



Islamabad POST

Saturday, July 23, 2022

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 20

Samina Baig becomes first Pakistani woman to summit K2

Detailed News On Page-06

Russia 'about to run out of steam' in Ukraine

Detailed News On Page-08



Uzbek-Afghan-Pak railway project is anchor for peace

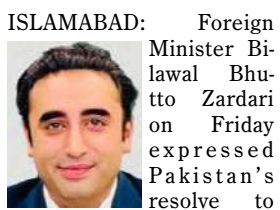
Detailed News On Page-03



Briefs

Pakistan dispatches relief goods for Afghanistan

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday expressed Pakistan's resolve to continue assistance and relief efforts for the brotherly Afghan people. The foreign minister stated this as he attended a ceremony held at the Nur Khan Air Base, Rawalpindi, to dispatch a consignment of emergency relief assistance to Kandahar, to support affected people in eastern Afghanistan in the aftermath of the devastating flash floods. Highlighting the fraternal bonds between the peoples of the two countries, the foreign minister said that both the Government and people of Pakistan stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the Afghan nation in these testing times. The foreign minister also underscored the importance Pakistan attached to its relations with Afghanistan and underlined that the two countries had remained engaged to devise a facilitative trade.

Iran's nuclear programme 'galloping ahead'

DNA



MADRID: Iran's nuclear programme is "galloping ahead" and the International Atomic Energy Agency has very limited visibility on what is happening, IAEA chief Rafael Grossi told Spain's El Pais newspaper in an interview published on Friday. In June, Iran began removing essentially all the agency's monitoring equipment, installed under its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. Grossi said at the time this could deal a "fatal blow" to chances of reviving the deal following 2018's pull-out by the United States.

Holiday Notice

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

Inside...

- Hashoo Hunar Association signs MoU with B-TEVTA - Page 02
- Uzbek-Afghan-Pak railway project is anchor for peace - Page 03
- Indian Ocean significant for regional and global actors - Page 04
- Political consensus on IMF program - Page 05
- Samina Baig becomes first Pakistani woman to summit K2 - Page 06
- Landmark Ukraine grain deal signed in Turkey - Page 07
- Sadiq Sanjirani for collective efforts to curb Islamophobia - Page 08

PML Q votes rejected

Hamza returns as Punjab CM

Deputy Speaker shows Ch Shujaat's letter barring PML lawmakers from voting in Elahi's favour

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: After a dramatic day, PML-N's candidate Hamza Shahbaz Friday retained the post of the Punjab chief minister against Punjab Assembly Speaker Pervez Elahi through a three-vote victory. Following the counting of votes, Punjab Assembly Deputy Speaker Dost Mazari, citing Article 63A of the Constitution, rejected 10 votes cast by PML-Q members. As a result, Hamza received 179 votes, while Elahi managed to bag 176 votes. The Supreme Court of Pakistan, back in May, had ruled the votes of dissident members of the Parliament (MPs), cast against their parliamentary party's directives, cannot be counted. PTI leader Murad Raas, following the counting of the votes, claimed that PTI and its allies had won 186 votes, while the PML-N and its allies managed to get 179 votes. As the process of voting ended, PTI leader Asad Umar congratulated the nation for its struggle in favour of his party and said that

'Hamza election victory of democracy'

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan has said today's re-election of Hamza Shahbaz as Punjab Chief Minister is victory of democracy. He was addressing a news conference in Lahore on Friday along with Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb. He said that PML(N) accepted the results of the recently-held by-election in the Punjab, however PTI objected and attacked the Election Commission. He said that no parliamentarian can vote against the direction of the party head as per the Supreme Court's ruling. He said that strict action will be taken against any violence and rule

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

Pins hopes on apex court

Imran Khan gives protest call to workers

NEWS DESK/DNA

LAHORE: Former prime minister and PTI leader Imran Khan on Friday urged his workers and supporters - particularly the youth - to register their protests tonight, adding that he now expects the Supreme Court to play its role in light of Hamza Shahbaz's shock win over Pervez Elahi in Punjab CM election. "I am in shock at what happened in the Punjab Assembly," he said referring to Deputy Speaker Dost Mohammad Mazari's ruling to not count PML-Q votes - a decision that reduced PTI-backed Pervez Elahi's votes from 186 to 176 and handed him a shocking defeat. "Last night, Asif Zardari reached Lahore. We knew that

he had to play a game. For 30 years, he has ruined the country. He buys democracy through black money." "This circus that we are seeing, it first happened in the Sindh House," he referred to him losing his party MNAs ahead of the no-confidence move against him in March. "A mandi (market) was set up. Our children were seeing it. Every child has social media

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood met with the Spain's Ambassador-designate José A. de Ory. FS stressed the importance Pakistan attaches to multi-faceted ties with Spain. - DNA

'Pakistan desires to boost ties with Spain'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood welcomed Spain's Ambassador-designate to Pakistan José A de Ory here on Friday. The foreign secretary stressed the importance Pakistan attached to multifaceted ties with Spain and underlined its desire to sustain the current momentum and further upgrade Pakistan-Spain cooperation in trade, investments, tourism and people to people contacts, the Foreign Office spokesperson said on twitter.

