



# Islamabad POST

Thursday, June 09, 2022

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

**EU chief says cannot tolerate Russia weaponizing food**

Detailed News On Page-06

**US sanctions 'returned like boomerang'**

Detailed News On Page-06



**Zverev undergoes ankle surgery**

Detailed News On Page-06



**Briefs**

**Alvi grieved over deaths in accident**

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Wednesday expressed grief over the loss of lives in a traffic accident that took place in Qila Saifullah area of Balochistan. According to media reports, at least 22 people were killed and several others injured when a vehicle travelling on the Zhob National Highway in Balochistan plunged hundreds of feet into a ravine near Qila Saifullah. The president prayed for peace to the departed souls and strength to the bereaved families to bear the loss with fortitude. - APP

**Army condemns 'malicious allegations'**

DNA  
RAWALPINDI: The military on Wednesday dismissed allegations hurled against its top leadership by senior journalist Shaheen Sehba, terming them a 'baseless propaganda'. Military's media wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), denied the charge in a statement issued today. "The insinuations by Shaheen Sehba and some others on social media quoting the former Finance Minister are baseless propaganda," it said. "The same has also been duly rebutted by Mr Shaukat Tarin himself. Peddling malicious allegations and blatant lies against the institution and its leadership to promote vested interests is condemnable."

**Shehbaz' performance exposed**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Central Secretary General Asad Umar said that the imported Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has badly failed to deliver in short span of two months. Asad Umar said that Shehbaz Sharif earned his cosmetic fame of 'Punjab Speed' through spending massive funds on self-projection as chief minister Punjab. - APP

**Energy conservation  
Govt mulls limiting the market hours**

All 4 provinces agreed in principle on the proposal to close down markets by 8:30pm; according to official handout

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
ISLAMABAD: A proposal to shut down markets at 8:30pm in an effort to conserve energy came under discussion on Wednesday during a meeting of the freshly reconstituted National Economic Council (NEC). Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired Wednesday's meeting, which was attended by the chief ministers of Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan did not attend the meeting and Chief Secretary Shehzad Bangash represented the province instead. According to a handout issued after the meeting, all four provinces agreed in principle on the proposal to close down markets by 8:30pm. However, the chief ministers of Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab sought two days to consult trade bodies and business communities in their respective provinces. During the meeting, the chief ministers were consulted on the national strategy for tackling the energy crisis. The participants

Continued on Page 06

**No taxes on raw materials for export industries**

KHAYAM ABBASI  
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed authorities to abolish all taxes on raw materials used in the export industry and form task forces to attract investment in multiple sectors. The Shehbaz government has been trying to set up a long-term plan to revive the ailing economy, with the premier yesterday repeating his call to boost exports to ease the burgeoning cash crunch. According to state-run APP, the premier met a delegation from the American Business Council

Continued on Page 06

**Pak-Saudi security coop to be enhanced**

Talking to Saudi envoy, minister says Pak and Saudi Arabia would jointly fight challenges

STAFF REPORT  
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah Khan on Wednesday said that Security cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia would be further enhanced. Talking to Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki who called on him here, the minister said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia would jointly fight internal and regional security challenges, said a press release. He said any conspiracy to mar Pak-Saudi relations would be foiled jointly. Sana Ullah said culprits involved in assassination of Saudi diplomat Hassan al-Qahtani in 2011 would be brought to justice soon. Red notices had been issued by FIA for the culprits involved in the murder, he added. He said all available resources would be utilized to nab the culprits. Sanaullah thanked the Saudi government for rolling over \$ 3 billion for Pakistan's economic stability. Roll over of \$ 3 billion by the Saudi government



was crucial to stabilizing Pakistan's economy, he added. He said Pakistan enjoyed cordial and fraternal relations with Saudi Arabia. The people of Pakistan had immense devotion and love for the custodian of the Holy mosques, he added. He said Saudi Arabia had always been generous in helping and assisting Pakistan in hour of odd.

**Pak wants enhanced co-op with Qatar armed forces**



STAFF REPORT  
RAWALPINDI: Commander Qatar Emiri Air Force, Major General (Pilot) Jassim Mohamed Ahmed Al-Mannai Wednesday called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa at GHQ. According to a statement issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), matters of mutual and professional interests and regional security situation were discussed during the meeting. COAS said that Pakistan values its brotherly relations with Qatar and Pakistan Army also looks forward for enhanced defence and security co-operation with Qatar Armed Forces. The visiting dignitary acknowledged the professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces and vowed to enhance cooperation in various fields.

**COAS satisfied over Radd-ul-Fasaad progress**

DNA  
RAWALPINDI: The 80th Formation Commanders' Conference was held on Wednesday during which the attendees were briefed on professional matters, national security challenges

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs the meeting of National Economic Council. - DNA

**PIA resumes operations to Kuala Lumpur**

DNA  
KARACHI: The national carrier, Pakistan International Airline (PIA), on Wednesday announced to restore flight operations to Kuala Lumpur. PIA had suspended flight operations to the Malaysian capital as a measure to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. According to the national airline flag carrier spokesperson, the PIA will start operating flights to Kuala Lumpur from June 26. The first flight will take off from Lahore. In addition, the national airline has increased flights to Azerbaijan's capital Baku. As per new schedule, the Pakistan International Airline will operate four weekly flights to Baku. The flights will operate from Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore airports. Last month, Pakistan International Airlines launched direct flights to Syria's capital Damascus from Karachi's Jinnah International Airport.

**Imran Khan says will give long march call soon**

Khan re-elected as PTI Chairman unopposed by the PTI's National Council



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday was elected Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman for another term. Khan was elected unopposed by the PTI's National Council that met Wednesday

to elect central and provincial office-bearers. Former Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi was elected vice chairman. Asad Umar was elected secretary general. Addressing the council, Imran Khan called upon its party members to be prepared for the party's upcoming protest march towards Islamabad, "the date of which," Khan said, "would be announced very soon." Imran Khan said the incumbent government is allegedly doing delimitations to benefit themselves in the upcoming general elections. He said the main object of elections is to elect competent people who can run the country. Democracy is based on meritocracy, not on imperialism. Pakistan's history shows the country was ruled by dictators and then by two families, he added. Criticising PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

Continued on Page 06

**Indian police arrest BJP youth leader over hate comments**

NEWS DESK  
NEW DELHI: Police in northern India arrested a youth leader from the Hindu nationalist ruling party for posting anti-Muslim comments on social media after derogatory remarks by another party official about the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) led to a diplomatic furore, officials said on Wednesday. Harshit Srivastava, a youth leader from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party, was arrested in Kanpur city following communal tensions last week during a protest by Muslims to denounce the anti-Islam comments. "We arrested the local politician for making inflammatory remarks against Muslims," said Prashant Kumar, a senior police official, adding that at least 50 people were taken into custody following the tensions in Kanpur. Srivastava's lawyer was not available for comment. Sporadic unrest was reported in other parts of the country after the comments against the Holy Prophet (PBUH) by BJP spokeswoman Nupur Sharma during a television debate. She has been suspended from the party while another spokesman, Naveen Kumar Jindal, was expelled over comments he made about Islam on social media, the BJP has said. Domestic outrage gained fresh momentum after leaders from Muslim nations such as Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan demanded apologies from the Indian government and summoned diplomats to protest against the anti-Islam remarks.

**Inside...**

- 'Green energy for sustainable growth a must for Pakistan' - Page 02
- Coalition govt to announce a balanced budget: Shazia - Page 03
- Kazakh, Turkmen envoys call on communications minister - Page 04
- Boris Johnson: a dead man walking - Page 05
- US sanctions have 'returned like boomerang': Maduro - Page 06
- Azerbaijani, Pakistani defense varities eye expanding co-op - Page 07
- Pakistan, Azarbaijan mark 30 years of diplomatic relations - Page 08

**JUNE 2022**

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:  
www.centrelines.com.pk  
www.dnanews.com.pl  
www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@PostIslamabad/ @Editordnanews

A sister concern of  
**Islamabad POST**

11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,  
G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan  
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165

# 'Green energy for sustainable growth a must for Pakistan'

Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) organized the webinar on the subject "Pakistan's Energy Crisis: Challenges and Opportunities"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at the webinar urged the government to come up with a national green energy policy reducing reliance on fossil fuel consumption and exploring to develop solar energy financing for every household. It would reduce heavy reliance on hydropower and hydrocarbon use and centralized grid systems. The Green CPEC Alliance is expected to boost such initiatives with local partnerships once the enabling environment is provided and the one-window system is operationalized. Government shall direct most of the investments towards green energy generation rather than exploration of oil and gas reservoirs. We hardly discovered any new oil and gas reservoirs in the two decades despite investing huge funds. Let's change the position on energy mix with the significant increase of solar and wind energy. Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) organized the webinar on the subject "Pakistan's Energy Crisis: Challenges and Opportunities under Green CPEC Alliance" on Saturday to mark the World

Environment Day. Senate Standing Committee on Defense Production Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed chaired the session. Well-known environment and energy expert Qaiser Aijaz was the keynote speaker. Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed, research analyst Farhat Rana, Rabia Sarwar, Ommer Kulsoom, financial expert Iftikhar Ahmed and young environmentalist Salman also spoke on the occasion. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed Pakistan government shall come up immediately with the green financing of the domestic-energy use. State Bank of Pakistan shall have a green energy financing policy for domestic use at a discounted rate. The federal and provincial resources shall be allocated to develop solar and wind energy farms to increase its share to 60 percent of total energy consumption. The hydro-power plants are very expensive in terms of cost and time. He said climate disasters are increasing day by day. Over 150 incidents happened in the last one decade. Need to adopt measures. Water scarcity has increased to the red point. Immediate construction of check-dams and small dams shall be the priority.

Qaiser Aijaz said Pakistan's main challenges from energy standpoint are the huge population of 220 million, non-availability of adequate indigenous energy resources, depleting oil and gas fields, no major oil and gas discoveries for past two decades, increased energy and oil prices in the international market, COVID pandemic after-shocks, political and economic challenges, and high country risk and security factors. He said the state-owned oil and gas companies be allowed to work independently, and constitution of a federal body consisting of highly qualified professionals for selection of their top management. We shall provide constitutional cover to the energy policies, framework and approved projects for continuity regardless of any regime expires. Adaptation of integrated approach for addressing energy issues shall be based on up-stream oil and gas exploration and production, midstream petroleum refineries, and down-stream oil storages, pipeline transmission and distribution networks are managed under one umbrella. Development and implementation of an integrated approach and methodology to address energy issues is the dire need.



**MURREE:** Incharge Road Safety wing Islamabad from National Highways Motorways police Atif Ghafoor Bhatti emphasized on SAFE RIDER SAFE JOURNEY in a seminar conducted at Cadet College Murree. Sector Commander IMDC and Admin officer also addressed the audience. – DNA

## FESCO issues shutdown programme

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has issued shutdown programme for Friday for necessary repair, maintenance and expansion of electricity lines. According to the programme, power supply from Abdur Rehman Megna, Phalahi Wala, MSC Textile, Noor Fatima, MKB, HAR Textile, Rasheed Fabrics, Five Star, Five Star Foods, Ittehad, Kamal Limited, Kamran Textile Mills, Arshad Corporation, Jubilee Mueen Mills, MJ Gohar and Image Textile feeders emanating from 132-KV Chak No.103-RB grid station and all feeders originating from 132-KV RafhanMaiz Products grid station will remain suspended from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. on Friday, June 10, 2022. – APP

## 22 students awarded RS 6.6m of Scholarship

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: On the basis of best performance, students of NWSM has been awarded with merit scholarships. On this occasion Minister Higher Education KP, Mr. Kamran Khan Bangash and Parliamentary secretary for higher education Mrs. Ayesha Bano were guests of honour. A number of students and faculty members participated in the ceremony. Principal NWSM Prof. Dr. Noor ul Iman welcomed the guest and briefed about the outstanding performance of NWSM in the field of medicine. Dr. Noor ul Iman briefed the role of private sector medical universities and their contribution

to the society and nation. He also assured that soon NWSM will be in the top 50 world ranking medical universities. He appreciated the consistent support of Mr. Kamran Khan Bangash. On this occasion Mrs. Ayesha Banosiad that private sector is actually contributing the public sector. She motivated the students of NWSM and appreciated on their outstanding performance. Mr. Kamran Khan Bangash showed his satisfaction with NWSM progress and contribution to the medical field. Mr. Bangash said that institutes like NWSM is flourishing in the public sector. NWSM will not be hung in regulatory processes and assured to

facilitate the institution and students as they are the future of our country, so they will be supported for doing good work. At the end he assured to get a charter for NWSM to come up as a Medical University in future. Ceremony was ended up with scholarship cheques distribution where Maryam yousaf, Mahnoor Zahir, Syed Abdul Haq, Hussain Ahmad, Faizan Sharif, Haider Ali, Sana Zahid and Hasnain Iqbal from 1st year got Merit scholarships. Scholarships for securing positions in professional exams 1st year Received by Kamran Mateen 1st position, Abubakkar Siddique 2nd position and Shehbaz Rahim 3rd Position.



**LAHORE:** A large number of Sikh Yatees arrived in Pakistan through Wagha Border to participate in religious rituals on the occasion of Joor Mela. Sikhs from across the country and abroad poured into Gurdwara Punja Sahib in Hassanabdal, the third holiest site in the Sikh religion, to mark Shaheedi Jor Mela, the 416th death anniversary of the fifth of 11 Sikh gurus, Guru Arjan Dev Ji. – APP

## KMU organize workshop on examination process

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: A workshop regarding the process of examination and MCQs submission was organized by Khyber Medical University (KMU) Peshawar at the conference room of Khyber Girls Medical College Peshawar. This workshop was part of a series of similar workshops aimed at training faculty of the affiliated colleges of basic and clinical

sciences on modular system of examinations. More than fifty faculty members attended the workshop. The facilitator of the workshop was Dr. Sadia Fatima. In the first session a presentation on 'Introduction to the examination process' was conducted, in which the whole process of MCQs collection, submission and entrance into the computers for computerized generation of paper was all made clear to the fac-

ulty. It was also explained to the faculty on how to develop well-structured MCQs, testing appropriate content and on how to improve quality and enter the MCQs on KMU template for proper uploading on to the computer. Dr. Sadia Fatima that the timing of MCQs submission was important for the in time of paper printing and disposal to all the medical colleges. She also briefly explained the OSPE/OSCE concept, difference and its

structure. Questions regarding the options of the MCQs was also addressed. It was explained that five options are ideal even in some cases four options are acceptable. The updated KMU template consisting of theme and objectives were also shared with the faculty. Introduction to the software used for the entry of MCQs and group discussion regarding the improvement of this process was also conducted during the workshop.

