



# Islamabad POST

Saturday, June 11, 2022

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

**China will 'not hesitate to start war' with US over Taiwan**

Detailed News On Page-08

**Ban on import of exotic mammals**

Detailed News On Page-04



**Hikmat Hajiyev calls on UNGA President**

Detailed News On Page-07



## Briefs

### Long march after by-polls

**NEWS DESK**  
LAHORE: Former prime minister Imran Khan has delayed his plans to march to Islamabad till after July 20, said a key ally of Khan. Talking to BBC Urdu, Pervez Elahi, a senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Q (PML-Q), who has sided with Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), said that the former prime minister will be going on an election stump in Punjab next month and will not be marching to the federal capital to protest against the government anytime soon. "Imran [Khan] will do the politics of dharna (sit-ins) after the elections," Elahi told BBC Urdu. Last month, the Election Commission of Pakistan de-seated 25 PTI lawmakers in the Punjab Assembly for voting against party lines in the election for the CM of the province. By-polls will now be held on 20 out of 25 seats in July, for which a tough contest is expected between the PTI and the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N).

### Budget to bring stability:

**DNA**  
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyam Aurangzeb says the new budget will bring economic stability in the country. She was addressing media along with Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal outside the Parliament House in Islamabad on Friday. Mariyam Aurangzeb said taxes have been reduced to zero per cent on Agricultural machinery for the development of the agricultural sector. The Minister for Information said special measures have been proposed in the budget for welfare of the youth and despite strict conditions of the IMF, relief has also been given to the salaried class. She said for salaried people tax limit has been increased to one point two million rupees as compared to previous point six million rupees.

### Holiday Notice

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

### Inside...

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## 10 % duty of imported paper; relief for agri sector

# Govt unveils Rs 9.5tr 'people friendly' budget

Finance Minister says govt prepared to make "tough decisions" to achieve 5% growth rate target set for FY23; Cabinet gives nod to 15% increase in salaries of govt employees

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Shehbaz Sharif-led coalition government Friday unveiled the "toughest" federal budget for the next fiscal year 2022-23 in the National Assembly with an outlay of Rs9.5 trillion amid strict conditions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the revival of the \$6 billion loan programme stalled since months over policy breaches. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail, while presenting the budget proposals, berated the "incompetent" PTI-led government for its poor performance, saying that the current budget focuses on "sustainable and inclusive growth." The finance minister said that due to the "incompetency" of the PTI-led government, Pakistan has been facing the issue of skyrocketing inflation. The minister said the government had to move towards "sustainable growth", adding that the growth target for next year was set at 5%. The finance minister further highlighted

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## Will steer country out of 'difficult' time: PM Shehbaz

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Defending the budget presented by his government Friday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif assured the nation that the finance bill will steer the country out of the "difficult" time that has been brought on by "recent years of economic mismanagement". "These are difficult times brought upon us by recent years of economic mismanagement. Through this budget, my government will steer our way out of these challenges by taking tough decisions while minimising the impact on vulnerable segments of the population," said the premier. In a Twitter thread, PM Shehbaz shared his thoughts on how the

Continued on Page 06



## Imran Khan rejects budget



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf Chairman Imran Khan on Friday rejected the budget announced by federal government earlier in the day. "We reject this anti people & anti business budget presented by Imported govt", Khan wrote on his Twitter handle. "Budget is based on unrealistic assumptions on inflation (11.5%) & economic growth (5%). Today's SPI of 24% indicates that inflation will be between 25/30% which on the one hand will destroy the common man". "On the other hand retard economic growth due to high interest rates. All our progressive tax reforms and Pro-poor programs such as Sehat card, Kamyab Pakistan are being shelved. It is an unimaginative, Purana Pakistan budget creating more burdens & misery for the nation," he wrote.

# Fawad denounces issuing non-bailable arrest warrants

Says ridiculing retired army officers by Maryam reprehensible

FAZ CH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Central Senior Vice President Fawad Chaudhry lashed out at the 'imported government' for treating on the path of fascist Narendra Modi government by issuing non-bailable arrest warrants for several PTI leadership in sheer violation of the apex court verdict. Addressing a press conference here on Friday, Fawad said that in the PTI's political committee meeting,



## Reports hold Imran guilty of 'disorder'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad and the Interior Secretary, in their separate reports on the PTI's long march submitted to the Supreme Court of Pakistan on Friday, held former prime minister and party Chairman Imran Khan

Continued on Page 06

Chairman PTI Imran Khan and the entire leadership expressed grave concern over the Anti-Terrorism Court's (ATC) issuance of non-bailable arrest warrants for 17 PTI. He said that the ATC issued non-bailable arrest warrants for PTI leadership including former federal ministers Hammad Azhar, Shafiq Mahmood, Yasmin Rashid and others for allegedly damaging state property during the party's May 25 Islamabad long march. Fawad stated that the filing of cases against PTI leadership was sheer violation of the Supreme Court's decision, as no such case can be filed against peaceful protestors by the ATC. He noted that no political party in Pakistan ever a registered blasphemy cases against

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## Pak, Indonesia agree to cement bilateral co-op

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Indonesia have agreed to further expand and deepen mutually-beneficial cooperation between the two countries in all dimensions, including high-level exchanges. The resolve came during telephonic conversation between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Indonesia's President Joko Widodo on Friday. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif underlined Pakistan's desire to further promote trade and investments between the two countries. It was agreed that both the sides will closely coordinate on ensuring steady import of palm oil from Indonesia. The two leaders discussed the state of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Indonesia, based on a strong foundation of cultural and religious affinities and growing cooperation. President Widodo extended felicitations to the Prime Minister on his assumption of office. The Prime Minister fondly recalled President Joko Widodo's visit to Pakistan in 2018 and its substantive outcomes contributing towards strengthening of Pakistan-Indonesia economic partnership.



## Ex-generals not loyal to institution



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Referring to the veterans of the armed forces who called for the dismissal of the assemblies, PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz on Thursday said retired generals were not loyal to their institution, and challenged them to return their medals if they were interested in politics. Speaking to the media outside the Islamabad High Court (IHC), she said that the incumbent government was trying to complete its term, adding that the media should criticise the one "who made things worse". "Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif cares about the nation and is working day and night to improve the

Continued on Page 06

# Protests in India over BJP leaders' remarks

Thousands of Muslims in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan rally over derogatory remarks about the Prophet Muhammad by two officials from India's ruling party

## Pakistan rejects India's remarks on temple incident

Says FIR has already been registered against the assailants

A. M. BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has rejected the remarks made by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson regarding the unfortunate incident that took place at a Hindu temple in Karachi, a statement issued from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) said Friday. The spokesperson, Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, said unlike the violence against the Muslim community that is orchestrated by religious fanatics who "enjoy

tious" on religious matters in primetime "debates" on Indian news channels. Police in New Delhi on Thursday filed cases against the two BJP members and others - including a Muslim parliamentarian

and journalist - for "inciting hatred" and other charges. But India's Muslims, who are facing a sharp rise in Islamophobia and attacks on them since Modi came to power in 2014, say those actions are not enough.

Several parts of Indian-administered Kashmir, the country's only Muslim-majority region, on Friday observed a spontaneous shutdown to protest the derogatory remarks by the two BJP officials leaders

India, particularly Muslims who are facing brutal attacks from the proponents of "Hindutva" holding on to the reins of power in the country. The spokesperson added unequivocal condemnation by the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) top leadership and the Indian government, as well as decisive and demonstrable action against the BJP officials responsible for making sacrilegious remarks recently would be the first step towards healing the suffering of Muslims in India

Continued on Page 06

against Prophet Muhammad. Authorities in the disputed region suspended mobile internet services and deployed additional security forces in some areas as precautionary measures to quell popular protests. "The issue is outrageous for any Muslim in the world. The BJP has been peddling hate against Muslims but they must know that the insult to our prophet will not be tolerated," Mehraj Ud Din, a shopkeeper in the main city of Srinagar told Al Jazeera. Protests after the Friday prayers were also reported from several districts in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous with 204 million residents, more than 19 percent of them Muslims. In New Delhi, a large number of people gathered outside the Mughal-era Jama Masjid in the old quarters of the capital, and raised slogans against the BJP-led government. Similar protests were reported from other Indian states, including West Bengal and Telangana. Reporting from New Delhi, Al Jazeera's Pavnii Mittal said there is "immense anger on the streets of India" over the comments made by the BJP officials against the Prophet Muhammad.



# Business community rejects budget, calling it disappointing

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Business community here on Friday said the present federal coalition government presented an IMF-dictated budget for financial year 2022-23, saying that no relief measures were taken despite the difficult and uncertain economic conditions in the country. Speaking at a news conference here at the chamber's house on Friday, after presentation of Federal Budget 2022-23 by Minister of Finance, at the National Assembly floor, the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) president Hasnain Khurshid Ahmad termed the budget 2022-23 presented by government is highly disappointing and prepared on dictation of IMF. He said the federal budget isn't growth oriented. Therefore, he categorically rejected the budget, calling it 'anti-business' and people. Flanked by the chamber senior office bearers Imran Khan Mohmand, Javed Akhtar, former president Faiz Muham-

mad Faizi, Industrialist Association Peshawar president Malik Imran Ishaq, executive member Zahoor Khan and Ihsanullah, Abidullah Yousafzai, Shams Rahim, Faiz Rasool, Ishaq Muhammad, and others, the SCCI chief said the budget was encouraging as new measures were proposed to give relief to business community. However, he said some initiatives were proposed in the budget, which is insufficient to bring the ailing economy on the right track and flourish industries and businesses in the country. Hasnain Khurshid said the present coalition government when it came into power made some announcements, so the budget is also a reflection of these declarations. He complained for not incorporating proposals in the budget. The SCCI chief mentioned that the government had already made an announcement for increasing the electricity tariff by 45 per cent, which is likely to be implemented in the month of July next. Similarly, he said prices

of natural gas have increased exponentially. On the other hand, he continued to say that fuel prices are frequently increasing. He added dollar rates also touched a new peak. The president said these basic factors and initiatives which are hurting industrial growth, businesses and the economy. He called them completely unjust and unfair with the business community in prevailing uncertain economic situations. He said the government needed to provide relief to the business community in the budget to flourish business and industries to create more job opportunities but it didn't happen. Replying to a question about the announcement of exemptions on industrial electricity feeders, Mr Khurshid welcomed the proposal and hoped that it would be implemented. He also appreciated the alternate dispute resolution council (ADRC) regarding expediting tax related cases. The SCCI chief also hailed the waiving off regulatory duties on more than 350 items and 15 per cent tax on agriculture sector.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani called on Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf at Parliament House. – DNA

## ATC stops police from arresting PTI leaders

DNA

LAHORE: A Lahore anti-terrorism court has stopped Punjab police from arresting Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders, including Hammad Azhar, Yasmeen Rashid, Aijaz Chaudhry. They were accused of attacking law enforcers and interfering in state affairs during their party's long march and protest on May 25. They were granted interim bail till June 17 against the surety bonds Rs100,000, each. Earlier, the court had issued Friday arrest warrants for PTI leaders for vandalism and attacking law enforcers. The court issued the warrants following a request from Shahdara Police Station. Officers explained that the PTI leaders, despite their promises, did not hold a peaceful protest. As a consequence, their long march turned violent and they attacked police officers as well. Following the complaint, the court observed that no one is allowed to do indulge in violence and disturb the peace and ordered to arrest PTI the leaders. PTI, however, has filed a petition against the federal government in the Supreme Court, accusing it of using various 'illegal' tactics to quash and suppress peaceful protests by the party in Islamabad on May 25 which ultimately led to violence.

## WB approves \$300 million for climate-resilient roads in KPK



ISLAMABAD: The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors on Friday approved \$300 million in financing to support Pakistan in upgrading rural roads to provide safe and reliable access to schools, health facilities and markets in the most vulnerable districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Accessibility Project (KPRAP) will provide safe and affordable transportation to primary and middle schools, especially for young girls, in remote areas, which have the lowest enrollment and attendance rates. The project will also improve connectivity to markets and provincial centres to support income generation for rural farmers by reducing transportation costs and travel times, according to press statement issued by World Bank. "This project takes a climate-smart approach that builds re-

silience into the design of transportation infrastructure, which is critical to improving the reliability and connectivity of rural road networks in KP, especially for remote areas most at risk to extreme weather," said Najy Benhassine, World Bank Country Director for Pakistan. "By increasing year-round mobility and access to schools and health facilities, these investments will directly support human capital development and help farmers better cope with weather-related travel disruptions and economic shocks," Benhassine added. KPRAP's climate resilient design include all-weather roads, that are safer and will help reduce accidents and fatalities. It will also generate savings from reduced maintenance and construction costs when a road fails. "Access to basic education and health services is a major issue in KP due to travel disruptions and poor connectivity between districts and provincial centres, especially in the northern and southern areas," said Lincoln Flor, Task Team Leader for the Programme. "Providing safe, all-weather roads and reliable transportation services will help increase student attendance in schools to address/reduce to low school enrollment and early dropouts. It will also address the lack of access to health facilities, which is linked to higher mortality rates from preventable or otherwise easily treatable diseases," Flor added. – APP

## Wildlife in danger in Muzaffarabad

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: There is no respite in sight as fires continue to rage in different hilly and mountainous forests of the country. The fire that had broken out in the jungles of Naseerabad, 17 kilometres from the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) capital Muzaffarabad, has now spread even further, engulfing area's zoo, hence posing a serious risk to the lives of animals caged there. On the other hand, seven employees of the forest department have been injured in yet another fire that had broken out in the jungle of Smanhi area of AJK. The injured employees are Muhammad Shakoor, Ijaz, Mubashar, Muhammad Naveed and others. According to the eyewitnesses, intense heat and strong winds are hampering the efforts to put out the blaze. After the provision of first aid, the doctors of Pakistan Army have referred the forest department employees to the Combined Military Hospital, Kharian for further treatment.

