



# Islamabad POST

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**Qatari Emir: Israel major source of tensions in region**

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**Babar fights back after Jayasuriya topples line-up**

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## Briefs

**Shahbaz Gill arrested in Muzaffargarh**

DNA

MUZAFFARGARH: Punjab police Sunday arrested PTI leader Shahbaz Gill in Muzaffargarh, PML-N spokesperson and Punjab Home Minister Atta Tarar confirmed. According to media, Gill has been arrested for allegedly visiting different polling stations during the by-elections in the city with his security guards who were dressed as FC personnel. As per the election code of conduct the ECP has stated: "Carriage and display of all kinds of lethal weapons and fire arms shall not be allowed."

**Mariyum lauds peaceful by-polls**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information Mariyum Aurangzeb has expressed the hope that peaceful conduct of by-elections in 20 constituencies of Punjab will herald development, prosperity and reduction in inflation in the country. In a tweet on Sunday, she thanked Allah almighty that polling process ended peacefully. Meanwhile, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Sunday praised the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for making comprehensive and exemplary arrangements to hold by-polls in 20 constituencies of Punjab in a peaceful way.

**Zardari takes Imran to task over media curbs**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former president Asif Ali Zardari has said Imran Khan should have thought about the rights of journalists during his tenure as his era was a dark period in terms of press freedom. "Journalists have always been and will continue to be free when the PPP is in power," he said in a statement. He said the relationship between political parties and the establishment had improved significantly over time.

# Surprises all; wins majority of seats PTI RULES THE ROOST

## Set to form government in the Punjab

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Unofficial, preliminary results in the by-elections have put the PTI in the leading position. As the unofficial results suggest PTI is leading on as many as 16 seats while PML N is likely to get only 3 seats while one seat went to the independent candidate. After these results PTI will now form the government in the Punjab province thus bringing down the Hamza Shehbaz government. PTI's Makhdoom Zain Hussain Qureshi, son of party vice chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi, has defeated PML N's Muhammad Salman in PP-217 Multan VII, unofficial results from all the city's polling stations show. Qureshi secured 46,963 votes against Salman, who bagged 40,104. The party also emerged victorious in PP-288 Dera Ghazi Khan IV, where Sardar Mohd Saif ud Din Khosa got 58,885 votes to beat Abdul Qadir Khan, who only managed 32,907. Moreover, it won PP-202 Sa-

hiwal VII, where retired Maj Muhammad Ghulam Sarwar got 61,989 votes to beat PML-N's Malik Nauman Ahmed Langriyal who got 59,167. PTI also won PP-83 Khushab II with candidate Malik Hassan Aslam Khan securing 48,475 votes against independent Muhammad Asif Malik who got 41,752. Today's polls remained largely peaceful aside from a few reports of clashes between supporters of opposing parties. No casualties were reported. Other kinds of drama, however, stole the limelight. This included an early morning resignation, a leaked audio allegedly implicating the former interior minister, and a number of arrests, including that of PTI leader Shahbaz Gill. Voter turnout was not as large as the parties hoped but was considerable, said by Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah to be 40%. The PML N leaders have accepted the election results by showing greater political goodwill.

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## Victory of the people: PTI

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf General Secretary Asad Umar termed the victory in Punjab by-elections as the victory of people of Pakistan. He said that the masses have rejected coalition government and accepted the narrative of Imran Khan. He said that with this victory, Pervaiz Elahi will become Chief Minister of Punjab on July 22. Furthermore, Chairman Imran Khan has called PTI Core Committee's meeting on Monday (today). Umar condemned the use of Punjab Police for arresting PTI leaders earlier in the day.

He said that the people have shown their trust in Imran Khan yet again, and rejected the imported government. Meanwhile, PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry said now the government must set the stage for general elections as the people of Pakistan have given their verdict against the 'imported' government. He hailed the people for coming out and voting. He said that despite the use of government machinery, PML-N has suffered a massive defeat. He urged the political parties to go for general elections in the vast interest of the country. Fawad said general elections are the only way to end political crisis.

## PML-N accepts defeat

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: PML N Vice President Maryam Nawaz has accepted the by elections results saying we accept these results and will try to find out factors that led to PML N defeat. In a Tweet she said PML N should accept the results adding the party would try to do even better in the general elections. PML-N's senior leader Malik Mohammad Ahmed Khan has accepted that PTI has received a "landslide victory" in the hotly-contested Punjab by-polls. Khan said: "I accept that PTI has won and the party wholeheartedly accepts



the opinion of the public." He further added that everybody can get into the debate of how and what happened, but "apparently the situation right now shows that PTI has won the elections; therefore, we congratulate them and accept our defeat." Replying to a question regarding

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## Imran calls core committee meeting

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan summoned a meeting of PTI's core committee on Monday in Islamabad. Sources privy to the matter said that Imran Khan has called a meeting of the core committee of the party at 3 pm in which the post Punjab by-elections will be discussed in the meeting. Earlier, Imran Khan claimed that in connection with coming results of the Punjab by-elections, his party will win at least 15 seats. Taking to Twitter, Imran Khan penned: "As results coming in

Continued on Page 06

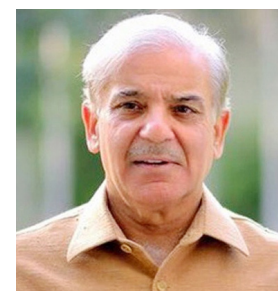
## Rashid's alleged audio leaked

DNA

LAHORE: In ongoing make-or-break Punjab by-elections, alleged audio has come to light in which former interior minister Sheikh Rashid asked a person whether he made a "payment" to persuade PML-N leader Jalil Sharqapuri to resign from his seat in the Punjab Assembly. In an alleged audio conversation Sheikh Rashid in

Continued on Page 06

## 'PM should step down: analysts'



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: After defeat in Punjab by elections, the position of the Central government has become weak. Political analysts believe, the viable and respective option for Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is now to himself dissolve the assemblies and call early elections. The Punjab Chief Minister, most likely, Ch. Pervaiz Elahi, will take oath of the office on July 22 after which a new tug of war between the Punjab and the Center may start that may further push the country towards economic chaos. Therefore to avoid any such situation the prime minister should dissolve the assembly and go for early elections. Analysts believe, by doing so the Prime Minister and the PML N would somehow gain politically but if they decide to linger on their rule then they have to face further disappointment and public wrath.

## Sanauallah praises ECP for fair polls

Says Gul Zaman, is the frontman of Speaker Punjab Assembly Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Sunday praised the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for making comprehensive and exemplary arrangements to hold by-polls in 20 constituencies of Punjab in a peaceful way. The ECP has ensured rule of law throughout the by-election proceeding which is commendable, he said while addressing a news conference.

"It may possible that the turnout in the by-election would cross 50 per cent, which is very encouraging as it shows that the people have enthusiastically participated in the election," Rana Sanaullah observed. He said that the registered voters in all the 20 constituencies were 4,596,873 while a total of 3,140 polling stations including 739 for male, 704 of female, 1,696 combined, and one improvised polling station were set up for the by-election. The minister said that out of a total of 3,140 polling stations, minor type of complaints was received from only 14 polling stations. "Not a single complaint has been received about the ECP staff, violations of rules and arrangements made by the ECP from any candidates and their supporters," he added. He said that about 185 candidates had participated in the by-election. No First Information Report (FIR) had been registered as not a single incident of firing took place at any polling stations. The minister also appreciated Pakistan Army troops, rangers and Punjab police for maintaining law & order during the by-polls. He said that the Quick Response Force had responded to any complaint in less than 10 minutes.

## PTI raises questions over impartiality of ECP

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Lashing out at the Election Commission of Pakistan for alleged errors in voter lists amid the crucial by-polls that are underway on 20 Punjab Assembly constituencies, PTI leader Shahbaz Gill raised questions over the impartiality of the election body. Sharing a video of a man on his Twitter account, who claimed that the names of two of his family members are missing from the voter list, Shahbaz Gill asked, "Who is responsible for depriving someone of his right to vote?" He suggested lodging a case under Article 6 of the Constitution. He also shared another video of a woman polling agent who claimed that rigging was being carried out in the PP-167 constituency. The woman polling agent said that she was forced to leave the polling station after her CNIC was objected to and was not allowed to enter the station for one-and-half hours and in the meantime, the voting process continued.

Gill asked, "Is this possible without the involvement of the ECP?" In another tweet, the PTI leader criticised the polling staff at a polling station where he claimed that a woman who came to cast her vote was sent to another constituency because her name wasn't on the voters' list. He asked who is responsible for the data operator's mistakes.



LAHORE: Two men bringing disable senior citizen to polling station to cast his vote during Punjab by-election 2022. - APP

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China uses technology for Eastbay Expressway project - Page 07

Qatari Emir: Israel major source of tensions in region - Page 08

## Kazakhstan for strong regional connectivity: envoy

Ambassador Kistafin says collective efforts needed to achieve stability in Afghanistan

EXCLUSIVE

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin has said his country believed in strong regional connectivity adding President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has repeatedly stressed that there is no alternative to regional integration, especially with the fraternal countries of Central Asia, with which we have deep historical ties. The Ambassador expressed these views while giving an exclusive interview to daily Islamabad POST. He further said, at the Consultative Meeting of the Heads of Central Asian States in Turkmenistan (August 6, 2021), the President of Kazakhstan noted that an intensive trust-based dialogue at the highest level undoubtedly plays a key role in regional cooperation. It was also stressed that our main common goal is to turn Central Asia into a stable, economically developed, prosperous region. In this regard, a special role is

assigned to the early signing of the Treaty on Friendship, Good-Neighborliness and Cooperation for the Development of Central Asia in the XXI century. "The strengthening of economic ties was highlighted separately. The number of joint ventures is growing, major projects are being implemented in industry, energy, mechanical engineering, agriculture and other sectors of the economy. Trade barriers are being removed. New checkpoints are being opened at the borders, new flights and railway routes are being launched. As a result, intraregional trade has grown by 12% since 2018". He added, the trade turnover of Kazakhstan with the countries of Central Asia has increased one and a half times over the past five years, amounting to \$ 4.6 billion. According to international institutions (UNCTAD, the World Bank), today the intraregional trade turnover in Central Asia is \$6.5 billion, or only 0.04% of all world trade. In addition, the share of mutual trade between the countries of the region occupies only 9% of the total turnover of our states. It was noted that, given the ca-

capabilities of the Central Asian economies, as well as the capacity of the common market (75 million people), this indicator does not correspond to the potential we have. In this regard, it is necessary to intensify work on increasing trade between the countries of the region, improving



its structure, expanding the range of goods supplied. Kazakhstan proposes to combine efforts to create a single commodity distribution network integrated into the transport corridors of Central Asia. This new infrastructure, consisting of wholesale distribution and agrologistic centers, will allow for coordinated deliveries of goods to the markets of the Eurasian Economic Union, the CIS and third countries. Moreover, our states act as a connecting bridge between Asia and Europe, through which the shortest land routes connecting East with West, North with South pass. Talking about transit area, he said Kazakhstan is consistently developing transit capabilities of the Trans-Caspian International Transport Corridor. The potential of the Kazakhstan section of the China-Europe-China transcontinental route is also being strengthened. At the present time, this route has become particularly relevant. The existing Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railway also provides great opportunities. Kazakhstan is open for mutually benefi-

cial cooperation in the development of transport communications within the region. According to the World Bank, the development of transport communications in Central Asia can ensure GDP growth of all countries by 15%. For reference: new projects with Uzbekistan are under development. First of all, we are talking about the Turkistan-Shymkent-Tashkent high-speed railway (the project cost is about \$ 700 million). The laying of the Beineu-Akzhigit highway has been completed, which opened a short route to the ports of Kuryk and Aktau to Uzbek partners. The Turkmenbashi-Garabogaz-Kazakhstan Border highway has significant potential, which will increase passenger and cargo traffic with Turkmenistan. Ambassador Kistafin said, the developing situation in Afghanistan is of particular concern for the Republic of Kazakhstan. At the moment, collective efforts are needed to develop the country's trade and economic potential in order to prevent an economic "catastrophe" in the country.

# Hundreds of people attend Tehreek-e-Kharian rally

The participants demanded the early construction of Kharian service roads, overhead bridge and the end of unannounced load shedding and inflation and criticized the indifference of the politicians

## STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Tehreek e Kharian "Come out for the sake of your city" was a successful rally and the people of Kharian participated fully and raised their voice for their rights. The peaceful protest rally started in front of the main Eidgah GT Road Kharian and ended at Azadi Chowk. The participants demanded the early construction of Kharian service roads, overhead bridge and the end of unannounced load shedding and inflation and criticized the indifference of the politicians. The protest rally was organized by Tehreek e Kharian President Dr Umar Bhatti, Chairman Waqar Ahmed Dar, Yamin Siddiqui, Amir Mushtaq Shani, Junaid Dar and

others. Prominent participants included Chaudhry Ali Farrukh, Chaudhry Basharat Ahmad Advocate, Tariq Imam Kokb, Syed Zainul Abidin Shah, Qari Liaqat Ali Jalali, Hafiz Asghar Tawhidi, Chaudhry Asim Bashir Kaki, Mirza Zubair Raza, Chaudhry Fawad Nazir, Captain (Rtd) Jahangir Ghani, Chaudhry Hamza Aftab, Lala Mushtaq Hussain, Aamir Nadeem Wasan, Raja Usman Advocate, Manwar Iqbal Tarr, Chaudhry Naveed Mushtaq, Imran Dar, Irfan Butt, Sajid Raza Chishti, Sajid Hussain, ex president Kharian Peres club Zaman Ahsan and others were included. In the end, the speakers addressed the rally participants, Syed Zainul Abidin Shah prayed and the organizers thanked. SHO Syed Hasnat Shah performed security duties along with police employees.