## 30 'criminals' including 2 POs held

FAISALABAD: Police Wednesday arrested 30 alleged criminals and recovered drugs and illegal weapons from them during the last 24 hours. According to a spokesperson, police teams nabbed two proclaimed offenders (POs) and 12 drug-pushers and recovered 3.02-kg hashish and 74 litres of liquor from them. The police also held four gamblers and recovered stake money of Rs 2,220 from them. In a crackdown on illegal weapons, the police arrested 12 persons and recovered eight pistols, two guns, one Kalashnikov and a number of bullets from them. – APP

## BWP to help improve labour welfare

FAISALABAD: Country Programme Manager BWP Caroline Bates has said that their organisation will help improve Pakistan's compliance and exhibit its commitment to improve labour welfare in the country. Addressing a consultative session at PTEA on Wednesday, she said that the BWP was being run successfully by the ILO and IFC in eight countries, benefiting 2.5 million workforce, as 1,700 factories and 150 international brands were linked with the programme. – APP

## CM KP for promotion of sports

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has termed the promotion of sports activities in the province as an integral part of his government priorities and said that the provincial government was working under an integrated strategy to provide playgrounds and other allied facilities at district, tehsil and union councils level adding that work on various projects was underway for this purpose. These projects on completion would also be helpful in creating a strong and healthy society by enabling the youth to utilize their capabilities in positive activities.

This he said while chairing a meeting held here on Wednesday to review progress on the project regarding construction of playgrounds at union council level in the province. The forum discussed the various aspects of the project and took a number of decisions with regard to land acquisition mechanism and other related matters to implement this important project. Additional Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Aamjad Ali Khan, Secretary Sports Muhammad Tahir Orakzai, Secretary Planning & Development Shah Mehmood, Director General Sports Khalid Khan and other relevant officials attended the meeting. Briefing about the various aspects of the project, it was informed that this project would be completed by fiscal year 2024-25 at an estimated cost of Rs. 3 billion. Under the project playgrounds of two categories would be constructed at union council level. The playgrounds for which land will have to be acquired would be completed at an estimated cost of Rs. 28 million whereas the playgrounds for which land would not be acquired would be completed at an estimated cost of Rs. 15 million.

## Sale of fertilizers at fixed rates: DC Lodhran

SAQIB MUSHTAQ

LODHRAN: Deputy Commissioner Lodhran Agha Zaheer Abbas conducted a surprise inspection of various fertilizer cell points to check the availability of fertilizer. DC said that the sale of fertilizers at fixed rates and availability at the allotted 38 sale points is being ensured. He said that fertilizer dealers should strictly follow the instructions of

Punjab government. Deputy Commissioner directed the fertilizer dealers to display the fixed price lists in prominent places. Deputy Commissioner listened to the concerns of the farmers present on the spot and directed to ensure the supply of fertilizer. DC said that all possible relief was being provided to the farmers on the direction of Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz. He said

that concrete steps were being taken to make fertilizer available in the district. He said that concrete action against hoarders was also continuing. DC also directed to compile a record of sale of fertilizer at cell points. He said that the fertilizer dealers should enter the complete details of the farmer who bought the fertilizer on the receipt and keep a record of the sale of fertilizer regularly.



**Pakistan Institute of Development Economics**  
QUAID-I-AZAM UNIVERSITY CAMPUS P.O. BOX 1091, ISLAMABAD

**PRE-QUALIFICATION  
TENDER NOTICE No.GS/T/06 /2022**

The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) is a degree awarding specialized Institution in teaching and research in Economics and related Social Sciences working under the administrative control of Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Government of Pakistan.

Sealed tenders are invited from the reputed Firms/Contractors having offices/sets up at Islamabad/Rawalpindi for the provision/supply of following categories as/when required:

Details
<b>Tender Items for Open Framework:</b>
(Bidders shall submit their proposal sealed in single envelop)
<b>CATEGORY-1</b>
a) Furniture & Fixtures (wood works and steel furniture etc.)
<b>CATEGORY-2</b>
a) Restaurant, caterer/ event management firms, food items suppliers
<b>CATEGORY-3</b>
a) Hiring of Air travel services for the booking of Domestic/ International flights

A complete Tender document containing scope of work, ToRs and evaluation criteria along with details of items for Category- 1, 2 & 3 are available online at PIDE website <http://www.pide.org.pk> which can be downloaded.

The same is uploaded at PPRA website [www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk). Interested firms/bidders are required to submit their bids and proposals along-with tender document fee Rs. 1,000/- (non-refundable) in the shape of pay order/DD in favor of PIDE, Islamabad.

Interested firms/bidders are required to submit their proposals on or before June24, 2022 by 10:30AM. The technical proposal shall be opened on the same day at 11:00 PM in the office of the Registrar, PIDE in the presence of vendors/firms. The Institute reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offers/quotations as per PPRA rules.

**(Dr. Nasir Iqbal)**  
Acting Registrar, PIDE  
Quaid-i-Azam University Campus,  
Islamabad Telle # 9248051,051-9248089

PID (I) No.8652/21

## Graduation ceremony held at PAF Finishing School Islamabad



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Graduation Ceremony of the 51st batch of PAF Finishing School was held at the Officers' Mess, PAF Complex Islamabad. Begum Amina Meraj was the chief guest on the occasion. The chief guest awarded certificates to the graduating students. Begum Amina Meraj congratulated the students on successful completion of their personality development programme. She also praised the standards of training at the institution and lauded the efforts of the faculty members in grooming the womenfolk of

our society. Earlier, Director Finishing School Ms. Zeba Shaukat presented a report highlighting the main aspects of the training which are aimed at transforming young girls into useful members of society. Established in July 1996, PAF Finishing School is the first of its kind in Asia, offering various courses in communication skills, languages, management, art of self-presentation, domestic science, general culture, cuisine, protocol, art, child care, introduction to psychology and spiritual enrichment. The school is an initiative of PAFWA for the grooming of young girls and the promotion of education in the country.

## Islamabad POST Available in following cities

**ISLAMABAD**  
Qamar News Agency  
03105460372

**RAWALPINDI**  
Asim News Agency  
03435802610

**KARACHI**  
Nazir Siyal  
03337554016

**PESHAWAR**  
Zarbagh News Agency  
03005412069

**FAISALABAD**  
Ishfaq Mughal  
03007689850

**GUJRAT**  
M. Yoosuf Bhutta  
03338436820

**JHELUM**  
Iqrash News Agency  
03005412069

**KHARIAN**  
Ijaz News Agency  
03068863870

**LALAMUSA**  
Gulzar Ahmed Noshi  
03359494788

**SARA-I-ALMAGIR**  
0300 5428178

## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### JUNE

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



### Hotels & Restaurants

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



### Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
-----------------------	---------



### Emergency

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



### Enquiry

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



### Hospitals

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



### Departments

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

### Islamabad Metropolitan

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

### Water Tank

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

# Coalition govt to announce a balanced budget: Shazia

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri on Wednesday said the people friendly coalition government was all set to announce a balanced budget keeping eye on all the economic indicators and taking all the stakeholders on board.

"Pakistan People's Party believes in the people friendly policies and has advocated its stance of giving maximum possible relief to the masses in the upcoming budget," she said while talking to media at One Window Center, G-7. The federal minister said "The country is witnessing a complex economic situation due to the ineffective policies of the previous government which claimed to provide one million jobs, construct five million houses, not to take loan from IMF and raise tax." Contrary to this, the country witnessed record inflation during the last four years and the former Prime Minister took a large amount of loan from IMF which has no precedent in the last 70 years. She said "The former Prime Minister, who is saying the country will ruin, if he will not

come into power, is unable to tell the masses about his four year performance." "When he loses power, he starts commenting on nuclear asset of Pakistan to hide his own failures", she added.

Why didn't Imran Khan take all political parties and the parliament into confidence before signing the IMF dangerous loan conditions? she questioned. "No matter how much Imran Khan abuses; his performance will be questioned by the same media whose freedom was curbed during his tenure.

Media plays a role of a strong pillar of society and the downfall of any ruler starts when he silences the voice of media", she observed. The previous government claiming to provide jobs and houses to the masses snatched these rather misguided them in the name of foreign

conspiracy. "The sigh of poor masses expelled the former Prime Minister from power", she said. She said that the statements given by the selected former Prime Minister reflect his unpatriotic behavior.

"Imran Khan who is addicted of five carat diamond, VIP culture and enjoying travelling through helicopter misusing the resources of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government cannot mention even a single achievement of his tenure", she asked.

The people of Pakistan have suffered from terrorism and worst economic situations but raised the slogan of "Pakistan Zindabad". Shazia Marri said that the present government has taken the difficult decision of increasing petrol prices in wake of prevailing economic crisis owing to the ineffective policies of the previous government.

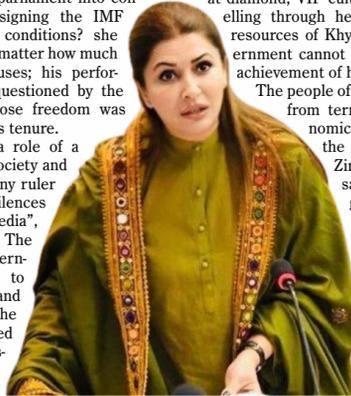
The relief package worth Rs. 28 billion

has been approved to benefit a total of 14 million people including eight million existing BISP beneficiaries and another six million, having less than Rs. 40,000 monthly income, to be identified through the National Socio Economic Registry (NSER).

She urged the media to educate masses about the procedure of applying for the financial assistance of Rs. 2000 by sending their CNIC to the '786' SMS service.

Responding to a question, the federal minister said that the government realizes that the amount to be given under the relief package will not resolve all the issues of people but atleast help reduce their burden to some extent. More targeted subsidies to provide relief to poor will be announced in future, she assures. The BISP initiatives including Waseela-i-Haq and Waseela-i-Rozgar that were closed by the previous government would be revived that aimed at making the people self-reliant, she said.

To another question, she said that the former Prime Minister has given amnesty to the upper class and ignored the disadvantaged segments of society however the present government is focusing on providing maximum relief to the poor people.

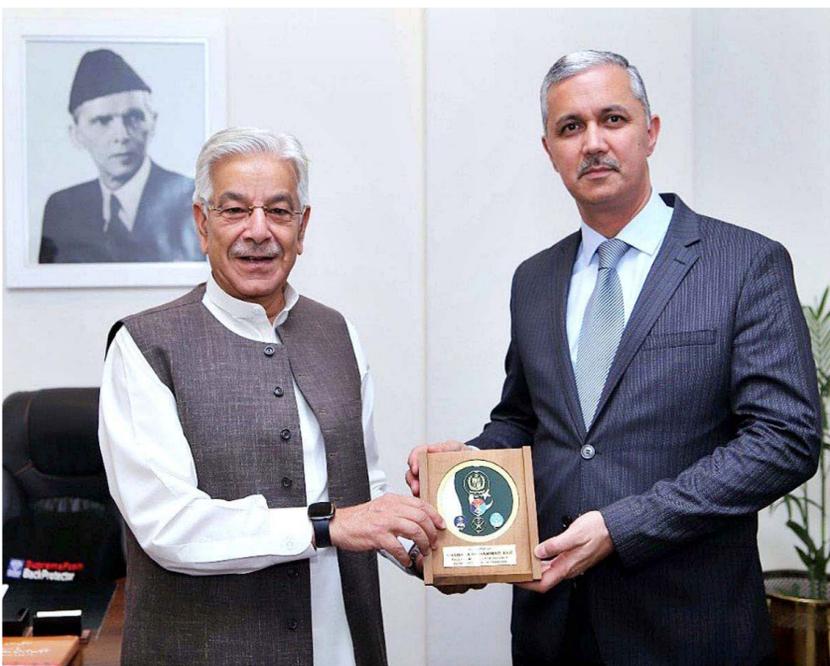


## ICCI wants incentives for investors, exporters

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The net foreign exchange reserves with the State Bank of Pakistan have now tumbled to below USD 10 billion, which are not enough to pay for even two months imports and the best way to improve foreign reserves is to promote foreign direct investment and boost exports. Therefore, the government should offer some special incentives in the upcoming budget to the exporters and foreign investors to boost exports and attract maximum FDI to the country. This was said by Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, Acting President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry during a meeting with a delegation of the business community. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh said that Bangladesh's exports have crossed USD 43 billion during July-April 2021-22 showing an increase of over 35 percent compared to the same period of last year. However, Pakistan's overall exports during July-March 2021-22 were just over USD 28 billion while our total imports during the same period shot up to over USD 62 billion. ICCI Acting President said that Pakistan's overall exports as a percentage of GDP have also been show-

ing a falling trend for the last many years as they have come down from over 13 percent of GDP in 2013 to around 10 percent of GDP in 2020 while the global average was over 30 percent of GDP in 2013 and over 26 percent of GDP in 2020. This means that no serious efforts have been made to boost Pakistan's exports for the last many years due to which our economy is now facing multiple challenges. He said Finance Minister Miftah Ismail has himself stated that the country's 80 percent manufacturing was meant for local consumption and only 20 percent was for exports, which showed that Pakistan's export volume is very low compared to other countries. He stressed that the government should fully cooperate with the private sector in the value addition of products and provide maximum support to the exporters in identifying new markets in order to boost exports. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh said that the total FDI in Pakistan has also fallen by over 57 percent during the first 10 months of the current financial year (July-April) as it has come down from USD 3.6 billion to USD 1.5 billion during this period, which is not a good sign.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Defense Khawaja Asif presenting a souvenir to Ismatullo Nasredin, Ambassador of Tajikistan. – DNA

## ISSI holds media workshop on security

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) and Press Information Department (PID) jointly organized a two-day Media Workshop on June 7-8, 2022. The theme of the event was "Media Reporting on National Security Issues." China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the ISSI hosted the event, while Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC, moderated the workshop. Participants included beat reporters and senior journalists. Guest speakers were directors of centers of excellence at the Institute, Mr Amir Ziasenior analyst, and Mr Amir Jehangir, communications expert. In the inaugural session, Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC, in his welcome remarks, said that the concept of national security has evolved from military centric to comprehensive security which involves economic security, human security and military security. It is our national responsibility

to protect and evolve our national security policy. While Mr. Arshad Munir, Joint Secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in his opening remarks, appreciated the efforts of ISSI and PID for organisation of this event. He emphasizes on the concept of national security and role of media to advocate it at national and international level.

