



# Islamabad POST

Wednesday, June 22, 2022

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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**Stable relations with China vital, says Japanese PM**

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**Kashmir and GB budget revised**

Detailed News On Page-08

**PTI claims Punjab by-polls being fixed**

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## Briefs

### Future of PTI coming to an end

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) vice president Marayam Nawaz while criticising former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan said that the "certified liar" knows that his party is splitting and its political future is coming to an end. In her latest tweet, the PML-N vice-president while taking a dig at Imran Khan said that not only does his blatant lies regarding false cases based on revenge against his opponents proved false, but his political narrative of "thief" has also been badly tarnished. - APP

### Rabbani for oversight of defence budget

ISLAMABAD: PPP Senator Raza Rabbani on Tuesday suggested the formation of a parliamentary committee tasked with looking into the defence budget as he pointed out that the budgetary allocations for the military had never been considered for a discussion in the parliament. In the budget presented by Finance Minister Miftah Ismail on June 10, defence services were allocated Rs1,523 billion, which makes up 17.5pc of the total current expenditure and is 11.16pc higher than last year.

### Pak, KSA enjoy fraternal ties

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate-at Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani says Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have historical fraternal relationship and Saudi Arabia has stood by Pakistan in every difficult situation. Talking to a Saudi delegation of "Road to Makkah" project in Islamabad on Tuesday, he underlined that the two countries have a common position regarding the issues facing the Muslim Ummah at all international forums. During the meeting, the Saudi delegation apprised the Chairman Senate of the aims and objectives of the Road to Makkah project and expressed their desire to further strengthen bilateral cooperation. - APP

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## PM says will steer country out of crises

### Blames previous government for current economic woes

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that they had inherited severe economic crises left behind by the previous government, but with hard work and dedication, the coalition government would steer the country out of the current challenges. Speaking to media after chairing a meeting of the federal cabinet, the prime minister, in an apparent reference to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government, said that it had left behind a backlog of worst and faulty economic policies, tainted with poor performance. Criticizing his predecessors, he said the previous government reduced petroleum prices at the time of their exit from power corridors which smack of conspiracy and based upon ill-will. "If they had any concerns and felt pains for the people, they ought to leave behind a precedent of serving the masses by providing any relief, so that it can be said that they had worked for the people," the prime minister regretted. The prime minister said that these were hard times, and

SHUJAAT HAMZA

### Govt to enhance co-op with Canada

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday expressed his government's strong resolve to redouble its efforts to enhance and expand bilateral cooperation with Canada in the areas of mutual interest, in particular, trade, investment, energy, health and education. The Prime Minister was talking to High Commissioner for Canada Ms. Wendy Gilmour, who called on him here. During the course of their conversation, he discussed Pakistan-Canada long-standing relationship, which was marked by cordiality and friendship. While briefing the High Commissioner on government's business friendly policies, the Prime Minister invited the Canadian companies to take advantage of

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## ECP reserves verdict in PTI's 'foreign funding' case

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday reserved the verdict in the PTI "foreign funding" case. CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja conducted a hearing on the case at the ECP office in Islamabad. The verdict was reserved after the completion of a briefing by the financial expert brought by PTI founding member Akbar S. Babar. Babar has alleged major irregularities in the party's finances, including in funding from outside Pakistan. ECP has now concluded the case after seven years of trial, which started in 2014, when Babar filed it. The date the verdict will be announced is yet to be revealed. During the hearing, the financial expert maintained that audit principles and standards have been ignored in PTI's funds. He claimed that the donors

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### PTI cannot be banned: Farrukh

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Central Secretary Information Farrukh Habib said that the political opponents have fallen into the pit they dug for the PTI, as the party cannot be banned in the prohibited funding case but they are unlikely to avoid the punishment because they don't have the evidences and receipts of their foreign funding. Speaking at a press conference here on Tuesday

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in a meeting with High Commissioner for Canada in Pakistan Wendy Gilmour. - DNA

## 'Imran, ex-NAB chief should be behind bars'

ISLAMABAD, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday said Imran Khan and the former National Accountability Bureau (NAB) chairman should be behind bars for trampling upon the law and justice of the country. Responding to PTI chief's statement, Marriyum said, "Imran's corruption had been exposed for the entire country to see and he could no longer harp on false narratives and accusatory politics. The four years of incompetence and corruption were now known to people who had figured out Imran's false narrative of accountability to persecute his political opponents. He went to insane lengths to file false cases against the opposition. But even after abusing all resources and power, Imran could not prove a single penny of corruption on the opposition leaders. He embarrassed himself in front of UK'S National Crime Agency and Broadsheet where his false allegations were dismissed." The minister said after crushing the masses under inflation for four years and misleading them over false conspiracy narrative, Imran now wanted to deceive the nation over NAB

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## PTI to challenge NAB law amend in SC: Imran

### 'Those who passed the NAB amendments should be thrown into jail'

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan on Tuesday said his party would challenge the recent amendments to the National Accountability (NAB) Ordinance in the Supreme Court. Continuing that train of criticism in media address, Imran said the assembly session where the amendment was passed was a "mockery and a joke with the country". "Those who passed the NAB amendments should be thrown into jail due to their shamelessness," he added. He expressed hope that the courts would take notice of the development, adding that if such moves were allowed then it would be detrimental for the country. Imran said laws formulated in the country should not be specific to any one person but instead be applicable to the collective whole. Tackling the major amendments one by one, Imran explained how they would be used to allegedly eliminate a number of cases against leaders of the coalition government. The PTI chairman alleged that he was pressured throughout the

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### Abbasi rejects criticism

ISLAMABAD: A day after President Arif Alvi refused to give his assent for the second time to a piece of legislation seeking to clip the vast powers of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), PML-N leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi rejected the notion on Tuesday that the NAB reforms bill was designed with the aim to close ongoing graft cases against the PML-N leadership. "Cases against us will continue," he said while speaking to the media outside an accountability court on Tuesday after a journalist asked him about allegations that the intention behind the legislation was to end graft cases against the country's incumbent rulers. However, he followed this up with the allegation that the cases were filed by the NAB at former prime minister Imran Khan's behest for "political engineering" and to "exert pressure" on his opponents. "No case has any substance, there is nothing in it," he commented. "And I reiterate that our cases

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## Many envoys leaving Pakistan after completing tenure

### US Ambassador Donald Blome is yet to present his credentials



ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors of various European countries are set to leave Pakistan after completing their term. Those who are leaving include Ambassadors of Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Spain and Canadian High Commissioner Wendy Gilmour. While the Deputy Head of Mission of Jordan embassy Dr Maen is also leaving. The Danish ambassador Lise Rosenholm perhaps is the first among these to leave. She is scheduled to leave within the next few days. Interestingly, she has not paid any courtesy call yet on any of the government officials including the Foreign Minister or the President of Pakistan. The Spanish ambassador Manuel Duran a few days ago met with the Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Sidhu while he is expected to meet with other officials as well. The outgoing Spanish Ambassador Duran who spent an eventful tenure in Pakistan has been assigned a new job in Montenegro. He is expected to assume his new responsibilities somewhere in August this year after having some break at home. During Ambassador Manuel Duran's tenure the Spanish embassy in collaboration with Pakistani authorities hosted a number of cultural events. He is the one who actually brought famous Flamenco

dance to Pakistan. The recent performance held in association with the Islamabad Club provided a real feast to the music lovers and especially the Flamenco dance admirers. Ambassador of Germany Bernard Schlagheck will leave Pakistan in two weeks time. Ambassador Schlagheck, like his predecessors, dedicated some portion of his tenure to explore the real Pakistan. Mixing up with ordinary people; being part of traditional Pakistani rituals and enjoying road-side delicacies during his visit to far-off areas were his few acts that made him so popular in Pakistan. Besides, he is the one who broke the news of Pakistan's being taken out of the grey list a few days ago during his interaction with some senior journalists. Germany indeed played a key role in this regard. Ambassadors of Austria and Belgium will leave too in near future, while Ambassador of the Netherlands Wouter Plomp is also included in the list of outgoing ambassadors. Had there been no pandemic, these ambassadors, for sure, could have contributed more regarding strengthening of bilateral relations. A bad patch in EU-Pakistan relations was witnessed when the EU ambassadors issued a press release asking the then Prime Minister Imran Khan and his government to criticize the Russian govt for its aggression against Ukraine. The then prime minister considered the letter or press release as an interference in Pakistani affairs hence he issued a strong-worded reply, which ostensibly was not taken well by the EU missions. The main proponents of the resolution happened to be the women ambassadors including the then US Charge d Affaires, Canadian HC, the then EU ambassador and the Danish ambassador. Some of them have already left Pakistan and the rest will leave soon. Ambassador of Switzerland Benedict de Cerjat's tenure also comes to an end. The ambassador is retiring from service. During his tenure relations between Pakistan and Switzerland got an added impetus. His primary focus remained on building new linkages and strengthening people to people contacts. Like the German colleague, he too was fond of exploring Pakistan for which he traveled to even far flung areas of the country. The new US Ambassador Donald Blome has already arrived however he has not yet presented his credentials. There are some reports that the President House is yet to give a date to the US ambassador for presentation of his credentials. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a few days ago, denied reports that there was any deliberate delay on the part of the President House. By and large, the US and the UK envoys when they arrive in Pakistan their credentials are accepted the very next day. Since it did not happen in the case of the current US ambassador that is why some media houses carried the news as if Ambassador Blome was made to wait for a long time. He is likely to present his credentials on July 2 but the President may receive him even earlier. The Canadian High Commissioner Wendy Gilmour is scheduled to leave in August this year. The new EU ambassador will also arrive shortly. Originally she is from Estonia however has served in various EU institutions. The outgoing batch of the envoys remained a bit unlucky in the sense that due to the corona pandemic they could not contribute much with regard to promotion of bilateral relations.

