energy projects under the CPEC framework has reached 5.32 million kilowatts. Khalid Mansoor has said that these power capacities have provided a large amount of residential and industrial electricity, relieving Pakistan from long power outages. The local impact of the CPEC on Pakistan is also largely reflected

in the boosting of local employment. In September 2021, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Qureshi had highlighted that the energy projects of the CPEC had directly created 26,795 jobs and contributed significantly to the development of the local power sector. The infrastructure projects of the CPEC have created nearly 50,000 jobs. According to incomplete statistics from the Planning Commission of Pakistan, the early harvest projects of the first phase of the CPEC have created about 38,000 jobs, more than 75 percent of which are local employment, with energy projects creating the most employment, absorbing 16,000 Pakistani workers and engineers in total. In addition, the construction of transportation infrastructure has created about 13,000 jobs. Chinese companies are also actively fulfilling their social responsibility when carrying out project construction. In order to make it possible for Gwadar Faqeer Middle School to accept more students, the expansion project of the school was funded by China Peace Development Foundation and constructed by CCCC (China Communications Construction Company) Fourth Institute of Naval Survey and Design, which was completed and handed over in June 2020.

"We are very grateful to the Chinese government and the Pakistani government for completing the second phase of this school in a very short period of time. This school is urgently needed by the people of the region because they are in dire need of education and their education level is still backward. The CPEC projects will take more advantage and the advancement and development of these projects will benefit the people of Gwadar, giving them a bright change and future." Amjad, the principal of Gwadar Faqeer Middle School, told the reporters. Starting from 2021, the CPEC has smoothly entered its second phase of construction. The development priorities are also gradually shifting to the industrial sector and expanding agricultural cooperation between the two countries. Pakistan is an agricultural country with a population of 220 million and with a good location, so it is reasonable for the second phase of the CPEC's construction to focus on industrial cooperation, with a layout that focuses on sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing and textiles. With the joint efforts of China and Pakistan, CPEC's constructions keep stepping up to new levels. China and Pakistan are willing to work together to build the CPEC with the goal of higher standards, sustainability and benefit for people's livelihood, and accelerate the construction of a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era.

## Culture, identity, civilization and religion in Int'l relations

Adham Kawa Qadir



After the invasion of the world and the dissemination of their views and views through the new state-nation tool, which was based on the European style, the Europeans organized the interests and views of the European forces. This situation is seen as a true method in analyzing the structure of the Cold War era

Since the final quarter of the last century, the importance of cultural, identity, civilization and religion issues has become more prominent by international relations experts. In the history, major movements such as "realism and liberalism" have only read foreign policy in terms of power

"how issues related to religion, culture and civilization of states affect foreign policy". The main argument of this thesis is that foreign policy does not originate solely from the internal dimensions of the state. However it comes from how it is appreciated for the world community. In addition, the state sees itself as

and economic interests, and in this situation the state remains inconclusive in analyzing foreign policy. New views and opinions, particularly those developed by scientists in the branches of sociology and cultural science, can, in general, be called the "existential school". According to the school's opinion, state identity affects state foreign policy. According to this theory, when analyzing the foreign policy of the state, all elements of the identity of the state and how the identity is created should be discussed. In short, the purpose of the state identity is how it defines itself against other countries and how it feels about other actors. Samuel Huntington, in his thesis clash civilizations, describes

close to which civilization it considers itself to be and which one it sees as its enemy. These are important in terms of the relationship between foreign policy and culture. From here, the issue of appreciation has recently been heavily worked on in international relations. Glen Fisher, in a book entitled "The Components of Mind: the Role of Culture and Understanding in International Relations", defends the thesis. "In fact, in international relations, the subject of how to feel and understand is more important than how and how things are done." Also, this appreciation designs the style of education and culture of decision makers. This new view, which has been conducted to this day, will question realism investigations into international relations. As it is clear, in 1648, with the beginning of the Westvalia stage and at that time Cardinal Richelieu, a state man who dominated France's interests, France's religious identity and Christianity, came into the literature of international relations, accepting these concepts as a rational actor. Therefore, states are not related to the concepts of culture, identity, religion, beliefs, but rather states related to military and economic forces.

In the seventeenth century, France's agreement with the Ottoman Muslim state against Christian Habsburg is interpreted according to this concept. In the eighteenth century, France's weakening and Britain's emergence changed in response to the same logic. "Britain has neither a permanent friend nor a permanent enemy," said British diplomats. "But Britain has a permanent interest," he explained. "Our job is to protect those interests." If we look at history in British diplomacy, it is seen that the formation of friendship and alliances was for the sake of protecting Britain's interests. Throughout the nineteenth century Brit-

ain had competed with Russia, but in World War I it had to be an ally, thus explaining Britain's position on the basis of its interests. Similarly, at the end of the nineteenth century, "Germany" began to become stronger, reflecting the same idea in the literature of the concept of realistic politics. In short, these do not stop on the basis of values in international relations, but on the basis of balance of power.

After the invasion of the world and the dissemination of their views and views through the new state-nation tool, which was based on the European style, the Europeans organized the interests and views of the European forces. This situation is seen as a true method in analyzing the structure of the Cold War era. But the sudden end of the Cold War has moved international relations to a different dimension. Today these events are in reality the subject of passing through cultural filtering, the mental structure and the inner world of decision makers. But with the development of public opinion communication tools increasing day by day in foreign policy. In this case, it seems that so far the phenomenon defined as "national interest" is not really related to the homeland but to the interests of the authorities. For example, before the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran, Tehran's relationship with the United States was defined as based on Iran's national interest, but after the revolution, the United States was defined as an enemy of the "Iran" nation in the face of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, defining who is a friend and who is an enemy is not related to the homeland, but to the identity of the creators of their decision-making, vision, and worldview. As a subject, it will be difficult to define friends and enemies of the homeland. In the view of reconstruction, foreign policy is seen as

a reflection of the identity of the state. As it exists in sociology, each state has its own identity. In response to the question "How will the identity of the state be created?" these two opinions are noted; the first one is called system-wide, and the second is named at the first level.

According to the system, the creation of state identities is analyzed as an effective result between states, and here the main link between the subject is the effective relationship with identity. According to this, the relationship between states and each other can affect them. In short, according to these opinions, identities are the product of the effects. The one-level view is more relevant to the state's internal policy. According to this, the state's internal political changes affect the state's identity. In other words, when the system view identity is built abroad, the identity of the same level of view is built within the state.