The speakers of the day 1 included Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC, Ms Amina Khan, Director Centre for Afghanistan Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) and Ms. Neelum Nigar, Director Centre for Strategic Perspective (CSP). The speakers of the day 2 included Dr. Arshad Ali, Director India Study Centre (ISC), Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC), Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG, ISSI, and Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG ISSI.

Dr. Talat Shabbir focused on "Regional and Global Imperatives of Pakistan China relations." He said that the post WWII Eurocentric world

order is rapidly eroding - New centres of power emerging across the world. The hard earned virtue of globalisation and multilateralism is being challenged by protectionism, isolationism and unilateralism.

Ms. Amina Khan, focused on the theme of "Evolving Situation in Afghanistan." She said, Afghanistan is on the brink of collapse. The national resistance front has not been able to gain popular support and pose serious threat to the Taliban regime. The real threat is emanating from within Afghanistan such as rise of transnational terrorist organisations, staggering economic situation and humanitarian crises. The real test of Taliban has just begun. Taliban can deliver on basic issues if necessary support is given by international community.

Dr. Neelum Nigar, focusing on "Reporting on Economic Issues" said in the state of economic journalism, the basic discourse of economy is missing in the mainstream media of Pakistan due to political polarisation.



ISLAMABAD: Hamad Obaid Alzaabi, the UAE Ambassador in Islamabad, meets Miftah Ismail, Minister of Finance and Revenues of Pakistan, and discusses matters of mutual interest and ways to enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries. – DNA

## Economic Survey 2021-22 to be unveiled today

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The federal government will launch the pre-budget document, Economic Survey of Pakistan 2021-22 on Thursday showing a robust GDP growth rate of 5.97 percent, with higher Current Account Deficit of over \$13.7 billion, and a mixed trend of performance by the key macro economic indicators during the year. The Survey is scheduled to be shared with media at a press conference here during which an overview of the economic progress made in recent years in Pakistan would also be provided, official sources said. The Survey would highlight the main features

of the policies undertaken by the present government, which are focused on bringing macro-economic stability and putting the economy on growth trajectory.

The survey would cover the development of all the important sectors of economy, including growth and investment, agriculture, manufacturing, mining, fiscal development, money and credit, capital markets, inflation, debt and liabilities. Most of the targets set for the outgoing fiscal year 2021-22 seemed to be achieved or even surpassed the previous years' targets, as the macro economic indicators have showed good performance during the year.

## NA okays PMDC Bill-2022

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Wednesday passed the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council Bill-2022, aimed at reforming the PMDC to make it a democratic, independent and powerful body for producing professional doctors to serve the country. The bill, moved by Dr Mahreen Razak Bhutto and Syed Agha Rafiullah, was passed after clause by clause reading with a majority vote.

According to the statement of objects and reasons of the legislation, membership of the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) had been given mostly to non-medical professionals and irrelevant people making policies for medical and dental professionals. "One could imagine that if law-making and judicial policies making tasks are assigned to the medical and dental or other irrelevant professionals what would be the outcome?" The statement said there were more than 150 medical colleges and dental schools in the country that produced more than 12,800 doctors and 2,100 dental surgeons every year. "Our disease pattern is different from the USA (United States of America) and the UK (United Kingdom), and our cultural and social behaviour demands a different kind of attention."

It said majority of the country's population lived in an unhealthy and toxic environment as the rural areas and massive city slums were without clean water or sewerage system. The PMC Act-2022, it said, was not well thought-out and would not be acceptable. "It is time to restore PMDC with reforms to make it a democratic, independent and powerful body that can produce professional doctors who can work for the country." – APP

## NEPRA fixes tariff by Rs 24.82 per unit for fy 22-23

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has fixed the electricity tariff at Rs24.82 per unit for the fiscal year of 2022-23 after a massive hike of Rs7.91 per unit. With the new hike, the one-unit price of electrifying has gone up from Rs16.91 to Rs24.82. The depreciation of the rupee and rising oil prices in the international market have been cited as reasons for the electricity tariff hike. According to the statement, Nepra has fixed the national average tariff for the financial year 2022-23 at Rs24.82 per unit, which is Rs7.91 per unit higher than the previous average tariff.

The NEPRA in its press release said that the estimated cost of capacity cost including NTDC and HVDC is Rs1366 billion. Earlier, K-Electric, the sole power utility in Karachi, submitted a request to the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) seeking another hike of Rs4.86 in tariff under fuel adjustment charges.

## Chakri along adjoining area searched during operation

RAWALPINDI: The police on special directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari launched a search operation in Chakri and adjoining areas in the jurisdiction of Dharmyal police station, said a police spokesman. He informed that heavy police contingent, Elite Force, Special Branch personnel and Ladies police along with officials of Dharmyal police conducted search operations in and around Chakri. According to spokesman, the search operations to net criminals and proclaimed offenders were regularly being conducted under National Action Plan in different areas of the district particularly to ensure law and order. – APP

## Briefs

**ANF seizes 3546.783 kg drugs; arrests 44 in 56 operations**

RAWALPINDI: Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan has seized 3546.783 kg drugs, 200 Liters Acetic Anhydride Chemical, 18.830 kg suspected material & 2035 kg poppy seed worth US\$ 773.421 million internationally, arrested 44 persons including a woman and impounded 17 vehicles while conducting 56 counter narcotics operations throughout the country. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, the seized drugs comprised 474.625 kg Heroin, 724.652 kg Hashish, 1498.130 kg Opium, 0.670 kg Amphetamine, 176.404 kg Methamphetamine (Ice), 672 kg Morphine, and 0.302 kg weed. ANF Balochistan recovered 2825.25 kg drugs, 200 liters acetic anhydride chemical, 1.150 kg suspected material & 2035 kg poppy seed in 10 operations while arrested two accused persons and seized two vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 418.030 kg Heroin, 106 kg Hashish, 1465 kg Opium, 0.020 kg Amphetamine, 164.200 kg Methamphetamine (Ice) and 672 kg Morphine. ANF Punjab recovered 79.963 kg drugs in eight operations while arrested three accused persons in drug smuggling and seized three vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 7.830 kg Heroin, 69.9 kg Hashish, 1.280 kg Opium & 0.953 kg Methamphetamine (Ice). ANF KPK recovered 184.785 kg drugs in seven operations while arrested four persons in trafficking of narcotics. The seized drugs comprised 2.400 kg Heroin, 180.400 kg Hashish and 1.985 kg Methamphetamine (Ice). ANF Sindh recovered 274.946 kg drugs & 17.08 kg suspected material in 16 operations while arrested 16 accused persons in drug smuggling and seized four vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 8.770 kg Heroin, 260.690 kg Hashish, 3 kg Opium & 2.486 kg Methamphetamine (Ice). — APP

**Pakistan, Tajikistan face similar challenges**

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan Ismatullo Nasredin Wednesday called on Defence Minister, Khawaja Muhammad Asif where the Minister highlighted that being neighbors of Afghanistan, both Pakistan and Tajikistan were facing similar security challenges and threats. The Defence Minister expressed best wishes for the military and civil leadership of Tajikistan, and its people adding said Pakistan believed in peaceful resolution of all issues and appreciates the efforts of Tajikistan in promoting peace and stability in the region, said a news release. Minister for Defence proposed friendly sports competitions between the Armed Forces and display of military band on reciprocal basis on special occasions of both countries. During the meeting, matters related to bilateral defence cooperation, besides exploring new avenues of enhancement in defence cooperation, were discussed. Tajik Ambassador assured his government's commitment and pledged to work with Pakistan to strengthen their bilateral ties. — APP

**Asad, Faisal given interim bails**

ISLAMABAD: The lower courts of Islamabad Wednesday granted interim bails to Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI)'s leaders Asad Umar and Faisal Javed in FIRs pertaining vandalizing the public property during their long march. Additional District & Session Judge, Ahmed Arshad Jasra granted bail to Asad Umar against surety bonds worth Rs5,000 and sought case record from Koral Police Station. Meanwhile, Additional District & Session Judge granted pre-arrest bails to Asad Umar and Faisal Javed against surety bonds worth Rs5,000 each. The court also sought case record from the Kohsar Police Station. — APP

# Kazakh, Turkmen envoys call on communications minister

Expressing deep sense of gratitude, the Ambassador of Kazakhstan Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin said, in recent past an international gathering was arranged in Kazakhstan on philosophy and services of Dr. Muhammad Iqbal poet of the east



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan in Pakistan Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin called on Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Mr. Asad Mahmood here today. Senior officers from Ministry of Communications and National Highway Authority were also present.

Taking to the visiting guest, Mr. Asad Mahmood said, Pakistan and Kazakhstan are bound in age old cultural and religious values and the time is to revive this relationship as per requirement of the existing conditions. To this effect, people to people contacts and exchange of delegations may pave the way to bring both the brotherly countries more closer. He said, there are

vast opportunities of working together in construction sector. To achieve the targets in the prevailing environment, coordinated planning on bilateral, regional and global level is dire need of the time. He said, landlocked republics will avail access to rest of the world through development of Gwadar Port which will bring about socio-economic uplift in the whole region, Mr. Asad Mahmood added. Expressing deep sense of gratitude, the Ambassador of Kazakhstan Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin said, in recent past an international gathering was arranged in Kazakhstan on philosophy and services of Dr. Muhammad Iqbal poet of the east. Besides an international trade conference was also arranged participated by more than 120 international traders including Turkey, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. He

said, Kazakhstan takes interest in developing close relationship with Pakistan in various economic sectors. The visiting ambassador desired to enhance the trade volume by one billion dollar with Pakistan.

Later Ambassador of Turkmenistan based in Pakistan Mr. Atadjan Movlamov also called on Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Mr. Asad Mahmood. Welcoming the honourable guest, Mr. Asad Mahmood said, great potential exists between Pakistan and Turkmenistan to expand range of bilateral relations. He termed Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-Iran (TAPI) Gas Pipeline project a big move to overcome energy crisis.

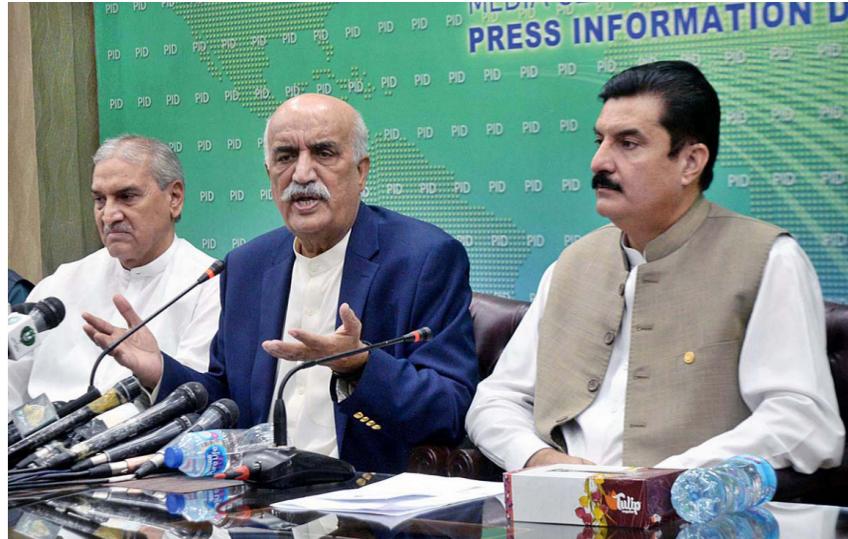
He recalled that fibre optic project is another example of brotherly relationship between the two countries. He said, Pa-

kistan possesses extra ordinary ideal location on world map and that all possible measures will be taken to have maximum benefits from this location. Mr. Asad Mahmood also desired to nominate focal persons and working groups to explore areas of mutual interests. Speaking about the shared values Mr. Asad Mahmood pointed out about 500 joints words which are used in Urdu and Turkmen languages. On this occasion Mr. Atadjan Movlamov said, work on a Transit Trade Agreement is underway to prepare the ground for extending range of cooperation between the two countries and that Afghanistan will also be benefitted from this agreement. He said, deep rooted shared cultural ties will cement bilateral relationship in the coming years between the two countries, he hoped.