## Briefs

## AIOU to explore co-op with Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD Vice Chancellor Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Professor Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum will soon visit Saudi Arabia to explore and examine the possibilities of collaboration with the Saudi online education system as per the instructions of the Federal Ministry of Education and Vocational Training. This visit will be part of AIOU's efforts to establish and promote joint ventures with other countries for imparting quality education to the people of Pakistan. Federal Minister for Education, Rana Tanveer Hussain was of the view that the online education system has become very popular all over the world during the COVID-19. He said that Saudi Arabia has established a state of the art online system for education with 20 TV channels. A delegation of AIOU will visit Saudi Arabia to examine their education system to improve the facilities here at AIOU. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum said that after the approval of the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA), the university has expedited the work of setting up the "Education Television Channel". - APP

## KP literacy rate increases to 55.1%

PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Elementary and Secondary Education Shahram Khan Tarakai has said that literacy rate in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has increased from 52.4% to 55.1%. He was talking to media during his visit to an examination hall at the Government Higher Secondary School No.1, Peshawar Cantonment here on Tuesday. The provincial minister termed the increase in the literacy rate as welcoming and a matter of pride for the province. With this increase, he said, KP has taken the lead from other provinces of the country. He commended the role and efforts of teachers and administrative officers of the Elementary and Secondary Education Department in this regard and said that the promotion of education and provision of all possible facilities to both boy and girl students atop the priorities of the incumbent government. - APP

## Anti-polio campaign from June 27

PESHAWAR: A seven-day anti-polio campaign is going to start on June 27 in district Khyber in which more than 231,000 children below the age of five years will be administered anti-polio drops. About 967 polio teams have been constituted, which will visit door to door to ensure administering anti-polio drops to the children. In this connection, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Shah Fahad in the office of Deputy Commissioner regarding anti-polio campaign. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Senator Saleem Mandviwalla and others cutting the cake of 69th birth anniversary of Benazir Bhutto. - DNA



LALAMUSA: DSP Motorway Police Sajjad Gondal along with his staff spreading awareness about the use of helmet. - DNA

## Speaker for further increasing ties with UK

## STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Tuesday said that political consensus on issues of vital national importance were imperative for leading the country on path of progress. He said that the present national government had initiated various measures to take the country out of the present economic challenges. He expressed these views during a meeting with UK Ambassador in Pakistan Dr. Christian Turner in the Parliament House, said a news release. Raja Pervaiz Ashraf said Pakistani nation is resilient and had successfully steered itself out of challenges in past. Speaking about the exceptional relations between Executive and legislatures of Pakistan and United Kingdom, the Speaker said, Pakistan desires to further consolidate them through parliamentary and

economic cooperation. He said that interaction between legislatures of both the countries would induce upward momentum in enhancing existing cooperation in diverse sectors of economy. Legislating for civil liberties is the top priority of the

incumbent parliament. He also said that both UK and Pakistan have deep history of mutual relations as Pakistani diaspora in UK is playing its role in national development of UK. Pak-UK parliamentary Friendship Group is vibrant and playing its role

in strengthening bilateral relations. He invited British parliamentarians to be part of the diamond Jubilee celebrations of the parliament, scheduled in August this year. UK High Commissioner Dr. Christian Turner warmly expressed his attachment

with the people of Pakistan. He said that Britain also attaches immense importance to its historic relations with Pakistan that had witnessed progression with the passage of time. He applauded Pakistan's remarkable progress made on FATF issue. UK High

Commission in Islamabad would extend all out support in enhancing bilateral economic cooperation. He also extended support to build strong parliamentary relations between both countries through the platform of parliamentary friendship groups.



## Lawmakers for more relief to masses in Budget

ISLAMABAD: Terming the Federal Budget 2022-23 'balanced' in difficult economic circumstances, lawmakers in the National Assembly on Tuesday demanded more relief measures for the common man suffering from the last three and half years due to bad governance and wrong economic policies of the past regime. Participating in a debate on budgetary proposals, Professor Shahnaz Baloch of Balochistan National Party (BNP) suggested the government to purchase petroleum products from Iran at a reduced rate as compared to other international markets for providing more relief

to the masses. She highlighted the importance of ensuring more facilities at the Gwadar deep sea port for increased activities. She stressed improving law and order across the country as it would help in restoring the confidence of investors and move the economic wheel at a fast pace. Chaudhry Riaz-ul-Haq of PML-N said it was an appropriate budget in a difficult situation. However, implementing the budget proposals in true letter and spirit could improve the situation significantly. He demanded overcoming the Rs 50 billion deficit of Pakistan Railways and Rs 100 billion

deficit of PIA. Ms Shamsun-Nisa of Pakistan Peoples Party lamented severe water shortage in Sindh and urged the government to provide drip irrigation equipment to farmers of Sindh especially Thatta. Pakistan Muslim League (N) Tahira Aurangzeb lauded the budget proposal of paying interest free loans amounting to Rs 100,000 to Rs 400,000 to youth for starting their own business. She said that from Rs 400,000 to one million would be given to youth at the rate of 3 percent by the government for the same purpose. She said that it was also announced that from

Rs 1 million to Rs 10 million would be given to youth at the rate of 4 percent for setting up business and that move would help in ending the unemployment in the country. In addition to these measures, she disclosed that some 100,000 trained youth would also be provided jobs. Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal Pakistan Kamal Uddin said that the government had announced a balanced budget despite the difficult economic situation. It was unfortunate that various national institutions were running in losses due to bad economic policies of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, he added. - APP

## ANF seizes over 1553 kg drugs; arrests 54

RAWALPINDI: Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) has seized 1553.274 kilograms (kg) drugs valuing \$ 68.453 million internationally, arrested 54 culprits including five women and an Afghan national, besides impounding 22 vehicles during 43 counter-narcotics operations across the country. The seized drugs comprised 193.974 kg Heroin, 984.566 kg Hashish, 139.2 kg Opium, 3.054 kg Amphetamine, 65.31 Methamphetamine (Ice), 145 kg Ketamine, 5540 Alparazolam tablets, 46200 Diazepam tablets, 26400 Aximax tablets, 30180 Rivotri tablets, 48000 Silonex tablets, 4000 Zolpidem tablets and 12,400 kg suspected substance, said a news release on Tuesday. ANF Balochistan recovered 708 Kg drugs in six operations while arrested three accused and seized 4 vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 166 Kg Heroin, 411Kg Hashish, 90 Kg Opium and 41 Kg Methamphetamine (Ice). ANF Punjab recovered 20,44 Kg drugs in six operations while arrested five accused including a woman and seized 1 vehicle. The seized drugs comprised 6.6 Kg Heroin, 8 Kg Hashish, 4,800 Kg opium, 1,040 Methamphetamine (Ice). ANF KPK recovered 302,146 Kg drugs in nine operations while arrested nine accused and seized five vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 13.3 Kg Heroin, 258,976 Kg Hashish, 19,2 Kg Opium, 2 Kg Methamphetamine (Ice), 5540 x Alparazolam Tablets, 30180 Rivotri Tablets and 26400 Aximax Tablets. - APP

## PM's food subsidy program to provide relief to people

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Muslim League-N leader and MPA, Ikhtiar Wali Khan here Tuesday said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's targeted food subsidy program would provide maximum relief to the downtrodden and underprivileged people of Pakistan including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Talking to APP, he said the government in line with directives of the PM was going to introduce a targeted subsidy on essential food items including wheat flour, sugar, edible oil, pulses and rice from July this year. "The poor people are spending most of their hard-earned money on these food items in order to feed their families and the PM's historic package would be a big relief for them." Ikhtiar Wali said the PM during his visit to Shangla district had offered KP Govt to provide discounted wheat flour to its people but it was not reciprocated well. - APP

## KP CM announces regularization of all adhoc teachers

The chief minister explained that he had signed the summary for the regularization of teachers and a draft bill to this effect would be submitted to the provincial assembly after formal approval from the provincial cabinet

## DNA

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has announced to regularize all adhoc teachers from the date of their initial appointment and the seniority of all regularized teachers would remain intact from the same date whereas annual increments of the employees would be absorbed in the basic pay scales. He was talking to a representative delegation of the Young Teachers Association, which called here on Tuesday and discussed matters related to the regularization of adhoc teachers. The chief minister explained that he had signed the summary for the regularization of teachers and a draft bill to this effect would be submitted to the provincial assembly after formal approval from the

provincial cabinet. The chief minister said that the provincial government had already planned to regularize the adhoc teachers, which has also been announced in the budget for the upcoming financial year budget adding that the protest of adhoc teachers in this regard was unjustified. He said that the education sector had been the top priority of his government since the day first and added that the provincial government had taken multiple reforms initiatives in addition to the merit based recruitment of thousands of new teachers. "The ultimate goal of the government's initiatives was to raise the standard of education in the province," he remarked and said that provision of employment opportunities to the competent and talented youth and their job security was the priority of the government. He said that 63,000 adhoc employees including 58,000 teachers were being regularized in the new financial budget. On the occasion, representatives of the Young Teachers association acknowledged the announcement of the chief minister regarding regularization of adhoc teachers from the date of their appointment and said that the provincial government has taken unprecedented initiatives for the development of the education sector. - DNA

## Lodhran police seized 330 kg drugs

## SAQIB MUSHTAQ

LODHARAN: Lodhran police seized 330 kg of pure drugs and saved the young generation from destruction. The accused were smuggling drugs hashish worth more than Rs. 26 million rupees. In a major operation of City Police Station, two members of an inter-provincial drug dealer were arrested along with a large consignment of drugs. Apart from crores of rupees, 8 tonnes of hashish and a used oil tanker were also recovered from the arrested accused. DPO Abdul Rauf Babar while giving a press conference in City Lodhran Police Station said that an attempt was being made to smuggle 8 tons of cannabis in Multan Division, Dera Ghazi Khan Division and Bahawalpur Division. Accused Muhammad Abbas belongs District Bahawalpur and Muhammad Tariq District is a resident of Bahawalnagar district. 330 kg of pure marijuana was hidden in the front cabin and tank of the oil tanker. Drug trafficking is a heinous crime in society and is causing havoc in society. Police are committed to bringing drug dealers to justice. DSP President Khalid Javed and SHO City Muzammil Khan were also present on the occasion. A case has been registered against the accused. Finally, DPO Abdul Rauf Babar also announced cash prizes and certificates for SHO City Muzammil Khan and his team. Drugs, whether small or large, more or less, are all evil.

## UNFP, KSRelief launch CMAM in Pakistan

## DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: As part of the United Nations World Food Programme's partnership with King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRelief), WFP launched its Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition Programme (CMAM) in Pakistan, aimed at preventing malnutrition in children under 5 years of age and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in 14 vulnerable districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK). The launch event was attended by the Deputy Head of Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Mohammad Kalaf Al-Enzi, Minister of Health in AJK Mr. Nisar-AnsarAbdali, Minister of Finance in AJK Mr. Majid Khan, Director of KSRelief Dr. Khalid M. Al-Othmani, Deputy Country Director of WFP Ms. RathiPalaKrishnan, representatives from the provincial governments of KP and AJK, civil society, and academia. In her welcoming remarks, Ms. RathiPalaKrishnan thanked KSRelief for the generous support and said: "As leaders of our organizations, communities, districts, provinces and states, let us all continue embarking on the journey to fight undernutrition and eradicate hunger for the children of Pakistan, and their children's children".

## HRCP demands repeal of colonial laws

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) announces the launch of its study titled Freedom of Peaceful Assembly in Pakistan: A Legislative Review. The study proposes to repeal and review many archaic colonial-era laws and discontinue primitive policing strategies. It makes elaborate recommendations to the legislature, executive as well as law enforcement agencies to ensure fulfilment of the right to peaceful assembly as per international human rights law standards. HRCP was assisted by a high-profile working group, including HinaJilani, Farhatullah Babar, Habib Tahir, Reema Omer and SaroojJaz, while the study itself was conducted by MrAsfandYarWarraich. The right to peaceful assembly is a cornerstone of any democratic society. The study provides an analysis of this right as enshrined in Article 16 of Pakistan's constitution as well as offers a review of legal provisions and procedures that impact it.

