



# Islamabad POST

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### Japan Premier blames Police for former PM Abe's assassination

Detailed News On Page-06

### Sri Lankan leader resigns after fleeing

Detailed News On Page-08



### Pakistan calls for efforts to end poverty

Detailed News On Page-07



## Briefs

### SC verdict exposed Imran's lies

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said the detailed judgement of the Supreme Court had exposed the pack of lies of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan who did propaganda about the no-confidence vote as the 'regime change'. "Honourable Supreme Court's detailed judgement on Vote of No Confidence exposes the lies and propaganda indulged in by Imran Khan and company," he said in a tweet. - APP

### IK's narrative plot against democracy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Chaudhry Qamar Zaman Kaira Thursday said Supreme Court's detailed verdict has stamped that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan's conspiracy narrative was itself a plot against the people and nascent democracy. Addressing a news conference flanked by Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazir Tarar, he said Imran Khan wanted chaos and anarchy in the country as he treats himself as patriot and terms his opponent as traitors.

### Will not indulge in revenge politics

DNA

LAHORE: The Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Hamza Shahbaz on Thursday said that they have no intentions of practicing revenge politics in the country as done by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan. Talking about the by-elections in Punjab, the PML-N leader while expressing utmost confidence in his party's victory said that everything will be clear on July 17. The Punjab CM also mentioned that if he had been permitted by his party, he would have resigned and contested in the by-elections.

## PM announces cut in oil prices

# Agreement reached with IMF: Miftah

### Pakistan would receive \$1.17 billion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have reached an agreement on policies to complete the combined seventh and eighth reviews of Extended Fund Facility (EFF). Under the agreement, Pakistan would receive \$1.17 billion soon, tweeted Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Miftah Ismail here on Thursday. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, addressing the nation, announced a reduction in petroleum prices as a result of ease in global markets. The petrol price has been slashed by Rs 18.50 per litre, while the diesel price is reduced by Rs 40.54 per litre. PM Shehbaz blamed the PTI govt for the economic crises the country is facing. The PM said that the delay in IMF deal was result of PTI govt's incompetence. He said the incumbent government has had to save the country from bankruptcy. He praised Finance Minister Miftah Ismail for reaching a deal with the IMF. The minister thanked

Continued on Page 06

### Foreign reserves continue to decline in Pak

DNA

KARACHI: The country's foreign exchange reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) continued to decline on a weekly basis. On July 7, the foreign currency reserves held by the SBP were recorded at \$9,717.5 million, down \$99 million compared with \$9,816.3 on June 30, data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Thursday showed. According to the central bank, the decrease came due to external debt and other payments. Overall liquid foreign currency reserves held by the country, including net reserves held by banks other than

Continued on Page 06

# Khan vows to hit two wickets with one ball

### The PTI chairman asked the CJP to conduct a thorough probe of Lettergate scandal



DNA

DERA GHAZI KHAN: Former prime minister Imran Khan on Thursday vowed to hit "two wickets with one ball" on July 17, the day scheduled for by-elections in 20 constituencies of the Punjab Assembly. Addressing a large public gathering in Dera Ghazi Khan, Imran told his supporters to go door to door to prepare for the by-elections and not be "scared off by any tactics" by those in power. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chair-

man also levelled serious allegations against the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), saying: "Why do you spend three days in a week in Lahore with Hamza and Maryam?" "You represent the entire Pakistan but visit them to mentor them on how they can win the July 17 polls," he added. Recalling how the recent elections in Sindh were conducted, Imran said: "The nation won't forgive you." On the other hand, he added, "Mr X is in Lahore to support them so is Mr Y in

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood welcomed European Union's new Ambassador to Pakistan, Riina Kionka. Felicitating her, the FS said Pakistan deeply values its relations with EU and wishes to further enhance this partnership. - DNA

# Abducted Army officer martyred

### While chasing, security forces kill two terrorists

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The abducted Pakistan Army officer from Balochistan has been martyred, according to ISPR. On night 12 / 13 July 2022, a group of 10-12 Terrorists abducted Lieutenant Colonel Laiq Baig Mirza (serving in DHA Quetta) and his cousin Mr Umer Javed while returning to Quetta near Warchoom, Ziarat, after having visited Quaid's residency, said an ISPR press release.

On receipt of information, Army Quick Reaction Forces were immediately despatched to chase fleeing Terrorists who traced them moving to their hideouts in general area Mangi Dam. A deliberate search operation was launched by security forces using SSG troops and helicopters.

Resultantly, on night 13/14 July, a group of 6-8 Terrorists was spotted moving in a Nullah in nearby mountains by one of the teams of security forces. On sensing their possible encirclement, Terrorists shot Lieutenant Colonel Laiq Baig Mirza Shaheed and attempted to flee. In ensuing exchange of fire, two terrorists have been killed while a cache of IEDs, explosives and ammunition has also been recovered.

However, in the process, remaining Terrorists along with other abductee Mr Omer were able to flee for time being. Determined to recover the innocent civilian hostage and apprehend perpetrators, sanitization operation in the area by security forces continues unabated despite bad weather conditions. Security Forces remain resolute to thwart such cowardly attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan.

# Govt working on Article 6 references against PTI leaders

### Sanaullah says he would also seek cabinet's permission to arrest the PTI chairman

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has hinted at filing references against the PTT's top brass under Article 6 after a Supreme Court judgment in the National Assembly deputy speaker's ruling case. The Supreme Court issued its detailed judgment in the suo motu case on former NA deputy speaker Qasim Suri's ruling on the no-confidence motion against ex-prime minister Imran Khan and said it was not satisfied with the proof as insufficient evidence was presented to support PTT's claim of foreign interference. In an additional note, Justice Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhal observed that President Arif Alvi, then PM Khan, then NA speaker Asad Qaiser, ex-deputy speaker,

Continued on Page 06

# PTI terms SC judgment 'full of errors'

DNA

LAHORE: PTI called the Supreme Court's judgment, rejecting the party's foreign conspiracy theory, "full of errors" in a suo motu case over former National Assembly deputy speaker Qasim Suri's ruling on the no-confidence motion against ex-prime minister Imran Khan. "The history of Supreme Court decisions in Pakistan has not been that bright,"

Continued on Page 06

# SC called Imran a 'liar, violator of Constitution'

### PML-N leader hails SC for 'historic' decision

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Hailing the Supreme Court's "historic" decision, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice-President Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Thursday said that the top court called former prime minister Imran Khan a "liar and violator of the Constitution". Addressing a public gathering in Rawalpindi Kallar Syedan, she said that the decision has effectively finished Imran Khan's politics, adding that those who breach the constitution of Pakistan must be tried under Article 6 of the Constitution and be given exemplary punish-



ments. She said that the apex court also finished the PTI chief's narrative of the "foreign conspiracy". "The Supreme Court judge said he [Imran Khan] never gave proof of conspiracy. If he had any

Continued on Page 06

# Turkiye envoy indebted to Pakistan for declaring FETO a terrorist outfit

### Turkish Embassy observes 6th anniversary of a failed coup attempt

ANSAR M BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Mehmet Paçacı, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye said on Thursday his country owed a great deal to Pakistan for declaring FETO as a terrorist organization adding the threat was not yet over fully however the Turkish government and people of Türkiye were committed to root out this menace for good. The newly-arrived Türkiye ambassador expressed these views while briefing the Pakistani members of mass media, at the Embassy premises, on Thursday. It was Ambassador Paçacı's maiden media interaction ever since his arrival in Pakistan. Ambassador Paçacı further said, the 15 July failed coup attempt by FETO was the night when Turkish democracy was protected by the Turkish people themselves under the leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. He said, "on July 15, the existence of Türkiye was in danger when FETO terrorist organization's followers attacked but Turkish citizens from all walks of life showed courage

and rendered sacrifices to protect their democratic government and institutions. To a question he said the terrorist organizations by and large extend cooperation to one another and it may have

happened in the case of FETO as well. To yet another question about the chief of the FETO, the ambassador said he is living in the United States since long. The Türkiye government has time and

again asked the US government to hand him over to Türkiye. Ambassador said that the followers of FETO tried to assassinate the President of the Republic of Türkiye and attacked the Prime

Minister's vehicle. They bombed the Grand National Assembly. "The Police Special Operations Center, the crucial

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Dr Mehmet Paçacı, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye Briefing media about 15 July failed coup attempted by FETO, at the Türkiye Embassy, Thursday. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Dr Mehmet Paçacı, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye addressing journalists about 15 July failed coup attempted by FETO, at the Türkiye Embassy, Thursday. - DNA

## Inside...

- Anti-dengue measures finalized for Faisalabad - Page 02
- Murree Brewery launches book on vintage, antique cars - Page 03
- Experts urge int'l community to help Kashmiri people - Page 04
- Rain wreaks havoc - Page 05
- New officers should realize goal of developed Indonesia - Page 06
- Pakistan calls for mobilizing resources to end poverty - Page 07
- 22 killed in Russian strikes in central Ukraine - Page 08

# Anti-dengue measures finalized for Faisalabad

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Secretary Labor Punjab / Incharge Anti-Dengue Measures district Faisalabad, Liaquat Ali Chatha visited Faisalabad and presided over a high level meeting on anti-dengue measures at DC Office. Deputy Commissioner Lt. (retd) Sohail Ashraf gave a briefing on anti-dengue measures in the district. Additional Deputy Commissioner General Qaiser Abbas Rind, CEO FWMC Bilal Feroze Joya, Assistant Commissioners Mohammad Umar Maqbool, Sahibzada Mohammad Yousuf, CEO Health Dr Suleiman Zahid, District Program Coordinator Dr Zulqarnain and officers of all concerned departments were present in the meeting. The Secretary Labor Punjab / In-Charge said that due to monsoon season, the next one month is very sensitive in terms of breeding of dengue larvae therefore every department should in field and progress should be monitored regularly. He said that practical steps on anti-dengue in the district under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner are clearly visible,

teams are active but anti-dengue measures should not be relaxed anywhere in future. He urged to keep the dengue beds ready in case of emergency by including government and private hospitals and said that the services of social security hospital should also be availed. He urged that the labor and housing colonies and their concerned departments and residents to be involved in the anti-dengue drive and said that tire shops, graveyards and other suspected breeding grounds for dengue larvae should be checked frequently. He directed to expedite the measures and also focus on the areas that are changing from villages to cities regarding cleanliness. He clarified that in connection with the fight against dengue, on the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz, he is monitoring the surveillance activities and prevention measures in Faisalabad which will continue, therefore, the performance of each department should be more than each other and will also seek clarification from the officers of the negligent departments. He said that real reporting should be done by in-

tensifying the surveillance activities. He also urged to use all means of publicity for public awareness. The Deputy Commissioner said that all the departments in the district have been assigned responsibilities in the fight against dengue and he personally reviewing the progress by conducting meeting of District Emergency Response Committee on a daily basis. The surveillance process is going on uninterruptedly. He said that beds will also be allotted for potential dengue patients in the hospitals while seals and cases are being registered against the violators for not take precautionary measures and the scope of this campaign has been widened. He said that the number of Android users in health centers has been increased while according to the district's polio micro-plan, a complete sweep of the entire district is being planned for dengue involving all departments. The district program coordinator provided details of indoor and outdoor surveillance activities, case registration, notices issued and also briefed on other preventive measures including release of tilapia fish in ponds.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Palestine Ahmed Rabei presenting a souvenir to Dr. Maen the Jordan Deputy Head of Mission who is leaving Pakistan after completing his term. – DNA

## Distt admin launches awareness drive against dengue

PESHAWAR: The district administration on Thursday launched an awareness and preventive measures drive against dengue virus in the provincial capital. On the direction of Commissioner Peshawar Division Riaz Khan Mehsud, the district administration has constituted special teams comprising of Tehsil municipal committee (TMAs), health department, Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP) including entomologists conduct in and outdoor spray to eliminate the dengue larvae. The special teams led by Additional Deputy Commissioner (Relief) Muhammad Imran Khan urged people to adhere to precautionary measures and avoid storage and accumulation of water in open pots and places to stop reproduction of mosquitoes. The teams also collected water samples from various localities for testing dengue larvae. – APP

## ICCI welcomes IMF's agreement with Pakistan

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Muhammad Shakeel Munir has welcomed the IMF's staff-level agreement with Pakistan and termed it a positive development. He said that the agreement would pave way for the release of much-awaited over USD 1 billion to Pakistan and improve its foreign exchange reserves. However, he said that the economy of Pakistan was facing problems as its foreign exchange reserves were depleting amid rising external debt servicing, which required some out of the box solutions to address such problems. Addressing a meeting of ICCI Executive Committee Shakeel said that Pakistan needed urgent help for its external debt-servicing obligations and this situation demanded that the government in consultation with stakeholders should devise a new policy to boost exports in order to improve its foreign reserves. ICCI President said that the government in consultation with the private sector formulate a new strategy in order to generate indigenous resources and get rid of IMF loans as the tough conditions of

IMF have always pushed up the prices of gas, electricity and POL products, slashed subsidies and tax exemptions and created more difficulties for the business community and the general public. He said that in its 75 years of existence, Pakistan has gone to the IMF 22 times, which showed that successive governments have failed to make Pakistan stand on its own feet. He said that frequent borrowings from the IMF have piled up a huge foreign debt burden on Pakistan, which is making the future of our generations bleaker and time has come that the policymakers should think seriously about reducing the country's reliance on foreign loans. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President and Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI said that the governments of many countries including Turkey, Bangladesh, India and others have got rid of IMF loans by adopting prudent economic policies and it is the high time that the government to make efforts to exploit indigenous resources to stabilize the economy. They urged the government to take measures to promote ease of doing business and focus on creating a conducive business environment to generate more indigenous resources that would enable the country to become self-sufficient instead of relying on foreign borrowing to run its economy.