## More Chinese investment expected in Pakistan soon: Minister

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said on that more Chinese investment was expected in Pakistan soon, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro. He mentioned that during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to Balochistan and his meeting with Chinese investors, the Chinese companies had shown interest in investments in Gwadar. The minister reiterated that the government was according to topmost priority to speeding up work on projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Briefing the journalists on different projects approved by Central Development Working Party (CDWP), he informed that a power project at Diamer Bhasha dam worth Pakistani Rs900 billion had also been approved. Iqbal remarked that work on water supply scheme in Gwadar will be completed by September this year while the 1.2 million gallon per day de-salination plant work will be completed by October to solve water issue in Gwadar. He elaborated that 65 percent funding of the project will be made by the federal government while 35 percent will be borne by the provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He underlined that the new Gwadar International airport will also be completed by March next year.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Water Resources Syed Kursheed Ahmad Shah along with PPP Information Secretary Faisal Kareem Kundi addressing a press conference at Press Information Department. —DNA

## Alibaba Group's Daraz wins prestigious gender diversity award

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's biggest online marketplace Daraz PK came out as the winner of the 'Employer of Choice for Gender Diversity Awards', Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday quoting an announcement of International Finance Corp. (IFC). The Awards were jointly organized by IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, and Pakistan Business Council (PBC) with an aim to improve economic opportunities for women. The second and third places were awarded to the K-Electric and Engro Fertilizers Ltd, respectively, while seven companies received honourable mention awards, IFC said in a statement sent to Gwadar Pro. South Asia's leading online retailer Daraz PK was acquired by Alibaba Group in 2018. The Pakistan-based Daraz Group operates online marketplaces in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Nepal as well. According to IFC, the awards celebrate private-sector employers in the country committed to empowering women in the workplace. Companies are judged on five key gender principles i.e. promoting gender

equality at leadership and policy level, ensuring a diverse workforce, eliminating gender pay gaps, creating an optimal workplace culture and providing coaching and mentoring for women employees. The awards aim to recognize firms that have not only implemented strong gender diversity policies, but also communicate them in annual reports, websites, or through social media to encourage others to do the same, it added. Daraz PK received the highest score using the scorecard developed by IFC and Pakistan Business Council, the statement said. Ehsan Malik, CEO of Pakistan Business Council, congratulated Daraz PK on winning the award for their commitment to gender-equal workplaces. "Public information on gender-related policies is increasingly important for investors, potential employees and other stakeholders when evaluating companies," said Zeeshan Sheikh, IFC's Country Manager for Pakistan and Afghanistan. "We have been working closely with Pakistan Business Council to help firms implement gender diversity policies and targets and disclose this information to affirm their commitment.

## CDA retrieves 350 kanal state land

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) on Wednesday conducted an anti-encroachment operation in Sector E-12/2 and retrieved 350 kanals of government land. The officers of relevant departments including director general land, enforcement, deputy commissioner CDA and officials of district administration were also present during the operation. Later, the relinquished land was handed over to the department concerned to expedite the development work. It may be noted that after the acquisition of land, it would pave the way to carry out other development works at the sector. The CDA management had earlier allotted residential plots to the affectees of E-12 in exchange for land and housing.

## ASA general body meeting held at AIOU

ISLAMABAD: First General Body meeting of the newly elected Academic Staff Association (ASA) of Allama Iqbal Open University was held yesterday. VC, AIOU Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum was the chief guest. Faculty members, Registrar, Raja Umar Younis and Principal Officers were also present. Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum said that the interests of AIOU are of paramount importance and we will work together for its development. He said that all the steps regarding new hiring have been taken following the rules and regulations of the university. Faculty members have been provided with a conducive environment for teaching and learning due to which 29 faculty members have completed their PhD in the last three years and they deserve appreciation for this achievement.

President, ASA, Dr. Shah Moinuddin Hashmi said that all the recent steps taken for the development of the university and welfare of employees including digitalisation are commendable. He pointed out several points for the professional development and well-being of faculty members and also requested the Vice-Chancellor to advertise vacancies in various departments of the university. Provision of ICT assistants to reduce the workload of faculty members, payment of PhD allowance from the date of degree notification and other issues were also highlighted. At the beginning of the meeting, a collective prayer was offered for the relatives of the faculty members who have passed away since Covid 19. Moreover, shields were presented to those 29 faculty members who completed their PhD in the last 3 years. — DNA

## Climate Change Ministry identifies forest risk areas

Sherry said the video was shared to media men for spreading the word with the nation and masses to take responsibility for protecting environment as masses and policy makers had to work hand in hand

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Wednesday said the Ministry of Climate Change's task force has identified forest risk areas to ensure strict vigilance and monitoring of high risk regions and directed the provinces to replicate the system rolled out during the meeting. Addressing a media briefing here flanked by Additional Secretary MoCC Jodati Ayaz and IG Forest MoCC Raja Mohammad Omar, she said the task force report on forest risk areas identified was shared with the prime minister. She said, "Every province will have to mark low to high risk areas for strategic deployment of resources to contain ravaging forest fires." The Minister added that every province would have to mark low to high risk areas for strategic

deployment of resources during forest fires where the high risk areas to be monitored daily and Balochistan was especially appraised on the process. The relevant forest departments of the provinces would form vigilance teams to be formed as per the directions of the ministry, she said, adding, latest drones would be used for vigilance of high risk areas. Earlier, a video of federal Minister highlighting environmental degradation impacts and challenges faced by the country including pollution, global warming and degradation of natural resources was showed to media men prior to media briefing. Senator Sherry Rehman said the video was shared to media men for spreading the word with the nation and masses to take responsibility for protecting environment



as masses and policy makers had to work hand in hand. "It's the matter of responsibility and a journey of conservation where media is a tool of communication and an effective source of public mobilization. No region can change its shape without bringing

change among it's people", she said. She said the world in general was facing environmental degradation and Pakistan in particular. "We (MoCC) created a task force at the ministry and did stock taking of forest fires and Indus river that feeds 90% of our agriculture," she informed. She added that it was a long process for conservation of Indus River and the project concept was shared with the provinces for their feedback and input. Without provinces participation the issue could become a serious problem, she underlined. "Not only in Margalla there are repeated fires it almost in all other areas like Murree, Kahuta and yesterday it occurred near NUST and also in other areas. Despite extinguishing efforts forest fires have become a nuisance for us", she added. She informed that

three fires were again reported in Margalla hills, where two of them were contained and one was to be put out as fire fighting operation was underway. "I request the masses to remove garbage and dry twigs that become source of forest fire during searing heat. Fire in Sherani forests kept blazing for ten days and we had to call a tanker aircraft from Iran to extinguish it", she said. She also appreciated the fire fighters who were facing serious fires with limited equipment and resources in very hard terrain areas. "We will have to tribute and salute the fire fighters for their efforts," she added. She also thanked the IWMB fire fighters, and Capital Development Authority (CDA) control room that helped reduce damage of life and property during repeated forest fires. — APP

## CCP conducts search & inspection of three undertakings

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As part of an ongoing investigation into the prima facie violations of Section 4 of the Competition Act 2010, the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) today carried out search and inspection of the offices of three companies (undertakings) based in Lahore, engaged in the supply of steel structures to DISCOS across Pakistan, on the suspicion of facilitating a possible bid-rigging/cartelisation in the procurement of steel structures by various power distribution companies (DISCOs).

Three different teams of duly authorized officers of the CCP entered and searched the premises of the respective undertakings and seized pertinent information. The search and inspections were carried out under Section 34 of the Act during which the office of the undertakings fully cooperated with the CCP's search teams by handing over the documents and computer-stored information relating to the suspected role of the respective undertakings in the alleged anti-competitive activities.

During the investigation, the enquiry committee analyzed the five years (2015 – 2020) tender documents provided by the DISCOs which revealed that only a few companies participated in the bidding process of steel structures floated by DISCOs apparently in a collusive manner which may constitute prima facie contravention of Section 4(2) (e) of the Act.

## LHC upholds death sentence of two

RAWALPINDI: The Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi bench on Wednesday upheld the death sentence awarded by a lower court in a blasphemy case to the convicts. A division bench comprising Justice Raja Shahid Mehmood Abbasi and Justice Muhammad Tariq Nadeem, while rejecting the appeals of Qaisar Ayub and Amun Ayub, upheld the lower court's decision on the publication of blasphemous material on social media.

According to details, both convicts had been sentenced to death by a lower court against which the convicts had filed an appeal in the High Court Rawalpindi Bench. The division bench had reserved its judgment on March 3, 2022, after hearing the appeals announced today. It is to be noted that case No. 105/11, dated June 9, 2011, was registered in City Talagang Police Station against the accused of publishing blasphemous material on social media. The death sentence was handed down in 2018. — APP

## M Tanveer assumes charge as MD WASA

RAWALPINDI: Newly appointed Managing Director (MD), Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Rawalpindi, Muhammad Tanveer on Wednesday took over the charge of his post. Mohammad Tanveer has previously served as the MD WASA Lahore, DMD WASA Lahore as well as MD, WASA Rawalpindi. After taking over charge of his post, he directed the authorities concerned of WASA Rwp to work hard for the supply of water to the citizens and remain in constant contact with the IESCO authorities regarding power load shedding so that water supply to the citizens could be managed properly. Repair work of the faulty tube wells should be completed on a war footing and in case of malfunction, water should be supplied to the affected areas through water bowsters, he added. He also visited different city areas and inspected the ongoing dredging and desilting work of Nullah Lai and instructed the authorities to expedite the pace of work. The newly appointed MD also inspected the machinery to be used during the monsoon season and inspected various tube wells. — APP

## Boris Johnson: a dead man walking

Awakened Boris Johnson probably suits the majority of MPs at Westminster. Unfortunately for the Conservative party, those with the most to gain sit on the benches opposite. Few voters know exactly what Labour and the Liberal Democrats stand for, but both parties think that many more Tory seats will be vulnerable at the next general election if Mr Johnson remains in post. This is a reasonable belief. The government is out of ideas and exhausted. Tory despair is compounded by Mr Johnson presiding over an openly divided party.

On Monday night, more than four out of 10 of his colleagues said that Mr Johnson should go. That rebels could be found from all wings of the party, rather than in one organised faction, is an indication of how far the rot has spread. Conservative MPs would no doubt keep Mr Johnson if he helped them keep their jobs. The trouble is that opinion polls show that Mr Johnson is neither popular nor trusted – even among Tory voters. The governing party is right to fear electoral retribution, one likely to materialise this month in two by-elections where scandal-hit Tory MPs stepped down.

With such backbench resentment, it is hard to see how Mr Johnson will get the 38 bills in his Queen's speech through parliament. The prime minister has been unable to convince the public that he has the answers to household incomes being squeezed by inflation and public services being stretched to breaking point post-pandemic. His rhetoric of ready fixes and easy wheezes might have been funny once, but no one is laughing in a crisis. Voters won't believe a prime minister who has repeatedly failed to tell the truth about Downing Street's pandemic partying.

Conservative MPs might fret about the absence of anyone suitable to succeed Mr Johnson. The cabinet lacks the courage to tell him to go. But the prime minister is a dead man walking. He survives because no one wants to be responsible for finishing him off. This is only delaying the inevitable. The betting is that the Tory leadership rules will be changed to allow the prime minister to face another challenge sooner than next June.

The country needs new leadership, one that can produce policies, not just play to the gallery. Mr Johnson is comfortable with lying in politics. Despite agreeing on a customs border in the Irish Sea to get Brexit done, he now improbably claims he did not. Mr Johnson was never fit to be prime minister. He has not been able to face up to the difficult choices ahead. Britain should be led by someone who can.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti  
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 02 Issue: 332

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



## Troubling sign of US allies' risk-laden acts

Canada and Australia, both allies of the United States, are clearly birds of a feather. Both have taken turns lately to smear China by accusing Chinese fighter aircraft of putting lives at risk by intercepting their military aircraft. To justify their groundless accusations, both have deliberately played down the locations of where the encounters happened, never mind admitting what their militaries were really up to. Perhaps even Ottawa and Canberra may feel embarrassed to admit the truth, which is their surveillance aircraft were poking their noses around China's territorial waters. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who has twice complained about Canadian patrol planes in the East China Sea being buzzed by Chinese fighter jets in recent days, claims the Canadian surveillance was to monitor the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's compliance with sanctions. Yet as a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said, the United Nations Security Council has never green-lighted any country carrying out military surveillance in the seas and airspace of other countries in the name of enforcing sanctions. As for the similar close encounters between Chinese and Australian planes, the responsibility for any mishap would lie on the Australian side: On May 26, contrary to the disingenuous claims of Canberra that the plane was engaged in "routine maritime surveillance activity" in international airspace, an Australian P-8 anti-submarine patrol aircraft repeatedly approached the Chinese airspace around the Xisha Islands in the South China Sea for close-in reconnaissance despite repeated warnings from the Chinese military. The People's Liberation Army's Southern Theater Command mobilized naval and air forces to identify it and warn it off. Such activities have indeed become routine, and China has good reason to ask what Canadian and Australian military craft are doing on its periphery so often. Such dangerous encounters would not happen if the Canadian and Australian militaries did not provocatively and irresponsibly come to ferret around China's periphery. It is extremely troubling that the two US allies in their enthusiasm to curry favor with Washington have heightened the frequency with which they engage in such risk-laden acts of snooping. The shamelessness of their hypocritical cries of foul play is only bettered by the recent bleating of Canberra at the sighting of Chinese naval vessels sailing through international waters off the Australian coast. Should China choose to conduct so-called freedom of navigation operations near the territorial waters of the US and its allies, it is not hard to imagine the uproar that would ensue.