In terms of local politics, the concept of "political culture" has recently emerged in science. According to the writer Mansour Farhang, in the West, when a state's foreign policy is analyzed, it is evaluated in terms of material interests. Outside the Western world, the theory of modernism and reliance on each other is used. But in some situations, especially in Iran's situation, these theories will not benefit. According to the dictionary writer, the main reason for not predicting the West for the Islamic revolution in Iran is due to the lack of proper attention to the phenomenon of religion by Western researchers and experts. Lehrada, a writer, emphasizes the existence of Iran's identity inside. According to westerners, the most important characteristic of Iran's identity, which is "religion", was not considered. In other words, it is sometimes very difficult to understand geo-cultural code in any country, and this is true for Iran, which causes major mistakes in interpretations.

## Briefs

## Govt urges...

FROM PAGE 01

issue a Public Statement after conclusion of the meetings tonight. The Minister of State said a media briefing will also be held at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad tomorrow morning on the issue.

## FATF says...

FROM PAGE 01

have to ensure [during the visit] that it effectively tackled money laundering and funding of terrorist groups. "Pakistan demonstrated that terror financing investigations and prosecutions target senior leaders and commanders of UN-designated terrorist groups and that there is a positive upwards trend in the number of money laundering investigations and prosecutions being pursued in Pakistan, in line with Pakistan's risk profile," the watchdog's written statement said. Pakistan also largely addressed its 2021 action plan ahead of the set times, it added.

## PM praises...

FROM PAGE 01

Separately, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan's accession to Apostille Convention will facilitate and ease a significant burden on Pakistanis traveling and living abroad. In a tweet, he said creating smooth processes for our citizens is government's priority. He said now Pakistani notarized documents will be accepted over one hundred countries. The Prime Minister said citizens will be able to notarize their important legal documents such as marriage certificate, degrees and more via Ministry of Foreign Affairs' designated officials in Pakistan which will be internationally accepted without the need for any further verification.

## FM remarks...

FROM PAGE 01

Spokesperson stated that these were being interpreted out of context and portrayed incorrectly. He said, There was no change in Pakistan's policy on India on which there is national consensus. Pakistan has always desired cooperative relations with all its neighbours, including India. We have consistently advocated constructive engagement and result-oriented dialogue to resolve all outstanding issues, including the core Jammu and Kashmir dispute. It is, however, India's unabated hostility and retrogressive steps that have vitiated the environment and impeded the prospects of peace and cooperation. The onus, therefore, remains on India to take the necessary steps to create an enabling environment conducive for meaningful and result-oriented dialogue. The Foreign Minister clearly articulated this perspective, referring to India's illegal and unilateral actions in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) since 5 August 2019, describing them as an assault on the rights of the Kashmiri people, as well as rising Islamophobia in India, that created an environment unconducive for meaningful engagement.

## Pak seeks...

FROM PAGE 01

met with the US envoy. The US is the largest shareholder in the IMF and has in the past too played a role in helping Islamabad complete the fund's programme reviews. The US ambassador was informed that the government has proposed fiscal consolidation equal to 2.2% of Gross Domestic Product despite challenging times. Despite three main rounds of talks, including two by the incumbent government, and multiple virtual contacts, the IMF did not share the draft of the Memorandum for Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP) with Pakistan till Thursday afternoon, according to the sources. The MEFP forms the basis of any staff level agreement and without finalization of the MEFP no formal staff level agreement can be signed. The Pakistan-IMF programme remains derailed since March this year after the previous government backtracked from its commitments.

## Pakistan to feature in three Int'l Taekwondo C' ships

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: The strong Pakistan Taekwondo team will feature in three international taekwondo championships scheduled to be held from June 22 to July 02 at South Korea. According to Pakistan Taekwondo Federation (PTF) president Col (R) Raja Wasim Ahmed Janjua that Pakistan taekwondo team is all set for the formidable challenges at the upcoming 7th Asian Poomsae, 25th Asian Kyorugi and the Chuncheon Korea Open International Taekwondo Championships 2022, events are scheduled to begin in South Korea from June 22nd and

team will depart for Korea on June 20. The contingent comprises Raja Wasim Ahmed (President PTF) & Omar Saeed (CEO of Pakistan Taekwondo Federation) along with seven-member Kyorugi players including Mazhar Abbas, Hamzah Omar Saeed, Muhammad Iqbal, Haroon Khan and Shahzaib Khan. Fateemaah Tuz Zahraa Khawar and Zoya Sabir are also two female fighters' part of the contingent in the Kyorugi category. He said that three-member Poomsae team consists of Muhammad Wasim Jawed, Shahzaib Ahmed and Flower Zaheer will contest in 7th Asian Poomsae championship. Raja Wasim Ahmed said that team of

officials will attend the ATU Council Meeting and the ATU General Assembly on June 22. PTF President Raja Wasim Ahmed said that the federation had arranged a 10-day training camp for these players in Iran in June which was aimed at preparing the players for the upcoming Asian championship in Korea. The Asian Poomsae Event will begin at Chuncheon City, Gangwon Province on June 23 while the 25th Asian Taekwondo Kyorugi Championship will be held from 24th till 27th June at Chuncheon City, Gangwon Province, Korea. Besides, the 2022 Chuncheon Korea Open International Taekwondo Championships will commence on June 29 and

will continue till July 5. On the other hand, the Poomsae Kukkiwon Coach Master SEONGOH CHOI (Korea) and three other Poomsae players namely M Waseem Jawed, Shabbaz Ahmed, and Flower Zaheer will continue to attend the training camp in Korea for 15 days. They will be back home on July 17. Meanwhile, the team Head and CEO Pakistan Taekwondo Federation Mr. Omar Saeed said that the team is upbeat and well-prepared for the event and will fare well in these international-level events. He said that the team was given hard training and also international exposure ahead of these prestigious Championships in Korea.

## AJK govt sanctions Rs 500,000 for martyrs' families

MUZAFFARABAD: The AJK government has sanctioned Rs 500,000 each for the families of the martyrs and Rs 300,000 each for the injured during the firefighting. Appreciated by public social circles. Islamabad Forest Department employees Muhammad Shakur and Ijaz were martyred and Mubashir Khaliq and Naveed Hussain were injured during firefighting in compartment No. 13 of Baghsar area of Bhimber Forest Division of Azad Kashmir. It is commendable that all the officers of Forest Department AJK including Forest Minister Akmal Sargala, Secretary Forest Chaudhry Imtiaz Ahmed and Sardar Naseer Chief Conservator Principal moved immediately. Supported the families of the martyrs and the injured and assured that immediate and full support would be given to the families of the martyred and injured and then they fulfilled this promise and the payment was approved. A prayer service was organized by the Forest Department. The Forest Department AJK did not at any time allow the families of the martyred and injured to feel lonely. The federal government, all provincial governments and the AJK government should take steps for the martyrs and the wounded in the style of the army and police department.