Legal experts say dy speaker ruling not legal

The parliamentary party leader is the one who decides to take part in a voting process or otherwise

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The decision of the Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly Dost Mazari has given birth to heated debate whether his ruling is legal or not. Most of the legal experts believe that the deputy speaker was not authorized to give such a ruling adding the Supreme Court may turn down the ruling of the deputy speaker. The legal experts believe that the parliamentary party leader is the one who decides to take part in a voting process or

otherwise. In PML Q case Sajid Bhatti the Parliamentary leader in the Punjab Assembly had asked its members to vote for Ch. Pervez Elahi and thus all 10 MPs of the PML Q voted in favour of Ch. Pervez Elahi. By doing so they did not breach any law, according to the experts. They opine, the head of the party, and in this case Ch. Shujaat Hussain, was bound to issue any directions on the advice of the parliamentary leader in the Punjab Assembly. Experts also believe that if Ch

Continued on Page 06

PM pays tribute to Zardari, Shujaat

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday paid tribute to former president Asif Ali Zardari and Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, his family and associates for their role in the victory of democracy and constitutional values. After election of Hamza Shahbaz as chief minister of Punjab, the prime minister in a statement thanked Allah Almighty for giving success to the coalition government. He

Continued on Page 06

Top military brass reiterates resolve to respond to threats

The forum also exchanged views on the importance of peace in Afghanistan



RAWALPINDI: A huddle of the military's top brass was held Friday to discuss the defence and security environment of the country, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee

(CJCS) General Nadeem Raza chaired the meeting that took place at Joint Staff Headquarters (JSHQ), with all services chiefs in presence, the military's media wing said. Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal

Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu were in attendance. The meeting, according to ISPR, received a detailed briefing on a review of the national security situation specific to the western border, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan. In light of the recent terrorist events and the military's response, the forum expressed complete satisfaction and full confidence in the readiness of the defence forces. The participants also reaffirmed the resolve of the armed forces to respond to the entire spectrum of threats in the most befitting manner in line with a comprehensive security strategy. The military's top brass also lauded the sacrifices of security agencies in the fight against terrorism. Apart from that, the forum also discussed fast-paced developments in the realm of strategic and conventional policies. They also exchanged views on the importance of peace in Afghanistan for sustainable development in the region and the operational preparedness of the armed forces.

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Hashoo Hunar Association signs MoU with B-TEVTA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: To train the youth of Balochistan in Technical and Vocational Education, the Hashoo Hunar Association (HHA) has joined hands with Balochistan Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (B-TEVTA). In this regard, an MoU was signed between Nawabzada Gohram Khan Bugti, Advisor to CM/Minister for Labour & Manpower/Chairman B-TEVTA and Ms. Ayesha Khan, CEO, HHA/Country Director, Hashoo Foundation/Chief Sustainability Officer, Hashoo Group. The MoU is aimed at implementing

the internationally approved CBT system by HHA focusing on Hospitality Management and Tourism trades. The event was attended by Mr. Zahoor Ahmed, Head of Balochistan TEVTA and Mr. Maqbool Ahmed, Assistant Director, SDP/B-TEVTA, along with Mr. M. A. Bawany, Vice Chairman, Hashoo Group; Mr. Haseeb Gardezi, Chief Operating Officer, Hospitality and Education Division, Hashoo Group; Ms. Khalida Bibi, Director Programs, HF & HHA; Mr. Ramzan Sheikh, Director Operations, HF & HHA, Ms. Mahwish Afridi, Head of Strategic Support Unit, Hashoo Foundation.

Foundation, carries forward the Sustainable Development vision of Mr. Murtaza Hashwani, Deputy Chairman, Hashoo Group and Chairman, Hashoo Foundation. The organizational mission of HHA is to empower people for inclusive development through Skills Enhancement to further help them in their self-employment and career opportunities. B-TEVTA is an organization established under the B-TEVTA Act, 2011, responsible to provide and promote technical education and vocational training for the youth of Balochistan, that helps them along career paths or alternatively, facilitates them with entire career changes.



KPFS&HFA seizes 6000 substandard beverages

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority (KPFS&HFA) during a raid in the Bara Banda area of Nowshera on Friday seized over 6000 litres of substandard beverages from a processing unit. The Food Safety team during the crackdown confiscated the stock and sealed the processing unit. The action was taken on the direction of Director General KPFS&HFA Shahrukh Ali Khan. According to Food Safety Authority, 350 kilograms of mislabeled packing material have also been confiscated from the premises. In addition, the Food Safety team confiscated over 3 kilograms of expired chemicals, used in the production of the beverages.

The statement added, that over 50 kilogram of stickers has also been recovered from the unit, the produced stickers were on names of various other brands. Director General KPFS&HFA Shahrukh Ali Khan said the Food Safety teams are continuously conducting intelligence-based operations in various parts of the province. All food businesses should strictly observe the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of the Authority and produce, supply healthy and safe food to the people, in case of non-compliance strict action will be taken against the violators. - APP

Faisalabad receives 127.40 mm rain

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad received an average of 127.40 millimetres (mm) rain in its various parts during the last 24 hours. The rain not only inundated the low-lying areas but also created numerous problems for residents, pedestrians and passersby. According to a spokesman for Water & Sanitation Agency (WASA), Faisalabad city received 2 spells of heavy downpour of 40.60mm in the morning, whereas remaining rain 86.80mm was recorded in the city on Thursday night. He said that heavy rains also damaged one embankment of Satiana Road Channel-IV on Thursday due to which work from disposal stations 31 and 32 had to be suspended. However, WASA staff started repair work of the embankment and completed task and made functional Satiana Road channel and both disposal stations Friday morning. Managing Director WASA Abu Bakar Imran also remained active in the field and supervised the entire operation for draining out rainwater from roads and streets. He said that field staff would remain activate round the clock. However, public cooperation was imperative to deal with rain-related emergency. - APP