## Employees Dismissed

Meanwhile, DPO Gujarat Ataur Rehman dismissed 10 employees who were absent from duty, including 1 trainee sub-inspector, 1 ASI and 8 constables, while the corruption and criminals 9 constables belonging to the department were dismissed. A total of 11 employees were sentenced to forfeiture of service, including 8 constables, 2 ASIs and a sub-inspector. 22 employees, including 6 sub-inspectors, 14 ASIs and 2 constables, were given warnings. DPO Gujarat Ataur Rehman has said that black sheep who bring disrepute to the department have no place in the police. Misbehavior, corruption and negligence of duty from the citizens will not be tolerated under any circumstances.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with a delegation of Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Peshawar, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. – DNA

## KP cabinet to meet on Tuesday

PESHAWAR: An important meeting of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cabinet has been called on Tuesday (July 19), says an official notification issued here on Sunday. According to the notification, a 13-point agenda has been prepared for the cabinet meeting wherein approval to install telecommunication towers in forests will be taken from the cabinet. The Cabinet will approve the appointment of members of WSSC Abbottabad, while the approval of the transfer of several officers will also be taken from the cabinet. – APP

## Nine held during crackdown against criminals in Capital

ISLAMABAD: Capital territory police, during a drive against anti-social elements, arrested nine outlaws in the last 24 hours from different areas of the city, a police public relations officer said. According to the details, the Bhara Kahu police team arrested two accused namely Khuram Nazakat and Aziz and recovered three stolen motorbikes. They also arrested accused Namat Khan and recovered 30-bore pistol along with ammunition from him. The Kohsar police teams arrested two accused Ghulam Khan and Mubarak Messiah involved in illegal gas decanting, Shams Colony police arrested and accused Muhammad Mushtaq involved in illegal oil selling.

Sabzi Mandi Police apprehended a drug peddler namely Gul Nazar and recovered 1240 grams hashish from him. Noon police arrested two accused Izzat Ullah and Irfan Ullah and recovered two 30-bore pistols from their possession. Cases were registered against the nominated accused and further investigation was underway. Islamabad Capital Territory police have accelerated their efforts against criminal elements in the city to curb the crime and to save the lives and property of the citizens, the spokesman said. The police had also requested citizens to cooperate with the police and inform them about any suspicious activity in their area. – APP



## LRH spokesman clarifies position

PESHAWAR: The spokesman of the Lady Reading Hospital, Peshawar Muhammad Asim on Sunday clarified the position about the referring of an injured patient from Kohat to another hospital in Peshawar. Talking to the media, the spokesman said the injured referred from Kohat required an ICU bed, but in the LRH there were 33 ICU beds, all of which had patients admitted. "The injured patients from different districts of the province are admitted in ICU, there are no empty beds and even now, 100% patients are admitted on ICU beds", he said, adding that the Kohat patient needed urgent treatment and had to be referred to another hospital because of no empty bed. – APP

## Food Authority seals two factories

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety Authority on Sunday launched a crackdown against adulteration mafia and sealed two spice manufacturing factories on Charsadda Road here. According to the official of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety Authority, preparation of fake spices was caught in the units with more than 3,000 kg of harmful spices seized. He disclosed that Bora, peels and harmful dyes were being used in spices and such unhealthy spices were being supplied in different areas of the province. The official said that edible oil was also being mixed in fake spices and added that the food authority had also seized harmful edible oil during the raid. – APP

## Govt, Petroleum dealers talks remain unsuccessful

The strike was called off after the govt promised to increase their margin by Rs0.99

DNA

KARACHI: The Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA) is going on a nationwide strike from Monday as the deadlock over the profit margin between the government and the dealers continue. Earlier, the representative of petroleum dealers met with Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Masood Malik, Ogra Chairman, and former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi. However, the talks remained unsuccessful. The Ministry of Petroleum has invited petroleum dealers for talks after they announced to go on strike from July 18. PPDA has demanded the government to enhance the dealers' margin to six percent. The petrol dealers had threatened to observe a nationwide strike on July 18 if the government fails to fulfill their demand of hike in the dealers' commission. The union had summoned a session regarding the strike and negotiations with the government over the dealer's margin. Petrol pumps cannot operate under the current margin, they claimed. The association said that the minimum wage of an employee has reached Rs25,000 and prices of other commodities were also increased. The dealers said that the margin should be increased up to six percent due to increase in the expenditures.

## PMSA rescues Iranian fishing boat, six onboard

DNA

KARACHI: The Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) in a rescue operation saved an Iranian fishing boat with six crew members on board, in the sea near the port city on Sunday. PMSA officials said an emergency call was received at the PMSA's Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), the boat was facing an emergency situation owing to high waves caused by the cyclonic activity in the sea. The PMSA immediately dispatched its fast response vessel for rescue of the Iranian boat. The PMSA rescue vessel swiftly approached the boat Al-Usmeni and provided medical aid and food to the crew onboard the boat. The fishing boat was safely towed with crew to Karachi Port, the PMSA stated.

# PIAF wants strict measures to see impact of falling oil prices

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial & Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has observed that the impact of falling oil prices should also be seen on other commodities, including power tariff, as the inflation continued to unleash damage on trade and industry on an annualized basis at 33.16 percent. PIAF Chairman Faheem Ur Rehman Saigol, in a joint statement along with senior vice chairman Haroon Shafique Chaudhary and vice chairman Raja Adeel Ashfaq, said that cut in fuel prices is a good decision but now government would have to show its management and administrative powers to implement this relief measure in other sectors too. Faheem Saigol said that most of the power is generated through thermal sources so the decline in fuel prices should also be seen in lowering energy tariff, as their cost has been reduced. Moreover, transportation fares and rates of other commodities should also be reduced accordingly through the writ of the district and provincial authorities, he added. The PIAF Chairman said that industries need low cost energy to bring down their cost of pro-

duction, keeping their goods competitive in the international market. Quoting the latest data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), he said that year-on-year increase in sensitive price indicator (SPI) was due to spike in prices of diesel (141.46 percent), petrol (119.61 percent), onions (89.33 percent), pulse masoor (88.6 percent), vegetable ghee 1kg (78.92 percent), mustard oil (75.72 percent), cooking oil 5 litre (73.01 percent), vegetable ghee 2.5kg (72.44 percent), washing soap (59.93 percent), chicken (52.61 percent), gents sponge chappal (52.21 percent), pulse gram (51.14 percent), garlic (40.54 percent), LPG (39.95 percent), and pulse mash (31.01 percent). He said that weekly inflation was flat but this trend would depend upon energy price adjustments. Government has cut petroleum prices, which would bring down inflation. However, likely electricity and gas price adjustments might push the index up, he Rauf said. He warned that CPI reading is yet to peak, which came in at 21.3 percent in June. It is likely to reach 24-25 percent soon. June's CPI numbers depicted the tough days currently being faced by the most vulnerable segments of the population. People

have been seething with the high cost of commodities, particularly fuels and power, which make up a large percentage of the SPI basket. He said that Pakistan exports cannot compete with China, Bangladesh and India where power tariffs were 7-9 cents, as the country's exports may witness a major setback in present days due to high cost of electricity, which has become a major stumbling block in industrial development and boosting exports. He said that fuel and electricity are regarded as the lifeline of any economy and play a pivotal role in socio-economic development of a country. He observed that the government, in present circumstances, would have to reduce the price of electricity along with the cut in the prices of petroleum products further to bring down the cost of doing business and to promote industrial activities. PIAF senior vice chairman said that business activities were already in decline and in this situation the government should take serious steps to cut the cost of doing business, as recent hike in power rates would further enhance the cost of production.

## Govt. for completion of water resources on priority basis

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Water Resources Syed Khurshid Ahmad Shah on Sunday said that timely completion of under-construction water resources was the top most priority of the government. He said that the country could face the worst water crisis in case of failure to meet the prescribed time limit. In a statement, he said that Diamer Bhasha Dam, Dasu Dam, Tha Kot Dam, and Patan Dam were vital to overcoming the energy crisis in the country adding that the prudent utilization of water resources are imperative for the country. The Federal Minister said that the country could not tolerate a moment's delay or negligence in the construction of these reservoirs, it was a matter of national integrity. "We have been here for a year, but in the meantime, we will work on a war footing," he added. The Federal Minister directed the concerned agencies to make immediate feasibility of the tunnel to be constructed on Diamer Bhasha Dam. Diamer Bhasha Dam would have a live storage capacity of 6.4 MAF. The dam is being constructed on river Indus - 40 km downstream of Chilas town. The installed capacity of the dam is 4500 MW of cheap power. Dasu Hydro Power Project is a vital project that would trigger a new era of socio-economic development in the country and stabilize Pakistan's economy by providing low-cost hydel electricity to the masses. Its installed capacity is 4320 MW per annum. Similarly, the Thakot hydropower project will have a capacity of 4,000 MW and produce annual energy of 21,300 GWh for the national grid. Patan hydropower project's Powerhouse is situated on the left bank near Patan Village, and 305 km from Islamabad. It has installed capacity of 2400mw. APP

## Pakistan-Iran freight train service partially restored

DNA

CHAGAI: The freight train service between Pakistan and Iran, which remain suspended for the last 10 days, has been partially restored, railway officials said Sunday. Two freight trains have been sent to Quetta, while a goods train has left for Iran, railway officials said. A goods train, destined for Iran from Quetta, was derailed near Padag resulting in suspension of the train service. Earlier a goods train coming from Zahedan was derailed in the Dalbandin area of Chagai district.

According to official sources, five bogies were derailed, leaving the routine operation suspended. The derailment caused the suspension of the train services for 72 hours. The sources cited the tracks' dilapidated condition as the cause of the accident. Pak-Iran freight train service was restored after completion of repair and rehabilitation work of railway track damaged due to heavy flash floods near Dalbandin in Chagai district. According to official sources, the goods trains which were stopped at Dalbandin allowed to proceed towards Iranian city of Zahedan.

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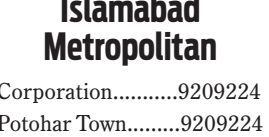
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QAU-BSU Follow-Up Project Expanding American studies in Pakistan

The Area Study Centre for Africa, North and South America at Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) and Ball State University (BSU) in the US collaborated on one such partnership

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Funded by the U.S. Mission in Pakistan and administered by the United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan, the University Partnerships Grants Program (UPGP) is envisaged to foster bilateral relationships through partnerships between Pakistani and U.S. universities. This program follows the success of the original University Partnerships Program in which U.S. universities in 20 partnerships with Pakistani universities received grants to establish three-year bilateral relationships. The aim was to enhance peer-to-peer relationships between U.S. and Pakistani universities in the Humanities and the Social Sciences. The Area Study Centre for Africa, North and South America at Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) and Ball State University (BSU) in the U.S. collaborated on one such partnership from 2012-2015. A total of 18 students from the Area Study Centre alongside faculty travelled to the U.S. as part of this QAU-BSU 2012-2015 Partnership. The program was focused on strengthening the American Studies program at the Area Study Centre through faculty and student exchange, curriculum development, faculty development, and research training. Currently, QAU and BSU are continuing this collaboration through extending the outcomes and best practices of the original partnership to other Pakistani universities as part of a follow-up UPGP grant program titled "QAU-BSU Partnership Follow-Up Project: Expanding American Studies in Pakistan". Given Covid-19 restrictions, the current project is being implemented virtually from December 2021 to November 2022. It was inaugurated on January 20, 2022, in a virtual ceremony attended by the U.S. Embassy officials, Vice Chancellors of all partner universities, Provost and Dean, BSU, UPGP team members, program coordinators, and program participants. This was followed by an orientation session with the participants before the formal launch of the program activities. The participants of the program are around 60 faculty members from three Pakistani public sector women universities (Women University Swabi; University of Swat, Women Campus; and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar) from underprivileged areas. QAU and BSU are working to strengthen the BS and MS programs of these universities in Literature, International Relations, History, Religious Studies, Art, Visual Communication, Popular Culture and Mass Media, Library Science, and Research Methodology from a U.S. Studies perspective through curriculum enhancement, faculty development, research training, and the integration of an American Studies theoretical and methodological framework. Additionally, QAU and BSU are also working with the target universities to develop Introductory American Studies classes and explore their potential to offer American Studies degrees. Further, QAU and BSU are providing lectures, seminars, and workshops to enhance the research and publication knowledge and skills of the participating faculty members. To date, 24 lectures, 24 seminars, 48 workshops, and 35 mentoring sessions have taken place. After the initial lectures and seminars, faculty from these universities started working on research articles co-authored with the BSU faculty that will be published, at the end of the program, in a special issue of the Pakistan Journal of American Studies (PJAS) entitled, "American Studies in Pakistan: Research Initiatives and Curriculum Paradigms." This issue will be co-edited by QAU and BSU faculty. The program involves a total of 238 hours of active engagement with the participants and another 247 hours of curriculum and syllabi development. It is expected that at the end of the project the universities will have strengthened the target degree programs and will have explored their potential to offer an American Studies major; the participants will have developed updated curriculum and syllabi in the target areas; the faculty will be better equipped to teach in the target programs; and the collaborative research will have enhanced the knowledge and understanding of the participants regarding American Studies.