## Iran urges US to abandon 'sanctions lunacy'

MONITORING DESK

TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has reiterated Tehran's resolve to continue talks on the revival of the 2015 multilateral agreement, calling for an end to the United States' "sanctions lunacy" and the International Atomic Energy Agency's "politicized approach" over the country's nuclear program. In a post on his Twitter account on Friday, Amir-Abdollahian said the Iranian administration is abiding by a December 2020 parliamentary law, which obligated the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) to further reduce the country's nuclear commitments to the 2015 Iran deal in response to the US withdrawal from the agreement. Under the law - dubbed the Strategic Action Plan to Counter Sanctions - the Iranian administration is required to restrict the IAEA's inspections and accelerate the development of the country's nuclear program beyond the limits set under the JCPOA, such as ending the voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). In spite of uttering Tehran's firm stance, Amir-Abdollahian emphasized that Iran would never "distance itself from result-oriented talks" aimed at salvaging the JCPOA.

## Pakistan is one of most attractive tourism destinations in world: Ambassador Majeed



FOREIGN DESK

BRUSSELS: Pakistan's Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union, Dr. Asad Majeed Khan on Friday said that Pakistan has the most beautiful

and undiscovered touristic sites with huge untapped tourism potential. He was speaking at an event organized by the Embassy of Pakistan about Pakistan's adventure tourism, to mark successful Belgian expeditions of K2, Nanga Parbat and Broad

Peak at the chancery. The participants included renowned Belgian mountaineers, Stef Maginelle, Sofie Lenaerts, Niels Jespers, Luc Beirinx and Wouter Notermans, who had recently climbed K2, Nanga Parbat, Gasherbrum I & II and

Broad Peak, as well as a group of trekkers who will be undertaking trekking expedition in Pakistan next month. Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan in his remarks highlighted Pakistan's potential as one of the most attractive tourism destinations in the world. He explained that Pakistan's tourism industry has significantly developed with improved touristic infrastructure and visitor facilities, a press release issued by the Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels said. Referring to the recently released report by the World Economic Forum (WEF) last month, Ambassador Khan highlighted that Pakistan has moved six points up in the International Travel and Tourism Development Index 2021. The index ranks the countries based on the set of factors and policies that help stable and sustainable growth of the travel and tourism industry in each country, he added. He said that the expedition of Belgian climbers will be a source of inspiration to local and international travellers especially mountaineers, trekkers and adventure tourists. During the event, the climbers shared their personal mountaineering experiences at the K2, Nanga Parbat, Broad Peak, Gasherbrum I & II, Arafat Glacier and Snow lakes in Karakoram Mountains as well as their interaction with the hospitable local population from the area. They also shared video presentations of their mountaineering expeditions in Pakistan. While speaking on the occasion, Niels Jespers said that K2 is the most attractive Peak in the world and for him climbing K2 was a huge dream coming true with extreme pleasure and excitement. In her remarks, Ms. Sofie Lenaerts said that the biggest reward of their visit to Pakistan was the connection which they made with the most friendly and hospitable local people of Pakistan. Whereas Mr. Jens said that Pakistan is a hidden gem with amazing hospitality and many interesting attractions. The event was arranged as part of the diamond jubilee celebrations of the 75th Independence Day of Pakistan.

## Support to terrorists harms NATO: Turkiye

AGENCIES

BRUSSELS: The Turkish defense minister on Friday said Sweden and Finland provided political, financial, and military support to terror groups, threatening not only Türkiye but also NATO. Speaking to reporters following a two-day NATO gathering of defense chiefs in Brussels, Hulusi Akar addressed hot-button issues, including Turkish concerns over the possible membership of Sweden and Finland to the military alliance. Akar said the arms restrictions imposed on Türkiye also harmed NATO and did not comply with the spirit of the alliance. He noted that his country seized numerous Swedish-made AT-4 anti-tank weapons during its anti-terrorism operations in northern Syria and Iraq, and this evidence was shared with officials at the NATO meeting. "On the one hand, they say 'let us grow stronger and unite against all sorts of threats against NATO,' but on the other hand, an arms embargo is im-

posed on Türkiye. Plus, unlimited support is provided for the terror groups," he said. Stressing that Türkiye is the only NATO country fighting terrorism on multiple fronts, he said his country is the final frontier preventing the spread of terrorism to Europe. "As Türkiye, we are an active and constructive member sharing values and responsibilities of NATO," Akar said and noted that the Turkish government favored the expansion of the alliance, depending on the respect paid to his country's sensitivities. The alliance is an organization of security, and terrorism is one of the primary areas of cooperation, he stressed, saying the fight against terror elements is of great importance for the sake of regional and global stability. "An understanding ignoring terrorists that are targeting a member state, martyring its security forces, and slaughtering its innocent citizens is incompatible with friendship and the spirit of the alliance," he reiterated. Akar also said it is simply "unacceptable" that



the terrorists, after conducting attacks against the Turkish army in northern Iraq and Syria, fled the region and took shelter in these countries. Sweden and Finland, amid their NATO bids, are under pressure from Türkiye to end their support for the PKK/YPG terror group, with Ankara saying the bloc is a security alliance and that any potential members must take a clear stance against terrorism. In its more than 35-year terror campaign against Türkiye, the PKK - listed as a terror organization by Türkiye, the US, and the

EU - has been responsible for the deaths of over 40,000 people, including women, children, and infants. The YPG is the PKK terror group's Syrian offshoot. Türkiye remains in contact with both Ukrainian and Russian authorities and the UN to find ways to address the obstacles hampering the grain exports and the humanitarian crisis looming over the region, according to Akar. "An urgent cease-fire and de-escalation are essential due to the deteriorating humanitarian situation. The rise of tension harms everyone," he said. Akar further said the involved parties, slowly but steadily, made some progress to address the problems regarding grain exports, and a planned meeting with the participation of Ukraine, Russia, the UN, and Türkiye had the potential to quicken the process. We continue our facilitator role to solve the problem," he stressed. Akar also warned that the Montreux Convention should not be abused in any way regarding grain exports from the Black Sea ports amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

## Pakistan an...

FROM PAGE 01

of issues. "Russia's invasion of Ukraine was also part of the talks between the US and Pakistani foreign ministers. We are working on common interests to enhance partnership with Pakistan." The United States has also condemned human rights abuses in India and the demolition of Muslim homes. "We urge India to respect human rights," Ned Price said.