Contract for development works of Sector I-15/2 has awarded

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The management of the Capital Development Authority is paying special attention to the development of the city, especially the sector development. In this regard development works in Sector I-15/2 are being launched and Machinery has been mobilized. Development works in other 3 sub-sectors I-15/1, I-15/3 and I-15/4 of Sector I-15 have already been completed and now works are being started in Sub-sector I-15/2.3

According to the details,

the survey work for the development works of Sector I-15/2 has almost been completed while the development works will be formally started after the monsoon, which will be completed in a period of 18 months at a cost of Rs 1.4 billion. Further, after the completion of the development works of Sector I-15, the allottees will be given possession of the plots by the management of the Capital Development Authority. Apart from this, the development works of Sector I-15 include drainage system, sewerage network, construction of streets, street lights, culverts and other

residential facilities. It pertinent to mention here that this sector remained stalled for several years due to non-completion of development work, but the incumbent CDA administration completed the development work by solving administrative and other problems in this sector. Now the plot owners who were waiting to construct houses on their plots for a long time will now be able to construct houses on their plots. Similarly, the completion of development works in this sector will also help in meeting the growing residential needs in the city.

Animal inoculation drive to continue till Sept 30

FAISALABAD: Divisional Director Livestock Department Dr Haidar Ali said that livestock department had launched animal inoculation drive across the division and it would continue up to September 30. In a statement on Friday, he said that inoculation was imperative to save the animals from seasonal and viral diseases especially during monsoon and rainy season. He said that animals were precious assets of the farmers which not only played a dynamic role in catering to food requirements of the community but they also helped the farmers in mitigating their financial problems. However, many farmers had to face heavy loss when their animals fell ill due to seasonal and viral diseases. Therefore, the livestock department had launched a vigorous campaign to educate the farmers about benefits of inoculation before attack of viral seasons, he added. He said that teams of livestock department were regularly visiting animal farms and convincing the farmers to vaccinate their animals as early as possible. He said that during monsoon and rainy season, various diseases like Gal Ghooto (Diphtheria), MunKhur (foot and mouth), entrails' poison, Rani Khait, Peste des petits ruminants (PPR), broke out in addition to worms and ticks which caused irreparable loss to the farmers if these diseases got severity. Therefore, the animal farmers were advised to get their cattle and poultry birds inoculated before epidemic of any infectious disease. In this connection, the livestock department had activated vaccination centers across the division including districts Faisalabad, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh and Chiniot besides making mobile dispensaries functional at Tehsil level for veterinary treatment at doorsteps of the farmers. More information in this regard could be obtained from nearest livestock office, veterinary hospital or from helpline 0800-78685, he added. - APP



ISLAMABAD: FS Sohail Mahmood receives Belgian ambassador, Philippe Bronchain for farewell call. FS appreciated ambassador's valuable contributions to strengthening mutual co-op. - DNA

Faiz's daughter Moneeza launches her book in Quetta

QUETTA: Moneeza Hashmi, daughter of the renowned poet late Faiz Ahmed Faiz, launched her book here on Friday at Orange Hall of Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences. The book titled "Conversation with my father" authored by Moneeza Hashmi contains conversations and letters of Faiz Ahmed Faiz addressed to her daughter. The book launching event was attended by Vice Chancellor BUITEMS Ahmed Farooq Bazai (Sitara e Imtiaz), Chief Consultant of Balochistan Think Tank Network (BTTN) Brig Agha Ahmad Gul (R), and members of the departments for literature of different universities and organizations of Balochistan as well as poets, artists and students. While addressing the gathering Balochistan's famous screen writer and poet Mohsin Shakeel said that Faiz was not only a poet of beauty and love but also significantly highlighted the

political and social issues of the country in his poetry. His poetry is unique in a sense that it is still relevant today because of the depiction of collective societal issues and his projection of a sense of 'rising above individuality'. Afzal Murad, who is a Brahui and Balochi poet and has translated Faiz's poetry in Brahui, also expressed his views on Faiz and relevance of his poetic vision for current times. Former Senator Roshan Khurshid Barucha on the occasion said that it was a book about the bond of love that a daughter shared with her father. With reference to Faiz's philosophy and the book written by his daughter, Mrs. Baruch said that the book had mentioned women empowerment in more than one way hence it was now about time that women of the 21st Century got vocal for their rights and took control of their lives as Faiz had always encouraged people to speak about the injustices.

Speaking on he occasion, Moneeza Hashmi's college friend Mahzreen Gul said that there was a lot in the book that she could relate to as she read out a few lines from the book: "but it is a journey of love and a tribute to the one human being who I know loved me unconditionally, hugged me, held my hand, gave me a smile in those times when I felt lost alone and abandoned." While expressing her views Moneeza Hashmi said that Faiz Ahmed Faiz was a universal poet and his poetry was still relevant today as it was decades ago. She mentioned that the book was more about Faiz, the father, and less about Faiz, the poet. In an interactive session, she mentioned how she learnt a lot of lessons from both of his parents. She learnt that it was important to speak against injustice which she did by standing her ground. She then encouraged the women to be financially independent and seek companionship based on mutual respect and care. - APP

Shazia for social security to deserving people

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) Managing Director (MD) Amir Fida Paracha on Friday called on Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Shazia Marri and discussed an effective action plan to deal with the challenges in terms of poverty alleviation in the country. During a briefing about the ongoing social welfare activities of PBM, the minister emphasized that the achievement of the set goals should be ensured in order to provide social security to as many deserving people as possible. Acknowledging the nationwide services of PBM, Shazia expressed the hope that under the leadership of Amir Fida Paracha, the PBM would play an important role in improving the standard of living of the deprived segments of the society across the country. She said Martyred Benazir Bhutto always spoke about the rights of women and poor people and initiated a chapter of an exemplary social welfare services throughout the country in the shape of Benazir Income Support Programme. - APP

