



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspapers

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Wimbledon: Iga Swiatek wins record 36th match in row

Detailed News On Page-06

British army to mobilize to 'prevent war'

Detailed News On Page-06



Ch Shujaat Hussain rebuffs PML-N's claim

Detailed News On Page-08



Briefs

Pakistan respects all religions

RAWALPINDI: 12 member British Sikh soldiers' delegation headed by Major General Celia J Harvey Deputy Commander Field Army UK, visited GHQ and met General Qamar Javed Bajwa COAS. COAS said that Pakistan respects all religions and also recognizes the need for promotion of religious tourism in the country. Kartarpur corridor is the practical manifestation of Pakistan's unwavering commitment towards religious freedom and harmony. The delegation visited Lahore where the dignitaries witnessed flag lowering ceremony at Wagha border. The delegation visited Lahore Fort, Allama Iqbal Mausoleum and Badshahi Mosque.

Foreign policy moving in right direction

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hina Rabbani Khar on Tuesday made it clear that Pakistan was not in isolation as its foreign policy moved in the right direction with all diplomatic missions working complicatedly on all fronts. Winding up the debate on demands for Grants of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the next fiscal year and responding to criticism by Dr Ramesh Kumar in the National Assembly, she said Pakistan was playing much bigger role on the international front than its size in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Elections to be held in October

DNA

LAHORE: Emphasizing that he was sure that general elections would be held in the country in October, former interior minister Sheikh Rashid on Tuesday said that elections were must if the country was to be pulled out of crises. Addressing a press conference in Lahore, he dared the government to arrest him. He further said that when people of Lahore woke up, the entire country woke up.

PM vows to bring prosperity

The Premier says Pakistan could receive \$2bn from IMF

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday said that having steered Pakistan out of the verge of bankruptcy, the coalition government was now striving to bring prosperity through dedicated efforts and by exploiting all of its energies. "The previous government had pushed Pakistan to the verge of bankruptcy. Alhamdulillah, it has survived now thanks to Allah Almighty's blessings and consultation of the coalition partners," the prime minister said addressing a reception hosted by him for the parliamentarians of the ruling coalition. He told the gathering that the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was about to reach containing "very tough" conditionalities. He said despite its tall claims of building a Naya Pakistan, the previous government could not tax the affluent class. However, the incumbent government put that class under direct tax to make them share burden of the poor people. Calling it a revolutionary step, he said imposing a direct tax on the rich class would bring in Rs200 billion to the national kitty.

Continued on Page 06

Staff-level talks with IMF likely from June 30

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail Tuesday revealed that talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) regarding the staff-level agreement will "hopefully" begin on June 30. Speaking to a private news channel, Miftah said the government is hopeful that the duration of the programme will be extended by a year. "The Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP) was received today and the authorities concerned will need at least two days to read the document," he said. The Minister said that the Prime Minister Muhammad Shabaz Sharif's dream was to take Pakistan towards self reliance, sustainable and inclusive growth. "This goal is

Continued on Page 06

Japan provides grant for HRD Scholarship

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan announced grant aid worth 313 million Japanese Yen (around 2.4 million USD) for the Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) program in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. ISHII Kensuke, Charge d' Affaires ad interim of Japan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Mr. Mian Asad Hayaud Din, Secretary of Ministry of Economic Affairs, have signed the Exchange of Notes (E/N) on this program. The Grant Agreement (G/A) for the aforementioned program was also signed between Mr. Adil Akbar Khan, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Economic Affairs and Mr. KINOSHITA Yasumitsu, Chief Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Pakistan Office. JDS is designed to support social and economic development of the country by providing government officials to obtain Master's or Doctoral degree in Japan in order to strengthen the administrative capacity of officials. The participants of JDS program



who are involved in formulation and implementation of policies are expected to learn in partner universities in Japan and acquire knowledge of their specialties as well as the know-hows of how Japan became a country as it is today. As JDS in Pakistan started from 2018 and has four batches in four consecutive years, the first phase concluded this year. This occasion celebrates the signing of the very first batch of the second phase of this program. For this batch, the

Continued on Page 06

In Afghanistan Emirate Islami is faced with stock of issues

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: The situation is likely to take another ugly turn as banned Tehrik Taliban Pakistan leaders are unhappy over recent statement of Interior Minister in which he declared that any sort of patch will be made in consent of parliament. In reaction, Taliban reaffirming to its stance not only refused to recognize parliament and constitution but even used derogatory remarks against armed forces of Pakistan, thus making doubtful fate of what the both sides called peace talks taking place in Kabul since end of previous April. The situation of banned TTP or other militants is different what it portrayed in Media. The banned TTP and other Pakistani militants are considering Afghanistan as their homeland. Similar is the position of other foreign militants, mostly from Central Asian Republics. All these foreigners are allowed to possess arms and travel into convoys with full pledge protocol. Even some of the Pakistani hardliners, doesn't matters their association with banned TTP are shouldering responsibilities with their fellows from Tehrik Taliban Afghanistan-also called as Emirate Islami in various civil and security assignments

throughout Afghanistan. During a brief but comprehensive visit to Kabul, connection with a daylong bilateral relations between the two neighbouring countries arranged jointly by Peshawar based Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) and Kabul's Center for Strategic and Regional Studies, the Emirate Islami Afghanistan found different from 1996-2001 last. The gun-totting Taliban guarding bazaars, occupying permanent and temporary check posts on roads, performing security duties on the gates of important installations and escorting VVIP's convoys are very decent, cordial and patient towards common people. Despite lacking of proper salaries, uniforms and other genuine needs, these Taliban have been witnessed with dry-bread in their hands as their two time meals. The evil of bribe and gratification doesn't exists any more throughout Afghanistan. But despite unprecedented shifts in Taliban policies and behavior, common Afghans are uncertain about their future. Almost of them are in a bid to flee the country but unfortunately neighboring countries especially Pakistan and Iran sealed its borders or declared hard travelling restrictions, thus forcing the Afghans to remain inside the country. Poverty, price hike, unemployment and halting almost of trade and industrial activities

are becoming a huge issue before the Taliban rulers. Due to lacking of recognition of Taliban regime by rest of the global community members, almost banking system is ahead with transaction services and the accounts holders are not allowed to draw monthly over 200 US dollars. Almost traders and shopkeepers are looking for shoppers. Construction work on commercial and private buildings like apartments and plaza's is also on halt. Though the Emirate Islami Afghanistan high ups are making tall claims about unanimity amongst their ranks but the internal situation is different. The Haqqani network claiming almost credit for the return of Emirate Islami rule whereas the Qandahari Taliban are unhappy with growing influence of Pakistan in internal and external policies of Afghanistan. Not only common Afghans but even leading figures occupying important offices in Taliban regime are also unhappy of Pakistan in the light of latter's unprecedented one-side restrictions. So far Taliban leaders succeeded in calling back some of former ministers and high ranking offices but majority of those who remained occupants if ministerial, administrative and security offices

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of federal cabinet. - DNA

Pak grieved over tragic incident in Jordan

At least 12 people died and 251 were injured in a chlorine gas leak from a storage tank

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday extended heartfelt condolences to Jordan over the loss of lives as a result of a tragic incident of its Aqaba Por. A poisonous gas leak in Jordan's southern port city of Aqaba on Monday had killed 13 people and injured 251. "We express deepest sympathies to the families of the deceased and pray for the speedy recovery of the injured," the Foreign Office said in a statement issued here.

The Foreign Office said, "Pakistan stands in solidarity with the brotherly people and Government of Jordan in this moment of grief". At least 12 people died and 251 were injured in a chlorine gas leak from a storage tank at Jordan's Aqaba port, officials and state media reported on Monday. The leak came after a tank filled with 25 tonnes of chlorine gas being exported to Djibouti fell while being transported, officials said. A video posted on state television's Twitter page showed a storage tank falling from a winch and slamming into the deck of a ship, followed by yellow-coloured gas rising into the air as people ran away. Health ministry officials said they expected only a handful of people to remain hospitalised by Tuesday.