## Mysterious...

FROM PAGE 01

He termed it an attempt by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his associates 'brought in through US regime change conspiracy' to use mafia tactics to save their corruption and money laundering. Imran Khan said that the six important witnesses and investigators part of the cases against Shehbaz and his family have died mysteriously so far. These people were: Gulzar Ahmed, Muzammil Raja, Ghulam Shabbir, Maqsood Chaprasi, Dr Rizwan and Imran Raza. He said that death cause of Gulzar Ahmed, who was peon at RSM and benami account operated in his name even posthumous, could not be ascertained so far, while the other suffered heart attacks. The PTI Chairman said that Nadeem Akhtar, another investigator in the money laundering case of Sharif suffered a heart attack but he survived. He said that Muzammil Raja was Sharif's servant and duty bound to draw money and hand over to Maqsood Peon and suffered heart attack. Similarly, Ghulam Shabbir was also a benami account holder of Sharif and brother of Muzammil Raja died due to heart attack. Imran Khan said that Maqsood was the front man and benami account holder of Sharif and caused of his death was reportedly heart attack. Dr Rizwan was investigating the money laundering case against Sharif was also died of heart attack.

## Lauds...

FROM PAGE 01

team to confirm completed work on our action plan will pass successfully too. He lauded Hammad Azhar, members of his FATF coordination committee and officers who worked on this task performed exceptionally well. Imran Khan said that 'the whole country is proud of you'. "FATF repeatedly praised work and the political will of my government demonstrated, as we not only averted blacklisting, but also completed 32 out of 34 action items," he added. "We submitted compliance report on remaining 2 items in April based on which FATF now declared Pak's Action Plan as completed," Imran Khan maintained. PTI Chairman said that Pakistan was nominated for grey listing by FATF in Feb 2018 and had to complete the most challenging action plan ever given to any jurisdiction. Imran Khan said: "When my government took over, we faced dire prospect of blacklisting by that body. Our past compliance history with FATF was also not favourable." However, Imran Khan said that the PTI team led by Hammad Azhar performed the given task exceptionally well, expecting the international financial watchdog would remove Pakistan from the grey list after the prerequisite on-site visit of FATF team.

## Pak, Indian players likely to team up in Afro-Asia Cup

DNA

KARACHI: As part of the revival of the Afro-Asia Cup scheduled for mid-2023, prominent cricketers from rivals India and Pakistan are set to play on the same team, Forbes reported Friday. The members of the two teams last played together at the 2007 event. The competition is expected to return next year, and top players from both sides will team up. The Asian XI featured Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar and Shahid Afridi alongside India's Virender Sehwag and Rahul Dravid in the mid-2000s, while the African XI had players from South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Kenya. Really, really big," he added. The Afro-Asian Cup is expected to become an annual event that will include players from Associate nations.

## Briefs

Armenians  
attack  
Azerbaijani  
Culture  
Centre

## FOREIGN DESK

PARIS: French-based ethnic Armenians attacked the Cultural Centre of the Azerbaijani Embassy in Paris during the screening of a film about Karabakh prepared by the French ERE TV channel with the organizational support of the Azerbaijani Embassy in France as part of the 'Year of Shusha' on June 16, Azernews reports.

According to the information, Aytan Muradova, vice-president of the Association Dialogue of France-Azerbaijan, was injured during the attack. The embassy reported that the film shooting took place in January 2022 during the French TV representatives' visit to the Azerbaijani liberated territories, organized by the embassy.

"During the screening of the film, representatives of the Armenian diaspora in France, as well as a group of members of the Armenian FRA Nor Seround Youth Federation, known for its provocative activities, shouted provocative slogans, such as 'Shusha is not Azerbaijan', 'Karabakh is ours', in front of the building, and also tried to damage it, doing all of that trying to prevent the screening," said the embassy. To restore order the police had to be called. Despite the attempts to disturb the screening, the 'The Path leading to Karabakh' film was premiered. It will be streamed on the ERE TV channel at the end of June 2022.

Kazakhstan to  
establish visa-  
free regime  
with 100  
countries

## NEWS DESK

NUR-SULTAN: It is expected that this year up to one million foreign tourists will visit Kazakhstan, Vice Minister of Culture and Sport of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Yerkinbayev said during the opening ceremony of the International Exhibition of Tourism, Sport, and Active Lifestyle taking place in Nur-Sultan city, Kazinform correspondent reports.

"This year, a record figure of 6.9mln tourists has been reached in domestic tourism in Kazakhstan. It is the highest figure since 2019. However, the highest number of foreign tourists is still to be reached. This year, it is expected that the country will receive from 500 thousand to up to one million foreign tourists. Border closures and restrictions which were in place due to the pandemic are now removed. A visa-free regime was reintroduced for 74 countries, with the figure planned to reach 100.

Yesterday, e-visa insurance was resumed. The issue of introducing a visa-free regime for Iran, China, and India nationals is being considered," said Yerkinbayev.

Germans  
turn to food  
banks as  
inflation hits

BERNAUBEL: German pensioner Gabriele Washah waits in line to fill her trolley with bags of carrots for 50 cents, yoghurts just past their sell-by date and bunches of wilting flowers. With the cost of living soaring across Europe, the 65-year-old retired shop assistant is one of many Germans turning to food banks to make ends meet.

"Sometimes I go home from the shop almost crying because I can't afford it any more," she told AFP outside the row of stalls in Bernau, near Berlin. Nestled in an alleyway behind a big chain supermarket, the food bank sells at greatly reduced prices groceries donated by supermarkets, as well as cheap prepared meals. Here, customers can pick up a full trolley of food for around 30 euros (around \$32). For Washah, that means bread, butter and her favourite sandwich filling, sausage - "which used to cost 99 cents (\$1.02) but now sometimes costs more than two euros". - APP

Vladimir Norov receives the  
Ambassador of Pakistan

The main attention was paid to the prospects for enhancing trade-economic cooperation, including within the framework of the signed agreements on transit and preferential trade between the two countries

## DNA

TASHKENT: Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan Vladimir Norov received Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Syed Ali Asad Gilani, Uzbekistan MFA reports. At the meeting, the positive dynamics of the development of a strategic partnership between Uzbekistan and Pakistan, which plays an important role in strengthening the connectivity between Central and South Asia, were noted with satisfaction.