## The India-Gulf Spat: Protagonists in glass houses

James M. Dorsey

India is a Gulf investment target, while the sub-continent views the Gulf as an essential trading and energy partner. Qatar supplies almost 40 per cent of India's gas requirement. In addition, some 6.5 to 8 million Indian nationals live in the Gulf and account for roughly 25 per cent of Qatar's population

Qatar Airways CEO Akbar Al-Baqr, a man known for his pithy retorts, pretended to quiver in his pants. Hindu nationalists had called for a boycott of the Gulf airline after Qatar took India to task for derogatory remarks about the Prophet Mohammed and Muslim worship by two spokespeople of the country's ruling party. In an apparent spoof, Mr. Al Baqr told an Al Jazeera journalist how the call for the boycott by a young, obscure Hindu nationalist with the Twitter handle Vashudev had forced him on Monday to abruptly leave an important aviation conference in Cancun, Mexico, and return home to deal with the crisis. "Habibi (my friend), I cancelled all my meetings and immediately flew to Qatar because our biggest shareholder decided to boycott our airline from his headquarters...in a terrace office house. He was having a power cut in his neighbourhood at the time that he made that devastating video. I don't know

habibi? How will our multi-billion-dollar airline survive? So, Vashudev, once you come back from the railway track, please consider our offer," Mr. Al-Baqr went on to say. Mr. Al Baqr's mockery was the latest in a war of words on social media and widespread condemnation across the Muslim world. In response, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Hindu nationalist party, Bharatiya Janata Party or BJP, sought to calm tensions by suspending and then expelling the spokespeople responsible for the derogatory remarks. The BJP further instructed its communications officials not to criticize other faiths or their symbols and religious figures. The criticism of the BJP was long overdue. The party stands accused of marginalizing and discriminating against India's 200 million Muslims, the world's largest Muslim minority that accounts for approximately 14

per cent of the country's population. Qatar's Assistant Foreign Minister Lohwah Al Khater appeared to recognise this when she tweeted that "the Islamophobic discourse has reached dangerous levels in a country long known for its diversity & co-existence. Unless officially & systemically confronted, the systemic hate speech targeting Islam in India will be considered a deliberate insult against the 2 billion Muslims." The sharp condemnations by Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, the 57-nation Islamic Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (IOC), and others added to the war of words. The United Arab Emirates' foreign ministry said the BJP officials' comments were "contrary to moral and humanitarian values and principles." It insisted on the "need for respecting religious symbols... and countering hate speech." Calling for a boycott of Indian goods, Oman's grand mufti, Ahmad bin Hamad al-Khalili denounced "the insolent and obscene rudeness of the official spokesman for the ruling extremist party in India." Many on social media echoed the boycott call under the hashtag #AnyoneButTheProphetOModi. The problem for Muslim states is that they should have long taken a stand against the Islamophobia of Mr. Modi's Hindutva version of Hindu nationalism but preferred not to do so for economic and strategic reasons. India is a Gulf investment target, while the sub-continent views the Gulf as an essential trading and energy partner. Qatar supplies almost 40 per cent of India's gas requirement. In addition, some 6.5 to 8 million Indian nationals live in the Gulf and account for roughly 25 per cent of Qatar's population. The spat with India puts the Muslim world in the same boat that the United States and Europe find themselves. As much as anything else, the Ukraine war has in recent months highlighted European

and American double standards in adhering to the lofty principles of human and refugee rights as well as international law. Gulf states saw a double standard in differences in US and European commitment to Ukraine's defense compared to Gulf security. The Gulf and beyond also noted differences in attitudes towards and the welcoming of 'white' Ukrainians as opposed to non-white refugees from wars in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan and repression in countries like Eritrea and Ethiopia. The Ukraine war hinges US and European credibility and claims to a moral high ground to countering accusations of double standards and hypocrisy by applying values and principles universally rather than selectively. However, the shoe is on the other foot when it comes to the brutal repression by China of Turkic Muslims in the north-eastern region of Xinjiang. For opportunistic geopolitical reasons, the United States, Europe, and some of their partners and allies have been outspoken about Chinese policy in Xinjiang and imposed relevant sanctions. Virtually no Muslim partner of the US and Europe has joined the choir. On the contrary, some like Saudi Arabia have gone as far as justifying the repression. They did so to earn brownie points in Beijing and find common ground with China in suppressing domestic dissent and non-violent political Islam under the mum of fighting terrorism. As a result, if the United States and Europe are throwing stones from a glass house, so are Muslim nations when they rightfully take India to task. It's a vulnerability that those eager to distract attention from BJP policies are happy to highlight. Said Indian international relations scholar Monica Verma: Gulf states' "support to China on Uighur Muslims shows their hypocrisy...is unmissable."

## Doing away with ACR's, liberating the Public Sector: An idea

Fida Muhammad Khan

After the selection comes the training process. The Pakistan Civil Service and FPSC prides itself over its training modules for civil servants and ex-cadre officers but it doesn't produce innovators or out of the box thinkers. It doesn't produce problem solvers

In Post-colonial even after 75 years of so-called independence, our minds are still colonized. And a post-colonial mind can never think out of the box and hence it's one of the reason that our system in government sector may it be recruitment, selection, training and working is all flawed, a relic of our colonial legacy and hence needs to change. In order to make public sector efficient, the ACR or PER system need to revisit What is expected of him and what are the goals of the public sector organization, are not things which have anyweightage. What we have is "we only need a job aikachee pakki naukri" which is a euphemism for "I want a well-paid government job, with lifelong security and then pension, I want to be a sarkari afar". So candidates don't apply on the basis of relevance rather on the basis of job security. Most of our government Job seekers have the "Pakki naukri syndrome" (CSP's included). Some federal or provincial commission or autonomous department gives an add. The candidates apply in huge number. The commission has an exam, an interview of 15 minutes and select an officer who will earn life long benefits. This raises the big question that how can you judge someone in 15 to 20 minutes. if someone performs well in those 15 minutes, he or she is then awarded lifelong security of tenure whereinhe/she knows that even if he or she performs badly they cannot be touched.

After the selection comes the training process. The Pakistan Civil Service and FPSC prides itself over its training modules for civil servants and ex-cadre officers but it doesn't produce innovators or out of the box thinkers. It doesn't produce problem solvers. They go into the academy as normal citizens but as soon as they come out they believe that they are somewhat above the normal middle class in the society. So now you have an even worse product, a product created by an age old recruitment and training process and made to fear the seniors because of ACR. After this questionable out dated selection and training new breed emerges, a specie that was not a part of the elite but are now instrumental to elite interests. This new specie is trained to be careful about following orders, and doing all things possible to keep the boss happy coz in the end the boss gives an ACR. This yearly document is also often used by seniors to controls juniors like puppet. This is testimony that civil service can never bring an innovation. The solution to this lies in replacing this out dated recruitment system and reframing replacing it with an innovative system of recruitment and progression.. the system should be applicable to public sector across the country Public sectors employee may it be PSP, PAS or lecturership should not have guarantee permanent job rather there should be a KPI system upon which the officer must be evaluated twice with a gap of 2.5years. In my institution for instance, we have a system differentother public sectorsinstitutions. We grade employees based on the input that they have given in the past six months. A quantitative and qualitative criterion is there for instance an officer has to present two working papers, a knowledge brief and a policy view point. Based on these factors a grade is given low grade doesn't mean termination but the management gives you reason of what was lacking in your performance and how to make up for that. In what directions do you need to work and how to become good team member .

Although the system is now in its infancy but its results are positive. We have been able to maintain a competitive culture where in everyone tries to put up his/her best efforts and perform better. I firmly believe that such a system is the potential cure for many ills of the Government sector in Pakistan. Entire modern Economic Theory is on my back when I say this" people only work right if you give the right incentives, the ACR, PER give perverse incentives and henceis are roots of many evils, while a performance based system has the strength to make things more efficient in the Public sector. Author is Lecturer at Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad

## Tehran eyes on Beijing's arms

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



In March 2010, it was reported that Iran had begun manufacturing Chinese-designed Nasr-1 anti-ship missiles. Just four years ago, during the 2006 Lebanon war, four Israeli navy soldiers were killed by an Iranian derivative of a Chinese C-802 subsonic anti-ship cruise missile launched by the Iranian proxy Hezbollah

Chinese minister of national defense Wei Fenghe visited Tehran in April 27, 2022 and met with high profile personalities of Iran. Wei Fenghe expressed that Iran sees China as a Strategic partner. The close cooperation of both the countries would provide security particularly in the current critical and tense situation. The intentions of both the countries demonstrate that their cooperation may lead

towards deep strategic cooperation. After meeting with President Ebrahim Reiss, the two sides agreed to expand all areas of cooperation, including the military, while reiterating their shared commitment to protecting fundamental interests, which they called the West's "unilateral, domination and external intervention." Admittedly, it emphasizes mutual inattention. United States. After meeting with AFGS, the two countries "agreed

to enhance bilateral cooperation in joint military exercises, exchange of strategies, training matters and other common areas." Due to Baqeri's strong defense diplomacy, Iran's relations with the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) have become closer in recent years. In 2019, Baqeri became the first Iranian armed forces chief of staff to visit China since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. In addition, Wei Feng's visit was the third high-level PLA delegation to visit Iran since 2016, which coincided with Baqeri's appointment as head of state. It shows that there is more going on below the surface. China has reaffirmed its commitment to peace and security in the Middle East and the Gulf. At the same time, he criticized the United States for imposing unilateral sanctions on Iran and proposed a series of forgotten alternative security frameworks for the Gulf, which undermined the US-led security umbrella in the region. It may ensure the prosperity of Beijing and the free flow of oil. China has been considered suspicious of arms supply to Iran during the sanctions and it also has been cautious with Iran over the UN arms embargo, which was in effect until October 2020. Once sanctions lift, private and state-owned companies may seek to diversify their portfolios by selling military assets. China was the largest supplier of weapons to both sides during Iran-Iraq war, they bought more than 7.5 billion Arms in the late 1980s. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, China took advantage of a flaw in pre-2006 orders to continue supplying weapons to Iran after the years of sanctions. These weapons

were anti-ship missiles, surface-to-air missiles; armored personnel carriers, surface-to-air missile systems, air search radar and missile launch catamarans systems reached Iran. Strengthen the denial of disproportionate territory. In recent years, Iran has used its control over this strategic barrier of Strait of Hormuz, through which is one-fifth of the world's oil passes, to attack passing tankers and shoot down US drones. For their own reasons, China and Iran are trying to develop A2 / AD capabilities on their shores to counter US and allied navies. Both countries practice drowning American aircraft carriers in make-ups. He has also helped develop long-range anti-ship missiles, demonstrating how Chinese companies can boost Iran's development of indigenous weapons. In March 2010, it was reported that Iran had begun manufacturing Chinese-designed Nasr-1 anti-ship missiles. Just four years ago, during the 2006 Lebanon war, four Israeli navy soldiers were killed by an Iranian derivative of a Chinese C-802 subsonic anti-ship cruise missile launched by the Iranian proxy Hezbollah. Since the lifting of sanctions in 2020, bilateral arms purchases have not been reported, possibly due to Tehran's economic woes and possible backlash from Iran's rivals (especially through US Executive Order 13949). But Iran's defense industry is showing interest in Chinese weapons, especially fighter jets. The possibility of future deployment of Chinese J-10 fighter jets in the Persian Gulf was raised by former US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and there is no question of a jet trade for energy. With the possibility of a resumption of the nuclear deal, may allow Tehran to gain great

er access to funds could lead to a growing concern for the arms trade with Washington and its allies. Some analysts have ruled out the possibility of China becoming a major arms exporter to Iran in the post-sanctions period, but as the Lebanon war and recent bombings have made clear, Chinese technology is in the wrong hands. Drones, dual-use and missile technology are also of concern. Unlike other major arms suppliers in the region, China is not a party to the Wassenaar Agreement, which could make it the largest supplier of armed drones in the Middle East Region. Because Iran can manufacture its drones locally, Tehran's opponents currently use Chinese drones exclusively. Reports have revealed Chinese support for the local production of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in the Gulf States, including a recent joint venture between China and Saudi Arabia to develop military drones in the kingdom. Given China's high-quality, low-cost drones, as well as its ability to transfer knowledge and upgrade Iranian UAVs, the possibility of bilateral cooperation in this emerging field cannot be ruled out. During the recent years, both the country have increased their military cooperation with their navies visiting each other's seaports and organized joint naval drilling in the Indian Ocean. In March 2021, China Iran has signed a 25-years strategic cooperation agreement. It also covers all variety of cooperation and economic activities from oil and mining to establishment of industries in Iran. The improvement of strategic and defense cooperation between Chin and Iran would have a remarkable impact in diffusing unilateralism and fighting terrorism in the region.

## Briefs

## Govt mulls...

FROM PAGE 01

were also informed about the federal cabinet's decisions and proposals or conserving energy, the statement said. On the other hand, KP Finance Minister Taimur Khan Jhagra said on Twitter that the province had not agreed to close down markets. "KP has not agreed to this. It was put forward that KP will decide after consultation with the CM," he said. Meanwhile, Minister for Power Khuram Dasgiri said the government had planned a number of measures to conserve energy, including two weekly offs and work-from-home for one day of the week. He also said that the government was taking practical steps to address the energy crisis. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, the minister said inefficient and expensive power plants would be gradually phased out. He said the country's total power generation was 22,010MW while the demand was 26,227MW, adding that the shortfall stood at more than 4,000MW on June 7.

## No taxes...

FROM PAGE 01

comprising representatives from pharmaceuticals, food processing, IT, e-commerce, retail, textile, sports, and logistics sectors. It was also attended by federal ministers Syed Naveed Qamar, Makhdoom Murtaza Mahmood, and Marriyum Aurangzeb. The prime minister ordered task forces formed to attract investments in multiple sectors. Task forces will be formed in the fields of tourism, pharmaceuticals, information technology, e-commerce, large-scale manufacturing, and agriculture. He told the delegation that the government was making efforts to ensure the production of export quality agricultural products. For the first time, he said, the government was calling for consistency of policies as the "subjects of the national economy and public welfare are above politics".

## WHO warns...

FROM PAGE 01

the virus and added that no deaths had been reported so far from the outbreaks. "The risk of monkeypox becoming established in non-endemic countries is real," Tedros told a press conference. The zoonotic disease is endemic in humans in nine African countries but outbreaks have been reported in the past month in several other states - mostly in Europe, and notably in Britain, Spain and Portugal. "More than 1,000 confirmed cases of monkeypox have now been reported to WHO from 29 countries that are not endemic for the disease," Tedros said.

## Imran Khan...

FROM PAGE 01

the former prime minister said, Bilawal did a long march towards Islamabad when Rs4 per litre was increased by his government. Where is he now when the fuel prices have been jacked up by Rs60 per litre? Imran Khan has said that Pakistani corrupt rulers have a fear of the USA action like the Russian Oligarchs. He said sitting rulers have billions of dollars outside Pakistan and are following the foreign agenda just to save their assets as they have a fear of the USA's action like Russian Oligarchs against them if they would not follow the American Agenda.

Imran Khan said the sitting corrupt rulers are following the USA agenda in Pakistan just to save their foreign assets. In the ruling tenure of the PTI government, the petrol was jacked up by Rs55 per litre, but the 'imported government' has raised its prices by Rs60 in just 15 days, he was quoted.