Pak-Rupee strengthens against Euro, Yen, Pound

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail on Sunday said that Pak-Rupee has strengthened against Euro, Pound and Yen during the period from May 31 to July 14, 2022. "Over the last month and a half, Pakistani rupee has held its own against Euro, Pound and Yen. But dollar is the strongest it has been in a generation", he said in a Tweet on Sunday. - APP

EDB to submit policy document on solar panel by end of July

ISLAMABAD: The Engineering Development Board (EDB) is all set to submit its policy document on solar panels and allied equipments manufacturing to the government by the end of this month. The policy document would revealed as how to promote the use of alternate energy resources to overcome power shortages in the country. A press release issued by the Board here on Sunday said that the EDB initiated working on the policy formulation some time back under the directions of the Ministry of Industries and Production and EDB's Board of Management. Over the last few months, extensive consultations have been held with stakeholders which included local manufacturers of solar panels, provincial energy departments, research organizations, academia, users, and other relevant organizations and departments in the federal and provincial governments. The draft policy was presented in the 51st Board of Management meeting of EDB held in June 2022. - APP



ISLAMABAD: A labourer busy in loading sugarcane on vehicle at Vegetable and Fruit Market. - APP

Justice Day has no meaning for victim Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD: Justice continues to elude struggling Kashmiris even as International Justice Day is being commemorated across the globe Sunday. An analytical report released by Kashmir Media Service, today, maintained that when International Justice Day is being observed across the world, the Kashmiris continue to suffer under the Indian colonialism. The report said Kashmiris continue to face deepening atrocities, discrimination and injustice on the part of India. Indian troops, enjoying impunity under draconian laws, are committing grave human rights abuses, in fact, war crimes to suppress the Kashmiris' voice and just struggle for right to self determination, it added. It said massacres, custodial killings, arrests and harassments by Indian troops, paramilitary and police personnel are order of the day in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. It said justice has not been delivered to the victims of mass killings like Gaw Kadal, Kupwara, Handwara, Sopore and Bijbehara massacres and Kunan-Poshpora mass rape, Shopian double rape and murder case and rape and murder of Kathua minor girl in the territory. The report said the Indian judiciary is biased against the Kashmiris and it never provided justice to them. It added that the Indian courts had not punished a single Indian soldier or policeman involved in war crimes in IOJK. - DNA

FTO for evolving mechanism to issue exemption certificate

ISLAMABAD: Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Dr Asif Mahmood Jah has directed the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to evolve a proper transparent mechanism for timely issuance of exemption certificates after the expiry of prescribed period to bonafide tax payers without any hassles. Speaking to industrialists and traders at the meeting of an awareness campaign on Sunday, the honorary Coordinator to FTO Meher Kashif Younis said he brought to the notice of the FTO about delay in issuance of exemption certificates and taxpayers are facing acute hardships due to delay. He said the FTO was kind enough who immediately took notice and get the issue addressed. Younis further informed the members of the delegation that appeals of taxpayers were stuck up at appellate tribunals for years and the FTO taking prompt action on the complaints of business community, directed the FBR to devise a monitoring mechanism for quick disposal of cases and tailor an effective policy and guidelines for all field formations. He said in another important decision, the FTO stopped excessive tax deductions from low paid employees from their pays and wages across the country which provided relief to millions of beneficiaries. - APP

Nayeem Khan completes five years of illegal detention

ISLAMABAD: All Parties Hurriyat Conference senior leader Nayeem Ahmed Khan has completed five years of his illegal detention in India's notorious Tihar jail. All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir chapter leader, Altaf Hussain Wani in a statement issued in Srinagar, while voicing serious concerns over the continued illegal detention of Nayeem Ahmed Khan, said, "On this day in 2017, Nayeem Ahmed Khan was arrested by the Indian authorities from his Srinagar residence and then rushed to New Delhi's Tihar jail where he has been languishing for the past five years." Terming the abduction-style arrest of the APHC leader as a flagrant violation of the basic human rights, he said, "Imprisonment of key Kashmiri political leaders, including Nayeem Khan, was part of the Modi government's massive clamp down policy to suppress dissent in the region." He said, "Nayeem Ahmed Khan is creating a history of patience, perseverance and determination by enduring the unendurable in the notorious prison." "Khan has spent most of his life in different jails and all the baseless cases filed against him have not been proved in any court", he said, adding, that despite the passage of five years the authorities of Indian NIA and ED could not produce a single evidence against Nayeem Ahmed Khan in the court of law. - DNA

US delegation assures support for release of Yasin

ISLAMABAD: A high level US delegation on Sunday called on Peace and Culture Organisation Chairperson Mushaal Hussein Mullick to express solidarity with her and 10 year old Raziyah Sultana over the unjust and illegal detention of Yasin Malik and the unabated human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK). The interfaith harmony delegation comprising Michael Crowe, Lucas Bontrager, Dr. Joe's Knight, Anwer Qasmi, Ilyas Masih and Daud Ilyas expressed grave concerns over the unfair and inhuman treatment meted out to Yasin Malik. Mushaal, who is the wife of Yasin Malik, co-chairperson Rehana Hussein Mullick, miris had already been killed in detention. Therefore, Mushaal requested that the delegation should not only press their own government but should raise the issue of Yasin Malik's unlawful detention and continued human rights violations at global forums. The Peace and Culture team urged the world powers and UN bodies to press the fascist Narendra Modi-led Hindutva regime to resolve the long-standing Kashmir dispute as per the UN agreed formula and aspirations of Kashmiri people. On the occasion, the American delegation assured them that they would raise the issue of illegal detention of Yasin Malik and ethnic cleansing of Kashmiris at every forum. - APP

Advertisement for AIOU (Allama Iqbal Open University) featuring '2022 Mid-Term Exam' and 'Final Exam' information. Includes details for Intermediate, Matric, Certificate Courses, and ALP-Middle Tech programs. Contact information: Email: overseas@aiou.edu.pk, Phone: +92519057165, +92519250175.

## Briefs

## Bad weather conditions affect trains' schedule: PR

ISLAMABAD: Heavy rains and bad weather conditions were the main reasons behind the delay in trains operating across the country, said a spokesman of Pakistan Railways on Sunday. He, in a statement said, trains operating on various routes in the country were unable to depart and reach their destinations in time due to heavy rains. Heavy rains in Sindh and Balochistan provinces had affected the schedule of the trains, he said, hoping that in a few days, trains would depart and reach their destinations on time. - APP

## Poultry training course from July 18

RAWALPINDI: Poultry Research Institute (PRI) would start a week-long, free poultry training program at Murree Road, Shamsabad here from July 18 (Monday). According to PRI Senior Research Officer, the training programme would continue till July 22, with 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. timing. The aspiring candidates can contact on 051-9292172 and take prospectus from PRI office to apply for the course. The applications can be submitted till July 18 in the office of Director PRI. - APP

## Kashmiris continue to face atrocities

ISLAMABAD: Kashmiris continue to face deepening atrocities, discrimination and injustice by Indian occupation forces and biased judiciary. An analytical report released by Kashmir Media Service, on Sunday, said Indian troops, enjoying impunity under draconian laws, are committing grave human rights abuses, in fact, war crimes to suppress the Kashmiris' voice and just struggle for right to self determination, Radio Pakistan reported. It said justice has not been delivered to the victims of mass killings like Gaw Kadal, Kupwara, Handwara, Sopore and Bijbehara massacres and Kunan-Poshpora mass rape, Shopian double rape and murder case and rape and murder of Kathua minor girl in the territory. The report said that the Indian courts had not punished a single Indian soldier or policeman involved in war crimes in IIOJK. - APP

## Court Notice

In the Court of Madam Rabia Tareef Civil Judge Gujrat

Title: Amina Rehman Versus Public at Large etc.

Notice to:  
2. Fazal Haq Dar S/O Fazal Kareem R/O 22 Rawlinson Crescent, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada S4S 6G3

Application for grant of Succession Certificate

Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 23-07-2022, otherwise case will be decided ex party.

## Court Notice

In the Court of Muhammad Abbas Sherazi Civil Judge Gujrat

Title: Zahid Ahmed Versus Ahmed Shujah etc.

Notice to:  
2. Bedar Bakhat S/O Zia Ullah Caste Khokhar Resident of Mohallah Budday Shah Gujrat, Tehsil and District Gujrat

Suit for Possession of House after partition

Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 21-07-2022, otherwise case will be decided ex party.



TAXILA: A delegation of Buddhist from Thailand visited various Buddhist sites in Julian and other areas. - DNA

# Economic, financial strength vital of country's sovereignty

President Alvi says meaningful and active role of Pakistani Diaspora was imperative

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that economic and financial strength was vital for taking independent economic and financial decisions adding that the country can achieve accelerated economic growth by imparting skills to youth and women through short and extensive training courses in various fields specially in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector. He said that meaningful and active role of Pakistani Diaspora was imperative to uplift our business and industrial sectors and to impart skills to youth and women to help Pakistan achieve self-sufficiency which will enable our country to take independent political, financial and economic decisions for the betterment of the people. The President made these remarks while virtually addressing the 45th Annual Convention of the Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America (APPNA), USA, from Aiwan-e-Sadr. President APPNA, Dr Haroon Durrani, and members of the Pakistani diaspora in USA

attended the virtual Convention. The President regretted that Pakistan did not have the capacity in the past to absorb its highly educated, productive and precious human resource which resulted in its migration to developed countries of the world where, by sheer dint of merit, they became high achievers in many high value sectors and contributed in the development and prosperity of their host country. The President said that Pakistani diaspora can contribute to uplift and add value to business, industrial, agriculture and services sectors of Pakistan and in the development of our non-productive population, such as the uneducated youth and women by imparting them technical skills and expertise in relevant fields. The President appreciated the Pakistani physicians in USA for earning excellent reputation in the host country and for their valuable contributions towards Pakistan's development. He urged them to establish telehealth services in Pakistan in order to provide guidance and consultancy to the patients, especially to the poor and underserved segments of the population.

While identifying various sectors where Pakistan needed to make progress, he said that we needed to provide further incentives to the ICT sector and equip our youth with marketable ICT skills. While updating the participants on issues and opportunities of Pakistan, the President said that strong democratic institutions, curbing the menaces of corruption, nepotism and jobbery, empowering women financially and focusing on the skill development of its human resources were essential for Pakistan's socio-economic development. He said that Pakistan through its Digiskills online training program has successfully imparted IT skills to over 2.4 million youth and enabled them to earn a decent living for themselves. He emphasized that scale and scope of such fast-track training programs needed to be enlarged and expanded across the country. While updating the participants on salient features of Pakistan's Foreign policy, the President said that Pakistan had shifted the focus of its foreign policy from geo-strategic to geo-economics and was promoting regional trade and connectivity by optimally

utilizing its unique geographic location, especially in the context of Central Asian Republics which were keen to link themselves to rest of the world to promote regional trade and economic cooperation. The President emphasized that Pakistan did not believe in polarization and camp politics and was trying to maintain cordial relations with all its international partners. He said that Pakistan and USA had historical relations and Pakistan played a key role to link USA and China and had cooperated with USA in its War on Terror. He urged the Pakistani diaspora to address misgivings and misunderstanding about Pakistan in USA in the wake of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan. He also called upon the Pakistani diaspora to play their role in highlighting the human rights violations being committed by India in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The President lauded the Overseas Pakistanis' love and passion for their motherland, and commended them for rendering invaluable services and providing assistance during floods, earthquakes, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Tourists advised to observe traffic rules in Murree

The beautiful climate of Murree during summer attracts a large number of tourists so the motorists face severe traffic congestion

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Naveed Irshad has advised the tourists travelling to Murree and other hill stations to observe traffic rules to avoid traffic congestion and road mishaps. He urged the motorists to strictly follow the traffic rules and avoid wrong and double parking on the roads of Murree to avoid traffic congestion.

The CTO said that the traffic wardens had been directed to take strict action in accordance with the law against the violators. He informed that a control room had been set up at the Headquarters to monitor the situation while a helpline 1915 and 051-9269200 for Murree had also been set up. All-out efforts were being made to control traffic in Murree, he said and informed that there was a parking facility of 3500 vehicles in Murree while thousands vehicles enter the hill station particularly on weekends in summer season. He further informed that the CTP had designated several points for car parking in Murree. A number of main roads including Kashmir Point, Mall Road, Guldana Road

and other roads had been closed for two-way traffic to ease traffic flow. Naveed Irshad urged the tourists to cooperate with traffic police so that the traffic mess could be avoided. "The beautiful climate of Murree during summer attracts a large number of tourists so the motorists face severe traffic congestion," he said adding that traffic moves even slower due to heavy traffic load. He said, the CTP had made special arrangements to facilitate the tourists, coming to Murree. A comprehensive plan had also been devised to facilitate the tourists during the summer season, he added. He said, they had deployed senior traffic officers of the CTP to monitor traffic arrangements in the hill station to ensure smooth and safe traffic flow. A dedicated, emergency helpline 051-9269200, had also been introduced for the tourists that could be used round the clock. The CTO advised the tourists to avoid taking selfies in the middle of the roads. An enhanced number of traffic wardens under the supervision of senior traffic officers had been deployed to monitor traffic and guide the tourists, he added. - APP

## 3 bike lifters arrested; five stolen motorcycles recovered

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested three bike lifters and recovered five stolen motorcycles and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, a team under the supervision of SHO Cantt Police Station managed to net three accused namely Kamran Yousaf alias Kami, Pervaiz and Shehroz who were bike lifters and allegedly involved in several cases registered in different police stations. Police recovered five stolen motorcycles and other items from their possession. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway, he added. Superintendent of Police, Potohar Rana Abdul Wahad appreciated police team and directed to net the accomplices and facilitators of the bike lifters. He also directed the police officers to continue raids against lawbreakers and they should be sent behind the bars. - APP

## CPO visits control room set up at Kahuta police station

RAWALPINDI: City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi, Syed Shehzaad Nadeem Bukhari on Sunday visited control room set up at Kahuta police station to monitor PP-7, Kahuta and Kallar Syedan by-elections. The CPO instructed the officers concerned to ensure coordination and monitoring of the constituency. The location mapping facility has been provided in the control room which would be used to check the location of the election material and results delivery staff. He said that strict action in accordance with the law would be taken against the violators of the code of conduct issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan. The CPO said that Rawalpindi district had finalized all the security arrangements in PP-7, Kahuta and Kallar Syedan to maintain peace during by-election. Senior police officers while remaining in the field were checking duties of the police personnel. The law and order situation was being monitored closely through police control room, he added. He said, special security arrangements had been made for 76 sensitive police stations. Syed Shehzaad Nadeem Bukhari said that display of weapons, aerial firing and loudspeakers were prohibited and strict legal action would be taken against any violation. The implementation of the code of conduct issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan would be ensured at all cost, he added. According to a police spokesman, the CPO also paid surprise visits to different polling stations on Saturday night and checked duties of the police personnel deployed there. The CPO said that all available resources were being utilized to maintain law and order and to ensure peace during by-election in PP-7. - APP