The course of implementation of the agreements reached during the contacts at the highest level was considered. The parties exchanged views on the schedule of the upcoming meetings, including the visit of the Pakistani Foreign Minister

to Uzbekistan to participate in the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States, held on July 28-29, 2022 in Tashkent.

An agreement was reached to continue coordinating the efforts of Uzbekistan and Pakistan in the international arena, in particular, within the framework of the UN, SCO, OIC and ECO.

The main attention was paid to the prospects for enhancing trade-economic cooperation, including within the framework of the signed agreements on transit and preferential trade between the two countries. The mutual intention of the parties to increase the volume of trade turnover to \$1 billion was confirmed.

The readiness of the Uzbek and Pakistani sides to enhance ties in the cultural and humanitarian exchanges was also noted.

Presidents of Kazakhstan  
and Tatarstan meet  
in St. Petersburg

SAINT PETERSBURG: Head of State Kassym-Jomart Tokayev met with President of Tatarstan Rustam Minnikhanov, Kazinform learned from the press service of Akorda. At the meeting held in a friendly atmosphere the two leaders discussed the prospects of expansion of the Kazakhstan-Tatarstan cooperation in trade-economic and cultural-humanitarian spheres. Special attention was given to the implementation of joint projects in the territory of Kazakhstan in key sectors of economy and incorporating Kazakhstani factories to the Russian enterprises' production line. The heads of state discussed the course of implementation of joint projects with KAMAZ and TATNEFT companies whose leaders also attended the meeting. Welcoming Rustam Minnikhanov, the President of Kazakhstan warmly recalled his visit to Tatarstan which gave a serious impetus to further strengthening of the two countries' cooperation. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev emphasized dynamic development of the Kazakh-Tatar relations which hold a worthy place in multilateral ties of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. - APP

FATF removes  
Malta from  
watchlist

BERLIN: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an international organisation that coordinates global efforts to crack down on money laundering and terrorism financing, said Friday it had removed Malta from its watchlist of countries subject to increased monitoring. Placed on watch in 2021, Malta is coming off the list after carrying out an "action plan which it has now completed" leaving it "better placed to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing", Marcus Pleyer, president of the FATF, said after a four-day meeting of the organisation in Berlin. - APP

White House ready to  
facilitate peace process  
in South Caucasus

## NEWS DESK

BAKU: US Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Karen Donfried has sounded her country's readiness to be conducive to achieving peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia, Azernews reports. The remarks were made during a briefing on June 16 in Baku. "The US does see this window of opportunities that is open for Azerbaijan, for Armenia to pursue a comprehensive peace settlement and we want to be helpful in that. We also see the EU playing an important helpful role in furthering the peace process. My visit is a symbol of increased engagement with Azerbaijan. It is an important moment for us to understand how we can support the process of peace here in the South Caucasus," she said. Talking about the post-war period, the US Assistant Secretary stressed that

it is a moment to pursue peace in South Caucasus. Moreover, Donfried noted that although there is a tremendous opportunity to pursue peace here, she said "I also worry about windows of opportunity closing". "So I also feel an urgency about this moment. That's why the US is saying to both sides that we want to be helpful. We can help move the process forward," she added. According to her, one of the elements of achieving peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia is the opening of transit and communication links. She noted that this conversation came up

during her visit to Azerbaijan and expressed that the US could be helpful in this regard. "I think it is a key part of this peace process and we certainly are hopeful that both countries will be able to move forward," she said. Noting that the deepening of cooperation in the South Caucasus will unleash powerful regional integration, the official emphasized that the moment is here and help is present from the US, as well as EU.

Melenchon, from  
outsider to leader  
of French left

PARIS: Divisive but charismatic, French hard-left leader Jean-Luc Melenchon has become the top challenger to President Emmanuel Macron in this month's parliamentary elections on the back of a surge in the April presidential vote. Although not standing himself, the 70-year-old former senator is the clear leader of the NUPES alliance that could deny the pro-business president an absolute majority, having wrangled Communists, Greens and Socialists into line with his hard-left France Unbowed (LFI) outfit.

Melenchon himself told RTL radio Wednesday that "the truth, the unprecedented phenomenon... is that we are in a position to get

a majority in parliament" - which he hopes could force Macron to name him prime minister after the election. "Voters don't want Macron," he added, claiming that the incumbent "lost" Sunday's first round - although official results placed NUPES around neck-and-neck with Macron's Ensemble (Together) movement. Melenchon has come a long way since angrily quitting the Socialist Party (PS) in the 2000s and launching his own movement that would come to unite the historically fragmented French left.

His brand of anti-establishment politics has profited as the traditionally dominant PS collapsed following Francois Hollande's widely loathed 2012-17 presidency and the rise of the often polarising Macron. In this year's presidential election, Melenchon scored almost 22 percent in the first round - just shy of getting into the run-off against Macron, but light years ahead of PS candidate and Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo. - APP



OTTAWA: Pakistan High Commissioner to Canada Zaheer Janjua meets MP Salma Zahid, Chair of Canada-Pak Parliamentary Friendship Group. - DNA

## Serena Shigar Fort; A Historic Heritage Hotel of Pakistan

## MUNAZA KAZMI

THE classical History lovers are pinned everywhere in the world, looking for exploring another piece of art. Pakistan! Famous for its wildest and most dangerous peaks, is a home to Indus Valley civilization, Gandhara, Mughal Rule, Tribal Kingdoms and a lot many. However, one can only look at them in Museums, Palaces or Forts, but had never got the opportunity to live the History. What if I take you somewhere. IMAGINE! In the middle of gigantic mountains, a day into the actual homes of Kings and Queens, the splendor of Royalty on the rhythms of History.

About 170km, almost a two hours unforgettable beautiful drive from Sakardu Airport, Gilgit-Baltistan lies the Shigar, an absolutely beautiful gift of nature. There are stunning natural treasures like the Katpana Desert, also known as the Cold Desert and is the highest desert in the

world. Among the valley's mountainous landscapes is K2, the second-highest mountain in the world, Trango Towers, Concordia Glacier amongst many other glaciers. Surrounded by greenery and captivate beauty of lakes, Shigar is no doubt a glamorous tourist spot. The perfect tone of the clouds, the huge mountains and the tranquility makes the place a heavenly and magical, where your IMAGINATION will be turning into reality.

Serena Shigar Fort, known as Fong-Khar which in the local language means the "Palace on the Rock", it is one of Northern Pakistan's most beautiful hotels. There you almost feel as if you have stepped in to a movie set because it is so picturesque.