He asked the masses to get ready as he will give a call for 'Haqiqi Azadi March' in a few days. He reiterated his resolve that the government was ousted over a 'foreign conspiracy'. The rulers came into power only to give themselves relief from the corruption cases. "Celebrations were held in Israel and India over the ouster of PTI government."



BAKU: Pakistan's ambassador of Azerbaijan Bilal Hayee, President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry M Shakil Muneer and others posing for a picture on the occasion of investment conference in Baku. - DNA

# US sanctions have 'returned like boomerang,': Maduro

## FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: US sanctions have "returned like a boomerang," affecting the American and European economies, Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro told Anadolu Agency. In an exclusive interview with Anadolu Agency on Wednesday, Maduro said "it is very difficult" when he was asked about the possibility of the lifting of US sanctions against Venezuela.

"Because the US empire has always been caught up in its own aggression. Look at what is happening right now with Russia. All the sanctions imposed - more than a thousand economic sanctions against the Russian economy, agriculture, oil, and gas - have returned like a boomerang, and today they have returned against the European and American economies, which are creaking with galloping inflation, and they also affected the economies and economic rights of all the countries of the world."

Caracas made an "important contact" on March 5 with a delegation from the US government, and they maintained a fluid, permanent communication, Maduro said, adding Washington authorized American oil company Chevron, Italian Eni, and Spanish Repsol to move their investments in Venezuela to produce oil and gas for its natural

market. "They are the right direction. Let's have patience, patience and keep working with our own effort," he said. "And hopefully one day, the United States abandons its policy of aggression, of coercion, of sanctions."

On the exclusion of Venezuela from the Summit of the Americas organized by the Organization of American States, Maduro said that the exclusion of his country along with Nicaragua and Cuba, which he called "anti-imperialist countries in Latin America and the Caribbean," has been rejected by more than 25 governments across the region. "This meeting of the Americas has been transformed into a meeting of the protest of the governments against exclusion and a lesson has been taught to the American empire that ... the time of the imperial orders is over," he said.

"And I would say that it was a huge mistake made by the country's administration to try to exclude our country," Maduro said, referring to Caracas' absence in Los Angeles. He further said: "Unfortunately, that so-

called Summit of the Americas gradually deteriorated from the political-diplomatic point of view. In these summits, no important issues are discussed, the priority issues of the peoples, the main problems we have."

"The US empire intends to reach these instances to give orders, believing that Latin America and the Caribbean are the backyard of the US empire. Those times have passed," he stressed. Asked whether he plans to meet with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who is also in the Turkish capital Ankara for contacts, Maduro said he did not know that Lavrov is also in Ankara, but added: "If I can see him, I would be very happy. He is a great friend."

Maduro said he has already been in "this beautiful Turkish homeland" on several occasions, hailing "the great friendship" Türkiye and Venezuela enjoy. He said Ankara and Caracas have already agreements in various areas, such as commerce, finance, science, technology, agriculture, mining, and energy. In 2021, Türkiye and Venezuela reached a commercial exchange of \$858 million, he said, adding the

goal is to reach \$1.5 billion between 2022 and 2023. "And this visit precisely has the objective of adjusting new issues that allow us to grow in everything: comprehensive cooperation in the economic, scientific, technological, and energy areas," the president said. "We have never had such a close relationship with Türkiye or with this region of the world as we have today. That is why I tell you the world is much more than the United States and the West," he said, adding that Türkiye is "one of the most important regions."

On the third meeting of the High-Level Joint Commission of Türkiye and Venezuela, which has been held recently, Maduro said: "There we are seeing a growth plan for the next 10 or 15 years of all commercial, agricultural, energy, and financial relations. I can tell you that Venezuela is the best guarantee that Turkish businessmen can have to make their investments in Latin America and the Caribbean," he said. "Venezuela can be the port of arrival for all the products of great industry and great production of Türkiye to Latin America and the Caribbean. We give all the legal guarantees to the Turkish investors so that they will present their work." Recalling Venezuela's economic suffering for years, Maduro said 2021 was the first year of a definitive slowdown in inflation, construction of new macroeconomic instruments, exchange rate stability, and economic growth in Venezuela.

## Zverev undergoes ankle surgery

## AGENCIES

BERLIN: Alexander Zverev has had surgery on torn ligaments in his right ankle following his painful exit from the French Open semi-finals. The German world number three turned his ankle while trailing eventual champion Rafael Nadal in the last four in Paris last week, screaming in pain before retiring from the match. The 25-year-old did not say when he will be back on court, but looks certain to miss Wimbledon which begins on June 27. The US Open starts on August 29. "We all have our own journey in life. This is part of mine," Zverev wrote to his 1.8 million followers on Instagram late Tuesday alongside a picture of him giving a thumbs-up from a hospital bed. "Next week I'll reach a career-high ranking of number two in the world, but this morning I had to undergo surgery. After further examination in Germany, we received confirmation that all three of the lateral ligaments in my right ankle were torn. To return to competition as quickly as possible, to ensure all the ligaments heal properly, and to reclaim full stability in my ankle, surgery was the best choice."

## EU chief says cannot tolerate Russia weaponizing food

## NEWS DESK

BRUSSELS: The European Union cannot tolerate Russia's use of food as a weapon, the EU Commission chief said on Wednesday. Speaking at the European Parliament's plenary session in Strasbourg, Ursula von der Leyen warned: "We are facing up to a collision of crises, which will amplify food insecurity and debt distress around the world."

She explained that the origins of these crises are partially structural and also related to the COVID-19 pandemic, but stressed that the impacts are "massively and deliberately compounded by Putin's actions." "Food has become part of the Kremlin's arsenal of terror, and we cannot tolerate this," von der Ley-

en pointed out. She called Russia's bombing of grain storage facilities and blockade of the Ukrainian ports a "cold, callous and calculated siege by Putin of some of the most vulnerable countries and people in the world."

She also highlighted that global food insecurity is because "Russia actively weaponizes hunger" by blocking the shipment of over 20 million tons of grains in Ukraine and not due to the EU sanctions that "do not touch food commodities." Von der Leyen asserted the importance of helping Ukraine to export its agricultural products and reassured that the EU and its international partners will not restrict their own food

exports. She also noted that the bloc is set to support its southern neighborhood with 225 million (\$240 million) to address short-term supply needs. The European Commission also proposed to mobilize another 600 million from the European Development Fund to boost Africa's resilience and food production capacity, she said, calling on EU lawmakers to approve the motion.

The EU has allocated 2 billion in military aid to Ukraine and mobilized more than 4 billion in macro-financial assistance, humanitarian aid, and support to EU countries hosting refugees from Ukraine since the war began on Feb. 24.

# Speakers advocate holistic approach for conservation of oceans

## MONITORING DESK

ISLAMABAD: For the conservation, protection, and management of the oceans a holistic approach is required which must include the implementation of international laws, behavioral change communication, capacity-building, employment of scientific innovations, and stakeholders' collaboration at national, regional, and global level. This was unanimously observed during a hybrid seminar at Bahria University titled "Blue Talks: Enhancing the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Oceans and their Resources by Implementing International Laws", which was jointly organized by the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA), Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, and the Portuguese Embassy in Islamabad. The seminar was addressed as keynote speaker by Prof. Dr. Vasco Becker-Weinburg, president, Portuguese Institute of the Law of the Sea. Other speakers and discussants included Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, Vice Admiral (retired) Abdul Aleem, director general, NIMA, Paulo Neves Pocihno, ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan, Rear Admiral Foad Amin Baig, director general, Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA), Dr. Asif Inam, associate professor

and head of maritime sciences, Bahria University, Dr. Maliha Zeba Khan, assistant professor NUML and non-resident research fellow IPS. The session was moderated by Cdre (r) Bilal Abdul Nasir, director, NIMA. On the occasion, Macharia Kamau, princi-

Rear Admiral Foad Amin Baig, while expressing his views, underscored the need to develop and adopt a humanitarian and futuristic approach towards mitigating the challenges, including the governance gaps, environmental degradation, lack of regional framework, and effective legislation

pal secretary to Kenya's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, also expressed his views on the topic through a video message and highlighted the significance of the oceans by highlighting that several nations have been built on the back of oceans. He urged all the stakeholders to act now at individual, communal, and governmental levels by transforming their approach and employing scientific in-

novations. Khalid Rahman stated that now is the time to do more for the ocean, which is one and interconnected. He also identified the need for a behavioral change and a focus on oceans in all SDGs. He said human activities related to the sea and shores

are playing havoc with the health of oceans and this state of affairs require good ocean governance. He also highlighted the need of holding educational and meaningful dialogues, seminars, and debates to recognize the problems and create awareness. V/Admiral (r) Abdul Aleem, while highlighting the significance of a healthy ocean, stated that to make the UN's 'Ocean Decade' a

success story, all the countries must make concerted efforts to preserve oceans in order to preserve life on earth. In this regard, Pakistan must strive to become a maritime responsible state and understand what actions must be taken in this regard.

Rear Admiral Foad Amin Baig, while expressing his views, underscored the need to develop and adopt a humanitarian and futuristic approach towards mitigating the challenges, including the governance gaps, environmental degradation, lack of regional framework, and effective legislation. He highlighted the role of PMSA in the implementation of national and international laws in the seas and maintained that there is a need to create awareness and adhere to SDG deadlines. Lastly, he urged states to change their attitude towards the ocean.

Ambassador Pocihno spoke about the upcoming UN Ocean Conference 2022 at Lisbon (27 June - 1 July) and its significance in establishing a decisive action to move forward and forging a new international instrument to sustain and manage waters for the conservation of marine resources. He was of the view that as a maritime nation, Portugal has vast experience of marine affairs and can benefit Pakistan in many ways.

## COAS satisfied over Radd-ul-Fasaad progress

FROM PAGE 01

and response measures, a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. The conference was presided by Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa and took place at the General Head Quarters (GHQ). It was attended by the corps commanders, principal staff officers, and all formation commanders of the Pakistan Army. During the conference, General Bajwa expressed satisfaction over the progress of Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad and lauded the achievements made thus far. The army chief laid special emphasis on maintaining high standards of operational preparedness in the wake of evolving geo-strategic milieu. General Bajwa added that the Pakistan Army was a professional institution that shall always fulfil its responsibilities towards the security, integrity, and sovereignty of Pakistan as a sacred duty.

## Food exports must keep flowing: FAO chief

UNITED NATIONS: As part of the international efforts to address growing concerns over the Ukrainian-war-linked global food security, a top UN official on Wednesday urged countries not to slap restrictions on the export of foodstuffs that are in such short supply elsewhere. "Food insecurity and high prices can become a trigger for instability," Qu Dongyu, Director-General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), said in a statement.

Addressing the "Mediterranean Dialogue on Food Crisis" in Rome, Qu insisted that "we must keep the global food trade system open and ensure that agrifood exports are not restricted or taxed". The Mediterranean Sea region includes 22 countries on three continents, many of which rely on cereal imports from Ukraine to feed their population, the FAO top official said. Most countries in the region had shown an increasing food import trend to meet domestic consumption needs even prior to the war in Ukraine, he added. Today, the current global situation is "very complicated", Qu said, his comments coming after more than 100 days of war in Ukraine that have cut off exports of millions of tonnes of wheat, cereals and vegetable oil from the country's Black Sea ports since the Russian invasion on 24 February.

The war has also prompted targeted international sanctions on Russia that have in turn hampered the distribution of its own substantial agricultural output and fertilizers - which farmers rely on around the world. To counter these challenges, countries in the Mediterranean should work together to mitigate food security risks, Qu told delegates. - APP

## Sudan starts post-coup talks without key civilian bloc

KHARTOUM: Sudan on Wednesday began UN-facilitated direct talks between rival factions, hoped to resolve a political crisis sparked by last year's coup, but with a critical civilian bloc refusing to participate. Meanwhile, hundreds of people rallied in east Khartoum to call for civilian rule, in the latest protest against the October 25 power grab led by army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan. Security forces fired tear gas to disperse them, said an AFP correspondent at the scene. "It is important to not let this moment slip," United Nations special representative Volker Perthes told reporters in Khartoum. "We are asking everybody to work with one another in good faith." Since the coup, Sudan has been rocked by deepening unrest - near-weekly protests, a violent crackdown that has killed over 100 people, and a tumbling economy. The military takeover derailed a fragile transition to civilian rule that had been established following the 2019 ouster of long-serving autocratic president Omar al-Bashir. The UN, African Union and regional bloc IGAD have since March been pushing for Sudanese-led talks to break the political stalemate. - Agencies

## Briefs

Baku, Prague  
mull energy  
cooperation

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan and the Czech Republic have discussed the energy cooperation issues between the two countries, Azernews reports, citing the Energy Ministry. The discussion took place during the meeting between Azerbaijan's Energy Minister Parviz Shahbazov and outgoing Czech Ambassador Milan Ektert. At the meeting, the parties discussed the energy cooperation agreement signed between Azerbaijan's Energy Ministry and Czech Republic's Industry and Trade Ministry. They also exchanged views on the establishment of a joint working group and holding its first meeting.

On September 30, 2021, Azerbaijan and the Czech Republic signed an agreement on energy cooperation. The agreement envisages the expansion of bilateral cooperation in the spheres of oil and gas, petrochemicals, renewable energy, including bioenergy in the field of energy, and the establishment of relations between the relevant sectors in line with both countries' national legislation. The document also covers the development of energy efficiency and energy-saving cooperation in the residential sector and large energy enterprises, and the matters such as the mutual exchange of information and practices, training sessions, joint seminars, conferences, and forums.

Workers  
stage protest  
in Australia  
for better pay

DNA

SYDNEY: Thousands of Australian public service workers on Wednesday staged a protest across New South Wales (NSW), Australia's most populous state, demanding better salaries, according to local media. They also boycotted a day of work, demanding a 5.4% rise in their salaries because of the skyrocketing cost of living in the country, Sky News reported.

State premier Dominic Perrottet already announced a 0.5% increase to the public service annual pay cap but workers have rejected the raise, calling it "not enough." Over 30,000 workers including prison guards, court sheriffs, child protection officers, school support staff and park rangers took part in the protest.