## IRC ensures quality healthcare for People of S. Waziristan and Orakzai



BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: To swiftly rise above the challenge left behind by the pandemic, the International Rescue Committee's 14-month intervention "Strengthening Healthcare including Nutrition in Emergencies," (SHINE) is benefitting men, women and children in Orakzai & South Waziristan districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Through this program, 150,000 men, women and children have so far benefitted from the state-of-

the-art health facilities set up in their areas. Among them are 45,000 women and children, who, previously had to travel long distances to avail of basic health services. Over 100 deliveries have also been supported by trained, gender-sensitive healthcare providers at the target facilities. Over 12,000 women and children have been screened for malnutrition and 1,390 cases have been enrolled in community-based programs for rehabilitation. It has also proved instrumental in creating awareness about

hygiene, healthcare services and increasing their uptake. The initiative launched with the support of the European Union, and in partnership with the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Medical Emergency Resilience Foundation (MERF) focuses on improving access to health facilities by strengthening the system to cater to specific needs under maternal, newborn, and child health care. It also covers integrated Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) activities, in the vicinity of the targeted health facilities coupled with awareness-raising for infection prevention and improved health-seeking behaviours. The International Rescue Committee has urged the federal and provincial governments to mainstream integrated health interventions that are tailored to the unique needs of the most vulnerable populations across the country. The Country Director of the International Rescue Committee, Ms. Shabnam Baloch, said "Our recent experience of working in South Waziristan and Orakzai districts has shown that integrated health interventions targeting the specific needs of vulnerable populations can go a long way in service improvements, community engagement, encouraging long-term public-private partnerships, and systems strengthening.



Rawalpindi: Zaheerudin Babar, Pakistan ambassador to Cambodia in a group photo with RCCI president Nadeem Rauf during his visit to chamber house. – DNA

## KP Govt committed to eradicate polio

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Special assistant on Information Muhammad Ali Saif on Thursday said the provincial government under the leadership of Chief Minister Mahmood Khan was committed to eradicate polio. In a statement issued here, he said that the provincial government was working to make KP polio free but deplored that some parents refused to get their children vaccinated due to negative propaganda by certain elements. Expressing apprehension over recent 12 cases reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said that the government was using all its resources to eradicate the disease but the efforts could not yield result until and unless the people would get their children vaccinated against crippling polio disease without any fear or danger. The CM's aide strongly condemned attacks on polio teams and police in South and North Waziristan. – APP

## Stinky offal displeases citizens

PESHAWAR: Despite passage of five days of Eidul Azha, the offal and remains of sacrificial animals in the city's peripheries areas remained unattended and rotten thus causing foul-smell irking Peshawarties besides posing health hazards. Besides choked sewerage system, pools of contaminated water and dilapidated roads, the stinky smell emanating from unattended offal thrown at heaps of garbage, water nullahs and open places in Chamkani, Pandu and Ring road areas have annoyed thousands of motorists and people. The foul-smell of hides and bones of animals stored in godowns in Ring road and others had also added to people's difficulty. Complaining of the bad sewerage condition and poor disposal of offal of sacrificial animals, Noorul Amin, a resident of Chamkani Peshawar told APP that people of his village with population of thousands were exposed to infectious diseases due to poor disposal of the animals' remains dumped under an open sky. He said, the jurisdiction issue between Water and Sanitation Supply Company (WSSP) and Tehsil Municipal Administration for disposal of remains of animals in Chamkani areas added difficulties of thousands of its residents. "The temporary cattle markets established by the district administration for Eidul Azha were presenting an ugly look and its cleanliness was urgently required to make the city neat." Hassan Ali, spokesman of WSSP told APP that operations regarding disposal of offal of sacrificial animals in Peshawar have been completed and over 12,190 tons waste and offal were disposed of during three days of Eidul Azha operation. Hassan said about 300 complaints were received by the central complaint cell during Eidul Azha's days on which swift action was taken. He clarified that all those areas in Peshawar's peripheries from where complaints pertaining to unattended offal were received did not come into WSSP's domain and urged complainants to contact their respective tehsil municipal administration for addressal of their grievances. – APP

## Standard Chartered conducts Roadshow for NRPs in UAE

The event offered a unique opportunity to the diaspora to gain insights into the growth potential of Pakistan and the various initiatives and opportunities available to them while residing abroad

DNA

KARACHI: Standard Chartered Bank conducted a roadshow for Non-Resident Pakistanis based in the UAE. This event was brought forth with the support of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Standard Chartered network is a key enabler and gives the Bank a unique advantage to information, ability to create synergies and unlock potential through seamlessly delivering best products to its client base, while keeping them abreast of the

latest developments. The Pakistani diaspora has always been a core segment of the Standard Chartered UAE client base and regulatory initiatives like Roshan Digital have now integrated the diaspora into Pakistan's economy. It is their commitment to the Standard Chartered brand that allows us to be a leading bank not only in the UAE and Pakistan but in countries across the world. The event offered a unique opportunity to the diaspora to gain insights into the growth potential of Pakistan and the various initiatives and opportuni-

ties available to them while residing abroad. Key speakers included Governor SBP (A) Dr. Murtaza Syed, Rola Abu Manneh, CEO Standard Chartered UAE and Rehan Shaikh, CEO Standard Chartered Pakistan. A panel discussion also took place where pressing questions of clients related to the country's current economic challenges and future outlook were addressed by Dr. Murtaza Syed and his colleagues from SBP Mr. Syed Irfan Ali and Mr. Ali Raza Syed. As the oldest, largest and leading international bank in Pakistan, non-residents remain integral part of our journey.

## Navy promotes two officers to ranks of Rear Admiral

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Two officers of Pakistan Navy have been promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral with immediate effect. Rear Admiral Amir Mahmood got commissioned in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1992. The Flag Officer is a graduate of National Defence University, Islamabad, Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore and has done joint Warfare Course from Australia. The Admiral has an illustrious naval career covering vast experience of various Command and Staff appointments. His Command appoint-



ments include Commandant Pakistan Naval Academy, Commandant Jinnah Naval Base and Commanding Officer of PNS ZULFIQUAR & PNS JURRAT. His Staff appointments include Senior Pakistan Naval Officer Saudi Arabia, Director Human Resources at Naval Headquarters, Naval Liaison Officer at HQ US NAVCENT Bahrain and Senior Staff Officer (Ops) to Commander West & Commander Coast. The Admiral is a recipient of Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military). Rear Admiral Iqbal Ali was commissioned in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1993. The Flag Officer is graduate of Nation-

al Defence University, Islamabad and Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore. The Admiral has a vast experience of command and staff appointments. His major Command appointments include Commander 25th Destroyer Squadron and Commanding Officer PNS ALAMGIR & PNS MUJAHID. His staff appointments include Chief Naval Overseer 1st OPV Mission Romania, Director Pakistan Navy Tactical School, Naval Liaison Officer US NAVCENT Bahrain and Assistant Principal Staff Officer to Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee JSHQ. The Admiral is a recipient of Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military) & has been conferred with Tamgha-i-Basalat twice.

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## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### JULY

July 01 / Japan	Self Defence Day
July 01 / Singapore	Armed Forces Day
July 01 / Canada	National Day
July 01 / Somalia	Independence Day (National Day)
July 04 / USA	Independence Day
July 05 / Algeria	Independence Day
July 09 / Argentina	Independence Day
July 09 / Mongolia	Revolution Day
July 14 / France	National Day
July 15 / Brunei	Sultan's Birthday
July 20 / TRNC	Independence Day
July 21 / Belgium	National Day
July 23 / Egypt	National Day
July 26 / Cuba	National Day
July 26 / Liberia	National Day
July 30 / Morocco	National Day



## Hotels & Restaurants

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



## Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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## Emergency

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



## Enquiry

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



## Hospitals

CMH.....	5611111
MH.....	5611116
Cantt Hospital.....	9270907-11
DHQ.....	5556311-4
RGH.....	9290301-7
Holy Family.....	9290322-7
PIMS.....	9261170-79
Polyclinic.....	9218300-09
Shifa International.....	4603666



## Departments

CDA.....	9221334-43
CDA.....	9208301-04
Met Office.....	9250360-6
RDA.....	5555864
TMA.....	5770886
Cantonment Board.....	9270151-3

## Islamabad Metropolitan

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

## Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
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RAWALPINDI: CEO Murree Brewery Isphanyar Bhandhara presenting a letter of appreciation of Mohsin Ikram author of the 4th coffee table book on vintage and antique cars of Pakistan. The book launching ceremony took place at the Murree Brewery Head Office, Rawalpindi. – DNA

# Murree Brewery launches book on vintage, antique cars

### STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Murree Brewery Company has announced the launch of the book "Vintage and Antique Cars of Pakistan" written by Mohsin Ikram, President of Vintage and Classic Car Club Pakistan. This was announced by the Murree Brewery's Chief Executive Officer, Isphanyar Bhandhara at a press conference here on Thursday. He was accompanied by Mohsin Ikram who is the author of the book and president of Vintage and Classic Car

Club Pakistan. On this occasion, the media was informed that a book is being written about the vanishing cars in Pakistan under the title "Vintage and Antique Cars of Pakistan" written by Mohsin Ikram and Naem Baloch of Letopical Printers is the publisher of this book. The media was told that the book would consist of 300 pages with details of 100 antique cars. Isphanyar Bhandhara, Chief Executive Officer of Murree Brewery, described the book as a great option for car lovers in Pakistan and said "we want to preserve the historical and ancient inheritance and

are hopeful to showcase this heritage to the world. Previously through Murree Brewery, three books including Kalasha, Rawalpindi, Gems and Jewels have been published and this is the fourth book we are sponsoring." The author of the book, Mohsin Ikram, thanked Murree Brewery for their support and said, "This is my hobby. Vintage means old-fashioned cars, cars that are obsolete. We want to tell the world about the vehicles driven here in the past that will help create a softer image of the country. Older cars are an asset, just as buildings are a national asset. Old cars were not made on computers, they were designed with ideas in mind. This book will be a good addition from a historical point of view. It will be read not only in Pakistan but also in other countries around the world." In reply to a question, he said "it could take around six months to prepare this book. There are about ten vintage cars in Islamabad which are considered as an ancient asset. Along with the book, a video CD of the cars will also be included. This book will not be expensive but will be affordable to the common man."

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## Chairman Senate grieved over demise of husband of Dr Mehr

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjani on Thursday expressed deep sorrow and grief over the death of the husband of Senator Prof. Dr Mehr Taj Roghani. The chairman telephoned Dr Mehr Taj from Madinah Al-Munawarah and expressed his condolences and sympathies with the bereaved family, said a press release issued by the Senate Secretariat. –

## Asif Hameed encouraging Pakistanis in Japan

### STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Metaverse NFT Web3The largest event in Japan where top players from Japan and overseas gather. Metaverse NFT Web3, which has begun to spread rapidly in recent years. However, the gaps in the communities of each industry are deep, and the number of people who can comprehensively grasp the whole is very small even in the world. At this conference, top players from each of the Web3 and Metaverse industries will meet and discuss to gain a perspective on the new future of humanity.

## US Embassy, NUST open Lincoln Corner

ISLAMABAD: In his first visit to a university in Pakistan, U.S. Ambassador Donald Blome joined the Rector of the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) Javed Mahmood Bukhari to inaugurate Pakistan's newest Lincoln Corner. During the event, the U.S. Embassy Islamabad and NUST representatives signed a Memorandum of Understanding to operate the Lincoln Corner for the next two years. Ambassador Blome also visited the U.S.-Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Energy, originally established with \$30 million of U.S. government support, to highlight the depth and breadth of U.S. cooperation with NUST and all of Pakistan.

This partnership signals the U.S. Mission to Pakistan's commitment to continue advancing education in Pakistan by providing American resources, expertise, and collaboration for students and faculty. Over the past three decades, the United States has collaborated with NUST to invest in a Technology Incubation Center, host speaker series and conferences, and provide almost 200 scholarships. There are also over 360 U.S. exchange program alumni affiliated with NUST. In his remarks, Ambassador Blome said, "This year marks the 75th anniversary of U.S.-Pakistan bilateral relations. The people-to-people ties between our two countries are

our greatest strength. The inauguration of this new Lincoln Corner will continue to strengthen those ties. The U.S. Embassy is proud to partner with educational institutions and the government of Pakistan to ensure young Pakistanis are prepared to face 21st century challenges." Representatives from the U.S. Embassy joined NUST leadership, faculty, and students in the inauguration event of the latest Lincoln Corner, one of 18 across Pakistan. By hosting a Lincoln Corner, NUST joins a strong network of partnerships between the U.S. Mission to Pakistan and Pakistani institutions of education and culture. – DNA



ISLAMABAD: Women taking interest in pictures displayed during the press briefing by the Ambassador of Turkiye about the thwarted coup attempted by Fethullah Gülen Terrorist Organization (FETO) and Democracy and National Unity Day. – DNA

## Alvi terms non-payment of insurance oppressive

The SLICP refused to pay the claim on the ground that the deceased policyholder had a pre-insurance ailment and was a patient of hypertension as per the medical record of the his employer

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has termed the non-payment of a life insurance claim worth Rs 1.7 million by the State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLICP) to the claimant on the frivolous ground maladministration, arbitrary and oppressive. The president, while rejecting the SLICP's representation against the decision of the Wafaqi Mohtasib, directed the corporation to settle the matter and provide relief to the complainant in accordance with its policy, procedure, rules and regulations within 30 days of the orders. He observed that the SLICP's point of

view that the policyholder did not declare that he was a patient of hypertension before availing the policy as untenable because the patient did not die because of hypertension but from cardiopulmonary arrest. Moreover, he said, hypertension was a common disease and its patients had the probability to live for decades or longer than the people not having such diseases, therefore, concealment of such diseases could not be termed as done fraudulently. While endorsing the claimant's point of view, the president observed that according to the death certificate of Dow Med-

ical College Civil Hospital Karachi, the deceased had died of cardiopulmonary arrest and not of hypertension at the age of 63. He further observed that the SLICP had all the means available to it to discover the alleged pre-insurance ailment of the deceased through its authorized medical officer but it failed to undertake that simple exercise which was contrary to the relevant provision of the Contract Act. "The act says that a contract is not voidable if the party whose consent was so caused had the means of discovering the truth with ordinary diligence," he added. As per details, the deceased Oscar Malik

obtained a life insurance policy from the SLICP on 23.01.2020 for the sum assured of Rs 1,700,000. He died on 30.04.2020 and his complainant brother Terrence Malik applied for the death insurance claim. The SLICP refused to pay the claim on the ground that the deceased policyholder had a pre-insurance ailment and was a patient of hypertension as per the medical record of the his employer. Feeling aggrieved, the complainant approached the Wafaqi Mohtasib who passed the order in favour of the complainant. The SLICP, then, filed a representation with the president, which was rejected. – APP

## Security cameras to be used in Metro corridors

### DNA

ISLAMABAD : Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad presided over a meeting to discuss plans for using security cameras and utilisation of modern technology to monitor Metro corridor. The meeting was attended by Inspector General of Islamabad Police and officers of other concerned formations. The meeting discussed the plan for installation of security cameras and utilisation of technology for monitoring metro corridor. During the meeting it was also decided that smart traffic management system at Islamabad highway will be handed over to ICT police while CDA will assist ict police in installation of more cameras. It was further decided that Margalla highway smart traffic system will be implemented through Islamabad police. Further more it was decided that Islamabad would be transformed into a secure and safe capital with mutual cooperation of ICT administration Islamabad Police and CDA through usage of modern technology.