PBC Peshawar Centre organizes "Adabi Mela"

The function was second of the series of programmes scheduled in connection with Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the national independence as last month 'Azadi Mela' was organized on the green lawn of the centre

PESHAWAR: The series of functions under the auspices of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) Peshawar Centre in connection with Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the Independence Day of Pakistan is continued. In this connection, a multilingual literary function titled 'AdabiMela' was organized the other day, said a press release on Friday. Poets and writers of all languages spoken in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa participated in the event. The participants held a threadbare discussion on the history of Urdu, Pashto, Hindko and Kohar (Chitrali) literature, development and evolution of new trends in them. Poets including Professor Nasir Ali Syed, Professor Dr Nazir Tabassum, Dr Roshan Kaleem, Iqbal Sikandar, Malik Arshad Hussain and Khair Mohammad Sohail participated in the func-

tion while Nayyar Sarhadi was host of the function. The speakers appreciated the role of poets in the promotion and development of different languages and while paying tributes to them said that every human loves his mother tongue and always remains in forefront for its promotion. Highlighting the role of PBC Peshawar, Station Director, Iffat Jabbar said that the centre and its whole team is broadcasting day-night programmes in various languages, so all languages get their due representation. She said that jointly all languages become a bouquet of flowers and the centre since independence is carrying this bouquet forward towards the height of development. The participants also appreciated the role of PBC Peshawar in the promotion of languages and said that Peshawar Centre is the only platform that is in the

forefront of all languages of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. During the function, poets presented their poems to express their love for the country and received commendation from the audience while Guitarist Saddique enthrilled the participants through his instrumental items. The function was second of the series of programmes scheduled in connection with Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the national independence as last month 'Azadi Mela' was organized on the green lawn of the centre. Furthermore, the centre in connection with Diamond Jubilee celebrations had also arranged a contest of national songs and the names received from other PBC centres of KP for first, second and third positions have been dispatched for national level contest, which will be held on August 14.

JULY 2022
Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

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Briefs

IHC dismisses contempt plea against ECP

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday dismissed a contempt of court plea against Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in a case seeking de-notification of Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) Kashif Chaudhry. Acting Chief Justice Aamer Farooq announced the decision which was reserved earlier after listening the arguments from the respondents. The court remarked that contempt of court case couldn't be established against the ECP at this stage.

The petitioner had taken the stance that the ECP had not de-notified MPA Kashif Chaudhry despite his appeal against his disqualification had been terminated by the top court.

The IHC had disqualified the MPA after he was found guilty for hiding facts from the ECP. The ECP representative had told the court that the institution had not so far received the judgment of the top court on the appeal of MPA. — APP

Rawalpindi dist reports 9 more Covid patients

RAWALPINDI: Nine more people were diagnosed with fatal coronavirus during the last 24 hours, raising the district's tally of confirmed cases to 47,103. As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here on Friday, the infected cases included 43,545 from Rawalpindi and 3,558 from other districts.

Among the news cases, five arrived from the Rawalpindi Cantonment, three from Potohar town, and one from Taxila. "Presently, 90 confirmed patients are quarantined at homes and no one at the district health facilities", the report added. The report further said that 6,980,723 people, including 44,797 health workers, had jabbed themselves against the lethal COVID-19 across the district since the vaccination drive launched on March 10, 2021.

District Health Authority updated that during the last 24 hours, 1,010 samples were collected, out of which 1,001 were declared negative, while the positivity rate was recorded at 0.89 per cent. — APP

Lecture titled "Azadi Ka Safar" held at PAC

RAWALPINDI: In connection with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, a special lecture on the history of Pakistan Friday was organised at the Punjab Arts Council titled "Azadi Ka Safar".

In the lecture, Tehreek-e-Pakistan activist Dr Ehsan Akbar highlighted the issues faced by the Muslim leaders in creating Pakistan.

He said there was no more incredible blessing in the world than freedom.

"We are breathing in a free atmosphere today due to the sacrifices of our elders. The rapid development of education in the world during the last decades of the nineteenth century is in front of everyone," he added.

Dr Ehsan added that due to the educational revolution, freedom movements awakened the people and the names of many great leaders and personalities came out to subdue the false forces, adding "Pakistan" was a living example of these revolutions.

He said that the primary objective of the Pakistan Independence Movement was to establish a separate welfare state for the Muslims of the subcontinent, where they could live according to their religion and culture.

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Muhammad Ali Johar, Maulana Shaikat Ali Johar, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk, Nawab Waqar-ul-Mulk, Allama Iqbal, Chaudhry Rehmat and Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the leaders of the freedom movement made numerous sacrifices for the establishment of Pakistan, he added. Many people from the twin cities participated in the special lecture on the Pakistan Freedom Movement. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Poland Maciej Pisarski hosted lunch for senior journalists Mohsin Raza Khan (Saach TV), Ansar M Bhatti Daily Islamabad POST/DNA/Centreline and Ali Furqan Voice of America, at his residence. — DNA

Indian Ocean significant for regional and global actors

Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaswal said that geo-economics might take precedence over geopolitics/geostrategy but the former could not be pursued without having the jaws and teeth of the latter

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Indian Ocean carries great significance for the regional and global actors as the whole world is geo-strategically pivoted towards the region given its ability and geography which provide a canvas for power projection and great power competition, said experts at an event on 'Maritime Security Issues in the Indian Ocean: Perspective of Littoral/Global States' jointly organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) and National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) here on Thursday.