Wednesday, June 22, 2022

## 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



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Emergency Ambulance..1122  
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RGH.....9290301-7  
Holy Family.....9290322-7  
PIMS.....9261170-79  
Polyclinic.....9218300-09  
Shifa International.4603666



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CDA.....9208301-04  
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RDA.....5555864  
TMA.....5770886  
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

## Islamabad Metropolitan

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

## Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Sadiq Sanjrani in a group photo with Saudi media delegation at Parliament House. – DNA

# The assumed shortage of housing in Pakistan

There is certainly not a 'deficit of 10 million housing units' in Pakistan. There may be "inadequate housing" in the country, but not a 'housing shortage'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: We are short of 10 million housing units" has been the clarion cry in politics, media, and donor-driven research for the last ten years. Given an average household size of well over six persons, nearly one-third of the population is without housing. Do we see such a vast number of people living on footpaths, side roads, under bridges, or in any open area? Thankfully, No! We cannot find any clarity on where this colossal figure of 10 million housing shortage came from! Media (print, electronic and social) uses it, referring to it as a World Bank estimate. At the same time, various World Bank publications quote a report submitted to the State Bank as the source, along with a study done by the International Growth Centre (IGC) (a DFID-funded global research effort out of the LSE and Oxford). This was revealed in the latest research titled "The Assumed Shortage of Housing in Pakistan" by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) published in PIDE's monthly issue P & R.

While meeting with a group of journalists, Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, a renowned Economist & VC PIDE, and Dr. Durre Nayab, Pro-Vice-Chancellor PIDE, said that the IGC report cites an SBP report, but interestingly, the said report gives a lower per annum figure than the one quoted by the

IGC. A more recent State Bank document gives no e and cites the number as a given. Some WB documents refer to a House Building Finance Company Limited's presentation as the source but nowhere does one find the exact method used to reach the oft-repeated number.

The worst part is that the government also uses this estimate without questioning its validity. And sadly, we have based policy on this assumption and initiated a significant public housing effort at considerable cost. Dr. Nayab said that a few indicators to judge the housing conditions include congestion or crowding, security of tenure, provision of civic amenities, structural quality, and cultural adequacy. The Pakistan Social and Living Measurement (PSLM) survey, conducted by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), provides us with the opportunity to look into most of these factors, and we do so using its 2019-2020 round. Since urban and rural Pakistan exhibit quite different trends, we look at them separately, along with some provincial patterns. She elaborated that using the definition given by the UN-Habitat, "a house is considered to have a sufficient living area for the household members if not more than three people share the habitable room that is a minimum of 4m in the area". The 4m was rightly upgraded to 9m, as the measurement was too small. We do not get room sizes in the PSLM, but the number of living

rooms is covered in the survey. Since nine sq2 is a typical size even in informal settlements, we would estimate congestion by the number of persons per room.

Dr. Nayab further added, that our estimates suggest that 4.37 million households, equaling 12.3% of the total households, live in congested conditions, with over two-thirds of these in rural areas (3.04 million). Young children generally live/sleep in their parents' room, so we do not include children aged five years and half-count those under 12 years while estimating occupancy per room. So, if congestion is the rationale behind the 10 million housing deficit, our estimates give a much lower number.

On the occasion Vice-Chancellor PIDE Dr. Nadeem ul Haque said that there is certainly not a "deficit of 10 million housing units" in Pakistan. There may be "inadequate housing" in the country, but not a "housing shortage". The deficit is in the quality of life in the houses, not the absence of housing units. Even if we consider the country's high fertility rate and rising population, the additional demand of 0.7 million households every year, as suggested by the IGC study (2016), is very high. Going by the mean household size, it means an additional 4.5 million people need accommodation—an estimate that appears far from reality. The mean age of the head of the household in Pakistan is 44 years. Given the cultural milieu, young adults do not generally live on

their own, thus suppressing the demand for additional housing that could have been there because of the youth bulge.

He said that the notion of housing shortage, and the belief that it creates employment, have led the government to push for an un-subsidized construction sector. Along with fiscal pressure, it has created an unnatural demand in the real estate market. And while the 'shortage' is more in the rural areas, all the housing initiatives are taking place in the urban areas. A forthcoming PIDE study on sectoral productivity over the last decade also shows the construction industry to be the least productive one. Any protected/subsidized industry remains unproductive, and the construction industry proves to be no exception.

Dr. Nadeem ul Haque said that Migration from rural areas is another reason for increased housing demand in urban areas. It is a movement that we at PIDE support; instead of considering it as a problem, we believe that growth happens through cities. Better urban planning and supporting large-scale, mixed-use housing can go a long way in providing quality, affordable accommodation to people. Doing so would deal with whatever housing shortage and, more importantly, tackle the quality issue. PIDE has also shown that the housing shortage arises from the harsh zoning laws and building regulations favor cars and single-family homes.

## Rescue-1122 put on high alert to cope with possible flood

RAWALPINDI: The emergency service, Rescue-1122, which is fully equipped to cope with the possible flood in Nullah Lai, has been put on high alert to cope with emergencies. According to a Rescue-1122 spokesman, the rescuers deployed in low-lying areas particularly in Katarian, Gawalmandi, Sowan and other low-lying areas would remain on high alert round the clock to provide timely emergency response, medical treatment and transportation facilities to possible flood victims. The Rescue-1122 has also requested people not to stand on the banks in low-lying areas along Nullah Lai during flood and follow instructions given by the flood control room.

However, City District Government Rawalpindi has also completed all the arrangements to cope with the flood situation. According to a district administration spokesman, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi, TahirFarooq visited different areas of Rawalpindi city to monitor the situation after the rain on Monday. The DC also checked the teams of Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) and Municipal Corporation Rawalpindi (MCR) working in the field to clear stagnant rainwater. The spokesman said that the DC during a visit here the other day had also inspected machinery of WASA including de-watering sets, jetting and sucking machines and water boozers. TahirFarooq had visited Gawalmandi area to review ongoing dredging and de-silting work started by WASA to clean Nullah Lai. On the occasion, the DC was briefed that WASA had completed overhauling of all the operational machinery. He said that the cleaning work of Nullah Lai would also be completed soon as the Punjab government had provided a grant of Rs30 million for Nullah Lai's cleanliness work. WASA Rawalpindi was working to clean Nullah Lai from Katarianbridge to Gawalmandi area, he said. – APP

## IESCO CEO for adopting precautionary measures

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Electric Supply Company has (IESCO) asked the general public to adopt precautionary measures owing to rainy spell as a little carelessness or negligence can lead to a fatal accident. Chief Executive Officer Dr Muhammad Anjad Khan said that rainy spell was going in entire IESCO region due to which risk of electric shock increased. He advised the general public to follow precautionary measures for the sake of saving life and important belongs. He said IESCO staff would always present in the grievance offices to rectify the power supply interruptions or faults besides striving for immediate redressal of consumer complaints at earliest.

However, the IESCO Chief requested the consumers to keep proper distance from electrical installations including power, poles, lines and transformers etc. Do not touch naked wire and get repair defective wiring, use three pin plug along with proper earthing while using iron, washing machine, refrigerator etc, put wooden piece, flapper or dari under your feet and also use rubber sole shoes, he further said. He said use rope while drying clothes instead of electrical wires and never used water pipe for it. Instruct children's to avoid going near electricity installations while playing. – APP

## Sherry pays tributes to BB on her 69th birthday anniversary

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Tuesday paid tribute to the former Prime Minister and Chairperson Pakistan Peoples Party Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto on her 69th birthday anniversary and resolved the nation had to end the politics of hatred and anarchy to keep the country united. The Minister in a series of tweets eulogized the late PPP chairperson also known with her acronym BB who was assassinated on December 27, 2007 in Rawalpindi outside Liaquat Bagh after a public procession. Sherry wrote, "On the occasion of the 69th birthday anniversary of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, I congratulate her family, party workers and all the loved ones. Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto is a personality of Pakistan who has fans not only in the country but all over the world."

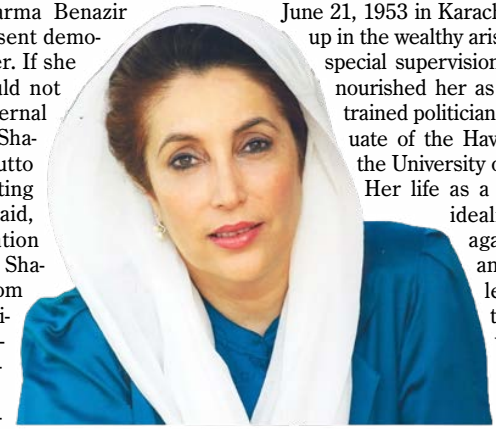
The Minister also expressed her heartfelt feelings on the absence of her leader in the prevailing crisis scenario. "In view of the crisis and

problems facing the country, the memory and absence of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto is felt more. The present democratic continuity is due to her. If she were alive, the country would not be suffering from these internal and external crises today." Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was a chain of the federating units of the country, she said, adding, "she kept the federation and the whole nation united, Shaheed BB saved Pakistan from terrorism, anarchy and division". The tweets were followed by the hash tag #HappyBirthdaySMBB.

The Mohatarma had the honour to become the first woman Prime Minister of the Muslim World and in a patriarchal society of Pakistan with men dominating

the political canvas at that time. She was born on June 21, 1953 in Karachi. She was brought up in the wealthy aristocrat family under special supervision of her father who nourished her as seasoned and well trained politician. Bhutto was a graduate of the Harvard University and the University of Oxford.

Her life as a politician is much idealised as the force against oppression and dictatorship that led to the restoration of democracy while resisting the military General Zia-ul-Haq's dictatorial regime. She along with her mother fought the battle of democracy after her father's execution in 1979. – APP



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## FIA arrests 5 suspects through Interpol

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), through Interpol, arrested five suspects wanted by the Punjab Police. The five fugitives from the UAE were arrested and brought to Pakistan, said the FIA Spokesperson. The arrested accused Mahmood Waqas, Mohammad Nadeem, Shah Mohammad Gondal, Rameez Khan and Abbas Ali were involved in murder cases and wanted by Punjab Police. Red notices were issued by FIA for the arrest of the accused. The FIA arrested them with the help of Interpol and handed over to the concerned CPO Rawalpindi and DPO Sialkot, Sheikhpura and Gujarat at Islamabad International Airport. – APP

## ANF recovers over 111 kg narcotics; two arrests

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Rawalpindi and ANF Intelligence in a joint operation on Tuesday recovered over 111 kg narcotics and arrested two accused. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, ANF Rawalpindi and ANF Intelligence acting on a tip-off conducted a raid near Islamabad Motorway Interchange and recovered 106 kg narcotics including 62.400 kg charras and 44.400 kg opium from a truck. The truck driver namely GhulamMurtaza resident of Sheikhpura was also arrested on the spot. – APP

## 'Empowering youth with skill trainings top priority'

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to PM on Youth Affairs Shiza Fatima Khawaja on Tuesday said that the provision of international standard's skill training to youth was top most priority of government for which practical steps were being taken. – APP



## PTI's foreign funding case

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) reserved its decision in the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) prohibited funding case on Tuesday. The former ruling party's case was heard by the electoral watchdog's Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja. Petitioner Akbar S Babar's financial expert, Arsalan Wardag, stated that the PTI received funding from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. The petitioner's expert further argued that the party had 11 accounts that it acknowledged it had not disclosed. Moreover, the PTI never disclosed the source of many of the funds received from abroad, the expert maintained.