## FCCI terms budget balanced and compressive

FAISALABAD: President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) Atif Munir Sheikh Friday termed the Federal Budget 2022-23 balanced and comprehensive despite of critical economic situation and hoped that it would not only stabilise national economy but also provide much-needed relief to neglected and deprived segments of society. After listening Finance Minister's budget speech through projector screen in board room of FCCI here, he was giving his immediate reaction to the media persons. He said that Pakistan is passing through serious situation and we should not put entire responsibility on the government but support its policies for the economic stability. He appreciated the trimming of govt expenditures voluntarily and said that business community should also emulate slogan of "Be Pakistani and Buy Pakistani products" instead of consuming costly imported luxury items. – APP

## Court Notice

In the Court of Shagufta Sabir Judge Family Court Gujrat  
Title: Laraib Akmal etc. Versus  
Abdul Rehman Jatt etc.

Notice to:  
1. Abdul Rehmat Jutt S/O Shaukat Ali R/O Mohallah Durab Khan Wazirabad, presently residing in Dubai,  
2. Shoukat Ali S/O Muhammad Siddique Caste Jutt R/O Mohallah Durab Khan Wazirabad, presently residing in Saudi Arabia  
Suit for Dissolution of Marriage on the basis of Khula and maintenance etc.  
Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 14-06-2022, otherwise case will be decided ex parte.  
Court Reporter Gujrat

## Sasticket welcomes Fly Jinnah onboard!



DNA

KARACHI: Fly Jinnah - another low-cost carrier joins Pakistan's aviation industry. The airline is a joint venture between Air Arabia and Lakson Group. Fly Jinnah got the license from the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority last year and will now soon start their operations in June 2022. Sasticket.pk welcomes Fly Jinnah and look forward to great times ahead. Fly Jinnah is the fourth airline in Pakistan's aviation sector and will be op-

erating with three leased A320s aircraft. With time, it has plans to expand its wings in the industry and touch new heights in the international market. Currently, AirSial, Airblue, and PIA are successfully operating in the market. With the launch of another domestic carrier, we expect competitive airfares where customers will enjoy low prices and best services. The airline has worked intensively on its cabin crew training and is focusing on customer service as their prime objec-

tive. This is the perfect time to make its mark in the industry as travel restrictions have now been lifted and people have started to travel more. In addition, it will be a sigh of relief for the customers as a new entrant will provide more options and convenience in terms of time and monetary resources when it comes to domestic travel. Sasticket.pk welcomes the arrival of Fly Jinnah and expects that the airline will perform well in the near future and mark its name in the industry.



HYDERABAD: Religious party workers are holding the protest against Indian Government outside Press Club. – DNA Photo by Jan Ali Laghari

## VC SMIU urges citizens to play role in preserving environment

Dr Sahrai said Pakistan was blessed with affluent solar and hydal resources, four seasons, major crops, plains, river, sea and mountains but those precious natural resources were not being properly utilised for development of the country

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Vice Chancellor Sindh Madressatul Islam University, Prof. Dr Mujeebuddin Sahrai Memon stressed on role of every individual in preserving the environment and said that environmental crisis like climate change, pollution, and water shortage had put the Earth in danger zone. Prof Sahrai, while addressing a seminar held on Friday, in connection with the 'World Environmental Day', said that "Disasters come in seconds but recovering from the destruction takes years. Therefore, before meeting the disaster we must try to handle the issues seriously and consciously". The seminar was organised by Department of Environmental Sciences and ORIC of Sindh Madressatul Islam University here.

Dr Sahrai said Pakistan was blessed with affluent solar and hydal resources, four seasons, major crops, plains, river, sea and mountains but those precious natural resources were not being properly utilised for development of the country. The VC said the youth accounted for more than 50 percent of the total population of the country, and they needed to be engaged for the betterment of the country. Younger generation should come forward and play their significant role in spreading awareness among masses including farmers about environmental issues, he urged. In Sindh, Karachi

city was the most affected by climate change, Dr Sahrai noted and advised the Department of Environment of SMIU to form a waste management system in the campus to keep the university clean and green. Water resources management specialist Umer Karim gave presentation on historical mapping of groundwater in Sindh. M.H Panhwer, and Lower Indus Development Plan 1966 and spoke on the environmental issues of the province. About 80 to 85 percent under ground water had been saline, while further reckless use of underground water will create geological problems as well,

he noted and suggested to refrain from over exploitation of underground water. He was of the view that floods and rains used to recharge a thin layer of aquifer, which used to be consumed throughout the year through hand pumps or dug wells but contiguous irrigation system raised the cropping intensities as well as ground water tables. Karim further said the intensification of crops and enhanced use of artificial fertilisers and pesticides had contaminated the resource base and now water from any source could not be directly used for drinking purpose. In Sindh, river flow was decreasing due to increased usage of underground water through tube wells, he said and argued that natural flow of a river firstly maintains the underground water level.

## More 9m poor families added under BISP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In the federal budget 2022-23 presented by the government on Friday, the allocated amount for Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), aimed at the social protection of the underprivileged class, has been increased. In the latest budget, the allocation in the social protection program has been increased to around Rs360 billion from Rs250 billion in the last fiscal year during the PTI government. Up to 9 million underprivileged families would be included in Benazir Kafalat Cash Transfer Program for which the government has ear-

marked Rs226 billion. It aims to expand the scope of the Waseela-e-Taleem Program to 100 million children and more than Rs35 billion have been allocated for this purpose. The government will also award Benazir Undergraduate Scholarship to 10,000 additional students compared to last year and Rs9 billion will be spent for achieving this. The government has announced expanding Benazir Nashonuma Program to all districts of Pakistan, and it plans to spend Rs21.5 billion on it. For free treatment and financial aid to the underprivileged class, the government has allocated Rs6 billion for Pakistan Bait ul Maal.

## Cattle worth millions snatched on gunpoint

FAISAL MUNIR

ATTOCK: Cattle worth Rs 2 million were drove away on gun point by armed bandits in Maghian village in the limits of Pindigheb Police station of Attock on early hours of Friday. Sajid Mehmood - a cattle dealer informed Police that he along with other family members was sleeping room adjacent to dairy farm when a group of six armed bandits equipped with different weapons make them hostage on gun point.

## CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (ROADS DIVISION NO-V)

### TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tender are hereby invited on percentage basis from the approved contractors of Civil Work and having valid Pakistan Engineer Council (PEC) License 2022 for the work:-

S.#	Name of Work	NIT Cost	Earnest Money	Tender Fee	Date & Time of Opening
1	Construction of Service Road (East) (1504 rft), (North) (Rd 4200-5225) Remaining Portion of VR-1J-14/3 & Dualization of Main Entrance of Service Road (South) & (North) (Rd-0-3200) in Sector I-14, Islamabad.	Rs. 159,000(M)	Rs.3,180,000/-	Rs. 5,000/-	29-06-2022 (Box closed at 11:30 AM & opened on 12:00 Noon)

Detailed terms & Conditions can be seen from CDA Website [www.cda.gov.pk](http://www.cda.gov.pk) and PPRA [www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk)

- Application for issuance of tender documents on dated 27.6.2022 upto 3:00 PM must be accompanied with valid copies of PEC License obtaining Tender Category C-4 and above for the year 2022, NTN Certificate, CNIC, Registration of Firm / Partnership Deed / Sole Proprietorship / Power of Attorney / Authority Letter from the contractor in favor of their representative. No tender will be issued without showing all required document in "ORIGINAL".
- Tender documents can be obtained from the office of Deputy Director Road - V, CDA located at Old Naval Headquarter Room No.43, Sector G-6, Melody, Islamabad on cash payment as mentioned above per set (Non-Refundable) during working hours on dated 28.6.2022 up to 04:00 P.M against written request which should be on letter head pad having name, address, phone No's and signature of the contractor. No tender will be sold on the date of opening of the tender.
- The prospective bidders are required to submit Bid Security (Deposit at Call) above mentioned works in favor of Deputy Director Road-V, CDA, issued from any scheduled bank against firm's account. Name of Firm should be clearly mentioned on instrument (Deposit at Call). Tender documents shall not be issued without Earnest Money.
- The bit security of all bidders would be deposited in the CDA Bank Account and same may be returned after the acceptance of the Contract with the successful bidder.
- The eligibility criteria of the firms with the relevant experience i.e at least three Number of work in last two (02) financial years may be observe / fulfill before issuance of tender documents.
- Certificate is required on judicial stamp paper worth of Rs.50/ their firm are not involved any litigations and nonrelation ship.
- Tender bids will be received and opened on above date and time in the office of Director Roads (South), CDA located at Room No.59, Ground Floor (Old Naval H/Qtts) Islamabad.
- Tender rates on percentage basis should be filled in figures as well as in words.
- CDA reserves the right to accept or reject any / all tenders as per PPRA Rules. No conditional tender will be entertained

Deputy Director  
Roads Division No-V,  
CDA, Islamabad

PID (I) No.8737/21



**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
- PIA Flight Info.....114
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- Railway Inquiry.....117
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- WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
- CAA.....9281092



**Hospitals**

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- 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
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- 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

## President for expanding trade, economic relations with Poland

### Talking to the Ambassador-designate, the President emphasised the need for further augmenting bilateral trade and economic relations

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD, President Dr. Arif Alvi on Friday said Pakistan highly values its ties with the Republic of Poland and wants to further expand bilateral relations in the areas of trade, economy and people-to-people contact. President made these remarks while talking to the Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to the Republic of Poland, Dr Khalid Hussain Memon, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Talking to the Ambassador-designate, the President emphasised the need for further augmenting bilateral trade and economic relations by establishing Joint Business Forum and promoting cooperation with Polish companies in the energy sector. He asked the envoy to work on soliciting Poland's continued support during the ongoing review process for the renewal of the GSP+ status of Pakistan. The President directed the Ambassador to highlight Pakistan's rich potential for tourism to further enhance the influx of tourists and promote people-to-people contacts with the friendly country. He added that the envoy should work for the establishment of institutional linkages between the Pakistani and Polish universities to cement relations in the field of education, which would help in improving the quality



of education and research of Pakistani universities. He also asked the Ambassador to work on increasing the export of Pakistani manpower to Poland. The President congratulated the Ambassador-designate on his appointment as Pakistan's Ambassador to Poland and expressed the hope that bilateral ties between the two countries would further be strengthened during his tenure.

## 'Pasha Union serving CDA employees'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pasha Union senior leader Izat Kamal Pasha has said that his union is working day and night for the betterment of employees of Capital Development Authority (CDA). While talking exclusively to media here on Friday, Pasha said that he along with other union representatives is helping the poor workers of the CDA in sorting out their issues while the incumbent CBA [Collective Bargaining Agent] is doing nothing for the good of employees except hurling 'false and fabricated' accusations on the opposition. Recently, a union representative's son was inducted in CDA's hospital while the poor employees' offsprings are not dealt with the spirit of equality and justice, he deplored. He demanded the CDA to regularize the services of 141 daily wagers who have been working here since long. He also requested the CDA administration to fulfill the promise of plots allotment to the deserving employees of the Authority, who have been waiting since long. Pasha said that his union has been rendering services for the Authority since last 40 years.

## FJWU inaugurates US-Pak University Partnership Grants

RAWALPINDI: Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU) has formally inaugurated the U.S.-Pakistan University Partnerships Grants Program funded by the US Government and administered by the United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP). According to FJWU spokesperson, FJWU stood as the awardee of the grant for the year 2021 and most recently for the 2022 round.

The project titled "Strengthening Teaching & Research Capacity in Pakistani Universities through Collaborative Partnership in Social Sciences" is awarded to Dr. Aneela Maqsood, Head of Department of Behavioral Sciences, in capacity of Principal Investigator. From the department of Sociology, Dr. Adeela Rehman is the Co-Principal Investigator. Dr. Saima Hamid, Vice Chancellor and project

advisor, formally delivered welcome address to honourable Vice Chancellors, Focal Persons and key representatives from seven universities including University of Sargodha, Govt. College Women University of Faisalabad, Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Kohsar University Murree, Quaid-i-Azam University, Women University Swabi, and Hazara University Mansehra. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and other parliamentarians protesting over the highly derogatory remarks made by senior officials of Indian ruling Bharitya Jantha Party (BJP) against the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), in front of Indian Embassy. - APP

## ICCI terms Budget 2022-23 a balanced one

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that the Federal Budget 2022-23 apparently seems to be a balanced budget. However, a full reaction on the budget will be given after its detailed review. He expressed these views while addressing the media at the end of the budget speech of the Federal Minister of Finance at the ICCI. He said that in the budget, the Prime Minister has shown his resolve to operationalize some special economic zones as soon as possible, which is welcome as it would boost industrialization and exports of the country. He said that the government has taken some good steps in the current budget which are commendable.