Decorated by the magnificent beauty of Baltistan's Karakoram Mountain Range and four centuries of folklore and legends, Serena Shigar Fort is a one-of-a-kind heritage boutique hotel situated within a peaceful natural setting. Experience history in a 450-year-old fort and the 17th century Pal-

ace of the Raja of Shigar, along with the more recently added "Old House" and "Garden House".

Ancient mountain landscapes, stunning views and the ambience of a 400-year-old Fort-Palace set our 15 rooms and 5 suites among Pakistan's most serene and timeless sanctuaries. Ornamented in warm earth tones, all accommodations feature locally inspired design touches like wooden floors, exquisite woodwork, native stone and period furnishings. The 13 traditional guest rooms located in the original 17th cen-



tury Palace offer you an exclusive glimpse into the life of the Raja and Rani of Shigar, where you can actually enjoy the ways of royalty. Moreover, a more recent addition to the grounds, the Garden House offers 7 conventional rooms with modern comforts like flat-screen televisions and room service. These accommodations were crafted using building materials and techniques faithful to the historical architecture of Shigar Fort. Adorned with handmade fabrics and antiques, Gar-

den House rooms feature private terraces with views of the Amacha Garden. The most important! all rooms at Serena Shigar Fort are non-smoking.

**Standard Room:** These non-smoking heritage rooms offer either double, single or twin beds covered by cloudy white sheets and a well-appointed bathroom with shower.

**Garden House Standard Room:** Spacious Garden House Rooms feature double or twin beds, a lobby area, cable television and a romantic private wood

Heritage Suite: The hotel's 3 Heritage Suites originally served as the chambers of the royal women and the Raja's mid-season quarters. Spacious and opulently decorated with period antiques, these Suites offer a king bed in the main bedroom, a single bed in a separate anteroom or Shah-e-Nasheen and a sitting area. Special features include beautiful paneled ceilings and carvings on Shah Nasheen.

**Royal Suite:** Originally the Raja's royal summer quarters, this non-smoking suite features one comfortable king bed, an adjoining sitting area, originally Raja's Baithak, a "Shah-e-Nasheen" and an airy, hanging wooden lattice-work balcony. Decorated in period antiques with a splendid view of the Shigar stream, the room is appointed with a working desk, one exquisite bathroom and a powder room.

**Fong Khar Restaurant:** The culinary philosophy at Serena Shigar Fort is based on providing the finest seasonal and, where possible, local ingredients from Shigar Valley farms and providers. All



meals feature fresh produce from hotel's very own cherry orchards and vegetable garden, including a handmade cherry ice cream sure to be the delight of your stay. Amidst a historic stone and wood design, Fong Khar Restaurant invites conversation among guests while savoring an innovative menu of Pakistani, Balti, Chinese and Continental specialties. During the warmer months, the al fresco garden is the perfect setting for a meal beneath the grapevine with beautiful views of the Shigar stream and surrounding village. However, for private dining events, the first floor offers a Turkish-style seating area with an open veranda seating presenting gorgeous village and stream views.

From the traditional stone and wood architecture to the tranquil sight and sound of the Shigar stream flowing in front of the hotel, the experience here is that of a peaceful home away from home in an ancient, historic undisturbed wilderness.

**Detailed article in the coming issue of Centreline magazine**

Azerbaijan,  
NATO discuss  
cooperation

## NEWS DESK

BAKU: Azerbaijan and NATO's military education representatives have discussed cooperation in the relevant sphere, Azernews reports, citing the Defense Ministry. A working meeting with the program coordinators for Azerbaijan and NATO's specialists on various educational topics was conducted on June 17, at the Defense Ministry's National Defense University as part of NATO's Defence Education Enhancement Program (DEEP), the report added.

At the meeting, the sides exchanged views on the potential for the growth of the military educational system and cooperation. Moreover, briefings were held on the experience gained in the relevant area. The guests visited the military institute named after Heydar Aliyev under the National Defense University and the Military Medical Faculty of the Azerbaijani Medical University in line with the program. The visitors were briefed about the educational process, and the parties discussed other matters of mutual interest. Relations with NATO started in 1992 when Azerbaijan joined the North Atlantic Cooperation Council. This forum for dialogue was succeeded in 1997 by the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, which brings together all Allies and partner countries in the Euro-Atlantic area.

Bilateral cooperation began when Azerbaijan joined the Partnership for Peace (PfP) program in 1994. Thanks to regular participation in PfP activities, Azerbaijan has been able to contribute actively to Euro-Atlantic security by supporting NATO-led peace-support operations.

Greece pushed  
back nearly  
42,000 asylum  
seekers

## DNA

ANKARA: Greece has pushed back nearly 42,000 asylum seekers since 2020, according to a new report published by Turkish authorities. Türkiye's Ombudsman Institution prepared the report, titled "Pushbacks and Drowning Human Rights in the Aegean Sea," exposing the violation of international immigration law by Greece. According to the data from the Directorate of Migration Management that the report used, Greek forces pushed back a total of 41,523 asylum seekers between 2020 and May 31, 2022. "The pushbacks in themselves are against international law, and many of the pushback practices are accompanied by grave rights violations," the report said. Noting that 98% of the pushbacks involved torture and ill-treatment, it said 88% of the 8,000 asylum seekers who came to the Greek border were beaten. It added that 97% of them suffered theft, 5% sexual assault, and 8% electric shock, while 49% were forced to undress and 16% drowned.

## Briefs

### Saudi crown prince to visit Turkey

ISTANBUL: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman will visit Turkey next week, a Turkish official said Friday, as Ankara and Riyadh heal a bitter rift following the 2018 murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul. It is Prince Mohammed's first visit to Turkey since the brutal killing of Saudi insider-turned-critic Khashoggi inside the kingdom's consulate, which shocked the world and dealt a heavy blow to ties between the regional rivals.

The kingdom's de facto ruler is expected to visit the capital Ankara on June 22 but details of the trip will be announced "over the weekend", a senior Turkish official told AFP. The two countries will sign several agreements during his trip as Turkey looks to non-Western partners for financial support as soaring inflation bites. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had already paid his visit in late April to Saudi Arabia since the murder, where he met the prince before travelling to Mecca.