## Tax collection during FY21-22 breaks all records

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Excise and Taxation Department has broken all the previous records of the tax collection by generating over Rs 19 billion revenue during the fiscal year 2021-22. In a video message on Thursday, Excise Department Director Bilal Azam said that the record tax collection became possible due to induction of modern technology for tax collection which ultimately facilitated the public by providing the facility at their doorstep. He said that the tax collection was increased by 72 percent as compared to the financial year 2020-21 when the department collected over Rs 11 billion. The department collected Rs 13 billion in taxes during the last fiscal year (2021-22). The department also collected Rs 6 billion for the Federal Board of Revenue during the last year, he added. Bilal said that during the last five years, the tax collection had surged by three hundred times. The collection jumped to Rs 19 billion from Rs 5 billion during the same period. He praised Chief Commissioner Islamabad Amer Ali Ahmed and Deputy Commissioner Irfan Memon saying that it was made possible due to their support and efforts. – APP

## SC accepts ex-NICL MD's plea to remove name from ECL

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Thursday accepted the plea of former National Insurance Company Limited (NICL) managing director (MD) Muhammad Ayaz Khan Niazi to remove his name from the Exist Control List (ECL) in a mega corruption scandal case. A two-member SC bench comprising Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail heard the case filed by Ayaz Niazi regarding withdrawal of orders dated July 12, 2018 and February 13, 2018 whereby his name was placed on the ECL. During the course of proceedings, Ayaz Niazi's counsel Rana Waqar said the apex court had ordered to include his client's name in the ECL in 2018. The accountability court later acquitted Ayaz Niazi in the corruption case, but his name was still in the ECL, which could only be removed on the SC order. He pleaded the apex court to withdraw its order dated July 12, 2018. The special prosecutor general of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) said the accused had been acquitted in the said reference but two more references were also pending.

## Briefs

MOITT  
approves  
Rs. 32.13b  
for USF

ISLAMABAD: Ministry for Information Technology and Telecommunications has approved budget of Rs. 32.13 billion for the Universal Service Fund for the financial year 2022-23 to provide broadband services to unserved and under-served areas. "In 13 years from 2006 to 2019, the number of USF projects was limited to 59, after which directives were issued to speed-up number of projects and increase the performance, as a result, 65 Broadband Service and OFC projects were launched from 2019 to date which is a record itself," the official of the ministry of IT said. He said that as a result of Telecom Policies and provision of broadband services to the unserved and under-served areas, the number of telecom subscribers has reached a record level of 193 million by May 30, 2022. Similarly, the number of 3G and 4G subscribers in the country has crossed 114 million while the number of subscribers using broadband services has reached 117 million. - APP

NPO to  
organize  
webinar

ISLAMABAD: National Productivity Organization (NPO) will organize a webinar on 'Managing & Influencing Change' on July 21. The webinar would provide information about "what is change, what is change management, how we induce change and principles of change management", according to NPO document. It would also highlight typical resistance to change and mitigation, logical stages of change process, and practical approach to make change accepted and owned at each level in the organization. The programme has been designed for senior managers, assistant managers, team leaders, change champions and all those professionals who want to learn the art of influencing change. - APP

'Habibi'  
crosses 1.6m  
YouTube  
views in just  
2 days

ISLAMABAD: Acclaimed singer Asim Azhar thanked fans as his latest track 'Habibi' crossed 1.6 million views in just 2 days, also trends on YouTube music. The Soneya starlet took to Instagram and expressed his feelings in a video message after his song received immense appreciation. Azhar thanked fans for the overwhelming response on Hibibi and also shared YouTube link for those fans who have not watched Hibibi yet. In another video shared by Azhar, the star can be seen jamming on his much-loved song with Merub Ali and others "Here's to all the love on Hibibi you guys are showing" Azhar captioned the video. He also confirmed that Hibibi is currently trending on YouTube and TikTok "Trending on YouTube music, trending number 1 on TikTok". - APP

Govt notifies  
transfer,  
posting of  
officers

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Thursday issued a notification for the appointment and transfer of senior officials. According to a notification of the Establishment Division, Muhammad Tahir, a BPS-19 officer of the Secretariat Group, presently posted as Deputy Secretary, Climate Change Division, is transferred and posted as Deputy Secretary, Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Division, with immediate effect and until further orders. While Dr. Muhammad Tahir Noor, a BS-21 officer of Secretariat Group, presently awaiting posting in Establishment Division, is transferred and posted as Additional Secretary, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), on a deputation basis, for an initial period of three(03) years, on standard terms and conditions, with immediate effect and until further order. - APP

Experts urge int'l community  
to help Kashmiri people

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) has hosted a webinar titled "Kashmir Martyrs Day: Remember the martyrs of July 13, 1931". The webinar was attended and addressed by noted human rights activists, academicians, writers and political leaders hailing from both sides of the Line of Control including Shah Ghulam Qadir President Pakistan Muslim League AJK chapter, Ch. Latif Akbar Opposition Leader AJK Assembly, Ab. Rasheed Turabi former Ameer Jammat Islami AJK, Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Muhammad Farooq Rehmani, Sardar Hassan Ibrahim, Syed Ali Raza, Raja Na-

jabat, Zaffar Qureshi, Ershad Mahmud, Syed Arif Bahar, Raja Sajad Latief and others. Whereas the event was moderated by the KIIR Chairman Altaf Hussain Wani. "The current struggle in Kashmir is an extension of the movement, which was launched against despotic Maharaja. From 1931 till date more than half a million Kashmiris have offered sacrifices to achieve the cherished goal", they said. Terming right to self-determination as the only acceptable solution the speakers made it clear that no piece of legislation by the Indian parliament can change the disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir. Rejecting the actions Modi government had taken on Kashmir since 5th August 2019, they said, "Kashmir is an interna-

tionally recognized disputed territory that needs to be settled in accordance with the universally accepted principle of right to self-determination". Renewing their pledge to uphold the martyrs' mission they said the struggle for right to self-determination would continue unless and until Kashmiris get their cherished goal. Drawing parallels between the ongoing struggle and the movement against Maharaja's autocratic rule, they said, "Kashmiris were still struggling for their basic rights." Highlighting the dangerous dimensions of the dispute, they said international community should come forward in a big way to help Kashmiris in shaping up their political destiny through universally accepted princi-

ple of right to self-determination. They urged the United Nations to impress upon India to implement the relevant UN resolutions on Kashmir to settle dispute peacefully. "The world community must take effective cognizance of the fast deteriorating political and human rights situation in the Indian occupied territory", they said. Voicing their grave concerns over the continued bloodshed and violence in the restive region, the panelists said, "It is high time that the UNSC and OIC must call an emergency session to help stop widespread killings of civilians in Kashmir". Referring to uptick in the incidents of state terrorism in Kashmir they said.

PM lauds  
efforts of  
Miftah,  
Bilawal  
teams

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday lauded the efforts of the teams led by Finance Minister Miftah Ismail and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari that led to the revival of International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme. "Congratulations to our Finance and Foreign Office teams led ably by Ministers Miftah Ismail and Bilawal Bhutto for their efforts in getting the IMF programme revived," he said in a tweet. He regarded the efforts as "a great team work", PM Sharif said the agreement with the Fund had set the stage to bring country out of economic difficulties. - APP

PIA inducts  
another  
A-320 aircraft  
into its fleet

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has inducted another Airbus-320, a narrow-body aircraft acquired on a six-year dry lease, into its fleet that would help improve the national flag carrier's flight operations on domestic and international routes. "Induction of new aircraft in PIA's air fleet continues as the second Airbus-320 of the current year has arrived in Pakistan from Sharjah. This aircraft will be operated within the country, on regional and Gulf routes," PIA spokesman Abdullah Hafeez Khan informed media here on Thursday. He said the aircraft had been on a lease of six years, adding that the PIA could get its ownership after the lease expired with mutual understanding of the parties concerned. The first A-320 [of the current year] arrived in April and now is busy rendering operational services. The spokesman explained that the PIA had floated a tender last year for procurement of the aircraft, out of which two reached Pakistan and two more would arrive in the coming few days. He said with this induction, the number of A-320 planes in the PIA fleet would reach 14 that were equipped with the latest seats and comfortable cabins, ensuring improved travel facilities. - APP

IRSA releases  
274132  
cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 274132 cusecs water from various rim stations with an inflow of 379551 cases. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1125.55 feet, which was 75.55 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded a 37619 and 15000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 190694, 202840 and 107420 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River, a total of 59900 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 69232 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. - APP

WASA  
cleaning  
nullahs

RAWALPINDI: Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Rawalpindi on the directives of Commissioner Rawalpindi, Noor ul Amin Mengal has kicked off the cleanliness work of nullahs in Dhoke Banaras area. According to a district administration spokesman, WASA had completed dredging and desilting work of Nullah Lai and sewerage lines across the city before start of monsoon rains. He said the drains which caused urban flooding in some areas during heavy rains were being cleaned again so that possible flooding risk could be avoided during next rain spells. The authorities concerned have been directed to complete the ongoing cleanliness work of different nullahs at the earliest. He urged the citizens not to throw shopping bags, solid waste and garbage in nullahs. - APP

NDMA urges masses to take  
precautionary measures amid  
heavy rainfalls forecast

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Thursday urged the masses to ensure precautionary measures amid impending disaster risks as heavier monsoon rainfalls were predicted in various parts of the country. The NDMA on its official Twitter handle shared the public awareness infographic mentioning various precautionary measures to be adopted during multiple disaster hazards during rainy weather. It mentioned that there were multiple natural disasters to take place during impending monsoon rains including the risk of flashflood in hilly and urban areas, land sliding and flood threat in streams and drains, sinking or submergence of bridges and road

networks, urban flooding and water stagnation in low lying areas and rupturing of electric pole and power cables. The NDMA advised the public to ensure safety measures to circumvent any hazard and risk to life or property during the above mentioned disasters. It said that the public should remain abreast with developing weather conditions, avoid unnecessary outdoor visits, and abstain from taking bath or crossing nullahs, drains and rivers during monsoon rains, stay away from trees, dilapidated walls and bridges during strong gusts and thunderstorms. The Authority also advised that the people living in areas facing risk of urban flooding should avoid residing in basements,

keep important documents and valuables safe in a bag in case of sudden evacuation from the house, avoid throwing garbage into the nullahs and sewage system, and ensure repair and cleanliness of sanitation system, weak ceilings and walls. The NDMA guidelines exhorted that the people should not touch electric gadgets with wet clothes and body, store sizeable amount of necessary use articles and dry food items, ensure in time inoculation of epidemic diseases' vaccine, immediately contact emergency services in case of any disaster, and cooperate with the district administration and law enforcement agencies during rescue and relief efforts. - APP

## PR utilizes Rs 167m funds

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has utilized funds amounting to Rs 167.659 million, out of total Rs 352 million allocations made during the last three years to ensure safe and secure travelling for the passengers of the Balochistan province. "The government had allocated Rs 121 million in 2018-19 and the department spent Rs 42.430 million out of it, while Rs 117 million and Rs 114 million were earmarked in 2019-20 and 2020-21 out of which Rs 33.593 million and Rs 91.636 million were utilized respectively," an official told APP. He said that Pakistan Railways infrastructure in Balochistan was being maintained as per the available resources in order to provide safe and secure travel for the passengers. "Railway track in Balochistan consists of Sibi-Quetta-Chaman, Spzand-Taftan & Sibi-Hurnai and some portion of Jacobabad Sibi section," the official added. Moreover, he said a number of upgraded facilities like washroom and drinking water have been provided for comfort of the passengers, besides carrying out renovation of waiting rooms at various station buildings. In addition to this, the official said 10 railway station buildings have been renovated and rehabilitated on Sibi-Harnai section, along with reconstruction and repair of 25 bridges. To a question, he said the contract for rehabilitation of track between (Sama Satta-Bahawalnagar) on Sama Satta-Amruka section has been awarded to the Frontier Work Origination (FWO) last year. The total cost of contract for rehabilitation of track was Rs.7735.000 million and 16 firms purchased the bidding documents but only one firm participated in the bid, he added. - APP

PFC urges  
manufacturers  
to be aware of  
emerging trends  
share of Pakistan in global  
furniture manufacturing industry  
involving a business of US  
\$400b annually is negligible

ISLAMABAD: Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Thursday urged the furniture manufacturers to be aware of emerging trends shaping a new furniture industry landscape to take advantages of their changes. Talking to a delegation of women entrepreneurs led by Ms Maheen, recipient of best CEO award, here today he said fundamental shifts in buyer's preferences due to changing lifestyles can pose new challenges for furniture manufacturers but can also open new vistas and prove a curtain raiser for those willing to adapt. He said by understanding these changing industry trends, furniture manufacturers can capitalise on behavioural changes to make their business successful. Mian Kashif said furniture is a key element within any office which not only provides comfort for employees but also aids in professionalism. He said the continuing and speedy advances being made in all fields necessitated designers to be constantly alert to development and while refining their use of these areas already familiar, keep up continuous research for these new processes and materials which may inspire or facilitate other solutions. He said furniture industry needs to change from quantity to quality and design innovation not only to meet the needs of the market but also express the characteristics and personality of the brand. He said share of Pakistan in global furniture manufacturing industry involving a business of US \$400bn annually is negligible. Speaking on the occasion, leader of the delegation Ms Maheen said technology has drastically changed designing patterns in furniture industry and technology trends in the furniture industry have led to a significant increase in the number of successful online e-commerce and overall furniture industry growth, she added. - APP