Govt is preparing to rig Punjab by-elections: Khan

The former PM said that Chief Minister Punjab Hamza Shahbaz will 'lose his power in Punjab soon'

SHUJAAT HAMZA



ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan Wednesday said that preparations by the coalition government to "rig the by-elections in Punjab" were underway. The by-elections in Punjab will take place on July 17 for 20 provincial constituencies after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) unseated 25 PTI MPAs for voting against party lines. In a press conference, the former prime minister said that Chief Minister Punjab Hamza Shahbaz will "lose his power in Punjab soon" as he was "illegally ruling the province". "PTI is now being blamed for the present turmoil, if this was the case, then why did the 'imported government' conspire to come into power? he asked. He said that the imposed government has compounded the miseries of the masses because they did not conspire to seize the

Continued on Page 06

IHC extends interim bails of PTI leaders

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday extended the interim bails of leaders of Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) till September 13 in Masjid e Nabvi incident. Former interior minister Sheikh Rasheed, ex-speaker NA Asad Qaiser, Fawad Chaudhry, Qasim Suri, Shehbaz Gill, Haleem Adil Sheikh and others had filed pre-arrest bails. Chief Justice Athar Minallah heard the interim bail petitions. The petitioners' lawyer adopted the stance that the interior ministry had not submitted report so far. He said that cases details against Asad Qaiser were also not provided yet. The deputy attorney general said no case had been registered against Asad Qaiser in matter pertaining to cause the disgrace to the religion.

Inside...

- KP cabinet makes teachers permanent - Page 02
- Book titled 'Pakistan Sign Language' launched - Page 03
- Pak importing 80,000 tonnes hazardous waste per year - Page 04
- Afghan quake questions US conscience - Page 05
- Wimbledon: Iga Swiatek wins record 36th match in row - Page 06
- National Tourism E-portal to be launched: Ehsan Mazari - Page 07
- CEO Serena Hotels fetes outgoing Swiss, Jordan envoys - Page 08

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

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



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



Enquiry

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

Book titled ‘Pakistan Sign Language’ launched

Federal Secretary for Human Rights lauds the spirit of the people working on the project

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The sign language book "Pakistan Sign Language" was launched at the National Institute of Special Education, Islamabad. The Chief Guest at the event was the Federal Secretary for Human Rights. In his address, he lauded the spirit of the people working on the project. He highlighted the policies for the welfare and education of persons with disabilities, and assured support for the implementation of the existing policies by the government. In his speech, he emphasized the need for co-operation between parents, societies, special and general educational institutions in the education and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, as well as in the preparation of a sign language book for the deaf. He also appreciated the efforts of the participating sign language experts from all over Pakistan. He further said that language is a mean of communication for human beings without which human beings cannot maintain economic and social cohesion in the society and he expressed the hope that this sign language would be the source of communication in the society for Hearing Impaired people. He further dilated that necessary arrangements may be made for the dissemination of copies of the book all over Pakistan to the people concerned. He said that this book would not only make the society aware of the abilities of the Hearing Impaired people but would also help them to be included in all walks of life. The Director General of Special Education



Directorate General of Special Education in education and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, and briefed participants of events about the steps taken by the Directorate for the education, rehabilitation and training of persons with disabilities.

Experts warn against tobacco marketing gimmicks

ISLAMABAD: Health experts have shown concerns over the deceptively dangerous marketing tactics of tobacco industry to attract the youth. In a press release issued here on Tuesday by the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), the experts warned that tobacco was the health hazard that leads to death and a global "talent hunt" competition organized by the world's biggest tobacco company would further spread diseases caused by consumption of tobacco products. Malik Imran Ahmed, Country Head, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK) stated that tobacco companies couldn't be considered the same as other multinational corporations as their primary goal was to make profit from the deadly tobacco products. These products cause 8 million deaths around the world and 170,000 deaths in Pakistan each year, he added. Tak-

ing advantage of weak tobacco control policies, Malik Imran said, these companies organize campaigns which were merely publicity stunts meant to bolster their public image, disguise their deadly profit-motive, and recruit young people to help spread death and disease. The vast proportion of damage caused by tobacco occurs in low and middle-income countries like Pakistan who were being targeted in this year's competition, he warned. Khalil Ahmed Dogar, Program Manager SPARC, stated that the devastating harm to societies and families created by tobacco-related death and disease far outweighs any prize money tobacco companies could provide. Due to cheap and easy affordability, around 1,200 Pakistani children between the ages of 6-15 years start smoking every day. He shared that during "Battle for Health" campaign, young people, had

been sensitized to not participate in tobacco industry's campaigns. If they do, they would be helping the company market tobacco products. Khalil also urged the public health officials and policymakers to use their social media channels to highlight the harms caused by tobacco products. CEO, Chromatic Trust Shariq Mahmood Khan stressed that weaker tobacco control policies in Pakistan had allowed the companies to prey on public's health. Tobacco companies have used deceptive tactics, he said, to interfere with public health policies and sold deadly products online and to children near educational institutions. Shariq Khan stated that government needs to tighten the tobacco control laws and invest in education and employment programmes so that the youth won't be attracted to such deceptive campaigns. — APP

5-day rain spell likely to start from June 30

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) Director General Mehar Sahibzada Khan said on Tuesday that a 5-day rain spell likely to start from Thursday which would continue till July 4. Moist currents from Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal would likely to enter in upper parts of the country from 29th June (Wednesday) which may intensify and expand to southern parts of the country by the end of this week, he said while talking to a private news channel. He said rain-windstorm/thundershower is expected in Islamabad, Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan, Swat, Mansehra, Kohistan, Abbottabad, Haripur, Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi, Nowshera, Rawalpindi, Murree, Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum, Sargodha, Hafizabad, M. B Din, Sialkot, Narawal, Lahore, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Sheikhpura, Faisalabad, Jhang, T.T Singh, Okara, Sahiwal and Bahawalnagar from 30th June till July 4. Heavy falls would generate urban flooding in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Faisalabad from July 2 till 4 and in Karachi and Hyderabad from July 3 to 5. Fishermen are advised to remain careful due to rough sea conditions from July 3 to 5, he added. DG Met further informed that flash flooding is also expected in local nullahs of Kashmir, Khuzdar, Lasbella, Naseerabad, Awaran, Barkhan and Kohlu during the forecast period. Heavy rainfall may trigger landslides in Kashmir, Gallyyat and Murree, he said. — APP

FBR exceeds FY 2021-22 tax target by Rs300 billion

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR) collected a tax of Rs 6 trillion in the fiscal year 2021-22, exceeding the target of Rs5.8 trillion. According to details, a total of Rs 6 trillion in tax was collected in the fiscal year 2021-22, an FBR spokesperson said. Rs2.2 trillion was collected in income tax, while an amount of Rs2.7 trillion was collected as sales tax in 2021-22. FBR spokesperson told that a total of Rs1,007 billion were collected in customs duty in 2021-22. While the FBR issued an amount of Rs305 billion in refunds. Former spokesperson of the finance ministry Muzammil Aslam said that the FBR data is a 'shut up call' to all the people who were claiming that the tax collections for the fiscal year 2021-22 would not be met. The PTI leader took to Twitter and said that income tax increased by 31%, while an increase of 28% was witnessed in sales tax. If the PTI has successfully implemented the Petroleum sales tax, the figure had gone up to Rs6.5 trillion. The finance specialist said that all experts said that the target of Rs5.8 trillion was unachievable but we surpassed that limit. However, the incumbent is making very bad decisions which would nullify our effort, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery is being used at the site of a flyover at Rawal Dam Chowk. — APP

Deceptive marketing has direct impact on consumers

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (RCCI) in collaboration with Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) organized an Advocacy Session on Competition Law. Chairperson CCP, Ms. Rahat Kaunain Hassan, in her address said that deceptive marketing practices have a direct impact on consumers and the competitors of the businesses and therefore, while marketing their products, businesses must be truthful. She recommends businesses to, "Show what you sell and say what you mean," which can make them fully compliant and truthful to the consumers and not allow businesses to take any undue competitive advantage. Businesses are free to make profits as long as they are not violating the competition principles. Nothing bars businesses under the law from grow-

ing; per se dominance is not prohibited, it is the abuse of dominance that triggers competition law enforcement. She said that the CCP is also playing its part in the policy reform by offering recommendations that would enhance economic efficiencies and create a level playing field. The CCP's draft pilot study on the "Assessment of Supply Chain from Farm gate to Retail" recommends policy measures for enhancing economic efficiency and

eliminating distortions in the supply chain of essential commodities, she added. Similarly, it's report on the SME Sector will offer solid recommendations for improving economic efficiencies of SMEs. Moreover, consultative sessions have commenced on the CCP's draft "E-Commerce Policy Guidelines" for deliberations with the stakeholders. She said that the Competition law does play a role in removing entry barriers, improving the market access, and creating a level playing field, but the country's ranking in the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) is based on other factors such as institutions, infrastructure, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) adoption, macro-economic stability, health, skills, product market, labour market, financial system, market size, business dynamism, and innovation capability. Earlier, RCCI President Nadeem Rauf acknowledged the good work done by the CCP and emphasised upon the need to create more awareness of the Competition Law. He offered RCCI's platform for educating the businessmen on the Dos and don'ts of the law. He also welcomed the Chairperson's suggestion of exempting the chambers from fee for filing formal complaints with the CCP.