# Coal trade: Afghanistan in win-win situation

Currently, three companies from Pakistan are in coal trade with Afghanistan as so far no agreement could reach between the two governments for the trade

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan's private sector imports Afghan coal to fuel their plants, the government and people of war-hit Afghanistan are in a win-win situation in the economic activity generated through the bilateral trade. Currently, three companies from Pakistan are in coal trade with Afghanistan as so far no agreement could reach between the two governments for the trade. However, as Pakistan and its private sector strive to support their Afghan brethren through revival of the economic activity, the hostile elements are poised to undermine the efforts to serve their vested interest. Recently, Afghan's TOLO News reported that all of three Pakistani companies buying trade from Afghanistan were related to Pakistan Army and that they were purchasing the coal at reduced rates. But factually, the coal imports are undertaken by private companies on both sides having nothing to do with Pakistani government or institutions. Even, Afghan ministry of petroleum also denied existence of any official contract with Government of Pakistan or any Pakistani organization regarding the export of Afghan coal. The Afghan media report is based on misinformation and lacks authenticity as two out of said three companies are privately owned and have no links with the armed

forces, an official source said. Currently, Afghanistan's coal trade market is one of its biggest revenue resources, which is running an economic cycle benefitting the common Afghans from miners to transporters. As per Afghan Chambers of Commerce and Investment, the surge in exports of coal caused the rise in the country's annual revenue. However, any false reporting and narratives are meant only to harm the livelihood of common people. The impression by Afghan media that Pakistan was robbing Afghanistan of its natural resources is an absolute fantasy because in this entire coal trade Afghanistan is in a win-win situation. Under the trade, Afghan government is awarding contracts to all Afghan coal businessmen who hire all Afghan labour for coal extraction. The extracted coal is transported through trucks owned by Afghans and the coal-laden trucks pay toll tax and export duty to Afghan government to enter Pakistan. At the end, Pakistan's private sector also pays to Afghans to buy the coal. Pakistan's power plant is the lone consumer of low-grade Afghan coal and in case Pakistan switch to other less expensive coal sellers; the sole losers will be Afghanistan's common people, its mining industry and the government.

Therefore, Afghan government and people must not fall prey victim to corrupt politicians who have minted millions and fled abroad and now wants to halt the path to prosperity and development for abandoned Afghans. Actually, the Afghan people need to understand that those running anti-Pakistan propaganda are the real culprits who had been active since August 2021. As they cannot provide sustenance to Afghan people, so they are involved in propaganda against willing supporter and long time-tested and trusted friend of Afghanistan and its people. The coal export has helped Taliban government to generate revenue. Reportedly, as of May 27, 2022, officials had collected around 3 billion Afghanis (USD 33.80 million) in customs revenue on more than 16 billion Afghanis worth of coal exports in the last six months. This economic recovery is threatening for all those who collaborators/ allies who are united against Taliban government. Due to lack of any functioning international banking channels in Afghanistan, coal exports to Pakistan are a critical source of revenue for Afghan suppliers since they cannot effectively trade with any other country. Evidently, mutually beneficial coal trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan undermines hostile designs

of inimical forces/ elements. An August 2021 investigation uncovered an illegal mining corruption ring in Afghanistan involving SOS International (SOSI) Virginia company with links to US military and intelligence, according to Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, a consortium of investigative centers, media and journalists operating in Eastern Europe. Ex-Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's brother Hashmat is the owner of SOSI subsidiary, Southern Development. SOSI has been operating in Afghanistan essentially as a front for US DoD. Previous Afghan governments and their collaborators are the real robbers of prosperity and spoilers of peace in Afghanistan. The inroads made by SOSI and Southern Development into Afghanistan's mineral processing sector have roots in a 2011 initiative by U.S. special forces to work illegally with members of a pro-government Afghan militia on mining in Kunar province, the OCCRP said. The recent increase in the prices of coal by Taliban government is also a point of concern which is likely to reduce the coal exports to Pakistan, if preventive measures are not taken. The more is the trade between both the countries, the more are the benefits the troubled Afghan economy can acquire. - APP

## Govt allocates Rs 2300 mn for repairing of locomotives

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has allocated Rs. 2300 million in the current Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) to repair about 100 diesel-electric locomotives. The government has allocated funds amounting to Rs. 32, 648.036 million for the execution of 36 ongoing and new projects of the Railways Division, said an official of the ministry. He said, an amount of Rs. 6000 million has been kept for four new schemes, out of which Rs. 5000 million would be utilized for up-gradation of Pakistan Railways existing Main Line-I and establishment of Dry Port near Havelian (2018-22) Phase-I, China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC). An amount of Rs. 600 million would be utilized for the replacement of track machines. - APP

## Court Notice

In the Court of Madam Shagufta Sabir Judge Family Court Gujrat

Title: Aleena Bibi etc.

Versus Qadeer Abbas etc.

Notice to:

1. Qadeer Abbas S/O Muhammad Farooq, 2. Muhammad Akhtar S/O Faiz Ahmed, 3. Khalida Bibi W/O Muhammad Akhtar Residents of Jilani Post Office Mangowal Garbi, Tehsil and District Gujrat

Suit for Recovery of Maintenance

Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 27-07-2022, otherwise case will be decided ex party.

## Court Notice

In the Court of Mian Riasat Ali Naib Tehsildar Gujrat

Title: Ansar Javed

Versus Yasir Javed etc.

Notice to:

Yasir Javed, Amjad Javed, Nasar Javed, Mudassar Javed sons, Nazar Bibi wife of Muhammad Akbar, Ghazanfar Ali, Ch. Amar Shahzad sons of Muhammad Aslam, Irshad Begum Daughter, Muhammad Akram son of Muhammad Ashraf, Muhammad Asim, Muhammad Hakim sons of Muhammad Ahsan, Rizwan Akram, Irfan Akram sons of Muhammad Akram, Rana Muhammad Jameel, Rana Zahid Iqbal sons of Siraj Din, Muhammad Shafique, Muhammad Rafique sons of Muhammad Bashir, Muhammad Qamar Shahzad S/O Abdul Razaq, Zubair S/O Mushtaq Ahmed Butt, Muhammad Inayat S/O Imam Din, Muhammad Arif, Muhammad Hanif, Muhammad Younis, Muhammad Iqbal, Muhammad Aslam sons, Khurshid Begum wife of Muhammad Hussain, Shabbir Hussain, Muhammad Shafi deceased through legal heirs, Muhammad Irfan, Shamsheer Ali sons, Muhammad Hanif deceased through legal heirs, Muhammad Ehsan, Rafay Ahmed sons, Amanat Ali S/O Suba Khan, Kinza Bibi, Shamim Akhtar, Noreen Bibi, Hajra Bibi daughters, Muhammad Zeeshan Anwar, Muhammad Abdul Rehman, Muhammad Imran sons, Allah Ditta S/O Muhammad Din, Muhammad Hussain S/O Jalal Din, Khalida Bibi widow, Muhammad Naveed, Shakir Ali, Arslan Afzal sons, Nageen Akhtar, Ayesha Bibi daughters, Waqar Ahmed, Qasim Riaz, Ghulam Mehdi, Mohsin Riaz sons, Nagina Tahir, Kishwar Rani, Sidra Rani, Anam Rani, Rashida Parveen daughters, Razia Begum widow of Muhammad Riaz, Amanat Ali S/O Ahmed Khan Residents of Jalalpur Sobtjan Tehsil and District Gujrat

Amended Suit for Separation with Possession

Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 18-07-2022, otherwise case will be decided ex party.

## Upheaval in Sri Lanka

SRI Lankans are to be congratulated on their ousting of the Rajapaksa family, crowned by last week's hasty flight into exile of the country's president, Gotabaya Rajapaksa. The dramatic downfall of this predatory dynastic clan, which first took power in 2005, carries salutary lessons for other democracies where a famous name and elite connections sometimes count for more than competence and integrity. Sri Lanka is frequently described as an exceptional country, and in many ways it is. The peaceful behaviour of most of the anti-government protesters, and the fact the army did not attempt to seize power as a political vacuum developed, clearly set it apart. Yet the root causes of its recent troubles are readily recognisable the world over. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, his brother Mahinda, who preceded him as president, and another brother, Basil, who was appointed finance minister, consolidated their power over a pyre of dead bodies – the thousands of mostly Tamil victims of the long-running civil war they brought to an atrocious conclusion in 2009. War crimes committed during that dreadful time remain unpunished. Like unscrupulous populists and nationalists everywhere, the Rajapaksas exploited divisions stemming from economic insecurity, prejudice and plain ignorance, setting the Sinhalese Buddhist majority against the mostly Hindu Tamil and Muslim minorities. Rather than heal the wounds caused by the separatist war, they played upon them. After the Easter Sunday Islamist extremist attacks in 2019, they repeated the exercise. The brothers further cemented control by centralising power around the presidency, offering unaffordable tax cuts and running up extraordinary levels of debt. A "super-growth" spending spree on roads, airports and stadiums raised borrowing by over \$14bn amid credible claims of corruption, bribery and money laundering. Brutality, cupidity, stupidity, iniquity: the too common failings of abusive political leaders around the world, and the Rajapaksas had them all. Sri Lanka was heading for economic meltdown. By early 2022, the country owed \$51bn in foreign debt and was running out of dollars. In May, it defaulted. Fuel, basic foodstuffs and medicines grew desperately scarce. Hence the uprising on the streets. Sri Lanka faces a long road back and, once the dust settles, political backsliding poses an obvious risk. A new president will be chosen by parliament this week. There is talk of a unity government and constitutional reform. The fact the protests brought together all the ethnic and religious groups is a hopeful sign. For now at least, and against the odds, Sri Lanka's democracy has survived a long and testing ordeal.

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## Digital literacy

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

THE impact of digital media cannot be stressed enough. The corporate sector has been using social media to connect with current and prospective customers. The freelancing industry is relying on social and digital media to connect with customers and to offer their skills. Gone are the days when websites were the focal elements for an individual or a corporation to connect with the world. During the last two decades if the Internet has evolved into a tool we remain connected to at all times, then social media, too, has become an integral part of our lives. Just imagine the last time when you specifically switched on your television to watch the news. We receive news on the go on our social media profiles. If that is not enough then we receive exclusive video footage of incidents and events on our Whatsapp. Digital literacy, therefore, should be a course in business management schools. It should be a compulsory course irrespective of the bachelor's or master's degree program one pursues. The students should know the basics of how to manage digital and social media. The knowledge they acquire will help them handle the digital media of the organization where they are working or will work. Digital literacy will facilitate the students to learn how best to manage digital media at the personal and professional levels as well. Journalism and news production are now using digital media more than often. Some journalists have established their YouTube channels where they share information that they may share when working for a television channel. Digital media is here to stay. We are living more in the digital world than in the real world. We communicate through messenger and Whatsapp, watch movies on Netflix, and order items through Instagram and Facebook. In the years to come digital media will become more integral now that Metaverse has become a reality. However, one should often disconnect from the digital world and experience the real, natural world that we have been ignoring.

## A window of opportunity for Afghanistan and Pakistan

Ishtiaq Ahmed



Pakistan and Afghanistan share another vital concern with the Gulf nations: Iran's aggressive role beyond its borders. Pakistan and Iran have supported opposite sides during various stages of the Afghan conflict

THE Saudi-US alliance has served as an anchor of stability in the Middle East and a key source of support for Pakistan and Afghanistan during successive rounds of the Afghan war. The recent friction was an exception, coinciding with the US exit from Afghanistan. The two countries lost an important channel, the Kingdom's good offices, to persuade the US to remain engaged in mitigating the consequences of this war. The current US outreach in the Gulf is, therefore, a good opening for them. If this visit by US President Joe Biden to Saudi Arabia paves the way for restoring the strategic US-Saudi relationship, Pakistan and Afghanistan can hope to renew US interest in post-war stability in the region. The history of their overlapping interests testifies to this. The fate of Afghanistan and Pakistan is intertwined with the Gulf nations through common bonds of geography, religion and culture, and, by extension, with the US – the traditional security guarantor of the energy-rich Gulf and its strategic sea lanes – which have led to four major wars in the Gulf and Southwest Asia since 1979. The Gulf is the single largest source of foreign remittances for Afghanistan and Pakistan. Their Muslim populations share a deep affinity with Saudi Arabia for hosting Islam's holiest mosques

and hold its leadership in high esteem. Saudi Arabia is the principal source of oil imports for Pakistan. The Kingdom has also helped Pakistan in difficult times, by providing oil on deferred payment and shoring up its national reserves. The Afghan wars have imposed a heavy cost on Pakistan. Extremism and terrorism emanating from these conflicts have also hurt the Gulf region, particularly Saudi Arabia. Therefore, Pakistan and the Gulf nations have a common interest in a peaceful Afghanistan. Hence, they want the US and its Western allies to join hands in dealing with its current humanitarian crisis, which, if not addressed quickly, could spiral into another conflict and wave of transnational terrorism. Pakistan and Afghanistan share another vital concern with the Gulf nations: Iran's aggressive role beyond its borders. Pakistan and Iran have supported opposite sides during various stages of the Afghan conflict. They also accuse each other of sponsoring cross-border ethnic separatism. Pakistan avoids open hostility with Iran, but stands with the Kingdom on regional issues. The current US outreach in the Gulf will further isolate Iran, especially if the traditional Saudi-US partnership is restored. So does the de facto regime of the Taliban, as it seeks the support of Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and the UAE. After all, these were the three countries that recognized the previous Taliban regime and are also proactively engaged in the current humanitarian relief effort. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation has set up a trust fund for the purpose, with the largest contribution from the Kingdom. On Iran, Pakistan-Afghan and Saudi-Gulf interests have overlapped with US strategic priorities, except during the Obama administration, when the US sponsored the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, and the current administration, which made a failed bid to revive it. Each time, the purpose was to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons – but not to constrain its ballistic missile capability or proxy wars in the Middle East. That is how US appeasement has ended up fueling Iranian militarism. Recently, though, Iran has come under pressure from the Abraham Accords, which have brought Israel into the Gulf security equation; the normalization of Turkish relations with Saudi Arabia and the UAE; and, more recently, the Saudi-mediated cease-fire in Yemen. The current US outreach in the Gulf will further isolate Iran, especially if the traditional Saudi-US partnership is restored. This probability has already pushed Tehran toward Moscow, as is apparent from its reported deal to provide Russia with drones and its bid to join hands with Russia against Turkey in northern Syria. Unlike Russia, despite signing a strategic economic deal with Iran, China may prefer to preserve and promote its operational investment stakes in the Gulf rather than be part of Iran's zero-sum game. The Iranian regime has played this game all along. It survives internally by sustaining the bogey of external danger,