He said that tax relief on import of agricultural machinery and equipment has been given which is com-

mendable as it will help our agriculture to develop better, improve agricultural production and instead of importing agricultural products, Pakistan will become self-sufficient in them. He said that introduction of the ADRC system was a welcome step for better resolution of tax disputes which would provide good relief to the taxpayers. Muhammad Shakeel Munir said that by introducing a fixed tax of 3000 to 10,000 for small retailers, the government has fulfilled a long standing demand of the business community and this will not only expand the tax base but also increase tax revenue. He said that a fixed tax was also levied on the marble industry in their electricity bills which was withdrawn by the previous government and demanded re-introduction of a fixed tax system for the marble industry. He said that the government has also made a good decision by allowing the adjustment of taxes at the import stage. He said that

tax relief measures have also been announced in the budget for the pharma industry which is appreciable. ICCI President said that the tax threshold for proprietors and AOPs has been increased from 4 lakhs to six lakhs which is a good move. Similarly, the tax threshold for the salaried class has also been increased from six lakhs to 12 lakhs and their salary has also been increased by 15 per cent which will provide them good relief in these tough times. He said that after a detailed review of the taxes proposed for real estate and other sectors, reaction on them would be given later on. ICCI Senior Vice President Jamshed Akhtar Sheikh, Founder Group Chairman Khalid Iqbal Malik, Former Presidents Khalid Javed, Zafar Bakhtawari, Baser Daud, Zahid Maqbool as well as Khalid Chaudhry, Naeem Siddiqui, Mian Waqas Masood and a large number of business community was present on the occasion.



## POWERCHINA to construct Nabisar Vajihar water project

DNA

ISLAMABAD: POWERCHINA will construct Nabisar Vajihar Water Supply Project in Sindh, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. The ground-breaking ceremony of the project was jointly performed by Murad Ali Shah, Chief Minister of Sindh Province and Abdullah Al-Mutairi, CEO of the project investor Enertech Holdings. Kuwait's Commercial Counselor to Pakistan, Minister of Irrigation of Sindh Province, Minister of Energy, Minister of Education, and other dignitaries attended the ceremony. Relevant personnel of POWERCHINA International and POWERCHINA Huadong Engineering Corporation also attended the ceremony. The project is the largest PPP project in Sindh so far, where the teams of professionals will build a water plant with a capacity of 129,600 m3/d. There will be construction of two reservoirs (the starting point reservoir of 5.71 million cubic meters and the end reservoir of 3.52 million cubic meters). The company will install and test the glass reinforced plastic pipes with a diameter of 1.4 meters and a total length of 60.71km. "Although the project has complex groundwater treatment requirements for the reservoir, we firmly believe that our technical competence and service can satisfy both the owner and the local people," Mr. Wu, Project Manager of the Nabisar Vajihar project, said in an interview with Gwadar Pro. The reporter has learned that it is expected to be completed in December 2023, and once completed, the annual water supply of the project will reach 40.185 million tons, mainly for coal-fired power plants, including the Thar coal-fired power plant operated by Shanghai Electric under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

## Mandviwalla appointed head of Senate body on finance

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senator Saleem Mandviwalla has been appointed as head of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance. Reportedly, Senator Maulana Attaur Rehman suggested the name of Mandviwalla as chairman of Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Senator Farooq H Naek seconded his name. The newly appointed chairman of the committee resolved to improve matters with mutual cooperation. Senators Attaur Rehman, Zeshan Khanzada, Anwarul Haq Kakar Farooq Naek, Saadia Abbasi, Dilawar Khan, Yousaf Raza Gilani and Maulana Ghafoor Haidri attended the session of the committee today. Besides them, Senator Shibli Faraz, Maulvi Faiz Muhammad, Senate secretary Muhammad Qasim Samad Khan, and other high-ranking officials of the upper house also attended the session.

**CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CAPITAL HOSPITAL)**

**TENDER NOTICE**

Capital Hospital invites Sealed Bids on Single Stage one Envelope for Procurement of PC Based E.T.T Machine with Wireless Acquisition module and Treadmill for Capital Hospital, CDA on F.O.R basis from reputed Firms having experience in the relevant field/registered with Sales Tax Department. Earnest Money 3% of Bid value in shape of Call Deposit in favour of Drawing & Disbursing Officer (D.D.O), Capital Hospital, CDA must be attached with Financial Proposal/Bid. The detail of Purchase, Tender Cost, and opening date are mentioned below:-

Description	TENDER NO.	ESTIMATED COST	COST OF TENDER	BID SUBMISSION DATE&TIME	BID OPENING DATE&TIME
PC Based E.T.T Machine with Wireless Acquisition module and Treadmill with Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring	No.CDA/CH-11/(ETT-Machine)/F.O.R/2021-22/125	Rs.5.850(M)	Rs. 3,000/-	27-06-2022 AT 11:00 HRS	27-06-2022 AT 11:30 HRS

- Tender documents containing complete specifications, terms and conditions can be obtained on payment noted against tender (non-refundable) from Drawing & Disbursing Officer, (D.D.O) Capital Hospital, CDA Sector G-6/2, Islamabad. The same are also available at CDA website. However, at the time of submission, pay order amounting to tender cost in favor of Drawing & Disbursing Officer, (D.D.O) Capital Hospital, CDA must be attached along-with downloaded tender documents.
- Sealed Tenders will be received in the office of undersigned on date & time mentioned against each. The single envelope containing "Both Technical and Financial bids" will be opened as per schedule mentioned above in the presence of bidders or their representatives who care to attend.
- Tender without/less earnest money or without relevant documents will not be considered in any case. The successful bidder will deposit security @ 5% of the contract value in the shape of Call Deposit at the time of signing the contract.
- No tender will be sold on the date of opening of tenders. "The Authority reserves the right to reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal".
- The Bid must have Six months (180 days) validity period.
- Tender advertisement is available at PPRA Website [www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk) & CDA Website [www.cda.gov.pk](http://www.cda.gov.pk).

(DR. Tariq Mehmood)  
Dy. Director Medical-1, Capital Hospital  
(CDA), ISLAMABAD.  
Tel: 051-9217918



## Briefs

## President asks SLICP to pay insurance money to widow

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday asked the State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLICP) to pay the group insurance claim with profits to the widow of a fireman from City District Government, Multan, who had died after retirement. "The insured employee died in June 2016 and it has been six years since his widow is waiting for the insurance claim. Besides pain and agony, even the monetary value decreases", said the president while upholding the decision of the Wafaqi Mohtasib ordering SLICP to pay the insurance claim to the widow along with profits accrued. The president, after the perusal of the record, rejected the representation on the grounds that a group insurance contract had been executed between the local government and the agency on 12.03.2008, which provided that each and every employee of the local government in Punjab who is under sixty years of age shall be assured subject to payment of premiums. He observed that the deceased fireman had paid monthly premiums according to his basic pay scale during his service and all the required documents in this regard were also available. The president said that there was nothing on record to contradict the said observation and that the original order of the Mohtasib was well reasoned warranting no interference. "The Agency is under an obligation to pay group insurance claim to the complainant in accordance with the group insurance contract," said the president while rejecting the representation of SLICP. - APP

## PML-N leader assures stabilized economy in budget

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader Mohsin Shahnawaz Ranjha on Friday assured stabilization of country's economy and top priority to the vulnerable and unprivileged sections of society in the Budget 2022-23. Talking to a private news channel, he said while formulating the budget this year, we faced many challenges that came in our way but we were confident to tackle all of them under the capable leadership of Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif. He also criticized ex-premier Imran Khan for taking the "biggest loan in the country's history" during his tenure adding he said that he had put the country in doldrums due to his immature economic policies and violated IMF agreements. He said that PTI regime's deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and its violation was the reason for the current rise in inflation. Mohsin Ranjha further lashed out the ex-premier Imran Khan for unleashing the economic chaos over the country. - APP

## Head of PM's Strategic Reforms welcomes WB interest

ISLAMABAD: Head of PM's Strategic Reforms Salman Sufi on Friday welcomed the World Bank's interest in providing assistance regarding safe public transport for women and waste management. He expressed these views in a meeting with World Bank Country Head Najy Benhassine. Various public welfare schemes were discussed during the meeting. The World Bank has sought the cooperation of the government of Pakistan in projects to empower women and improve the waste management system. - APP

## HVDC technology illuminates Pakistan-China friendship

"China invests heavily in developing IPPs in Pakistan. And with HVDC technology rooted in Pakistan, the backbone grid of Pakistan's power system has been upgraded and entered into a new era

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China's high-voltage direct current (HVDC) technology illuminates Pak-China friendship, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. The HVDC technology lighted up Pakistan and also the people's hope for life. In this process, China-Pakistan friendship has been constantly illuminated. The Matiari-Lahore HVDC transmission project has provided electricity to about 9.3 million households in Pakistan and secured the operation of local businesses. The construction of the project has also created about 7,000 jobs for the locals. For ordinary people in China and Pakistan, "a friend in need is a friend indeed" is not just a compliment, but a reflection of daily life. It is routine in PMLTC to help Pakistani employees improve their DC operation and maintenance skills through mentoring training. There are many Chinese and Pakistani brothers like

Ahmad and Chen who are teachers, brothers, and living together like a family. Far away from their hometown and families, Chinese employees inevitably feel homesick, but this lonely mood is soon watered down by the enthusiasm of Pakistani people and intense and orderly work. Similarly, Pakistanis' mixed feelings of excitement and nervousness about joining the CPEC projects have gradually turned into peace of mind and trust. At the Lahore Converter station of Pak Matiari-Lahore Transmission Company (PMLTC), Ahmad Usman is conducting theoretical and hands-on training for 5 Pakistani trainee engineers. The passion of the trainees is as hot as the scorching sunshine of the day. Ahmad, a training manager, is patiently answering every trainee's questions, giving thoughtful guidance to those who need special attention. This scene reminds him of how tough it was for him to communicate and learn the new HVDC technology when he first joined PMLTC in March 2020. Amid his anxiety

and frustration, Ahmad's Chinese colleague Chen Kangqing offered him a helping hand, which completely changed his work trajectory. Chen is both a teacher and a brother of Ahmad's. Ahmad said, "Mr. Chen Kangqing is one of the most diligent professional engineers that I have ever seen. I was deeply impressed by his exquisite technical knowledge, operational skills, and humble and courteous personality. He worked day and night to make me a better and professional engineer. In this period, we started to know each other's culture and language and grow together." After all this effort, Chinese management appreciated Ahmad's competence and promoted him to training manager. The scene in which Chen was more happy than him is unforgettable to him even today. At that time, he was determined to pass on Chen's help and friendship to others. Brothers of one mind can cut through gold. When faced with difficulties at work, as long as PMLTC colleagues

stick together, the problems can always be solved in a very emphatic manner. By rolling out one of the largest HVDC networks, China is emerging as a technology leader. As part of those who built the first HVDC system in Pakistan, Ahmad feels immensely proud to learn about this advanced technology. "China invests heavily in developing IPPs in Pakistan. And with HVDC technology rooted in Pakistan, the backbone grid of Pakistan's power system has been upgraded and entered into a new era. I believe that with the steady control of COVID-19, our company will send us to China for training. By then, I will personally feel the prosperity of my best Chinese brother's hometown." Ahmad said hopefully. "As HVDC operators, we must fully understand the characteristics of HVDC, such as large transmission capacity, long transmission distance, advanced technology, and complex equipment, so as to better improve our professional skills..." he added.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Editor Daily Islamabad Post, Ansar Mehmood Bhatti posing for a group photo along with Yerzhan Kistafin, ambassador of Kazakhstan Pakistan. - DNA

## 'Government taking concrete steps to stable economy'

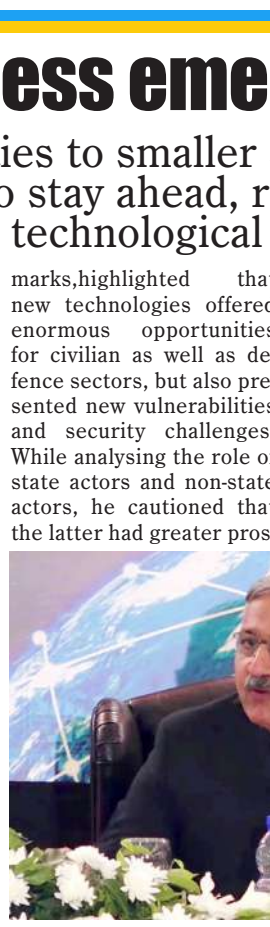
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Muhammad Zubair on Friday said the government was taking concrete steps to stabilize the economy and control inflation. Talking to a private news channel, he said that the government came into power in a difficult situation, and it would leave it in a much better condition on the completion of its short-term government tenure. He said that the government was working on various structural reforms to bring back the economy on an inclusive and sustainable growth path as an improved economy was much needed for sustainable growth. Replying to a question, he said assured that his government wants to provide maximum relief to people belonging to all sectors of life in budget 2022-23. He said that the "PML-N gov't was committed to reviving the IMF program and putting Pakistan back on the path to sustainable development." - APP