RAWALPINDI: A view of massive traffic jam at Pirwadhai. - APP

Mushaal Mullick criticizes  
Indian fascist regime

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organization Mushaal Husseini Mullick has criticized the Indian fascist regime for not providing basic detainee rights to jailed Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front leader Yasin Malik. Mushaal Mullick, who is also the wife of Yasin Malik, Wednesday in her message asked the Indian government for providing basic rights to Jailed JKLF Leader Yasin Malik. She also asked the Modi regime to produce Yasin Malik physically in court as he wants to cross-examine the witnesses in the Air Force officers' case. JKLF

Muhammad Yasin Malik on Wednesday demanded the court for a fair trial of the cases by allowing him physically witness the court hearings, and by letting him examine the witnesses by himself. Mushaal said that Yasin Malik has been kept in solitary confinement and there are serious threats to his life. If Modi's regime did not meet the demands of her husband then he will start an indefinite hunger strike in jail from 22nd July and God forbid it can risk his life as well as organs as he is already in fragile health, she warned. She further said that the fascist Modi

regime has made all the fabricated cases against her husband to punish him just because he is the peaceful voice of the Kashmir freedom struggle. She also requested a special court to allow the physical appearance of her husband in a case related to the kidnapping of former chief minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed's daughter Rubaiya. Mushaal also requested the Human Rights organizations to press India for providing basic rights to Yasin Malik and other Kashmiri leaders who are languishing in jails in different fabricated cases. - APP

RPO reviews security arrangements  
for Kahuta, Kalar Syedan by-polls

RAWALPINDI: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Imran Ahmar and City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari on Thursday reviewed the security arrangements for Kahuta and Kalar Syedan by-elections. Chairing a meeting the RPO directed the officers to take effective measures to ensure implementation of election code of conduct and rules and regulations. Imran Ahmar said that implementation of the code of conduct issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) would be ensured at all cost and no one would

be allowed to violate the law. All the senior officers would remain present in the field to monitor the situation and the police personnel deployed in the field should also be briefed and directed to keep a close eye on the activities of the miscreants, he added. The RPO also expressed the hope that Rawalpindi police personnel would perform their best duties. The CPO said that police should keep a vigilant eye on suspicious activities. All-out efforts should be made to ensure implementation of code of conduct during and after

polling hours, he added. There would be a complete ban on display of weapons, aerial firing and use of loudspeakers; the CPO said adding, strict action in accordance with the law should be taken against the lawbreakers. The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations Waseem Riaz Khan, Superintendent of Police (SP), Headquarters, Tariq Mehmood, SP Security Faisal Saleem, SP Saddar, SP Rawal, Zone In-charge, Sector In-charge, Sub-Sector In-charges and other officers. - APP

Book on Potohari  
history launched

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) has published a comprehensive book to highlight the history of Potohari literature ahead of Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Pakistan. The purpose of the book was to introduce the genesis of Potohari language at national level and to highlight the literary works of Potohari writers, PAL Chairman Dr Yousuf Khushk said on Thursday. "Like other major languages of Pakistan, trend of writing literature in Potohari is not too old but still quality work has been written in the language from time to time", he said while talking to APP. Lauding the efforts of Sheraz Tahir Potohari, a renowned novelist and eminent poet who compiled the book, PAL Chairman said that the writer proved his mettle by demonstrating his command over language and intellectual maturity effortlessly while writing the book. - APP

## Capital's air quality moderate for third day

The PM2.5 is generated through combustion of an engine, industrial emissions, burning garbage or inflammable material, and dust blown up by fast-moving cars plying on non-cemented patches of the roads

ISLAMABAD: The air quality of the federal capital after rain turned moderate as a recent spell of monsoon rainfalls lashed out various parts of the country have helped plummet scorching heat in the metropolis and subsided the pollution. The air quality of the federal capital on Thursday was reported healthy as suspended particles were recorded below permissible limits in the atmosphere along with the pollutants' ratio due to consistent rainy weather and reduced vehicular traffic on roads. The air quality data has been collected by the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) which monitors air pollutants ratio for 24 hours based on three intervals

of eight hours of data collection from different locations. The Pak-EPA data revealed that the air quality throughout the three intervals of data monitoring remained high as the pollutants were below the permissible limits of national environmental quality standards (NEQS). The hazardous air pollutant particulate matter of 2.5 microns (PM2.5), which was a lethal atmospheric contaminant, remained at 19.33 micrograms per cubic meter on average which is higher than the NEQS of 35 mic-programms per cubic meter and denotes the air quality unhealthy. The PM2.5 is generated through combustion of an engine, industrial emissions, burning garbage

or inflammable material, and dust blown up by fast-moving cars plying on non-cemented patches of the roads. Moreover, the frequent forest fires in the federal capital also created high suspended particles, dust, and particulate matter in the atmosphere. However, the capital continued to give a deserted look as many citizens have returned to their hometowns to celebrate Eid which also turned up limited traffic on the roads which also helped in containing the rising pollution due to vehicular traffic, an official of EPA told APP. The particulate matter had exceeded the permissible limits beyond 40 microns prior to the onset of rainfall which was mainly due to persistent hot and

dry weather. The nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and sulfur dioxide (SO2) were recorded below the permissible ratios as they were recorded at 3.89 and 12.4 micrograms per cubic meter in the past 24 hours in the atmosphere against the NEQS of 80 and 120 micrograms per cubic meter respectively. These effluents were mainly produced during the operational activities of industrial plants and factories that were already under control, he said. He urged the masses with respiratory conditions and other critical heart or lungs diseases to avoid prolonged outdoor visits and wear face coverings and goggles when the air quality was unhealthy while venturing outdoors. - APP

## Rain wreaks havoc

Despite the warnings from relevant departments, the authorities have failed to make arrangements for heavy monsoon rainfall, as hundreds of people have already died and thousands have been misplaced as of Thursday from unprecedented rainfall and floods. Massive floods have killed a total of 165 people across Pakistan and left thousands homeless as heavy monsoon rains inundated the country, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said. According to the NDMA's flood-related figures released on Wednesday, the floods triggered by monsoon rains have also injured 171 people countrywide. Moreover, 1,231 houses were swept away by the flooding which also killed 1,319 livestock.

The southern province of Balochistan is the worst flood-hit area of the country, wherein, so far, 65 people, including women and children, have been killed after being swept away in rising flood waters, the NDMA said. Floods have also injured 49 people in Balochistan as well as swept away 730 houses, of which, 512 were partially destroyed, and 212 completely destroyed. Moreover, 436 livestock were also lost by the floods. The rain water also played havoc in Sindh province killing 38 people including 29 men and nine children as well as injuring 12 people of which three men, three women, and six children, the NDMA data said. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, the floods triggered by monsoon rains have claimed the lives of 24 people of which six men, 10 women, and eight children. The authorities have reported 37 injured in rain-related incidents in the KP which include 11 men, 13 women, and 13 children. Moreover, 142 livestock were also lost owing to the floods. A total of 312 houses are also destroyed in the KP by the intense rain water, of which, 135 are partially damaged and 77 were completely destroyed. In Punjab, a total of 23 people including 14 men, six women, and three children have lost their lives owing to various rain-related incidents while 61 people including 36 men, 21 women, and four children have received injuries. In Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) 10 people including three men, four women, and three children have lost their lives. The authorities have reported four injuries in G-B region. In Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) region, four people including three men and one woman lost their lives owing to the rain-related incidents. According to the NDMA, eight people were also injured in the AJK region, wherein, a total of 56 houses are also damaged, of which, 54 were completely destroyed and two partially. The flood waters have killed at least 741 livestock in the AJK region. In the federal capital Islamabad region so far one death is reported owing to the rain water, while authorities have mentioned no other losses in the Islamabad region.



## Biden's trip to the Middle East

President of the United States Joe Biden arrived in Israel, kicking off a four-day trip to the Middle East, which, whatever he claims to be the purpose of his visit, is primarily intended to persuade Saudi Arabia to raise its oil production. A palliative approach as it is to address the highest inflation in the US since November 1981 that has seriously affected the life quality of Americans, with CPI surging at a blistering 9.1 percent in June, this is a matter of political expediency for his administration and his party as his approval ratings have dropped precipitously ahead of the midterm elections. Biden will also seek to persuade Israel to stand together with the US and its allies behind Ukraine in the latter's conflict with Russia.

And Biden will hope to be able to undermine bilateral relations China has long maintained with Middle East countries by strengthening the relations between Israel and Arab countries fostered by the Abraham Accords brokered by the previous administration. What countries in the Middle East should be cautious about is how Biden's sowing the seeds of a new Cold War will impact the relations among countries in the region and their relations with countries outside the region. That a memorandum of understanding on cooperation was signed last week by Riyadh and Washington on building a 5G cellular network in Saudi Arabia is obviously a move to box out China's 5G champion Huawei. It is also a sign that Washington is trying to get countries in the region which are cooperating with China under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative to hedge their bets. But Washington is not really trying to promote development in the region. What Washington is doing just serves its own geopolitical game.

Wherever there is US presence, there is trouble. Look at the mess it has left behind in various parts of the world. Countries in the Middle East should never forget the turmoil the US has created in the region in the past decades. Now Biden is making his first visit to the region as US president, with his administration still following a Cold War playbook. That bodes ill, as Europe has found out to its cost. Top US officials have already expressed their concern about China's growing influence in the Middle East. If the US insists on viewing the region through the lens of its competition with China it will only bring more trouble to the region, as any US efforts to counter and disrupt China's cooperation with partners in the region will sabotage the region's development momentum and further destabilize it.

## Somalia and Turkey are forging new era of relationship

AdhamKawa



“Turkey’s participation in Somalia has redefined the foreign system, providing opportunities for the company and the humanitarian community organisations to work in Somalia,” said Hussein Mubarak

Turkey and Somalia date back to the Ottoman era, when Muhammad Abdullah Hassan led the Dervish revolution from 1899 to 1920 to liberate the country from British occupation. But because of the local problems between Sudan and Sudan, the connection remains weak. With the adjoining akparti rule in 2002, Turkey strengthened relations with African countries. As Turkey stepped towards a drawback in Somalia, the country was plagued by a huge group of debts, hunger and lack of assai, making Somalia the most famous place in The World, at a time when Erdogan was going to the country, which was followed by a huge local and jihadi vote. In a report, The Italian Star magazine describes how Turkey was overrun in Somalia over Italy. It states that our government in Somalia has lost its voice, and the reason goes back to 2010. Turkey is more interested in military and economic and non-violent forces, aiming to set a limit on the influence of the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia in the African Region. The role of the Turkish security agency in Somalia in order to free Silvar Romano, the Italian citizen, had a lot of votes. First, the agreement between the two countries began in 2010 with the organization of Somali army training, which was aimed at strengthening the country's internal stability. Second, Turkey has initiated the construction of Somalia's infrastructure, such as the renovation of the international airport and the Maqdisho bank, which is now run by the Turkish Bakery Community, as well as the construction of the newest hospital in the world with the Somali question. Erdogan was the first president of an African foreign country to visit Somalia, at the same time. Jihan's diacians covered the visit very widely, and the reason was that Somalia was the most famous place in Jihan. Erdogan called it the leading motivator behind his visit to save the Somali people from hunger. After the return of more than 200 political groups, businessmen, journalists and representatives of the Humanitarian Organization, the government allocated \$49 million to reach urgent cooperation, as well as \$365 million. Erdogan then criticized the international community for ignoring Somalia in an article in front of the General Assembly of the United Nations. He devoted his speech to discussing Somalia's bad situation, and called on the international community to respond to Somalia, while turkey's readiness to take over Somalia. Erdogan has used several powerful factors to build his country's hegemony in Somalia, which was important for Somalia's position in the region, where the conflict with the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia was very strong, and for that purpose he used several mechanisms. RecepTayyipErdogan is very smart about the gaps that existed in the country, above all the security gaps, as he established peace and security in the country, which will completely pave the way for the business project. Dr. HibaShukri, a Somali physician and activist, said in a special statement to The News Agency, “In 2011, with the visit of Rajab TaiErdogan at the time of dry year Somalia, with all its

sacrifices as the first global chief of the high level, came to the capital, which paved the way for hundreds of Turks to come to help in various fields. “I don't talk about rice and flour here, but I talk about the big problems of the community, because of the lack of security because of the lack of a national force in terms of training and the need for weapons and supplies.” According to an agreement signed with Somalia in 2012, Turkey promised to train the country's army and make it a developed army. In October 2017, Turkey, two kilometers from Somalia's capital, a military base on 400 hectares of land He opened it, containing three different torch fields, including several checkpoints and explosives, costing the base about \$50 million. There were 10,000 Somali soldiers at the base. Turkey's goalstore-open of the base became an excuse to open a wide door for the sale of hammers and the military's needs and strengthening its hegemony in the Middle East and Africa. He had previously established another military base in Qatar, which was because of the importance of the country's geographical position. Turkey knows very well the geographical position of Somalia, an important route for energy in The World, apart from Somalia's wealth and oil, which Somalia has entered the regional and international system that Turkey has taken at the international level. “The attack in Somalia was a training agreement for the Somali army, which produced hundreds of expert and trained soldiers for this country,” he said. In the field of health, dajafir hospital opened in the capital, analyzing tens of PhDs and specialists, and producing new roads in the middle of Somalia. In the field of market exchange between the two countries has increased to about one billion dollars, which has affected a large number of the country's economic policies, the success of investment in a country that some believed had failed a country. Shukri has announced throughout his speeches that He is working on respecting the borders of Somalia, The Union, and the territory of Somalia, and he is committed to not going anyway. An economic meeting without consultation with the Somali government, contrary to the Arab and Gulf countries, also protected its neutral government from any party Somalia, with him insisting on monitoring the conservatory of peace between Somali parties. Religious sentimentSenior Turkish officials in African countries, and Erdogan himself, have always emphasized the shared culture between the African peoples and the Ottoman state, in which The Religion of Islam played a major role, which has led the Turkish peoples of this region to know closer to themselves. Because of Somalia's war and poverty, he owed a lot of money to the international monetary fund, which made it more difficult for the country, but Erdogan is coming to take advantage of the gap, giving them a portion of the international monetary fund's debt. In an unexpected step, in November 2020, the