while expanding its deadly agenda abroad. How it will respond regionally in the face of its current isolation – more aggression out of desperation, or a facade of diplomacy with its Arab neighbors – remains unclear. Whatever the case, a globally isolated Iran at least relieves Pakistan and the Taliban rulers from a major spoiler of peace in post-war Afghanistan. They will also be able to serve Saudi-US interests in dealing with Iranian exploits in Southwest Asia. Beyond Iran, the resumption of the Saudi-US partnership could have several probable outcomes in Afghanistan and Pakistan. First, it is clear that Afghanistan's grave economic and humanitarian crisis cannot be managed unless the US takes the urgent step of unfreezing Afghan assets worth \$9.5 billion being held in American and European banks. Qatar has been the venue for US-Taliban talks for years, including for this financial row. Given its own stake in Afghan humanitarian relief, Saudi Arabia can play a more important role in resolving this matter through its good offices with the US. Social reforms give the Kingdom a distinctive ability to also persuade the Taliban leadership to address US political and human rights concerns, in return. Second, counterterrorism in Afghanistan is a shared regional and international interest. The Islamic State-Khorasan province terrorist group poses a real danger to Taliban rule. For now, the Daesh affiliate or the remnants of Al-Qaeda do not threaten Gulf-US security. However, if allowed to nurture support and regroup, they can act beyond Afghanistan's borders. Counterterrorism is also a value proposition that Pakistan can offer to regain US interest. In this respect, it can count on US re-engagement in the Gulf, especially with Saudi Arabia. Third, Pakistan's peace with India and recognition of Israel could be two other propositions over which Gulf-US interests coincide. The prospects of the former ultimately rest on the willingness of the two nuclear nations. The US will be more receptive to the latter, but it is way off: The taboo subject surfaces publicly from time to time, but instantly inflames passions. Finally, the stability of Pakistan itself is in question. Its new government is struggling to overcome an acute economic crisis by meeting tough conditions imposed by the International Monetary Fund. This has caused severe inflation. Pakistan expects Saudi Arabia, the UAE and China to additionally shore up its national reserves, once the IMF deal is in place. This should not be an issue. Saudi Arabia could also act as a via media for Pakistan's economic and security re-engagement with the US. Given its own interest in China's investment and trade, the Kingdom could even help to assuage US concerns about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which is a lifeline for the South Asian nation. – **Ishtiaq Ahmed is a former journalist who has been vice chancellor of Sargodha University in Pakistan and Quaid-e-Azam Fellow at the University of Oxford.**

## Palestinian universities are once again under attack

Neve Gordon

And as they fight for their survival under apartheid rule, they are receiving no real solidarity from their Israeli counterparts

PALESTINIAN universities are under attack once again. Later this month, the Israeli authorities are expected to put into effect a 97-page ordinance, called Procedure for Entry and Residence for Foreigners in Judea and Samaria Area (PDF), which would grant the Israeli Ministry of Defence and thus, the military, absolute power to determine how many and which foreign academics and students can visit, study or work at all 15 Palestinian universities and colleges in the West Bank. The "procedure" limits the number of staff allowed to work for any of these 15 universities and colleges to no more than 100 "distinguished lecturers and researchers," noting that "applications for a permit under this section will be approved if it is demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the authorised [military] official, that the lecturer contributes significantly to academic learning, to the area's economy, or to advancing regional cooperation and peace". Moreover, under the new ordinance, the Israeli authorities will not only determine who can or cannot teach in Palestinian universities but will also restrict the time foreign academics can reside in the West Bank to one semester, which ensures that foreign professors will no longer be able to become permanent members of the academic staff at any of West Bank's institutions of higher education. Finally, the procedure will only allow up to 150 foreign students to study in the West Bank at any given moment, while restricting their stay to one semester as well. Israel's attempt to exert total control over Palestinian universities is, of course, nothing new. But its approach to Palestinian higher education was once significantly different. Back in the early 1970s, when Israel's occupation of the West Bank was in its early years, the Israeli authorities provided Palestinians with permits to establish universities in the occupied territories. Security officials were under the impression that the establishment of universities could help Israel normalise the occupation and thus foster Palestinian support for Israeli rule. This policy backfired. The universities established under occupation rapidly became sites for political organising and mobilisation for Palestinian liberation. Furthermore, within a relatively short period, these universities produced a fairly large Palestinian professional class. The labour market in the occupied territories did not have much to offer these young graduates – Israel was almost exclusively hiring unskilled manual labourers for its construction and agricultural industries, and military authorities were blocking almost all attempts by Palestinians to establish independent industries or develop the service sector. In addition to Palestinian universities themselves, international human rights organisations, and professional associations such as the Middle East Studies Association and the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (in which I serve as chair of the Committee on Academic Freedom), an Israeli university publicly voiced concern in an official capacity over an Israeli policy that would undermine the academic freedom of Palestinians. The general assembly insists that the military should not intervene in decisions regarding a person's academic qualifications, but still accepts that the occupying military has the right to determine whether a lecturer, researcher or student poses a security threat and deny them access to Palestinian universities. "There are," it argues, "no security considerations that justify this kind of intervention because it is clear that in any case all lecturers, researchers and students need to receive an individual entry permit from security officials." Indeed, reading the letter carefully, Hebrew University's complaint sounds more like an effort to protect its own reputation than support Palestinian universities. While criticising a particular policy proposal, the university implies there is a possibility that academic freedom can exist under an apartheid regime. Thus, the letter does not challenge the structures of domination. Rather, it serves as a shield against those calling for an academic boycott on Israeli universities. Today, Palestinian universities are facing yet another attack. As they work to try and preserve something that at least resembles academic life under a brutal apartheid regime, they deserve real solidarity – not attempts by privileged academic institutions to save their own reputations. – *Courtesy Al Jazeera's*

## Disaster prevention and mitigation

Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi

The disaster prevention and mitigation has emerged as a science, it includes preparedness and capacity of response & recovery

IT was astonishing to notice a thirty eight years old story in English daily on Monday August 13, 1984 stating, "Well-to-do families had to go without meals in the posh Defence Society. The whole area resembles an island, with six to eighteen inches of standing water around each house as well as on the approach roads. Children have not gone to school since Tuesday last." Another surprise was listening to the CM Sindh during a press conference on July 14, 2022, "We all were on the roads including me, ministers, administrator and other officials to resolve the situation. Day before yesterday when there was a little break in the rain I was out on the roads risking my car to sink just behind the High Court. However, yesterday entire four to five feet of water was completely drained. In the same manner every part of the city except old city area was clean." It is this misconception which exposes us to such disastrous situations every year that during the disaster I was there on the ground, I was visible, I was present. It is good that leaders are at the forefront at the time of disaster and crisis but once disaster has unfolded then there is little left to prevent the consequences. With such a predictable history of urban flooding in Karachi, it is unconceivable that every year our government officials appear on media with lame excuses and blame games. In the same press conference CM Sindh mentioned about heavy rains of 2020 which were more than 400 millimetres, in 2003, 2006, 2009 & 2011 Karachi witnessed almost 300 millimetres of rain in the monsoon, in 2007 & 2010 it was around 400 millimetres. I remember in 1992 I was in Karachi to attend a training program when one day almost everyone in the office was in panic

after lunch and wanted to leave the office to reach home safely. We also left office but the driver couldn't arrive to pick us due to heavy waters on the roads, we decided to walk to the hotel but it was a terrible decision, we made to the hotel with lots of difficulties. Rain-induced flooding killed 21 in Baluchistan last year and 135 died this year so far with hundreds homeless. In the same manner there is a consistent pattern of flooding in Punjab and KPK. According to a report Pakistan has witnessed 20 major floods; in 1950, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1994, 1995, 2010, 2011, and 2012; we can also include 2016 in the list and 2020 with historic urban flooding in Karachi. If a nation is subject to a disaster with such a consistency, then it is indeed the responsibility of government officials to ensure concrete disaster prevention and mitigation mechanism which remains in place to meet any unexpected situation. In case of floods there are always warnings which we notice prior to any incidence. I was in Almaty, Kazakhstan when 2005 earthquake hit Pakistan. Almaty witnessed a major earthquake probably in 1970s. After the earthquake our defence attaché, in a meeting of the community, informed the Pakistani diaspora about the preparation of Kazakhstan for any unexpected earthquake to accommodate the need of entire city and appreciated the government of Kazakhstan for donating to Pakistan state of the art mobile hospital and tents with complete facilities including transportable toilets, which were picked by a special flight of Pakistan International Airline (PIA). The disaster prevention and mitigation has emerged as a science, it includes preparedness and capacity of response & recovery. Projections about the scale of the disaster keeping in view the historic trends, analysing exposure to the calamity e.g. in case of flooding vulnerable residential areas, underpasses, roads, health facilities, poorly maintained levee system and deferred infrastructure maintenance of more than 50 storm water drains (nalas) of Karachi and Nala Laiin Rawalpindi etc. can help relevant departments to ensure effective and efficient disaster prevention and mitigation mechanism. According to a report published by the Tulane University Louisiana, New Orleans, "Mitigation and prevention efforts aim to reduce the potential damage and suffering that disaster can cause. Mitigation specifically refers to actions

taken that can lessen the severity of a disaster's impact. Investing in measures that limit hazards which can greatly reduce the burden of disasters. Strategies to protect vulnerable communities and limit hazards include: raising awareness about potential hazards and how to address them, educating the public about how to properly prepare for different types of disaster, installing and strengthening prediction and warning systems and building partnerships between sectors and agencies at the federal, provincial, and local levels to collaborate on mitigation projects." We notice same trends over the years specifically in the case of monsoon flooding. We can mark those areas, we can ensure appropriate maintenance for flow of water to the level it has been recorded historically, we can budget required amounts to purchase relevant equipment for road drainage system etc. According to Rodex Network, "The primary purpose of a road drainage system is to remove the water from the road and its surroundings. The road drainage system consists of two parts: dewatering and drainage. Dewatering means the removal of rainwater from the surface of the road. Drainage on the other hand covers all the different infrastructural elements to keep the road structure dry. In Sweden dewatering is further divided into two parts: runoff and dewatering. Runoff covers the water flowing from the surface of the pavement via road shoulders and inner slopes to the ditches. Dewatering covers the collection and transport of water from the surface and structure of the road so that there will be no ponds on the road or in the ditches." Tulane University report further suggests, "Disaster readiness calls for contingency planning, advance decisions about managing human and monetary resources, coordinating procedures between different agencies, and organizing logistics. Contingency plans answer three basic questions: What will happen? What will the response be? What will be done ahead of time to prepare?" I think decision makers can abundantly benefit from global experiences to reduce human sufferings and minimize losses due to persistent natural calamities we notice almost every year in Pakistan. – **The writer is the Associate Professor Management Sciences Head, Center of Islamic Finance COMSATS University (CU) Lahore Campus. Email: drabdussattar@cuilahore.edu.pk**

## Briefs

## PTI rules the roost

FROM PAGE 01  
Analysts say it does not mean that PML-N has been wiped out from the Punjab because these seats actually belonged to the PTI and they have simply taken them back.

Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz has congratulated all the departments concerned for holding an impartial and transparent by-elections in the province. In a statement issued here, he lauded the departments for working day and night so as to ensure the holding of peaceful elections.

The voter used the right to vote in a peaceful environment, he added. Unpleasant incidents took place at a few places on which prompt action was taken, he maintained.

The CM stated that the law and order situation remained satisfactory on the whole in the 20 constituencies of Punjab as effective steps were taken to ensure holding of by-elections in a peaceful environment, he outlined.

## PML-N accepts defeat

FROM PAGE 01  
PML-N's strategy for the election for the position of Chief Minister Punjab, scheduled to be held on July 22, Khan said: "I spoke to Hamza Shahbaz and he was of the view that people have expressed their choice, so we need to acknowledge it."

"Last time the situation was different as there were divisions among the party but this time, it is all about the public and now we will assess where we went wrong," he said, adding he considered these by-polls as snap-elections.

## Imran calls core committee meeting

FROM PAGE 01  
PTI is winning in at least 15 seats. But it is very important for all our people on duty in all polling stations not to leave their posts till official results have been obtained from the Returning Officers.

As results coming in PTI is winning in at least 15 seats. But it is very important for all our people on duty in all polling stations not to leave their posts till official results have been obtained from the Returning Officers.

## Rashid's alleged audio leaked

FROM PAGE 01  
which he is telling a person named Gul Zaman that "So you made a payment Jalil Sharaquri too yesterday".

Responding to this, Gul Zaman said that "This is a telephonic conversation be careful, things will get better by the will of Allah."

The former interior minister further said that "Nothing happens, I have asked for victory in Lahore because of you."

"I gave a beeper (on TV channels) because of you. See, what happens now," said Sheikh Rashid.

"You gave a beeper because of me. Allah is the best protector," replied Gul Zaman.

"Haven't you come out yet? It's such a great election," Sheikh Rashid asked from Gul Zaman.

"We are just going out. We'll give you the news then," said Gul Zaman.

On the other hand, Jalil Sharaquri, who resigned as a Member of the Provincial Assembly, has said that "Sheikh Rashid made this audio recording at the request of someone, and he is the enemy of Imran Khan."