PIA to start flights between Islamabad, Chengdu

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PIA will start direct weekly passenger flights between Islamabad and Chengdu, China from July 6, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday quoting a statement of the national flag carrier. Chengdu, the capital city of Sichuan, China, is the third destination other than Beijing for which PIA recently got operating licences from the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC). In March, PIA said that CAAC had allowed it to operate flights for Chinese cities of Xi'an and Guangzhou from Pakistan. Previously, the state-run airline was allowed to conduct flight operations for Beijing only. CAAC has also allowed PIA to operate chartered cargo flights for Kunming and Shenzhen while approval for flights for Kashgar (Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region) is under process, the airline said.

G20 countries asked not to undermine UN credibility by gathering in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD: All Parties Hurriyat Conference leaders and organizations including Molvi Bashir Ahmad Irfani, Advocate Davinder Singh Behal, Democratic Freedom Party, Jammu and Kashmir Muslim League and Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference have warned the G20 countries against undermining the credibility of the United Nations by holding their meeting in the UN-designated disputed territory of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). According to Kashmir Media Service, the leaders and organizations in their statements issued in Srinagar vehemently rejected the Indian government's proposal of holding G20 meeting in IIOJK saying the move will amount to legitimize the India's illegal occupation of internationally disputed Jammu and Kashmir. — APP

Criminal killed in police encounter

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police in a joint intelligence based operation on Monday killed the most wanted criminal involved in hundreds of robberies and heinous crimes during a police encounter. According to Rawalpindi Police spokesperson, Bilal Sabit, the ring-leader of the daocit gang, involved in killing police officials, attacking on Additional IG Motorway and killing of his brother was killed along with his accomplice Intiaz Ahmed. The Rawalpindi Police, Islamabad Police and Civil Intelligence Agency had conducted the intelligence-based operation in Naseerabad area to arrest the most wanted daocit. The senior officials of Rawalpindi Police have rushed to the crime scene for ascertaining details of the operation. — APP

ANF recovers five kg heroin; arrests 3

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Rawalpindi and ANF Intelligence on Tuesday conducted an operation and managed to recover five kilograms heroin besides netting three accused including a woman. According to an ANF headquarters spokesman, ANF conducted a raid near bus stand at Chungi No. 26 Islamabad and arrested HunainKhaliq, HunainKhaliq and a woman namely GulshanBibi. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is under process. The spokesman said that accomplices of the accused would also be sent behind the bars. — APP

Briefs

Paracha assumes charge as PBM MD

ISLAMABAD: Amir Fida Paracha on Tuesday assumed charge of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) Managing Director, after the approval of Cabinet Division and Notification by Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division. Soon after joining PBM, he got a detailed briefing from the officers, about the organization including ongoing social welfare projects. The Managing Director also visited the various departments of PBM and met with the staff there. Chairing a meeting with Directors, he expressed his passion to serve the vulnerable populace of the country.

"Being Managing Director PBM, I feel a colossal national, religious and social responsibility and determined to address the thorny issues linked with poverty", he stated. Previously, he was Chairman National Trust for Population Welfare and Member Provincial Assembly of Punjab as well. Amir Fida Paracha is also spokesperson of former President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari. - APP

India blocks Radio Pak twitter account

ISLAMABAD: Radio Pakistan twitter account has been blocked in India, denying access to information and restricting democratic freedom of expression. The social media handle of Pakistan's state broadcaster has been withheld mainly for highlighting grave human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, said a press release issued here on Tuesday. Expressing concern over the blocking of the twitter account, Radio Pakistan Spokesperson Chaudhry Zameer Ashraf said Radio Pakistan always upheld objectivity in its news stories, strictly abiding by international journalistic norms. He urged Twitter to immediately restore access to Radio Pakistan twitter account in India to ensure freedom of speech and access to information. - APP

IHC serves notices in Noor Mukadam case

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Tuesday served notices to respondents on appeals in Noor Mukadam murder case. A division bench comprising Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Arab Muhammad Tahir heard the appeals. At the outset of hearing, the court remarked that it would hear the petitions one by one as several appeals had been filed in murder case. The court added that it had to appoint a lawyer for the jail appeal of accused Zahir Jaffar. The bench served notices to plaintiff and state counsel on Zahir Jaffar's appeal, and instructed the registrar office to prepare paper-book of the case. The court also sought arguments from the plaintiff on next hearing on his appeals seeking to increase the sentences of accused and challenging acquittal of 11 other accused by the trial court. The court adjourned further hearing of the case till the first week of the August. - APP

PTV starts live sessions for NADRA chairman

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday announced start of the live question and answer sessions of National Database and National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) Chairman Muhammad Tariq Malik with the public on the Pakistan Television to ensure swift redressal of their issues. "On the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, an initiative has been taken to listen and resolve the people's issues [related to NADRA] live. In this regard, the first programme has been telecast on the PTV News at 4:00 pm Tuesday," she said in a series of the tweets which also carried #PTVNADRAHOUR. - APP



ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan chairing a high level party meeting, at Bani Gala, on Wednesday. -DNA

Pak importing 80,000 tonnes hazardous waste per year

The Minister while expressing her serious concern over poor management said that the imported waste was not managed properly that had entered in our blood, lungs and food through contamination

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Tuesday said the federal cabinet has approved the National Hazardous Waste Management Policy to curb the growing threats of toxic waste posed to human life and ecology. Addressing the joint media conference, flanked by Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira and Secretary Ministry of Religious Affairs, she told the journalists that the country was importing 80,000 tonnes of hazardous waste from abroad which was far more than the solid waste produced annually within the country. Sherry said a landmark policy was approved by the Cabinet moved by the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC). The policy would help control the Hazardous Waste Management, its mobility, and transboundary movement of toxic material which included plastics,

hospital waste, oil, batteries, and electronic waste, she added. "The toxic waste's formulation, classification and discarding mechanisms will be devised under the policy framework to be established in the next phase," the Minister underlined. She underlined that there was no second thought that hazardous waste was injurious to health due to its carcinogenic nature and serious health complications. "It pollutes our ground water reserves and attains the chemical status of poisonous acid after seepage into the aquifer", Sherry said. The Minister informed that a long consultative process with the provinces was held and the Ministry would have to proceed as per the national action plan. "We will have to form a departmental framework along with strengthening of federal and provincial environmental protection agencies (EPAs) and also regulatory framework to ensure implementation of the policy".



Earlier, around 626 containers were shipped to Pakistan illegally by various countries to dump their toxic waste which hit the news bulletins as a matter of serious concern, she mentioned. She said some 80,000 tonnes toxic waste a year was being imported by the private parties whereas the country's solid waste generation was 60,000 tonnes per year. The Minister while expressing her serious concern over poor manage-

ment said that the imported waste was not managed properly that had entered in our blood, lungs and food through contamination. "Basil Convention, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions also deal with it and the Policy had to be established as per these convention as Pakistan is signatory to these protocols. We will develop a national framework with the provinces and a national action plan to control licensing of hazardous waste import and management." She added the policy implementation would also benefit the country's GSP plus compliance. "The MoCC hopes to prepare national action plan within three months," she said. Responding to media queries, she said there was no regulation to control the toxic waste generated and dumped in the country and the policy would help address the issue. Adviser to Prime Minister on Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira announced that the federal cabi-

net had approved an amount of Rs.3.1 billion to establish housing units for 8,000 Kashmiri families that migrated from the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) after serious brutalities unleashed by the occupant forces in 1989. "Pakistan always supported the Kashmiri brethren at every step and will continue to do so. The migrated families have been given full support by the Pakistani government who are living in various camps and shelters in Azad Jammu and Kashmir", he said. The government of Pakistan was providing per person funds and moved a summary to increase it before the cabinet. The amount of Rs.3.1 billion rupees were released for the first tranche to establish some 1300 houses out of the total 8,000 in AJK whereas 40% land was identified for the project. "We will provide all type of assistance to AJK government for settlement of Kashmiri brethren," he said. - APP

Pak earns \$634m by exporting transport services

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan earned US \$ 634.760 million by providing different transport services in various countries during the first ten months of fiscal year (2021-22) as compared to the corresponding period last year. This shows increase of 34.77 percent as compared to US \$ 471.010 million earned through provision of services during the corresponding period of last fiscal year (2020-21), Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

During the period under review, the exports of sea transport services witnessed an increase of 51.81 percent, by going up from US \$ 66.050 million last year to US \$ 100.270 million during the period under review.