ISLAMABAD: The experts at a seminar on 'Disruptive Technologies - Impact on Future Warfare' said Pakistan needed to harness emerging technologies for strengthening national security and sovereignty and remain part of the debate to ensure control of mankind on these scientific advancements. This was the key message of former senior military officers and eminent intellectuals at the seminar on 'Disruptive Technologies - Impact on Future Warfare' organised by the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS). Former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General (R) Zubair Mehmood Hayat was the Keynote Speaker, while other eminent speakers included

## Online vaccine certificates system launched

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Health Abdul Qadir Patel on Friday launched the system for issuing vaccination certificates for Polio and Yellow Fever to facilitate international travelers. Addressing the launching ceremony, the minister said that a system has been established for issuing Polio and Yellow Fever vaccine certificates to facilitate citizens. He said that the vaccination issuance system has been made with the support of the NADRA. He added now the ministry of National Services in collaboration with NADRA has started issuing vaccination certificates for Polio and Yellow Fever. He said that the ministry has launched the vaccination certificate system through NADRA's NIMS for Polio and Yellow Fever vaccination to meet the international requirements. - APP



## Int'l Conference on drug addiction, under NUMS, kicks off

RAWALPINDI: A one-day international conference on drug addiction will be held here Saturday under the auspices of National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) to work out an integrated strategy to address its rising use among the youth in the country. The Vice Chancellor of NUMS Lt Gen Wasim Alamgir HI(M), will be chief guest on the occasion while many international experts will virtually participate in the conference on "Substance Abuse, Prevention, and Treatment". Many stakeholders drawing from various universities and institutes from across the country, who have done research work and were well aware of implications of

the drug abuse, would focus on their harmful effects which have already afflicted 4 million youth in Pakistan. The international moot will be a joint venture of NUMS and Phoenix Foundation for Research & Development (PFRD). Its main focus would be on abuse of the substance(drugs) its prevention and suggest steps for curbing the spread of drug addiction. In his brief comments NUMS Prof Vice Chancellor (Academics) Maj Gen Saleem Ahmad Khan HI(M), (Retd) said it would help identify loopholes in the educational institutions where the young students were getting addicted to drugs which have spread to our educational institutions. This conference will help iron out a strategy to detect drug addiction and provide guidelines for the policy makers to address the problem. - APP

## Sherry, CITES Board decide to ban import of exotic mammals

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman and the CITES Management Authority Board meeting on Friday decided to impose a ban on the import of all exotic mammals into Pakistan. Speaking to the attendees of the Board Meeting, the Minister remarked that "Import of exotic mammals is becoming a serious problem in Pakistan. It is against the natural rights of an animal species to deprive them of their habitats especially when we cannot provide them the specified accommodation needed, merely for personal entertainment purposes. Confining these mammals to cages, zoos, and private residences affect their mating patterns,

putting them at risk of abuse, either voluntary or inadvertent. Moreover, with a change in their accommodations these mammals end up dying lonely and painful deaths." Ban will include CITES and Non-CITES listed mammals, elephants, Wild Big Cats like lions, tigers, and leopards. In addition there will be a ban on the export of local species of birds (live, parts, and derivatives) on commercial bases. - APP



RAWALPINDI: People standing in a queue outside a utility store to purchase some groceries at F-6 Sector in the Federal Capital. - APP

## Pak needs to harness emerging technologies: experts

They also provided opportunities to smaller states to offset military asymmetry. He further noted that in the endeavour to stay ahead, rapid technological advancements had resulted in increasingly intense technological competition and rivalry between states

Associate Professor, National University of Modern Languages (NUML) Dr Rizwana Karim Abbasi, Acting Dean, Faculty of Aerospace and Strategic Studies (FASS), Air University Dr Adil Sultan, and Former Vice Chancellor, Air University Air Vice Marshal (R) Faaiz Amir. The seminar was chaired by President CASS Air Marshal (R) Farhat Hussain Khan, while Advisor to Chief of the Air Staff on CASS Affairs Air Marshal (R) M Ashfaq Arain moderated the proceedings where an introductory of CASS was also presented before the participants highlighting the key areas of research and study focused by CASS. In his opening remarks Air Marshal (R) Ashfaq Arain Opening Re-

marks, highlighted that new technologies offered enormous opportunities for civilian as well as defence sectors, but also presented new vulnerabilities and security challenges. While analysing the role of state actors and non-state actors, he cautioned that the latter had greater prospects of exploiting many of the easily accessible technologies in inventive and disruptive ways. They also provided opportunities to smaller states to offset military asymmetry. He further noted that in the endeavour to stay ahead, rapid technological advancements had resulted in increasingly intense technological competition and rivalry between states. Looking at the impact of these changes on Pakistan, he urged that it was important to stay abreast of such technological advancements and how they would affect military doctrines and strategy in the future. This was especially important in case of nuclear-armed adversaries with unresolved disputes, mutual distrust, and shared borders, significantly reducing reaction time, he said. In his Keynote Address, General (R) Zubair Mehmood Hayat outlined how disruptive technologies had now become a new toolkit in the hands of policymakers and in his assessment, their greatest impact would

be in the political domain as they would disturb the existing balance of power. He explained that such technologies would not only impact the military but also the economy significantly. On the military side, all three traditional domains would be impacted to the extent that the character of the war was likely to be changed fundamentally, the General said. He warned how Artificial Intelligence, if left unbridled, could threaten the very existence of mankind. General Hayat recommended that as a nation, Pakistan needed to be part of the debate and process to ensure human control over these technologies. 'Disruptive technology is likely to create technical apartheid. - APP

## SSP directs ITP to improve performance

ISLAMABAD: Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Syed Mustafa Tanveer on Friday directed various wings of Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) to improve performance and facilitate the citizens. The SSP passed the directions during his visit at ITP where he inspected various wings including Digital Driving License One-Window Hall, Driving Test area and ITP FM Radio 92.4. He directed the deputied staff to ensure decent interaction with public. The SSP (Traffic) asked to issue driving licenses on merit and conduct tests as per law. He directed education team of Islamabad Traffic Police to acquaint citizens about traffic rules and contribute effectively to ensure safe road environment in the city. - APP

## Workers' remittances up 6.3% in 11 months

ISLAMABAD: The overseas Pakistani workers' remittances grew by 6.3 percent in 11 months (Jul-May) of current fiscal year to US\$28.4 billion against the inflows of \$26.7 billion in same period of the previous year. On year-on-year basis, the remittances decreased from \$2.5 billion in May 2021 to \$2.3 billion in same period of current fiscal year. On month-on-month basis, the inflows of remittances also declined from \$3.1 billion in April 2022 to \$2.3 billion in April 2022. According to data released by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Friday, remittances inflows during May 2022 were mainly sourced from Saudi Arabia (\$541.9 million), United Arab Emirates (\$435 million), United Kingdom (\$354 million) and the United States of America (\$232.9 million). During the corresponding month, the overseas Pakistanis living in Bahrain sent \$39.1 million, from Kuwait \$67 million, from Qatar \$76 million whereas \$114.6 million were dispatched from Oman. Similarly the inflows from Germany, France, The Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Greece, Sweden, Denmark, and Ireland were recorded at \$41.5 million, \$38.0 million, \$5.0, \$43.3 million, \$68.8 million, \$30.2 million, \$6.0 million, \$5.2 million and \$12.8 million respectively. Likewise, from Malaysia, Belgium, Norway, Switzerland, Australia, Canada, and Japan, the workers dispatched \$10.9 million, \$19.2 million, \$11.0 million, \$3.1 million, \$52.7 million, and 5.7 million respectively. - APP

## ANF recovers over 138 kg drugs; arrests six

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting raids in different areas managed to recover over 138 kg narcotics besides netting six accused. According to an Anti-Narcotics Force spokesman, Anti-Narcotics Force Rawalpindi Intelligence on Friday conducted a raid at a house near Khan Chowk in Attock and unearthed a drug factory besides recovering 17.760 kg Ice. The factory was working in basement of the house. ANF team also arrested an Afghan national namely Pervaiz Khan. In another raid conducted near Ghauri Garden Islamabad, Anti-Narcotics Force recovered 530 grams heroin from possession of an accused namely Adil Fareed, resident of Rawalpindi. The spokesman informed that in three other raids conducted in Islamabad and Peshawar, Anti-Narcotics Force recovered 120 kg drugs including 78 kg charras, over 25 kg opium and over 17 kg heroin, concealed in secret cavities of three vehicles. ANF during operations also arrested five accused including two women. Separate cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process. - APP



## Protests against BJP leaders' statements

In India, thousands of Muslims rallied over derogatory remarks on Prophet Muhammad by two officials from India's ruling party. Protests were reported from various Indian cities, including capital New Delhi, on Friday as Muslims marched after the afternoon congregation prayers, raising slogans against the government and calling for the arrest of the members belonging to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The BJP suspended Sharma and expelled Jindal, saying it denounces insults of religious figures. The right-wing party also asked its spokespersons to be "extremely cautious" on religious matters in primetime "debates" on Indian news channels.

Several parts of Indian-administered Kashmir, the country's only Muslim-majority region, on Friday observed a spontaneous shutdown to protest the derogatory remarks by the two BJP officials against Prophet Muhammad. In Pakistan, Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani along with members of the Senate belonging to all political parties in the Senate recorded protest in front of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad. Leader of the Opposition in Senate, Dr. Shahzad Waseem and other senators in their speeches strongly condemned the blasphemous statement. Senator Keshoo Bai and Danesh Kumar said that no religion allows such disrespect of any other religion. It's about time that the world acknowledges Muslims' sentiments towards the sactify of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and punish the culprits who play with the fumes in the name of freedom of expression. While the western world acknowledging growing Islamophobia as a problem is a welcome progress, Indian policies against minorities, particularly Muslims, is touching new heights under Prime Minister Modi.

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## Covid-19 cases spiking

A day after a city-wide Covid-19 restrictions were eased, millions of residents of China's commercial hub, Shanghai went back indoors on Thursday under new lockdown measures after the discovery of fresh coronavirus cases. Shanghai officials said seven of the metropolis' 16 districts would carry out mass PCR testing for all residents "to prevent a renewed outbreak." The new measures come in midst of a worldwide spike in cases that scientists attribute to the resurgence of two sub-variants BA.4 and BA.5, branched out of Omicron, the highly transmittable variant that first appeared in November.

The new measures in China are the latest indication that although the pandemic appeared to have stabilised over the past few months, recent surge indicates that coronavirus is far from over. A new surge in cases in India has led experts to warn of a fourth wave. The country on Thursday reported a steep spike in cases, 7,240 new cases, more than double the average cases reported just days ago. The spike in cases prompted the government to restore stringent Covid-19 protocols measures at airports and in aircrafts.

In the UAE, the Ministry of Health and Prevention on Thursday reported 1,031 new cases, the highest since February 14. Similar surges in cases have been reported in many countries including the United States and Europe. The World Health Organisation (WHO) recently warned of complacency as cases declined in the past three months. People around the world have begun to shun the facemask and many failed to take the booster shots, a statement warned. In the UAE, authorities have been careful in easing the Covid-19 precautionary measures, requiring the green pass and facemask to access government services. The Ministry of Health and Prevention on Thursday urged the public again to "continue to cooperate with health authorities and abide by precautionary measures to ensure the safety and protection of the public." In recent months, it has become noticeable that people have lowered their guard as an increasing number have begun to venture unmasked in crowded malls and other public places despite visible signs that urge them to abide by those measures. It is essential that the public, which won deserved praise for following strict Covid-19 protocols from the start of the outbreak, continue their adherence to the rules for their safety and the safety of the community. The world has defeated the pandemic through a high level of vigilance. Let us not quit now.

## Pakistan and Turkey are shaping new era of cooperation

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Today, Pakistan and Turkey are taking measures to establish a balanced and prioritized equation of bilateral cooperation. The Turkish foreign minister Mevlut Cvusoglu has made a statement that Pak-Turkish bilateral trade of \$800 million is not sufficient and both the countries should be brought up to its true potential

Pakistan and Turkey pledged to improve their strategic and economic relations and agreed to take steps to eliminate terrorism. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan made the commitments during a one-on-one meeting and talks on issues of mutual interests. Today, Pakistan and Turkey are moving in to the right direction of cordial relationship. Both the countries respect each other because of multiple commonalities and spirit of brotherhood. However, ideologically, the two countries were poles apart; Pakistan adhered to the Islamic ideology as a centerpiece of its nationhood while Turkey pursued secularism when it became Republic. Nonetheless these differences of ideology with their corresponding reflection, on their respective external outlook, never hampered the course of friendship. Since the last few years the perception and interest of both the countries have converged on the number of important issues.

The strategic locations of both the countries are very unique and important. Pakistan is geographically located at the crossroads of West Asia, Central Asia, South Asia and right next to China Republic that has emerged as a great economic power in the world and a great power of the region. Similarly, Turkey is located at the crossroads of Persian Gulf, Middle East and Balkans which preserve abundant amount of oil and gas resources and fatality of conflicts. Pakistan and Turkey converged on business, trade, investment, defense production, tourism, education and cultural areas of cooperation. Nonetheless, both the countries could not achieve advantage from the tremendous potential of mutual cooperation in all these areas. Since the global war on terror in 2001, both the countries prioritized the issue of counterterrorism and long term defense cooperation. Pakistan and Turkey were aware about terrorism as a domestic and global phenomenon which was becoming a very severe threat to the world and each country was dealing terrorism with its own ways. Pakistan and Turkey decided to work on intelligence sharing and joint military exercises in the war on terror. Both the countries are agreed to cooperate for arms technology and its manufacturing. The Turkish aerospace industry has designed a research and development unit in Pakistan National University of Science and technology to focus on the security and drone and radar technology. In 2018, with the collaboration of Turkey, Pakistan is on the track of warship yard construction in Karachi. In the aftermath 2020, both the countries organized a session of high level dialogue group in which Turkey sought assistance in developing nuclear weapon program.