"I have no contact with Sheikh Rashid, I told Imran Khan that Aleem Khan is not with him and my words proved to be true," he added.

## Babar Azam fights back after Jayasuriya topples line-up

During his special knock, Babar smashed Indian batter Kohli's record to become the fastest Asian batter to complete 10,000 runs in int'l cricket

## SPORTS DESK

GALLE: Pakistan all-format skipper Babar Azam fought back and scored a crucial century after the visitor's batting order collapsed in their first innings of the first Test here at the Galle International Stadium.

Babar show his class yet again and scored 119 runs in 244 balls to help Pakistan get back in the game after they were reduced to 104-7 at lunch, thanks to Prabath Jayasuriya's exceptional five-for. During his special knock, Babar smashed Indian batter Virat Kohli's record to become

the fastest Asian batter to complete 10,000 runs in international cricket.

Young pacer Naseem Shah also showed fighting spirit and frustrated the Sri Lankan bowling line-up as he faced 52 deliveries, and scored five runs, remaining not out.

Unluckily, Babar

was trapped for an lbw by Maheesh Theekshana, who claimed his second wicket of the first innings, and bowled out Pakistan for 218.

Yasir Shah and Hasan Ali also scored 18 and 17 runs, respectively. Earlier, Jayasuriya put up a sensational performance for Sri Lanka as the hosts reduced Pakistan to 104-7 at lunch.

In a rain-delayed match, Jayasuriya claimed four crucial wickets in the first session of the second day to topple the touring party's batting order.

Azhar Ali, who only made three runs on the first day, couldn't add any run to his innings as he was trapped for an lbw by Jayasuriya, putting Pakistan under immense pressure.

In the 30th over, all-rounder Ramesh Mendis got the better of wicket-keeper batter Mohammad Rizwan, who scored 19 runs in 35 balls before getting caught by Niroshan Dickwella. Debutant Agha Ali Salman lost his wick-

et to Jayasuriya after making only 5 runs off 15 balls.

Later in the 39th over, Mohammad Nawaz lost his wicket to a brave catch by Oshanda Fernando off Jayasuriya's ball, who took a sensational grab to send the all-rounder back to the pavilion. The left-arm spinner was on a hatrick after he tricked Shaheen Shah Afridi and trapped him for an lbw on a golden duck.

On the first day, Sri Lanka took two early wickets as Pakistan's nervous openers Abdullah Shafique, and Imam-ul-Haq departed after scoring 13 and two runs, respectively. Before that, Pakistan had restricted Sri Lanka to 222-run after Shaheen showcased his skills and talent in spin-friendly conditions and claimed four wickets to topple the hosts' batting order. Hasan Ali and Yasir Shah also claimed two wickets each. Dinesh Chandimal 76 (115) top-scored for the hosts but couldn't reach his century.

## Era of Western dominance ending, says Tony Blair

LONDON: For the first time in modern history the East can be on equal terms with the West, as the global dominance of the US and its allies comes to an end, former British prime minister Tony Blair has said. Due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine, "for a large part of the Western population, living standards are stagnating," Blair noted in his annual lecture at the Ditchley Foundation on Saturday. "Western politics is in turmoil - more partisan, ugly, unproductive; and fueled by social media," which affects both domestic and international affairs, Blair said, arguing that Russia's military operation in Ukraine "should become a pivot point reviving our [Western] sense of mission."

However, according to the 69-year-old, who led the UK government from 1997 to 2007, "the biggest geopolitical change of this century will come from China not Russia." "We are coming to the end of Western political and economic dominance. The world is going to be at least bi-polar and possibly multi-polar," he predicted. China, which is "already the world's second superpower," will compete with the West "not just for power but against our system, our way of governing and living," the Labour politician warned. Beijing "will not be alone. It will have allies. Russia now for sure. Possibly Iran." "It is the first time in modern history that the East can be on equal terms with the West," he added.

The former premier said the events in Ukraine have made it clear the West "cannot rely on the Chinese leadership to behave in the way we would consider rational. Don't misunderstand me. I am not saying in the near term that China would attempt to take [the self-governed island of] Taiwan by force. But we can't base our policy on the certainty that it wouldn't." In order to stay relevant in the new environment, the West needs to develop a common strategy, "pursued with coordination, commitment and competence," with higher defense spending to "maintain military superiority" while expanding so-called "soft power" by building ties with developing countries, Blair concluded. - DNA



MINSK: Pakistan ambassador to Belarus, Sajjad Haider Khan participated in BMW Hole in One Challenge Tournament held at Minsk Golf Club. - DNA

## French hopes flagging on Tour de 'Lose'

RODEZ (FRANCE): Regional newspaper Le Progres groaned over the long wait for a home Tour de France stage winner this weekend with the scathing headline "Blue, Blanc, Lose", a play on the French tri-colour using lose instead of rouge. The issue has become both a hot topic and a hot potato on an enthralling Tour featuring fans galore, eye-catching panoramas and an epic title struggle after Jonas Vingegaard knocked champion Tadej Pogacar off his perch in an Alpine stage for the ages. Danes and Belgians have won three stages in this pulsating 109th edition of the world's most prestigious bike race, the Dutch, Slovenians and Australians twice - but France is still sighing with disappointment. Britain's Tom Pidcock and Bob Jungels of Luxembourg won the other stages, but at least the latter races for a French team - AG2R. The charismatic climber Thibaut Pinot of the FDJ outfit has come closest for France, with a long-range bid on Saturday giving him a third place for the second time. "I'm so disappointed," said Pinot, reflecting the general mood of French cycling. "It takes a little bit of luck, a little bit of legs, a little bit of everything," he said. A man who seems to make his own luck, Julian Alaphilippe was described as "the Darling of France" as he dashed around in the overall leader's yellow jersey for most of the 2018 Tour. France's double world champion Alaphilippe won a stage on each of the last four Tours, but hit a tree at high speed in the build-up to this one. His swashbuckling win on stage 1 last year is France's last, meaning that if no French rider wins Sunday's run to Carcassonne on stage 15, the wait stretches to 36 stages and counting. But France may not have to wait too long, with a trilogy of Pyrenean Mountain stages coming up next week and a trident of domestic hopes capable of delivering what French fans often love best, a sudden burst of Gallic flair delivering triumph in the face of adversity. Pinot himself has previously achieved this, sending his emotional team boss Marc Madiot into delirium on the Col du Tourmalet in 2019. "I'm looking forwards to the Pyrenees, those long climbs are the kind that suit me," he said, and his recent win on the Tour de Suisse suggests this is more than bluster. Pinot's younger teammate David Gaudu is also talking up a fight after finding his form on Saturday's final climb accompanied by blockbuster crowds. "I unleashed the horses and boy did they run. Now I'm in the mood for it and I can't wait to get to the Pyrenees," he said. - DNA

## Kerley wins world 100m gold in US cleansweep

EUGENE: American Fred Kerley led a US cleansweep as he stormed to victory in the men's 100m at the World Championships in Oregon on Saturday. Kerley, in lane four, was down on Marvin Bracy for 95 metres of the tight race, but managed to outpace his teammate for victory in 9.86 seconds at Eugene's Hayward Field. Bracy took silver in 9.88sec, Trayvon Bromell claiming bronze in the same time for a third-ever 100m world championship cleansweep for the United States after 1983 and 1991. The fourth of the strong US quartet, Christian Coleman, the reigning world champion from Doha in 2019 who was banned from the Tokyo Olympics for missing three doping tests, finished sixth (10.01) despite an electric start. - APP

## Robert Lewandowski exit leaves Bayern seeking new striker

BERLIN: The departure of Robert Lewandowski leaves Bayern Munich with the unenviable task of finding a replacement for the Bundesliga's most prolific contemporary striker after his relationship with the club turned sour. Following eight glorious years in Munich, winning the Bundesliga each season and lifting the Champions League trophy in 2020, Lewandowski announced in late May that "my story with Bayern comes to an end". The forward turns 34 in August, yet Lewandowski is showing no signs of slowing down and now embarks on a fresh challenge to make as much impact on Spain's La Liga as he did in the Bundesliga. He scored 35 times last season in Germany's top flight, after breaking the single-season scoring record in the previous campaign with 41 Bundesliga goals, snatching the record from Gerd Mueller who held it for 49 years. The Polish striker quits Germany's top flight having scored 312 goals in 383 Bundesliga games for Bayern and former club Dortmund. Only German legend Mueller, who scored 365 goals for Bayern in 427 Bundesliga games during the 1960s and 1970s, netted more. But since Lewandowski won FIFA's best male player award for the second year running in January, his relationship with Bayern has progressively unravelled. With Lewandowski's contract expiring in 2023, Bayern sports director Hasan Salihamidovic insisted at the start of the year that the star striker was central to their plans. Yet when a Sky reporter relayed the message in a post-match interview in February, Lewandowski dropped the first hint that communications had broken down. "I'm hearing that for the first time," he said. - DNA

## Japan athletics team hit by Covid outbreak

EUGENE: Seven members of Japan's team at the World Athletics Championships, including two marathon runners, have tested positive for Covid-19, organisers said Saturday. A joint statement from World Athletics, the Japan Association of Athletics Federations and local organisers said the outbreak had hit endurance athletes and staff at the championships in Oregon. Two marathon runners, four support staff and the head coach of the team had returned positive tests. The identities of the individuals involved were not disclosed. The statement said the seven individuals had already been isolated and will remain in isolation for five days. "Steps are being taken to prevent the spread of Covid-19 both within the Japanese delegation as well as amongst all the teams present for the Championships," the statement said. "All athletes have been fully vaccinated as a requirement for participation in these Championships." As a precaution, all remaining members of the Japanese delegation would be required not to share common spaces with other delegations.

It said Japanese team members would "as much as possible, be housed independently to prevent the spread of contamination within the Japanese delegation." The outbreak comes amid a surge of infections across the United States as new variants of Covid-19 take hold. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said this week that 21 of Oregon's 36 counties were now deemed to be at "high" risk of the virus.

Earlier Saturday, British athlete Morgan Lake announced she had been forced to withdraw from the World Championships after testing positive for Covid-19. Lake said she had spent five days in isolation without showing any symptoms but was still testing positive for the virus.

"There's bad timing and there's being exposed to Covid on the week of world champs," Lake wrote on Twitter. "Absolutely heartbroken to have to watch from my hotel room and whilst I'm grateful to be feeling 100% fine, it's even more frustrating to know that I am physically ready to compete but can't," she tweeted. - APP

## Kerley leads American 100m sweep at worlds

EUGENE: American Fred Kerley led a US clean sweep as he stormed to victory in the men's 100m at the World Championships in Oregon on Saturday. Kerley, in lane four, trailed Marvin Bracy for 95 metres of the tight race, but managed to outpace his teammate for victory in 9.86 seconds at Eugene's Hayward Field. Bracy took silver in 9.88sec, Trayvon Bromell claiming bronze in the same time for a third-ever 100m world championship clean sweep for the United States after 1983 and 1991. The fourth of the strong US quartet, Christian Coleman, the reigning world champion from Doha in 2019 who was banned from the Tokyo Olympics for missing three doping tests, finished sixth (10.01) despite an electric start. "We said we were going to do it and we did! USA, baby!" Olympic silver medalist Kerley said to roars of approval and applause from a partisan home crowd. "I didn't know until I looked up and saw the clock with my name 'Fred Kerley' on it," added Kerley, whose path to gold was made easier by the withdrawal of Italy's Olympic champion Marcel Jacobs earlier Saturday. "It means a lot and I've done something not many 400m runners have done," Kerley said, adding: "I know today opened up many doors for me. The future is bright for me." The last US clean sweep featured Carl Lewis, Leroy Burrell and Dennis Mitchell, something not lost on the modest Kerley or silver medalist Bracy. "It's amazing to be among the great, they did it in 1991, we did in 2022," Bracy said. "This is history, to be part of something that has only happened three times ever just means the world to me." Bracy meanwhile paid tribute to Kerley's remarkable versatility. The 27-year-old started his career as a 400m specialist before switching down to the shorter 100m. - APP

## G20 members agree on majority of FMCBG results

"There are 14 paragraphs of the draft on the result of this two-day meeting. The majority of the results of the meeting were agreed upon by all members of the G20," she informed

## ANTARA

BADUNG: G20 nations have agreed on the majority of the results of the 3rd Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting, held in Bali on July 15-16, 2022, despite tensions over the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati made the remarks while delivering the results of the FMCBG meeting, which took place at the Bali Nusa Dua Convention Center (BNDDCC). Indrawati said that the meeting succeeded in agreeing on a number of initiatives, and successfully garnered support for overcoming various global economic and financial problems.

"There are 14 paragraphs of the draft on the result of this two-day meeting. The majority of the results of the meeting were agreed upon by all members of the G20," she informed. Two paragraphs of the result draft contain the differing views of several G20 members, including on the use of the word "war" in relation to several issues, she said. Nevertheless, the result document represents the opinions of all G20 members on

the seven priority agendas discussed at the meeting, Indrawati argued. "We call it (the differences) as an expression, a different view. In the results of the

meeting, which is called the chair summary, most of the paragraphs support the issues that I previously mentioned," she said. At the 3rd FMCBG meeting, G20 finance

ministers and central bank governors discussed seven priority agendas—the global economic situation and risks, global health, international financial architecture, financial sector issues, sustainable finance, infrastructure, and international taxation. On the global economic situation and risks, the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors discussed the impact of Russia's aggression in Ukraine, particularly on the threat of energy, food, and financial crises. Indrawati said that Indonesia, as the leader of the meeting, was aware of the sensitive situation created by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, considering that two strong G20 countries—namely Russia and the United States, which is supporting Ukraine—had adopted opposite stances. Indonesia and other G20 members, however, must still place the G20 as the world's largest economic cooperation forum that has a long history of resolving various global problems. "All G20 members also agreed to continue maintaining existing cooperation in the spirit of multilateralism," she said. The Indonesian Finance Minister then emphasized that the focus of the two-day meeting was not merely on the tensions in Ukraine, but on the seven priority economic agendas drawn up by Indonesia.