Among the sea transport services, the exports of freight services surge by 96.16 percent from US \$29.400 million last year to US \$ 57.670 million whereas the exports of other sea transport services also rose by 16.23 percent from US \$36.650 million to US \$42.600 million current year, the PBS data revealed.

The exports of air transport services increased by 33.37 percent by going up from US \$ 381.010 million last year to US \$508.170 million during July-April (2021-22). Among the air transport services, the exports of passengers services rose by 33.63 percent, from US \$ 249.370 million to US \$ 333.230 million, whereas the exports of freight services dipped by 1.25 percent, from US \$25.570 million to US \$ 25.250 million, in addition the export of other air transport services surge by 41.12 percent from US \$ 106.070 million to US \$ 149.690 million. - APP

Gold price decreases by Rs.350 to Rs.141,500 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed a decrease of Rs.350 per tola and was sold at Rs.141,500 on Tuesday against its sale at Rs.141,850 the previous day in the local market.

The price of 10 gram 24 karat fold also decreased by Rs.301 and was sold at Rs.121,313 against its sale at Rs. 121,614 whereas the prices of ten gram 22 karat gold also declined to Rs.111,204 against its sale at Rs 111,480, All Sindh Sarafajewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained stagnant at Rs1550 and Rs 1,328.87 respectively. The price of gold in international market decreased by \$10 and was sold at \$1823 against its sale at \$1833, the association reported. - APP

299,911 Hajj pilgrims arrive in Madinah

ISLAMABAD: A total of 299,911 pilgrims from several nationalities have arrived in Madinah, through air and land crossings to perform this year's Hajj, Saudi Press Agency reported on Tuesday.

Statistics on arriving and departing pilgrims in Madinah, issued by the Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, showed that 241,859 pilgrims have arrived through the Prince Mohammad Bin Abdulaziz International Airport in Madinah since receiving the first Hajj flights, while the land immigration centre received 45,824 pilgrims who arrived in Madinah through land border crossings.

The statistics also revealed the nationalities of pilgrims staying in Madinah, showing that Bangladeshi pilgrims are the top residents of Madinah with 12,901, followed by Nigerians with 10,216, Indians with 8,350, Pakistanis with 6,954 and Iranians with 6,494 pilgrims. Moreover, statistics also showed that 205,049 pilgrims left Madinah over the past few days on their way to the Holy Sites in Makkah, where the number of pilgrims staying in Madinah until yesterday totaled 94,837 pilgrims belonging to various nationalities. - APP

OMBUDSMAN shows concerns over the situation of pensioners

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi took notice of the alarming situation of pensioners and directed the establishment of a pension desk in all major ministries and corporations. He has been receiving a large number of complaints regarding delays in their pension and other post-retirement benefits. There is total apathy by the departments / Agencies while hefty bribe is demanded from the poor pensioners. Otherwise, their cases are delayed in red tape for months and years. This has led to the emergence of "touts" who obtain large

sums to facilitate pension cases. To address this serious situation, Wafaqi Mohtasib had setup a monitoring committee headed by a Senior Advisor Mr. Muhammad Ayub Tarin former Additional Auditor General and Additional Finance Secretary. While presiding a meeting of the monitoring committee on 28th June 2022 Wafaqi Mohtasib directed that major Ministries, Corporation / Agencies, that deals with thousands of pensioners should ensure functional pension desk, manned by trained staff and to be supervised by a Senior Officer to facilitate the processing of pension cases and save the old pensioners, widows, orphans from running pillar to post. The meeting was attended by the Secretary WMS Mr. Ejaz Ahmed Khan, Senior Advisors of WMS Mr. Muhammad Ayub Tarin, Mr. Ahmed Farooq & other senior officers, Mr. Jibran A. Malik, CFAO Estab. Division, Mr. Kashif Ahmed Noor, Member (Finance) Railways, Mr. Hasnat A. Qureshi, DG (Accounts) CGA, DG AGPR and other stakeholders. - APP



RAWALPINDI: A livestock trader on the way guiding his herd of goats while looking for customers in the city. - APP

Senate body directs NH&MP to table rules of department

A comprehensive briefing on Chaman to Karachi (N-25) highway project was given by the officials from NH&MP. The Chairman committee said that the project had been inaugurated six times but still had not been completed

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Communications on Tuesday directed National Highways and Motorway Police (NH&MP) to present copy of the laid-out rules of the department in the next meeting of the committee. If lacunas exist in those rules they should be amended, the committee decided. The meeting was held here at Parliament House on Tuesday with Senator Prince Omar Ahmadzai in the Chair. Senators Kamil Ali Agha, Danesh Kumar, Abida Muhammad Azeem, Shammim Afridi, Muhammad Akram, and Umer Farooq, attended the meeting. The Secretary Ministry of Communication, IG NH&MP, DIG NH&MP (west zone), Quetta and other officials from the Ministry of communication and NH&MP were also in attendance. At the outset, the committee received a comprehensive briefing on the rules and procedures of Right of Way (ROW) under the National Highway Authority Act, 1991 and procedures and policies in this regard. "The Land acquired for construction of

a National Highway or any other road assigned to the Authority" is defined as the Right of Way, GM ROW underlined. He stated that the Right of Way comprises the road, the shoulder and the "Kacha route" beside the shoulder of the road while 220ft on either side from the centre of the road is the building line that lies beyond the ROW. After debating the subject, the committee called for a detailed briefing on all the matters related to ROW. Senator Kamil Ali Agha, with raised eyebrows, recalled encroachment along the GT road and called for immediate action against it. He told the Authority to take notice of the matter and revert to the committee afterwards. The Chairman Committee hinted at scores of illegal installations of Gas stations on the N-25 highway project approaching Karachi. The Chairman while calling for ensuring safety measures along the highway, underscored that these gas stations sometimes are becoming the cause of certain damages and quoted the examples of Commissioner Turbat and Parliamentarian

Zehri. He said that pulling them out is not the way forward but varied safety and security measures need to be taken. After discussing the issue the Chairman committee decided to call Chief Secretary Balochistan along with the concerned Deputy Commissioner in the next meeting. The officials from NH&MP also briefed the committee on Criteria/policy for seniority and promotion of officers in NHA; indicating cases pending along with the reasons for a delay in each case. The officials informed that different selection committees were in place and were categorised for deciding the promotion of officers and other staff members. Later, the Chairman called for providing a brief list of those officers fulfilling the criteria and had not been promoted yet. A comprehensive briefing on Chaman to Karachi (N-25) highway project was given by the officials from NH&MP. The Chairman committee said that the project had been inaugurated six times but still had not been completed. To the question, asked by the Chairman Committee the officials said that

Rs. 6 billion had been allocated for the project given the fact that the estimated cost of the project stands at Rs. 222 billion. committee feared that due to a hike in construction-related materials the estimated cost might surpass the current amount. As committed by the Prime Minister, would this project be completed in 1.5 yrs?, asked Senator Danesh Kumar. The Chairman NHA while expressing his commitment remarked that his team would try its best to accomplish the said project in due time, adding that the contractors were on the ground and have committed the same. While sharing details of the N-25 project, the officials informed, "the committee that the project has 5 packages and will be completed in phases. The total length is 790km having sections (i) (Karachi-Uthal-Kararo and wadh-khuzdar) 273km, (ii) Khuzdar-Kuchlak (330km) for which clearance is needed having alignment issue, and (iii) Kararo-Wadh and Kuchlak-Chaman 187km amounting a total cost of Rs. 222.282 billion." - APP

Afghan quake questions US conscience

Less than a week after a magnitude 5.9 earthquake rocked southeastern Afghanistan on June 22, killing more than 1,000 people and injuring nearly 2,000, the first batch of earthquake relief supplies donated by China arrived in Kabul on Monday night and was handed over to the Afghan side. The supplies, including tents, folding beds and blankets, are part of the emergency humanitarian assistance worth 50 million yuan (\$7.5 million) that China pledged to provide Afghanistan immediately after the earthquake, with other relief supplies set to be delivered as soon as possible. A friend in need is a friend indeed. The timely support China has given to Afghanistan reflects the traditional friendship between the two countries, and it will to some extent ease the pains the Afghan people are suffering. It also underscores the responsible role that China plays in the international arena.