Admiral Iftikhar Ahmed Rao and Dr Zafar

Nawaz Jaswal were of the opinion that the Indian Ocean was the most vulnerable to maritime security issues such as piracy, maritime terrorism, illegal trafficking, and exploitation of the environment. Therefore, cooperation rather than conflict was needed to obtain peace for the region, which would hopefully result in geo-economics and geostrategic benefits for the world. Admiral Rao said that maritime security of the Indian Ocean was transnational in nature. All the littoral and global stakeholders must ensure the ultimate security of the region as most of the global trade and geo-economics revolve around it, he said. He stated that the US was trying to rebal-

ance its equation towards the Indian Ocean through AUKUS, QUAD, and the 'Pivot to Asia' strategy. Meanwhile, China seemed to have become the new US of the region.

Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaswal said that geo-economics might take precedence over geopolitics/geostrategy but the former could not be pursued without having the jaws and teeth of the latter.

He underscored that the Indian Ocean was the pivot of geopolitical transformations and hence was exposed to emerging military technologies of the globalized world. He extended his view on the global strategic environment and predicted that the Indian Ocean was yet to witness a new competition

of great powers.

He also stressed the nuclearization of the Indian Ocean. Dr Jaswal emphasized that with the already present nuclear states in the region (Pakistan and India); the shoring up of western naval activities particularly concerning AUKUS (which had provided Australia with nuclear-powered submarines) had clearly amplified the nuclearization of the Indian Ocean.

Furthermore, he stressed that in order to cash the geo-economic benefits of the Indian Ocean; the world needs to maintain stability in the region by collectively countering the geostrategic and geo-political challenges.



ISLAMABAD: Charge d'Affaires of Philippines Embassy witnessing photo exhibition arranged by the Indonesian Embassy at Lok Virsa. — DNA

Chinese Embassy donates relief goods

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Embassy has donated relief goods to the families affected by rains in Qila Saifulah, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. Bayezid Khan Kasi, Chairman of Friends of China Forum, and Malik Inayat Khan Kasi, former Balochistan Home Minister, distributed relief goods to the affected families on behalf of the Chinese Embassy. Bayezid Khan Kasi on the

occasion said relief goods distributed by the Chinese Embassy was an ideal example of the Pakistan-China friendship. He acknowledged that China always stood with Pakistan in all difficult times and supported people of Balochistan and now it was helping people in the rain hit areas of the province. Kasi thanked the Chinese Embassy for playing its role for provision of aid to people who had been affected due to recent monsoon rains in respective areas. He mentioned that the Balochistan provincial government and relevant departments were taking part in relief activities to help people in rain-hit areas which was commendable. — DNA

Eastbay Expressway bridges save Gwadar from sinking

ISLAMABAD: Amidst flash flood critically spelling disaster in many parts of Gwadar, three bridges of Eastbay Expressway, one of CPEC's modern roads, have saved the eastern part of the coastal city from sheer sinking. According to a Gwadar Pro' report on Friday, they have prevented many casualties and destruction to residential and commercial infrastructure. At the stretch of the over 19-kilometre-long state-of-the-art Eastbay Expressway, the opening of the three bridges played a role of water outlets, allowing torrential rainwater to flow downward to sea. Imam Buksh Bozenjo, who worked as a project director of Eastbay Expressway from the side of Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) told Gwadar Pro that if these three bridges (underpasses) were not assimilated into the final construction design of Eastbay Expressway in collaboration with Chinese engineers, the eastern part of Gwadar would be inundated completely, causing death toll, catastrophic destruction to homes and infrastructures. "With construction of Eastbay Expressway known as technology road, not only about 4 kilometers of the area is reclaimed from the sea through 'Revetment and Piling Technology' but also high-tech inventive for these bridges were specially built," he added. Besides their primary purpose to facilitate local fishermen to tow their boats to ashore for fishing allowing them to earn their livelihood, these bridges crafted another meaning to local people of Gwadar.

Mohsin Baloch named them "bridge of lives" while talking to Gwadar Pro during a survey of the area. "We are saved and credit goes to China for furnishing the favor," he added. These bridges are around 30 meters high and 45 meters wide. As per Gwadar topography, it has a sunken nature in the center that makes it very vulnerable for accumulation of water when it rains. Since the center of Gwadar is lower-lying than the surrounding areas, water does not naturally drift away from the area. Nevertheless, water keeps flowing inward and causes water collection. — APP

All state institutions under test: President Alvi

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that all state institutions and media should endeavour to create enabling environment for setting up a government which was truly representative of the people of Pakistan and reflected their aspirations and hopes to ensure political and economic stability needed for the promotion of business, trade and investment in the country. The President expressed these views while addressing the 5th Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Business Excellence Awards ceremony, at Awan-e-Sadr. President ICCI, Muhammad Shakeel Munir and former President of ICCI, Khalid Iqbal Malik, also addressed the ceremony. A large number of people from the diplomatic and business community attended the event.