Turkish government decided to repay the debt of the international monetary fund to Somalia. At the end of 2018, Somalia owed \$5 billion and \$200 million in international monetary funds, after repaying a chunk of the debt, to three billion dollars and 700 million dollars, a very important step, as it would lead to economic growth and set a limit on poverty in the country. “I feel grateful from the heart for the support of RecepTayyipErdogan, who continues to help Somalia,” Somali Justice Minister Abdulqadir Mohammed Nur wrote on his Twitter page. “Turkey continues to be a strong ally of Somalia's development and supports the reconstruction of our economy,” he said. According to various statistics, the rate of Somali students in Turkey is rising annually. “Turkey's participation in Somalia has redefined the foreign system, providing opportunities for the company and the humanitarian community organisations to work in Somalia,” said Hussein Mubarak, a teacher at the University of Maqdisho's Economics College. In another part of the speech, the Turkish university has dedicated children to Somali schools at the school, which has made the number of students reach nearby. “200,000 students in Turkey, now in Somalia, have many physicians and nurses who have completed their studies at Turkish universities and have important roles in the Somali health sector.” The new stage of their relations Elections held in Somalia in May this year, when Hassan Sheikh Mohammed took over the country's leadership, before you were Somalia's president from 2012 to 2017. On May 16 of this year, Stephen Dojrick, the unifying national trustee, spoke of Hassan Sheikh Mahmud and tashi Muhammad Abdullah Muhammad Farnajo, who peacefully ended up in power. This was a new step for a country like Somalia, after the election, turkey's foreign ministry said in a statement, “Turkey is leading the way in the Somali presidential election, and we want a visit to Hassan Sheikh Mahmud.” Turkey pays great attention to Somalia's stability and stability, which connects our historical ties, and the election will be a pleasure for the Somali people,” he said. With the installation of Somalia's new president, RecepTayyipErdogan issued an invitation, and on the fourth day of this month, Sudan's president visited Turkey at the invitation of the official Rajab TayyipErdogan. “Somalia's relations with Turkey are positive, and our country has developed because of the economic and diplomatic support we have developed,” said Hassan Sheikh Mahmud, who visited Turkey after his first election. “Our relations are based on respect and harmony, and those relations with Rajab TayyipErdogan's visit grew in August 2011,” he said. “Somalia is supported in all worlds, but Turkey's support is not an example, it is a fundamental and religious support,” the Somali president stressed.

## ‘Water crisis’ in Pakistan needs due attention

Jawaria Abbasi



Climate change is a global phenomenon and almost every country is affected by it

Traditional security threats faced by Pakistan like extremism, terrorism, energy security, and external threats are largely discussed and debated in the policy circle as well as a political circle in Pakistan. However, non-traditional security threats are not getting due attention. Pakistan is facing numerous non-traditional threats and arguably the biggest threats are water scarcity and Climate change.

Climate change is a global phenomenon and almost every country is affected by it. According to the global climate risk index, Pakistan is the 5th most vulnerable country to climate change. The country is experiencing heat waves, reduction in agricultural growth, natural disasters, coastal erosion, and seawater intrusion. These events are changing the social and economic dynamics of the country. Pakistan is already facing an internal migration issue due to climate change and as per the data from the World Bank, the number of migrants will be increased to 2 million by the year 2050. The weather pattern in the country is already changing extreme heat days are increasing and rainfall is decreasing in different areas. The weather shift is triggering a negative loop between agricultural products and livelihood. The chief mangoes grower and exporters have mentioned recently that the production of mangoes is expected to decline by 50% due to an increase in temperature and water shortage.

Pakistan is a low-income country and the majority of the population is dependent on agriculture and natural resources. According to the Ministry of Finance, nearly 62% of the country's population is directly or indirectly linked with agriculture, and 39% of the country's labor force is engaged in this sector. Past melting of glaciers, increasing temperature, and irregular rainfall pattern has pushed a large population towards multidimensional poverty. Furthermore, the impact on health is also prevalent. Among other prevalent threats caused by climate change, water scarcity is the most serious one. The 220 million population of Pakistan with a 2% annual increase rate is dependent on surface and groundwater sources. The country has already jumped from the water “stressed” to the water “scarce” country. Climate change has increased water scarcity. Two major impacts of climate change are declining water flow in the Indus river and an increase in demand for water for agriculture due to an increase in temperature and evapotranspiration. A study by the International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD) has estimated the water demand and suggests that climate change will increase the demand for water and affect other businesses. The above-mentioned figure indicates that the country is facing serious threats on-demand side of the water. The current situation asks for urgent and efficient management of water. The coastal communities of Pakistan are among the vulnerable socio-economic group. Their livelihood is dependent on the sea and agriculture. However, water scarcity and climate change are forcing people to migrate. The environmental minister of Sindh mentioned in a recent seminar that the coastal communities of Sindh are facing severe water scarcity. The quality of available water is not good and water shortage has destroyed the fisheries, agriculture, and livestock of coastal communities.

A recent documentary by foreign travel blogger Eva has highlighted the plight of the Mohana tribe of Sindh. According to the World Bank, Pakistan is facing a poor water management issue and it cost the country 4% of its GDP. Furthermore, the agriculture sector is facing a decrease in productivity due to water shortage. While, on the other hand, the country has a poor irrigation system and which causes 60% of water loss. The consequences of climate change are irreversible, however, the prevalent problems can be mitigated through planning and careful management. According to the UN report, the demand for water in Pakistan is expected to reach 374 MAF whereas the supply of water is 191 MAF. The problem with water scarcity is that this serious threat that is risking lives and livelihood is not getting due attention; neither by the media, spokesperson, or politicians. The solution is not in blaming others but in the management of crises and building small dams. Pakistan has several policy documents related to water management but the need of the hour is to fill the gap between policies and implementation mechanisms. The simple steps like management of water waste in the agriculture sector, treatment of wastewater, raising awareness among communities, rainwater harvesting, and building small dams are all linked with water management, which can be easily handled if the government takes ownership of this crisis. However, the first and foremost need is to take ownership of this non-traditional security threat to the country and deal with it on a priority basis.

The author is an independent researcher and hold a degree in MPhil Public policy from PIDE.

## Why Lasbela is poor?

Khalid Khan

Finally, it is even more difficult to point out the causes behind the dilemma: that widespread poverty exists in the district with all reasonable factors of economic development

Lasbela is one of the most fertile and productive districts in Balochistan. In addition to agriculture, fishing, and animal husbandry; Lasbela is Balochistan's only industrial and financial center. On average, Lasbela generates 90% of the province's industrial output and 70% of its tax revenue. The planned industrialization of Lasbela began in 1984 when the government of Balochistan established the Lasbela Industrial Estates Development Authority (LIEDA) in the district to stimulate economic growth in the province. Under the umbrella of LIEDA, five industrial parks have been established

in the district along the RCD highway. The RCD Road connects Lasbela with Karachi, Gwadar, and Quetta. Despite industrialization, Lasbela is one of the most well-connected districts in the province as it is located at the gateway of Karachi.

Today, there are more than 200 industrial units operating in the district out of a total of 300 in all five industrial zones, and these units generate more than Rs 11 billion revenue from sales tax and income tax. Therefore, Lasbela is engine of economic growth for Balochistan, due to its enormous impact on the province's economy.

Compared to other parts of Balochistan, Lasbela is also relatively stable, peaceful, and politically vibrant. Lasbela's elite has always been part of the government (democracy or military) and won important

positions in the government. The Jam of Lasbela family ruled the province for a considerable time as Jam Gulam Qadir Khan has remained the Chief Minister of Balochistan twice from 27 April 1973 to 31 December 1974 and then from April 6, 1985, to May 29, 1988. Similarly, Jam Mohammad Yousaf also served Balochistan as Chief Minister from March 2002 to December 2007, following his forefathers Jam Kamal Khan has also served the province as Chief Minister from August 19, 2018, to October 24, 2021. There is no such type of precedence in Balochistan that any parts of the province remain that much prominent in poor corridors. Lasbela has very rich reserves of mineral resources. Minerals like Chromite, Marble, Onyx, a Dark Green Marble, Limestone, Shale, Zinc, and Quartzite are being exploited commercially. The well-known Duddar mine is also located in district Lasbela, tehsil Kanraj. The Duddar mine is one of the largest lead and zinc mines in Pakistan. The mine has reserves amounting to 50 million tonnes of ore grading 3.2% lead and 7% zinc thus resulting in 1.6 million tonnes of lead and 3.5 million tonnes of zinc. (en). The mine project was jointly developed by Metallurgical Construction Group (MCC) and Pakistan Miner-

al Development Corporation (PDMC). The concentrates are targeted to be processed at the Hunan Zhuzhou smelter in China. The district has all the essential ingredients for the recipe of economic development. Nevertheless, despite the above, poverty is still widespread in the district, as well as a high degree of deprivation, making it one of the most challenging districts in Pakistan, while some studies have ranked it among the 20 poorest districts in Pakistan. It is therefore extremely shocking that despite everything, still most of the population in the district continues to be deprived of basic human rights including education, health, and access to economic opportunities.

Finally, it is even more difficult to point out the causes behind the dilemma: that widespread poverty exists in the district with all reasonable factors of economic development. However, an in-depth analysis shows that the district needs a comprehensive development plan that covers all activities to boost up its economic potential. Moreover, without genuine public participation, it appears difficult to develop Lasbela and Balochistan.

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## Briefs

## Foreign...

FROM PAGE 01

the SBP, stood at \$15,610.5 million. Net reserves held by banks amounted to \$5,893 million. However, with Pakistan reaching a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) foreign exchange reserves are expected to improve after the receipt of \$1.17 billion from the global lender.

## Govt...

FROM PAGE 01

and former law minister Chaudhry had misused their authority. "Whether these acts attract Article 6 of the Constitution (high treason) is also left open to be determined by the parliamentarians to ponder whether they should leave open the doors to such unconstitutional acts or take suitable measures to stop such a mess in future," he had suggested. Addressing a press conference on Thursday, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said: "We have started works to file a reference under Article 6. Only the federal government has the authority to file cases under Articles 5 and 6."

## Khan vows...

FROM PAGE 01

Multan. Who is Mr X? Well, you'll find out soon." The PTI chairman once again asked the Chief Justice of Pakistan to conduct a thorough probe of the Lettigate scandal. He asserted that the investigation is necessary to save future prime ministers of the country from bowing down to a foreign conspirer. Mocking Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, he asked if he was capable enough to withstand such pressures. The ousted premier also took the incumbent government to task for the skyrocketing fuel prices and advised PM Shehbaz to stand firm to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He went on to add that the country achieved progress in the last two years of his tenure that it didn't in the past 17 years.

## Agreement...

FROM PAGE 01

prime minister, fellow ministers, secretaries and especially the finance division for their help and efforts in obtaining this agreement. "Pakistan and IMF have reached an agreement. We will soon receive \$1.17 billion as the combined 7th & 8th tranche. I want to thank the PM, my fellow ministers, secretaries and especially the finance division for their help and efforts in obtaining this agreement," the minister tweeted. Earlier, in a statement issued from Washington, IMF said its staff and the Pakistani authorities have reached a staff level agreement (SLA) on policies to complete the combined 7th and 8th reviews of Pakistan's Extended Fund Facility (EFF). "The IMF team has reached a staff-level agreement (SLA) with the Pakistani authorities for the conclusion of the combined seventh and eighth reviews of the EFF-supported program," the statement said. According to the statement, an IMF team, led by Nathan Porter finalized discussions for the combined seventh and eighth reviews. The agreement is subject to approval by the IMF's Executive Board, following which about \$1,177 million (SDR 894 million) will become available, bringing total disbursements under the programme to about \$4.2 billion. Additionally, in order to support programme implementation and meet the higher financing needs in FY23, as well as catalyze additional financing, the IMF Board will consider an extension of the EFF until end-June 2023 and an augmentation of access by SDR 720 million that will bring the total access under the EFF to about US\$7 billion. "Pakistan is at a challenging economic juncture. A difficult external environment combined with pro-cyclical domestic policies fueled domestic demand to unsustainable levels. The resultant economic overheating led to large fiscal and external deficits in FY22, contributed to rising inflation, and eroded reserve buffers," it said. To stabilize the economy and bring policy actions in line with the IMF-supported programme.