According to PPO, money received from foreign governments and multinational and local companies would be considered foreign funding, he said. Under Election Act 2017, receiving money other than Pakistani citizens was prohibited, he added. "The 2002 law applies to all cases till 2017." Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leaders have been expressing their displeasure over chief Election Commissioner, and have publicly expressed their concerns in this regards many times. However, the Chief Election Commissioner vowed that the commission will make decisions fearlessly. Last month, The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) announced filing a reference against the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), hours after a similar reference was filed against the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Sindh member Nisar Durrani. Talking to the media in this regard, former information minister Fawad Chaudhry said that the onus of keeping a balance in the country is on state institutions, Express News reported. Unfortunately, he added, the ECP is behind the ongoing political crisis in the country. "Imran Khan and PTI don't have confidence in the CEC and the ECP." Turning his guns towards the CEC, the PTI spokesperson advised him to join the ranks of PML-N "if he deemed it fit." According to him, the ECP does not represent 17 per cent of the population of Pakistan, and the former premier had often pointed out the same. "We are going to initiate legal action against ECP and we are mulling filing a reference against the CEC." No matter what the decision comes out to be, the situation looks to be escalating. The PTI will not take any decision against them easy. However, the decision must be based on facts, not on personal choice. That's the only way the incumbent CEC can redeem his controversial status.

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## Afghan families in the US

The trauma of Ukraine's millions of migrants fleeing carnage, thousands of whom have arrived in the United States, cannot be cause for American amnesia concerning the plight of Afghan refugees. The fact that this country has resettled tens of thousands of Afghans in the past year is a credit to the Biden administration. But the work is not done. U.S. forces managed to board more than 76,000 Afghans on evacuation flights last summer as they fled the pandemonium of Kabul's sudden fall to the Taliban. That airlift, despite the backdrop of an embarrassingly chaotic military withdrawal, was a stunning display of U.S. ingenuity, resources and resolve. But even as Washington has continued arranging for Afghans to depart their country and be granted admission here — nearly 10,000 have arrived since the fall — thousands more who aided the U.S. war effort, and their immediate family members, have been left behind. Those severed families — children, husbands and wives wrenched apart during the turmoil of the sudden U.S. exit — were the subject of a heart-rending article by The Post's Abigail Hauslohner. It was a timely reminder of this country's unpaid moral debt to a cohort of people whose lives have been torn asunder, and in many cases endangered, in the aftermath of the two-decade-long U.S. presence in Afghanistan. Those separated from their families include some 1,400 Afghan children who have arrived in the United States without their parents. They include Afghans who worked directly for U.S. agencies and with the U.S. military, as well as their spouses, children and grandchildren. They include others whose livelihoods — with nongovernmental organizations or the media, for example — were possible only because of the U.S. security presence, and whose continued employment and safety may now be permanently jeopardized. It's true that extracting people from Afghanistan is difficult and dangerous work. For those who want to leave, even to be reunited with their immediate family, the task is infinitely more complicated than simply booking a commercial flight out of Kabul. It's also the case that U.S. officials have continued to work on getting Afghans out, including roughly 350 who have been arriving weekly in this country for the past two months. As The Post reported, the Biden administration has not established any systematic process by which to proactively identify and assist resettled Afghans in the United States who remain separated from their close family members, many or most of whom remain in Afghanistan. No easy-to-access official channel is available through which such information can be transmitted to the State Department, the Pentagon or the Department of Homeland Security. Why not? Advocates for the refugees believe the number of severed Afghan families based partly in the United States numbers in the tens of thousands. And while major questions remain about the long-term immigration status of Afghans already in this country — problems Congress could address by granting them a path to citizenship — easing procedures for reuniting those families is a separate matter, and a far more urgent one.



## CPEC- A journey for economic development & social prosperity

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani



After completion it will provide 200,000 direct and indirect jobs to local people with an expected investment of US 4 billion. Fifteen businesses have already allotted industrial plots with an investment of PKR 78 Billion

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a flagship project of Chinese President Xi Jinping's dream Belt & Road Initiative (BRI), commonly known as a source of economic development for social development and prosperity.

The collective value of projects under the auspicious of CPEC is more than US\$ 62 Million. The initiative intends to further improve the Pakistan's economy by enhancing its infrastructure including modern transportation networks, energy projects and special economic zones across Pakistan. During a visit to Rashkai Special Economic Zone (RSEZ) Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif once again mentioned about the Sino-Paki-

stan Relations and consider CPEC as a fruit of these time tested relations for the prosperity of Pakistan. At that occasion Ambassador in Pakistan Madam Pang Chunxue, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC)'s CEO Javed Iqbal Khattak, General Manager-Pakistan China Road & Bridge Corporation Group (CRBC) LynMing, Dr. Ahsan Iqbal Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Maulana Asad Mahmood Federal Minister for Communications, Dr. Shehzad Khan Bangash Chief Secretary, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and BOI and SNGPL were also present. According to PM: "We would like to engage Chinese companies to provide expertise and experience to manage other new economic zones in Pakistan." Therefore the second phase of CPEC will comprise regional cooperation and industrialization through establishing industrial zones. Through that zone Pakistan's skilled and semi-skilled labor was comparatively cheaper and the joint venture of Chinese technology and Pakistan's labor and investment would help the two countries make production at competitive rates and export their products to other countries. The first phase of CPEC featured road and energy projects to meet

Pakistan's power needs that transformed friendly relations into unique ones where people-to-people contacts had seen a new phase. On other hand in the form of CPEC, Pakistan had been the first beneficiary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

According to Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif CPEC is lifeline for Pakistan's economic development and road to success; that is why federal & provincial governments should work hard for the success of this initiative. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif offers all assistance and help to Chinese Entrepreneurs to establish their units in SEZs. Same like that KPEZDMC and CRBC teams briefed the economic zone on the development work, the marketing strategy adopted to promote the zone, the enterprises currently operating, and the new businesses in the zone of The Rashkai Special Economic Zone on the side of the zone is a preferential special economic zone of 1000 acres under the CPEC framework. After completion it will provide 200,000 direct and indirect jobs to local people with an expected investment of US 4 billion. Fifteen businesses have already allotted industrial plots with an investment of PKR 78 Billion. The Prime Minister also visited under construction site of Enterprise M / S Century Steel at RSEZ with a total area of 20 acres and will work in Phase 1 next year with an annual production of 0.5 million tones and 3 phases on its completion.

On full operations, its annual production will reach 1.5 million tons. It has hoped that under the supervision of Prime Minister, all the projects of CPEC will be complete soon and will improve the economic condition of the country. As a living example of Sino-Pakistan Friendship CPEC will its vital role in new & re developing sea port, airport, hospital school & communities in Gwadar area to overcome energy crises energy production projects like coal, wind, hydro power and solar power will complete and the improvement in Road & highways along with Railways and Aviation Connectivity. It is admirable that the Prime Minister of

Pakistan Shahbaz Sharif has reiterated his commitment that Pakistan will complete all the projects of CPEC in any circumstance.

The Prime Minister said that Pakistan would continue its efforts for economic development and peace in the region with China.

The CPEC is being call as the Silk Road of the modern age, which is why the eyes of the whole world fixed on this great project of the century. The completion of which will give the China easy access to the hot waters of Gwadar. This project will bring economic revolution in Pakistan. The history of economic cooperation between China and Pakistan is as old as its friendship. Diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China established in May 1951. Pakistan was amongst the first countries to recognize China's new government since the founding of the People's Republic in October 1949. Over the last 71 years, Sino-Pakistan relations have grown exponentially. These include economic co-operation increased trade and investment, co-operation in defense, culture, agriculture, industry and energy and regional and global challenges.

China extended its hand for friendship and close relations with Pakistan at a time when relations between Pakistan and India were tense due to Kashmir issue in 1951 and the Indian government abruptly cut off the supply of coal to Pakistan. At a difficult time, China supplied coal to Pakistan in an attempt to harm Pakistan's economy. Despite being a member of the anti-communist and anti-communist defense pacts SEATO and CENTO, Pakistan supported the restoration of China's legitimacy in the United Nations and voted in favor of China at every annual session of the General Assembly.

The most notable example of this is the CPEC, which launched in April 2015 during the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Pakistan by signing a bilateral agreement.

CPEC is one of the most important projects of the BRI, a large-scale project of China, which includes rail, road and pipeline from

Kashgar to the Pakistani port of Gwadar on the coast along the Arabian Sea.

The construction of a trade route consisting of lines will help not only China but also West and Central Asian countries to access the markets of the Indian Ocean and surrounding countries through Pakistan for their import and export trade. It has based on a bilateral agreement between Pakistan and China, which will initially complete 46 billion worth of Chinese infrastructure and energy generation projects.

The first phase of the project has completed and the second phase has begun. In the second phase, agricultural, industrial, educational and scientific development in Pakistan will promote with the cooperation of China. Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang visited Pakistan in May 2013. The most notable example of economic cooperation is the CPEC. For example, in 2002, the volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and China was only US 1. 1.3 Billion, but in 2018 it reached US 12 12.7 billion. The second phase of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Pakistan and China was signed during Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to China in April last year. As a result Pakistan's export to China expected to increase. China is Pakistan's largest trading partner and Pakistan has the distinction of being China's largest trading partner in South Asia except India.

Therefore irrespective political government in country the relations between Pakistan and China continue to expand and deepen because these relations based on mutual interest, trust, respect and sincerity. The peoples of Pakistan consider China as a true friend that can rely upon in all circumstances. That is why, despite the negative propaganda from some countries there is no rift in the friendly and cooperative relations between Pakistan and China.

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## Climate change and its impacts

Aqsa Ihsan

Smog is another major issue in Pakistan's industrialized eastern Punjab region, where the provincial capital, Lahore, is clogged with smoke throughout the winter months. Authorities said they are working to solve the problem, which involves thousands of brick kilns. Millions of impoverished people will confront significant problems as the climate changes, including severe events, health consequences, social protection, economic stability, mobility, water security, cultural heritage, and other dangers

Climate change is the most important issue of our age; we are the first to see its early warning signals and the last to have a chance to prevent it from occurring. Living in a bubble of ignorance can only get us so far; our globe is indeed a scene of melting glaciers, rising floods, animal extinction and the list continues. Spreading climate change awareness using every way possible, including seemingly insignificant forms such as writing a school essay, cannot be overstated. Climate change has put a lot of countries in hazard, and the risk is significantly large

Pakistan's income, housing, food, and security at danger. Considering the tough facts, the Pakistani government must take urgent measures to combat the detrimental effects of climate change. Pakistan faces "significantly higher average temperatures than the global average, with a potential rise of 1.3°C-4.9°C by the 2090s over the 1986-2005 baseline," according to the study, which also noted that Pakistan had "some of the highest disaster risk levels in the world, ranked 18 out of 191 countries by the 2020 Inform

er for developing countries. Because of this serious problem, which is having a severe impact on South Asia, the area has grown more disaster-prone. In general, climate change is accelerating and having severe consequences for Pakistan. Pakistan is geologically located in a region where the effects of climate change are being felt fairly strongly. This climate disaster has had enormous economic, social, and environmental consequences. Statistics from the 2010 floods demonstrate the devastating effects on the 20 million individuals who lost their homes, were injured, or went missing. Similarly, another flood in Pakistan in 2012 wreaked havoc. Climate change puts