Yet given the scale of damage done by the earthquake, as well as funding and access constraints, much more relief assistance is still needed from the international community, without which the Afghan people "will continue to endure unnecessary and unimaginable hardship", according to UN Deputy Special Representative Ramiz Alakbarov, who toured the hard-hit Paktika province on Saturday to assess the damage and distribute food, medicine and tents. The dire situation Afghanistan finds itself in has prompted the Taliban-led government to call for foreign assistance and appeal to Washington to release the billions of dollars of Afghanistan's currency reserves. The US froze about \$7 billion in assets held in US financial institutions by the Afghan central bank after the Taliban takeover in August last year, and US President Joe Biden signed an executive order in February to direct \$3.5 billion to be used for families of victims of the Sept 11 terror attacks. The rest is to be used to provide relief inside Afghanistan. The US decision has dealt a heavy blow to the Afghan economy, which was already "on the brink" even before the Taliban takeover, devastated by high poverty rates and widespread damage to crop yields from a two-year drought and the lack of basic infrastructure construction during the past 20 years of occupation by US-led forces. The United Nations predicted in a December report that Afghanistan's economy could contract by 20 percent within a year. The earthquake has only made life harder for many Afghan people. The US always claims it is the defender of the rules-based international order and that it stands ready to uphold the rights of all people. Yet what it has done in relation to Afghanistan proves otherwise. Its sanctions and the asset freezes show its callous attitude toward the Afghan people.

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G7 must seek a political settlement in Ukraine

Russia targeted the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv late Sunday with a series of missiles for the first time in weeks, most probably a message to the leaders of the G7, who will expectedly conclude their annual summit in Germany on June 28 with more sanctions on Moscow. According to Ukrainian military officials, Russian "strategic bombers" were used in the air raid on the capital, a significant development as the prized bombers have rarely been used in the conflict that began on February 24. Meanwhile, the Ukrainian key city of Severodonetsk is now "completely under Russian occupation," Kyiv confirmed as Russian forces move closer to securing control over neighbouring Lysychansk city. The Russian advance takes place despite unprecedented sanctions imposed by the United States and its western allies on Moscow in response to the Ukrainian offensive. The sanctions have not worked so far. Nevertheless, leaders of the G7 moved closer on Monday to slap even more sanctions on Russia. US President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson formally announced that the G7 countries would ban the import of Russian gold, its largest export after energy. Biden and Johnson believe that sanctions and a multi-billion military aid to Ukraine are the only way to end the war. The G7 nations have already imposed the most stringent sanctions in history on Russia, targeting its biggest banks, most state-owned enterprises, and the oil and gas sector, in addition to the country's business community.

What is oddly absent in this tragic discourse is the willingness of the G7 to resort to negotiations to end the war. The group has members who can mediate, such as France and Germany, and both have good access to the Russian leadership. China too can play that role. However, belligerence dominates the conversation. Last month, former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger at Davos called for a political settlement. His suggestion was immediately dismissed by Ukraine and its western supporters. Yet, nobody has offered an alternative. On the contrary, there seems to be an implicit desire among the Western alliance for a prolonged war. That probably explains the subdued media coverage in the west lately of the humanitarian cost of the war. Kissinger said he feared the Ukraine war would soon become another world war. Actions from both sides suggest they might be dragging the world on that catastrophic path.

From a strong state to a vibrant nation with a shared destiny

Benedict de Cerjat



Following the guidance and the excellent precepts of the founding father Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Pakistan can take the bull by the horns and become one day the self-confident and vibrant nation that the world expects. The younger generation of Pakistan – the 2017 census recorded that 60% of the country's population was under the age of 25 – deserves a positive agenda they can support and be part of

After completing two wonderful years in Pakistan, while about to retire from the Swiss Foreign Service, I feel inclined to share some of my observations and thoughts on your fasci-

oldest and most advanced civilisations of their time (9,000 years old Mehrgarh Civilisation; 5,500-7,000 years old Indus Valley Civilisation; and 2,600 years old Gandhara Civilisation), is not playing a more important role in world affairs?

nating country. This is by no means a lecture by a foreigner – of which this country has had its fair share – but rather a well-meaning piece of advice, or rather an observation.

I am still puzzled by the enormous gap between the rich past and incredible cultural diversity of the Land of the Pure and the lack of common ground within the Nation about the vision for the future.

How is it possible that the country with the 5th largest population in the world, which is home to three of the world's

Of course, this may also be said about Iraq and Egypt. But in the case of Pakistan, the elites – including the political, economic and religious leaders – often appear stuck in the management of the short term without providing for the political space to work for a long-term vision together with all parts of the society.

I would argue that a strong State, narrowly focused on its security as it has existed in Pakistan for many decades, is not enough to find the right answers for the future and stimulate the younger generation to get involved. It is true of course that good organisation and the respect of strict control – as we have seen in the past on the occasion of natural disasters and more recently in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic, during which Pakistan did quite well in comparison with other large countries in the region – have effectively prevented mismanagement and possible chaos. Over the years, Pakistan has developed its hard power, which gives the country some assurances to counter potential destabilisation risks from inside and outside. Your State is strong. The separation of powers does not compare to the West but it works in its own ways and there is an understanding that this has to be nurtured. Civil liberties are certainly challenged but not fundamentally questioned. But is this enough?

A better knowledge, acceptance, dissemination and promotion of the rich history and culture along the Five Rivers, before the partition, which will obviously lead to a broader understanding of the value of diversity in the society, will allow every citizen of the country to participate and flourish in the society. This softer kind of power does not detract from Pakistan's real challenges. And a shared identity is so much more than a mere intellectual concept – it is the very essence that keeps us anchored and guided in the years to come.

Switzerland owes its economic success to its openness and diversity. Lacking resources, we have built our economy from a poor agrarian country to one which thrives on innovation and is backed by strong institutions and hard work. And although our example cannot be a blueprint for Pakistan, it shows that Pakistan too can be an "Asian Tiger" with the right kind of mental framework. This certainly will take time but it can be done. Improving the quality of governance and increasing economic freedom will provide confidence in the country's future and will result in increasing its soft power.

As a Swiss citizen who belongs to a linguistic minority (the French speakers) in my country, I feel entirely part of our Nation because we are not only valued and encouraged to actively engage for the nation's

destiny but often given a larger role in than we would numerically deserve. Interestingly, the Swiss national identity has not been defined along any linguistic or religious lines. Rather we have succeeded in creating our own identity based on our history but equally important, on myths which have shaped our perception of national unity. This has served us through the two world wars and has inspired our youth to identify and work for my country.

Following the guidance and the excellent precepts of the founding father Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Pakistan can take the bull by the horns and become one day the self-confident and vibrant nation that the world expects. The younger generation of Pakistan – the 2017 census recorded that 60% of the country's population was under the age of 25 – deserves a positive agenda they can support and be part of. A positive agenda, based on Pakistan's immense soft power potential, would also help the country and the Nation to be regarded as what it is: the ancient and beautiful place where History began! And let us hope that Pakistan will no longer be an internationally relatively isolated and disengaged country. I wish Pakistan a great and bright future!

The writer is the Ambassador of Switzerland.

Talent management

Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi

Our connectedness with the motherland coupled with talent management beyond academic abilities can enable our dynamic human capital in engaging for impact, utilising their intellect to solve for the right problem, getting along with the people and making it possible to overcome every obstacle to achieve what is required for prosperous national progress

Pakistan surprises the global community quite often with deep-rooted astonishing dynamics of the society. Recent survey by Gallup & Gilani Pakistan suggested that a huge majority of 70% of Pakistanis feel connected to the country and prefers to stay in Pakistan even if given the good opportunity to leave Pakistan. However, there is a reasonable percentage of young educated but unemployed Pakistanis who opted to quit the Country. In the month of April this year, respondents were asked the question, "If someone gives you im-

portant papers accommodation and employment in a developed country, would you consider going/ or would reject the offer and prefer to stay in Pakistan?" In response to this question, 26% said move abroad, 70% said stay in Pakistan and 4% didn't know or gave no response. Despite several challenges, extensive inflation, restricted access to basic amenities, long hours of load-shedding, rising unemployment, encounters of extremism and volatile political environment, still Pakistanis feel connected to the Country and prefer to stay in Pakistan. They not only preferred to stay in the Country but also feel secure in their homeland even with all vulnerabilities. This disproves widespread allegations of disloyalties from one faction of the society to another. Now, I think, we all should learn to respect loyalties of every Pakistani to the motherland. Interestingly, almost double of the global average of Pakistanis feel secure about their future, while 68% of Italians and

41% Finns feel insecure. It is indeed attention-grabbing to notice that countries ranking high in global prosperity index failed to inculcate sense of security among their population while a country ranked 140 in the global prosperity index has showed connectedness among masses and confidence about their secure future. It certainly suggests strength of the social structure of the Pakistani society.