## New officers should realize goal of developed Indonesia

Jokowi remarked that as new officers will be the future of the military and police institutions, they should understand the national defence strategy for the future

JAKARTA: President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) urged newly inaugurated officers of the Indonesian National Defense Forces (TNI) and National Police to bolster the national goal to achieve the status of developed country in future. "You are the successor to realize the nation's hope. You are our hope to continue the mission in realizing Indonesia as a developed country that grows inclusively, just, and sustainably," Jokowi stated while presiding over the Prasetya Perwira oath-taking ceremony to induct new police and military officers at the Merdeka Palace here Thursday. Out of the total 754 military and police officers inaugurated during this year's Prasetya Perwira ceremony, 292 officers graduated from the military academy, 107 graduated from the naval academy, 109 officers graduated from the air force academy, and 246 officers graduated from the police academy. Jokowi remarked that as new officers will be the future of the military and police institutions, they should understand the national defence strategy for the future. "You are the future of the TNI and the police. You must understand the future and the future



defence, face future challenges, master future technologies, be clever, and have skills according to future needs," the president stated. TNI and police officers must also exhibit their competence as the nation's warriors and showcase their integrity and loyalty to the people and the nation, he noted. "Exhibit your intelligence and ability to face the future, exhibit your ability to achieve success in the duty. Be a leader with character

that inspires and becomes an example, have integrity, and prioritize national interests above all," Jokowi remarked. The president also urged newly inducted military and police officers to maintain personal quality and professionalism, adhere to military and police codes, and devote themselves to fulfilling their duty to the nation. He then expressed gratitude for the national resilience despite global issues and instability due to wars, conflicts, and terrorism affecting several countries. "We are thankful that the Indonesian nation is a firm nation. We have Pancasila that unites Indonesia. We can control the (COVID-19 pandemic) and maintain economic stability. We can even commence new policies," the president stated. Jokowi stated that Indonesia is committed to making the most of the G20 Presidency this year to restore global peace and realize common prosperity. "We began (this mission) with my visit to Ukraine and Russia last month. We will intensify our effort, with the hope that it will be fruitful during the G20 Summit in Bali next November," he stated. - ANTARA

## Türkiye to remember July 15 defeated coup's martyrs

NEWS DESK

ANKARA: Turkey on Friday will commemorate the people who lost their lives during the failed coup attempt of July 15, 2016. In October 2016, 2 1/2 months after the attempted coup, July 15 was designated as the Democracy and National Unity Day, with events held nationwide every year since then to commemorate those who lost their lives beating back the putschists and to remember the bravery of the nation. The Gülenist Terror Group (FETÖ) and its U.S.-based leader Fetullah Gülen orchestrated the defeated coup, which left 251 people dead and 2,734 injured. Ankara also accuses FETÖ of being behind a long-running campaign to overthrow the state through the infiltration of Turkish institutions, particularly the military, police, and judiciary. The attempt by FETÖ to overthrow the government began around 10 p.m. local time (7 p.m. GMT) on July 15, 2016 and was thwarted by 8 p.m. the next day. Standing against the threat, the

Turkish people courageously showed the world that they would not tolerate any attempt to suppress their will as expressed through their democratically elected government. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has consistently warned countries that supporting or hosting fugitive FETÖ members of the danger of doing so, as "FETÖ is a bloody terrorist group that hides its dark face under the guise of deception." Over the years, the international community has come to gradually understand that FETÖ is not a social movement but a dark and insidious terrorist group with political and economic aims. After the coup attempt, FETÖ was declared a terrorist organization by various countries and international organizations. In October 2016, at its 43rd Council of Foreign Ministers' session, the Organization of Islamic Conference declared it a terrorist organization. Additionally, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) also declared FETÖ a terror organization, as did the Supreme Court of

Pakistan in a December 2018 ruling. As a result of Turkey's efforts at last month's NATO leaders' summit in Madrid, Spain, FETÖ was mentioned a terrorist group in the records of the alliance for the first time, according to the Turkish president. Turkey continues to make efforts to root out FETÖ's infiltration abroad. In 2021, in the nation's capital Ankara, the July 15 Democracy Museum commemorating the failed coup was officially opened on its fifth anniversary. Marking the anniversary, Turkish officials attended several commemorative ceremonies and events across the country as part of Democracy and National Unity Day. Separately, a ceremony was held at Parliament, which was among the areas targeted by the coup plotters. Turkey's diplomatic missions abroad also observed the day, hosting various events. The Turkish community in the U.S. also ran an advertisement in The Washington Post pushing for the extradition of FETÖ's ringleader, who lives in the U.S. state of Pennsylvania. Turkey has been pressing for years for the U.S. to send him back so he can face justice.

## Japan premier blames police for assassination of former PM Abe

AGENCIES

TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has blamed inadequate police protection for the death of former leader Shinzo Abe, who was shot while giving an outdoor campaign speech. Officials at the National Public Safety Commission and National Police Agency are investigating what went wrong and will come up with measures, Kishida said on Thursday. "I urge them to fix what needs to be fixed, while also studying examples in other countries," he said. Kishida also announced plans to hold a state funeral for Abe later this year, noting his contributions at home and in boosting Japan's security alliance with the United States. A smaller funeral ceremony was held at a temple in Tokyo on Tuesday for Abe, whose nationalistic views drove the governing party's conservative policies. Abe, one of Japan's most influential politicians, was assassinated last Friday in western Japan, shocking a nation known for its low crime rate. Photos and videos of the shooting show the gunman was able to come close to Abe. A suspect was arrested immediately after Abe was shot on Friday and is being held for questioning. Police and media reports say he told investigators that a rumoured link between Abe and a religious group the suspect hated was the reason he killed the former prime minister. The suspect, 41-year-old Tetsuya Yamagami, served briefly in Japan's navy. He was reportedly upset because his mother made large donations to the Unification Church that bankrupted the family.

## Netherlands, Sweden survive Euro 2022 scares

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Holders the Netherlands held off a stirring fight-back by Portugal to close in on a place in the Euro 2022 quarter-finals with a 3-2 win over Portugal, while Sweden struck late to beat Switzerland 2-1 on Wednesday. The Dutch were without star striker Vivianne Miedema due to a positive case for coronavirus, but got off to a flying start in Leigh as Damaris Egorrola and Stefanie van der Gragt struck inside the first 16 minutes. Portugal would not even be at the tournament had it not been for Russia's explosion due to the invasion of Ukraine, but for the second time in as many games they bounced back from a 2-0 deficit. Carole Costa's penalty reduced the arrears before half-time and Diana Silva's thumping header levelled two minutes into the second half. The Netherlands thought they had immediately struck back when Jill Roord's goal was ruled out by a VAR check for offside. But Mark Parsons' side did dig themselves out of trouble just after the hour mark when Danielle Van de Donk's stunning strike from outside the box arrowed into the top corner. Victory takes the Netherlands top of Group C, level on four points with the Swedes, with both sides just needing a point from their final group game to progress. Ranked second in the world, Sweden were among the pre-tournament favourites but have so far struggled to hit top gear in England. After a 1-1 draw to open their campaign against the Netherlands, the Olympic silver medalists were expected to roll over a Swiss side ranked 20th in the world. Switzerland's preparations had also been rocked by a sickness bug in the camp that forced them to cancel training on Monday.

## Djokovic inaugurates courts at Bosnian 'pyramids'

SPORTS DESK

BOSNIA: Recently-crowned Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic on Wednesday inaugurated tennis courts at a 'pyramid park' in Bosnia that he regularly visits to recharge his batteries. The tennis star, known for his new-age spiritual interests, is fond of the hill town of Visoko, where thousands flock every year to what some believe are an ancient man-made pyramid complex with healing powers - a claim rejected by scientists. The 35-year-old Serb, who claimed his 21st Grand Slam title on Sunday, visited the site for the first time in 2020 and called it a "paradise on earth". He has returned to the "Bosnian Pyramid of the Sun" complex at least four times, either alone or with his family, always to be warmly welcomed by the unusual site's founder Semir Osmanagic. According to Osmanagic, a Bosnian businessman and a self-styled archaeologist, the idea of building a "regional training centre" with two courts was born during Djokovic's last visit in March. "This is a special day for Visoko, for Bosnia, for



the whole region, for tennis, for sport", Djokovic said after arriving at the new courts. "The message of this day is peace, sport, future and health", he added while several hundred fans seated near a dense forest welcomed him with a big applause. The Serbian star played exhibition matches with Croatian Ivan Dodig, Aljaz Bedene of Slovenia and Bosnian tennis player Aldin Setkic. Looking very relaxed, Djokovic staged an unusual show, making the audience laugh by pretending to argue

with the referees or trying to "bribe" them. Ancient civilisation aficionado Osmanagic has claimed for the past 20 years that he has discovered not one, but several pyramids built by a mysterious civilization near Visoko. For the past few years his teams have been also clearing underground tunnels near the "Pyramid of the Sun" and he boasts of its beneficial effects on the health of visitors. On arrival, Djokovic visited the new courts and went for a walk into a pine forest, which is a part of the park, with his host.

**LABIBA ZAKIR**  
What one reveals; is to conceal what he feels. What one says is actually not the thing meant to say. Similarly what one expresses is to conceal what he feels. Putting lavish looks reveal inner poverty, advertisement of happiness discloses the intensity of pain inside and showing off the grief let one move from the state and set again'.  
World is under the phenomenon of globalization, where this huge, massive and immense planet earth is contracting day by day. This process of connection is a deliberate effort by the habitants of earth, for they were suffering the problems of expansion. As a result of this powerful connection, people start coming close consciously and unconsciously. It becomes very easy for them to be available at any time.  
Internet has become a social world to which availability is quite easy but how to be available is a different thing. How and why we act and react on this social world has rather become a point to ponder and the focal of my today's writing too. Every being in this society has a 'face', which means one possess a particular position, reputation and respect in this society. All the other beings are supposed to encounter each other's face and to give them enough reverence as they're supposed

## Social media world

to have. Similar is the case with the face on social media world. But the discrepancy is on the point where society decides your face but on social media world you have to decide your face by your own. And how one can decide his own face? Of course through the way one is available on social media, stuff that is being posted, reactions on particular themes and the choice of words as well as choice of expressions. This particular face that we depict on social media world is a certificate that we give people to judge us and so it does. There are different types of people on social media who show different sides of their lives on social media platform. Some are very eager to show the happiest part while others show the worst and the saddest one. So there is a big question mark over there, why do we post? What is the psychology behind posting? Some psychologists say people tend to show what they are most likely to hide. It is an unconscious process through which a person elucidates what actually he was not intended to elucidate. So the process of posting or sharing on social media world goes opposite and the face one tries to create is actually the one which was not the revealed face. In other words it can be short termed by using a single word; manipulation. For example; the glamour one shows is to cover the inner dullness, depiction of optimistic attitude is actually the craving for that, advertisement of happiness is also the

yearning to be happy. On the other side, when someone is trying to create a pessimist face on social media world, there is also a psyche behind it. People who are portraying dark side of life are the ones who are willing to shed this side away by expressing. As the psychologists say that one can lessen the burden simply by sharing or expressing it while they are also called 'attention seekers' but it is a natural phenomenon that every exhausted individual is looking for a shady tree to at least have a relief or one who is overburdened wants a dustbin to throw away the rubbish and move on. Every living being is attention seeker, but in different ways. Another term in this regard is Vaguebooking; which means sharing vague posts for the purpose of getting attention. These posts seem to be vague but are actually not. Vaguebooking is a serious issue which is under discussion these days. It is somehow related to the increasing number of psychological disorders, such that; depression, anxiety, and even suicides. In Personality Characteristics Associated with Attention Seeking Behavior Online and Social Media Use in Emerging Adulthood a 2014 thesis completed in the University of Southern Florida by Chloe Berryman, there was a correlation between vaguebooking and suicidal thoughts, anxiety,

depression etc. Vaguebooking seems to be an unimportant thing, which carries but no worth for readers. But in actual this is not vague, it is to get negative feelings out of you and a sort of catharsis as well as incite people to interact with you. This may also be termed as 'attention seeking' and actually is. Also it is responsibility of one who knows about it to give attention and listen to these people for they are in need of it.  
Social media impacts in many positive as well as negative ways. According to psychologists Wilcox and Stephan; sites such as Facebook can increase self-esteem. As by presenting a positive face on these sites, self-esteem increases but it lowers our self control. For a narcissistic it is worthwhile to get positive remarks and for an anxiety patient it is notable for life that what other people think of me, and how worthless am I even on the social media world. This can also lead to addiction which can cause more harm than good. This superficial validation or rejection on social media platform is far from the real life circumstances and scenario. But for a purposeful social media user, the case is different. According to Cornell researcher Anthony Burrows; "we found that having a sense of purpose allowed people to navigate virtual feedback with more rigidity and persistence.... Purposeful people noticed the positive feedback but didn't rely on it to feel good about themselves".  
The author is Student of University of Poonch Rawalakot

## Turkiye...

FROM PAGE 01

counter-terrorism operational body, was bombed by fighter jets, killing 55 police officers and injuring hundreds on the spot", he added. Hundreds of civilians protesting the coup attempt in Ankara and Istanbul were shot dead, he informed. He said that it was Fetullah Gülen's FETO, an organization that secretly worked in Türkiye for 40 years and its main goal was to take control of the state. For 40 years, this organization had brainwashed the country's children, brilliant minds in the name of educational institutions, and turned them against their own country. At the peak of their power, they controlled thousands of schools in Türkiye and more than eight hundred educational institutes worldwide. As civil servants or military personnel, FETO members' loyalty was not to the nation or to the state they served. They did not care about upholding the country, Ambassador added. After July 15, 2016 coup attempt: The perpetrators of the 15th of July coup attempt have been brought to justice based on rule of law and fundamental rights and freedoms. A number of judicial processes are still ongoing, he added. The fight against FETO structures abroad is now among the top priorities of our country. Our main objective is to demonstrate and prove the fact that FETO also poses a threat to the security of all countries where it remains active, Ambassador informed the media. Since FETO is present in around 160 countries, with thousands of schools, businesses, NGOs, and media houses. Various countries and international organizations have declared FETO as a terrorist organization. Moreover, FETO was declared a terrorist organization in the 43rd session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC held on 19 October 2016. A similar resolution was passed during the Asian Parliamentary Assembly on 1 December 2016 and ratified on the 12th Conference of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC on 27 January 2017. In addition to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, the Supreme Court of Pakistan also declared FETO a terrorist organization with the verdict rendered on 28 December 2018, he added. Answering a question about FETO's presence in Pakistan, the ambassador said that two schools of FETO were now being supervised by Turkish Maarif Foundation and we appreciate Pakistan for closing down those schools of FETO at the Türkiye government's request. Commenting on the recent visit of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif to Türkiye, the Ambassador said that it was a successful visit and President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan was expected to visit Pakistan in September this year. Both countries are expected to sign multiple bilateral agreements during the upcoming visit of the Türkiye president.

## PTI terms...

FROM PAGE 01

PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry said in a press conference on Thursday after the apex court, in a detailed judgment, noted that the SC was not satisfied as insufficient evidence had been presented to support PTI's claim of foreign interference. Chaudhry claimed that the PTI had urged the apex court to investigate the matter and submitted documents related to the "cipher" to the court, but the SC turned down the request and asked the party to not "speak on the cipher in detail".