The two countries are much worried about the Muslim deterioration and always claimed to fight for the rights of Muslim world and their territorial disputes. For example, Pakistan is one of the only country in the world that does not recognize Armenia as a sovereign state but it recognizes Azerbaijan claimed over disputed area of Ngorno Karabakh. Turkey has also supported Azerbaijan during the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan. In January 2021, the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Pakistan and Turkey arranged a talk and issued a statement for their diplomatic support to Ngorno Karabakh, Cyprus and Kashmir. Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan has also maintained the stance for Turkish backed Kurds in Syria and in the return Turkey also spoke openly over Kashmir and ire to India. In 2020, the leadership of both the countries declared Kashmir as a burning issue of the world. Since the long time, the Palestine issue has been discussing in routine in UN and in other international forum without any favorable statement or political settlement. Nowadays both the countries are openly voicing for Palestinian people in UN general assembly and other international forums.

Turkish diplomatic and defense cooperation have improved Pakistan's security status in the region but it could not resolve economic dilemma that has been exacerbated by Covid-19 pandemic. In January 2021, both the countries have stated outline on the trade and investment of \$ 1 billion by Turkish companies in Pakistan. Then in February 2021, Turkish president visited Pakistan and the leadership of both the sides signed Strategic Economic Framework agreement that may cover a broad spectrum of cooperation in defense, trade and investment, science and technology, education, health, tourism, and culture. Pakistan and Turkish Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is still in the process. Pakistan, Iran and Turkey are agreed to resume cargo train service to facilitate the goods transportation between neighbors. Both Pakistan and Turkey have also signed a citizenship agreement to facilitate businessmen and tourists of both sides; in addition Pakistan has launched E-visa system to facilitate the people. Today, Pakistan and Turkey are taking measures to establish a balanced and prioritized equation of bilateral cooperation. The Turkish foreign minister Mevlut Cvusoglu has made a statement that Pak-Turkish bilateral trade of \$800 million is not sufficient and both the countries should be brought up to its true potential. Pakistan should include Turkish companies in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) especially in energy sector and transportation infrastructure. Meanwhile both sides are willing to forge new connection of people to people, students exchange program, conference focused on private and public partnership and workshops to encourage startups.

Naya Pakistan policy of present Government was focusing on economic security as the covid-19 pandemic has shaken the economic structure of Pakistan. Despite of this desolation circumstance, many multinational companies are still doing business in Pakistan and are earning reasonable profit due to friendly environment of investment. Such situation is also much favorable for Turkish businessmen and enterprises. Both Pakistan and Turk leadership signed six bilateral memorandum of understanding on public debt management, Collaboration between credit guarantee institutions for the financing of SME, housing, public-private partnership models, especially knowledge exchange in transportation and health, economic and social policy planning, and technical cooperation in road engineering. Turkey seems natural partner of Pakistan in the areas of economic and defense due to historical bonds and relationship of brotherhood. In short, this solid and deep foundation of relationship between both the countries may fortify and yield impressive benefits for their people as well as be an effective sound for the issues of Muslim World.

## USA's ramping of propaganda activities following Ukraine crisis

Nayeem Maqbool

The first was to exaggerate Russia's "invasion," and the second was to make it appear at the beginning of the conflict that Russia was conducting a surprise attack on Ukraine in order to occupy the country within a few days

In the age of globalization, digital interference, disinformation, fake news and propaganda has become a serious concern. It has led to the manipulation of facts and the change in public perception of different events around them. It has, to a great extent, been a state sponsored project across globe. The deliberate act of spreading fake information has radically altered the situations on ground and has in a way been a source of putting facts under veil.

The way propaganda is being framed, (de)legitimized and securitized has important implication for public understanding of crisis, political rhetoric, public attitudes, and policy responses. Accusations of fake news, digital interference, 'computational propaganda' and strategic hacking underlie widespread calls for the state and media organizations to respond to the new 'post-truth politics'. Foreign propaganda is represented as threatening the state through society-jeopardizing national security, threatening existing international alliances, undermining electoral systems and trust in democracy, and destabilizing government through unrest. Propaganda has played a key role in every US conflict since the war of independence, both for securing support for government action and as a tool in warfare and foreign policy. Concerns about 'propaganda', 'fake news', and misinformation have been named a matter of national security and a priority in foreign policy of United states to safeguard the interests of America and American across the world. In the growing tension between Russia and United States of America saw accusation of digital interference, disinformation and fake propaganda particularly in the Ukraine crisis and has become major part of the American policy.

Following the Ukraine crisis the United States of America is trying very hard to accelerate the plots and misinformation campaigns against Russia. They have opened a new front to compete Russia and have developed an effective technique for spreading disinformation. The major tools and techniques they have used included investment in Public diplomacy, blacklists of websites, removal of information from social media, a new National Cyber Strategy, registration of Russian state-run media as 'foreign agents', and debates on new state bills. In this ongoing Ukraine war, the United States role have been marked by enhancing tensions, expanded propaganda efforts, and falling public trust in journalism and democratic politics. The West had a clear narrative for Russia's invasion of Ukraine, long before the conflict began. The first was to exaggerate Russia's "invasion," and the second was to make it appear at the beginning of the conflict that Russia was conducting a surprise attack on Ukraine in order to occupy the country within a few days. But when there was not so much movement from the Russian side, the West quickly changed the tone, saying Russia was already "losing the war," while overstating its internal discontent and the effect of Western sanctions. American and its military allies has one aim to split society in Russia and ultimately destroy it. The EU, along with countries such as the UK and the US, have introduced a series of measures to weaken key areas of the Russian economy, such as its energy and financial sectors.

The recent trade war between the United States and China, too, has been accompanied by increased attention to surveillance propaganda activities. The geopolitical and historical context of this relationship is different, yet the emerging discourse around propaganda already displays similarly simplistic framing. Routines, familiar representations, and well-rehearsed policy responses present appealing solutions in times of uncertainty and consequently, we can learn from this public discourse around the US foreign propaganda relationship to better communicate policy solutions and empower audiences as information warfare is becoming more ubiquitous. Nayeem Maqbool is Political analyst & PhD Scholar of International Relations at International Islamic University, Islamabad. He is working on conflicts in South Asia with special focus on Indian Occupied Kashmir.

## Only one earth and Pakistan's initiatives

Attiya Munawar



The unequal water distribution put the farmers in grave concern due to the lack of timely irrigation of crops will give less yield, infuse food insecurity, starvation and disease outbreaks in the country

Earth is getting hotter and mountains the water towers suffer glacier retreat by passing a phase of global warming due to an increase in amount of CO2 in the atmosphere from 316 ppm in 1958 to 412 ppm in 2020 leading to worsening the issue of glacier melting. Pakistan is the house of more than 7000 glaciers, lies this preponderance, especially in the northern regions of Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Glaciers are melting rapidly in South Asia and this ad-

dition continues to spell disaster on Pakistan's long-term issue of water scarcity. Undoubtedly, Pakistan, Iran, India, Kyrgyzstan and central Asian countries are becoming to face the worst drought conditions because of too little water availability, dryness and less precipitation records. Similarly, the Sindh government reported to IRSA that the severe water crisis hit the Sindh and demanded the extra water supply to cut the shortage in the province as per the water accord of 1991. The unequal water distribution put the farmers in grave concern due to the lack of timely irriga-

tion of crops will give less yield, infuse food insecurity, starvation and disease outbreaks in the country. On the other side, the extreme drought conditions prevailing in the world brought some outstanding rediscoveries such as the ruins of 3,400 year old city of the Mitani Empire in Iraq owing to falling water level in the Mosul Reservoir but this does not mean that we should not focus on environmental issues, rather that our goal as a nation should be to reduce the severity of environmental catastrophes by changing our behavioral approaches regarding consumption of natural resources, adopting mitigation measures and limiting carbon emissions that can be done while pledging to reach net-zero emission targets in every sector of life.

Thus, it is the necessity of time to focus on "Living Sustainably in Harmony with Nature" a step that embraces all humanity to celebrate the "Only One Earth" theme of this year's World Environment Day on June 5, 2022, hosted by Sweden in which Federal Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehmanon behalf of G77 and China will address on achieving a healthy planet and prosperity for all in the Stockholm+50 plenary meeting. Pakistan is currently doing many efforts in this respect by conducting dialogues on national and internal levels, awareness walks, celebration events, promoting sustainable agriculture practices, creating massive olive production and its exports, constructing dams, green infrastructure development, institutions and industries transferring to solar energy sector scale, reforestation, check-up control methods for smoke emissions from brick kilns, factories, green taxing, banned the use of plastic in all mega cities, suburban with a scalable solution of utilizing dumping plastic waste to be used in the construction of roads with plastic-first time evident in

Islamabad on Ataturk Avenue and scaling-up of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood risk reduction in Northern Pakistan (GLOF II) project for evaluating, mitigating possible risks through early warning, community based awareness, disaster management and infrastructure enhancement. According to the latest reports of Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) and UNDP, there is a huge possibility that country will soon reach to absolute water shortage by 2025 if no counter-measures opt since Pakistan is the fourth in the world in terms of its largest water usage rate and an ongoing intense heat wave has recently blown huge loss to ecosystem diversity of world's largest Chilghoza forest in Koh-e-Sulaiman region, Balochistan. Also, government has already taken above mentioned various precautions to avoid the impending effects of climate change with subsequent sustainable development goals (goal-13 Climate Action) and formulation of sustainable policies. Every religion also emphasizes the importance of environmental education. Therefore, it is necessary to advance awareness campaigns through communication that would help in transforming the way how people demonstrate and sustainably work in most of the cities of Pakistan to cope severe environmental crises, encompassing key economic and social establishment and green practices that solely depend on promoting multifaceted strategies to warrant environmental protection, and only then Pakistan will be able to move on the right path of ecosystem restoration.

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## Briefs

## Will steer country...

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government was hoping to "shield financially weaker citizens from economic hardships" by taxing the "financially stronger people". "We have allocated billions of rupees for targeted subsidies. This amount is in addition to Rs344 billion allocated for Benazir Income Support Programme. Only deserving people to get the subsidy," said PM Shehbaz. He added that the government has increased its employees' salaries by providing a raise of 15% and merging the "ad hoc allowance in their basic pay". "The tax slabs have been revised. Those earning up to Rs1.2 million annually have been exempted from taxes. Government has decided to tax non-productive assets of the rich including 5% tax on the purchase of second property and increase in tax on luxury cars," said the PM. The premier also highlighted that his government has reduced the tax on the import and distribution of solar panels to zero, adding that a "zero tax has been announced for import of agricultural machinery and implants". PM Shehbaz believes the zero tax policy for the agricultural sector in some areas would be a "major step" to enable farmers and the sector to progress. "Government has increased funding for Benazir Income Support Programme. Benazir scholarship programme has been extended to 10 million students," said the PM.

## UN: Lanka risks full-blown emergency

AGENCIES

NEW YORK: The United Nations has warned that cash-strapped Sri Lanka's unprecedented economic crisis could develop into a dire humanitarian crisis, with millions already in need of aid. "We are concerned that this could develop into a full-blown humanitarian emergency, and we are taking action to address that concern," Jens Laerke, spokesman for the UN humanitarian agency OCHA, told reporters on Friday. The UN and its partners are appealing for \$47 million to address the immediate needs of the 1.7 million of the most vulnerable people and those most affected by the crisis, he said.

## Biden, Trudeau vow to hold Russia accountable for war

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau vowed to hold Russia accountable for its war in Ukraine during a meeting Thursday in Los Angeles, California, said the White House. The two leaders met on the margins of the Ninth Summit of the Americas and discussed a range of topics including regional economic cooperation, the COVID-19 pandemic, migration, and food insecurity.

"The President and Prime Minister underscored their commitment to continue holding Russia accountable for its brutal actions in Ukraine and reviewed their ongoing efforts to provide economic, development and humanitarian aid to the millions of Ukrainians affected by the violence, as well as to provide security assistance to the government of Ukraine," said the White House in a statement. During the meeting, Biden praised Canada for its "close partnership" with Washington "throughout this crisis and its leadership in enacting comprehensive sanctions and restrictions on Russia."

"The President also stated he looks forward to seeing the Prime Minister in Madrid for the NATO Summit," said the statement,



which is scheduled to take place from June 28-30. Biden and Trudeau also discussed the potential of developing critical minerals in both countries and joint efforts to make supply chains and economies more resilient to external shocks, including through the work of the US-Canada Supply Chain

Working Group. "As major energy producers, both Canada and the United States play key roles in supporting security and resilience of supply chains, but Leaders also emphasized a shared commitment to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 to decrease our reliance on fossil fuels," said the statement.

"The President thanked the Prime Minister for Canada's support to bolster democracy in the Americas and throughout in the world, and for Canada's support of the Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity and the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection," it added.