There is always a hue and cry about the brain drain from Pakistan and data also supports these concerns. A report suggests, "During 2018-19 in the two years alone, some 884,000 young Pakistanis have left the country, according to the official registrations at the bureau of emigration. The record indicates more than 300,000 Pakistanis left the country in 2018. The figure soared to 500,000 in the following year." Analysis such as these usually misguide masses, on one hand portraying bleak picture of the society while on the other celebrating remittances from foreign destinations as a strong contributor to the GDP of the Country. Technically brain drain is the emigration of highly trained or qualified people from a particular country. In case of Pakistan, the same report indicates that only around 46,000 highly educated/trained Pakistanis decided to leave Pakistan in the same period which is indeed a great loss to the nation but our reports never report those who comeback to Pakistan from foreign destinations to serve their motherland. This inflow and outflow of highly educated/trained human capital is the indication of vibrant society but we usually look at the

weak side of the pattern. Recent findings of subject survey clearly eliminates the perception that majority of the population prefers to leave Pakistan. It also emphasises the need of talent management in the Country to strengthen both public and private sectors of the society.

James Intagliata and his colleagues suggest, "When you don't know what the future will bring, how do you figure out who has – or can acquire – the right strengths to meet those challenges? Past performance doesn't tell you who can do things they haven't done before. It also doesn't help identify high potentials earlier in their career. Leadership potential is not grounded in achievements but in observable and measurable behaviours. Drawing on a database of more than 23,000 candidate assessments for roles at public and private companies, and in-depth analyses of 1,500 individuals, from entry-level professionals to senior leader three psychological markers have been isolated that can reliably predict individuals' ability to grow and handle increased complexity in new roles including cognitive quotient (CQ): how they leverage their intellect, drive quotient (DQ): what motivates them and how they apply their energy, and emotional quotient (EQ): how they interact with those around them." I think it is equally important to look at academic transcripts and professional credentials along with field specific tests to determine intellectual abilities for particular positions. However, considering drive and emotional quotients can certainly help organizations to attract people who

can give their heart and soul to the task and the objective. If we are losing people despite such a high connectedness with the homeland it means there is a flaw in the overall design of our job market. Drive quotient enables and individuals not just to maximize their own performance but to develop and leverage the capabilities of others. Drive is linked with passion for progress, for achievement, for excellence and most importantly a triumph for the self and for the group. Once we are able to channelize DQ of people towards appropriate direction they can convert every challenge into a thriving opportunity for the success of their own and those around them. James Intagliata and his colleagues further suggest, "People with high DQ push past their comfort zones and attack new challenges with relish. They are also resilient: When they experience a setback, they reset and reframe and try again. Most importantly, they continually strive to improve not just as individuals, but to amplify results at the organizational level." Our connectedness with the motherland coupled with talent management beyond academic abilities can enable our dynamic human capital in engaging for impact, utilising their intellect to solve for the right problem, getting along with the people and making it possible to overcome every obstacle to achieve what is required for prosperous national progress.

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Briefs

Russian missile strike kills at least 18

AGENCIES

KYIV: A Russian missile strike on a shopping mall in Ukraine's Kremenchuk city has killed at least 18 people and injured many others, Ukrainian officials said on Tuesday. The Monday attack on Amstor shopping mall caused a huge fire and sent dark smoke billowing into the sky, footage shared on social media showed.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that more than 1,000 civilians were inside the mall at the time of the attack. "Unfortunately, as of now, 18 people have been killed in the Russian strike," Dmytro Lunin, governor of the central Poltava region, said on Telegram, adding that 36 people are missing as rescuers continue searching through the rubble. "More than a thousand people worked all night on the ruins - rescuers, police, medics, and volunteers," he said. Meanwhile, Vitali Maletskiy, the city's mayor, announced a 3-day mourning in the city. While the West has condemned the attack, Zelenskyy called it "one of the most daring terrorist attacks in European history" and that Russia has become the "largest terrorist organization in the world."

Earlier, Ukraine's air force said the mall was hit by two long-range X-22 missiles fired from Tu-22M3 bombers from Shaykivka airfield in Russia's Kaluga region.

46 migrants found dead in Texas

AGENCIES

TEXAS: Forty-six people were found dead in a sweltering tractor-trailer that was abandoned on a remote back road in San Antonio in what marked the latest tragedy to claim the lives of migrants smuggled across the border from Mexico to the U.S. Sixteen people were hospitalized, including four children. A city worker heard a cry for help from the truck shortly before 6 p.m. Monday and discovered the gruesome scene, Police Chief William McManus said. Hours later, body bags lay spread on the ground near the trailer as a grim symbol of the calamity. San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg said the 46 who died had "families who were likely trying to find a better life." "This is nothing short of a horrific human tragedy," Nirenberg said. It's among the deadliest tragedies to have claimed thousands of lives of people attempting to cross the U.S. border from Mexico in recent decades. Ten migrants died in 2017 after being trapped inside a truck that was parked at a Walmart in San Antonio. In 2003, 19 migrants were found in a sweltering truck southeast of San Antonio. The home countries of the immigrants and how long they were abandoned on the side of the road was not immediately known.

Ex Nazi guard given five years in jail

BERLIN: A German court on Tuesday handed a five-year jail sentence to a 101-year-old former Nazi concentration camp guard, the oldest person so far to go on trial for complicity in war crimes during the Holocaust. Josef Schuetz was found guilty of being an accessory to murder in at least 3,500 cases while working as a prison guard at the Sachsenhausen camp in Oranienburg, north of Berlin, between 1942 and 1945.

He is highly unlikely to be put behind bars given his age. The pensioner, who now lives in Brandenburg state, had pleaded innocent, saying he did "absolutely nothing" and had not even worked at the camp. "I don't know why I am here," he said at the close of his trial on Monday. But presiding judge Udo Lechtermann said he was convinced Schuetz had worked at Sachsenhausen and had "supported" the atrocities committed there. "For three years, you watched prisoners being tortured and killed before your eyes," Lechtermann said. - APP

National Tourism E-portal to be launched: Ehsan Mazari

Addressing to the 11th session of Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers in Baku, Azerbaijan, the minister said it should be a matter for collective pride that increasing number of ministers were participating in the Intra-OIC cooperation for Tourism

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Ehsan-ur-Rehman Mazari on Tuesday said a National Tourism E-portal was going to be launched to provide information and facilitation to foreign and domestic tourists on one click. Addressing to the 11th session of Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM-June 27-29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, the minister said it should be a matter for collective pride that increasing number of ministers were participating in the Intra-OIC cooperation for Tourism, said a press release issued here.

He said tourism was a mainstay of our economies and most important source of generating valuable foreign exchange, economic growth and employment in OIC Member States.

The theme of the session was Role of local communities in tourism development. He said unfortunately, there were several challenges impeding growth and development of this vital sector ranging from lack of peace and stability, weak infrastructural base, weak/non-existent regulations and standards. The Minister said the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in 2020



led to significant losses in Tourism sector in the OIC Member States including Pakistan viz-a-viz tourism receipts, employment in tourism sector. In post COVID scenario, owing to immense challenges faced by nascent tourism sector of OIC Countries, there is a need to facilitate knowledge and technology transfers and offer technical assistance for capacity building in member States to increase preparedness for future shocks that could hamper course of development in Tourism due to natural calamities or armed conflicts. The global Tourism market was

all set to be more competitive in post Covid-19 Scenario, owing to new technological advances, new health and safety regulations, hence it is imperative that OIC Member States take necessary steps that promote Tourism including "Islamic Tourism, its allied products, Services, as well as provide visa facilitations to potential travelers as enshrined in relevant resolutions of ICTM. He said that efforts are underway to increase the Tourist Arrivals in Pakistan after the recovery from the pandemic of Covid-19 as it is an important constituent of our economy, and a key priority of our

Government. The promotion of tourism among member states of OIC is very close to the heart of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, he said. Mazari while focusing on the theme of 11th session of ICTM said that, in order to strengthen the local communities to benefit from tourism industry, the subject of Tourism has been devolved to provinces through a constitutional amendment. Today, each of the four Provinces has its own independent Tourism department. At the Federal level, Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) is the agency which provides strategic

vision to develop tourism sector as a national priority in a sustainable manner and in line with regional and international trends. The Minister also enlightened the participants that GoP has taken number of steps to strengthen the tourism industry in Pakistan including; Establishing a high-level National Coordination Committee on Tourism (NCCT) under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to oversee the development of Tourism with a special focus on the development of required infrastructure and framework for tourist facilitation.