## Briefs

## Malaysian assets at risk globally

AGENCIES

KUALA LUMPUR: The heirs of a 19th century sultanate are seeking to seize Malaysian government assets around the world in a bid to enforce a \$14.9 billion arbitration award they won against the Southeast Asian nation, despite a stay on the case handed by a French court, their lawyers told Reuters. A French arbitration court in February ordered Malaysia to pay the sum to the descendants of the last Sultan of Sulu to settle a dispute over a colonial-era land deal.

Malaysia said on Wednesday the Paris Court of Appeal had stayed the ruling, after finding that enforcement of the award could infringe the country's sovereignty. Law minister Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said the stay would prevent the award from being enforced as Malaysia works to set aside the ruling. Malaysia had not previously participated in the arbitration. read more Lawyers for the claimants, however, say the February ruling remains legally enforceable outside France through the New York Convention, a U.N. treaty on international arbitration recognised in 170 countries. "The 'stay' that seems to comfort the Malaysian government temporarily delays local enforcement in one country, France itself," said Paul Cohen, the heirs' lead co-counsel, of London-based law firm 4-5 Gray's Inn Square.

## Multiple casualties reported in Somalia

MONITORING DESK

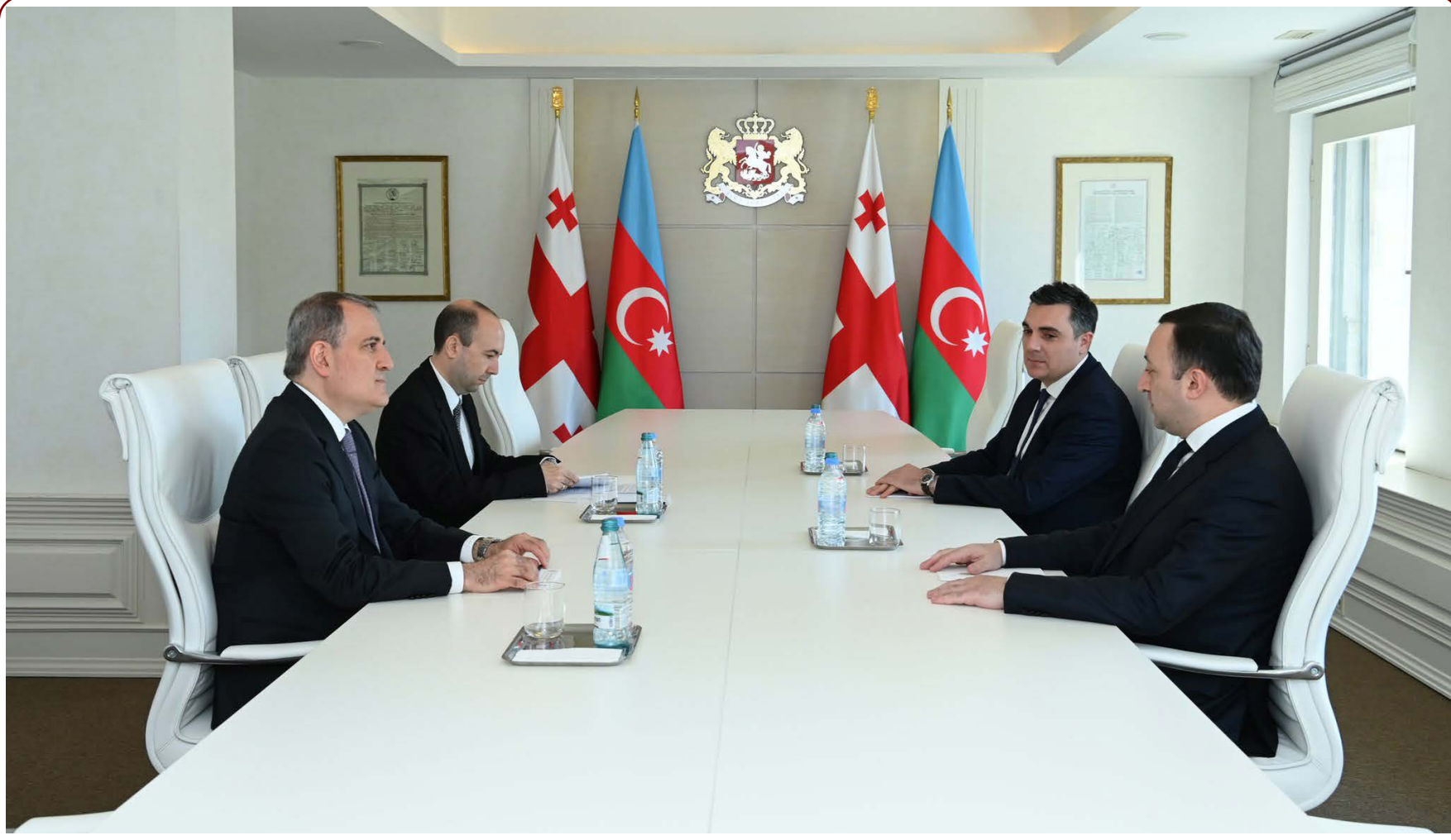
MOGADISHU: Multiple casualties were reported in southern Somalia on Sunday as a powerful explosion struck a popular hotel frequented by regional authorities, officials confirmed. The blast was the result of a car bomb that targeted Nur Dob hotel in the town of Jowhar, wounding several people including local authorities, among them the health minister of Hirshabelle state, according to senior officials who spoke to Anadolu Agency over the phone after the attack. Jowhar is the administrative center of Hirshabelle state and is located 90 kilometers (55 miles) north of the national capital Mogadishu. Eyewitnesses told Anadolu Agency that the explosion had affected nearby buildings and was one of the largest they had heard lately in the Horn of Africa country that has suffered major attacks in recent years. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack, but the al-Qaeda-linked terrorist group al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for similar strikes.

## Iran accuses US of stoking 'Iranophobia'

DNA

TEHRAN: Iran has accused the United States of stoking tension in the Middle East region by resorting to "Iranophobia" following President Joe Biden's regional tour. In a statement on Sunday, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani dismissed claims and accusations against Iran made during Biden's maiden regional trip. He said joint statements made during Biden's visits to Israel and Saudi Arabia were "in line with the US policy of inciting sedition and tension" in the region. On the second leg of his regional tour in the Saudi port city of Jeddah on Saturday, Biden and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman addressed a regional summit, which was followed by a joint statement. The two sides "underscored the need to further deter Iran's interference in the internal affairs of other countries, its support for terrorism through its armed proxies, and its efforts to destabilize the security and stability of the region." They also stressed the "importance of preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon," according to the statement. Taking strong exception to the statement, Kanaani said the US was the "first country to use a nuclear bomb," has "continued its interference in regional countries," and "sold weapons" to governments in the region. He also referred to the "blind and unlimited support" of the US government to Israel, holding Washington equally responsible for the "continued occupation" of Palestine. On the first leg of his tour to Israel, Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Yair

Lapid issued a joint declaration, reaffirming their resolve to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. "The United States stresses that integral to this pledge is the commitment never to allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon, and that it is prepared to use all elements of its national power to ensure that outcome," read the statement dubbed "Jerusalem Declaration." Kanaani said Iran's nuclear program is in line with the "framework of international laws and regulations," claiming that Israel possesses the "largest nuclear arsenal in the region." He further said Iran welcomes dialogue with its neighbors and intra-regional initiatives. Tensions between Iran and the US are again running high in the wake of Biden's maiden visit to Israel and Saudi Arabia, which has seen both sides exchange verbal volleys. The two sides are currently engaged in indirect talks in Doha to revive the 2015 nuclear accord, mediated by the European Union, but breakthrough remains elusive amid key disagreements on security and economic issues. On Saturday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry updated its list of designated US officials per a 2017 parliamentary law that calls for "countering US human rights violations and terrorist actions." The 61 newly designated individuals include former US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, former US presidential candidate, and Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani among others. The ministry said these individuals have lent their support to the Mujahideen e Khalq (MEK), an Iranian dissident group based in Albania, which the Iranian government accuses of carrying out terrorist attacks in the country.



TIBLISI: Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia In a meeting. Issues on normalization of relations were discussed. Full implementation of all provisions of Trilateral Statements, humanitarian issues, including fate of missing persons were stressed. Importance of continuing direct dialogue noted. – DNA

## China uses technology for Eastbay Expressway project

DNA

Islamabad, July 17 (): China transferred advanced technology and skill to Pakistan to develop Eastbay Expressway project, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Sunday According to Lieutenant Colonel (Rtd.) Naveed Ahmad Shami who has been working with the project for about seven years, the Chinese used advanced technology, known as Revetment and Pilling Technology, and engineering for the first time in Pakistan. He is the coordinator of the 19-kilometer-long Eastbay Expressway project and he is proud that almost 4

kilometers of the area is reclaimed from the sea by using this technology. Shami revealed that the initial time for the project was about three years but they had to build three bridges for the fishermen. Now the fishermen can cross the road easily and they can also transport their boats and luggage through these bridges. Although the project was delayed for one more year, this shows how much the Chinese are concerned about the facilitation of the local people. The main aim of the Eastbay Expressway project is to ease the transportation of the heavily loaded cargoes from the port to the CPEC artery. Although some elements

tried to damage the project, fortunately, no mishap happened during the project due to the very tight security guards and around-the-clock security given by the Pakistani Army. China has not only transferred technology and machinery for the development of Gwadar in particular and Pakistan in general, but also transferred it to the people of Pakistan in the most remote areas. According to Naveed Shami, the Chinese have constructed training institutes all over the region. When an industry is developed, there will be the highest job opportunities for local people. During all these projects, Chinese companies will prefer local people like Baloch and local people from Gwadar. It

is very right to say that it would be a game changer, said Naveed Shami. It is a welcoming thing that the Chinese are making sincere efforts for the modernization and development of the local people. They have established vocational institutes and introduced 26 subjects for the locals which have more than 300 capacities. They have boarding, lodging, and other systems which are not going to charge any money from the Pakistani government. Shami is hopeful that the transfer of technology and skills will bring prosperity and development for the Pakistanis, especially for the people of Balochistan.

## Hungarians rally against Orban's reforms

AGENCIES

BUDAPEST: Around 1,000 Hungarians demonstrated against Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government on Saturday in the latest of a series of smaller demonstrations this week since his right-wing Fidesz party passed legislation sharply raising taxes on small firms. Nationalist Orban is facing his toughest challenge yet since taking power in a 2010 landslide, with inflation at its highest in two decades, the forint plumbing record lows and European Union funds in limbo amid a dispute over democratic standards. The blockade of a bridge in Budapest on Tuesday failed to derail the approval of a government motion to increase the tax rate for hundreds of thousands of small firms, defying criticism from some business groups and opposition parties. On Wednesday, Orban's government also curtailed a cap on utility prices for higher-usage households, rolling back one of the 59-year-old premier's signature policies in recent years due to a surge in electricity and gas prices amid the war in Ukraine. "I have an acquaintance who only heats with electricity. His monthly power bill has been 30,000 forints (\$75) so far, which is not a lot, but from now on he will be paying 153,000," said Miklos Nyiri, a 70-year-old pensioner at the rally. "He is a pensioner, so the pension will be eaten up by the power bill, and they will be left grazing in the field," he said, adding however that the small-scale protest was unlikely to force Orban to change tack. Saturday's rally was called by small-town mayor Peter Marki-Zay, Orban's independent challenger, whose opposition alliance suffered a crushing defeat in an April parliamentary election.

## Search efforts under way at Greece plane crash site

WEB DESK

ATHENS: A drone on Sunday was monitoring the wreckage of a cargo plane operated by a Ukrainian airline that crashed the previous day near the Greek city of Kavala. According to state-run TV, the army, explosives experts and Greek Atomic Energy Commission staff would approach the area after it is deemed safe as fears about the toxicity of the unknown cargo were forcing them to stay away. Fire brigade official Marios Apostolidis told reporters that "men from the fire service with special equipment and measuring instruments approached the point of impact of the aircraft and had a close look at the fuselage and other parts scattered in the fields". When the area is deemed secure, the search teams are going to operate, he added. Thirteen men from the fire brigade's special teams as well as 26 firemen are near the crash site.

## China's sponge city model can reduce urban flooding

The soil then purifies that water and gradually releases it – much like a sponge

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: Adopting China's sponge city model in major cities of Pakistan may reduce urban flooding by 90%, and this may also help to absorb carbon dioxide, increase animal and plant life and expand green spaces. The sponge city model aims to use pervious pavements, rain gardens, green roofs, urban wetlands, and other innovations to absorb water during storms. The soil then purifies that water and gradually releases it – much like a sponge, CEN reported. Faced with worsening urban floods, cities in China are embracing nature and building what is termed "sponge cities." Instead of relying on the "grey infrastructure" of levees, pipes, dams and channels, sponge cities allow urban areas to absorb water in times of high rainfall and release it in times of drought. The 34-hectare "Qunli storm water park" in the city of Harbin in northern China is one example of a successful sponge city. It collects, cleanses and stores stormwater, while also protecting the native natural habitat and providing a beauti-

ful green public space for recreational use. The government of Pakistan in the past adopted various strategies to avoid urban flooding including the installation of a rainwater harvesting system and the construction of large underground water tanks. The first urban rainwater harvesting system was installed in the capital city of Islamabad in 2010 at the iconic Faisal Mosque to conserve 3 million litres of water. On the other hand, in 2020 the Lahore city management launched its first underground water storage system to collect rainwater for reuse and reduce flooding in the city of over 11 million. The Lahore Development Authority (LDA), in collaboration with its subsidiary Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA), developed the first rainwater storage in the city to recharge the depleting groundwater resources. So far, 3 out of 22 underground tanks have been constructed successfully. Experts believe that climate change is the major cause of the heavier than average downpour in Pakistan. In the months of June-July, continuous rain in Pakistan has killed more than 150 people, triggering flash floods and affecting millions more.