Risk Index". Furthermore, changes in Pakistan's hydrologic regimes, and hence its water supplies, are largely unknown, although dry situations are projected to become more common. Extreme climatic events are expected to become more common and intense, increasing catastrophe risk, particularly for the poor and minority populations. In Pakistan, the current median yearly likelihood of a heat wave happening in any specific region is roughly 3%. As seen by estimates that over 65,000 individuals were hospitalized with heatstroke during Pakistan's 2015 heatwave, a huge section of the population is at danger. Many parts of Pakistan endure yearly temperatures of 38°C or more, and when weather patterns combine to produce protracted periods of heatwave, major human health consequences can occur. Between 1997 and 2015, Pakistan witnessed 126 heatwaves, an average of seven each year, with an upward trend. Pakistan is a low-middle-income country with a primarily agrarian economy; however, it is gradually industrializing and more than a third of the population currently lives in cities. For food and nutrition security, the country significantly relies on its climate-sensitive land, water, and forest resources. Glacier melt has accelerated due to climate change, increasing the likelihood of glacier lake outpouring floods (GLOF) and mudslides downstream. Faster glacier melt, rising temperatures, shifting seasons, and irregular rainfall patterns are all affecting the flow of the River Indus, which will have a growing impact on agriculture, food production, and lives. Already, 39% of the population lives in poverty, and the loss of livelihoods indicated in this research will have a significant impact on people's health and capacity to access healthcare. Heat fatigue, starvation, the introduction of vector-borne diseases like Dengue Fever, and an increase in the burden of aquatic infections will all have an impact on people's capacity to work and make a living. Migrants, internally displaced individuals, and religious and ethnic minorities will be particularly susceptible, since they are fre-

quently confined to hazard-prone land and face challenges to treatment, including financial constraints resulting from informal work. Child marriages, early births, and domestic violence may become more common as a result of climate change. Due to decreasing food production, women and children will be more prone to malnourishment and malnutrition.

Smog is another major issue in Pakistan's industrialized eastern Punjab region, where the provincial capital, Lahore, is clogged with smoke throughout the winter months. Authorities said they are working to solve the problem, which involves thousands of brick kilns. Millions of impoverished people will confront significant problems as the climate changes, including severe events, health consequences, social protection, economic stability, mobility, water security, cultural heritage, and other dangers.

Climate change is inextricably linked to global inequality patterns. Climate change harms the most vulnerable individuals the most, although they contribute the least to the catastrophe. Millions of vulnerable people are facing disproportionate problems as the effects of climate change worsen in terms of severe events, health effects, food security, economic assurance, water security, and cultural identity. Female-headed families, children, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples and ethnic minorities, landless tenants, migrant workers, displaced persons, sexual and gender minorities, older people, and other socially excluded groups are all highly prone to disasters. Their vulnerability stems from a variety of factors, including their geographic location, financial, socioeconomic, cultural, and gender status, as well as their access to medical care, decision-making, and justice.

Poor and oppressed people are demanding for more aggressive climate action. Climate change is more than an environmental disaster; it is also a social crisis that requires us to confront issues of inequality on many levels: between rich and poor nations; be-

tween men and women; and between generations. For more effective development outcomes, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has underlined the need for climate solutions that adhere to climate justice principles (i.e., recognition, procedural, and distributive justice). Climate change adaptation measures can impose a greater financial burden on poor households in the absence of well-designed and supportive policies; for example, policies to expand public transportation or carbon pricing may result in higher public transportation fares, which will disproportionately affect poorer households. Similarly, restricting forestry activities to particular periods of the year might have an impact on indigenous populations that rely on woods for their livelihoods all year. In addition to addressing the distributional effects of decarbonizing economies, there is a need to understand and address social inclusion, cultural, and political economy issues, such as deciding on the types of transitions required (economic, social, etc.) and identifying opportunities to address social inequality during these processes.

Furthermore, communities offer to the problem of improving resilience and tackling climate change unique views, skills, and a wealth of information. Rather than being seen as recipients, they should be treated as participants in developing resilience. Community leaders may define goals, influence ownership, and create and administer investment programs that are responsive to their community's needs, according to research and experience. In creating climate resilience, the IPCC's latest report highlights the relevance of many types of knowledge such as scientific, Indigenous, and local knowledge. Communities and marginalized people may be connected to higher-level policy, technical, and financial support for locally relevant and successful development outcomes through innovations in climate finance architecture.

## Briefs

## PM says...

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they had taken difficult and bold decisions and hinted that if required in future, they would take such like steps for the economic turnaround. "We will not budge from taking the necessary steps to set country's economy on the right track with hard work and nation's prayers," he stressed. The coalition government was determined to steer the country out of the current economic crises by striving day and night. Expressing his optimism, the prime minister said it was his strong conviction that the good times were in store for the country. About the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreement, the prime minister observed that the previous PTI's government had promised to increase prices and impose taxes, but they retracted and violated the pact which they ought to abide by. Meanwhile, addressing the media about cabinet meeting, Ahsan Iqbal said that Prime Minister has directed to ensure supply of urea to the farmers. He informed that Prime Minister also asked authorities concerned to expedite procedure of obtaining urea from China. Ahsan Iqbal said that the cabinet approved formation of a committee to review Trade Organization Act.

## Govt to...

FROM PAGE 01

these policies to make investment in Pakistan. Speaking of his confidence that the Reko-Diq project would generate jobs and create economic activity especially for the people of Balochistan, he expressed the hope that Barrick Gold would soon commence its work on the site so as to begin reaping dividends from the project. The High Commissioner stated that the Canadian companies would be encouraged to explore economic and investment opportunities in Pakistan. In the regional context, the Prime Minister underscored the imperative of maintaining peace and stability in Afghanistan, while urging the international community to step up its efforts to avert humanitarian and economic crises in that country. High Commissioner Gilmour conveyed her government's deep appreciation for Pakistan's continued cooperation with Canada, particularly with regard to evacuations in the aftermath of developments in Afghanistan post-15 August 2021. On Ukraine, the Prime Minister while reaffirming Pakistan's principled position to uphold international law and the UN Charter, urged the international community to remain engaged in the search of a peaceful resolution to the grave problem, through diplomacy and dialogue. He also shared with the High Commissioner that Pakistan had dispatched four consignments of humanitarian aid to the people of Ukraine.

## 'Imran...

FROM PAGE 01

laws. This was because he wanted to use NAB for political victimisation so that he could imprison political opponents in death row cells once again, she added. She pointed out that Imran should have been in jail but instead Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was appearing before courts over these political cases. "The truth was that even after abusing NAB, FIA, and Prime Minister's Office, Imran could not prove anything but he continued violating the human rights of political opponents. Maryam Nawaz too was dragged to courts over these false allegations and made up cases," she said.

## Abbasi...

FROM PAGE 01

may continue, cases against the PML-N may continue. This may even be written in the legislation. But shut this institution [NAB]. Abbasi's statements come a day after the National Accountability (Amendment Bill) 2022 — which has been a matter of contention between the government and opposition for weeks now — took effect following President Alvi's refusal for the second time to give it his approval.

## Baku, Tashkent reached high level of strategic ties: Shavkat

NEWS DESK

TASHKENT: The relations between Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan have reached a high level of strategic partnership, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev said at the opening ceremony of the Heydar Aliyev Square in Tashkent together with President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, who is on a state visit to the country. The activities of Heydar Aliyev, his outstanding personality and great legacy are highly appreciated by prominent politicians and public figures around the world. Dear participants of the ceremony, I would like to highlight the huge contribution Heydar Aliyev has made to the development and strengthening of friendly relations between our countries and the historical ties between the two peoples. There were open and most trusting relations between him and the leaders of Uzbekistan Sharaf Rashidovich Rashidov and then Islam Abduganievich Karimov. The friendship between our leaders has allowed the two countries and fraternal peoples to interact closely and develop active exchanges, including humanitarian ones. The national leader of Azerbaijan has always treated the Uzbek people with great respect. A comprehensively educated and deeply intelligent person, he sincerely admired our history, culture and traditions. In 1996, Heydar Aliyev, while visiting the State Museum of Timurids History in Tashkent, left an entry in the Book of Honored Guests, in which, in



particular, he emphasized: "Many thanks to the people of Uzbekistan for the careful and respectful attitude to the merits, the historical heritage of Amir Timur. This is a manifestation of high morality and wisdom." Today we are very glad to see Uzbekistan under the leadership of my brother Shavkat Mirziyoyev as a powerful and independent state, leading an independent foreign policy, relying on its own resources, as a country that has achieved tremendous success in terms of socioeconomic development, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev,

who is on a state visit to Uzbekistan, said at the opening ceremony of the Heydar Aliyev Square in Tashkent on June 21. "As Shavkat Mirziyoyev correctly noted, Heydar Aliyev treated the Uzbek people with great love. As his son, I can testify to this as an eyewitness, and his friendship with Sharaf Rashidovich Rashidov in the 1970s was known to the entire Soviet leadership. In the 1990s, his friendship with Islam Abduganievich Karimov is also known to our peoples, and this was the basis of today's development of our relations. Shavkat

Mirziyoyev and I are continuing to move along this glorious path. We are leading our peoples along the path of development and the path of close cooperation. My state visit today is not only evidence of our intentions, but also evidence of the solid foundation of our fraternal and friendly relations. The attitude of Heydar Aliyev to the Uzbek people and Uzbekistan as a whole is very well known in Uzbekistan. Today we are very glad to see Uzbekistan under the leadership of my brother Shavkat Mirziyoyev as a powerful and independent state, leading an independent foreign policy, relying on its own resources, as a country that has achieved tremendous success in terms of socioeconomic development. It is enough to look at the statistical figures over the past five to six years to see how great successes Uzbekistan has achieved under the leadership of Shavkat Mirziyoyev in strengthening independence, defense capability, economic potential, solving social issues, and urban planning. We see this and rejoice in that as friends and brothers. Once again, on behalf of the entire Azerbaijani people, I would like to express our gratitude, first of all, to the President of Uzbekistan, to the fraternal Uzbek people for such an attitude towards the memory of Heydar Aliyev. We in Azerbaijan highly appreciate and will never forget this. This is another contribution to the strengthening of fraternal relations between Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan. Long live the unity and brotherhood of Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan," said the head of state.

