



# Islamabad POST

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**Shehroze youngest mountaineer to summit Nanga Parbat**

Detailed News On Page-06

**Syria, FPCCI agree to develop strong ties**

Detailed News On Page-04

**Russia plans to continue its 'operation'**

Detailed News On Page-07



## Briefs

**Alvi pays tribute to Kargil hero**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said the nation was indebted to the immense sacrifices rendered by the martyred soldiers for the sovereignty of their motherland. In a message on the 23rd martyrdom anniversary of Captain Karnal Sher Khan - the recipient of the highest gallantry award Nishan-e-Haider, the president paid tribute to his valour and bravery. President Alvi said the sacrifice of Captain Karnal Sher Khan and other martyrs would always be remembered.

**Committed to protect poorest: PM**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said protecting the poorest from the effects of difficult economic condition has been the priority of present government from day one. In a tweet on Tuesday, he welcomed Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz's announcement of providing free electricity to the households using up to one hundred units per month. He expressed the commitment to extend more facilities to the people with improvement in economic situation.

**July 5 blackest day in history**

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Tuesday termed July 5, 1977 the blackest day in the national history, stating: "About 45 years ago, the government of the first elected prime minister of Pakistan Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto collapsed at the hands of the history's worst dictator on this day." "The dictatorial reign of General Ziaul Haq is the mother of extremism and the Kalashnikov and heroin culture in Pakistan," the PPP chairman said in a tweet.

## Committee to hold talks with the TTP

Army Chief Gen Bajwa answers questions of the parliamentarians

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Military leadership on Tuesday briefed the participants of the Parliamentary Committee on National Security (PCNS) on the ongoing talks with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP), media reported, quoting sources. The meeting decided to constitute a steering committee for the talks with the TTP, which will include representatives from the civil and military leadership. According to a statement issued in this regard, an important meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on National Security was held at Parliament House on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif which included members of the Standing Committees, Federal Ministers, Provincial Chief Ministers, Gilgit, besides the National Parliamentary and Political Leadership. The Chief Minister of Baluchistan, the Prime Minister of the independent state of Jammu and Kashmir and the military leadership participated. The meeting was briefed about national security issues and recent talks with the banned TTP. The participants reiterated that Pakistan has made remarkable achievements against terrorism and extremism which have been recognized globally. The meeting paid tribute to the sacrifices made by the nation and the security forces, which ensured the functioning of the state in all parts of the country. The meeting reiterated that the use of force is the sole prerogative of the state under the Constitution of Pakistan.

Continued on Page 06

**Neighbouring country involved in KU attack**

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Two banned outfits - the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and the Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF) - and a "neighbouring country" were involved in Karachi University suicide attack that killed four people including three Chinese nationals, Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Memon said on Tuesday. In April this year, four people - three Chinese teachers and a Pakistani man - were killed in the attack by a female suicide bomber identified as Shari Baloch outside the Chinese language centre inside the Karachi University. "With the efforts of CTD [Counter Terrorism Department] and intelligence team, the main accused has been arrested. This was done with the help of a neighbouring country, which has been supporting the terrorist groups in several ways," Memon said. He announced this while addressing a press conference along with Karachi Administrator Barrister Murtafa Wahab in Karachi. The presser was held following a meeting between the Chinese delegation and Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali

Continued on Page 06

## Pak, Turkey agree to boost defence ties



STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Commander Turkish Land Forces General Musa Avesver called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi on Tuesday and held delegation-level talks. According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), matters of mutual and professional interests with special emphasis on defence and security collaboration between the two brotherly countries

were discussed during the meeting. The COAS said that Pakistan highly values its brotherly relations with Turkey which are deeply rooted in history and entrenched in the cultural and religious affinities. Both sides agreed to further optimize military to military ties particularly in training and counter-terrorism domains. The visiting dignitary acknowledged the professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces and vowed to enhance cooperation in various fields. He also pledged to play his role for further improvements in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels.

## Imran warns to lay bare everything if sidelined

- Says US was unhappy with the independent foreign policy of Pakistan

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: In a warning, former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan on Tuesday said that he would lay bare what he has recorded in his undisclosed video about the local abettors of the regime change if he is pushed to the wall. He referred to a 'secret video' regarding which he had initially revealed after there were reports of threats to his life after his government was toppled. According to Imran Khan, he has named all local abettors in the video which would be released in case if something happens to him. He was addressing the people via a live telecast from his residence Bani Gala. PTI chairman said the current rulers will not refrain from accepting Israel if they have to protect its interests, adding the current rulers have nothing to do with the ideology of Pakistan as their only ideology was money, for which,



**Fawad pens letter to SC against Hamza**

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senior Central Vice President Fawad Chaudhry wrote a letter to Supreme Court (SC) against Chief Minister Punjab Hamza Shehbaz for trampling the court's orders and election code of conduct by announcing a mega relief package ahead of by-polls in the province. In a letter to the apex court, Fawad said that fake Punjab Chief Minister Hamza announced the package few days before the by-polls in 20 constituencies in attempt to influence the by-elections. Fawad said that the SC formulated a formula to save Punjab from constitutional complications and crisis and to ensure clean, transparent and free by-elections in Punjab. He said that Interim Chief Minister

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Italian Ambassador Andreas Ferrarese calls on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at the Parliament House. - DNA

**Palestine rejects US stance on journalist killing**

All reports suggest that the Israeli forces intentionally kill Akleh

DNA

RAMALLAH: The State of Palestine has rejected the United States' dismissal of the Israeli occupying forces' intentional targeting of Palestinian journalists on 11 May 2022, which resulted in the killing of Shireen Abu Akleh and injury of Ali Sammoudi, as mere "tragic circumstances" and not an intentional war crime. The context in which the crime took place as well as forensic examination of the General Prosecutor of the State of Palestine and several independent reports concluded that the Israeli occupation soldiers intentionally targeted Shireen Abu Akleh along with other journalists.

Continued on Page 06

**ECP summons Punjab CM**

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has served notice on Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz to appear on Thursday to explain why he should not be proceeded against for violating the code of conduct. According to press release, the chief minister came under the scanner of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) after he announced free electricity for households consuming up to 100 units, from July. As per details, the ECP had

Continued on Page 06

## Pakistan wants strong ties with Italy: Sanjrani

Italian Ambassador Andreas Ferrarese appreciates Pak role in regional stability

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Italian Ambassador Andreas Ferrarese called on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House on Tuesday. The overall regional situation and matters of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting. The Chairman Senate said that cordial relations have been established between the two countries and there is need to further enhance trade and economic relations. Sadiq Sanjrani was of the view that Italian companies should take advantage of the investment and business opportunities available

in Pakistan. The Chairman Senate said that Pakistan attaches special importance to its relations with Italy and is keen to improve relations with Italy in various fields including economic cooperation. The Chairman Senate underlined that international cooperation was essential to mitigate the socio-economic effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The Italian Ambassador appreciated Pakistan's role in regional stability and assured that he would play active role in further enhancing diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan. The Italian Ambassador appreciated the efforts of the Pakistani government to deal with Covid situation.

## Suspect arrested over July 4 US shooting

Robert E Crimo III, 22, was detained after a brief chase, police said. The gunman climbed on to a roof, shooting randomly at spectators using a high-powered rifle

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: US police have arrested a suspect after six people were killed in a shooting attack on an Independence Day parade in Highland Park, Illinois. Robert E Crimo III, 22, was detained after a brief chase, police said. The gunman climbed on to a roof, shooting randomly at spectators using a high-powered rifle. It is the latest mass shooting to hit the US - there has been one in every week of 2022. President Joe Biden said he was "shocked" by the violence. Mr Crimo was detained after a manhunt. He was referred to as a "person of interest" in Monday's shooting, but after his arrest police said they believed he was responsible. The gunman began firing at members of the public from the rooftop of a shop

at around 10:15 local time (15:15 GMT), just a few minutes after the parade began. What should have been a day of celebration quickly turned to panic, with pushchairs, purses and lawn chairs abandoned as crowds fled from the scene. Some witnesses said they thought the sound of gunfire were fireworks or a car backfiring. One man, who was having breakfast at a nearby Starbucks when the shooting happened, told that 30 people came running into the coffee shop looking for cover. But they all had to be evacuated because they thought the gunman was trying to get in through the back door. Speaking at a press conference, Lake County Major Crime Task Force spokesman Chris Covelli said multiple firearms belonging to Mr Crimo were recovered - all purchased in the local area.