## SC called...

FROM PAGE 01

proof he would have presented as there is no better forum than the Supreme Court to validate his claim," she added. "Now he [Imran] is crying about rigging. The person who lost all by-polls to the PML-N during his own tenure is saying there is rigging. Imran Khan is the founder of rigging in Pakistan." Maryam, quoting Imran Khan's address, said that he saw a picture of Nawaz Sharif on a motorway. "How would you not see that picture [of Nawaz Sharif]. He resides in people's hearts. You will see his pictures in every home."

## Briefs

## Kazakh President urges to tackle inflation

NEWS DESK

NUR-SULTAN: The Government and the National Bank should prioritize stabilizing the inflation and increasing the income of citizens, Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said Thursday at the extended of the Government, Kazinform correspondent reports. While speaking at the Government's extended session, Head of State Kassym-Jomart Tokayev pointed out that international institutes warn of a global economic slowdown followed by a spurt in inflation. «What we see is a protracted regional crisis. There are fears the situation will lead to a global crisis,» President Tokayev told participants of the session. He went on to emphasize that the Government and the National Bank should prioritize stabilizing the inflation and increasing the income of citizens. New workplaces need to be created. Earlier the Head of State revealed that inflation had accelerated to 14.5 percent, highest since 2015.

## Omicron subvariants pre-dominant in Indonesia

JAKARTA: Omicron subvariants BA.4 and BA.5 are responsible for about 81 percent of COVID-19 infections reported in the country, coordinator of the expert team and spokesperson for COVID-19 handling, Wiku Adisasmito, has said. «Reflecting on experiences in other countries, generally the peak of cases occurred around 16 to 33 days. While the peak of hospitalization was around 29-49 days later since this subvariant was first discovered,» Adisasmito noted at an online press conference in Jakarta on Wednesday.

The two subvariants emerged on June 6, 2022, or about 36 days ago, therefore, the possibility of an increase in cases remains open, he said. However, this potential could be prevented with a clean and healthy lifestyle. - ANTARA

## UNSC extends Yemen mission

WASHINGTON: The UN Security Council voted unanimously Wednesday to extend the international community's special political mission in Yemen. The authorities were set to expire July 15 but the vote extends the UN Mission to Support the Hudeidah Agreement (UNMHA) for one year. The vote was conducted in an exceptionally rare fashion without Council members delivering remarks. - Agencies

## Pakistan calls for mobilizing resources to end poverty

The minister said Pakistan was facing challenges in food security, water security and energy security because of the issues ranging from climate change and global development

NEW YORK: Pakistan stressed the international community for evolving an emergency action plan and mobilizing financial resources to ramp up food production, keep supply chains open, assist poor farmers and build food bank for the developing countries. Addressing a press conference here at the United Nations on Wednesday night, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said that in order to overcome poverty and hunger, there was a need to address the complex structure and systemic issues impeding food production by developing countries. Being the President of G-77 countries, the minister added that Pakistan had proposed to the UN to lead an international effort to provide support to the developing countries to mitigate the effects of the supply chain shocks. The minister, who is currently visiting the US to attend the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) session at the United Nations, said this was a component of the global effort to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This global effort, he said, had suffered serious setback



particularly for those which are vulnerable.» He also called for collective action within every country and at global level to face this challenge and crisis to minimize the cost of economic default or political crisis as in the case of Sri Lanka. «We do not want Sri Lanka-like situation to erupt in another developing country. This requires the international community to work together in spirit of multilateralism,» he added. He also drew the world attention towards the challenge

of global food security, saying that the issue had been growing progressively in the developing countries due to low productivity, water scarcity, land degradation, lack of agriculture infrastructure, inadequate application of new technologies, and unfair trade practices in climate change. The minister said Pakistan was facing challenges in food security, water security and energy security because of the issues ranging from climate change and global development.

«Largely due to climate change and insufficient investment in agriculture, Pakistan's food security situation has become fragile. We will have to import wheat this year whereas the supply chain of wheat at global level is already disrupted, he added. With respect to the issue of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the minister said the greatest concern was the grievous plight of the people under foreign occupation in Jammu and Kashmir, who were suffering brutal oppression, extra judicial killings, human rights violations, extended curfews, lockdowns, arbitrary detention, and illegal demographic displacement. Ahsan Iqbal said durable peace

between Pakistan and India would continue to be elusive unless the dispute over Jammu and Kashmir was resolved on the basis of UN charter and relevant resolutions of the UNSC. He said India's illegal and unilateral steps on 5th of August 2019 to eliminate Jammu and Kashmir's identity mounted a massive campaign of repression against its people and it was an attempt to change demography to make it a Hindu majority territory by eliminating population of indigenous Muslims and settling down Hindus from across India in the area. This move created barriers to a just resolution of the Kashmir dispute, he said, adding that if the tension created by India's cruel policies in occupied Kashmir were left unattended, it could lead to another conflict in the region with potentially catastrophic consequences. On Afghanistan issue, the minister pointed out that for the first time in 40 years, there was an opportunity to stabilize Afghanistan as the entire country was under the control of one government. He said Pakistan was a neighboring country and if there was instability in Afghanistan, it would be the first country to pay the price. - APP

## Indonesia alert against recession potential

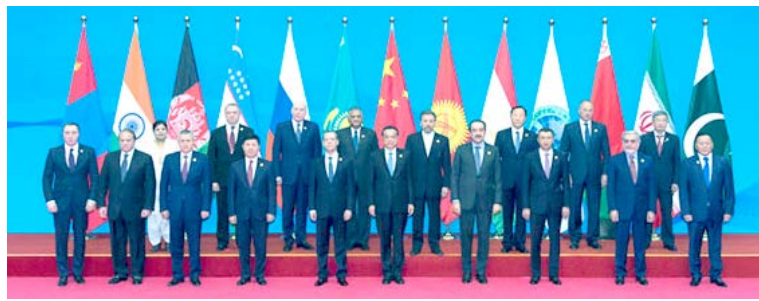
BADUNG: Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said she is aware of the potential for a recession in Indonesia, with a Bloomberg survey placing it 14th out of 15 Asian countries that are likely to experience a recession. «We will not be complacent, we will remain vigilant,» she affirmed at a press conference on the 2022 G20 Indonesia side activities in Nusa Dua, Badung, Bali, on Wednesday. Therefore, all policy instruments will be used, namely fiscal, monetary, and financial sector policies, along with other regulations to monitor the possibility of a recession, especially regulations from corporations in the country, the minister emphasized. The Bloomberg survey ranked Indonesia 14th with a recession probability of 3 percent, far lower than Sri Lanka, which took first place with a recession potential of 85 percent. Below Sri Lanka were New Zealand with a recession probability of 33 percent, South Korea (25 percent), Japan (25 percent), and China (20 percent). - ANTARA

## SCO SG meets with head of ICRC mission in China

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: Secretary-General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Zhang Ming had a meeting with Pierre Kraehenbuehl, Head of the Regional East Asia Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross and discussed ICRC activities in various regions, including Afghanistan. Pierre Kraehenbuehl congratulated Zhang Ming on assuming office and praised the SCO's achievements in the past 20 years. The SCO Secretary-General noted the ICRC's important role in providing humanitarian aid in conflict zones and briefed his partner on current SCO activities and the main 2022 events, according to SCO secretariat here on Thursday.

The sides exchanged opinions on expanding future cooperation between the SCO and the ICRC, on drafting an interaction plan and on holding joint events under the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations. Meanwhile, Zhang Ming



had a meeting with U Myo Thant Pe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the People's Republic of China. The Ambassador reaffirmed that his country was seeking dialogue partner status and informed Zhang Ming of various steps in this direction. The SCO secretary-general welcomed Myanmar's intention to join the SCO family and briefed him on important upcoming intra-SCO events this year. The sides agreed to continue maintaining regular contacts between the SCO Secretariat and the Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the PRC.

The SCO Secretary-General Zhang also met with Khek Caimyaleysyda, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the People's Republic of China.

The sides exchanged opinions on future interaction between the SCO and Cambodia, including between the SCO Secretariat and the Embassy of Cambodia in Beijing. The SCO secretary-general informed the Ambassador about the Organisation's current activities, including upcoming events in Uzbekistan. The Ambassador of Cambodia reaffirmed her country's interest in upgrading to observer status at the Organisation.

## Sri Lanka protesters leave official buildings

WEB DESK

COLOMBO: Anti-government protesters withdraw from presidential palace, the presidential secretariat and the prime minister's office but vow to press on with their demands Sri Lanka's anti-government demonstrators have said they are ending their occupation of official buildings, as they vowed to press on with their bid to bring down the president and prime minister in the face of a dire economic crisis. A spokeswoman for the protesters announced on Thursday: «We are peacefully withdrawing from the Presidential Palace, the Presidential Secretariat and the Prime Minister's Office with immediate effect, but will continue our struggle.»

Protesters overran President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's palace over the weekend, forcing him to flee to the Maldives on Wednesday, and also stormed the office of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe. As president, Rajapaksa enjoys immunity from arrest, and he is believed to have gone abroad before stepping down in order to avoid the possibility of being detained. Security sources in Sri Lanka's capital Colombo said his resignation letter has already been prepared. «No sooner he gives the green light, the Speaker will issue it,» a source said. The government imposed a state of emergency on Wednesday that gives broader powers to the military and police and declared an immediate nationwide curfew.

## US, South Korea conduct joint air drills

SEOUL: The US and South Korea air forces conducted their first combined air drills involving F-35A stealth fighters as tension has been rising in the Korean Peninsula, local media said. The US F-35As arrived in the South Korean capital Seoul last week to join the drills in the first public deployment of US stealth warplanes in the country since 2017, according to Yonhap News Agency. South Korean air forces in a statement said some 30 aircraft, including South Korea's F-35A, F-15K, KF-16, and FA-50 jets, along with US' F-16 and F-35A jets joined the drill. - Agencies

## Russia's war 'greatest challenge' to global economy

FOREIGN DESK

BALI: Russia's war in Ukraine poses the greatest threat to the global economy, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Thursday as G20 ministers prepare to start talks in Indonesia. Moscow's invasion has sent inflation soaring at a time when the world is struggling to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, endangering the gains of the past two years and threatening widespread hunger and poverty. «Our greatest challenge today comes from Russia's illegal and unprovoked war against Ukraine,» she said on the resort island of Bali ahead of a meeting between finance ministers from the world's top economies and central bank governors on Friday and Saturday. «We are seeing negative spillover effects from that war in every corner of the world, particularly with respect to higher energy prices, and rising food insecurity,» she added. «The international community must be clear-eyed about holding Putin accountable for the global economic and humanitarian consequences of his war.» Yellen said she will continue to press G20 allies at the meeting for a price cap on Russian oil to choke off Putin's war chest and pressure Moscow to end its invasion while bringing down energy costs. «A price cap... is one of our most powerful tools,» she said, adding that a limit would deny Putin «the revenue his war machine needs». She expressed hope that India and China would join such a cap, saying it «would serve their own interests» to put downward pressure on prices for consumers across the world.

## MIRF 2022 expects RM90m investment

DNA

KUALA LAMPUR: THE Malaysia International Retail and Franchise Exhibition (MIRF) 2022 is expected to generate up to RM90 million worth of investments for Malaysia from over 400 retailers. Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Minister Tan Sri Noh Omar said recognising the importance of the retail and franchise industries to the national economy, franchises are expected to contribute 9.4% to the GDP target for 2022.

Through MIRF, Malaysia can be a springboard for retailers and franchise businesses to grow, where brands, organisations and industry practitioners gather in one place to network and transact businesses in real-time. Noh said the retail and franchise businesses should utilise the platform to expand their operations not only in terms of revenue but also to reshape and cultivate new business models and innovation strategies after the pandemic. «Apart from achieving the GDP target for 2022, the government also plans to create 18,000 new job opportunities by 2025. «The goal is to



develop more franchise entrepreneurs, and we remain committed to assisting small entrepreneurs to transform their businesses and compete at the global level,» he said at the launch of MIRF today.

Meanwhile, Malaysia Retail Chain Association president Sharan Valliram said there are positive indications that the final sales figure this year would reach RM13 billion, judging from the inherent strength of this industry despite the pandemic. «It is proven statistically that the vital contribu-

tion the retail industry brings to the Malaysian economy. It is one of the top three contributors to the national GDP,» he said. Over 15,000 visitors are targeted this year, with 400 retailers and 200 companies from 10 countries taking part. Among the leading retail and franchise brands participating this year are Marrybrown, Bask Bear Coffee, Ah Cheng Laksa, Big Apple, Tealive and Laundrybar, among others. The last edition of MIRF in 2019 featured 350 booths and transacted over RM80 million in business

revenue. «We will continue to push for transactions through better business matching and using technology to interact with people,» Sharan added. MIRF 2022 with the theme «Reboot: Retail and Franchise» is held from today to July 16 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. MIRF is supported by Malaysia External Trade Development Cooperation with official sponsors and partners such as Perbadanan Nasional Bhd, Maxis Bhd, Fusions Group, RHB Bank Bhd and TIME dotCom Bhd.