## Transgender players banned from IRL

LONDON: Transgender players have been banned from women's internationals while rugby league's governing body does further research on its inclusion policy. International Rugby League (IRL) said it wanted to "balance the individual's right to participate... against perceived risk to other participants". The move comes as a number of sports are considering transgender inclusion. Transgender swimmers were on Sunday banned from women's elite races if they have gone through male puberty. World Athletics president Lord Coe hinted to the BBC that the sport could follow swimming's example, saying it is set to discuss adopting a new eligibility policy and that "fairness is non-negotiable". The IRL said it had considered "relevant developments in world sport" in coming to its decision to ban "male-to-female (transwomen) players" until it had completed research on its final inclusion policy. The ban will apply to the World Cup in England in October, which involves teams from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Cook Islands, England, France, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. "It is the IRL's responsibility to balance the individual's right to participate - a long-standing principle of rugby league and at its heart from the day it was established - against perceived risk to other participants, and to ensure all are given a fair hearing," the organisation said. - Agencies

## Thomas Ceccon breaks backstroke world record

SPORTS DESK

BUDAPEST: Thomas Ceccon smashed a world record and compatriot Benedetta Pilato then continued Italy's strong start to the Swimming World Championships as she won a second gold of the evening in Budapest on Monday. Ceccon shaved a quarter of a second off the 100m backstroke world record as he won in 51.60sec. "I didn't expect this time," Ceccon said. "I didn't expect to go so fast." Pilato was also delighted after she won the last final of the evening, the women's 100m breaststroke, by a fingernail. "I am super-happy and proud," she said. "It was a dream which came true." Ceccon edged the old world record holder American Ryan Murphy, who set the mark, at the 2016 Olympics by 0.37sec. Another American, Hunter Armstrong was third. "Today nobody could beat me! What a sensational time 51.6. It still has to sink in," he said. "It's fantastic when you

can break a world record in any sport, for me it is unbelievable. Maybe four athletes have done it in Italy, it's an achievement that means a lot. Today the Americans went very fast. "Today I'm not saying that I knew I was going to win but in my opinion I had no rivals. The two Russians were missing, it would have been an even greater challenge." In a sport in which most competitors obsessively shave body hair, Ceccon has drawn comments for his moustache. Asked if it was now a lucky charm, he shrugged. "It's just a moustache," he said. Part of his bonus for setting a world record, the first of the championships, is a special Non-Fungible Token (NFT). "I am very interested in NFTs and cryptocurrency, I love this stuff," he said dutifully. Ceccon, who is 21, was winning Italy's second gold of the championships after Nicolò Martinenghi, 22, took the 100m breaststroke title the night before. Just over an hour later, Italy's new generation began to look old when Pilato won a third gold for

the country. Pilato was not only the second Italian to win on Monday, she was also the second 17-year-old gold medalist of the evening after Romanian David Popovici. Yet Pilato had beaten Ceccon to a world record, setting the best time in the 50m breaststroke mark in the same Budapest pool a year ago. "Before the race I was crying with joy for Thomas who made me relive the sensations I felt when I set the world record and now here I am with gold around my neck. I am overjoyed and satisfied," she said. She added that she has matured since winning a silver at the worlds in Gwangju three years ago and missing the medals in Tokyo last year. "I have also overcome the anxiety, and learned to take things calmly," she said. Pilato edged German Anna Elendt by 0.05sec with Lithuanian Ruta Meilutyte at 0.09sec. On a good day for Italy, Martinenghi was back in the pool and fastest in the breaststroke 50m semifinals in the evening.

## ECP reserves verdict in...

FROM PAGE 01

were not third parties but companies created by the party leadership. Meanwhile, Babar also came to the rostrum to give arguments. "It is the first time in history that a political party is giving details for its funding sources to the ECP. Every political party should be answerable before the Commission," Babar said. Meanwhile, CEC Sultan Raja thanked the parties for cooperating and providing details. "We have to restore the voters' trust and strengthen the country democratically," he said. He said that the cases of other parties will also be concluded soon and the Commission will ensure that there is no discrimination. The PTI hid funds worth millions of rupees from the ECP, the report of an ECP scrutiny committee probing the party's funds had revealed on January 4. The report stated that the PTI provided "false information" regarding the party's funding to the ECP. It said that the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP's) bank statement revealed that the party had received Rs1.64 billion in funding. According to the report, the party did not disclose funding worth more than Rs310 million to the ECP. The scrutiny committee was formed in 2019 to audit foreign funding received by the PTI.

## PTI cannot...

FROM PAGE 01

after Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) reserved its verdict in PTI prohibited funding case, he said that the election body concluded hearing of PTI's prohibited funding case, which was the only political party that laid the foundation of political fund raising. Farrukh Habib said that despite serious reservations regarding Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja, the PTI was expecting impartial and unbiased decision, as the PTI submitted all evidences and banking transaction pertaining to the case. He said that it was not a case of foreign funding but of prohibited funding; therefore banning PTI in the case was out of question; however, he added that it would be litmus test for the other political parties to prove their innocence, as they did not have the record of their foreign funding. He asked the ECP to direct its scrutiny committees to submit audited reports of bank accounts relating to foreign funding of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and gave a verdict in the light of the Supreme Court (SC) and Islamabad High Court's (IHC) decisions. Farrukh Habib recalled that late Benazir Bhutto, in her book, had alleged that Nawaz Sharif had received funding from Osama Bin Ladin to topple her government. He demanded that ECP should announce the decision related to the party's funding cases of all political parties simultaneously. He lamented that the commission should show special interest in the other political parties' foreign funding cases likewise PTI, as the PPP and PML-N cases have been pending for the last four years. Farrukh Habib demanded that the CCP should conduct open of their cases so as to expose their real face before the masses, adding that both the parties were running away from foreign funding cases because they had nothing to show with regard to their foreign funding.

## PTI to...

FROM PAGE 01

entire duration of his government and blackmailed to provide a National Reconciliation Ordinance-type deal to major political figures of the present coalition government but he did not give in. "It should be clear now their return [to power] was not to reduce inflation." He said if the present government remained in power then Pakistan would be on its way to a situation similar to the one in Sri Lanka. "What they have done today (passing and implementing the NAB amendment law) is [give a] licence to [commit] corruption." Imran said he would issue another public call to show where the nation stood on the issue, adding that history would not forget those who abetted and supported the present government in coming to power.



MINSK: Pakistan embassy holds a calligraphy workshop by Pakistani calligrapher Ayesha Kamal at Central Library, Borisov city of Belarus. The artist demonstrated her skills and inspired young artists, students and faculty members. - DNA

## Israeli forces fatally shot Abu Akleh: Report

MONITORING DESK

NEW YORK CITY: A New York Times probe has found that an Israeli occupation soldier fatally shot Al Jazeera's veteran Palestinian-American correspondent Shireen Abu Akleh, noting that no armed Palestinians were near Abu Akleh at the time she was killed in the occupied West Bank. Published on Monday, the monthlong probe by The New York Times, titled "The Killing of Shireen Abu Akleh: Tracing a Bullet to an Israeli Convoy," concluded that "the bullet that killed Ms. Abu Akleh was fired from the approximate location of the Israeli military convoy, most likely by a soldier from an elite unit." The probe also confirmed that no Palestinian armed men were near Abu Akleh at the time she was killed in the occupied West Bank city of Jenin, disputing an early Israeli claim referencing the possibility that it was killed by a Palestinian fire. The report also said that the "Palestinian deaths rarely attract international scrutiny, and soldiers accused of crimes against Palestinians in the West Bank are rarely convicted." The Times investigation also showed that "16 shots were fired from the location of the Israeli convoy, as opposed to Israeli claims that the soldier had fired five bullets in the journalists' direction." "The Times found no evidence that the person who fired recognized Ms. Abu Akleh and targeted her personally. The Times was unable to determine whether the shooter saw that she and her colleagues were wearing protective vests emblazoned with the word Press," the report added. The probe relied on available video footage, witness testimonies and an acoustic analysis of the bullets fired around the time Abu Akleh was killed. Reports by the investigative group Bellingcat, The Associated Press, CNN and The Washington Post also concluded that Israeli forces likely killed Abu Akleh.

## Pakistan T20 World Cup: Recall heroes of victory

KARACHI: Pakistan completed 14 years of its glorious T20 World Cup 2009 triumph in England. Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) shared some highlights of their victorious journey under the leadership of great Younis Khan back in 2009. From nowhere to Champions, Pakistan had once again proved to be a reckoning power in world cricket. "Shahid Afridi, big man, big game, it's a leg bye but who cares," these victory words for Afridi from English commentator

David Lloyd still sound like it was just yesterday. With the help of Afridi's fifty, Pakistan notched an eight-wicket win over Sri Lanka at the Lord's. Performers of the tournament. The then winning captain, Younis expressed his belief while recalling their memorable victory. "We believed in ourselves and Allah helped us win the trophy," he shared. "We were ready for every challenge. Our bowling and batting had variations and strong com-

binations that helped us," he added. Player-of-the-final, Shahid Afridi also reminisced about one of his finest performances during his career. "Alhamdulillah, I managed to perform up to mark. I took unbelievable catch and after that our team got united." "Umar Gul's spell against New Zealand was crucial for us. That win gave us immense confidence while going forward," who scored 176 runs and also took 11 wickets to bag the man-of-the-tournament award. - DNA



RAWALPINDI: A delegation of Women Chamber Peshawar headed by President, Shahida Mazhar in a group photo with President RCCI Nadeem Rauf at Chamber house. - DNA

## Briefs

**Erdogan, Johnson discuss Ukraine war**

DNA

ANKARA: The Turkish president and British prime minister discussed bilateral relations and regional issues, the Turkish Communications Directorate said on Tuesday. In a statement, the directorate said Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Boris Johnson talked about defense cooperation and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

Amid a looming global food crisis, President Erdogan said a solution must be found for the export of grain from Ukraine. Tons of Ukrainian grain remain shut in due to the military conflict, causing global shortages and price hikes. Russia, which is accused of using food as a weapon, says Western sanctions are to blame for the food shortages.

Erdogan on Monday told UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres that Türkiye maintains joint efforts to ensure the export of Ukrainian grain via Black Sea, which would be "effective in terms of averting a global food crisis."

**EU to provide vulnerable countries \$633M**

DNA

BRUSSELS: The European Union will support vulnerable countries with an additional 600 million (\$633 million) to face the food crisis aggravated by Russia's war on Ukraine. "To help our partners we will mobilize an additional 600 million euros to avoid a food crisis and an economic shock," Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, announced at the 2022 European Development Days conference in Brussels on Tuesday. She said the war that began in February is taking a "heavy and senseless toll," not only on the Ukrainian population but also on those most vulnerable around the world. "Russia is still blocking millions of tons of desperately needed grain," she added. The European Commission adopted the proposal on mobilizing the funds from the reserves of the European Development Fund to help African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries "to cope with the dire situation," the EU executive said in a statement.

With the additional funds, "we will strengthen our support to address the crisis, while contributing to sustainable and resilient food systems," said European Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen. Of the total amount, 150 million will be earmarked for humanitarian assistance, 350 million for sustainable production and resilience of food systems, and 100 million for macro-economic support.

**Saudi businessmen, investors visit LCCI**

LAHORE: A high-level delegation of Saudi businessmen and investors visited the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) to explore new avenues for joint ventures and investment opportunities in Pakistan. LCCI President Mian Nauman Kabir, along with Senior Vice President Mian Rehman Aziz Chan and Vice President Haris Ateeq warmly welcomed the delegation and presented the address of welcome.