First-ever Pakistan Mango Festival held in Canberra



DNA

CANBERRA: Pakistan High Commission in Canberra or-

ganized the first-ever Pakistan Mango Festival as part of the celebrations marking 75 years of independence of Pakistan and also the es-

Russia bans Biden's wife, daughter

FOREIGN DESK

MOSCOW: Russia on Tuesday blacklisted 25 more US citizens, including Jill and Ashley Biden, the wife and daughter of US President Joe Biden. The restrictive measures are imposed in response to constantly expanding US sanctions against Russian political and public figures, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. The rest of the banned people take part in the work of the so-called Yermak-McFaul group - an international group headed by Andriy Yermak, chief of Ukraine's presidential office, and Michael McFaul, former US ambassador to Russia, which develops recommendations on anti-Russian restrictions. Currently, the list of US citizens banned from entering Russia permanently includes 1,048 names. In a separate statement, the ministry said it summoned Swedish Charge d'Affaires Johannes Danielsson and told him that the activities of the Swedish Institute and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) in Russia are "undesirable" and must be immediately stopped.



ISLAMABAD: FS, Sohail Mahmood received Turkiye Ambassador-designate Mehmet Paçacı. - DNA

Ukraine facing brutality unseen in Europe

NEWS DESK

BRUSSELS: NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Tuesday urged leaders of the alliance heading to a summit in the Spanish capital Madrid to keep up their backing for Ukraine as it faces an onslaught from Russia. "It is extremely important that we are ready to continue to provide support because Ukraine now faces a brutality which we haven't seen in Europe since the Second World War," NATO chief said ahead of the gathering in Spain. NATO allies have funneled billions of dollars of arms to Kyiv - including increasingly heavy and longer-range weapons - as it battles to hold back the Kremlin's forces. The alliance is set to agree on an additional joint package at the summit in Madrid that will include secure communications equipment, anti-drone systems and training to help Ukraine switch to more modern Western weapons in the longer term. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who is set to address NATO leaders, tweeted that he had spoken to Stoltenberg in the run-up to stress "the importance of a powerful missile defense system for Ukraine to prevent Russian terrorist attacks."

Chlorine gas leak kills 13 in Jordan port

AQABA: Thirteen people were killed, including at least four Asian migrants, when toxic chlorine gas escaped on the dockside in the Jordanian Red Sea port of Aqaba, officials said. More than 250 people were injured in the accident on Monday, of whom about 100 remained in hospital, according to the latest updates. Most were being treated for the effects of breathing chlorine gas, a common cleaning agent that also has a range of other industrial uses and can be employed as a chemical weapons agent. "All of the injured are suffering from similar symptoms, shortness of breath, a heavy cough and vertigo," said Dr Roubaa Amawi of the Islamic Hospital in Aqaba which was treating 70 people, some on respirators. Assadallah al-Jazi, a 25-year-old fertiliser company employee, was among those hurt. - APP

Erdogan, Joe Biden discuss bilateral ties

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: Türkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his US counterpart Joe Biden held a phone conversation on Tuesday, discussing several issues, including the NATO summit in Madrid. "The call addressed regional matters and the issues concerning the Türkiye-US relations," according to a statement by Türkiye's Communications Directorate.

The two leaders also exchanged views on the NATO summit agenda, it added. Speaking in the capital Ankara before leaving for the high-level meeting, Erdogan said: "We had a talk with Mr. (US President Joe) Biden this morning. He stated his desire to meet again this evening or tomorrow. We answered him that 'it is possible to meet again'."

Later in the day, the Turkish president will attend a four-way meeting alongside Finnish President Sauli Niinistö, Swedish premier Magdalena Andersson and NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Nordic bids to join the 30-member military alliance.

Sweden, along with Finland, formally applied to join NATO last month, a decision spurred by Russia's war on Ukraine, which began on Feb. 24. But Türkiye, a longstanding member of the alliance, has voiced objections to the membership bids, criticizing the countries for tolerating and even supporting terrorist groups. According to a White House statement, Biden "looks forward to seeing President Erdogan at the NATO Summit in Madrid where leaders will discuss the consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine for Transatlantic security and other threats to the Alliance such as terrorism, as well as take historic decisions to strengthen the Alliance's collective defense and security."

284 million used drugs worldwide in 2020

WEB DESK

NEW YORK: An estimated 284 million people between the age of 15 and 24 used drugs worldwide in 2020, a 26% increase over the previous decade, said a UN report released on Monday. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) report, titled World Drug Report 2022, pointed out that "young people are using more drugs, with use levels today in many countries higher than with the previous generation."

The report noted that the number of people suffering from various ailments due to drug use has increased to 38.6 million in the last 10 years. According to the research, cannabis is the most widely used drug in the world, with 209 million people using it in 2020. Cannabis consumption has surged by 23% in the last decade, the report said.

"Cannabis legalization in parts of the world appears to have accelerated daily use and related health impacts," it added. As around 61 million people are addicted to synthetic drugs called "opioids," approximately 34 million people used amphetamine-type substances and about 20 million people used ecstasy and 21 million used cocaine in 2020. While over 11 million people worldwide were injecting drugs, "around half of this number was living with hepatitis C, 1.4 million were living with HIV, and 1.2 million were living with both," according to the report.

People who inject or use drugs are 35 times more likely to contract HIV than the general population, the report said. There was a noticeable increase in the number of people who lost their lives due to drug use in 2020, and the rate of those who died as a result of substance abuse increased by 17.5% between 2009 and 2019, it added.

In 2019, 494,000 people lost their lives due to drugs, with the number of people dying as a result of synthetic drug use reaching the highest levels, particularly in the US and Canada. Opioids and similar substances cost the lives of 93,000 people in the US between 2019 and 2020. The report said that Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Mexico produce 95% of the world's opium.

Moody's says Russia defaulted on debt

Moody's warned that more defaults "are likely". Moody's released an "issuer comment" instead of a formal default declaration, as sanctions bar credit ratings agencies from covering Russia's sovereign debt

PARIS: Moody's ratings agency has confirmed that Russia defaulted on its foreign debt for the first time in a century, after bond holders did not receive \$100 million in interest payments. The historic default follows a series of unprecedented Western sanctions that have increasingly isolated Russia from the global financial system following its invasion of Ukraine. Russia lost the last avenue to service its foreign-currency loans after the United States removed an exemption last month that allowed US investors to receive

Moscow's payments. "On 27 June, holders of Russia's sovereign debt had not received coupon payments on two eurobonds worth \$100 million by the time the 30-calendar-day grace period expired, which we consider an event of default under our definition," Moody's said. Moscow said on Monday there were "no grounds to call this situation a default", as the payments had not reached creditors due to the "actions of third parties". The Russian authorities insist they have the funds to honour the country's debt, calling the predic-

ament a "farce" and accusing the West of pushing an "artificial" default. Moody's warned that more defaults "are likely". Moody's released an "issuer comment" instead of a formal default declaration, as sanctions bar credit ratings agencies from covering Russia's sovereign debt. The sanctions have included freezing the Russian government's stockpile of \$300 billion in foreign currency reserves held abroad, making it more complicated for Moscow to settle its foreign debts. After the United States closed the last payment

loophole last month, Russia said it would pay debt in rubles that could be converted into foreign currency, using a Russian financial institution as a paying agent. But Moody's said it "would likely treat payments in rubles as a default for bonds that do not allow for such redenomination in the contractual terms". Noting that Moody's no longer covers Russia, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "Does this mean that Moody's restarted the ratings process? The agency must surely explain itself." The country last defaulted on its

foreign debt in 1918, when Bolshevik revolution leader Vladimir Ilich Lenin refused to recognise the massive debts of the deposed tsar's regime. Russia defaulted on domestic debt in 1998 when, due to a drop in commodity prices, it faced a financial squeeze that prevented it from propping up the ruble and paying off debts that accumulated during the first war in Chechnya. The International Monetary Fund's number two official, Gita Gopinath, said in March that a Russian default would have "limited" impact on the global financial system. - APP

Briefs

299,911 Hajj pilgrims arrive in Madinah

DNA
ISLAMABAD: A total of 299,911 pilgrims from several nationalities have arrived in Madinah, through air and land crossings to perform this year's Hajj, Saudi Press Agency reported on Tuesday.
Statistics on arriving and departing pilgrims in Madinah, issued by the Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, showed that 241,859 pilgrims have arrived through the Prince Mohammad Bin Abdulaziz International Airport in Madinah since receiving the first Hajj flights, while the land immigration centre received 45,824 pilgrims who arrived in Madinah through land border crossings.
The statistics also revealed the nationalities of pilgrims staying in Madinah, showing that Bangladeshi pilgrims are the top residents of Madinah with 12,901, followed by Nigerians with 10,216, Indians with 8,350, Pakistanis with 6,954 and Iranians with 6,494 pilgrims. Moreover, statistics also showed that 205,049 pilgrims left Madinah over the past few days on their way to the Holy Sites in Makkah, where the number of pilgrims staying in Madinah until yesterday totaled 94,837 pilgrims belonging to various nationalities.