## Pakistan rejects...

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and the sentiments of Muslims worldwide. On Wednesday, Shri Mari Maata in Karachi's Korangi area came under attack after a group of men on motorcycles came into the area and attacked the idols present in the house of Pandit (priest). According to a statement issued by SSP Korang Faisal Bashir Memon, some idols of Indian deities were placed in a house. There was some paint work going on in the house when three to four people came and asked for the priest, the SSP said. The suspects pelted stones which damaged the idols slightly, SSP Memon said adding that an FIR has been registered. Meanwhile, Foreign Office Spokesperson says Pakistan is reaching out to international community to get a collective response against India's persecution of minorities specially Muslims.

In his weekly press briefing in Islamabad on Friday, Foreign Office Spokesperson called upon India to show moral courage and unequivocally condemn derogatory remarks made by two senior officials of the ruling BJP Party and take visible, demonstrable steps to hold them accountable. To a question regarding India's membership in UN Security Council as permanent representative, the spokesperson said Pakistan has opposed any expansion in the permanent membership of UNSC. However, he said, Pakistan supports comprehensive reforms of the Security Council that could make the council more democratic, representative and transparent.

## Ex-generals not...

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country's economy," she said, adding that the premier's entire focus was on public relief. Commenting on the excessive electricity outages being faced by the people across the country, Maryam said when her party formed the government in 2013, the country was witnessing 23 hours of power cuts. "Had there not been [Maryam's father and former premier] Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz, power outages would not have ended," she added. "No one tried to end the electricity outages, nobody set up power plants," she said while referring to the term of the previous PTI government. She added that the demand for electricity was increasing with each passing day and PTI chairman and former premier Imran Khan had shut down the power plants set up by Nawaz. She alleged that factories were being shut down because of Imran's "incompetence".

## Govt unveils Rs 9.5tr 'people...

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that Pakistan has become the third-most-expensive country due to the incompetency of the PTI-led government. Miftah, while sharing the details of the federal budget for the next fiscal year 2022-23, revealed that the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) target for the next fiscal year was 9% - Rs7,400 billion - while the provinces will be asked to collect Rs4,100 billion. The federal government's net revenue is projected to be Rs 4,904 billion, non-tax revenue will be Rs2,000 billion, and the expenditure is expected to be around Rs9,502 billion for the next fiscal year, Miftah said.

Pakistan will also spend Rs3,950 for debt servicing, the finance minister told the house, adding that the tax imposed on non-filers has been proposed to be hiked from 100% to 200%. The total expenditure for interest payments during the current fiscal year has been estimated at Rs3,144 billion - including Rs2,770 domestic and Rs373 international - while for the next year, it will climb to Rs3,950.

The finance minister added that the public debt of the outgoing fiscal would stand at 72.5% of the GDP as it reached Rs44,365 billion in March 2022.

The FBR's tax revenue for the ongoing fiscal year is projected to clock in at Rs6,000 billion, and the contribution of the provinces will stand at Rs3,512, he said, adding that the Centre's net revenue is estimated to be Rs3,803 and non-tax revenue Rs1,315.

The total expenditure of the federal government for the current fiscal year is expected to clock in at Rs9,118 billion, the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) at Rs550 billion, while Pakistan will spend Rs3,144 billion on debt servicing, Miftah said. He proposed increasing the rate of ad-

vance tax on purchase and sale for filers from 1% to 2%, while for non-filers, the tax rate for purchasing property will be at 5%. The finance minister said if a person has an immovable property of Rs25 million or more, then 5% of its rate will be considered as an individual's additional income. He said that on this income, the government would charge a 1% tax. In case a person holds an immovable property for more than a year, then they will be charged with 15% capital gain tax, which will become 0% after six years, he said.

**Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP)**

For the next fiscal year, the total allowance for the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has been proposed to be increased from Rs250 billion to Rs364 billion. To that end, Miftah said that nine million families would receive money through the Benazir Kafalat Cash Transfer Programme, and Rs266 billion have been proposed to be allocated for it. The finance minister added it had been proposed to increase the subsidy for the Utility Stores Corporation to Rs12 billion.

He added that the Benazir Taleemi Wazif Programme will be extended to 10 million children, while more than Rs35 billion will be earmarked for the programme. More than 10,000 students will be given undergraduate scholarships and over Rs9 billion have been allocated for it, he said.

**Rs65b allocated for HEC**

Miftah said that despite several hurdles in the country, Rs65 billion has been earmarked for the Higher Education Commission (HEC). Other than that, Rs44 billion has been allocated for the development projects of HEC, which is 67% higher in line with the government's commitment towards the youngsters of the country.

"We are trying to convince the provinces to further focus on the development of the higher education in their

provinces," he added.

**Energy sector**

Moving forward, Miftah said Rs73 billion have been allocated for the payment of arrears of the petroleum sector, and the gas rate for the industrial sector will be announced soon. The finance minister added that the government has prioritised the transmission and distribution of electricity and will be assigning importance to it. "In this sector, the government has provided Rs214 billion in additional subsidies in the first three months so that the burden of the previous government's [policies] does not fall on the masses," he said. In the next fiscal year, it has been proposed to allocate Rs570 billion for this sector so that the people could survive the scorching heat and have electricity supply in their homes.

**Imposition of taxes**

Miftah said the income tax threshold (per year) increased from Rs600,000 to Rs1.2 million. "This proposal effectively means there will be no income tax on individuals earning up to Rs100,000 a month." Miftah also shared that the government has suggested increasing the tax on banking companies to 39%, including 42% super tax, while the foreign nationals doing business in Pakistan will have to pay taxes. However, the withholding tax on credit, debit and prepaid cards can be adjusted later on, he said.

The finance minister proposed that families using less than 200 units of electricity will be given loans in easy instalments for purchasing a solar panel, while the government is also considering abolishing sales tax on agricultural machinery and seeds.

**Health**

Miftah announced that the proposed budget for the health sector would be more than Rs20 billion, which has been decreased, as the previous government had allocated more budget to health due to the coronavirus pandemic.

## Reports hold Imran...

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responsible for what they called creating 'chaos' inside federal capital's D-Chowk on May 25, 2022. It was alleged in these reports that it was Imran on whose orders PTI workers had entered the Red Zone. The reports said that around seven to eight hundreds protestors removed containers and other obstacles on their way to the most sensitive area of the capital city as party leaders Fawad Chaudhry, Zartaj Gull, Saifullah Niazi and Imran Ismael kept inciting them to violence. This happened despite the fact that the personnel of law-enforcement agencies kept stopping them. It was also claimed that it was at 6:30 on the evening of May 25 after the apex court order that the PTI chairman, in his live video message, had directed the party workers to reach the D-Chowk. And the former prime minister gave same instructions to the marchers once he reached Attock Bridge as he was entering Punjab from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), the reports said.

## Fawad denounces...

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its opponents but the imported government crossed all limits, as they raided the houses of the people by violating the sanctity of four walls, which was unprecedented. He made it clear that people of the country was looking towards the apex court, as when the report would be submitted in this regard. Fawad Chaudhry revealed that a sessions court judge dared to take action against Rana Sanaullah Interior Minister; however, the Lahore High Court suspended him forthwith. He went on to say that the police subjected the PTI workers of worst torture and teargas shelling, which reminded them the fascist Narendra Modi who was registering false and fabricated cases against political opponents in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) to silence the dissenting voices in the occupied valley. In Pakistan, he said that Sharif family was treading on the same path because both the Modi and the fascist government had same thinking. Reacting to Maryam Saffar's outbursts against retired army officers, Fawad Chaudhry said that Maryam ridiculed the sacrifices of the military officers, which was reprehensible and condemnable. He asked Maryam to be careful while speaking about the heroes of the country.

## Openness as Prerequisite and Essential Pillar of Reforms in New Uzbekistan

Openness and transparency are considered among the most effective tools in the fight against corruption and its prevention. Thus, the efforts instigated in Uzbekistan to secure the rule of law, introduce effective forms of openness and transparency, establish genuine public control over the activities of government authorities have been gaining momentum as decisive and steadfast in nature. As a result, initiated by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, considerable positive strides have been conspicuous lately in the country in combating various forms of bureaucracy and corruption. In particular, new procedures have been established to ensure the openness and transparency of the activities of government bodies and organizations, so have the conditions necessary for effective public oversight. To this end, within a short period of time the system for considering appeals from individuals and corporate bodies has been radically redefined, the People's Receptions, Helplines and Virtual Reception of the President were launched. Thus, the head of state demonstrated readiness for open communication with citizens. In addition, a functioning mechanism has been set up in each ministry and government agency to work with appeals in the form of ministerial helplines and virtual receptions or field receptions.

Moreover, the widespread use of digital and online technologies has helped bolster the government accountability before the civil society. In particular, the Open Data Portal ([data.gov.uz](http://data.gov.uz)), the registered database of legal entities and business entities ([my.gov.uz](http://my.gov.uz)) and other platforms play an important role in reducing and eliminating bureaucracy, as well as combating and preventing corruption. The adopted regulatory acts of conceptual significance and other administrative reforms aimed at preventing corruption also bear fruit in ensuring the openness of government authorities and administrative bodies. For example, in order to prevent theft of budgetary funds, the Public Procurement Law was adopted. Now, according to this normative act, all information on public procurement is posted on [d.xarid.uz](http://d.xarid.uz) portal. Efficient mechanisms of public control have been created, and

the newly launched Open Budget portal has allowed the population to be directly involved in the management of budget funds.

In accordance with the 22 September 2021 Resolution of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, an effective system overseen by the local population and the general public was introduced for spending budget funds and surplus amount of the forecast of local budget revenues. The act also kickstarted the Initiative Budget project. In the first season of the Initiative Budget project in 2022, a total of 70 thousand initiatives were received from citizens, 2,215 of which won the contest. More than 6.7 million people took part in voting on these projects. Thirty-four percent of the winning initiatives were related to secondary school renovation projects. In addition, a system was instituted whereby the sale of public property, real estate, land plots, vehicles, license plates, the right to build and install outdoor advertising facilities, those for speed cameras should be realized through open online auction (<https://e-auksion.uz/>). Another example: a newly created system establishes mandatory public discussion of draft laws as well as draft regulatory acts to be adopted by the President and the government, with the launch of the portal [regulation.gov.uz](http://regulation.gov.uz).

This, in turn, contributes to the transparency of important decisions planned for adoption, and the practical implementation of the principle of accountability to citizens.

One of the main achievements in this area is the improvement of press services that inform the public about the activities of government bodies and organizations. That is, all government bodies and organizations have press services, and the status of spokespersons has been raised to the level of advisers to the head of a government agency on information policy.

In addition, the maximum openness and transparency of statistical data for a wide range of domestic and foreign users has been ensured. Accordingly, open statistical data are posted on the Open Data Portal, including information on public procurement, registration of patents, medicines and medical products, public transportation, land use and other information. Similar systemic and consistent reforms have significantly improved the position of Uzbekistan in a number

of international rankings and indices, one of the main of which is the index of openness. For example, as of 2020, Uzbekistan rose by 125 positions, to 44th in the Open Data Inventory Ranking. The introduction of the practice of disclosing indicators in 20 areas of state and public administration proved instrumental. And, in the updated Corruption Perceptions Index by Transparency International for 2021, Uzbekistan climbed six positions compared to 2020, ranking 140th out of 180 countries. As a logical continuation of the reforms, on June 16, 2021, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan signed a decree envisaging additional measures to ensure the openness of the activities of government bodies and organizations, as well as the effective implementation



of public control, which, according to both local and international experts, has become a truly groundbreaking document.

The decree approved the list of socially significant information to be posted as open data, and clearly defined government bodies and organizations that develop data, as well as procedure for publishing open data. Committees on information policy and ensuring openness in government bodies under the Legislative Chamber and the Senate of the Oliy Majlis, as well as standing commissions on information policy and ensuring openness in local government bodies under regional, district and city councils of people's representatives started operating. The Anti-Corruption Agency is tasked with coordinating and constantly monitoring the openness in the activities of government authorities, expanding the list of open data, strengthening

public control and cultivating in civil servants a culture of public accountability. A new department for ensuring the openness in activities of government bodies and organizations has been created within the Agency structure. Based on the information disclosed by government bodies and organizations, local media, including major media outlets, published about 140 news reports and journalistic investigations. The Anti-Corruption Agency has established a system of continuous monitoring of the timely placement of socially significant information in designated resources as open data approved by the Decree. For example, in January-February 2022, the Agency published on its official website reports on the study of the work done by 135 ministries and

departments, local government bodies regarding the placement on its official websites and the Open Data Portal of the necessary information about its activities, in particular about public procurements, expenses for business trips of officials and for the reception of foreign guests, and others. At the same time, from December 1, 2021, sessions of the Legislative Chamber and the Senate of the Oliy Majlis, Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regional, district and city Councils of people's representatives are mandatorily broadcast live on TV channels and the Internet. The live broadcast of the sessions serves to raise the level of legal awareness of citizens and their direct acquaintance with the content and significance of the discussed legislative acts, as well as with the opinions of the experts who developed them. Over the past period, the Agency submitted

26 statutory notices and 35 warning letters to ministries, departments and local governments to eliminate violations identified as a result of monitoring and analysis. Now it is planned to work on this issue on an ongoing basis, to organize seminars with the involvement of experts from nongovernmental organizations working in this area. One of the main issues on the agenda is expanding the list of open data and raising it to a qualitatively new level, developing proposals for the further development of the area. Over the past period, legislation on the activities of government bodies and organizations in the field of openness has been fully documented, reasonable proposals have been developed to fill existing gaps and improve mechanisms that do not give the expected results. In particular, three laws, one resolution of the President and three resolutions of the government and one departmental document aimed at regulating the openness were adopted.