Addressing the ceremony, the President said that Pakistan could rise within a decade if it strengthens its democracy, establishes a government that is truly representative of its people's aspirations, and its leadership makes the right decisions, curbs corruption, upholds justice and promotes human rights. The President said that consultative institutions, trade and investment, and passion were the key ingredients for any nation to become prosperous. He stated that in addition to making the right decisions, and implementing dynamic policies, Pakistan needed to curb corrupt practices if it was to become a peaceful, prosperous, progressive and respectable country in the comity of nations. He said

that Pakistan needed to maintain cordial relations with all its international partners and avoid becoming parties to divisive politics in international relations. Urging the business community to invest in the development of intellectual avenues, the President said that upskilling our human resources in different sectors of the economy, especially the IT sector, could help Pakistan achieve high economic growth rates. He stated that by focusing on the development of the knowledge-based economy and intellectual development of its human resources, Pakistan can achieve the status of a developed, peaceful and progressive country. He said that the business and industrial

sectors were the backbone of the country's economy. "Country grows when the industry grows, therefore, the government should take every step possible to promote business and industry by rationalizing the taxation system, setting up new industrial estates and economic zones and focusing on the promotion of exports and industrialization", he added. The President also called upon the members of ICCI to collaborate with universities to develop indigenous solutions to the specific problems being faced by the local industry. He stated that it was the social responsibility of the private sector to contribute to the uplift of society and the economy, adding that ICCI should help

make cities more environmentally friendly and accessible for differently-abled people (DAPs). He said the private sector should also take steps to provide training and skills to the uneducated and DAPs and employ them as per their capabilities as equal-empowered employees. He added that all industries should make sure that the quota fixed for DAPs is fully implemented. He urged the business community to increase the participation of women in business and other social activities, stating that the exclusion of women from economic and social activities had no basis in religion rather it was derived from cultural and human biases embedded in our culture and social norms. "Hazrat

Khadeeja (RA) was a businesswoman who used to actively participate in business activities", he said. He stressed that cultural and structural hindrances against women's inclusion should be removed by taking affirmative action in different sectors, including business, trade, investment and manufacturing. He regretted that women were being deprived of their inheritance and property rights in some parts of the country, despite Islam and the Constitution granting them their rights. The President also highlighted that polarization in Indian society was increasing and the situation of Indian minorities, especially Muslims, was particularly debilitating.



Police accelerate snap checking

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district police on the directives of City Police Officer, Rawalpindi Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari have accelerated snap checking and search operations in different city areas to net criminals. According to a police spokesman, police conducted snap-checking and search operations on Thursday night in different areas of Gungmandi, Sadiqabad and Bani.

He informed that police teams were also checking vehicles, motorcycles, hotels and shops to arrest the lawbreakers and intensify the security of the city.

He said that following the directions of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab, Rawalpindi district police had accelerated efforts to nab those persons involved in criminal activities. Superintendents of Police (SPs), Sub-Divisional Police Officers (SDPOs) and Station House Officers (SHOs) were conducting snap checking and search operations themselves along with police teams and ensuring effective policing. The overall efforts were being monitored by Senior Superintendent of Police, Operation Rawalpindi and the purpose was to ensure effective security and protection of the lives and property of the citizens. Owing to these efforts, crime rate was also declining in the city and such endeavors would continue, he added. — APP

All set to re-organize Safe City project

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan has issued standing orders about re-organizing the Safe City project for efficient traffic monitoring and crime controlling.

According to a news release issued here on Friday, in the phase-I of the Safe City, some 1,500 cameras were being added with the coordination of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to enhance the project's capacity. Moreover, the nomenclature of DG Safe City was changed into DIG Safe City, while Director Operations Safe City was transformed into SSP Safe City.

All the systems of Islamabad Capital Police would be centralized at the Safe City, whereas police reporting, response of the Eagle Squad, electronic media and other related systems would also be monitored there. The Eagle Squad would not be allowed to erect any picket anywhere itself.

To ensure privacy and protection of official data, all the technical support to the Investigation Wing would be provided from the Safe City while electronic and social media monitoring was already shifted there. The IGP, in a statement, said that by centralizing all the systems of Islamabad Police, the monitoring and response time would be shortened that would help provide immediate facilities to public. — APP

Political consensus on IMF program

Finance Minister Miftah Ismail has said that there is no precondition on the price of gas with the IMF, but there is a condition to increase the price of electricity, while State Bank officials say that all political parties agree on the IMF program. No need to panic. During the PTI government, the opposition alliance PDM started a series of protests to bring the Imran government on the right path against inflation. It was decided to bring a motion of no confidence against it, after the success of which the path to power of the coalition government was paved, the people who were crushed in the mill of inflation had a strong hope that now their problems of bread and employment would be solved and they would be able to breathe a sigh of relief. However, the reality has come to the contrary. As soon as the current government came to power, it broke all the previous records of inflation in the first three months, which further increased the hardships of the people. As a result of this, the Chief Minister of Punjab seems to be in disarray.

Despite this, the government is telling the nation that according to the conditions of the IMF, they are bound to raise the price of electricity, while the government has automatically increased the gas prices many times without the condition of the IMF. The State Bank officials' indication that all political parties agree on the IMF program is also tantamount to removing the soul from the body of the people. Chairman Nepra himself admits that electricity unit is costing more than Rs 27 and including taxes it can go up to Rs 40. The people are crying out over the current electricity rates, if the electricity unit reaches Rs 40 in terms of taxes, then the plight of the people can be well understood. By raising the tsunami of inflation, the government has borne the consequences of the people's reaction in the by-elections. If their difficulties are further increased, the government may face severe public reaction in the general elections as well. Indeed, difficult decisions have become the government's compulsion, but these decisions should not be replaced by people's problems.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 02 Issue: 365

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



Efforts against Islamophobia

Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has stressed the need for stepping up collective efforts to counter the scourge of Islamophobia. He was talking to the newly appointed Ambassador of Turkiye to Pakistan Prof. Dr. Mehmet Pacaci who made a courtesy call on him in Islamabad. The Chairman Senate said all Islamic countries must unite against the scourge of Islamophobia and raise their voice at every forum. Congratulating Mehmet Pacaci on his appointment as ambassador to Pakistan, Sadiq Sanjrani expressed the hope that he would play his role in further promoting bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Chairman Senate expressed his gratitude for Turkiye's continuous and unflinching support to Pakistan on issue of Jammu and Kashmir. Both the dignitaries desired for strengthening cooperation between Pakistan and Turkiye in all areas of mutual interest, particularly in the fields of trade, culture, and defence. They also reiterated their resolve to continue to support each other at various regional and international forums. Muslim nations need to support people who are facing discrimination around the world.