Ch Shujaat rebuffs PML-N's claim

DNA
LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League - Quaid (PML-Q) chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain Tuesday rejected Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) claim to support Hamza Shehbaz as Punjab Chief Minister. Chaudhry Shujaat went on to say that Chaudhry Perwaiz Elahi is his party's candidate for Punjab Chief Minister. PML-Q supremo said that the party members will vote for Chaudhry Perwaiz Elahi, adding that no attempt should be made to mislead any of the party's MPs by spreading false rumors.
Chaudhry Shujaat said that PML-Q members of Punjab Assembly have always adhered to party discipline, adding that they will support Chaudhry Perwaiz Elahi. PML-Q chief said: "I have never misrepresented, I have always taught clarity".

India blocks Radio Pakistan's twitter account

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Radio Pakistan twitter account has been blocked in India, denying access to information and restricting democratic freedom of expression.
The social media handle of Pakistan's state broadcaster has been withheld mainly for highlighting grave human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.
Expressing concern over the blocking of the twitter account, Radio Pakistan Spokesperson Chaudhry Zameer Ashraf said Radio Pakistan always upholds objectivity in its news stories, strictly abiding by international journalistic norms.
He urged Twitter to immediately restore access to Radio Pakistan twitter account in India to ensure freedom of speech and access to information. Earlier, Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar expressed serious concern over India's blocking of official accounts of Pakistan embassies in the United Nations, Turkey, Iran, Egypt and others.
In a statement, he said diminishing space for plurality of voices and access to information in India is extremely alarming.
He said social media platforms must abide by applicable international norms.

CEO Serena Hotels fetes outgoing Swiss, Jordan envoys

Boolani admired Ambassador Benedict's love for Pakistan and people of Pakistan. He especially praised the way the ambassador had project the positive image of Pakistan, through his writings and the social media tools



ISLAMABAD: CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani presents a gift to the outgoing Ambassador of Switzerland Benedict Cerjat while Mrs. Boolani looks on. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Mrs. Viqar Boolani presents bouquet to the outgoing DHM Jordan Embassy Dr Maen while Aziz Boolani looks on. - DNA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: CEO Serena Hotels South and East Asia Aziz Boolani hosted a reception for the outgoing Ambassador of Switzerland Benedict Cerjat and Deputy Head of Mission Jordan Dr. Maen.

While talking about the Ambassador of Switzerland Aziz Boolani said that the outgoing diplomat had contributed greatly towards promotion of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Switzerland. Boolani admired Ambassador Benedict's love for Pakistan and people of Pakistan. He especially praised the way the ambassador had project the positive im-

age of Pakistan, through his writings and the social media tools. Ambassador Benedict in his speech thanked Aziz Boolani for hosting him and providing him with a chance of meeting with his friends. He said back home he was considered as the Ambassador of Pakistan. "One day when I was visiting my headquarters, I came across my boss who abruptly

asked me, are you Pakistan's ambassador or Switzerland ambassador". Dr. Maen, the outgoing DHM of Jordan, also thanked the hosts for arranging the luncheon. He said it was a great experience while working in Pakistan adding he had found Pakistani people cordial and loving. The host later presented souvenirs to the outgoing envoys.

US Supreme Court takes aim at separation of church and state

DNA

WASHINGTON: The conservative-majority U.S. Supreme Court has chipped away at the wall separating church and state in a series of new rulings, eroding American legal traditions intended to prevent government officials from promoting any particular faith. In three decisions in the past eight weeks, the court has ruled against government officials whose policies and actions were taken to avoid violating the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment prohibition on governmental endorsement of religion - known as the "establishment clause."

The court's conservative justices, who hold a 6-3 majority, in particular have taken a broad view of religious rights

The court on Monday backed a Washington state public high school football coach who was suspended by a local school district for refusing to stop leading Christian prayers with players on the field after games.
On June 21, it endorsed taxpayer money paying for students to attend religious schools under a Maine tuition assistance program in rural areas lacking nearby public high schools.
On May 2, it ruled in favor of a Christian group that sought to fly a flag emblazoned with a cross at Boston city hall under a program aimed at promoting diversity and tolerance among the city's different communities.
The court's conservative justices, who hold a 6-3 majority, in particular have taken a broad view of religious rights. They also delivered a decision on Friday that was hailed by religious conservatives - overturning the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion nationwide - though that case did not involve the establishment clause. Cornell Law School professor Michael Dorf said the court's majority appears skeptical of government decision-making premised on secularism.

IRGC chief stresses Iran and Pakistan integrated security

TEHRAN: Chief Commander of IRGC Brigadier General Hossein Salami in a meeting with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee of Pakistan General Nadeem Raza on Tuesday emphasized the integrated security of Iran and Pakistan. Major General Salami met and held talks with General Raza in Tehran on Tuesday. Emphasizing the integrated security of Iran and Pakistan, Major General Salami stressed the need for closer cooperation between Tehran and Islamabad in all fields, especially in protecting the security of the common border and fighting against terrorism. He slammed the Zionist regime as the enemy of the Islamic world and humanity.
The IRGC commander warned regional rulers of the bitter consequences of normalization of ties with the "child-killing Zionists", saying the US, the main supporter of the Israeli regime, is basically the foe of Islam. The question is that while the Zionist regime cannot even defend itself and is a regime completely without any policy, how would certain Islamic countries rely on it to provide their security or safeguard their economy? There is no logic behind it, Major General Salami underscored. He further noted that the awful consequences of the presence of US forces in the Islamic world, including the great seditions, long civil wars, destruction of houses, displacement of people, insecurity, poverty, and underdevelopment. - DNA

Rupee gains Rs 1.07 against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Exchange rate of the Pakistan rupee appreciated by Rs 1.07 against the US dollar in the interbank trading on Tuesday and closed at Rs 206.87 against the previous day's closing of Rs 207.94. According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market were recorded at Rs 206.5 and Rs 208.75 respectively. Similarly, the price of the euro was depreciated by Rs 1.02 and closed at Rs 219.03 against the previous day's closing of Rs 220.05. The Japanese Yen lost two paisas to close at Rs1.52, whereas a decrease of Rs 2.13 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 253.99 as compared to its last closing of Rs 256.12. The exchange rates of Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal decreased by 29 paisas to close at Rs 56.32 and Rs 55.11 respectively. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador designate of Turkiye Mehmet Pacaci presented his copies of credentials to Ali Haider Altaf Director General of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. - DNA

Qatar welcomes hosting US-Iran nuclear talks

The Qatar-hosted discussions came days following a visit by EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell to Tehran and his talks with Iranian officials

WEB DESK

DOHA: Qatar on Tuesday welcomed hosting EU-mediated indirect talks between the US and Iran amid efforts to revive the 2015 nuclear deal.
In a statement, the Qatari Foreign Ministry affirmed "full readiness to provide an atmosphere that would help all parties make the talks a success," voicing hope that the talks will conclude with positive results. Earlier on Tuesday, US Special Envoy to Iran Robert Malley met with Qatari Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani in Doha. The meeting fo-

cused on "the strong partnership and our joint diplomatic efforts to address issues with Iran," the US Embassy in the Qatari capital said on Twitter.
Also, Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri arrived in Doha for the indirect talks with the US, in an effort to break a three-month deadlock in the Vienna nuclear talks.
The Qatar-hosted discussions came days following a visit by EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell to Tehran and his talks with Iranian officials.
Last month, Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani visited Tehran and held wide-ranging talks with Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi.

The visit fueled speculation about the Qatari ruler's mediation efforts to break the stalemate in the Vienna talks and unfreeze Iran's frozen assets abroad. The key disagreements between the US and Iran that have led to the stalemate include the de-listing of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)-linked organizations and guarantees that the future US administration will not walk out of the deal again. Former US President Donald Trump pulled his country out of the landmark deal in May 2018, which was followed by the reinstatement of sanctions on Iran under the "maximum pressure" campaign.

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