"This offer is pure politics - moving half a per cent and playing silly games with one-off bonuses for certain workers," the broadcaster quoted Stewart Little, Public Service Association's general secretary, as saying. According to the Sydney Morning Herald, Australia is witnessing the biggest energy crisis in 50 years, with prices hitting multi-year highs on global markets due to sanctions on Russian exports.

US arrest  
man who  
threatened  
SC justice

WASHINGTON: US police arrested an armed man who made threats against Brett Kavanaugh near the conservative Supreme Court justice's home, the court said Wednesday.

"At approximately 1:50 AM today, a man was arrested near Justice Kavanaugh's residence. The man was armed and made threats against Justice Kavanaugh," court spokeswoman Patricia McCabe said in a statement. The arrest came as the court prepares to release potentially landmark judgements on politically charged cases on gun rights and abortion. The Washington Post, citing anonymous officials, said the man was arrested not far from Kavanaugh's house in Chevy Chase, Maryland, just outside of Washington, carrying a weapon and burglary tools. He told officers that he wanted to kill the justice, the Post said. The report said investigators understood from initial evidence that the man, in his 20s, was angry about a leaked draft opinion that indicated the court could be poised to overturn federal protections for abortion rights, which will likely allow many states to ban the procedure outright. - APP

Azerbaijani, Pakistani defense  
varsities eye expanding co-op

The meeting highlighted the two nations' improving ties, and potential for strengthening cooperation in the sphere of military education, as well as other matters of mutual interest

DNA

BAKU: Acting Rector of the Azerbaijani National Defense University, Professor Lt-Gen Heydar Piriyev and his Pakistani colleagues discussed in Baku prospects for expanding cooperation in military education, Azernews reports per the Defense Ministry. The participants in the National Security and War Course also attended a meeting, the report adds. The meeting highlighted the two nations' improving ties, and potential for strengthening cooperation

in the sphere of military education, as well as other matters of mutual interest. Moreover, the delegation and course participants were given a thorough explanation of Azerbaijan's military school system. Another unrelated report quoted the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry as saying that in line with safety procedures, the relevant units of the Azerbaijani army continue to dispose of outdated and useless munitions. According to the ministry, the procedure will take place at the Seyfali training range from 08.06.2022 to 11.06.2022.

Biden to attend G7, NATO  
summits this month

DNA

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden will travel to Europe later this month to attend two major summits, according to a White House spokeswoman Wednesday. Biden will travel to Schloss Elmau in southern Germany on June 25 to attend the G7 Leaders' Summit, Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement.

"The President and G7 leaders will discuss a range of the most pressing global issues, including the G7's unwavering support for a democratic, sovereign, and prosperous Ukraine, economic and democratic resilience, tackling the climate crisis, development infrastructure, global health security, and the food and energy crisis caused by Russia's war of aggression," she said.

Biden will then head to Madrid to join the 2022 NATO Summit. "Allied leaders will endorse a new Strategic Concept to guide NATO's transformation over the next decade, from strengthening deterrence and defense, to building resilience against transnational threats including cyber and climate, to deepening partnerships with democratic partners in Europe and Asia in order to strengthen the rules-based international order," said the statement.

Kishida cabinet, house  
speaker face no-confidence

DNA

TOKYO: Japan's main opposition submitted Wednesday a no-confidence motion against the Cabinet of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida over its response to rising prices and another against the House of Representatives speaker mired in a sexual harassment scandal as the end of the current Diet session nears ahead of a House of Councillors election, Kyodo reports.

Kenta Izumi, who heads the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, told

reporters ahead of the submission that his party cannot overlook the Kishida government's failure to protect people's lives from the impact of rising prices.

Tsuyoshi Takagi, Diet affairs chief of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, said the ruling coalition of the LDP and Komeito party will vote down the motion against the Cabinet «without making a fuss» as there is «no clear reason of no confidence.» Takagi said Kishida has the option of dissolving the lower house in response to the motion. He also said they will vote

down the other motion for Hirofumi Hosoda. The lower house speaker was recently reported by a weekly magazine to have sexually harassed women including a reporter and an LDP employee. Izumi criticized Kishida's Cabinet for only taking measures against rising gasoline prices, which centered on subsidizing wholesalers, in the fiscal 2022 supplementary budget, saying, «It will neither protect people's lives nor revive the Japanese economy.»

Izumi also criticized the government and the Bank of Japan for lacking under-

standing of how people's living has been affected by rising prices after the central bank chief Haruhiko Kuroda recently drew fire for saying consumers have become more «tolerant» of price hikes.

Kuroda retracted his comments on Wednesday after offering a rare apology the day before, saying he did not mean consumers are voluntarily accepting the price increases. The CDPJ has called on other opposition parties to support the motions, and the Japanese Communist Party said it plans to vote for the motions. - APP



TASHKENT: Furqat Sidikov Dy Forrign Minister received Amina J. Mohammed, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, who arrived in Uzbekistan on a working visit. - DNA

Russia, Ukraine could find ground  
for talks again, says Türkiye

DNA

ANKARA: As the Russia-Ukraine war continues past the 100-day mark, Türkiye said Wednesday there may again be grounds for talks between the two countries. "We see a (common) will between Russia and Ukraine to return to negotiations," Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said during a joint news conference with his Russian

counterpart Sergey Lavrov at the presidential complex in Türkiye's capital Ankara. Addressing reporters after a "fruitful" meeting with Lavrov, Cavusoglu underlined Ankara sees the UN's plans to establish a mechanism on a food corridor out of Ukraine - colloquially referred to as a global breadbasket - as "reasonable and feasible." "We are talking about a plan (for food corridor) that includes a mechanism and cooper-

ation that could be established between the UN, Russia, Ukraine, and Türkiye, which would include supervision of vessels," he explained.

If this plan is accepted by Russia and Ukraine, Türkiye could host such a meeting in Istanbul and discuss the details with all parties, the top diplomat said. The Turkish foreign minister called Russia's demands for the removal of sanctions to help grain exports "legitimate" if the Ukrainian grain

needs to be opened up to the international market. Necessary measures, Cavusoglu said, should be taken to ensure the safe passage of vessels, adding steps should be taken to provide insurance to banking transactions. He underscored that the world is facing a real food crisis and problems with fertilizer, pointing out the concerns of Latin American countries on this issue, as well.

needed to be opened up to the international market. Necessary measures, Cavusoglu said, should be taken to ensure the safe passage of vessels, adding steps should be taken to provide insurance to banking transactions. He underscored that the world is facing a real food crisis and problems with fertilizer, pointing out the concerns of Latin American countries on this issue, as well.

European capitals have expressed mounting concern over how far Iran has gone in resuming nuclear activities since the US began re-imposing sanctions. Iran has built up large stockpiles of enriched uranium, some of it enriched to levels far higher than those needed for nuclear power generation. "Its nuclear programme is now more advanced than at any point in the past," the governments said in their joint statement, adding Iran's accumulation of enriched uranium has no "credible civilian justification". In a joint statement to the IAEA, Britain, France and Germany had said they "strongly urge Iran to stop escalating its nuclear programme and to urgently conclude (the) deal that is on the table". Iran's nuclear organisation chief Mohammad Eslami had said earlier Wednesday that "Iran has no hidden or undocumented nuclear activities or undisclosed sites," state news agency IRNA reported.

European capitals have expressed mounting concern over how far Iran has gone in resuming nuclear activities since the US began re-imposing sanctions. Iran has built up large stockpiles of enriched uranium, some of it enriched to levels far higher than those needed for nuclear power generation. "Its nuclear programme is now more advanced than at any point in the past," the governments said in their joint statement, adding Iran's accumulation of enriched uranium has no "credible civilian justification". In a joint statement to the IAEA, Britain, France and Germany had said they "strongly urge Iran to stop escalating its nuclear programme and to urgently conclude (the) deal that is on the table". Iran's nuclear organisation chief Mohammad Eslami had said earlier Wednesday that "Iran has no hidden or undocumented nuclear activities or undisclosed sites," state news agency IRNA reported.

European capitals have expressed mounting concern over how far Iran has gone in resuming nuclear activities since the US began re-imposing sanctions. Iran has built up large stockpiles of enriched uranium, some of it enriched to levels far higher than those needed for nuclear power generation. "Its nuclear programme is now more advanced than at any point in the past," the governments said in their joint statement, adding Iran's accumulation of enriched uranium has no "credible civilian justification". In a joint statement to the IAEA, Britain, France and Germany had said they "strongly urge Iran to stop escalating its nuclear programme and to urgently conclude (the) deal that is on the table". Iran's nuclear organisation chief Mohammad Eslami had said earlier Wednesday that "Iran has no hidden or undocumented nuclear activities or undisclosed sites," state news agency IRNA reported.

Belt and Road  
Festival, a platform  
for Pakistani youth

BEIJING: The 2022 Belt and Road Online Arts Festival was launched both online and offline at the Northwest Minzu University, China, providing a platform for Pakistani youth to showcase their talent. To participate in the event, youth in Pakistan and other countries can prepare music or dancing videos and share them on designated channels that will be announced soon. Selected videos will be broadcast on mainstream international and Chinese media platforms.

The event, under the 100 Sister Schools Initiative, is hosted by Gansu Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Education Department of Gansu Province, organized by Northwest Minzu University, China and co-organized by the Gansu Association of 100 Sister Schools Initiative and Gansu UNESCO Association. The 100 Sister Schools Initiative opens an avenue for people-to-people exchanges by enabling the middle and primary schools in partner countries to connect and communicate with one another, said Liu Xiaolin, Vice President of Gansu Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, on the launching ceremony. A number of representatives of institutions in the United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, Belgium, Belarus, Chile, Poland, Pakistan, Thailand, Maldives, Uzbekistan, etc. felicitated the launching of the event via video. - APP

Iran to invest \$25m  
in Sindh's agri  
and other sectors

KARACHI: Consul General of Iran Hassan Noorian meet with Sindh Chief Minister's Advisor on Agriculture Manzoor Wassan at Wassan House Karachi, in which Secretary General of Pakistan Consulate Foreign Relations Ehsan Mukhtar Zuberi was also present. They discussed to extend bilateral cooperation in economic and Agriculture sector. During a meeting with Manzoor Wassan, Consul General of Iran Hassan Noorian

said that they also offer to provide tractors, combined harvesters and other agricultural machinery to the Sindh government. He further stated that seed, cold storage and hybrid seed will be given to Sindh on cheapest rate than other countries. Iran wants to invest 25 million dollars in agriculture and other sectors in Sindh. Iran also wants to increase mutual economic cooperation with the Karachi Chamber of Commerce. - DNA

## Iran disconnects nuclear site cameras

TEHRAN: Iran on Wednesday disconnected some of the UN atomic watchdog's cameras monitoring its nuclear sites, its atomic energy agency said, after Western nations accused the Islamic republic of failing to cooperate. The move was announced after Britain, France, Germany and the United States submitted a resolution to the International Atomic Energy Agency to censure Iran. The motion, the first such step since June 2020, was seen as a sign of growing Western impatience with Iran after talks on reviving its 2015 nuclear deal stalled in March. Iran said the disconnected cameras had been operating as a "goodwill gesture", outside its safeguard agreement with the IAEA. "As of today, the relevant authori-

ties have been instructed to cut off the On-Line Enrichment Monitor and the flow meter cameras of the agency," said the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran. The AEOI added that Iran's agreement to allow the cameras to run was not "appreciated" by the UN agency but considered an "obligation". Its statement did not specify how many cameras had been turned off, but said "more than 80 percent of the agency's existing cameras are operating according to the safeguard agreement and will continue to operate just as before". Behrouz Kamalvandi, spokesman for the Iranian agency, had "monitored the shutdown of two IAEA cameras at a nuclear facility," the statement added. "Other measures are being considered and we

hope that they will come to their senses and respond to Iran's cooperation with cooperation," he told state TV. Iran reached a deal with world powers in 2015 to limit its nuclear programme in return for sanctions relief - but the agreement has been on life support since then president Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the United States from it in 2018. Tehran, which denies seeking to build a nuclear bomb, has backed away from some of its own commitments since 2019. European capitals have expressed mounting concern over how far Iran has gone in resuming nuclear activities since the US began re-imposing sanctions. Iran has built up large stockpiles of enriched uranium, some of it enriched to levels far higher than those needed for nuclear power generation. "Its nuclear programme is now more advanced than at any point in the past," the governments said in their joint statement, adding Iran's accumulation of enriched uranium has no "credible civilian justification". In a joint statement to the IAEA, Britain, France and Germany had said they "strongly urge Iran to stop escalating its nuclear programme and to urgently conclude (the) deal that is on the table". Iran's nuclear organisation chief Mohammad Eslami had said earlier Wednesday that "Iran has no hidden or undocumented nuclear activities or undisclosed sites," state news agency IRNA reported.

European capitals have expressed mounting concern over how far Iran has gone in resuming nuclear activities since the US began re-imposing sanctions. Iran has built up large stockpiles of enriched uranium, some of it enriched to levels far higher than those needed for nuclear power generation. "Its nuclear programme is now more advanced than at any point in the past," the governments said in their joint statement, adding Iran's accumulation of enriched uranium has no "credible civilian justification". In a joint statement to the IAEA, Britain, France and Germany had said they "strongly urge Iran to stop escalating its nuclear programme and to urgently conclude (the) deal that is on the table". Iran's nuclear organisation chief Mohammad Eslami had said earlier Wednesday that "Iran has no hidden or undocumented nuclear activities or undisclosed sites," state news agency IRNA reported.

European capitals have expressed mounting concern over how far Iran has gone in resuming nuclear activities since the US began re-imposing sanctions. Iran has built up large stockpiles of enriched uranium, some of it enriched to levels far higher than those needed for nuclear power generation. "Its nuclear programme is now more advanced than at any point in the past," the governments said in their joint statement, adding Iran's accumulation of enriched uranium has no "credible civilian justification". In a joint statement to the IAEA, Britain, France and Germany had said they "strongly urge Iran to stop escalating its nuclear programme and to urgently conclude (the) deal that is on the table". Iran's nuclear organisation chief Mohammad Eslami had said earlier Wednesday that "Iran has no hidden or undocumented nuclear activities or undisclosed sites," state news agency IRNA reported.