For example, a draft law 'On amendments to the Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan on administrative responsibility' has been developed. According to it, the new Code of Administrative Responsibility is supplemented by a new article 2157, which provides for a fine of 3 to 10 reference calculation values for officials of government authorities who violate the requirements of openness legislation. Another important issue is that in accordance with the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan 'On additional measures to further improve the activities of the Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan', a Public Control Development Fund was established under the Agency. From now on, the preparation of materials on the openness of the activities of government bodies and organizations, the financing of projects of NGOs, other civil society institutions to ensure openness in government bodies and organizations, as well as research in this area and a number of other areas will be implemented at the expense of the Fund. Also, at the expense of the Fund, the work of a call center with a single short number '1253' was established, which allows citizens to promptly report facts of corruption. In addition, the Agency plans to form an Openness Index (rating) of government bodies and organizations

and publish the rating based on the results of each year. Most importantly, the Index allows to visually show the level of openness of any government body and organization to the public. The Anti-Corruption Agency pays special attention to further improving the position of Uzbekistan in international rankings and indices by improving the efficiency of work in this area.

In particular, to improve the position of the country, a comprehensive analysis of the Open Government Factor, WJP Rule of Law Index, was carried out (Uzbekistan ranked 122nd out of 139 countries with the highest index over the past 6 years in terms of the Open Government Factor - 0.37 points in 2021). Based on the results of the analysis, a program of measures was developed to improve the country's position in this international index. In addition, as of 2022, steps are being taken to further improve and update Uzbekistan rankings in the Open Data Inventory, the Rule of Law Index, the Global Open Data Index, and the Open Data Barometer. If we want to achieve fundamental changes in the field of openness, we must, of course, meet the requirements of generally recognized standards through membership in international organizations. In this regard, Uzbekistan became a member of the International Open Data Charter last year. The Charter works to ensure openness and transparency of information from over 150 governments and organizations around the world. The Agency established close cooperation with this organization and, together with the State Statistics Committee of Uzbekistan, with the support of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, developed recommendations and the Final Report on open datasets on combating corruption in Uzbekistan. The priority is to further expand access to open data, create an open data infrastructure based on international standards. In a word, the policy of openness and transparency in Uzbekistan will now only gain momentum, the government will be even more open, greater transparency will be ensured, cooperation between citizens and authorities will continue to improve and develop. After all, openness and transparency are not only a requirement of the time, but also a prerequisite and essential pillar of reforms in the New Uzbekistan.



## Briefs

## Azerbaijan, Germany eye military cooperation

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijani and German military delegations have discussed future military cooperation, as well as regional and international security issues, Azernews reports, citing the Defense Ministry. The discussion was held as a part of the 10th staff talks between the Defense Ministries of both countries in line with the program of bilateral military cooperation for 2022.

"The meeting discussed regional and international security issues, as well as the current state and prospects for cooperation," the ministry said. Germany recognized Azerbaijan's independence on January 12, 1992, and diplomatic relations between the two countries were established on February 20, 1992. Azerbaijan opened its first embassy in western Europe, in Germany on September 2, 1992. The countries have signed various agreements that cover different spheres of bilateral relations. The defense ministries of the two countries signed a document on military cooperation on March 9, 2006.

The trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Germany amounted to \$1.2 billion in 2021. In addition, trade turnover between the two countries amounted to \$145.6 million in January-February 2022.

The German-Azerbaijani Chamber of Commerce (AHK Azerbaijan), as the official representative of the German economy in Azerbaijan, provides information services and supports companies in their market and business research since 2012. The AHK Azerbaijan emerged from the German-Azerbaijani Business Association (DAWF) founded in 1999. With more than 140 member companies (as of April 2020), the AHK Azerbaijan is the most powerful European economic association in Azerbaijan.

## Storm alert issued for 13 regions of Kazakhstan

DNA

NUR-SULTAN: Storm alert was issued for 13 regions of Kazakhstan, Kazinform cites the National Met Office Kazhydromet. Abai region's administrative center Semey city is to expect thunderstorms as well as 36 degrees Celsius heatwave during the day. The north, west, and east of Akmola region are to brace for thunderstorms as well as hail at daytime. 15-20mps northwesterly, westerly wind is to batter the region's north, west, and east. The city of Kokshetau is to see thunderstorms in the morning and afternoon. Westerly wind is to gust up to 15-20mps during the day.

The north of Aktoke region is to expect thunderstorms at daytime. Northwesterly, westerly wind is to gust up to 18mps in the north and east during the day. The city of Aktoke is to brace for thunderstorms at daytime. The northwest, west, south, and east of East Kazakhstan region are to see thunderstorms at daytime. Southwesterly wind turning southwesterly gusting up to 15-20mps in the northwest and west is predicted.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with the participants of Technology Awards – 2022 organized by Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Aiwan-e-Sadr. – DNA

## At UN Pakistan urges steps for recovery in Covid-hit countries

"UNCDF's support for financial inclusion in developing countries is important and the organization's transition towards a greater focus on expanding digital financial services is a welcome step", the G77 chairman said

NEW YORK: Pakistan, speaking on behalf of Group of 77 (developing countries) and China, has called for boosting efforts for sustainable recovery in the coronavirus-hit countries and to accomplish U.N.'s 2030 agenda aimed at ending poverty in all its forms. "We must accelerate our efforts to reach the furthest behind first," Ambassador Aamir Khan, acting permanent representative of

Pakistan to the UN, told the annual session of the executive boards of three UN funds and programmes. The executive boards represented at the session were: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and UN Office for Project Service (UNOPS). Pakistan is the current chairman of G-77 and China, which now has 134 members and is the United Na-

tions' biggest intergovernmental group of emerging countries. In the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Ambassador Aamir Khan said, low vaccination rates, combined with mounting debt challenges, accelerating inflation, and rising food insecurity meant a long and arduous path towards recovery that would require about \$1 trillion annually to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in

the 46 LDCs. "The annual estimated financing gap in achieving the 2030 Agenda is at least \$400 billion," the G77 chairman said. Noting the report of UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the Pakistani envoy expressed appreciation for the role the fund plays in providing financing solutions that benefit LDCs' "last mile" populations, referring to people who are farthest away and most

difficult to reach for a programme or service. "UNCDF's support for financial inclusion in developing countries is important and the organization's transition towards a greater focus on expanding digital financial services is a welcome step", the G77 chairman said. "Equipping LDCs to seize opportunities from digital finance and the broader digital transformation will be critical to allow their econ-

omies to grow and increase their productivity," he said, while urging UNCDF to continue efforts to support mobilization of SDG financing for local governments and other local actors as a UN hub for local government financing. The G77 also took note of the expansion in 2021 of UNCDF's loan and guarantee portfolio, focusing especially on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). – APP

## Baku, Dushanbe discuss cooperation

BAKU: Azerbaijani Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov and his Tajikistani counterpart Sodik Imomi have discussed cooperation in political, socio-economic, humanitarian areas, as well as economic relations, Azernews reports, citing the ministry. The discussion took place as part of the political consultations marking the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the report elaborated. The sides addressed the present status of relations, opportunities for expanding cooperation in political, socio-economic, humanitarian, and other areas of mutual interest. – DNA



MINSK: Pakistan Ambassador to Belarus Sajjad Haider meets with the Pakistani trade delegation participating in BelAgro Exhibition being held in Minsk from 6-10 June. – DNA

## Hikmat Hajiyevev calls on UNGA President

NEWS DESK

BAKU: Azerbaijan is a staunch supporter of multilateral diplomacy, the country's top presidential aide Hikmat Hajiyevev said on his Twitter page. Hajiyevev made the remarks commenting on his meeting with President of the UN General Assembly Abdulla Shahid. "Pleased to meet with Abdulla Shahid President of the UN General Assembly and underlined that Azer-

baijan is a staunch supporter of multilateral diplomacy and further synchronisation of UNGA and Non-Alignment Movement agenda, as currently Azerbaijan chairs NAM," he wrote. Azerbaijan joined the NAM in 2011. With the unanimous decision of the NAM leaders of 2016, Azerbaijan was elected as the chair of the NAM for the period of 2019-2022. This year, NAM member states unanimously decided to extend Azerbaijan's chairmanship for one more

year until late 2023. On March 2, 1992, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on Azerbaijan's admission as a member state to the organization at its 46th session, following Azerbaijan's application for membership. The resolution, which was proposed by 111 states, was voted unanimously by all UN members. The admission of Azerbaijan to the UN has become one of the key milestones in the country's history.

## Death toll in Mexico hurricane rises to 19

DNA

BOGOTA: The death toll in the Mexican state of Oaxaca from Hurricane Agatha rose to 19, the governor said Friday. Oaxaca Governor Alejandro Murat said nine more people were killed and search efforts to find six missing people are continuing. Meanwhile, Mexican authorities declared a state of emergency for 25 villages in the state as it has been affected by the first hurricane of the season in the Pacific since the end of May.

## TCM to help build Pak-China Health Corridor

BEIJING: "We hope the Health Corridor could link China with Pakistan, ensure people's health and wellness, and promote the development of TCM," said Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz, President of China Pakistan Medical Association, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Friday. Dr. Shahbaz made the remarks at the launching ceremony of the China-Pakistan Traditional Medicine and Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control Alliance (the Alliance) held in Shandong, China, aiming to help the building of the Pak-China Health Corridor. The Alliance will promote the research on Herbal and Traditional Medicine in both countries, and jointly carry out research and development of new TCM, especially new anti-viral drugs for treatment of COVID-19 patients and others, according to Dr. Shahbaz. "We want to build institutes and college of pharmacy with TCM characteristics in Pakistan, by the strength of the Alliance. We also plan to provide training for Pakistani medical staff on traditional medicine and therapies," said Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz. – DNA

## Russian central bank cuts key rate to 9.5%

DNA

MOSCOW: Russia's central bank cut its key interest rate by 150 basis points to 9.5% in June, bringing borrowing costs back to levels prior to its war on Ukraine. The market expectation saw a 100 basis points decrease. "The external environment for the Russian economy remains challenging and significantly constrains economic activity," the Bank of Russia said in a statement. "The contraction in imports due to the introduction of external trade and financial restrictions is considerably outstripping the decline in exports," it added. The bank also said inflation is slowing down faster and the decline in economic activity is of a smaller magnitude than the Bank of Russia expected in April. The annual inflation rate in Russia fell to 17.1% in May of 2022, below market expectations of 17.3%. The Russian ruble is hovering around 58 against the dollar.

## US annual inflation hits 8.6% in May

DNA

WASHINGTON: Annual inflation in the US hit 8.6% in May, the highest since December 1981, official data showed on Friday. The figure was above market forecasts of 8.3%. "The increase was broad-based, with the indexes for shelter, gasoline, and food being the largest contributors," according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Energy prices rose 34.6% on an annual basis, the most since September of 2005, and food costs soared 10.1%, the first increase of 10% or more since the period ending March 1981.

Last week, the US Treasury secretary conceded that last year she was wrong about "the path inflation that would take." "There have been unanticipated and large shocks to the economy that have boosted energy and food prices and supply bottlenecks that have affected our economy badly that at the time I didn't fully understand," Janet Yellen told CNN. In recent weeks some Fed officials also said inflation in the country is comparable to levels seen in 1974 and 1983, when US consumers felt a tight squeeze from high prices.

## NATO chief to visit Finland, Sweden

DNA

BRUSSELS: NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg will visit Finland and Sweden on June 12-13, the alliance said in a press release on Friday. In Finland, Stoltenberg will meet with President Sauli Niinisto, Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto, and other senior officials, it noted. He will also participate in the Kultaranta Talks, to be held under the theme of "responsible, strong and stable Nordic region," on Sunday. On Monday, the NATO chief will travel to Sweden to meet with Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson and government officials. Stoltenberg will hold joint news conferences with Niinisto and Andersson during his visits. Both countries formally applied to join NATO on May 18, a decision spurred by Russia's war on Ukraine, which began on Feb. 24.

## Kazakhstan-UN discuss co-op

DNA

NUR-SULTAN. KAZINFORM First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Akan Rakhmetullin met with First Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Ms. Amina J. Mohammed in Nur-Sultan, Kazinform learnt from the MFA press service. The parties discussed a wide range of issues related to the UN-Kazakhstan cooperation,

including, the context of political and social reforms initiated by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. As the key element of interaction, the sides noted the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aimed at reducing social inequality and poverty, empowering women, protecting human rights, combating climate change, ensuring food security, improving the efficiency of the govern-

ment machinery, as well as addressing other pressing challenges. Amina Mohammed congratulated Kazakhstan on the 30th anniversary of joining the UN. Welcoming support for political and social transformations in our country, including the holding of a nationwide referendum on June 5 this year to amend the nation's Constitution, she commended the efforts of Kazakhstan to ensure sustainable development over three decades of independence. At the end of the meeting, Akan Rakhmetullin expressed gratitude to the high representative on the UN for the consistent support. Earlier Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan Akan Rakhmetullin held a meeting with UN First Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, kazinform correspondent reports. During the years of our independence, Kazakhstan has fully supported the UN's key role in addressing international issues. The active participation in realizing the UN's objectives and tasks is the priority of our balanced and constructive foreign policy," said Rakhmetullin following the meeting.