Fahad Al Bash was leading the delegation, while Commercial Attaché, Embassy of Saudi Arabia Mubsher Alshehry and LCCI Executive Committee Members also spoke. Saudi delegation, having members from construction, infrastructure, energy, tourism, and pharmaceuticals, also held B2B (business-to-business) meetings with the LCCI members to pave way for new business ventures in various sectors of economy. Head of the delegation Fahad Al Bash, on the occasion, said that Saudi businessmen aimed to explore trade and investment opportunities in Pakistan. He said there was a huge support from both the governments for the business communities to work and there was a lot of potential in the economies to tap into for both countries. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari hosted a delegation from Balochistan led by Jalat Khan Achakzai CEO JK Group of Comanoies. They discussed matters of mutual interest. - DNA

**Experts urge to enhance Pak-Indonesia tourism co-op**

The Pakistani speakers gave detailed briefings on Pakistan covering the thriving tourism potential of the country. They informed the audience about the immense potential that Pakistan holds for almost all fields related to tourism including, adventure tourism, halal tourism, religious tourism, and mountaineering etc

DNA

JAKARTA: The Embassy of Pakistan, Jakarta, in collaboration with Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), held a webinar, in a hybrid format, on Tourism Potential of Pakistan, in the Chancery today. The event was physically attended by over fifty travel agencies and hospitality sector representatives of Indonesia and virtually by tour operators from Pakistan. From Indonesian side, the speakers included Mr. Mufti Hakam, Chairman Bilateral Committee of KADIN, Mr. Syukiri, Chairman ASA-TI, and Ms. Madeleine, Head of Public Relations

of ASTINDO. From Pakistan side, Mr. Sadruddin Hunzai Secretary General, PATO, Malik Azmat Awan Vice President PATO, Mr. Asim Tiwana Director, Services TDAP and Ms. Sadia, Deputy Director, PTDC delivered their presentations. In his welcoming remarks, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan highlighted that despite excellent bilateral relations between Pakistan and Indonesia in political and economic realms, the tourism flow between the two countries was underwhelming. Highlighting the reasons for lack of tourism between both countries, which included lack of information about Pakistan in Indonesia and absence of direct flight between the two countries, the



ambassador stated that the Embassy was determined to work on these areas. He mentioned that a guidebook published on Tourism Potential of Pakistan, in Bahasa and English languages, which would be helpful in enhancing the awareness of the Indonesians about Pakistan and the treasure trove of tourism it holds. The Pakistani speakers gave detailed briefings on Pakistan covering the thriving tourism potential of the country. They informed the audience about the immense potential that Pakistan holds for almost all fields related to tourism including, adventure tourism, halal tourism, religious tourism, and mountaineering

etc. They also mentioned about the various initiatives of the government of Pakistan to promote tourism. While expressing their keen interest in exploring Pakistan, the Indonesian speakers agreed on the need to enhance mutual collaboration in the field of tourism. They appreciated the holding of the webinar by the Embassy and acknowledged that events like this would bring more awareness amongst Indonesians about Pakistan's untapped tourism potential. The Embassy also distributed the guidebook on tourism potential of Pakistan among the participants. The participants were served with traditional Pakistani and Indonesian cuisine at the end.

**UN chief calls for extension of Syria cross-border aid resolution**

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday called for the Security Council to extend its authorization of cross-border aid into north-west Syria by a year - a policy that veto-holding Russia has criticized. The UN resolution allowing aid deliveries across the Syrian-Turkish border at Bab al-Hawa has been in effect since 2014, but is set to expire on July 10. Nearly 10,000 trucks loaded with humanitarian aid passed through Bab al-Hawa last year bound for the rebel-held Idlib region. It is the only crossing through which aid can be brought into Idlib with-

out navigating areas controlled by Damascus. "I strongly appeal to the members of the Council to maintain consensus on allowing cross-border operations, by renewing resolution 2585 for an additional 12 months," Guterres said at the Security Council's monthly meeting on Syria. "It is a moral imperative to address the suffering and vulnerability of 4.1 million people in the area who need aid and protection," said Guterres. "When it comes to delivering life-saving aid to people in need across Syria, all channels should be made, and kept, available." Russia, an ally of Damas-

cus, could veto a proposal to extend the cross-border aid mechanism, having already forced a reduction in the number of allowed border crossings on the grounds that it violates Syria's sovereignty. Norway's deputy ambassador, Trine Heimerback, said ahead of the Council meeting that in addition to humanitarian aid, the resolution's renewal "will also facilitate further early recovery projects." Her statement could be read as a hint that Western nations will assist in the early stages of Syrian reconstruction projects in exchange for Moscow allowing the cross-border aid resolution to pass. - APP

**NATO entry unlikely before September**

DNA

STOCKHOLM: Finland is unlikely to join the North Atlantic alliance by September, the nation's president admitted on Tuesday, as NATO member Türkiye's objections to its accession persist. Sauli Niinistö told Finland's public broadcaster that he had little hope for a breakthrough at next week's NATO summit in Madrid, but added that "there has been progress in the talks, and negotiations continue." Niinistö told YLE that Ankara has held its ground in its talks with Finland, along with fellow NATO hopeful Sweden. "I don't believe that we'll come to an agreement with Türkiye at the NATO Summit in Spain. I don't think we'll join NATO before September."

**Stable ties with China important: Japanese PM**

FOREIGN DESK

ISTANBUL: Vowing to maintain "stable relations" with Beijing, Japan's prime minister on Tuesday indicated willingness for a possible summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping. "Maintaining stable and constructive relations with China are important not only for each other but also for the peace and stability of the region and the international community," Fumio Kishida told a policy debate of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party in Tokyo. Referring to a possible meeting with Chinese President Xi, Kishida stressed: "Dialogue matters." After tak-

ing over the reins last year, Kishida spoke to the Chinese president in October amid bumpy relations between the world's top second and third economies. Japan is part of the so-called Quad, a loose security alliance led by the US in the wider Asia-Pacific region to counter China's expanding economic and military influence. Pointing to South Korea, the Japanese premier said Tokyo and Seoul could not move forward "unless they see progress in resolving issues such as compensation demands from South Koreans for their labor rendered under Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula," Kyodo News reported.

**Pakistan's exports to China up nearly 6%**

BEIJING: Pakistan's export to China crossed \$1.605 billion in the first five months of 2022, up 5.42 percent year on year, shows the official data from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

Badar uz Zaman, Commercial Counsellor at Pakistani Embassy in Beijing, said that despite the epidemic of COVID-19, bilateral trade has increased significantly. "The Pakistani government is also fully committed to tapping its industrialization potential and paying particular attention to the construction of special economic zones to enhance its trade with other countries", he added.

Badar expressed that the 2nd phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement provides zero-tariff market access for Pakistan's 313 major export commodities, and has greatly promoted Pakistan's manufacturing industry to expand production and exports, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday. "The China-Pakistan free trade agreements would create more space for Pak-China service trade. The bilateral trade will cross \$50 billion within next five years. This year bilateral trade would cross \$32 billion", he said.

The total volume of trade between China and Pakistan has amounted to \$12.06 billion, up nearly 19 percent compared with 2021 which was \$10.14 billion due to COVID-19. Among the growth of trade in major products between the two countries, rice, sesame seeds, pine nuts, textiles, seafood, and other agricultural products have increased year on year, which has promoted Pakistan's economic recovery. - APP

**Sale of Muratov's Nobel medal smashes all records**

OSLO: The auction of Russian journalist Dmitry Muratov's Nobel gold medal for a whopping \$103.5 million to benefit children displaced by the war in Ukraine smashed the record for Nobel medals. The Nobel Peace Prize medal was sold to an as yet unidentified phone bidder at a sale in New York on Monday organised by Heritage Auctions. Muratov won the medal, made of 150 grammes of 18-carat gold, in 2021 when he was awarded the Peace Prize together with Maria Ressa of the Philippines "for their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression". The proceeds of Monday's sale far exceed the previous record of \$4.76 million for the sale of a Nobel medal in 2014. "Muratov consulted the Nobel committee beforehand and was assured that the Nobel committee supported his decision to sell his medal so that the proceeds could benefit children and refugees of Ukraine," the committee's secretary Olav Njostad told AFP.

"It's an excellent purpose. We can only congratulate him on the result and hope that the aid comes to those who need it the most", he wrote in an email. Over the past 120 years, the Nobel Prize has been awarded to 975 individuals and organisations, honouring achievements in the fields of peace, literature, medicine, physics, chemistry and, since 1969, economics. Swedish scientist and philanthropist Alfred Nobel created the prizes in his 1895 will for those who "have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind". - APP

**President Tokayev invites Amir of Qatar to Kazakhstan**

President noted great opportunities for strengthening relations between Kazakhstan and Qatar

DNA

DOHA: Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev met with Amir of the State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in Doha, Kazinform has learned from the meeting. During the meeting, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani thoroughly discussed the current state and prospects for the development of Kazakh-Qatari cooperation. The two leaders reaffirmed their mutual desire to strengthen trade and economic ties and implement joint investment projects. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev expressed gratitude to the Amir of Qatar for the invitation and warm welcome. Speaking about the prospects of economic cooperation, President Tokayev stressed the importance of increasing mutual trade between the two countries.



The President noted great opportunities for strengthening relations between Kazakhstan and Qatar in areas of mutual interest.

He proposed to intensify cooperation between the governments and business circles of the two countries. «We have a number of

investment projects that we are ready to discuss with you today. In this direction, Kazakh companies intend to work closely with

the Qatari business,» the Head of State stressed. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev invited Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to make an official visit to Kazakhstan at a convenient time for him.

In turn, the Amir of Qatar expressed Doha's interest in developing multifaceted economic and investment cooperation with Kazakhstan. «Kazakhstan's participation in today's economic forum is a great honor for me. We have a very good relationship of trust and we are open to implementing joint projects, especially in agriculture. This direction is a priority for our country. We will soon send a special group to discuss in detail joint projects in the agricultural sector,» the Amir of Qatar said. At the end of the conversation, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani expressed gratitude for the invitation and confirmed his intention to pay a visit to Kazakhstan in the near future.

**Khurram Dastgir visits Iran's MAPNA Group**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Power Khurram Dastgir on Tuesday visited the office of MAPNA Group, which has 50 percent share in Iran's power industry. MAPNA Chief Executive officer Abbas Abadi received the minister upon his arrival, said a press release issued here. Khurram Dastgir was given a briefing about various projects of MAPNA. He took round of various installations of MAPNA Group and lauded its services in the energy sector. The minister, who is on a four-day visit to Iran to discuss the import of electricity, also penned down his views in the visitors' book. - APP

**Briefs**

**PTI claims Punjab by-polls being 'fixed'**

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Tuesday accused the Punjab government of purchasing loyalties of the local officials of PTI before upcoming by-polls on 20 vacant seats of the Punjab Assembly. Addressing the reporters in Lahore, he said the state machinery is being used to run the campaign for Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N), adding that Hamza Shehbaz could go to any lengths to save his seat. He said that arranging free and fair by-polls in Punjab is a 'huge test' for the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), adding that rumors are already running rife that PTI will get two seats and PML-N will get 18 seats. He claimed that Hamza Shehbaz has already assured all PML-N ticket holders of the success. The former minister accused that deputy commissioners (DCs) and DPOs of 14 districts, where the elections will be held, have been warned that their future depends on the results of the by-elections. He said the people are losing confidence in the ECP which could not even manage a by-poll in Karachi. PTI leader warned that if the ECP lost its credibility in the upcoming by-polls, the nation will not accept the results of the next general elections.