European capitals have expressed mounting concern over how far Iran has gone in resuming nuclear activities since the US began re-imposing sanctions. Iran has built up large stockpiles of enriched uranium, some of it enriched to levels far higher than those needed for nuclear power generation. "Its nuclear programme is now more advanced than at any point in the past," the governments said in their joint statement, adding Iran's accumulation of enriched uranium has no "credible civilian justification". In a joint statement to the IAEA, Britain, France and Germany had said they "strongly urge Iran to stop escalating its nuclear programme and to urgently conclude (the) deal that is on the table". Iran's nuclear organisation chief Mohammad Eslami had said earlier Wednesday that "Iran has no hidden or undocumented nuclear activities or undisclosed sites," state news agency IRNA reported.

UNAOC slams  
anti-Islam  
remarks by  
BJP's leaders

UNITED NATIONS: The top official of the U.N. Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), Miguel Moratinos, has rejected the "derogatory" comments about holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Islam made by two leaders of India's ruling party BJP, warning that such remarks will lead to violence.

Moratinos, the High Representative of UNAOC, an initiative aimed at galvanizing international action against extremism, also said that "offensive comments or actions that aim at insulting Muslims and/or adherents of any other faith will lead to incitement of violence and will fuel hatred".

In a statement, he reiterated the importance of strengthening efforts to advance respect for all religions and beliefs and fostering dialogue on the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels, based on respect for human rights and for the diversity of religions and beliefs.

The condemnation from the United Nations comes against the backdrop of massive diplomatic protests across the Muslim world over BJP's leaders remarks insulting the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

In an attempt at "damage control" and to quell the anger sweeping across the Muslim world, the BJP, which is led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, suspended its national spokesperson, Nupur Sharma, and expelled its Delhi media head, Naveen Kumar Jindal, calling them as "fringe elements". But the move has had little success. - APP

MEPs vote  
down key  
part of EU  
climate plan

STRASBOURG: The European Parliament on Wednesday voted to reject a reform of the EU carbon trading system, in a surprise setback to Brussels' plan to tackle the climate crisis.

The EU has vowed to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 55 percent by 2030, but Green and socialist MEPs judged the plan to expand carbon trading insufficiently ambitious. The legislation to expand the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) to include carbon from transport and construction is a keystone of Brussels' entire climate package.

It also foresees the abolition of exceptions to the carbon trading scheme for European industry in exchange for a carbon tax on imports at the EU's borders.

The text will now go back to the parliament's environmental committee to be re-negotiated, in a severe blow to the European Commission's key legislative project. There were fierce recriminations following the vote, with conservative and liberal members accusing the socialists of allying with extremists to defeat the measure by 340 votes to 265. The left in turn accused the right of watering down the plan in committee, forcing those seeking a more ambitious goal to make a stand by rejecting its quick passage. - APP

The text will now go back to the parliament's environmental committee to be re-negotiated, in a severe blow to the European Commission's key legislative project. There were fierce recriminations following the vote, with conservative and liberal members accusing the socialists of allying with extremists to defeat the measure by 340 votes to 265. The left in turn accused the right of watering down the plan in committee, forcing those seeking a more ambitious goal to make a stand by rejecting its quick passage. - APP

India has  
become  
'vindictive  
nation'

WASHINGTON: A prominent Indian journalist, referring to the backlash in Muslim countries over the blasphemous remarks against Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) by two leaders of India's ruling party, BJP, denounced Prime Minister Narendra Modi for remaining silent amid growing protests across the country and beyond.

"Throughout all of this, the social-media-savvy Modi - known to invoke values of pluralism abroad - has remained silent as Indian democracy has descended into hate and is humiliated with international backlash," wrote Rana Ayyub in an article published in The Washington Post's Wednesday edition. "To me - a journalist who has been reporting on the Indian government's relentless attacks on the country's more than 200 million Muslims since Modi assumed power in 2014 - this global reaction was long in the offing," she wrote. - APP

## Briefs

### SHC allows Dua Zahra to decide her fate

DNA

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) Wednesday allowed teenager Dua Zahra – who had mysteriously gone missing from Karachi in April but later declared that she had run away from her home to marry 21-year-old Zaheer Ahmed – to decide where she wants to go, with her parents or husband.

In a three-page written order, Justice Junaid Ghaffar said the court reached the verdict in line with the testimonies. "In light of all the evidence, this is not a case of kidnapping."

"...the alleged/minor Dua E Zahra Kazmi, pursuant to her statement on Oath and Age Certificate is set at liberty to decide as to whom she intends to reside and go along," the order read.

In the order, the court also said that it has decided to dispose of Zahra's father's – Mehdi Ali Kazmi – petition for her recovery as the case of his daughter was not of kidnapping. For the production of Dua before the Lahore High Court later this week, the SHC said the Sindh Police is at liberty to produce her if required. But the judge said that "we, after production and statement of the alleged abductee Dua, are not inclined to issue any further directions to that effect."

The SHC earlier in the day reserved the verdict after police presented Dua and her 21-year-old husband Zaheer Ahmed before the court after the ossification test as per the court's orders passed in the last hearing. During hearing, Justice Ghaffar allowed Dua's parents to meet her for 10 minutes in his chambers as they were not permitted to speak to her earlier.

### Indian police arrest dozens of youth in IIOJK

DNA

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Indian police have arrested dozens of youth during house raids in different areas of the territory. According to Kashmir Media Service, Indian police during raids across occupied Jammu and Kashmir detained several youth for their affiliation with the ongoing struggle for right to self-determination in the occupied territory.

Police have rounded up a number of individuals and initiated legal action against them as they have been found to be involved in the ongoing struggle, the officials claimed. Police have raided the residences and work places of such people and investigations with regard to the level of their involvement are underway, they said. Raids have been carried out at several places in Srinagar, Baramulla, Islamabad, Kulgam, Jammu, Ramban, Udhampur and Kathua districts, the officials said. As on today (Wednesday), dozens of suspected have been picked up across the territory, they added.



ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Novruz Mammadov in a group photograph with participants of a seminar on "Azerbaijan - Pakistan Relations: Academic & Socio-Cultural Perspective" celebrating 30th Anniversary of Pak-Azerbaijan Diplomatic Relations at National Library. – APP

## Pakistan, Azarbaijan mark 30 years of diplomatic relations

Speakers noted that Pakistan was the second country that recognized the Independence of Azerbaijan back in 1991 and thereafter diplomatic relations were established between both states in 1992

DNA

ISLAMABAD: To commemorate the 30-year diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, a seminar on mutual relations including educational and socio-cultural perspectives was organized here on Wednesday by the MUSLIM Institute. The seminar marked the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan. A special cake was cut to celebrate the 30th anniversary of relations. Former Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Novruz Mammadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov, Brig-

adier (r) Abdul Rahman Bilal, Member of Parliament of Azerbaijan Ms. Tamam Jafarova, Associate Professor of NUML University Islamabad Dr. Sarwat Rauf, Programme Manager MUSLIM Institute Ahmad Raza and Public Relations Coordinator MUSLIM Institute Advocate Asif Tanvir Awan were speakers on the occasion.

Speakers noted that Pakistan was the second country that recognized the Independence of Azerbaijan back in 1991 and thereafter diplomatic relations were established between both states in 1992. Pakistan was one of the first countries to open its Embassy in Baku. Novruz Mammadov said that both the countries have

strong relations since then. Azerbaijan supports Pakistan's stand on the Kashmir issue and Pakistan supports Azerbaijan's stance on the Nagorno Karabakh Issue, he added. Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov said that Pakistan has not yet recognized Armenia because of its aggression against the Azerbaijani people. The similarities and bond between the people of both countries have shaped various levels of cooperation and association at the societal level, he said. Brigadier (r) Abdul Rahman Bilal said that the emerging people-to-people contacts have resulted in a unique feature of cooperative bilateralism. Member of Parliament of Azerbaijan Tamam

Jafarova said that the leadership on both sides is fully cognizant of the importance of these relations with each other. Pakistan and Azerbaijan share common concerns over sectarianism, extremism, and terrorism. Associate Professor of NUML University Islamabad Dr. Sarwat Rauf said that both Pakistan and Azerbaijan have worked together on the issues faced by Muslim Ummah such as Islamophobia. Speakers emphasized that here is a need to further strengthen the bilateral relations by cooperating at the regional and international levels and promoting bilateral cooperation in other fields including people-to-people contact, tourism, trade, and military and education.



NUR SULTAN: Mr Akan Rakhmetullin, who served as Kazakh ambassador in Pakistan and now is the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan presenting a souvenir to Editor Daily Islamabad Post Ansar Mahmood Bhatti during his visit to Kazakhstan. He extended best wishes to all his Pakistani friends. – DNA

### PTI for hearing of PPP, PML-N's funding case on daily basis

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Central Secretary for Information Farrukh Habib demanded that the security committee report regarding Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) and Pakistan People's Party's (PPP) foreign funding should be submitted before the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) sans any further delay. Talking to media here on Wednesday, he said that they had been waiting for submission of the report for the last one month but both the parties resorted to delaying tactics, which was against the law. He said that the PTI foreign funding case was being heard on daily basis but

PPP and PML-N adopted various strategies to hide their party accounts, demanding that the ECP should bring the scrutiny committee report of both the parties to the fore and initiated hearing of their case on daily basis. Farrukh Habib said that there was clear orders of the court that cases of all the parties should be heard indiscriminately and fairly. Talking about the problems currently facing the country, he said that everything was moving quite smoothly and economy was doing well as all the economic indicators spoke volume about it, which was even admitted by the new Governor State Bank of Pakistan. He stated that PTI government under Imran Khan's visionary leadership started various public welfare initiatives to provide maximum relief to the rank and file. However, he said that external conspiracy was hatched and ousted the elected government to impose the government of 'Shahbaz Speed', who made the life of commoners a hell during his 60 days of rule through back-breaking inflation and prolonged load shedding. – DNA

### Iran train derails after excavator collision kills 13

– Saad Rafiq offers condolences

TEHRAN: Thirteen people died when a passenger train derailed in eastern Iran on Wednesday, the semi-official Fars news agency said, while 60 passengers were seriously injured. The train travelling to the city of Yazd collided with an excavator before going off the rails 50 km (30 miles) from the city of Tabas, where it began its journey, a railway official told state news agency IRNA.

"Five ambulances are at the accident scene and another 12 are on their way," the crisis management chief of the province of South Khorasan told the agency. Meanwhile, the Federal Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique has expressed deep sorrow over the loss of precious lives in Iran train accident. The Federal Minister prayed for speedy recovery of the injured. In the hour of grief, we stand with our Iranian brothers and sisters and pray to Allah that the deceased may be given a place in heaven.

## Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations begin in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday and Platinum Jubilee celebrations started at the British High Commission in Islamabad on Wednesday night. It was the first in a series of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee week which will also see birthday events in Karachi and Lahore - the latter closing with a performance from Qawwali singer Rahat Fateh Ali Khan. Hosted by British High Commissioner Dr Christian Turner, the event in Islamabad was attended by the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif as chief guest along with other senior ministers, foreign dignitaries and celebrities. During his speech the High Commissioner reminded guests of Her Majesty's life dedicated to service.

Events across the world have been marking Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee and her 70 years of service to the people of the UK, the Realms and the Commonwealth. It is also the year marking 75 years of Pakistan and UK's bilateral relationship. As part of the Platinum Jubilee on the weekend of June 4-5, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with

the British High Commission lit a beacon to celebrate the occasion at the same time as it was done in the Commonwealth capitals. The Pakistan Monument in Islamabad was lit up tonight (Wednesday) in purple, the colour of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The event also underlined Pakistan and the UK's 75-year partnership - at the heart of

which is our people to people links, a 1.6 million Pakistani diaspora in the UK, 500,000 approximate annual visits in both directions, and around 100,000 British nationals based in Pakistan. Prime Minister Boris Johnson last month spoke to Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on the phone and welcomed the United Kingdom and Pakistan's strong partnership over the past 75 years. They agreed to strengthen those ties further and boost trade and investment. British High Commissioner to Pakistan Dr Christian Turner CMG said: "Her Majesty The Queen's 70 years of servant leadership show a remarkable record of integrity, hard work and selflessness that are needed more than ever today. We are honoured to celebrate her Birthday, her Platinum Jubilee and also 75 years of deep UK-Pakistan relations."



**NOW IN PAKISTAN**

**Invisible Braces  
Dental Implants**

**Dr. Abrar & Associates  
DENTAL SURGEONS**

House # 6-A, Ismail Zabeeh Road, (Service Road Parallel to Faisal Avenue) F-8/3, Islamabad.  
e-mail: abrar\_associates@yahoo.com | www.drabrarassociates.com  
Ph: +92 51 228 7691 / +92 51 228 7692 | Fax: +92 51 228 7693

### Marriyum inaugurates PTV Film, Pakflex projects

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday inaugurated PTV Film Division aiming to promote youth engagement in filmmaking. The minister also inaugurated the Pak-Flex project to make Pakistan Television drama and other content in archives available online for the benefit of viewers, especially those living abroad.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, she said the government was taking all possible measures for revival of the film industry. She recalled that in 2017, work had been started on PTV Film Division and in 2018, with the approval of the Cabinet, Pakistan's first film policy was launched. The minister said that on the completion of 70 years of the independence of Pakistan, Jamal Shah had formulated the first culture policy of Pakistan. "In 2018, we not only formulated the film policy but for the first time we engaged the film and culture sector in it," she said adding "We had given a comprehensive draft to all the stakeholders in the film policy, giving industry status to the film sector. The first ever film policy, she said included tax related incentives for the film industry and infrastructure incentives for cinemas, but unfortunately, in the past, the film policy could not be implemented in its letter and spirit. The present government wanted to provide a platform where all stakeholders come together for resolution of the problems of the industry. She said that in the past film was a popular medium due to its strong content, but now technology had become advanced, cinematography also better but there was a lack of content on the screen.