## Inside...

- KPRM hands over equipment to KPRA - Page 02
- Quality education imperative for prosperity: President - Page 03
- FPCCI, Syria agree to develop strong ties - Page 04
- Economy measures - Earning by Saving - Page 05
- Pakistan's embassy holds mango festival in Ankara - Page 06
- NATO signs accession protocols for Sweden, Finland - Page 07
- Terrorist attacks against policemen in KP increasing - Page 08

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YERZHAN KISTAFIN  
**Kazakhstan referendum a revolutionary step**

National Day of Italy celebrated

Mango Festival at Serena Hotel draws huge interest

CEO Monal hosts farewell dinner for Dr. Maen

LARGEST CIRCULATED DIPLOMATIC MAGAZINE

# KPRM hands over equipment to KPRA

The equipment will help KPRA to provide quick and more efficient response to taxpayers' queries and will connect the taxpayers to right officers related to their issues

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: To facilitate taxpayers and support Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) in its strategy of digital transformation, the USAID-funded Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Mobilization Activity on Tuesday handed over equipment to the Authority. The Director-General KPRA Capt. (Rtd.) Shahbaz Tahir Nadeem formally received the equip-

ment including call center setup, video conferencing, e-hearing system, furniture, laptops, and ACs from the USAID-KPRM in a ceremony held at the KPRA head office Peshawar. Speaking at the occasion, Director General KPRA Capt. (Rtd.) Shahbaz Tahir Nadeem thanked the USAID-KPRM team for assisting KPRA in its steps taken for the taxpayers' facilitation and strengthening of the Authority. "The equipment will help KPRA to provide quick and more efficient response to

taxpayers' queries and will connect the taxpayers to right officers related to their issues," he said, adding that they hope that USAID-KPRM will continue its support with the KPRA for taxpayers' facilitation and tax acculturation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. USAID's KPRM activity chief Temur Ahmad said that they will continue to provide support to KPRA for its strengthening and also discussed training arrangements for the KPRA staff in audit and other fields.

## Government of KP decides to conduct fresh environmental profiling

The meeting also approved the Rules of Procedure of Councils with necessary changes and constitution of various committees under the council

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Council has decided to conduct fresh environmental profiling of the province and to introduce Zig Zag technology in the brick-kilns in order to control environmental pollution. The decision was taken during the first meeting of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Council held here on Tuesday with Chief Minister Mahmood Khan in the chair. The meeting also approved the Rules of Procedure of Councils with necessary changes and constitution of various committees under the council. Provincial cabinet members Ishtiaq Urmar, Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif, administrative secretaries of concerned departments, non-official members of the council and other relevant officials attended the meeting. The forum was briefed in detail about the constitution of council, its powers, responsibilities and other related matters. The forum unanimously agreed to the proposal regarding use of latest equipment for the monitoring of water and air pollution as well as to install automatic sensors to monitor the pollution of industrial units or activities. It was also agreed in the meeting to install Water Recycling Plants in the industrial zones and the Chief Minister directed the

concerned quarters to complete homework to this end. Briefing about the actions so far taken by the department, the forum was informed that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Climate Change Policy and Action Plan 2022 have been prepared and would soon be presented before the provincial cabinet for approval. Similarly, necessary amendments have also been proposed in the Environmental Protection Act 2014 aimed at to effectively control the Environmental Pollution whereas an additional clause has been included in the Act to impose a ban on the use of plastic bags. The chief minister has directed all the relevant departments and institutions to have an effective coordination mechanism to eliminate the environmental pollution and said that all the departments would have to fulfill their respective responsibilities well in time for the purpose. He further directed them to ensure strict implementation of the relevant rules and regulations and to keep a vigilant eye on the industrial units causing environmental pollution adding that the power regarding cancellation of NoCs of such industrial units would be assigned to the Environmental Protection Agency. He also directed the quarters concerned to make the Building Control Authority operational as soon as possible. - APP

## Sher Khan Shaheed's martyrdom anniversary observed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 23rd martyrdom anniversary of Captain Colonel Sher Khan Shaheed recipient of Nishan-e-Haider was observed at his mausoleum in his native town of Swabi in a solemn ceremony. Inspector General of Frontier Corps (IG FC) Major General Adil Yameen laid a wreath at the shrine of the martyr and a smartly turned out contingent of the Pakistan Army presented a guard of honor on the occasion, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) media release. A heartfelt tribute was paid to Captain Colonel Sher Khan Shaheed at the ceremony which was attended by people from all walks of life, it said. The civil and military officials and the martyr's family also attended the ceremony, it added. President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also paid tribute to Captain Karnal Sher Khan for his valour and bravery.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic to Pakistan Totuaev Ulanbek Asankulovich called on the Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain in his office. - DNA

## VC KMU calls on CM Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Vice-chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq called on Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan. During the meeting, he thanked the Chief Minister and the provincial government for including four development schemes worth Rs. 7481.707 million for KMU in the annual development program. On the occasion, the vice-chancellor of KMU Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq briefed the Chief Minister in detail about the performance and progress of KMU and various academic and research activities under the University. Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq informed the Chief Minister that the excellent services rendered by the KMU Public Health Reference Lab during the Corona pandemic through timely measures resulted in less loss of life and property in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa than in other provinces. He said that more than 1.8 million tests have been

conducted in PHRL so far, while KMU has opened new campuses in most of the districts of the province in the last two years with 200 institutes and 50,000 students thus becoming the largest university of the province. He apprised the Chief Minister that the university has presented a surplus budget for the last several years due to excellent financial discipline and control of additional expenses. Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq briefed the Chief Minister about his recent visit to Kabul and said that the Afghan government has expressed special interest in opening a campus in Kabul in collaboration with KMU and Insha-Allah, the KMU International Campus will be launched soon. He welcomed the decision of the Chief Minister to set up medical colleges in Charsadda, Buner, Timergara, Mansehra, and Karak and reiterated all possible cooperation and guidance with the Health Department in this regard. Meanwhile, Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq,

Vice-Chancellor, KMU expressed special thanks to the Chief Minister for including four developmental schemes worth Rs. 7481.707 million for the establishment of the Institute of Medical Sciences, Kohat, KMU Stroke and Rehabilitation Center, Swat, Bone Marrow Transplant Center Peshawar, and KMU Institute of Health Sciences Mardan Swat. He hoped that the completion of these projects would not only help KMU to stand on its own feet but it will also help the general public to get the best medical treatment and medical research facilities at their doorstep. Finally, he formally invited the Chief Minister to inaugurate four new laboratories, Academic and Administration Block, Hayatabad, Peshawar, and the newly established Institute of Health Sciences at Mardan, Kohat, and Para Chinar campuses. The Chief Minister thanked him and directed his staff to make necessary arrangements for the inaugurations of the said projects after the Eid ul Azha holidays.

## Shazia Marri terms July 5 as darkest day in Pakistan history

DNA

KARACHI: Federal Minister and Central Information Secretary of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarian, Shazia Marri termed July 5, 1977 as the most shameful and darkest day in the history of Pakistan. She said that July 5, 1977 is the darkest day in the history of Pakistan whose devastating effects have caused irreparable damage to Pakistan. Shazia Marri added that on this day, the worst dictator Zia-ul-Haq ousted the first democratically elected Prime Minister of Pakistan Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and he altered Pakistan's political fabric by overthrowing and arresting ruling PM but he couldn't remove the Shaheed Bhutto's thoughts and ideology from the hearts and minds of peoples.