## Chinese investment in Solar PV plants in Pakistan accounts for nearly 87%

BEIJING: Currently, out of the \$144 million in foreign investment in Solar PV plants in Pakistan, \$125 million is from China, accounting for nearly 87% of the total. Among the 530MW cumulative generation capacity in Pakistan, 400 MW (75%) is generated from Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park, the first-ever power plant capable of generating solar energy in Pakistan, owned by the Punjab government and built by China Tebian Electric Apparatus Xinjiang New Energy Co. With 400,000 solar panels spreading over 200 hectares of flat desert, the plant was initially launched with a capacity of generating 100 MW of power for Pakistan. Since 2015, there has been the addition of 300 MW power generation capacity with 3 new projects, and there are numerous planned projects reported for the Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park by AEDB with a cumulative capacity of 1,050 MW, according to China Economic Net (CEN). Chinese companies are also major suppliers to many PV Projects in Pakistan such as Mini Solar grids in KP and ADB Access to Clean Energy Program. The solar mini-grid stations in Jandola, Orakzai, and Mohmand tribal districts are in the final stages of their completion and soon the business community will get uninterrupted, cheap, green, and clean energy. Pakistan Solar Energy Market is expected to record a CAGR of 2.5% from 2022 to 2027. Up to now, the average utilization rate of the operational Solar PV plants is merely 19%, far from the over 95% utilization rate in China, representing huge opportuni-

ties to be tapped. As experienced PV Plants investors in Pakistan, Chinese companies are more likely to further leverage their learning in the solar industry. They can also benefit from China's pledge to move away from coal-based energy generation and promote green energy in developing countries. Meanwhile, the Pakistani government has set ambitious targets for Solar PV Capacity under the Integrated Generation Capacity Expansion Plan (IGCEP) of 2021. Therefore, Chinese companies can expect a supportive government attitude to investment in Solar PV Plants in Pakistan and the cooperation would complement both countries' commitment to the socio-economic development of the whole region. In Pakistan, the insufficiency of power which leads to surging electricity tariffs and foreign exchange expenditure on imported energy is aggravating the necessity for the country to be more self-sufficient in power generation. Currently, thermal power still takes the bulk chunk in Pakistan energy mix, accounting for 59% of the total installed capacity. Importing the fuel on which most of our power plants run has put a heavy burden on our treasury. That is why we have been thinking for a long time that we should focus on the assets that are being produced in our country. If solar is installed on every roof, those who suffer from heat and load shedding can generate their own electricity at least all day, and if some surplus electricity is generated, they can sell it to the grid. - APP

JULY 2022

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**Briefs**

**'SC decision on Dy Speaker ruling an example'**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Thursday said that the apex court's decision on National Assembly Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri's ruling on no confidence vote would be remembered as example in the political history of Pakistan. Addressing a press conference along with Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira regarding Supreme Court's detailed judgment issued in suo motu notice case on ruling of NA deputy speaker on no-trust motion against Imran Khan, the law minister stated that the apex court's decision on Deputy Speaker's ruling was one of important case in the political history of Pakistan. The apex court rejected Former Deputy Speaker of National Assembly Qasim Suri's ruling on vote of no confidence against former Prime Minister Imran Khan, he added.

He said that former Prime Minister Imran Khan who was legally not eligible to dissolve the National Assembly suggested the President to dissolve the National Assembly and the President without applying his mind dissolved the Assembly in minutes while the apex court took suo moto notice and a 12 judges of the Supreme Court had requested Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial to take suo moto notice as it was an important case for Pakistan's Constitution and democratic history. - APP

**Sri Lanka declares curfew in capital**

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's Department of Government Information on Thursday said that a curfew has been declared in the Colombo district from noon on Thursday till 5 a.m. on Friday following clashes between protesters and security forces a day earlier. Sri Lanka's acting President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Wednesday declared a nationwide state of emergency after thousands of protesters took over the Prime Minister's Office in Colombo calling for his resignation. Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa who left the country early Wednesday amid severe economic turmoil in the South Asian country is set to announce his resignation later in the day, the Parliament Speaker's office said. Meanwhile, Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has arrived in Singapore on a flight from the Maldives, where he fled after mass protests over his rule. - Agencies

**22 killed in Russian strikes in central Ukraine**

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called it 'an open act of terrorism'

**NEWS DESK**

KYIV: Russian missiles have struck a city far from the eastern frontline, killing at least 22 people including three children, Ukrainian officials say. Some 100 more were reported injured in the attack in Vinnytsia, to the south-west of Kyiv and a long way from the heart of the fighting in Donbas. Three Russian missiles hit an office block and damaged residential buildings. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called it "an open act of terrorism". The missiles hit the car park of the nine-storey office block at around 10:50 (07:50 GMT), Ukraine's State Emergency Service said. Residential buildings were also hit in the centre of Vinnytsia, which has a population of around 370,000. The Russian defence ministry, which denies targeting civilians, has yet to comment on the strike. The Ukrainian presidency said the attack had come from Kalibr cruise missiles launched from a submarine in the Black Sea. A senior regional emergency service official told local TV that there was "probably no chance of finding anyone who survived" the attack.

"Every day, Russia kills civilians, kills Ukrainian children, carries out missile attacks on the civilian facilities where there is no military target. What is this, if not an open act of terrorism?" Mr Zelensky said

in a statement on social media. The attack came as EU foreign and justice ministers were due to meet in The Hague for a conference on alleged Russian war crimes. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba accused Russia of committing "another war crime" with the attack on Vinnytsia. "We will put Russian war criminals on trial for every drop of Ukrainian blood and tears," he wrote. Ukrainian pop singer Roxolana was due to play a show tonight at a concert hall in the city, but the venue was destroyed in the attack. She posted on Instagram that all of her team were injured and one died. One of her team is fighting for his life, she said. "We pray for their lives and the lives of all those affected today," she wrote. "We will never forgive."

**War crimes tribunal?**

Zelensky has vowed to hold Moscow to account and has called for a special war crimes tribunal to be set up in the Netherlands. The International Criminal Court in The Hague opened an investigation into possible war crimes in Ukraine just days after Moscow's forces invaded and it dispatched dozens of investigators to the country to gather evidence. Its prosecutor Karim Khan also later visited Bucha, a town outside Kyiv where AFP journalists discovered 20 bodies in civilian clothing lying in a street, and where officials later said hundreds of other people had been killed. Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24 and the conflict has raged since

then, killing thousands of people, destroying cities and forcing millions to flee their homes. In recent weeks, Russian strikes in central Ukraine away from frontlines in the east and the south have become relatively rare. But the war has raged around cities like Mykolaiv in southern Ukraine near the Black Sea which the presidency said was hit by a "massive missile strike" earlier on Thursday. "Two schools, transport infrastructure and a hotel were damaged," the presidency said in its morning military update. The skeletal insides of one building gutted by the strikes was visible in images distributed by local officials, with municipal workers clearing bricks and rubble strewn after the attack. Fighting in Ukraine has focused on the industrial Donbas region in the east, but Kyiv's troops have been pressing a grinding counter-offensive in the south to retake Kherson. The presidency added - without elaborating - that residents along the southern front in the Kherson region were reporting an "increase in equipment and the quantity of Russian troops."

**'Total victory'**

In east Ukraine, Moscow-backed troops said they were closing in on their next target. "Siversk is under our operational control, which means that the enemy can be hit by our aimed fire all over the area," a pro-Moscow rebel official, Daniil Bezsonov, was cited as saying by Russian state-run news agency TASS. At a Ukrainian trench posi-

tion along the eastern frontline, a 25-year-old soldier who goes by the nom de guerre Moryak was working to fortify defences. "We hide when they shell, we dig when it's calm," he told AFP journalists. A fellow combatant in their trench dismissed the idea Ukraine and Russian forces could reach an agreement to halt fighting, explaining their goal was: "Total victory".

**High-stakes grain talks**

Several rounds of negotiations to end the fighting at the beginning of the conflict fell through, but delegations from Kyiv and Moscow met in Istanbul this week to discuss unblocking Ukraine's grain exports. The high-stakes meeting involving UN and Turkish officials in Istanbul broke up after slightly more than three hours with an agreement to meet again in Turkey next week. "The success of this story is needed not only for our state, but also - without exaggeration - for the entire world," Zelensky said in his evening address Wednesday after the talks. The conflict in Ukraine has pushed up grain prices and Europe is suffering from sky-rocketing energy bills stemming from sanctions on Russia and Moscow's move to limit gas flows to Europe. US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Thursday that Russia's war in Ukraine posed the "greatest challenge" to the global economy, as G20 ministers prepare to start talks in Indonesia.

**France nods to Ukraine in Bastille Day military parade**

**FOREIGN DESK**

PARIS: The war in Ukraine made its mark on Paris's traditional Bastille Day military parade on Thursday as France honoured its eastern European NATO allies. French troops deployed close to Ukraine since the Russian assault in February had a special place at the event, attended by President Emmanuel Macron, his government and French and foreign dignitaries.

"The parade is marked by, and takes account of, the strategic context," an official in Macron's office said. "The idea is to highlight the strategic solidarity with our allies." Almost five months after Russia invaded Ukraine, the parade on the Champs-Élysées opened with the presentation of the national flags of nine allied guest countries, most of them neighbours of Ukraine or Russia: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria.

**Covid positivity rate drops**

ISLAMABAD: As the number of tests for Covid-19 has increased by three times, the positivity rate of cases has gone down across the country. The data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOCC) showed that 236 people were infected by the virus and the positivity rate was 1.55pc. The data further revealed that 15,191 Covid-19 tests were performed across the country while 152 patients were on critical care, but no death was reported. The data released on Tuesday had shown that only 4,674 tests had been conducted and out of these, 255 had been found positive and the positivity rate was 5.46pc. - DNA

**Zaheer A Janjua meets US Ambassador in Ottawa**



**DNA**

OTTAWA: Pakistan's High Commissioner to Canada Mr. Zaheer A. Janjua

met the U.S. Ambassador to Canada Mr. David L. Cohen in the Canadian capital today.

During the meeting, both the envoys discussed matters of mutual interest. High Commissioner Zaheer A Janjua said "the Pakistan-US partnership remains strong".

US Ambassador Mr. David L. Cohen welcomed Mr. Zaheer A. Janjua on the assumption of his diplomatic responsibilities in Canada.

He said both the United States and Pakistan were marking the 75th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations this year.

**US, Israel sign pledge to deny Iran nukes**

**AGENCIES**

JERUSALEM: U.S. President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid signed a joint pledge on Thursday to deny Iran nuclear arms, a show of unity by allies long divided over diplomacy with Tehran. The undertaking, part of a "Jerusalem Declaration" crowning Biden's first visit to Israel as president, came a day after he told a local TV station that he was open to "last resort" use of force against Iran - an apparent move toward accommodating Israel's calls for a "credible military threat" by world powers. "We will not allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon," Biden told a news conference fol-

lowing the signing of the declaration. Washington and Israel have separately made veiled statements about possible preemptive war with Iran - which denies seeking nuclear arms - for years. Whether they have the capabilities or will to deliver on this has been subject to debate, however.

Thursday's statement reaffirmed U.S. support for Israel's regional military edge and ability "to defend itself by itself". "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," the statement added. Lapid cast this posture as a way of averting open conflict.

**Sri Lankan President sends resignation after fleeing to Singapore**

**NEWS DESK**

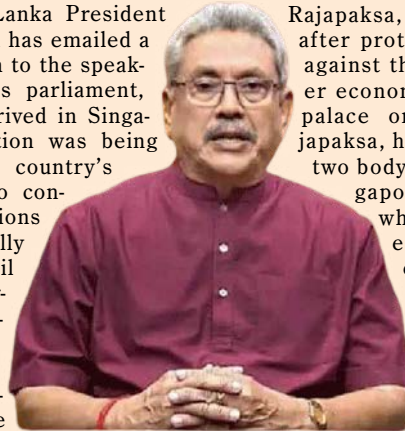
SINGAPORE: Sri Lanka President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has emailed a letter of resignation to the speaker of the country's parliament, shortly after he arrived in Singapore. The resignation was being forwarded to the country's attorney general to consider legal implications before being formally accepted, Indunil Yapa, a spokesperson for the parliamentary speaker, said.

The original resignation letter will be flown into Colombo from Singapore as soon as possible, a source with knowledge of the matter told Reuters news agency. Protesters who have taken to the streets against a dire economic crisis hurting the island nation of 22 million people have been demand-

ing the resignations of both President Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Rajapaksa, 73, fled Sri Lanka after protesters demonstrating against the country's worst-ever economic crisis overran his palace on the weekend. Rajapaksa, his wife Ioma and their two bodyguards arrived in Singapore from the Maldives, where they had initially escaped to a day earlier. The airline plane carrying them landed at Singapore's Changi Airport at 11:17 GMT.

Singapore's foreign ministry confirmed Rajapaksa had been allowed to enter the city-state but insisted it was for a "private visit". "He has not asked for asylum and neither has he been granted any asylum. Singapore generally does not grant requests for asylum," it said in a statement.



**NAB to implement Amend act in letter and spirit**



**STAFF REPORT**

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Executive Board Meeting of National Accountability Bureau (NAB-EBM) was held which was presided over by acting Chairman Zahir Shah at NAB Headquarters, in Islamabad. The meeting was attended by Syed Asghar Haider, Prosecutor General Accountability, Farmanullah Khan, Director General, NAB, Rawalpindi and other senior officers of the bureau. The EBM decided to implement the new amended NAB act 2022 in letter and spirit. A committee headed by Director General NAB Headquar-

ters has been constituted to review ongoing inquiries, investigations in the light of new amended act 2022. The committee also comprised Director Operation Division, legal consultant of Prosecution Division, and relevant desk officers of Operations Division of NAB Headquarters. The committee will submit a preliminary report about continuing or closing or referring the cases to the relevant department as per law. The report also of the committee will be presented before the Executive Board-being the highest consultative forum of NAB for further review and approval of the recommendations - where law will take its own course

of action. The EBM of NAB authorized filing reference against Meraj A Syed, former Chief Hydrographer, Gwadar Port Authority and others on the alleged accusations of misuse of authority and embezzlement of state funds around Rs794 million.

The EBM after due diligence decided for closing of various inquiries, investigations due to lack of court worthy and incriminating evidence. The EBM authorized closing inquiries against Administration of Benazir Income Support Programme, officers/officials and others of Karakoram International University, Gilgit-Baltistan, Barrister Sheikh Abid Waheed, former Managing Director Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) and others, Major (retd) Syed Khalid Amin Shah, Chief Security officer, Peshawar Development Authority and others, Saleem Hassan Wattoo, former Director General, Peshawar Development Authority, Peshawar and others, Amin Vance, former CCPO, Lahore and others, Zulfikar Ghuman, DG, Sports Board Punjab, and others, Muhammad Ramzan Awan, former Secretary Local Government Department, Sindh, and others, Professor (retd) Dr Azam Hussain Yousfani, Vice Chancellor, People University of Medical and Health Sciences for Women, Shaheed Benazirabad and others, Akbar Durrani, former Secretary Home Department, Government of Balochistan.

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