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## Briefs

### US to drop Covid tests for incoming air travel

WASHINGTON: The United States on Friday announced that Covid-19 tests would no longer be demanded for international travelers arriving by air, a major step in the country's gradual lifting of pandemic restrictions. White House Assistant Press Secretary Kevin Munoz confirmed the news on Twitter, with US media saying the testing requirement would end this weekend after strong lobbying from the travel industry. All passengers had needed to show a negative Covid viral test taken shortly before travel - or proof of having recovered from the virus in the past 90 days - before they boarded their flight. Munoz said President Joe Biden's work on vaccines and treatments had been "critical" to easing the travel restrictions, and added that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention would continue to evaluate Covid data amid a recent rise in cases. Last month, the United States crossed the threshold of one million Covid deaths, with Biden acknowledging the "unrelenting" pain of bereaved families, and urging Americans to remain vigilant. America recorded its first Covid-19 death, on the West Coast, in early February 2020. Many mask mandates have been lifted but the country has recently seen an uptick in the number of daily virus cases, largely due to new Omicron subvariants. - APP

### ECP ready for general election any time: PEC

PESHAWAR: Provincial Election Commissioner (PEC), Muhammad Faridullah Afridi here on Friday said election commission was constitutional institution and was ready to conduct general election any time under the law and constitution. Briefing media here at his office, the provincial election commissioner said preparations for the upcoming general elections had been started from November 7, 2021 and presently the new voters' lists were being updated for free, fair and transparent general election. He said voter lists would be displaced at display centres in every district by June 19, 2022. He advised voters to visit their nearest display centres for verification or shifting of their votes on permanent address by submitting form 15. He urged voters to submit form 17 for correction of any error in the voter lists. Provincial Election Commissioner said the total number of registered voters in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are about 20.9 million while names of around 0.7 million deceased people were removed from the voters' lists.

### Dr Amir Liaquat laid to rest

ISLAMABAD: Renowned Islamic scholar and popular TV anchor Dr. Amir Liaquat Hussain was laid to rest in the compound of the shrine of Abdullah Shah Ghazi in Karachi on Friday. Earlier, his son Ahmad Amir led the funeral prayer for his father after the Asr prayers. Prior to that, the deceased's family and the police remain locked in a dispute over the body's postmortem. While the police insisted on the postmortem in order to ascertain the real causes of religious scholar's death, his family opposed it and demanded that the body be handed over to them. However, later following the court order, police had to give up and hand over the body to the family. It is worth-mentioning here that only a few hours ago the same court of Judicial Magistrate-Karachi East had ordered the police surgeon to examine Dr. Amir's body before conducting its postmortem.



ISLAMABAD: Wajahat Malik and his expedition team posing for a group picture with CEO Serena Hotels and members of the Diplomatic Corps during a function held at the Islamabad Serena Hotel. Serena Hotels had sponsored the rafting expedition led by Wajahat. - DNA

# China will 'not hesitate to start war' over Taiwan

The warning from Wei Fenghe came as he held his first face-to-face meeting with US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin

SINGAPORE: Beijing will "not hesitate to start a war" if Taiwan declares independence, China's defence minister warned his US counterpart Friday, the latest salvo between the superpowers over the island. The warning from Wei Fenghe came as he held his first face-to-face meeting with US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue security summit in Singapore. Beijing views democratic, self-ruled Taiwan as its territory and has vowed to one day seize the island, by force if necessary, and US-China tensions over the issue have soared in recent months. Wei warned Austin that "if anyone dares to split Taiwan from China, the Chinese army will definitely not hesitate to start a war no matter the cost", defence ministry spokesman Wu Qian quoted the minister as saying during the meeting.

The Chinese minister vowed that Beijing would "smash to smithereens any 'Taiwan independence' plot and resolutely uphold the unification of the motherland", according to the Chinese defence ministry. He "stressed that Taiwan is China's Taiwan... Using Taiwan to contain China will never prevail", the ministry said. Austin "reaffirmed the importance of peace and stability across the (Taiwan) Strait, opposition to unilateral changes to the status quo, and called on (China) to refrain from further destabilising actions toward Taiwan", according to the US Department of Defense. Tensions over Taiwan have escalated in particular due to increasing Chinese aircraft incursions into the island's air defence identification zone (ADIZ). US President Joe Biden, during a visit to

Japan last month, appeared to break decades of US policy when, in response to a question, he said Washington would defend Taiwan militarily if it is attacked by China. The White House has since insisted its policy of "strategic ambiguity" over whether or not it would intervene has not changed. With concerns mounting over China-Taiwan tensions, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida issued a stark warning at the summit: "Ukraine today may be East Asia tomorrow". The world must be "prepared for the emergence of an entity that tramples on the peace and security of other countries by force or threat without honouring the rules," he said. He did not mention China by name in his address, but repeatedly called for the "rules-based international order" to be upheld. Austin is the latest senior US official to

visit Asia as Washington seeks to shift its foreign policy focus back to the region from the Ukraine war. As well as on Taiwan, China and the United States have been locked in a range of other disputes. They have been at loggerheads over Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with Washington accusing Beijing of providing tacit support for Moscow. China has called for talks to end the war, but has stopped short of condemning Russia's actions and has repeatedly criticised American arms donations to Ukraine. China's expansive claims in the South China Sea have also stoked tensions with Washington. Beijing claims almost all of the resource-rich sea, through which trillions of dollars in shipping trade passes annually, with competing claims from Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam. - APP

### APML rebuts reports of Pervez Musharraf's death



ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Muslim League (APML) - the political party established by former Pakistan president Pervez Musharraf - on Friday rubbished the reports of his death. According to APML, the ex-military ruler was taken back to his residence after three weeks of being admitted to the hospital. It also refuted news related to him being in critical condition or on a ventilator. The circulating news regarding his death is not correct, it said, asking the public to pray for his speedy recovery. The party said that Musharraf is being treated for amyloidosis at his home and his condition is stable. Amyloidosis is a condition which is caused by a build-up of an abnormal protein in organs and tissues that prevents them from working properly. Meanwhile, Musharraf's family said that he has not been shifted onto a ventilator and has been hospitalised due to a complication of his ailment (amyloidosis). "Going through a difficult stage where recovery is not possible and organs are malfunctioning. Pray for ease in his daily living," the statement added.

### Save Fuel; Armed Forces to observe Friday as 'dry day'

ISLAMABAD: The Armed Forces keeping its tradition of leading national efforts with extraordinary initiatives declared every Friday as a dry day for the entire military to save fuel amid economic crisis while no government transport would run except in emergencies on that day. The Armed Forces, once again, made a big decision to take measures in order to stabilize the economy, despite the challenges faced by the country and the rising cost of living, the Pakistan Army did not allow any shortfall in its military capabilities and pledged to ensure national defense and security with the available resources, the official source

# 'Russia wants to enhance economic co-op with Pak'

KARACHI: Consulate General of Russian Federation in Karachi extends every possible support to Pakistani side to strengthen bilateral contacts and cooperation to the benefit of both countries. For increasing the bilateral volume, the two countries had to broaden the dimension of their economic cooperation. There was big untapped potential in almost every sphere of trade partnership. The bilateral trade was mainly confined to commodities although many other products and services were available to offer to each other, said Consul General of Russian Federation here Andrey V. Fedorov during an interaction with media at

the Consulate on Thursday late evening. He said Pakistan could export to Russia surgical instruments, leather and sports goods. Pakistan had also huge potential in information technologies and pharmaceutical sectors. However, Pakistan was also interested to buy cancer medicine due to its high effectiveness and reasonable price. The Commercial Attaches of both the countries were also working hard to elevate bilateral trade and economic cooperation to new high level, he said. He said his country was ready to provide all necessary assistance to execute Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline project-from Karachi to Lahore. Russian envoy mentioned that

his government was closely monitoring the developments around Pakistan Steel Mills. "We are waiting for completion of international tender auction and ready to share necessary information with Russian companies to prepare their offers for participation in the revival and modernization of PSM," he said adding that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and special economic zones provided tremendous opportunities for enhancing our bilateral trade and investment. The Consul General said Pakistan and Russia could receive another boost as last week Pakistan's Finance Minister Dr. Miftah Ismail had expressed Pakistan government's interest to buy Russian oil. - APP

### 'The Armed Forces had taken long term measures for special savings in terms of diesel and petrol consumption'

es said. The Armed Forces had taken long term measures for special savings in terms of diesel and petrol consumption. Instead of going to remote areas for large training exercises and training, it has been decided to conduct small scale trainings near the cantonments. During the current financial year 2022-23, the Armed Forces did not demand any additional funds in the budget as per the practice in the previous two years. To stabilize the economy, the armed forces have made major decisions, including reducing their general spending in various areas and has further limited its spending on utility bills. It has been decided to work online for conferences and other important issues using technology that would help in reduction of unnecessary mobility, which would save the precious reserves of the national exchequer. - APP

Long march postponed till Punjab by-elections, says Pervez

### Long march postponed till Punjab by-elections, says Pervez

LAHORE: Former prime minister Imran Khan has delayed his plans to march to Islamabad till after July 20, said a key ally of Khan. Talking to BBC Urdu, Pervez Elahi, a senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Q (PML-Q), who has sided with Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), said that the former prime minister will be going on an election stump in Punjab next month and will not be marching to the federal capital to protest against the government anytime soon. "Imran [Khan] will do the politics of dharna (sit-ins) after the elections," Elahi told BBC Urdu. Last month, the Election Commission of Pakistan de-seated 25 PTI lawmakers in the Punjab Assembly for voting against party lines in the election for the CM of the province. By-polls will now be held on 20 out of 25 seats in July, for which a tough contest is expected between the PTI and the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N). When asked about rifts within his own party, the PML-Q, Elahi denied the rumours and insisted that his party will remain together.

# Ambassador felicitates students heading to US

"This visit to the United States will be an opportunity to learn about America and a chance to teach Americans about Pakistan. Do not be afraid to have frank discussions with other students"

ISLAMABAD: US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome met with a group of 44 students from across Pakistan to congratulate them on their imminent departure for the United States to attend the Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) for Student Leaders program, funded by the U.S. Department of State. Participants will attend an academic program on comparative public policymaking, exploring issues of public policy and democracy in the United States and comparing U.S. policy development with that of Pakistan. Together, Pakistani and American undergraduate students will examine issues such as civil rights, food security, environmental policy, and democracy. The program will take place at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Massachusetts. Another group of 19 students will depart on June 25 for their program. Addressing the group at a pre-departure ori-



entation session, Ambassador Blome commended the students on their selection to the competitive program. The Ambassador

highlighted that educational exchanges have been a bedrock to the 75 years of U.S.-Pakistan bilateral relations

"This visit to the United States will be an opportunity to learn about America and a chance to teach Americans about Pakistan. Do not be afraid to have frank discussions with other students... With this experience in the United States, you will distinguish yourselves and be able to make a lasting contribution to your country and ours," he said. The Study of the U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders involves intensive, short-term academic programs that provide undergraduate students with a deeper understanding of the United States while simultaneously enhancing their leadership skills. Institutes consist of a balanced series of seminar discussions, readings, group presentations, and lectures. The coursework and classroom activities are complemented by educational travel, site visits, leadership activities, and volunteer opportunities within the local community. Since 2007, the U.S. government has sponsored approximately 400 Pakistani student leaders.

### ATC stops police from arresting PTI leaders

LAHORE: A Lahore anti-terrorism court has stopped Punjab police from arresting Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders, including Hammad Azhar, Yasmeen Rashid, Aijaz Chaudhry. They were accused of attacking law enforcers and interfering in state affairs during their party's long march and protest on May 25. They were granted interim bail till June 17 against the surety bonds Rs100,000, each. Earlier, the court had issued Friday arrest warrants for PTI leaders for vandalism and attacking law enforcers. The court issued the warrants following a request from Shahdara Police Station. Officers explained that the PTI leaders, despite their promises, did not hold a peaceful protest. As a consequence, their long march turned violent and they attacked police officers as well. Following the complaint, the court observed that no one is allowed to do indulge in violence and disturb the peace and ordered to arrest PTI the leaders. PTI, however, has filed a petition against the federal government in the Supreme Court, accusing it of using various 'illegal' tactics to quash and suppress peaceful protests by the party in Islamabad on May 25 which ultimately led to violence.

### Higher taxes on property, vehicles, overseas card payments - Agriculture machinery, solar panels become cheaper

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has tabled the annual budget for the fiscal year 2022-23 in the National Assembly with a total outlay of Rs9.505 trillion, of which Rs7.4 billion will be financed by taxes and non-tax revenues. The government will be spending a whopping Rs3.950 trillion, over 41% of the total budget, on the repayment of debt and the payment of interest on loans. Rs1523 billion have been allocated for the defense budget and Rs800 for the public sector development programs (PSDP). The PMLN-led government has earmarked Rs699 for targeted subsidies and Rs1242 has been allocated for grants including the money for Benazir Income Support Program (BISP). The allocation for BISP has been increased from Rs250 billion to Rs364 billion.