Islamophobia has transformed into a systematic anti-Muslim rhetoric of right-wing extremists propagated to achieve well-defined political gains. It requires concerted collaborative efforts by states, civil society, intelligentsia and media. Earlier The UN General Assembly has adopted by consensus a resolution declaring March 15 as International Day to Combat Islamophobia. The resolution recognises "with deep concern" what it said is an "overall rise in instances of discrimination, intolerance and violence, regardless of the actors, directed against members of many religious and other communities." It maintains terrorism "cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilisation or ethnic group," and calls for "strengthened international efforts to foster a global dialogue on the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels."

To save the planet, follow Gulf's lead on nuclear power

Jonathan Gornall

To date, 46 deaths have been directly attributed to the 1986 explosion at Chernobyl, although the overall number of fatalities linked to the accident is widely disputed, along with the scale of the health impact from the radiation. Either way, the accident was the result of a flawed Soviet-era reactor being operated by badly trained personnel

There is a delightful irony in the fact that, even as the sun sets slowly on the era of fossil fuels, two of the countries with the oil and gas reserves that have powered the global economy for decades are now at the cutting edge of the nuclear power renaissance. The UAE is already generating electricity at its Barakah nuclear plant. When all four of its reactors come online, the plant will provide a quarter of the country's power.

Saudi Arabia — blessed not only with the great gift of oil that transformed its fortunes, but also with

that without the revenues from fossil fuels, the expensive transition to renewable energy simply cannot be accomplished. "Renaissance" might seem an odd term for a technology that lit its first lightbulbs almost 70 years ago. But over the years of fossil fuel plenty, nuclear power has had plenty of bad press. Partly this is because the technology has been tainted by association with the atomic bombing of Japan at the end of the Second World War, which is about as logical as refusing to drink water because people have been known to drown in it.

vast reserves of the uranium required for nuclear generation — is also planning its first reactor in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Oil and gas will continue to flow from the region for years to come. But what both countries understand — and what those calling for an immediate halt to the production and consumption of fossil fuels refuse to acknowledge — is

Others point to the potential for disaster. The latest example of such anti-nuclear propaganda is the book "Atoms and Ashes" by Harvard historian Serhii Plokhly. Plokhly gleefully romps through the well-thumbed catalogue of nuclear accidents — Chernobyl, Three Mile Island and Fukushima are the headliners. But as one science commentator pointed out, these examples "do not adequately support his ultimate conclusion that nuclear energy isn't a safe choice for powering our future." Mistakes were undoubtedly made and corners surely cut in the early years of reactor design. But lessons have been learned and modern reactors are extremely safe. The thorny issue of spent fuel disposal is also being solved. More to the point, despite the widespread science fiction hysteria about nuclear energy, there have been only two major accidents — Three Mile Island was a partial reactor meltdown with no casualties — the consequences of which were far less severe than many have been led to believe. To date, 46 deaths have been directly attributed to the 1986 explosion at Chernobyl, although the overall number of fatalities linked to the accident is widely disputed, along with the scale of the health impact from the radiation. Either way, the accident was the result of a flawed Soviet-era reactor being operated by badly trained personnel. The plant at Fukushima was damaged in 2011 by a tsunami, triggered by the most powerful earthquake ever recorded in Japan. No

one died. Compare these nuclear disasters with the toll of fossil fuels — for a start, the estimated 8.7 million people who die each year because of related air pollution, to say nothing of the countless lives that have been lost to coal mining. No form of mass energy production is without risk. In 1975, the collapse of the Banqiao hydroelectric dam in China killed more than 170,000 people. But did the world abandon hydroelectric power? No. Yet, after Fukushima, nations that really should have known better were panicked into abandoning nuclear power for purely political reasons. Germany, faced with nationwide anti-nuclear protests and pressure from the green vote, pulled the plug on nuclear generation virtually overnight.

Until 2011, 25 percent of the country's energy came from 17 nuclear reactors. Today, the three that remain operational are marked for shutdown by the end of this year. Meanwhile, Germany is reopening shuttered coal-powered plants. The reality is that nuclear power is the ultimate clean, reliable energy source. Wind, solar and hydropower are great, but when the wind does not blow, the sun does not shine and water does not flow, there are only two options — fossil fuels or nuclear. This is recognized and embraced by the UAE and Saudi Arabia, countries where major decisions can be taken and acted upon swiftly and whose leadership in the nuclear field bodes well for all our futures. In working with the IAEA,

the two Gulf states are showing what can be achieved in a remarkably short time and are encouraging the global nuclear industry to develop ever more compact and affordable nuclear reactors. In turn, this is paving the way for other nations, further down the development ladder, to follow suit.

Whenever world leaders gather for climate change conferences, much of the debate centers sanctimoniously on the need for developing countries to curb their appetites for fossil fuels. Coming from the European nations that launched the fossil fuel era and whose economies were powered with coal and oil, this is laughably hypocritical. The West should stand up to the perversely disruptive green lobby, recognize nuclear energy as the planet-saving technology it is and, instead of suggesting that developing countries kick the fossil fuel habit and hamper their economic growth, support them with the funding and know-how they need to embrace nuclear power. Without it, the world could well be doomed. In 2005, 66.5 percent of global electricity was generated by burning fossil fuels. In 2019, it was 63 percent. In 14 years, we have made almost no progress. The solution, as the UAE and Saudi Arabia recognize, is nuclear power. It is time for the world to grow up, ditch the irrational attitude toward nuclear energy and follow their leadership.