Saudi agents killed and dismembered Khashoggi, who wrote for the Washington Post, in October 2018. His remains have never been found. Turkey angered Saudi Arabia by vigorously pursuing the case at the time, opening an investigation and briefing international media about the lurid details of the murder. - APP

### One dead in India unrest over military hiring

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Authorities imposed restrictions on Friday on gatherings in a satellite city of India's capital that is home to offices of several multinational firms, and one person was killed as protests against a new military recruitment process spread.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government unveiled the new recruitment system this week, called Agnipath or "path of fire" in Hindi, triggering turmoil with police firing into the air to break up stone-throwing crowds and the torching of railway infrastructure. The system aims to bring in more people to the military on short, four-year contracts to lower the average age of India's 1.38 million-strong armed forces and cut down on burgeoning pension costs. But many potential recruits object, concerned about employment opportunities after serving their four-year terms and disappointed to miss out on a pension, and thousands of young men took to the streets on Friday, with protests turning violent in at least three states.

Policemen carry an injured protester during a protest against "Agnipath scheme" for recruiting personnel for armed forces, in Secunderabad in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, India on June 17, 2022.

### Saad discusses aviation sector co-op with Saudi envoy

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique called on Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki and discussed matters pertaining to bilateral relations and mutual interest.

During the meeting, the two sides also deliberated on the possible ways and means to further enhance the existing ties between the two countries, especially in the field of aviation.

Saad Rafique said the Aviation sector played a key role in providing air connectivity, teaming crucial for economic growth and development of any country, a news release said. "Our focus is to improve safety, security and service across all modes of air connectivity", he said.

The two sides vowed to strengthen cooperation in the aviation sector. - APP



ISLAMABAD: CEO and Founder of Monal Group Luqman Ali Afzal hosted farewell dinner for the outgoing Ambassador of Switzerland Benedict de Cerjat. Also seen in the picture are from left to right; Barrister Mansoor, Ansar M Bhatti, Editor daily Islamabad POST, Maciej Pisarski Ambassador of Poland, the chief guest, Mrs. Luqman Afzal, Luqman Ali Afzal, Ambassador of Austria and his wife and Mrs. Mansoor. - DNA

## Forced disappearances: CJ IHC seeks those responsible

The IHC CJ asked who should be held responsible for the missing persons and questioned whether there was a "state operating within a state"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Athar Minallah asked Friday who was responsible for enforced disappearances of people and wondered whether there was a "state operating within the state." Justice Minallah's questions came during the hearing relating to the disappearance of journalist Muadassir Naro and five other people, where the deputy attorney-general appeared before the court. The IHC chief justice asked the deputy attorney-general that in the court's previous order, the relevant authorities were asked to produce the disappeared people. "Where are they?" At this, the deputy attorney-general told the IHC that the federal government has consti-

tuted a committee for the missing persons and the relevant investigation agencies are employing efforts to recover them.

"Don't involve this court in the matters of committees. Tell me whether you will implement the [orders] or not? Where is the federal government?" the justice asked. The IHC CJ said people are being picked up every day and nothing is being done about it. He added that in the previous order, the court asked the federal government to issue notices to ex-president General (ret'd) Pervez Musharraf and the prime ministers succeeding him.

"Where are the notices and their affidavits?" he asked.

In the order issued last month, the IHC directed the federal government to serve notices to Musharraf and all other successors - the former prime ministers, including the

incumbent holder of the office.

The IHC CJ noted that the matter of missing persons was "gravely serious" and the "attitude of the federal government was not commendable". He asked whether the constituted committee holds meetings. Justice Minallah said if the court's order continues to go unheeded, then the incumbent interior minister and the former interior ministers will be summoned. The IHC CJ went on to say how would it feel like if the court summons the chief executive - the prime minister. IHC's top judge said that all the governments were violating their oath when the matter of missing persons should be among the top priorities for the national leadership. In response to the IHC CJ, the deputy attorney-general said in the next hearing, the government's stance would be presented

as to what it is doing for the recovery of missing persons.

"No efforts are being employed for the recovery of missing persons," the IHC chief justice lamented. He added that although just for show, the federal cabinet constituted a committee for the missing person, what efforts have they employed so far. The IHC CJ asked who should be held responsible for the missing persons and questioned whether there was a "state operating within a state". "There are allegations levelled against the police, Intelligence Bureau (IB), the intelligence agencies of armed forces. There are several missing persons, tell me, which of these agencies has picked them up?" The IHC CJ said the prime minister should either say that he is helpless and if he is not, then the Constitution of Pakistan will hold him responsible.

### Accession to Apostille Convention to facilitate expatriates: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Friday said that Pakistan's accession to the Apostille Convention would facilitate and ease a significant burden on Pakistanis, traveling and living abroad.

The prime minister, in a tweet, said that creating smooth process for Pakistani citizens was the government's priority. "Now Pakistani notarized documents will be accepted in 100+ countries," he remarked.

Shehbaz Sharif said that Pakistani citizens would be able to notarize their important legal documents such as marriage certificate, degrees and more through officials designated by Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Pakistan. Such documents would be internationally accepted without the need for any further verification, he added.

The Apostille Convention is an international treaty intended to simplify the procedure through which a document, issued in one of the contracting states, can be certified for legal purposes in all the other contracting states. - APP

## Three Palestinians killed by Israeli forces in Jenin raid

WEB DESK

WEST BANK: Three Palestinians have been killed and 10 wounded as Israeli forces raided Jenin in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian health ministry has said. About 30 Israeli military vehicles raided Jenin in the early hours of Friday and surrounded a car in al-Marrah area in the east of the city, firing shots at four men sitting inside. Three of them were killed and a fourth seriously injured. Palestinian news agency Wafa named the men killed as Baraa Lahlouh

(24), Yusuf Salah (23) and Laith Abu Suroor (24). The Israeli army said in a brief message in Hebrew that it was conducting an operation to locate weapons from two different locations, and that they had been fired upon. "Shots were identified towards the soldiers who thwarted the terrorists' plans to target them," the army said, adding that they found weapons, including two M-16 assault rifles and cartridges at the scene. Residents in Jenin said they suspected the Israelis had intended to demolish the home of Raed Hazem, who carried out a shooting attack in Tel Aviv on April 7 that killed three

Israelis before he was shot dead. The Israeli army has ramped up raids in and around the occupied Jenin camp, in an attempt to crack down on growing Palestinian armed resistance there. Fears are rampant of a possible large-scale Israeli invasion of the camp, where the armed wings of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Fatah movements are active. According to the Palestinian health ministry, more than 60 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces this year, many of them in raids. A string of Palestinian attacks since March has also killed 19 people in Israel.