## Import, export and trade deficit, with China discussed

'I am grateful to the PCJCCI for conducting a meeting before my visit to China'

LAHORE: Pakistan's Commercial Counsellor designate to Beijing (China) Ghulam Qadir met office-bearers of the Pakistan-China Joint Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) here on Tuesday and discussed issues of trade deficit and the means to enhance imports and exports between the two countries. The meeting was attended by PCJCCI President Wang Zihai, Senior Vice President Ehsan Chaudhry, Vice President Sarfaraz Butt, Secretary General Salahuddin Hanif and executive committee members - SM Naveed, Daud Ahmed, Khalid Raffique Chaudhry, Ashraf Rana, Zaki Aijaz, Muhammad Idrees and Jahangir Ahmed. Ghulam Qadir said that importers and exporters both were important when it comes to trade. "We should come forward to implement a mechanism to enhance foreign direct investment (FDI) because the GDP of Pakistan is low, the inflation rate is increasing day by day, and exports have decreased. We need to diversify the main origins of FDI inflows with better economic diplomacy," he suggested. He said, "I am grateful to the PCJCCI for conducting a

meeting before my visit to China. I will definitely address the queries of our business community and try to resolve them." SVP Ehsan Chaudhry suggested establishing 'Buying House' in Pakistan to increase imports and exports and provide maximum facilities to the business community. The Pakistan government should establish sourcing parks or buying houses and ensure all amenities through a single-window facility, to make the country an attractive destination for sourcing by the international buyers. "In this way we can develop a long term quality oriented trade relations with China, Middle East and other countries," he added. Wang Zihai, President PCJCCI, also joined the meeting through video-link and called for taking steps to attract Chinese investment in various potential industrial sectors including furniture, handicrafts, textile, fertilizers, cement, glass-work, energy and pharmaceuticals. He added that the Chinese government had also allocated buying houses for Pakistan in China where they can present their products. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance Miftah Ismail held a meeting with Finance Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Taimur Saleem Khan Jhagra. The meeting discussed budgetary and financial issues related to KP government. - DNA

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## 9-day training on child protection concludes

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: A 9-day training on Child Protection Case Management and Referral System in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, jointly organized by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Child Protection and Welfare Commission (KPCPWC) and UNICEF concluded in Peshawar on Tuesday. According to a press release issued here, the purpose of training was to build capacity of participants on newly developed case management and referral system for the prevention and response in cases of children at risk including abuse, neglect and exploitation. The training was conducted in two phases. During initial three days, relevant stakeholders including more than hundred representatives of government departments, civil society organizations and field staff of child protection were sensitized regarding case management and referral system. In the second phase, staff of KPCPWC and Zamung kor who are directly involved in prevention, response and service delivery, were comprehensively trained on the case management for six days. Ijaz Muhammad Khan, Chief Protection Officer said that KPCPWC has joined hands with UNICEF, UNHCR and other national and international organizations to fur-

ther strengthen child protection system in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The system will be implemented in the whole province in which all relevant government departments especially judiciary, education, health, social welfare and other service delivery organizations involved in service delivery, will be included in referral network. The instant training is first step

of the said series of trainings. Sohail Ahmad Child Protection Specialist said that UNICEF has been supporting Social Welfare Department and KPCPWC since 2011 technically and financially for the welfare and protection of children in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by establishing and strengthening of Child Protection Units in twelve districts of the province. More-

over, it has also supported the Commission in awareness raising, advocacy, lobbying and policy. Currently UNICEF is working with provincial government on devising Child Protection Policy of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and further enhancing case management system. In the end, certificates were distributed among participants. Awards were also distributed among var-

ious notable child rights activists in recognition of their efforts for ensuring child protection in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including Imran Takkar, Sohail Ahmad, Zafar Ali Khan, Tahir Khan, Savinder Kumar and Ijaz Muhammad Khan. Imran Takkar, child rights expert and one of the trainers in the said workshop said that capacity building and coordination among the key department/stakeholders is always significant component of a strengthened child protection system. He said it is pertinent to create awareness among the masses keeping in view to prevent children from all kind of abuse and exploitation. He requested at the end of the training that resources to be provided by the KP government keeping in view establishing a strengthened child protection system across the province. Nabeeta Maryam Mohsin, Secretary Social Welfare told that Social Welfare Department is committed for the provision of protective environment to children in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Therefore, the department in the collaboration of KPCPWC and other stakeholders proposed a comprehensive package of amendments in current law, increasing punishments for crimes against children. The amendments have been passed by the provincial assembly and will be notified in few days.



**National Days and Armed Forces Days**

- JULY**
- July 01 / **Japan** Self Defence Day
  - July 01 / **Singapore** Armed Forces Day
  - July 01 / **Canada** National Day
  - July 01 / **Somalia** Independence Day
  - July 04 / **USA** Independence Day
  - July 05 / **Algeria** Independence Day
  - July 09 / **Argentine** Independence Day
  - July 09 / **Mongolia** Revolution Day
  - July 14 / **France** National Day
  - July 15 / **Brunei** Sultan's Birthday
  - July 21 / **Belgium** National Day
  - July 20 / **TRNC** Independence Day
  - July 23 / **Egypt** National Day
  - July 26 / **Cuba** National Day
  - July 26 / **Liberia** National Day
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- Motorway Police.....9270601-20
- Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
- Rawalpindi.....9270601-20

**Enquiry**

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

**Hospitals**

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

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- CDA.....9208301-04
- Met Office.....9250360-6
- RDA.....5555864
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ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner Dr. Christian Turner calls on PTI Chairman Imran Khan. – DNA

# Quality education imperative for prosperity: President Alvi

The president said great freedom fighters Syed Ahmad Shaheed and Shah Ismail had embraced Shahadat (martyrdom) while fighting for independence of Muslims against colonial rulers and Sikhs at Balakot

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi here Tuesday said that quality education and character building of students were imperative for progress and prosperity of the country. Addressing the 26th convocation of Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Science and Technology, Topi Swabi, the president said besides Islam, our rich culture, history and the society had laid great emphasis on education and character building of students and educational institutions should focus in this direction to make the

country economically strong. Eulogizing the educational services of GIK Institute of Science and Technology Topi, he said the parents should also deserve appreciations for enabling their children to read in the country's top educational institutes. He said those parents, who visited abroad for employment had a great desire to concentrate on character building and personality development of their children, adding additional responsibilities laid on the guardians and teachers to focus on character development of all students whose parents were working overseas. The president said he was a chan-

cellor of about 40 to 42 universities having a close contact with the senate and executive board of GIK Institute and found that this premier educational institution was going in the right direction. He urged students to recite the famous Dua (prayer) of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Musa (AS) on which He (Hazrat Mosa AS) had prayed Allah Almighty to open his chest by granting self-confidence, contentment and boldness and ease his task, and make loose knot (the defect) from his tongue so that they understand his speech. He said everything could be achieved in life by strictly adhering

to this famous Dua of Hazrat Musa (AS). The president said cases of Islamophobia had been increased in the neighbouring eastern country. He said that Pakistan was created on the basis of two-nation theory and today's the vision of fore fathers, who created an independent state for the Muslims of Subcontinent in the shape of Pakistan was proved correct after witnessing rising cases of Islamophobia and human rights violations against minorities especially Muslims in the neighbouring eastern country. The president said great freedom fighters Syed Ahmad Shaheed and Shah Ismail had embraced

Shahadat (martyrdom) while fighting for independence of Muslims against colonial rulers and Sikhs at Balakot. He said renaissance movement started by the great Sir Syed Ahmad Khan for education, social and political empowerment of Muslims was carried forward by poet of the east Dr Muhammad Iqbal and successfully concluded by father of the nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in the shape of Pakistan on August 14, 1947. He said Pakistan was created after a lot of sacrifices and it was responsibility of all of us including students to work tirelessly for its strengthening and prosperity.

# Sajid Turi reiterates facilitating Labors and Overseas Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi on Tuesday vowed to solve the problems of overseas Pakistanis and laborers on a war footings. He was addressing a joint meeting of senior officials from Capital Development Authority (CDA), Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO); MD and DG OPF, members of OPF Owners Valley Association and officials from other relevant departments also attended the meeting, said a press release. In the meeting, Development work, power and water supply and release of mortgaged plots of allottees were reviewed in detail. The Federal Minister expressed that the housing scheme for overseas Pakistanis was launched by Sha-

heed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto which was not properly pursued by later governments however development work was resumed in 2008 during PPP government under the leadership of then President Asif Ali Zardari. He expressed that under the farsighted guidance of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the dream of Shaheed Mohtarama Benazir Bhutto shall be fulfilled with full dedications and tireless efforts. He directed directed the concerned officials and departments to resolve all issues related OPF Valley Phase-5, Islamabad by end of this month. He said that by complete development of the housing scheme, Pakistan could receive a huge amount of remittances helping the country in this difficult time of economic crisis. He said that more opportunities, relief, facili-

ties and welfare schemes for overseas Pakistanis are in streamline and would be announced soon. Presiding over another meeting with officials of Workers Welfare Fund and Pakistan Mines Workers Federation, Federal Minister Sajid Hussain Turi said that his ministry would continue to take initiatives for the welfare of workers and laborers. "Every effort will be made to ensure the welfare of workers in mines," he said. The meeting also discussed the welfare of mine workers, their due representation in the Boards of Trustees, EOBI and WWF and the required grants from the Workers Welfare Fund and EOBI for their families. The Federal Minister said that PPP represents the working and labor class of the country and their welfare is at the top of its Manifesto. – APP

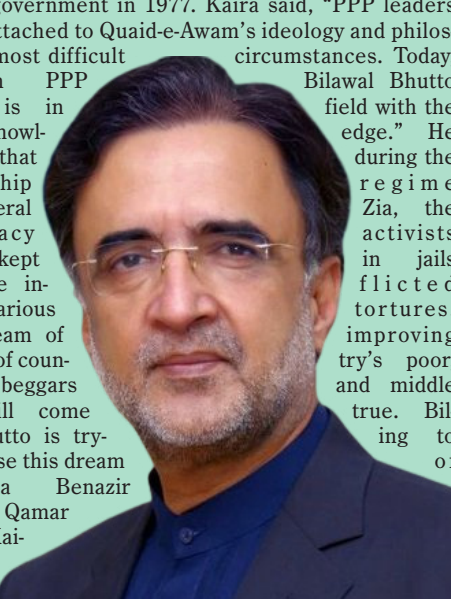
# RCCI demands solution to address loadshedding

DNA

RAWALPINDI: President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Nadeem Rauf has said that a permanent solution to the power crisis should be found and a long term policy should be adopted for the power sector. We welcomed the government announcement to shift government buildings to solar. In order to increase the domestic production of solar panels, a concessional package has to be given so that the import bill is reduced, he added. Speaking in a TV program, RCCI President said that the main cause of the energy crisis in Pakistan is mixed fuel transformation. Sixty percent of Pakistan's total electricity generation is thermal, which requires importing diesel and furnace oil. Thirty percent is hydel, which requires a long-term policy, but we have seen that under public pressure the governments take shortcuts.

# Kaira terms July 5th as darkest day in country's history

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira on Tuesday said July 5th was the darkest day in the history of the country as on the same day a dictator had overthrown an elected democratic government and derailed the development of the country in 1977. In his message on July 5th, he said the dictatorial regime of General Zia took fascist measures after toppling the elected government in 1977. Kaira said, "PPP leaders remain attached to Quaid-e-Awam's ideology and philosophy in most difficult circumstances. Today, Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is in same field with same knowledge. He added that during the dictatorship of General Zia, the democracy were kept and were in various jails. He said that the dream of the lives of counsellors, beggars class will come true. Bilawal Bhutto is trying to materialise this dream Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto," Qamar Zaman Kaira said. – APP



# Non-traditional security challenges discussed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP), and India Study Centre (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a Webinar titled, "Non-Traditional Security Challenges in South Asia" on July 05, 2022. The discussants included: Mr Sanjay Vashist, Director, Climate Action Network South Asia; Professor Buddhi Marambe, University of Peradeniya Sri Lanka; Ms Puruesh Chaudhry, Founder & President AGAHI; Mr. Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, Advisor on Climate Change, Planning Commission of Pakistan; and Professor Muhammad Rezaur Rahman, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology. The Session was moderated Dr Arshad Ali, Director of ISC. In her introductory remarks Dr Neelum Nigar, Director, CSP, welcomed the guests and said that post-Cold War Non-Traditional Security Challenges (NTSC) have become an important issue. South Asia is faced with issues related to climate change and is adversely affected by them, and there is a need to optimally address them. During his welcome remarks Ambassador Aizzaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI, said that NTSC are very broad-based,

and South Asia is one of the vulnerable regions with regards to climate change. Global factors are also exacerbating these issues and there is a need to have extensive discussion regionally to resolve them. While speaking on the issue of climate change and environmental degradation, Mr Sanjay Vashist stated that climate change is forcing people to migrate and it is important to provide legal protection to all such people. Moreover, to mitigate climate change, it is important that more resources are allocated for protecting the people and development of the region.

In his remarks about the issue of food security in the region, Professor Buddhi Marambe said that food security is a national security issue and needs to be tackled accordingly. The issue is being aggravated due to the decline in crop yields in South Asia. Decisions taken by people impact climate change and food security and thus needs to have scientific-based solutions to tackle them. Ms Puruesh Chaudhry highlighted the effects of population explosion for the region and stated that demographics are changing in South Asia due to increasing population

and impacting both urban and rural centres. The population increase should be seen as a scenario-based exercise. There is a need to create a long view approach so that the policymakers have a potential idea about what are the problem areas and how they should be dealt with. While highlighting the nexus of water security and climate change, Mr. Ali Tauqeer Sheikh said that in South Asia rivers have been divided whereas other countries have divided waters. There is a need to bring elements of climate change mitigation into the Indus Water Treaty as has been done in the Ganges Treaty. South Asia needs to protect water ecosystems and have flexible water management solutions to deal with issues of water security being caused by climate change. In his talk about disaster risk management in South Asia, Professor Muhammad Rezaur Rahman stated that South Asia is faced with many natural disasters and the increase in calamities has become a new normal. New kinds of disasters like heatwaves, lightning strikes, and pandemic are also increasing in the region. The emergence of these new hazards is further aggravated by infrastructural traps. Thus, there is a need to exchange data, improve resilience and engage civic bodies for effective results of DRM in the South Asian region.



# AIOU uploads tutors list on CMS

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has appointed tutors for hundreds and thousands of students enrolled in all programs offered in spring 2022 semester. Detailed information about the appointed tutors is uploaded to the students' CMS portal. Students can check the information of their tutors in my tutor tab. Moreover, the assignments submission schedule has also been uploaded on the university website. Students registered in Associate degree, BS, B.Ed, MA, M.Sc and M.Ed (ODL) will submit their assignments online while students enrolled in matric, FA and BA (Associate degree) will send their assignments to tutors manually as per previous practice. Students are directed to upload the typed assignments in "word" or "pdf" format on their Aagahi LMS portal. Handwritten or scanned assignments will not be accepted. Students enrolled in Urdu or Arabic degree programs are allowed to upload handwritten assignments. Assignments received after the due dates will be considered as late and will not be accepted. It is pertinent to mention here that the university has provided soft copies of these books online on the university website (www.aiou.edu.pk).

# July 5 was darkest day in history

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Water Resources Syed Khurshid Ahmad Shah on Tuesday said July 5 was the darkest day in the country's history as on that very day sectarianism, oppression, violence, regionalism and terrorism were founded. The minister said in a statement. He said the dictatorship had always been a tool of the colonial powers. The justice of history is that the name of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto is still alive in the hearts of the people, he added. – APP

# CDNS collects Rs 1250 bln through fresh bonds

ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) on Tuesday surpassed its annual target and set a historic record of Rs 1,250 billion savings till June 30, 2022. For the first time in its history, National Savings crossed Rs 1,000 billion fresh deposits and achieved the target of Rs 1,250 billion by June 30, 2022, the senior official of CDNS told APP here. The CDNS has attained the target of issuing Rs1,250 billion fresh bonds in the last months of current fiscal year 2021-22, from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. It had set an annual gross receipt target of Rs 980 billion from July 1 to June 30 of the previous fiscal year 2020-21 to promote savings in the country. – APP

# ANF recovers 280 kg narcotics; arrests six

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) on Tuesday conducted three operations in Islamabad, Peshawar and Quetta and managed to recover 280 kg narcotics besides netting six accused including a woman. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, in an operation conducted near Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad, ANF recovered 111 kg narcotics including 64.8 kg Chars and 46.8 kg opium from a vehicle and arrested three accused namely Hamad, Qaiser and Shumaila a female. In another raid, ANF Peshawar conducted a raid near Gora Qabristan, G.T.Road Peshawar and recovered 108 kg opium and 38.4 kg charras from a Kia Sportage vehicle. The raiding party also netted an accused namely Imran Ashraf and recovered a pistol from his possession. – APP

## Briefs

Chairman  
NHA to  
hold 'Khuli  
Katchery'

ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Highways Authority Captain (R) Muhammad Khurram Agha will hold an online open court (Khuli Katchery) on Thursday. The open court was aimed to resolve the grievances of general public. He will listen the complaints of the people and also issue order on spot to resolve their grievances. The open court would be held from 8 am to 10 am on official page of NHA. - APP

USC outlets  
ensuring  
sufficient  
stock

ISLAMABAD: As per the special direction from the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the Utility Store Corporation was working round the clock for providing five essential subsidies food items through all stores, Senior General Manager, USC Inayat Ullah Daula said on Tuesday. In an exclusive talk with PTV News, GM USC said that sufficient stock of all the subsidized items is available at utility stores across the country while there is no shortage of any item at USC outlets. He said that all the 4,000 branches of utility stores, sugar was available at Rs70 per kg, ghee at Rs300 per kg and 10 kg bag of flour at Rs. 400, adding, the prices of these items are less as compared to open market. The consumers visiting stores must bring their CNIC along. He said USC was making the subsidy system more transparent, digitalize and through a comprehensive system by installing vigilant cameras inside and outside stores for strictly monitoring workers' dealing with customers. He said that the counters of stores were being increased in super and mini stores, adding, we have specific arrangements for the facilitation of customers at all stores. - APP

NEPRA  
imposes Rs  
10 mln fine  
on QESCO

ISLAMABAD: National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has imposed Rs 10 million fine on Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) for negligence which resulted in fatal incidents during the period from July 2019 to June 2021. NEPRA upon receipt of reports of 15 deaths in different electrocution incidents during the aforementioned period, constituted two member Investigation Committee under Section 27A of NEPRA Act 1997 to visit the respective areas, conduct investigation, ascertain and determine the facts and possible violations of NEPRA Laws, Rules and Regulations. The Investigation Committee's report revealed that four out of the total 15 fatalities occurred due to QESCO's negligence, said a press release. - APP

Passing out  
of 1,601 Aero  
apprentices  
held

ISLAMABAD: As many as 1,601 Aero Apprentices on Tuesday pass out after culmination of their training during a passing out parade held here at Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Airmen Academy, Korangi Creek. Chief Project Director JF-17, Pakistan Air Force, Air Marshal Waqas Ahmed Sulehri was the chief guest at the occasion, said a PAF media release.

Earlier on his arrival, Air Officer Commanding, PAF Airmen Academy Korangi Creek (PAAK) Air Vice Marshal Zubair Hassan Khan received the chief guest. A total of 1,601 Aero Apprentices including trainees from allied countries and Pakistan Navy successfully completed their training. While addressing the ceremony, the chief guest said, "Modern warfare is an exceedingly vast and complex domain, which demands thorough knowledge and inventiveness. We are facing complex and unusual challenges involving inventions and innovations offered by science and technology. - APP

FPCCI, Syria agree  
to develop strong ties

Dr. Mazen Obeid Ambassador of Syria to Pakistan said that there should be strong trade and economic ties with Pakistan as both countries have good potential to enhance cooperation in many fields for their mutual benefit

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-Syria Joint Business Council Meeting chaired by Mr. Umar Masood ur Rehman Vice President FPCCI Held at FPCCI Capital Office Islamabad. Dr. Mazen Obeid, Ambassador of Syria to Pakistan attended the meeting as a special guest. The various methods to develop trade cooperation between both the countries has been discussed, including health, food, and service, in the interest of the businessman of both the countries. Dr. Mazen Obeid, Ambassador of Syria to Pakistan invited the participants to visit Syria and attend the exhibition in July. Mr. Ali Raza Rizvi, Chairmen Pakistan-Syria Business Council discussed the possibilities of exporting Syrian products to Pakistan, and similarly the required products of Pakistan to Syria also appreciated efforts of Pakistan for increasing the trade with Syria. Ms. Nowruz Muhammad, Third Secretary of the Syrian Embassy in Islamabad give presentation on business opportunities in Syria. The meeting was attended by the Mr. Muhammad Saeed Khan, Pakistani Ambassador in Damascus Mr. Saad Masood ur Rehman, Chairman Pakistan-Belarus Joint Business Council & President Mardan Chamber, Muhammad Naseer Kamboh, DG-TDAP and a number of businessmen and women of Pakistan. It is also worth mentioning here that the Syrian-Pakistani Joint Business Council is a department that falls under the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Umar Masood Ur Rehman, Vice President of FPCCI, assured that the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry



(FPCCI) will always ready to work with the Syrian Embassy to further improvement in trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Syria. Both sides have good potential to enhance cooperation in tourism, health, SMEs, and other sectors. Both countries should focus on joint ventures, investment projects, commercial deals, and organizing exhibitions for further improvement in business relationship. Mr. Ali Raza Rizvi, Chairman Pakistan-Syria Joint Business Council & Mr. Saad Masood Ur Rehman, Chairman Pakistan Belarus joint Business Council & President Mardan CCI said that the

business community of Pakistan is ready to contribute to reducing the economic problems of the Syrian business people. He said that many products of Pakistan including marble and granite, pharmaceuticals, leather goods, food products, steel, cement, IT, and light engineering could find a good market in Syria and these products should be import from Pakistan. H.E. Dr. Mazen Obeid Ambassador of Syria to Pakistan said that there should be strong trade and economic ties with Pakistan as both countries have good potential to enhance cooperation in many fields for their mutual benefit. He emphasized on creating a Pak-Sy-

ria Business Council to promote business relations between the two countries. PIA has started two weekly flights to Syria and hoped that it would help improve trade between the two countries. He also urged on private sectors of both countries to participate in each other's exhibitions to explore new avenues of business collaboration. The Ambassador further stated the Syrian Arab Republic is hosting an exhibition during the month of July. He requested that Pakistani businessmen must participate in said exhibition for interaction between the business people of both countries. He also suggested that FPCCI should also make a delegation to visit Syria.

KIIR denounces India to  
suppress press freedom

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a webinar hosted by Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) and World Muslim Congress (WMC) strongly denounced the Modi government for using UAPA and other draconian laws to suppress press freedom and dissent in the Indian occupied Kashmir. The webinar titled "UAPA: A hanging sword on journalists and human rights defenders in IoK" was organised as sideline of the 50th session of UN human rights council, said a press release. Webinar was addressed by noted human rights activists, academicians and law experts from different Prof. Dr. Amina Mehmood of International Islamic University, Director LFK Advocate Nasir Qadri and Owais Bin Wasi acting Dean of social science Rafia University Advocate Rehana Ali UK others. Whereas the event was moderated by the KIIR Chairman Altaf Hussain Wani. In his initial remarks the KIIR chief while referring to Modi government's systematic clampdown on civil society, journalist, human

rights defenders and political activists in Indian occupied Kashmir said that the occupation authorities have been using so-called anti-terror laws to a weapon to silence the voices of dissent in Kashmir. He said that in addition to PSA, AFSPA and other draconian laws the decades old anti-terror law-UAPA was being used by India as a weapon of war to enable complete silence in Kashmir. He said that slapping of be it journalist, rights activist or even a common citizen everyone was being slapped with UAPA. The UAPA, he said, has been amended multiple times to make it more effective. Referring to the most recent amendment in the law, Wani said that besides empowering the government to declare any individual as a terrorist the notorious law allows the DG of NIA seizure of property under Section 25 and the powers of officers with the rank of inspectors and above to investigate cases under UAPA Section 43. Citing the international covenants, Wani said, "The recent Amendment is

contrary to the principle of 'innocent until proven guilty' and also violates the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1967, which recognizes the mentioned principle as a universal human right". The speakers said that Indian occupation authorities had also invoked Section 13 of UAPA against people who were accessing social media during the longest ever internet ban imposed by the government when it scrapped Article 370 of the constitution to divide the state into two centrally administered UT's. In the aftermath of 5th August 2019, the panelists said that the law (UAPA) was badly misused in Kashmir to suppress the voices that have been critical to the Indian government's muscular policy towards Kashmir. They regrettably noted that dozens of rights activists including Khurram Pervaiz, Ahsan Untoo and others, who worked extensively to document human rights violations being committed by the Indian army in the region, were booked under the same law and thrown behind the bars. - APP

CDA's grand operation  
against encroachments  
in sector G-11/2

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On the direction of the management of Capital Development Authority, the Enforcement Department on Tuesday conducted operation in Sector G-11/2 of Islamabad with the assistance of district administration and Islamabad police. Operations were carried out to eradicate the encroachments which were established beyond the plot lines. According to the details, a massive operation was carried out on the complaints of the residents of Sector G-11/2 on the instructions of the Chairman Capital Development Authority. As a result, encroachments in front of more than 350 residential houses located in 22 streets were demolished with the help of heavy machinery. Several car sheds, fences and entrances gates built on government land were demolished with the help of heavy machinery. It is pertinent to mention here that these encroachments were disrupting the movement of residents and the flow of traffic. After the operation, footpaths and streets were opened for pedestrian movement and traffic. On this occasion, the CDA administration said that protection of government lands is our top priority and no concessions will be made to the land mafia and these measures are aimed at keeping Islamabad free from illegal constructions and encroachments. It should be noted that for the last several months, the CDA has been conducting continuous operations against encroachments and illegal constructions in the Federal Capital, which has resulted in the retrieved of billions of rupees of government land.

1000 corps to be  
part of revamped  
rescue 15 team

ISLAMABAD: The Eagle Squads of Islamabad police comprising around 1000 policemen would serve with newly revamped rescue service of the force "Pukaar-15" to provide immediate assistance to citizens in case of emergency calls. Police said that the Eagle Squads of 1,000 police personnel has been added to "Pukaar-15" which will act as a first responder in case of any emergent situation. The basic purpose of the Pukaar-15 is to facilitate the citizens at their doorsteps. Citizens when will call Pukaar-15 in any emergency and the nearest Eagle Squad will arrive as the first responder, police said.

It is worth mentioning that Islamabad police have merged all police emergency services at Safe City and introduced new helpline with the name of "Pukaar-15" for prompt action in case of any mishap and provision of police report to the complainant on the spot. Police said that Interior Ministry has directed the revamping of Safe City and reforms in the police. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan, Yerzhan Kistafin exchanging views with Federal Minister for Commerce, Naveed Qamer. - DNA

## Govt plans to switch 1.2m tube-wells to solar energy

The minister further informed that government was also keen to announce minimum support price for wheat before the start of the sowing season in order to encourage farmers to sow more wheat

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security and Research Tariq Bashir Cheema on Tuesday said over 1.2 million agriculture tubewells would be switched to solar energy to reduce input cost and enhance farm income, particularly that of the small land holders. Addressing a press conference, the minister said that a task force was being formed to finalize modalities and engage commercial banks to finance the facility. Under the facility, the farmers would have to repay the loans in installments up to three years. He said, the initiative has been taken on the directives of Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, who has also asked for formulating short and long term policies to ensure tangible results in shortest possible time with focus on reviving agriculture sector for maintaining food safety and security as well as reasserting of farming communities. While reaffirming the government's commitment to ensure proper rate of return

to the farmers for their produces as well as enhancing the output of all major and minor crops, he said that recommendation for cotton intervention price was finalized and put on agenda of next meeting of Cabinet for approval. He said that the initiative was aiming at encouraging the farmers to bring maximum areas under cultivation of this crop of vital importance, adding that area under crop sowing during last season reduced by 37 percent, which was replaced by rice, maize and sugarcane.

The minister further informed that government was also keen to announce minimum support price for wheat before the start of the sowing season in order to encourage farmers to sow more wheat for attaining self-sufficiency in staple grains production and reduce reliance on imported wheat and edible oil that were enhancing pressure on much needed foreign exchange reserves. The minister said that government was aware of rising inflation and the problems being faced by the common man in the country, adding that steps were taken to protect

them from the inflationary pressures. He said that government through its Utility Stores Corporation network was ensuring provision of essential commodities on controlled rates and provided wheat, flour and other commodities during the holy month of Ramzan. In order to avert any possible shortage on food grains by the emerging Russia-Ukraine conflict, the government had beefed up its strategic reserves and enhanced wheat procurement targets of all provincial governments and PASSCO, adding that it was also decided to import about 3 million tons of wheat to ensure smooth supply throughout the year. Highlighting the relief measures introduced by the incumbent government for agriculture sector, he said that sales tax on tractors was withdrawn, where as seed cotton and canola were exempted from sales tax, adding no tax was levied on fertilizers to facilitate the growers. He said that government was paying special focus on small scale growers as they were about 92 percent of total farming community having less than 12 acres of land, adding that measures would be introduced to

ensure their access to credit facility and saving them from the exploitation of middle man. Tariq Bashir said that despite the tough condition agreed by the last government with International Monetary Fund, the coalition partners had decided to take tough decision to save the country from default and also decided to take masses into confidence by sharing the facts with them. The minister said that government was taking other measures to benefit from the Chinese experience and expertise in agriculture and livestock, adding that agreement for the buffalo breed improvement with China was finalized. He said that China was the biggest importer of beef and it was asked to establish farms in Pakistan that would help to develop the local livestock sector as well. The minister said that government was evolving a mechanism by taking all the provinces on board to ensure uninterpreted supply of fertilizers on affordable rates, besides discouraging the hoarding and black marketing of the commodity.

IRSA  
releases  
291680  
cusecs  
water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 291680 cusecs water from various rim stations with an inflow of 422644 cases. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1110.75 feet, which was 60.75 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded a 40864 and 15000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 132408, 108851 and 54035 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River, a total of 47300 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 86780 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. - APP

Road users  
laud NHMP

ISLAMABAD: The road users highly praised National Highways and Motorway Police for giving cold water at various entry points of motorways. On social media, the initiative was highly lauded by the motorists who were provided cold water and juices on various entry points by the Motorway Police officers. "Motorway Police have been so kind and generous, when we were travelling from Haripur to Islamabad, they approached us at the interchange gracefully and gave us cold drinks and mineral water on entry points," said a commuter Zain Haseeb. Another commuter Aziz ur Rehman said that Motorway police also served us cold water while briefing us about the traffic laws at Batagram, Hazara motorway. He said that this step was highly commendable and shows the professionalism of Motorway Police to commuters. Another commuter Muhammad Umar said that he was travelling from Abbotabad to Islamabad and motorway police served him delicious juices and politely inquired about any problem during the travel. The motorway police on daily basis interacted and provided them cold water, besides educating them about the traffic laws. The commuters highly praised Inspector General NHMP Khalid Mahmood and Minister for Communications and Postal Services Asad Mahmood for the initiative aiming to facilitate the passengers during travel. It may be mentioned here that the federal minister has directed the NHMP to provide optimum facilities to the travelers and passengers on national highways and motorways and promptly provide them help. - APP

Hustle-bustle  
witnessing  
ahead of Eid

ISLAMABAD: With annual Islamic festival of Eid ul Azha imminent in few days, the traditional hustle-bustle of sacrificial animals were being witnessed elsewhere in the country including capital city, where animals has become a source of entertainment for children on roads and streets. Citizens are seen to be visiting different localities for buying sacrificial animals and the traders have also started roaming in streets with their heavy weight animals to attract buyers. To attract customers, animals are decorated with colorful garlands, sterling bands, embellished belts and crowns, said a trader while talking to PTV news channel. Majority customers were seen visiting cattle markets and bargaining with sellers for affordable prices, said a customer. Children who bought their animals were seen busy in decorating their animals and painted them beautifully while others are anxiously waiting for the arrival of their animals to do the same, said a motorist. "We are happy that the weather has turned pleasant and now I can take my animals for grazing around streets with the sacrificial animal and take some memorable pictures", said a youngster. Residents of various localities have also decided for combined sacrifices with the cooperation of various religious and social organizations including local seminars. - APP

## NATO fully in Washington's grip

**G**IVEN the revamped Security Concept that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization leaders adopted at their summit in Madrid, Spain, last week, it is clear that the world's largest military bloc is willing to let the United States lead it by the nose. In its blueprint laying out the alliance's top priorities and goals for the next decade, Russia is identified as the "most significant and direct threat" to NATO's security. With this justification, NATO is fanning the flames of the hostilities between Russia and Ukraine, with the aim of debilitating Russia by keeping it bogged down in the quagmire of bloodshed for as long as possible. To this end, various NATO members are supplying weapons to Ukraine, including heavy howitzers and advanced rocket systems. The alliance is also fast-tracking its expansion to isolate Russia on the continent. The Associated Press reported that the 30 NATO member states were set to sign off on the accession protocols for Sweden and Finland on Tuesday, sending their membership bids to the alliance capitals for legislative approval. Rather than looking at the bigger picture of Europe's peace and stability, and making efforts to promote an end to the Ukraine crisis, the other transatlantic leaders seem to have swallowed Washington's narrative of fear, hook, line and sinker. Gripped with a form of mass hysteria, they have done a swift about-face on the stance they adopted until the buildup of the crisis. Now they are eagerly endorsing Washington's efforts to exacerbate the rest of Europe's estrangement with Russia and the proxy war it is waging against it in Ukraine. The US is probably the only beneficiary of what is unfolding in that country. Ukrainian civilians are the immediate victims, but people around the world, particularly the poorest, are also suffering from the spillover effects of the armed conflict. The US is profiting in many ways, but its biggest gain is the new-found transatlantic unity that has consolidated its grip on NATO. Hence, it can be anticipated that with the implementation of its new Strategic Concept, NATO will trigger more geopolitical confrontation rather than acting responsibly to abate it. NATO claims that its focus is on the core task of strengthening joint deterrence and collective defense. But it is clear from what has unfolded in Europe that with Washington pulling its strings, its role is now offensive and its core task is to create crises that serve to consolidate the US' global primacy. The costs of this blinkered vision are evident and growing in Ukraine, where both sides are suffering heavy losses and the civilian death toll continues to rise. With Ukraine now reportedly shelling Russian territory, the hostilities are in danger of intensifying further rather than abating. While that might be pleasing to Washington, it should be worrying to those countries which have a more civil view of international relations.



## No end to load-shedding

**T**HE whole country has been in the grip of load-shedding of electricity right since the collusion government, led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, took over nearly two and half months back. While there may be technical issues impeding an unrestricted supply of power to homes and businesses, the inability of the government to fuel up the various power plants due to a combined effect of costlier oil and depleting foreign exchange reserves is the main reason behind the country experiencing continued load-shedding. To add to the woes of the power-starved consumers, the electricity bills are rather rising. Well, costlier oil is bound to raise power generation cost. The successive deadlines given by the government to rid the nation of the menace of load-shedding have come and gone, but to no avail. The situation is rather worsening by the day. Unfortunately, it appears that hope is the only government strategy to tackle the prolonged power failures across the country – the hope that the temperatures will cool down with the arrival of the monsoon season, bringing down the demand for power; and the hope that the international oil prices will ease some bit and the government will have some fiscal space to fuel up the power plants and run them on full capacity. In the meanwhile, all consumers – domestic, commercial and industrial – have been suffering like never before. While shortage of supply to domestic consumers can only impact the government in terms of falling political capital, the day-to-day outages that the commercial and industrial consumers are suffering will also bring down the government revenues. Obviously, loss of working hours at small shops and big factories means smaller income, and thus smaller income tax. Time for the government to think out of the box for both short- and long-term solutions.

## Economy measures – Earning by Saving

**Ch. Muhammad Latif**

The department of the Railways has an old practice of issuing on a permanent basis to its employees free travel passes in their trains. PIA grants, in addition to bonus, internal and external free family trips to their employees. Department of coastal guards also allows purchase of confiscated items at a depreciated price to its staff

**T**HERE is no denying the fact that there are some genuine economic difficulties faced by our beloved country, Pakistan. But it is also a fact that ours is a great nation with 22 crores of population equipped with atomic capabilities. Even a petty sacrifice by every citizen could produce a big contribution which could ensure stability. Nothing is insurmountable. Serious thinking and all round effective frugality measures could certainly bring down the state expenditure and enhance exports. The measures so far taken are neither systematic nor persistent. Some efforts made in this respect seem just a leap in the dark and most often altered. This article simply aims at dealing with one aspect of our economy which we need to review: the matter of undue and extraordinary concessions granted by some large organisations like

WAPDA, PIA, RAILWAY and coastal guards etc. Some of them are financially sinking ships although they had a monopoly in their domain and now those are surviving on annual subsidies and bail out packages borne by the state. The facilities were granted as an incentive for better performance but are causing havoc to our economy demanding financial aid.

The said organizations have granted concessions and perks over and above the salary and allowances allowed to civil servants. These privileges need to be reviewed in the situation of glaring losses of PIA, Railways, Steel Mills and similar other autonomous bodies. If we take extensive and exhaustive examination of the perks and privileges the financial consequences are alarming.

The department of the Railways has an old practice of issuing on a permanent basis to its employees free travel passes in their trains. PIA grants, in addition to bonus, internal and external free family trips to their employees. The department of coastal guards also allows purchase of confiscated items at a depreciated price to its staff. Even the income tax department is believed to grant a bonus on the recovery of tax to their staff as an incentive.

Analysis of the department of WAPDA would reveal the gravity of financial losses caused to them by undue concessions to its employees. WAPDA has 48 thousand officers and one lac and five thousand other employees. All of them are allowed free of cost electricity which consumes 39 crores and 10 lac free electric units which cost five billion and 25 crores of rupees per annum. Although the inefficiency of WAPDA employees is evident from line losses, non-payment of electricity bills and the kunda system very common in all provinces. Even the government has to engage police forces to effect recovery from defaulters. Normally a lineman is posted in his own domestic area where he also manages non-payments of bills from his negotiators and sometimes their amount is shifted to customers who are regular in payments of bills. So the facility of free electricity units, merits to be withdrawn or at least stipulated with performance. Similar is the position of PIA. It is burdened with over-staffing and the privileges of free internal

and external trips of their staff despite continuous annual losses and demand of huge amounts of subsidies. The ex-Minister of PIA caused irreparable loss to the PIA by his unwise and unscrupulous statements and thereby damaged the only asset of goodwill of PIA within the country and abroad. So many of our outstanding pilots serving in foreign airlines and Air Force suffered heavily and they were removed from service for no fault on their part on the sole plea that the Pakistani Minister PIA had dubbed them as unqualified and fraudulent.

It would be appropriate, therefore, to refer the matter of unusual perks and privileges allowed by aforementioned organisations to the pay and pension commission of the Federal Government to exercise vigilance on payment of unusual salaries. In some departments purchase of expensive vehicles for their officers has also increased the financial liabilities. 800 Assistant Commissioners were provided new vehicles costing 6 billion rupees, in addition to fuel expenses. In the prevailing circumstances such expenses should be curtailed.

Another aspect to be modified for the sake of frugality effort is the concept of protocol. The government could reduce the colossal expenditures incurred on protocol and body guard system which engages bulk to police force and resultantly the person and property of the public at large is jeopardized and compromised. That is why street crimes are rampant in the country. The number of flags may be reviewed as each national flag needs 24 hourly police guards.

Now the timings of the government and business markets are being dictated by princely employees of the Government and wealthy elite class owners of the big plazas and markets. Lawful force should be used against the rich who are indifferent to the painful financial situation of the country and not against the poor population when they become violent due to mismanagement of fiscal policies. Economic measures should be adopted in all fields of our society.

*- The writer of the article is Retired Additional Chief Secretary of AJK and Advocate Supreme Court of AJK.*

## Aid to Ukraine must not be at Africa's expense

**Chris Heitzig & Richard Newfarmer**

Today's Russia-Ukraine war is far more damaging than the conflict in 2014. Consequently, financial assistance has poured into Ukraine

**R**USSIA'S invasion of Ukraine has generated enormous costs. Most have been borne by brave Ukrainian citizens and the unfortunate Russian soldiers ordered to fight. But the whole world has experienced significant collateral damage: Further spikes in energy costs and food prices, and a possible global recession. Nowhere has that indirect damage been greater than for those already on the brink of poverty, particularly in Africa. The food price index recorded by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization hit a record high in March and fertilizer prices have also surged. Efforts by national policymakers to improve domestic food security, such as India's recent ban on wheat exports, have made matters worse. The war's ripple effects threaten to damage not only near-term production but also future harvests after the fighting in Ukraine ceases. Millions more Africans could thus soon face poverty, hunger or both. But one potential negative consequence of the conflict can and must be contained: The temptation for rich-country policymakers to redirect development assistance from Africa to Ukraine. This happened in 2014, when Russia's annexation of Crimea diverted resources away from Africa – even though the region was on the verge of a commodity price-driven recession.