**Over 9.5m stranded in Bangladesh, India floods**

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Floodwaters inundated more of Bangladesh and northeast India on Tuesday, officials said, as authorities struggled to reach more than 9.5 million people stranded with little food and drinking water after days of intense rain. Particularly heavy monsoon rain has brought the worst floods in more than a century in some parts of low-lying Bangladesh and have killed at least 69 people over the past two weeks there and in northeast India's Assam state. "People are without food. They are not even getting drinking water since floodwater submerged all tube-wells," Abu Bakar, 26, a resident of hard-hit Sunamganj district in northeastern Bangladesh, told Reuters by telephone. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina flew over some of the flood-hit areas on Tuesday, looking down on huge tracts covered by brown water, broken up by occasional outcrop of land, television footage showed. The monsoon brings heavy rains to South Asia between June and October, often triggering floods, especially in low-lying areas like Bangladesh, where rivers swollen with waters pouring out of the Himalayas often burst their banks.

**Ukraine detains public figures**

AGENCIES

KYIV: Ukraine has detained a senior government official and a business leader suspected of being part of an alleged Russian spy network, the Security Service of Ukraine said on Tuesday. The Security Service (SBU) did not name the two suspects but identified them as a senior official in the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers and a department head at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a business lobby. It said in a statement on the Telegram app that it had carried out a "multi-stage special operation" to neutralise the alleged spy ring. "As a result, in Kyiv, the head of a department of the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers and the head of one of the directorates of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry were detained," the SBU said.



ISLAMABAD: Acting High Commissioner of the Malaysian High Commission Deddy Faisal speaking on the occasion of a farewell reception he hosted for the outgoing Deputy Head of Mission of the Jordan embassy Dr. Maen while former Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani and others look on. The Malaysian envoy praised the efforts of the outgoing diplomat for promotion of relations between Pakistan and Jordan. - DNA

**Pre-monsoon wreaks havoc in Balochistan and KP**

Thunderstorms and gusty winds have been reported in Sibi, Kohlu, Ziarat, Quetta, Harnai, Loralai, Sherani, Musakhel, Barkhan, Zhob, Kalat and Khuzdar, it added

DNA

PESHAWAR: Pre-monsoon rains have wreaked havoc in various parts of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, causing floods and roofs to collapse, damaging crops and properties and leaving several people dead and injured, according to the provinces' disaster management authorities. In the Sonari area of Balochistan's Kohlu, the road connecting the locality to Quetta had been swept away by flooding and several bridges were damaged, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) said in a statement on Tuesday. Floods had also swept away electricity poles in Kohlu and the downpour in Barkhan damaged crops. Many parts of the province continue to be lashed by rain, with reports of heavy showers in Sibi, Kohlu, Ziarat, Quetta, Chaman, Harnai, Loralai, Sherani, Musa Khel, Barkhan and Zhob, the PDMA said. Thunderstorms and gusty winds have been reported in Sibi, Kohlu, Ziarat, Quetta, Harnai, Loralai, Sherani, Musakhel, Barkhan, Zhob, Kalat and Khuzdar, it added. In Sibi, the PDMA said, four women and a

**NDMA warns of floods, landslides**

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority had issued a statement warning of a new rain spell triggering landslides in vulnerable areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Galyat, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan between Monday and Wednesday under the effect of a new weather system. A strong weather system is likely to enter upper and central parts of the country on Monday, it said, adding that it was likely to cause widespread rain, strong winds with isolated hailstorms in Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Chitral, Dir, Swat, Buner, Shangla, Kohistan, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Swabi, Peshawar, Nowshera, Mardan, Charsadda, Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, Kurram, Kohat, Lakki Marwat, Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan and Waziristan), Punjab (Rawalpindi, Murree, Galyat, Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum, Mianwali, Sargodha, Khushab, Bhakkar, Layyah, Dera Ghazi Khan, Hafizabad, Faisalabad, Mandi Bahauddin, Toba Tek Singh, Jhang, Sialkot, Narawal, Lahore, Sheikhupura, Okara, Kasur, Sahiwal, Pakpattan, Bahawalnagar and Multan), Kashmir (Bhimber, Kotli, Mirpur, Poonch, Bagh, Haveli, Hattian, Muzaffarabad and Neelum Valley), Gilgit-Baltistan (Astora, Ghizer, Gilgit, Diamer, Hunza and Skardu) and northeast Balochistan (Zhob, Sherani, Musa Khel, Kohlu and Barkhan). The statement said heavy rainfall may generate flash flooding in local nullahs and rivers of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and northeast Balochistan, adding that windstorms might damage loose structures in these areas. - DNA

man were killed when raging torrents had swept away a truck on Sunday. According to Levies, the tragedy had taken place when the truck tried to cross the Beji river despite heavy floods. "The truck was carrying about 25 people and their livestock," according to Bahadur Khan, an eyewitness who was injured in the accident. Citing the Met Office, the PDMA statement said the current spell of pre-monsoon rains in Balochistan was expected to continue till Wednesday (tomorrow). Meanwhile, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Disaster Management Authority issued a report on Monday, stating that three children were injured in rain-related incidents in the province over the past 24 hours. According to the report, the children were injured when the roof of a house collapsed due to heavy rain in the province's Dera Ismail Khan area. Moreover, three cattle head were killed in the incident, the report said. On Monday, the PDMA said the flow of rivers was normal in the province, however, a glacial lake outburst flooding was reported in the remote Ishperu Gol area of Terich vilage of Upper Chitral that damaged a 50kV micro-hydel power station in the area.

**Aamir autopsy: Body to be exhumed on June 23**

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Famous televangelist and PTI MNA Aamir Liaquat's body will be exhumed on Thursday morning (June 23), a notification issued by the Sindh health department said on Tuesday. The announcement comes in response to court orders for the exhumation of Hussain's body for an autopsy so a cause of death can be ascertained. The sudden death of the televangelist on June 9 had sent shock waves across the country. A six-member medical board has been formed for the autopsy. Police surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed will head the board. Additional police surgeon Shahid Nizam, Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre's Forensics Medicine Head of the Department Pervaiz Makhdoom, medico-legal officer Dr Areeb Baqai, forensic expert Dr Hari Ram and Dr Gulzar Ali are part of the medical board. The samples for the post-mortem will be collected from Hussain's grave in Abdullah Shah Ghazi graveyard, without shifting the mortal remains to another place.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood received Turkish Amb Mustafa Yurdakul for a farewell call. FS thanked him for valuable contribution to deepening bilateral ties. - DNA

**Balochistan presents Rs612.7b deficit budget**

DNA

QUETTA: The Balochistan government on Tuesday unveiled a deficit budget worth Rs612.7 billion with a deficit of Rs72.8 billion for the upcoming fiscal year of 2022-23. With the ink still not dry on the budgetary figures, which were approved at the penultimate moment before being presented in the house, the penned figures showed that the government expected receipts worth Rs528.6 billion this year. This includes federal transfers worth Rs370.33 billion, Rs48.37 in funds that the province generated, foreign funds for projects worth Rs14.36 billion, and Sui Gas lease extension bonus worth Rs40 billion, Capital Receipts - including State Trading receipts - worth Rs12.21 billion, federal grants worth Rs28.27 billion. The government also expects Rs11.40 billion in carry-over funds from the ongoing fiscal year.

**Macron rejects PM resignation ahead of talks on deadlock**

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron Tuesday rejected a resignation offer from his prime minister ahead of talks with the opposition seeking to end the deadlock sparked by his failure to secure a majority in parliamentary elections. Macron was due to host far-right leader Marine Le Pen and other political party chiefs for rare talks at the Elysee as he seeks solutions to an unprecedented situation that risks plunging his second term into crisis two months after it began. The Elysee said French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne, blamed by some analysts for heading a lacklustre campaign, had offered her resignation to Macron but the head of state turned it down. Macron believes the government needs to "stay on task and act" and the president will now seek "constructive solutions" to the political deadlock in talks with opposition parties, said a presidential official, who asked not to be named. Macron is due to start Tuesday's flurry of discussions by talking with Christian Jacob, the head of the traditional right-wing the Republicans (LR), a party on the decline in recent months but which now may be courted by the president to give him a majority. Socialist Party leader Olivier Faure and Communist Party boss Fabien Roussel - members of the NUPES left-wing alliance - will also meet Macron, although the hard-left leader Jean-Luc Melenchon is not scheduled to do so. And in a rare encounter, Macron will at 17:30 Paris time (15:30 GMT) host Le Pen, his rival in presidential elections and leader of the far-right National Rally (RN). - APP

**Egypt, Saudi Arabia sign 14 deals worth \$7.7 bn**

WEB DESK

CAIRO: Egypt and Saudi Arabia have signed 14 agreements valued at \$7.7 billion during a visit to Cairo by Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Egypt's General Authority for Investment and Free Zones said in a statement on Tuesday. Saudi Arabia has provided billions of dollars in financial support since Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi came to power, and the new round of investments comes as Cairo struggles with the economic knock-on effects of the Ukraine war. Even before the Ukraine war hiked commodity prices, hit tourism revenues and prompted investors to exit emerging markets, there were concerns over Egypt's current account and budget deficit, bankers say. Deals signed on Tuesday included a \$1.5 billion agreement between Saudi Arabia's Acwapower (2082.SE) and the Egyptian Electricity Holding Company to build a wind power plant, an Egyptian cabinet statement said.

**Kashmir and GB budget revised: Qamar Zaman Kaira**

Kaira said that the present government realizes that Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan are lagging behind in development and have lack of resources and would continue taking all possible steps to improve the living standards of people of Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira Tuesday said that the budgetary allocations for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan have been revised as per the directives of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif. "The Planning and Finance Divisions have revised the budgetary allocations for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan and made enhancements to meet their demands and completion of the developmental projects", Kaira said while speaking at a press conference along with the Federal Minister for Planning, Ahsan Iqbal. A meeting was held with the stakeholders from Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan in this regard. The federal minister said that the impression was being created that the federal government has made a cut in the budget of

Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir where Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf is in power which he conveyed to the Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif after which he took notice of it. Kaira said that the present government realizes that Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan are lagging behind in development and have lack of resources and would continue taking all possible steps to improve the living standards of people of Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan. "We will continue to give preference to the progress and development of Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan not only at par with the rest of the country but even more than that", he said. The broad based and consensus based government took difficult decisions of increasing petrol and electricity prices owing to the ineffective policies of the previous government but also imposing taxes on the rich class, transferring ultimate relief to the masses. "Our basic aim is to bridge the gap between rich and poor through transferring relief from rich to poor which is one of the basic responsibilities of the present coalition government", he said. Kaira also condemned the killing of ten to twelve innocent civilians in Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) during

the last three days. He said that a new wave of violence is being imposed on the people of Kashmir again however all such tactics of India cannot defeat the courage of Kashmiri brothers and sisters and God willing they will achieve their goal of independence. Earlier on Sunday, Qamar Zaman Kaira has said the government will provide relief to the people in a few months. Talking to the media at Dera Kaira, he said the people of Pakistan knew about the current situation of the country and were aware of facts the government had no other choice but to take "tough" decisions. "Inflation has increased in the country, oil prices have become unbearable and the government had to make difficult and undesirable decisions. As a result, the life of the common man, which was already bitter, has become even more bitter. We are worried about it and trying to overcome the challenges," he added.