## Farrukh flays govt for record breaking inflation

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Central Secretary Information Farrukh Habib said that the imported government has shaken the very foundation of the country by creating political and economic instability in the country. He said that Pakistan was standing in the crossroads because more than half cabinet of the import-

ed government was guilty and was facing serious cases. Farrukh Habib stated that the conspiracy was hatched at a time when Pakistan was emerging as a major player at the global stage due to Imran Khan's tireless efforts and visionary leadership and there was economic and political stability in the country. However, he lamented that the corrupt ruling junta took no time to ruin the economy, making people's lives miserable. Lashing out at the Maryam Aurangzeb for criticizing Imran Khan, Farrukh Habib reminded her that it was her leader who was absconder not Imran Khan. He said that PTI Chairman held record breaking public gatherings across the country after being removed from power through the US-backed conspiracy and he did not flee the country like Nawaz Sharif did. PTI Secretary Information went on to say that Nawaz Sharif staged a health drama to flee the country and started attacks state institutions from London. Farrukh Habib said that the whole family of Sharifs was fugitives and they were wanted to the courts in various cases of corruption.

## US condemns blasphemous remarks by BJP officials

BJP said it respects all religions and suspended Sharma as well as Naveen Kumar Jindal, another figure in the party who was accused of inflammatory tweets about Prophet Muhammad

MONITORING DESK

WASHINGTON: The United States has condemned remarks by India's governing party officials about Prophet Muhammad and his wife Aisha that have sparked an uproar in the country and many Muslim-majority nations. "We condemn the offensive comments made by two BJP officials and we were glad to see that the party publicly condemns those comments," State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters on Thursday.

"We regularly engage with the Indian government at senior levels on human rights concerns, including freedom of religion or belief, and we encourage India to promote respect for human rights," he said.

Nupur Sharma, a spokeswoman for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), on May 26 made televised remarks about the youngest wife of the Prophet of Islam that triggered

demonstrations across the Muslim world.

The remarks set off diplomatic protests not only in rival Pakistan but also in wealthy Arab states that usually enjoy close relations with India. Qatar demanded a "public apology" from the Indian government while the influential 57-member Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) said the insults came in the context of an increasingly intense atmosphere of hatred towards Islam in India and systematic harassment of Muslims. In neighbouring Bangladesh, home to the world's fourth-largest Muslim population, protesters demanded a formal condemnation from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, a close ally of India. On Thursday, thousands of people marched towards the Indian embassy in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka in the second week of protests over derogatory remarks about the Prophet by the BJP officials.

The protesters demanded that Muslim-majority nations boycott Indian products and cut off ties with New Delhi. In damage-control mode, the BJP said it respects all religions and suspended Sharma as well as Naveen Kumar Jindal, another figure in the party who was accused of inflammatory tweets about Prophet Muhammad. The US since the late 1990s has sought to deepen ties with India, believing the world's two largest democracies have common interests, especially in the face of a rising China. The US, however, has several times carefully voiced concerns about religious freedom in India as the BJP faces accusations of pursuing policies that target the Muslim minority. During the release of a US report on religious freedom globally in 2021 earlier this month, a senior US official said some government officers in India were ignoring or even supporting rising attacks on people and places of worship in the Hindu-majority country. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the report showed religious freedom and

the rights of religious minorities were under threat around the world.

"For example, in India, the world's largest democracy and home to a great diversity of faiths, we have seen rising attacks on people and places of worship," he said. India's foreign ministry said the remarks by the senior US officials were "ill-informed" and "biased" as it defended religious rights in India. However, Indian Muslims protesting against the anti-Islam remarks have seen a "vicious" police crackdown, as rights group Amnesty International put it, asking the government to end the "excessive use of force" and "arbitrary detentions". Last Friday, police opened fire in the eastern city of Ranchi, killing two teenagers after demonstrators allegedly threw stones at police. Since then, homes of several people arrested or identified as protesters have been demolished with bulldozers in the state of Uttar Pradesh, which is governed by the BJP's hardline Hindu monk, Yogi Adityanath.

## APNS concerned over news about newspapers' discontinuity

DNA

KARACHI: The APNS expresses its profound concern on the news item appeared in a section of press wherein it has been stated that the Federal Government in the garb of austerity measures, have decided to discontinue purchase of newspapers and magazines for the offices of the Federal Government ministries, departments, autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies. Sarmad Ali, President and Nazafreen Saigol Lakhani, Secretary General of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society have stated that the above decision has sounded a death knell to the newspaper industry struggling for survival in the present bleak economic environment. It was an ill-advised as well as a true description of a penny-wise pound-foolish measure.

The APNS Office Bearers stated that the decision, if implemented, would have devastating impact on the liquidity conditions of already crisis ridden newspaper industry and would badly reflect on the relations between the present Unity Government and the media. The APNS Office Bearers have requested the Prime Minister, Mian Shahbaz Sharif to review and withdraw such anti-media moves which would only save some peanuts but would be highly counter productive for press - government relations and survival of print media.

## Govt allies, opposition protest absence of ministers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Coalition partners of the federal government and opposition parties on Friday protest absence of ministers in the Upper House of the Parliament. Senate chairman Sadiq Sanjrani presided over the budget session. On the occasion, Senator Saleem Mandviwala while congratulating the Pakistanis claimed that Pakistan has been removed from the gray list of Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

When Senate Chairman asked for debate on budget, Opposition leader Shahzad Waseem said that there were no ministers in the House and whether they should talk to the House's walls. The allies of the government also burst into anger over absence of ministers and said that not a single minister from the cabinet is present in the House. Raza Rabbani asked Senate Chairman to use his influence and discuss the matter with the PM. "I won't speak in protest due to absence of ministers in the House," he said.

PTI Senator Faisal Javed said that his party is ready to return to the National Assembly if rulers sell their assets abroad and get their money back to Pakistan.

## Earthquake of magnitude 5.0 felt

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale jolted various parts of the country including Islamabad on Friday afternoon. According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department, the epicenter of the earthquake was Afghanistan-Tajikistan border, electronic channels reported.

The earthquake jolted Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Swat, Malakand, Mardan, Swabi, Charsadda, Hangu, Mohmand, Kohat, Boner, Abbottabad, Banu, Nowshehra, Diamir, Chillas and other surrounding areas. On the other hand, the tremors were felt in different cities of Punjab including Lahore, Multan, Faisalabad, Sargodha, Gujranwala, Sheikhupur, and Jalalpur Bhattian. People came out of their homes in panic and started reciting verses from the Holy Quran. No loss of life and property was reported so far.