That year, aid from OECD Development Assistance Committee members to Ukraine increased by 145 percent, while aid to sub-Saharan Africa dipped by more than 5 percent (the largest decrease in a decade), despite the economic slump in much of the region. Between 2013 and 2015, 21 of the 29 Development Assistance Committee countries reduced official development assistance to sub-Saharan Africa, even though the overall aid provided by these countries increased by 8 percent in real terms during this period.

Denmark, for example, increased its aid to Ukraine nearly fourfold from 2013 to 2015, but cut aid to sub-Saharan Africa by roughly 40 percent. Japan, fearing that Russia's annexation of Crimea might embolden China to assert its territorial claims in the East China Sea more forcefully, pledged more than \$1.8 billion in assistance to Ukraine in 2014 and 2015, while reducing aid to sub-Saharan Africa by nearly 16 percent. The aid money diverted from Africa came primarily from initiatives to support the environment, urbanization, disaster risk management and government budgets, rather than from economic infrastructure projects like railways and mobile telephone lines, whose cancellation would be directly detrimental to donor economies.

Today's Russia-Ukraine war is far more damaging than the conflict in 2014. Consequently, financial assistance has poured into Ukraine. The US has so far committed more than \$54 billion to support Ukraine in the war. Neighboring Poland has provided more than \$1.6 billion of military support. Money has also come from nongovernmental sources. A special account that the National Bank of Ukraine opened to the public to raise funds for the country's armed forces raised \$525 million within two months. People from around the world have sent millions of dollars to Ukrainian landlords by renting Airbnb accommodation they have no intention of using. Such generosity is of course to be welcomed. But it would be unfortunate if increased international assistance to Ukraine came at the cost of defunding important initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa. The region is entering a precarious period – and not only because of galloping food prices, rising energy costs and slower growth in its major export markets. African countries are confronting this dire outlook with high debt levels and almost no fiscal headroom owing to the pandemic-induced recession of 2020-21, which urgently necessitated support programs for poor households and small businesses. To be sure, Africa has an interest in the success of Ukrainian and Western efforts. To the extent that authoritarianism is gaining ground globally, beating back Russian President Vladimir Putin's effort to redraw boundaries in Europe may well discourage would-be autocrats from doing the same in Africa.

At independence, had we chosen to pursue states on the basis of ethnic, racial or religious homogeneity, we would still be waging bloody wars these many decades later," Kimani said. Today, defeating Russia may also strike a blow in favor of democratic values in Africa. That said, the international community's interest in containing the Ukraine war's collateral damage in Africa is no less compelling. So, as governments and other donors accelerate much-needed assistance to Ukraine, they should not delay initiatives such as the Global Alliance for Food Security, the G20 Common Framework for Debt Treatments and the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access facility. Scaling back development assistance programs for Africa will only increase poverty, exacerbate food shortages that risk pushing some communities toward starvation and undermine democracy.

*- Courtesy: Arab News*

## Why Israel's 15-year siege on Gaza has failed

**Ramzy Baroud**

Still, Israel has failed miserably in achieving any of its objectives. Tel Aviv hoped that the disengagement would compel the international community to redefine the legal status of its occupation of Gaza. Despite Washington's pressure, however, that never happened

**F**IFTEEN years have passed since Israel imposed a total siege on the Gaza Strip, subjecting nearly 2 million Palestinians to one of the longest and cruelest politically motivated blockades in history. The Israeli government at the time justified its siege as the only way to protect Israel from Palestinian "terrorism and rocket attacks." This remains the official line. However, few Israelis – certainly not in government, the media or even ordinary people – would argue that the country is safer today than it was prior to June 2007. It is widely understood that Israel imposed the siege as a response to Hamas' takeover of the Strip following a brief and violent confrontation with its main Palestinian political rival Fatah, which still dominates the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank. However, the isolation of Gaza was planned years before the Hamas-Fatah clash or even Hamas' legislative election victory of January 2006. Late Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had long been determined to re deploy Israeli forces out of

Gaza. What finally culminated in the Israeli disengagement from Gaza in August-September 2005 was proposed by Sharon in 2003, approved by his government in 2004 and finally adopted by the Knesset in February 2005. This "disengagement" was an Israeli tactic that aimed to move a few thousand illegal Jewish settlers out of Gaza to other illegal settlements in the West Bank, while re deploying the Israeli army from crowded Gazan population centers to the border areas. This was the actual start of the Gaza siege. The above assertion was even clear to James Wolfensohn, who was in 2005 appointed special envoy for Gaza disengagement by the Quartet on the Middle East. In 2010, he concluded: "Gaza had been effectively sealed off from the outside world since the Israeli disengagement... and the humanitarian and economic consequences for the Palestinian population were profound." The ultimate motive for the disengagement was not Israel's security or even a desire to starve Gazans as a form of collective punishment. The latter was just one natural outcome of a much more sinister political plot, as communicated by Sharon's own senior adviser at the time, Dov Weisglass. In an interview with Haaretz in October 2004, he put it plainly: "The significance of the disengagement plan is the freezing of the peace process. And when you freeze that process, you prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state and you prevent a discussion on the refugees, the borders and Jerusalem." Not only was this Israel's reasoning behind the disengagement and subsequent siege on Gaza but, according to the seasoned Israeli politician, it was all done "with a (US) presidential blessing and the ratification of both houses of Congress." The president in question was George W. Bush. All of this took place before Palestine's legislative elections, Hamas' victory and the Hamas-Fatah clash. The last of these merely served as a convenient justification for what had already been discussed, ratified and implemented. For Israel, the siege was a political ploy that acquired additional meaning and value as time passed. In response to the accusation that Israel was starving Palestinians in Gaza, Weisglass said in 2006: "The idea is to put the Palestinians on a diet, but not to make them die of hunger." What was then understood as a facetious, albeit thoughtless, statement turned out to be actual Israeli policy, as indicated in a 2008 report that was made available in 2012. Thanks to the Israeli human rights organization Gisha, the "red lines (for) food consumption in the Gaza Strip," composed by the Israeli Coordinator of Government Activities

in the Territories, was made public. It emerged that Israel was calculating the minimum number of calories necessary to keep Gaza's population alive – a number that is "adjusted to culture and experience" in the Strip. The rest is history. Gaza's suffering is absolute. Some 98 percent of the Strip's water is undrinkable. Hospitals lack essential supplies and lifesaving medications. Movement in and out of the Strip is practically prohibited, with minor exceptions.

Still, Israel has failed miserably in achieving any of its objectives. Tel Aviv hoped that the disengagement would compel the international community to redefine the legal status of its occupation of Gaza. Despite Washington's pressure, however, that never happened. Gaza remains part of the Occupied Palestinian Territories as defined in international law. Even the September 2007 Israeli designation of Gaza as an "enemy entity" and a "hostile territory" changed little, except that it allowed the Israeli government to declare several devastating wars on the Strip, starting in 2008.

None of these wars have successfully served a long-term Israeli strategy. Instead, Gaza is fighting back on a much larger scale than ever before, frustrating the calculations of Israeli leaders, as has become clear in their befuddled, disturbing language. During one of the deadliest Israeli wars on Gaza in July 2014, right-wing Knesset member Ayelet Shaked wrote on Facebook that the war was "not a war against terror, and not a war against extremists, and not even a war against the Palestinian Authority." Instead, according to Shaked, who a year later became Israel's minister of justice, "it is a war between two people. Who is the enemy? The Palestinian people." In the final analysis, the governments of Sharon, Ehud Olmert, Benjamin Netanyahu and Naftali Bennett all failed to isolate Gaza from the greater Palestinian body, break the will of the Strip or ensure Israeli security at the expense of Palestinians. Moreover, Israel has fallen victim to its own hubris. While prolonging the siege will achieve no short or long-term strategic value, lifting it, from Israel's viewpoint, would be tantamount to an admission of defeat and could empower Palestinians in the West Bank to emulate the Gaza model. This lack of certainty further accentuates the political crisis and lack of strategic vision that has defined all Israeli governments for nearly two decades. Inevitably, Israel's political experiment in Gaza has backfired. The only way out is for the siege to be completely lifted – for good.

*- Courtesy: Arab News*