## Iraq's date palms: rescuing a national icon

AGENCIES

KARBALA: Thousands of young date palms, Iraq's national symbol, form lines that extend from the edge of the desert near the central city of Karbala and into the horizon. Iraq's prized trees are central to a push aimed to preserve a long-threatened ancestral culture, whose fruit historically presented prosperity across the Arab world. "The date palm is the symbol and pride of Iraq," says Mohamed Abul-Maali, commercial director at the Fadak date plantation. Once known as the "country of 30 million palm trees", and home to 600 varieties of the fruit, Iraq's date production has been blighted by decades of conflict and environmental challenges, including drought, desertification and salinisation.

## COVID-19 vaccination campaign launched in Afghanistan

FOREIGN DESK

PUL-E-KHUMRI: A COVID-19 immunization campaign has been launched in Afghanistan's northern Baghlan province, a local official said on Sunday. Provincial public health director Massoud Ahmadi said "over 150,000 people, including men and women above 18" would receive COVID-19 vaccines across the province. A similar campaign was also launched in Jawjan province on Saturday. Director of public relations office of Jawjan provincial administration Hamidullah Darzabi said more than 100,000 people above 18 would be vaccinated in the province over the next 30 days. Such campaigns were also launched earlier in the eastern Nangarhar and western Farah provinces.

## China floods kill a dozen people, thousands evacuated

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: Flash floods in southwest and northwest China have left at least a dozen dead and put thousands of others in harm's way. In the southwestern province of Sichuan, at least six people have died and another 12 are missing after torrential rain triggered flash floods, state-owned news outlet CGTN reported on Sunday. Some 1,300 people had been evacuated as of Saturday, the report said. Meanwhile, in Longnan city in the northwestern province of Gansu, another six deaths were reported and 3,000 people have been evacuated, state broadcaster CCTV said. Rainfall in 1 1/2 day was as much as 98.9 millimetres (3.9 inches) in the worst affected areas, almost double the July average.

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**Briefs**

**PIA resumes Beijing-Islamabad flights**

**DNA**

BEIJING: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) resumed its passenger flights on Beijing-Islamabad route after a gap of nearly seven months when PK-855 took off from Capital International Airport for Islamabad on Sunday. The national flag carrier resumed its commercial passenger flights on Islamabad-Xian and Beijing-Islamabad section from last month but the aircraft had to return back to Islamabad from Xian as Beijing Capital Airport was closed for the international passenger flights following Covid-19 prevention, official sources told APP here. PIA flight PK-854 arrived in Xian from Islamabad on Saturday. The PIA aircraft arrived in Beijing from Xian after no Covid-19 case was found. Then flight PK-855 returned to Islamabad from Beijing Capital International Airport today.

**Iran says it's capable of building nuclear bomb**

**MONITORING DESK**

TEHRAN: Iran is technically capable of producing a nuclear bomb but no political decision on such an option has been made, Kamal Kharrazi, a senior adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, has said. "In a few days we were able to enrich uranium up to 60% and we can easily produce 90% enriched uranium," Kharrazi told Al Jazeera on Sunday. The bombshell revelation comes shortly after US President Joe Biden pledged Washington will do everything to prevent Tehran from obtaining nuclear weaponry. While Iran has long-maintained it had never sought to develop nuclear weaponry, the country has ramped up its nuclear activities over the past few years. Gradual expansion of the nuclear program followed the 2018 move by then-US President Donald Trump to unilaterally withdraw from the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran. Since then, the landmark agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), has effectively fallen apart, with Washington re-imposing old sanctions and slapping new ones on Tehran. Iran, in turn, gradually suspended its obligations under JCPOA, installing new uranium-enriching equipment and boosting output of the radioactive material.

# Russia preparing for next stage of offensive: Ukraine

**NEWS DESK**

KYIV: Russia is preparing for the next stage of its offensive in Ukraine, a Ukrainian military official said, after Moscow said its forces would step up military operations in "all operational areas". As Western deliveries of long-range arms begin to help Ukraine on the battlefield, Russian rockets and missiles have pounded cities in strikes that Kyiv says have killed dozens in recent days. "It is not only missile strikes from the air and sea," Vadym Skibitskiy, a spokesman for Ukrainian military intelligence, said on Saturday. "We can see shelling along the entire line of contact, along the entire front line. There is an active use of tactical aviation and attack helicopters. Clearly preparations are now underway for the next stage of the offensive." The Ukrainian military said Russia appeared

## EU mulls sanctions

KYIV: The European Union will discuss tightening sanctions against Russia on Monday, as Moscow is accused of using the continent's largest nuclear power plant to store weapons and launch missiles on the surrounding regions of southern Ukraine. The situation at the captured Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant is "extremely tense", Ukraine's atomic energy agency chief Petro Kotin said, adding that the Russians had installed missile launchers and used the facility to shell the Dnipro region. Describing "a deluge of fire",

to be regrouping units for an offensive toward Sloviansk, a symbolically important city held by Ukraine in the eastern region of Donetsk. The British defence ministry said on Sun-

day that Russia was also reinforcing defences across areas it occupies in southern Ukraine after pressure from Ukrainian forces and pledges from Ukrainian leaders to force Russia out. Ukraine says at least 40

people have been killed in Russian shelling of urban areas since Thursday as the war launched by Russian President Vladimir Putin on Feb. 24 intensifies. Dozens of relatives and local residents attended the funeral of 4-year-old Liza Dmytrieva in the central Ukrainian city of Vinnytsia on Sunday. The girl was killed in a missile strike on central Vinnytsia on Thursday that killed 24 people, according to Ukrainian authorities. Rockets hit the northeastern town of Chuhuiv in Kharkiv region on Friday night, killing three people including a 70-year-old woman and wounding three others, said regional Governor Oleh Synehubov. "Three people lost their lives, why? What for? Because Putin went mad?" said Raisa Shapoval, 83, a distraught resident sitting in the ruins of her home. To the south, more than 50 Russian Grad rockets pounded the city of Nikopol on the Dnipro River, killing two people who were found in the rubble, said Governor Valentyn Reznichenko.

## Rain lashes several Karachi areas

**DNA**

KARACHI: Several areas of Karachi on Sunday received the second spell of the monsoon rains, breaking the momentum of warm and humid weather and turning the atmosphere pleasant in the port city. According to media, Gulistan-e-Jauhar, Scheme 33, Malir, Quaidabad, Bin Qasim, Korangi, Landhi, Clifton, Defence, I.I. Chundrigar Road, MT Khan Road, Keemari, and Gulshan-e-Iqbal, among other areas of the city, received light to moderate downpours. Earlier, the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) had said that under the influence of the monsoon system, heavy rain with thunderstorms were expected in Karachi, Hyderabad, Thatta, Badin, and areas of Balochistan.



LAHORE: Ramesh Singh Arora calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Lahore. - DNA

## Next UK PM must know 'biggest threat' is Russia

**AGENCIES**

LONDON: Boris Johnson's successor as British prime minister should recognise that Russia is the "biggest threat" to the UK, the Chief of the Defense Staff, Admiral Tony Radakin, has said. The briefing that the new leader will receive from the military top brass will be "dominated by Ukraine and the support that we are providing to Ukraine," Radakin told BBC One's Sunday Morning program. "And then we have to remind the prime minister of the extraordinary responsibility they have with the UK as a nuclear power." Johnson announced his resignation earlier this month after several high-profile scandals and a wave of resignations of his cabinet ministers, but will remain in office until his replacement is chosen. Under the outgoing PM, London has been one of the strongest backers of Kiev in its conflict with Moscow, supplying Ukraine with arms, training its

troops, and advocating for a military solution to the crisis, while also imposing sweeping sanctions on Russia. According to the assessment of the British military, Russia has "a relatively stable regime," which means that it's going to keep endangering Britain in years to come, Radakin said. "The challenge of Russia is going to endure way beyond 2022 and 2023 and 2024, this is going to go on for a long time... potentially decades in terms of Russia as a threat," the admiral predicted. When asked about the shape that the UK military would be in if the defense spending is increased to 3% of GDP, as is being suggested by some politicians, the admiral said the armed forces "would be even more modern and they would have even more punch and they would have even more impact around the world." Last month, Radakin admitted that the UK had already given so many weapons to Ukraine that it would take years for the country to replace them.

## 'Germany won't survive winter without Russian gas'

**NEWS DESK**

BERLIN: Germany's natural gas reserves are not enough to see the country through next winter without purchasing additional Russian gas, the top official in charge of electricity and gas networks has told the media. In an interview with Germany's Bild am Sonntag, published on Sunday, Klaus Muller warned that while "gas reservoirs are nearly 65% full," and "it's better than in the previous weeks" it is still not sufficient to "go through the winter without Russian gas." Muller, who is president of Germany's Federal Network Agency, added that much now depends on whether maintenance work on the Nord Stream 1 pipeline concludes as expected on Thursday. When asked how long it would take before energy prices for consumers in Germany are further raised, in case of a complete stoppage of Russian gas deliveries, Muller said no decision has yet been made. However, he offered reassurances, noting that "there hasn't been any significant price surge this week, even though the

Nord Stream 1 was shut off." The official suggested this may be a sign that "markets have already internalized the loss of Russian gas supplies and we've reached a gas-price-plateau." The energy regulator president insisted that Germans "shouldn't succumb to panic," assuring that "private households have the least reason of all to worry," and will be provided with gas far longer than industry. Moreover, according to the official, "there's no scenario in which we remain completely without gas." Muller noted that even if Russia were to cut supplies entirely, other countries like Norway, the Netherlands and Belgium would still be selling the fossil fuels to Germany. In future, the country's own liquefied natural gas terminal will also make a difference, the network agency's president added. Muller said if gas rationing occurs, the agency will weigh up the potential damage to the economy and supply chains from shutting off supplies to any particular business or industrial plant. The official went on to claim that even if there is a shortage, it will likely affect only the parts of Germany which are at the end of the gas network.

## India's passenger plane makes emergency landing

ISLAMABAD: A passenger plane of India made an emergency landing at the Jinnah International Airport (JIAP) Karachi, after developing a technical fault in one of its engines, in the wee hours of Sunday. "Indian Airline IndiGo (6E-1406) A320 while overflying from Sharjah to Hyderabad diverted to Karachi due to technical reason (fault in Eng. no. 02). Aircraft landed safely with no assistance at 0214 hrs. As many as 186 passengers disembarked after the pilot's permission," the Aviation Division said here. The IndiGo management in a statement said, the pilot of the Sharjah-Hyderabad flight observed a 'technical defect' after which the 'necessary procedures' were followed, and as a 'precaution' the aircraft was diverted to Karachi. - APP

## Qatari Emir: Israel major source of tensions in region

The summit was attended by US President Joe Biden and the leaders of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, Egypt, Iraq and Jordan

**NEWS DESK**

DOHA: Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani made the comment in an address to a US-Arab summit in the Saudi city of Jeddah on Saturday, during which regional and international developments were discussed as well as aspects of expanding cooperation between the participating countries. Al Thani said the Israeli settlement constructions, the regime's attempts to change the demography of al-Quds and its blockade of the Gaza Strip are the root causes of instability and tension. "The major sources of tension and instability in the region are here to stay unless Israel stops its practices and violations of international law, including building colonial settlements, changing the character of al-Quds and the continued blockade of Gaza," the Qatari Emir said. Al Thani also called for the need to find a just solution to the Palestine issue, adding that the matter is a central cause for the Arab and Muslim people. The summit was attended by US President Joe Biden and the leaders of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, Egypt, Iraq and Jordan. Between 600,000 and 750,000 Israelis occupy over 250 illegal settlements built since the 1967 occupation of the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and East al-Quds. Palestinians want the West Bank as part of a future independent Palestinian state, with East al-Quds as its capital.

The presence and continued expansion of illegal Israeli settlements in occupied Palestine, however, have created a major obstacle to the establishment of such a state. The last round of Israeli-Palestinian talks collapsed in 2014, with Israel's continued settlement expansion emerging as a key sticking point. All Israeli settlements are deemed illegal under international law as they are built on the occupied land. The UN and most countries regard the Israeli settlements as illegal because the territories they are built on were captured by Israel in a war in 1967 and are hence subject to the Geneva Conventions, which forbid construction on occupied lands. The UN Security Council has time and again condemned the occupying regime's diabolic settler-colonialism project in its umpteen resolutions. Israel's Channel 13 said on Sunday that the regime's airlines are requesting to use Saudi Arabia's skies for their flights as soon as this week, after Riyadh said it would allow them to fly over its territory. The news network said El Al and Arkia were both asking to reroute flights scheduled this week to destinations in the Far East, which would shorten flight times by up to three hours. Saudi Arabia announced on Friday that it was lifting restrictions on "all carriers" using its airspace, in an apparent gesture of openness toward Israel following Biden's pledge to aggressively push for the normalization of relations between Riyadh and Tel Aviv. The Sau-

di General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) said in a statement on its Twitter page that the country's airspace was now open to all carriers that meet its requirements for overflights, in line with international conventions that say there should be no discrimination between civil aircraft. The decision was made "to complement the kingdom's efforts aimed at consolidating its position as a global hub connecting three continents," the statement added. In late 2020, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco became the first Arab countries in decades to normalize relations with Israel in a deal brokered by former US president Donald Trump. Saudi Arabia tacitly supported the deals, also called the Abraham Accords, but it did not openly normalize ties with Israel partly due to domestic considerations. However, the kingdom is expected to jump on the bandwagon as the two sides broaden their interactions, despite Riyadh's claims that it is committed to the 2002 so-called Arab Peace Initiative, which conditions normalizing ties with Israel on the establishment of an independent, sovereign Palestinian state within the 1967 borders. In November 2020, Riyadh granted permission to Israeli airlines to use its airspace, hours before the first Israeli flight to the UAE was set to take off. Palestinian leaders, activists, and ordinary people have repeatedly rejected Arab-Israeli normalization deals as "a stab in the back of the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people."

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