The writer is a British journalist

Afghanistan's downward spiral

Luke Coffey

US President Joe Biden's decision to withdraw and abandon Afghan partners last year was a stain on America's national honor. These comments from the State Department are yet another shameful slap in the face to the brave Afghans resisting the barbarism of the Taliban. After all, many of the NRF's members are the same Afghanistan fighters that the US has trained and fought alongside for two decades

A year ago this week, things were looking bad in Afghanistan, but nobody knew that the worst was yet to come. All US troops had just departed the country. The few remaining international troops were also on their way out. The Taliban already controlled half of Afghanistan's districts and were threatening major cities. But

ership and the overall security situation in the country.

The Taliban at the top is fractured. At least five different groupings — the Haqqani faction, the Baradar wing of the Kandahari faction, the Yaqoob wing of the Kandahari faction, the Pakistani ISI backed so-called Supreme Leader Hibatullah Akhundzada, and the non-Pashtun Taliban operating in northern Afghanistan — are all

few would have guessed that by Sept. 11, 2021, the Taliban would be in control of more of Afghanistan than it was on Sept. 11, 2001. Since the Taliban takeover, Afghanistan has been on a downward spiral. There is an acute humanitarian crisis facing most Afghans. Even though the Taliban has promised that young girls can go to school, this still has not happened. Adding to the humanitarian crisis are the internal divisions inside the Taliban lead-

ership and the overall security situation in the country. The Taliban at the top is fractured. At least five different groupings — the Haqqani faction, the Baradar wing of the Kandahari faction, the Yaqoob wing of the Kandahari faction, the Pakistani ISI backed so-called Supreme Leader Hibatullah Akhundzada, and the non-Pashtun Taliban operating in northern Afghanistan — are all

competing for influence and power with each other. With so much division inside the Taliban, any hopes of forming an inclusive government with other non-Taliban groups has all but faded away.

The security situation is hardly better. The Taliban takeover enabled terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda and Daesh to flourish. Daesh has been able to take advantage of the chaos that emerged in some parts of the country when the Afghan state collapsed. Mass casualty terrorist attacks, often aimed at the Shiite Hazara minority, remain a common feature in Afghanistan. Al-Qaeda also benefited from the Taliban's takeover in Afghanistan. According to a recent report by the UN, "Al-Qaida members reportedly remain in the south and east of Afghanistan, where the group has a historical presence... Al-Qaida intended to establish a position in northern Afghanistan, mobilize new fighters and generate increased resources." The report went on to state that Al Qaeda's "leadership reportedly plays an advisory role with the Taliban, and the groups remain close." The broader region has also been impacted. Weapons from Afghanistan are finding their way to the bazaars in Kashmir. Of all the Central Asian states, Uzbekistan has been the most engaging with the Taliban. However, it is not clear that Tashkent has received any tangible benefits from this engagement. In

fact, the security situation near the Afghan-Uzbek border has been deteriorating. Earlier this month five missiles fired from Afghanistan landed in the Uzbek city of Termez.

Meanwhile, neighboring Tajikistan has been the most critical of the Taliban. It is suspected that the Taliban is allowing Ansarullah, a Tajik extremist group with the stated goal of overthrowing the Tajik government, to patrol the Afghan border with Tajikistan. In recent months, there has been an increase in the presence of Tajik security forces mobilized along the border with Afghanistan. Tajikistan has given tacit support to the National Resistance Front of Afghanistan (NRF). The predominantly ethnically Tajik NRF emerged in the Panjshir Valley in the wake of the Taliban takeover in August. Led by Ahmad Massoud, son of the late Ahmad Shah Massoud, the NRF is the only genuine resistance against the Taliban. After surviving the Taliban's initial offensive last autumn, and then surviving the winter months deep in Panjshir's side valleys, the NRF has used the spring and summer to attack numerous Taliban positions in Baghlan and Panjshir Province.

In retaliation, the Taliban launched its biggest assault yet against the NRF a few weeks ago. Mullah Yaqoob, the de facto defense minister and son of Taliban founder Mullah Omar, led the operation. So far, this military offensive has failed. No NRF bases were taken. Taliban casualties were reportedly high. Even a Taliban helicopter

was shot down. Even though the only credible force inside Afghanistan to fight international terrorism is the NRF, nothing has been done by the US or its partners to build a relationship with them. In fact, last week the State Department even went as far as saying "We do not support organized violent opposition to the Taliban, and we would discourage other powers from doing so as well." US President Joe Biden's decision to withdraw and abandon Afghan partners last year was a stain on America's national honor. These comments from the State Department are yet another shameful slap in the face to the brave Afghans resisting the barbarism of the Taliban. After all, many of the NRF's members are the same Afghanistan fighters that the US has trained and fought alongside for two decades. The Taliban is too divided and incompetent to govern Afghanistan. As the Taliban's brutality continues, more Afghans will support resistance groups like the NRF. Meanwhile, terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda and Daesh will be waiting for the best time to strike in all the chaos. Afghans will continue to starve, and the humanitarian situation will worsen. And there is no plan from the international community to do anything. Unless something changes, Afghanistan will once again enter another generational cycle of violence and suffering.

The writer is a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute

