

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

A sister publication of **CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency**

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



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 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



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 pullout 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

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Sadiq Sanjrani 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

Pins hopes on apex court

Imran Khan

gives protest

call to workers

a game. For

30 years, he

has ruined the

black money.'

that we are

seeing, it first

democ-

through

circus

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

country.

racy

"This

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

Continued on Page 06

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

Shehbaz's shock win over Parvez Elahi in

Punjab CM election. "I am in shock at what

happened in the Punjab Assembly," he said

referring to Deputy Speaker Dost Moham-

mad Mazari's ruling to not count PML-Q

votes - a decision that reduced PTI-backed

Parvez Elahi's votes from 186 to 176 and

handed him a shocking defeat. "Last night, Asif Zardari reached Lahore. We knew 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

de Ory. FS stressed the importance Pakistan attaches to multi-faceted ties with Spain. - DNA 'Pakistan desires to boost

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood welcomed Spain's Ambassador-designate to Pakistan José A de Ory here on Friday. The toreign 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 spokesper-

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 Shehbaz as chief minister of Punjab, the prime minister in a statement thanked Allah Almighty for giving success to the coalition government. He

ties with Spain'

DNA

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



News Desk

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

(CJCSC) 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.

PTI, PML-Q challenge ruling 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: Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood met with the Spain's Ambassador-designate José A.

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



A PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE BY MURREE SPARKLETTS LET THE CUSTOMER DECIDE!

Others call it "Marketing Support", "Trade Promotion", "Exclusivity Rights", "Shelf placement"- we call it UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES. Millions of rupees are exchanging hands above and below the table in the garb of product promotion. Trade institutions i.e Resturants, Marts & other outlets are being bribed & forced to keep/sell only specific products. We at Murree Sparkletts (a division of Murree Brewery Company) believe all such practices are unethical. We say LET THE CUSTOMER DECIDE which product to consume. By dishing out millions of rupees, beverage companies are depriving the public at large their right of choice.



Saturday, July 23, 2022

Hashoo Hunar Association signs MoU with B-TEVTA

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. HaseebGardezi, Chief Operating Officer, Hospitality and Education Division, Hashoo Group; Ms. Khalida Bibi, Director Programs, HF & HHA; Mr. Ramzan Sheikh, Director Operations, HF & HHA, Ms. MahwishAfridi, Head of Strategic Support Unit, Hashoo Foundation. HHA, the training arm of Hashoo

them with entire career changes.

tainable 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-TEV-TA 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



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 political and social issues of the coun-Speaking on heoccasion, Moneeza

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

try 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 Khursheed 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.

Hashmi's college friend Mahzareen 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

KPFS&HFA seizes 6000 substandard beverages

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority (KP-FS&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 KP FS&H-FA 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 comple-

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,

struction of streets, street

lights, culverts and other

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 contin-

ue up to September 30. In a statement on Friday, he said that inoculation was imperative

but the incumbent CDA administration completby solving administrative tion of the development and other problems in this sector. Now the plot ownconstruct 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 sewerage network, conthis sector will also help in

residential facilities.

It pertinent to mention

here that this sector re-

meeting the growing res-

idential needs in the city.

mained stalled for several years due to non-comple-Shazia tion of development work, for social ed the development work security to deserving ers who were waiting to people

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Baitul-Mal (PBM) Managing 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 tion while Navvar Sarhadi 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 Tabbasum, Dr Roshan Kaleem, Iqbal Sikandar, Malik Arshad Hussain and Khair Mohammad Sohail participated in the func-

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

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 enthralled the participants through his instrumental items.

forefront of all languages of

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.

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

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SARA-I-ALMAGIR 0300 5428178

National Days and **Armed Forces Days**

JULY

July 01 / **Japan** Self Defence Day

July 01 / Singapore

July 01 / Canada

Natioal Day July 01 / Somalia

Independence Day (Natioal Day)

July 04 / USA

Índependence Day

July 05 / Algeria Independence Day

July 09/ Argentine Independence Day

July 09/ Mongolia

July 15 / Brunei Sultan's Birthday

July 20 / TRNC Independence Day

July 21 / Belgium

July 23 / **Egypt** National Day

July 26 / Cuba

July 26/ Liberia National Day

July 30 / Morocco National Day



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Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



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



Enquiry

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Hospitals

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Cantt Hospital.	9270907-11	
DHQ	5556311-4	
RGH	9290301-7	
Holy Family	9290322-7	
PIMS	9261170-79	
Polyclinic	9218300-09	
Shifa Internation	mal.4603666	



Departments

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CDA	9208301-04	
Met Office	9250360-6	
RDA	5555864	
TMA	5770886	
Contonment De	ord 0270151 2	

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation......9209224 Potohar Town......9209224 RawalTown......5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Uzbek-Afghan-Pak railway project is anchor for peace

Ambassador of Uzbekistan Aybek Usmanov says project will soon be materialized

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Aybek Arif Usmanov, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan on Friday said that Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan's trilateral railway project will soon be materialized, thus making regional re-connectivity possible. Transit Trade Agreement (TTA) between Pakistan and Uzbekistan will allow the regional countries to expand their trade and transit horizons. Over the past 30 years, Pakistan and Uzbekistan have diversified relations and made a substantial contribution toward regional peace and stability. Ambassador made these remarks during the roundtable on the 30 Years of Pakistan and Uzbekistan Diplomatic relations and chairmanship of Uzbekistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Planning, Syed Zafar Ali Shah inaugurated the

software of 7th Population and Hous-

ing Census, 2022, as PBS is planning

for first ever Digital Population and Housing Census. During his visit to PBS, Secretary (PD & SI) was also

briefed about Data Dissemination

Dashboards specially, Price Informa-

tion Management System (PIMS).

The listing and enumeration Applica-

tions of 7th Population and Housing

Census, 2022 were also displayed to

the Secretary (PD & SI). Syed Zafar

Ali Shah, Secretary PD & SI, while

addressing to PBS Staff, emphasized

that a good leadership, efficient team

and vigilance at operating level can

be beneficial for an organization's de-

velopment. Then he requested for a

quick round of introduction with the

Chief Statistician, Dr. Naeem uz Zafar,

welcomed secretary on behalf of PBS

staff. He further appraised him that data

collection exercise for pilot census has

been started by PBS field staff for test-

ing the tools, mechanism and field op-

eration. Through this exercise PBS will

be able to point out and rectify all minor

and major issues regarding software

and field execution plan before undergo-

ing full roll out. He informed that the

meeting is conducted to present a brief

of two important activities i.e., Popula-

tion and Housing Census and National

Accounts and requested relevant Mem-

bers for presentations in their areas. Mr.

PBS team present at the occasion.



in SCO hosted by the Centre for Central Asia and Eurasian Studies-Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies in collab-

Software of 7th

population and housing

census inaugurated

Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, Member

(RM/SS) in his presentation on 7th Dig-

ital Population and Housing Census, in-

formed that with the approval of results

of 6th Population and Housing Census

by Council of Common interest (CCI), it

was advised to conduct next census im-

nologies and following world's best prac-

tices. It was also recommended that for

wider acceptability of census results, all

the stakeholders must be part of census

process from planning till finalization

and dissemination of results through an

A Census monitoring committee

comprising of important provincial

functionaries, researchers and de-

mographers was constituted to mon-

itor all activities of population cen-

sus. Geo tagging, data collection and

effective communication strategy.

mediately by using latest tools and tech

Draw of Way Way and

listing software, standardized con-

cepts of field force through extensive

trainings and real time monitoring

are the innovations recommended by

the Census Monitoring committee

for reliability, acceptability and re-

ducing time between field operation

Syed Ejaz Ali Shah Wasti, Member Na-

tional Accounts, gave an overview of

system of National Accounts, Prices,

Macro Economic Statistics, PSDP Pro-

iects and compilation of National Ac-

counts. He further discussed National

Price Monitoring Committee, its com-

position and functions. The methodol-

ogies of different activities and future

milestones were also discussed. UN

statistical system, world bank policies

and IMF guidelines were discussed in

the scenario of Pakistan.

oration with Embassy of Uzbekistan to Pakistan and Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Riphah International University. Both countries have developed stronger and deeper ties in trade and economics, health, security, agriculture, and information technology. The cooperation between the two countries is building further with each passing day. There are growing investments from each other's sides where people-to-people ties have been diversified. There is ever deeper and close cooperation in political, economic, and security fields, he added. Speaking from Tashkent, Kabuljon Sabirov, Director, SCO Centre for Public Diplomacy in Uzbekistan, highlighted how strong people-to-people ties are building between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, especially at the level of SCO. Dr.

Amna Mehmood, Professor Department of Politics and IR at International Islamic University, said that there is a need for Pakistan and Uzbekistan to work together to promote peace in Afghanistan. Earlier, in her opening remarks, Farhat Asif, President, Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, highlighted the significance of thirty years of Pakistan-Uzbekistan relations and about chairmanship of Uzbekistan in SCO where the country has made substantial contributions by hosting scores of events of diversified nature. Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President of ECO Science Foundation, highlighted the significant cooperation in science and technology and emphasized human development while discussing cooperation to cooperate for youth engagement effectively.

Baba Gundhi Int'I festival begins

three-day celebrations of the 12th annual Baba Gun-

dhi International Festival,

named after the famous

Sufi saint Muhammad Ba-

qir, also known as Baba

Gundhi begins in Chippur-

san Valley on Friday. Thou-

sands of devotees of Baba

Gundhi from GB besides

local and foreign tourists

will participate in the cel-

ebrations, Radio Pakistan

reported. In addition to

polo games, Buzkshi, yak

safari, Wakhi music con-

certs will also be organ-

ized. Stalls of traditional

food of Chippursan valley

will also be set up. - APP

PM hails

Samina Baig

on becoming

first Pakistani

woman to

summit K2

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minis-

ter Shehbaz Sharif on Friday

lauded mountaineer Samina

Baig on scaling the world's

second highest peak K2.

"Congratulations to Sami-

na Baig, the first Pakistani

woman mountaineer to scale

the world's second highest

peak 'K2' and her family for

their achievement," he said

in a tweet. The prime min-

ister said Samina Baig had

emerged as a "symbol of

determination, courage and

bravery of Pakistani women"

"She has proved that Paki-

stani women are not behind

men in the sport of mountain-

eering," he said. PM Sharif

expressed confidence that

Samina Baig would continue

to excel in her field. "It is

hoped that Samina Baig will

continue to wave the flag of

Pakistan all over the world

with the same spirit," he said.

Samina Baig and her team of

seven successfully summited

the savage peak of K2 at 7:42

am on Friday. K2 is known to

be the world's most danger-

ous and difficult summit. It

is the world's second highest

peak, with a height of 8,611

metres above sea level. In

2013. Baig became the first

Pakistani woman to summit

Mount Everest, the tallest

mountain in the world. - APP

Govt notifies

transfer.

posting of

officers

ISLAMABAD: The federal

government on Friday is-

sued a notification of transfer and posting of high rank

officers. According to a no-

tification of the Establish-

ment Division, Mirza Nasir-

ud-Din Mashood Ahmad, a

BS-22 officer of Secretariat

Group presently posted as

Special Secretary, Estab-

lishment Division is trans-

ferred and posted as Special

Secretary, National Health

Services, Regulations and

Coordination Division, with

immediate effect and un-

til further orders. While,

Aminullah (OMG/BS-18),

presently at the disposal

of President's Secretariat

(Public), is repatriated and

posted as Section Officer,

Establishment Division,

with immediate effect and

ISLAMABAD:

PAL organizes Diamond Jubilee

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) organized a multilingual literary function (Mushahira) in connections with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Pakistan. The function was presided over known Pashto poet, writer and scholar, Laiq Zada Laiq while Professor Dr Sattar Khan Lowaghari was chief guest on the occasion,

Those who presented their poems were included Laiq Zada Laiq, Professor Dr Sattar Khan Lowaghari, Dr Khadim Ibrahim Khadim, Dr Roshan Kaleem, Sikandar Khan Sikandar, Gul Maash Khan, Zar Gul Gul, Mohammad Arif Sangeen, Shad Mohammad Insha, Ameer Haider Shabgeer, Darwaish Afride, Akhtar Hussain Nangial, Akram Umerzai, Shehryar Qatashkhel, Mumtaz Hassan Daulatzai, Yousaf Ali Dilsooz, Jamal Hussain Akbar, Shakoor Jan Khatak, Siraj Khattak, Jalbal Hashtnagarey, Lutfullah Khiyal, Abad Hassan Khattak, Haider Ali Haider, Safdar Ali Safdar, Mohammad Islam Yousaf, Shah Mahmood Ghaznavi, Nasim Sahar, Irfan Khan and Rifatullah Rifat. Addressing the function, Laiq Zada Laiq urged writers to play their due role in the promotion of national language and its literature. He further urged the writers to continue their struggle for the national solidarity and maintenance of peaceful environment in the country through their literary work. - APP

IRSA releases 325538

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 325538 cusecs water from various rim stations with an inflow of 394888 cases. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1134.10 feet, which was 84.01 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded a 40950 and 10000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 180657, 190212 and 157685 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River, a total of 50400 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 81441 released from the Chenab River at Marala. - APP

celebrations

said a press release issued here on Friday.

cusecs water

New Covid-19 travel guidelines issued for Indian passengers ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of National Health Services, Reg-

ulations, and Coordination has issued a new COVID-19 travel advisory, directing strict surveillance of Indian passengers in the wake of surging cases of the new Corona variant in India. According to the spokesperson of the Ministry of National Health Services, on the direction of the Minister for Health, Abdul Qadir Patel, new instructions in this regard have been issued to the Directorate of Health Services for strict monitoring of passengers coming from India to Pakistan.

The minister said that the decision was made keeping in view the sudden increase in the number of Omicron sub-variant BA.2.75 cases in India. Qadir Patel clearly directed that there will be a strict checking mechanism on all entry points of the country, including airports and border crossing points like Wagah border or Kartarpur, the spokesperson added. Abdul Qadir Patel said that this step will help avoid cross-border transmission of Coronavirus. He said that the government was striving to ensure the implementation of an effective plan to manage the Corona situation and this surveillance strategy is part of this policy. - APP

AIOU issues time frame to complete old degree programs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University has decided to discontinue some degree programs that are not compatible with the contemporary requirements and formulated a policy by setting a time frame for the students enrolled in those programs to complete the degree within the stipulated time. Vice-Chancellor, AIOU, Professor Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum is of the opinion that all the educational programs offered should be market-oriented and in accordance with the guidelines of the Higher Education Commission. In this regard, it has been decided to dis-

of the old scheme. According to the details, students enrolled in Associate Degree in Commerce (Old Scheme) in or before spring semester 2019, have been given time to complete the program till autumn semester 2023.

Similarly, students of Associate Degree B.Com (Revised) program who are enrolled from semester spring 2019 can complete their degree till autumn semester 2024, students of B.Com two-year program (Old Scheme) enrolled in semester spring 2019 or before, must complete their degree till semester autumn 2023, students of two-year Commonwealth of Learning (CoL) MBA/MPA (Old Scheme) registered in semester autumn 2019 or earlier, are given with the time till semester autumn 2024. 3.5 years MBA (Rural Management) and Master of Business Management (2.5 and 3.5 years) students have been given time till semester autumn 2024 to complete their degree programs and students of B.Ed (Arabic) can complete till autumn 2022. According to the policy of AIOU, the deadline to complete the BS (CS) Old Scheme program was the semester spring 2022 and the program has been closed from the current semester autumn 2022. It is pertinent to mention here that the concerned student will be responsible if the degree is not completed within the stipulated time as admission in these programs will not be offered again.

until further orders. - APP **ECP** issues

name of returned candidate to PP-7

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday issued notification of Raja Saghir Ahmed from Pakistan Muslim League (N) as returned candidate to the Provincial Assembly of Punjab as a result of a by-election held on July 17, 2022, from the constituency of PP-07 Rawalpindi-II. According to the ECP notification, the commission published the name of the returned candidate to the Punjab Assembly seat in pursuance of the provision of sub-section (1) of Section 98 of the Elections Act, 2017. The ECP spokesperson said that the commission has issued the notification of successful candidate after receiving result consolidation from Returning Officer of PP-07 Rawalpindi. - APP

HITEC University holds open house A total of 119 Final Year Design Projects (FYDPs) were displayed at the event

TEXILA: HITEC University has organized

its 8th Open House and Job Fair on Thursday 21 st of July 2022. Major General Syed Aamer Raza, HI (M), Chairman Board of Governors HITEC University was the Chief Guest. A total of 119 Final Year Design Proiects (FYDPs) were displayed at the event. Mechanical Engineering Department showcased 48 projects in the autonomous fields of robotics, automotive, defense system, human aid, system and solar technology. The Electrical Engineering department has a total of 37 projects designed for the efficient integration of renewable generation in the power system. In electronics, projects were based primarily on IoT, Al and Fuzzy. Computer Engineering and Computer Sciences displayed 34 projects with a prime focus on robotics, machine, artificial intelligence, surveillance system and human aid systems Professionals and representatives from more than thirty-five industries participated in the event. More than fifteen companies took on-spot interviews and offered jobs/ called for a second interview. The Chief Guest appreciated the management of the university in organizing the excellent event and expressed his pleasure over the quality of the developed projects by the Final Year Students of HITEC. – **DNA**



Police

accelerate

snap checking

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district police on the direc-

tives of City Police Officer,

Rawalpindi Syed Shehzad Na-

deem Bukhari have accelerat-

ed snap checking and search

operations in different city ar-

eas to net criminals. Accord-

ing to a police spokesman, po-

lice conducted snap-checking

and search operations on

Thursday night in differ-

ent areas of Gungmandi,

He informed that police

teams were also checking

vehicles, motorcycles, ho-

tels and shops to arrest the

lawbreakers and intensify

He said that following the

directions of the Inspector

General of Police (IGP)

Punjab, Rawalpindi district

police had accelerated ef-

forts to nab those persons

involved in criminal activ-

ities. Superintendents of

Police (SPs), Sub-Division-

al Police Officers (SDPOs)

and Station House Officers

(SHOs) were conducting

snap checking and search

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 pro-

tection of the lives and property of the citizens.

Owing to these efforts,

crime rate was also declin-

ing in the city and such

endeavors would continue,

he added. - APP

themselves

operations

the security of the city.

Sadiqabad and Bani.

Saturday, July 23, 2022

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 took 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 administering 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

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 Shaukat Ali Johar, Maula na 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

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 Jaspal 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 rebalance 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 Jaspal 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.

Eastbay Expressway bridges save Gwadar

from sinking

ISLAMABAD: Amidst flash flood criticality spelling dis-

aster in many parts of Gwadar, three bridges of Eastbay

Expressway, one of CPEC's modern roads, have saved the

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,

Imam Buksh Bozenjo, who worked as a project director of Eastbay Expressway from the side of Gwadar Port Au-

thority (GPA) told Gwadar Pro that if these three bridges

(underpasses) were not assimilated into the final con-

struction 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 construc-

tion 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 anoth-

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

er meaning to local people of Gwadar.

allowing torrential rainwater to flow downward to sea.

eastern part of the coastal city from sheer sinking.

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 immedi-



ISLAMABAD: Charge d Affiaires 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 Saifullah, 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

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 taking part in relief activities to help people in rain-hit areas which was commendable. - DNA flowing inward and causes water collection. - APP ate facilities to public. - APP

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 Aiwan-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.

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

All state institutions under test: President Alvi

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 equally 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

Khadeeia (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,



05

Political consensus on IMF program

inance Minister Miftah Ismail has said that there is no precondition on the price of gas with the IMD is a condition to 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.

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Efforts against Islamophobia

hairman 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

here 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

vast reserves of the uranium required 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 production consumption of fossil fuels refuse to acknowledge - is

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. 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 Plokhy. Plokhy 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 sate. 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 8.7million 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

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

guessed that by Sept. 11, 2021, 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-

few would have

ership and the overall security situa-

tion 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

Saturday, July 23, 2022

Briefs

Hamza returns as Punjab CM

From Page 01

those who won the Punjab by-polls had cast their "186 votes have been cast, and this would be the last chance to salvage a dying system," he said. "Now, the argument is whether the system will die on Sunday or Monday." He added that the party will see whether Elahi will cast his vote tomorrow at 11am or will do so on Monday after the intervention of the court. In a major development ahead of the voting, PML-Q leader Moonis Elahi said that his uncle, senior party leader Chaudhry Shujaat, has refused to back Imran Khan's candidate. He said that he had gone to visit Shujaat but he refused to issue a video recording in this regard. "I have lost and Imran Khan has lost as well but Zardari has won," Moonis quoted his uncle as saying.

In response, former interior minister Sheikh Rasheed said that Elahi was the parliamentary leader of PML-Q. "Chaudhry Shujaat had said twice or thrice before that he would back Elahi, but Asif Zardari has, once again, exposed himself." Later, while speaking to senior journalist Ansar Abbasi, Moonis said that Shujaat had written a letter to the deputy speaker, stating that no one from the party will be casting their votes. "Asif Zardari had assured Shujaat that he would make Elahi the chief minister of Punjab,' Moonis said. "Zardari had also told him that Elahi would be the candidate for PML-N and allies." Moonis added that his party will only vote for Imran Khan's candidate, adding that no one from his party will be casting a vote in favour of PML-N or its allies to become the next chief minister. He also took to his Twitter account and shared with the masses that a day ago, PML parliamentary party, chaired by the parliamentary party leader in the provincial assembly Sajid Bhatti, held its meeting and it was decided unanimously that Elahi would be the candidate for the CM's slot.

'Hamza election victory of democracy'

From Page 01

of law will be ensured at all costs. The Minister said that PML(N) believes in the politics of decency and civility and will continue serving people. He said that ECP should announce the PTI' foreign funding case soon.

PM pays tribute to Zardari, Shujaat

From Page 01

said Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, who was the political heir and flag-bearer of Chaudhry Zahoor Elahi Shaheed, once again made alive the democratic traditions of his great father and family.

The role of Chaudhry Shujaat was a win for democracy and constitutional values, he added. Shehbaz Sharif said former president Asif Ali Zardari played a historic role for the Constitution, democracy and in the interest of the people.

The political fortitude of Asif Ali Zardari ended the crisis, he said and thanked him, Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. The prime minister also lauded the coalition parties, including Muttahida Qaumi Movement, Awami National Party, Balochistan National Party and Balochistan

Awami Party.

The political sagacity, unity and support of the leaders of the coalition parties led to victory of democracy, he added. – APP

Samina Baig becomes first Pakistani woman to summit K2

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani female mountaineers created history on Friday morning by achieving what no other woman from the country has done before – reaching the top of the 2nd highest peak of the world – 8611m high K2. At 7:40am Pakistan time, Samina Baig summited the mighty K2 along with her team members and became the first ever Pakistani woman to scale the K2. Less than three hours after Samina's summit, Naila Kiani reached the top – becoming the second. No other Pakistani woman has achieved this feat before.

Several other climbers from various countries, including female climbers from Oman, Lebanon, Iran, and Taiwan, also summited the peak on Friday morning. The summit push started late last night as soon as rope fixing teams completed their jobs and the first group reached K2 at around 3:00am in the night. Pakistan's 31-year-old climber, Samina Baig's team confirmed that she along with other Pakistani mountaineers – summitted at 7:42am PKT on Friday.

summitted at 7:42am PKT on Friday.
"We are extremely proud to announce that

stani team, successfully summited the world's most fascinating and dangerous mountain, known as Savage Mountain, the world's second and Pakistan's tallest mountain, K2, at 8611 metres this morning at 7:42am," said the statement by Samina's team at ground. "Grateful and blessed that K2 allowed her to stand atop this incredible mountain," the statement added. Samina Baig comes from the remote village of Gilgit Val-Shimshal. Earlier

first Pakistani woman to scale the world's highest peak, Mount Everest.

in 2013, she

became the

The other members to climb with Samina include Eid Muhammad, Bulbul Karim, Ahmed Baig, Rizwan Dad, Waqar Ali

than three hours after Samina's feat, Pakistan's other climber, Naila Kiani, reached the top of K2. "Yes, Allhamdolillah," Naila texted this correspondent via satellite communication device, confirming her summit. Taking to Twitter, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated Samina Baig and the team on accomplishing the feat.

"Congratulations to Samina Baig, the

first

Pakistani

woman moun-

taineer to reach the summit of the world's second dighest peak, 'K2,' and her family on their accomplishment. Samina Baig has

highest peak, 'K2,' and her family on their accomplishment. Samina Baig has emerged as a symbol of Pakistani women's determination, courage, and bravery," said the PM in tweet.

Khan also summited K2 along with Naila. Over 50 climbers completed their summits of K2 on Friday morning, and this also included Norway's Kristin Harlia, who reached the top of K2 between 2:30am and 4:00am and has since then returned to safe camp. Kristin Harilia is aiming to summit all 14 8000ers in six months. This was her 8th such summit in less than 3 months. If she gets success, she will be the first woman in world to summit all the world's top peaks in one season. She was joined by the USA's Kristin A. Bennett, Norway's Frank Loke and Canada's Liliya Ianovskia. They were supported by a team of mountain guides that included Pakistan's Fida Ali along with Nepal's Pema Chhiring Sherpa, Dawa Ongju Sherpa, Pemba Tasi Sherpa, Dawa Dorchi Sherpa, Dawa Wongju Sherpa, and Pemba Dorchee Sherpa. In another development, 29-year-old Tseng Ko-Erh, who is also known as Grace Tseng, summited the mountain without using supplementary oxygen and has become the youngest female in the world to do so. She is also the first Taiwanese woman to stand atop K2.

Legal experts say dy speaker ruling not legal

From Page 01

Shujaat had to issue these directions he should have sent them to the members of his party instead of sending them to the deputy speaker. By sending it directly to the deputy speaker a 'mal'-intent 'is evident on the part of the party head, which, may be challenged in a court of law quite easily, experts believe.

Ch. Aitzaz Ahsan a senior

PPP leader and a renowned legal expert termed the ruling of the deputy speaker unwarranted and said it could easily be challenged in the court of law. Ch. Aitzaz further said that it is possible that the members of the PML Q now decide that they will change their party head. As per law, the majority of the party members can change the party head. He added Ch. Shujaat's decision had severely damaged the fabric of the Chaudhry family of Gujrat. Another legal expert Ali Zafar also termed the ruling illegal and said the deputy speaker had no right to pass on any such ruling. Ali Zafar said he was confident the apex court would turn down the ruling. President Supreme Court Bar Association Ahsan Bhoon however opined that the ruling was in order and the deputy speaker in fact acted in the light of the ruling of the supreme court of Pakistan.

Meanwhile the PTI and PML Q have challenged the deputy speaker ruling. They say the deputy speaker had violated the apex court orders. Even before the election it was expected that the matter shall go to the apex court.

Imran Khan gives protest call to workers

From Page 01

these days. There was a market set up where the price of the conscience of public leaders and parliamentarians was ascertained. "The way goats and sheep are sold ... the same way members of the parliament were being sold. Even there, the biggest culprit was the biggest dacoit Asif Zardari. He has gone to jail and still rules over Sindh. He became the part of an imported conspiracy".

"I am telling the nation today. You have to do peaceful protest. Until and unless you do that, nothing will happen. Register your protest. You have to tell that we are humans, and not sheep. Register your protest today so that they know the Pakistani nation is alive. Tell them that you wont let these dacoits steal the mandate of the public." Imran, whose party has decided to challenge the deputy speaker's ruling in the Supreme Court, also addressed the top judiciary in his address. "I also want to urge the Supreme court that things are clear in front of you. I have done jihad against Zardari and Sharifs for years. I was pressured to give them NRO but I refused. Both of them looted the country," he said. "Until and unless we bring these dacoits under the rule of law, there is no future for this country. Remember that our children are seeing this."



Djokovic to join Nadal, Federer, and Murray in Laver Cup

Sports Desk

LONDON: Novak Djokovic will be joining Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer and Andy Murray to play for Team Europe in the Laver Cup. The event, which pits six European players against six from Team World over three days, will take place in London between 23 and 25 September. Felix Auger-Aliassime, Taylor Fritz, and Diego Schwartzman have so far been named in Team World. "It's the only [event] where you play in a team with guys you're normally competing against," said Djokovic. "To be joining Rafa, Roger and Andy - three of my biggest all-time rivals - it's going to be a truly unique moment in the history of our sport." In terms of Grand Slam wins, Nadal has 22, Djokovic 21, Federer 20 and Murray has three. Team Europe, who are captained by Bjorn Borg, have won the previous four Laver Cup events. "I don't think I could have imagined having these four icons of the sport on one team together," said Borg, whose former long-time rival John McEnroe captains Team World.

Hamilton prepares for 300th race

LE CASTELLET: Lewis Hamilton ranks Fernando Alonso as the toughest and fastest rival he has faced in his career, he said on Thursday ahead of his landmark 300th F1 race in Sunday's French Grand Prix. The 37-year-old seven-time world champion also said that he cherished the memories of his maiden Formula One event, the 2007 Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne when, aged 22, he stunned seasoned onlookers with his precocious talent. He qualified fourth and finished third, behind two-time champion Alonso, the ferocity of their competition signalling how they would battle and fall out in the season ahead. – APP

Germany beat Austria to reach Euro semis

News Desk

LONDON: Germany remain on course for a ninth women's European Championship title but were made to work hard for a 2-0 win over Austria to reach the semi-finals of Euro 2022 on Thursday. Austria hit the woodwork three times in London, but goals from Lina Magull and Alexandra Popp sent the Germans through to meet France or the Netherlands in the semi-finals.

"The game could have ended 6-3," said Germany coach Martina Voss-Tecklenburg. "We played against a very good side. Huge compliments to Austria.

"I still believe that we leave the pitch as deserved winners." Germany had cruised through what appeared to be the toughest group with convincing victories over Denmark, Spain and Finland to reach the last eight in style. But they were made to sweat until Popp's bizarre 90th minute goal, when she charged down Manuela Zinsberger's clearance, gave them side breath-

ing space. Austria had proven they are awkward opponents by pushing England all the way in a 1-0 defeat on the opening night of the tournament and eliminating Norway in the group stages. Irene Fuhrmann's side started strongly as Julia Hickelsberger-Fuller fired too close to Merle Frohms before Marina Georgieva headed off the post from a corner.

Germany were struggling to find the attacking verve that saw them score nine goals without reply in the group stage. But they pounced on one error from the Austrian defence as Klara Buhl sped down the left wing and her cross was calmly slotted into the far corner by Magull for her second goal of the tournament.

"It was just as well that we took the lead in the first half," said Magull. "We were also a bit lucky because we gave them too many chances. We are incredibly happy and proud to have reached a semi-final again." Five years ago, Austria upset the odds to reach the semi-finals in their only previous

major tournament at Euro 2017. And they could have matched that achievement with more luck in the second half. Barbara Dunst was inches away from catching Frohms off her line with an audacious effort from long range that came back off the crossbar. Sarah Puntigam then smashed off the

inside of the post as Germany struggled to clear a corner. But Germany quickly regained their composure and should have extended their lead long before Popp's fourth goal of the tournament. Giulia Gwinn curled an effort of the post before Buhl's piledriver crashed back off the crossbar. Buhl was then guilty of one of the misses of the tournament when she skewed wide from Popp's unselfish pass. The Bayern Munich winger was mocked by her own teammates when a replay of that miss was shown on the big screens. But Buhl was soon able to breathe easy when Popp's press caught Arsenal goalkeeper Zinsberger out as her clearance rebounded off the Wolfsburg striker into the net.



ISLAMABAD: Wendy R. Sherman Deputy Secretary of State US met with Special Assistant to the PM of Pakistan Amb. Tariq Fatemi to reaffirm shared goals of expanding relations through enhancing economic & commercial ties. – DNA

Indonesia calls for greater tax transparency

JAKARTA: The Indonesian government is seeking greater tax transparency among countries, government spokesperson for the G20 Presidency, Maudy Ayunda, informed in Jakarta on Thursday. "As the holder of the G20 presidency, Indonesia fully encourages an increase in tax transparency among countries. A fair and transparent international tax system is important to overcome tax evasion, prevent transfer pricing, and encourage conducive national tax policies," Ayunda said, according to a statement issued in Jakarta on Thursday. Tax is one of the largest sources of state revenue and is used to continue development and ensure the prosperity of the people. Tax transparency and exchange of tax information are important for encouraging economic growth, especially in the post-COVID-19 recovery period.

Tax transparency between countries would only have a massive impact if implemented collectively, she said. Therefore, international cooperation is needed for implementing transparency standards and exchanging tax information, as well as law enforcement related to taxation, which does not only cover one country. "As part of the activities of the Indonesian G20 Presidency, an Asia Initiative meeting was held on February 16, 2022, with the theme 'Sustaining Recovery through Enhanced Tax Transparency.' The Asia Initiative is an initi-

ative launched last November 2021, and agreed by 11 Asian countries to encourage tax transparency in Asia," Ayunda explained. The meeting was also attended by the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information of Tax Purposes, tax authority leaders from 13 Asian countries, members of global

forums, and several international institutions, such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank, and the Study Group on Asian Tax Administration and Research. "This shows the seriousness of all par-

ties to encourage tax transparency. Unfortunately, the participation and



capacity of Asian countries in multilateral efforts for tax transparency have not been evenly distributed. Only 11 countries in Asia are committed to increasing tax transparency through the signing of the Bali Declaration on July 14, 2022," she said. Indonesia is one of the countries that enjoy the benefits of tax transparency, which includes mapping the potential income of Rp683 trillion in the form of dividends, interest, sales, and other income. The benefits of tax transparency for Indonesia have also included the narrowing of space for tax avoidance activities among countries that encourages taxpayer compliance as well as optimal tax revenue as a source of development financing. In addition, optimal tax revenue makes tax an instrument to boost the business and investment climate. "Optimal tax revenue can also help the government encourage the mobilization of domestic resources and build a sustainable recovery and get out of the implications of the pandemic disaster," Ayunda said. Indonesia has also explored a series of assessments to become a full member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). By becoming a member of the FATF, Indonesia can play an important role in fighting tax evasion and promoting efforts toward global tax transparency. - ANTARA

IG police Punjab replaced

DNA

LAHORE: Moments before the much-anticipated session of the Punjab Assembly to elect a new chief minister commenced on Friday, the government appointed a new provincial police chief.

According to Establishment Division notifications, copies, Rao Sardar Ali Khan has been replaced with Faisal Shahkar.

The outgoing inspector general has been transferred and posted as the Pakistan Railways inspector general with immediate effect until further orders. Separately, Shahkar, previously serving as the Railways inspector general has now been transferred and posted as the provincial police chief with immediate effect until further orders.



Briefs

North Korea could carry out nuclear test within month

DNA

SEOUL: South Korean President on Friday claimed that North Korea is ready to conduct a nuclear test at any time, local media reported. According to US authorities, Pyongyang has completed all preparations and is expected to carry out a nuclear test within the month, Yonhap News Agency quoted President Yoon Suk Yeol as saying.

"We believe that not only at the end of this month, but ever since my inauguration, it's fully ready and able to do it whenever it decides," Yoon told reporters.

Yoon's statement came after his intelligence chief's recent unannounced visit to Washington. The tension on the peninsula increased in 2020 when North Korea attacked and blew up the inter-Korean liaison office along the border. Seoul warned of a strong response if Pyongyang "further worsens the situation."

However, the tensions have further soared on the Korean Peninsula in 2021, when both Seoul and Pyongyang ramped up drills to show off their military might.

Three killed in clashes between Libyan forces

DNA

TRIPOLI: Three people were killed and two wounded in armed clashes between two security forces near the Libyan capital Tripoli, an official said on Friday. Fighting took place in the Ain Zara region late on Thursday night between units of the Presidential Council's security force and the Special Deterrence Force, or RADA.

Osama Ali, a spokesman for Libya's Ambulance and Emergency Services, said casualty figures could rise as reports come in from other hospitals in the area.

The Libyan military's 444

Brigade intervened to stop the fighting and took up positions in several areas where the clashes took place, according to an Anadolu Agency reporter.

A Presidential Council statement called on both sides to cease hostilities, adding that government and military prosecutors will conduct investigations.

Landmark Ukraine grain deal signed in Turkiye

"Today, there is a beacon on the Black Sea. A beacon of hope..., possibility... and relief in a world that needs it more than ever," Guterres told the gathering

AGENCIES

ISTANBUL: Russia and Ukraine signed a landmark deal on Friday to reopen Ukrainian Black Sea ports for grain exports, raising hopes that an international food crisis aggravated by the Russian invasion can be eased. The accord crowned two months of talks brokered by the United Nations and Turkey aimed at what U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres called a "package" that would both restore Ukrainian grain exports while easing Russian grain and fertilizer shipments despite tough Western sanctions on Moscow.

Guterres said the accord opens the way to significant volumes of commercial food exports from three key Ukrainian ports – Odesa, Chernomorsk and Yuzhny, and the U.N. would set up a coordination centre to monitor implementation of the deal.

"Today, there is a beacon on the Black Sea. A beacon of hope..., possibility...and relief in a world that needs it more than ever," Guterres told the gathering. But fighting raged on unabated in Ukraine's east and, underlining deep-seated enmity and mistrust driving the worst conflict in Europe since World War Two, Russian and Ukrainian representatives declined to sit at the same table at the ceremony, and the display of the two countries' flags was adjusted so that they were no longer next to one other.

"In case of provocations, (there will be) an



immediate military response" by Ukraine, Kyiv presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak tweeted before the ceremony.

Russia and Ukraine, both among the world's top exporters of food, sent their defence and infrastructure ministers respectively to Istanbul for the signing ceremony, also attended by Guterres and Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan. A blockade of Ukrainian ports by Russia's Black Sea fleet, trapping tens of millions of tonnes of grain in silos and stranding many ships, has worsened global supply

chain bottlenecks and, along with sweeping Western sanctions, stoked galloping inflation in food and energy prices around the world. Moscow has denied responsibility for the worsening food crisis, blaming instead Western sanctions for slowing its own food and fertilizer exports and Ukraine for mining the approaches to its Black Sea ports.

Senior U.N. officials, briefing reporters on Friday, said the deal was expected to be fully operational in a few weeks. read more Safe passage into and out of the ports would

be guaranteed in what one official called a "de facto ceasefire" for the ships and facilities covered, they said, although the word "ceasefire" was not in the agreement text. Though Ukraine has mined nearby offshore areas as part of its defences against Russia's five-month-old invasion, Ukrainian pilots would guide ships along safe channels in its territorial waters, they said. Monitored by a Joint Coordination Center based in Istanbul, the ships would then transit the Black Sea to Turkey's Bosphorus strait and proceed to world markets, U.N. officials said. The deal will be valid for 120 days but renewable and would not be expected to be stopped any time soon. "The fact that two parties at war - and still very much at war - have been able to negotiate an agreement of this kind...I think that's unprecedented," one U.N. official said. Another said a separate pact signed on Friday would smooth Russian food and fertilizer exports and that the United Nations welcomed U.S. and European Union clarifications that their sanctions would not apply to such shipments. vTo address Russian concerns about ships smuggling weapons to Ukraine, all returning ships will be inspected at a Turkish port by representatives of all parties and overseen by the ICC.

The overall objective is to help avert famine among tens of millions of people in poorer nations by injecting more wheat, sunflower oil, fertilizer and other products into world markets including for humanitarian needs, partly at lower prices.

Azerbaijan seizes over 95 kg of drugs on state border

DNA

BAKU: The Azerbaijani State Border Service seized 95.7 kg of drugs and psychotropic pills on the border with Iran, Azernews reports, citing the service. Members of a criminal group involved in drug

Members of a criminal group involved in drug smuggling were apprehended as a result of a successful operation carried out by the investigative bodies of the State Border Service.

On July 21, four parcels hidden by unidentified individuals were discovered in the service area of the Horadiz border detachment's border post located near the Jabrayil region's Mehdili village.

The area, where the packages were discovered, was immediately cordoned off, prospective transit routes were taken under control and the service of additional border guards was arranged in that direction. At around 2000 hours, border guards apprehended four suspects, who attempted to leave the scene by removing the packages. When the identities of the

When the identities of the suspects were checked, it surfaced that they are overtime military personnel of the State Border Service, who were involved in demining of border areas liberated from the Armenian occupation.

As a result of urgent operational measures, 95.7 kg of drugs (87 kg 700 grams of marijuana, 7 kg 600 grams of heroin, 400 grams of methamphetamine), as well as psychotropic pills (1,980 Methadone-40 and 12,456 Pregabalin-150 pills) were seized from Barda resident Khalili Hikmat (24), who was the organizer of the crime.

Covid-19 infections in UK jump to over 3.7M

DNA

LONDON: The number of COVID-19 infections in the UK has risen again to over 3.7 million, the Office for National Statistics announced on Friday. The latest numbers are for the week to July 14, and show a 7% increase on the previous week. That week, however, saw a 29% jump from the week before, which suggests that the rate of increase of infections could be slowing.

The latest data is the highest estimate for overall infections since mid-April, but still below the record of 4.9 million infections at the end of March.

Pak wants Bangladesh to remove visa restrictions

Pakistan High Commissioner to Bangladesh calls on Foreign Minister of Bangladesh



DNA

DHAKA: High Commissioner for Pakistan to Bangladesh, Mr. Imran Ahmed Siddiqui called on Foreign Minister of Bangladesh H.E. Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen this afternoon. Bilateral relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh came under discussion during the meeting.

The High Commissioner recalled efforts of the leadership of Pakistan and Bangladesh for promotion of reconciliation and better relations between the two countries after the tragic events in their shared history. He paid tribute to their vision and foresight, which helped address all outstanding issues between the two brotherly nations.

On visa issues, the High Commissioner said that Pakistan has already removed all restrictions on Pakistani visas for Bangladeshi citizens and expressed hope that Bangladesh would also reciprocate this gesture. The two sides agreed to promote economic relations between the two countries.

Sri Lanka troops demolish main protest camp

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan security forces demolished the main anti-government protest camp in the capital, evicting activists in a nighttime assault that raised international concern. Troops and police Special Task Force commandos wielding batons and armed with automatic assault rifles swooped in on protesters blocking the Presidential Secretariat. Hundreds of soldiers removed the demonstrators' barricades outside the sea-front building, while the last remaining protesters on the premises – some still on the steps – were evicted. The operation came hours before the country's new

The operation came hours before the country's new president, Ranil Wickremesinghe, swore in a new prime minister to try to manage the financial crisis that has crippled the economy and triggered months of protests. Wickremesinghe himself was elected by legislators on Wednesday to replace Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who fled to Singapore and resigned after demonstrators chased him from his palace. The remaining protesters – far fewer than the thousands who overran several government buildings earlier this month – have been demanding Wickremesinghe also quit, accusing him of protecting the Rajapaksa clan who have dominated politics for much of the last two decades.

By morning, police commandos and soldiers armed with automatic assault rifles ringed the complex and the main roads leading to the area remained cordoned off. Hundreds of activists demonstrated at a nearby designated protest site against the authorities' actions, demanding Wickremesinghe resign and dissolve parliament to allow for fresh elections. "Don't attack peaceful protesters, instead listen to us," said student Dimmithu, 26. The activists insisted they would continue their struggle, and Basantha Samarasinghe, 45, a businessman and trade union leader, said: "The peoples' wish is system change, and parliament should be dissolved. It has no public mandate." – DNA

Gilgit Serena Hotel; where hospitality is culture & tradition

Gilgit the capital of Gilgit-Baltistan known as Asia's wonderland stands as the paradise when it comes to describing the beauty. Also, the region holds much significance on ground of linking Pakistan with China and Central Asia. Moreover, in past it was a major hub for Buddhism

Munaza Kazmi

ILGIT-BALTISTAN is, perhaps, the most spectacular region of Pakistan in terms of its geography and scenic beauty. Moreover, it is strategically close to the heart of Central Asia and is the home of the world's greatest mountain ranges. The Karakoram, The Himalaya, The Hindukush, and The Pamir radiate out from this center like spokes on a wheel. This array of mountains has carefully guarded Pakistan's frontiers with China, India, Afghanistan and across the narrow Wakhan corridor.

Rich in history, culture, and natural beauty the area has been visited for centuries by travelers, both modern day tourists and ancient travelers from the Silk Road. It also remained for many years a focal point of political and military rivalries amongst the Russian, British and Chinese empires.

Gilgit the capital of Gilgit-Baltistan known as Asia's wonderland stands as the paradise when it comes to describing the beauty. Also, the region holds much significance on ground of linking Pakistan with China and Central Asia. Moreover, in past it was a major hub for Buddhism.

Gilgit is a dazzling mountainous valleysituated at an elevation of 1,500 meters, which make the topography and climate quiet extreme. However, due to the smooth working of Karakoram Highway, and Gilgit Airport one can easy reach Gilgit.

For every kind of traveler, the city has a package, there's nature, history, adventure, dis-

covery, and luxury. Common language is Balti, instead I would say "Hospitality".

Besides the supreme astonishing fact is, the region has one of the highest literacy rates as compared to other similar districts in Pakistan due to the influence of His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan, whom most of the populace follow as their spiritual leader, I had seen an equal number of girls wearing school uniforms on top, and women working side by side with men. I had found them in almost every fragment of market let's say selling jewels, on tea stalls, in self-operated restaurants, in fields, and even in hotel "Gilgit Serena" where I was staying. This I found very remarkable!

Gilgit Serena Hotellocated on Sherullah Baig Road is in proximity from the bus





stand and the airport is a gorgeous resort property in the cradle of the glittering Karakoram Mountainrange and was my home for the next few days.

Today after a year the memories of the Elegantly chic building with floral lawns stretching on a massive area, natural water fountains, my early morningwalks in the bloomy gardens, picking juicy apples, tasting red strawberries, running after babysquirrels and that afternoon joys of swing makes me think of planning for another.

Nestled into the glittering shadow of the stunningKarakoram Mountain range, Gilgit Serena Hotel recaptures the warmth and

charm of a long-ago mountain retreat, allowing visitors to experience the legendary region in a most authentic way while enjoying modern day amenities.

The Hotel offers new experiences and discoveries amid an ancient setting. Where nature lovers can explore the snow-capped beauty of the Karakoram mountain range while enjoying superlative local cuisine in heritage-style.

Furthermore, perfect attention to detail and an eye for local design and décor has been given that creats a warm, inviting shelter after a day of adventure. Every interior and furnishing of the room display the aura of pure Gilgit-Culture. Give your skin a new life by having a refreshing bath in the adjacent shower room, equipped with contemporary



amenities. Later in the evening, grab a cup of coffee and step out onto the private balcony, I betyou would be enslaved by the captivating views of Shiny Mount Rakaposhi, Kaleidoscopic Danyore Village, and Dancing Gilgit and Hunza Rivers.

In total The Hotel has 44 Deluxe Rooms,including 02 Executive Suites which merge modern comfort with traditional refinement recently upgraded. Beside bed and bath, all accommodations feature minibars, mini refrigerators, work desks, 24-hour room service, private balconies and most significant to remember all rooms are smoke free

remember all rooms are smoke free. Executive Suites: Spacious 707-square-foot Executive Suites, designed for travelers seeking more space, feature a king bed, separate lounge, and a private balcony with outdoor seating.

Deluxe Rooms: Handsomely designed, these 41 rooms offer one king or two twin beds, a work desk, internet, a safe deposit box and attached bath.

Hence you can tailor the visit according to your requirement.

Dinning: For Dinning Gilgit Serena Hotel is the perfect choice, on my first visit I thanked my friend for the recommendation. It's a treat for all 5 senses, the fabulousTraditional environment, the aroma of freshly baked bread, the hospitable staff, delightful food and the dazzling view of Mount Rakaposhi. Moreover, the hotel offers authentic Pakistani delights



including local regional dishes, complemented by innovative Chinese and Continental specialties with Inviting surroundings.

Gilgit Serena Hotel features a splendid restaurant to enchant every palate, with ambience as unique and inspiring as the cuisine. Whether you are looking to indulge in a lavish buffet or Afternoon High Tea on Sunday, unforgettable dining experiences await.

Furthermore, all meals at the hotel feature fresh ingredients some from Hotel's very own fruit orchards and organic vegetable garden, providing you with the unique opportunity to savor some of the best cuisine in the region.

Dumani Restaurant:

Renowned throughout Gilgit for its Pakistani, Continental, and Chinese cuisine. I enjoyed thelavishfood with views of the hotel's lawns, mountains and the live playing of Rubab and Tabla on the unforgettable the tune of Shahrukh's "Baazighar".

Restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, though on Sunday, a High Tea is accompanied by buffet and a la carte service. However, Breakfast is complimentary for all the hotel guests.

Garden BBQ:

From May through September, Garden BBQ features everything from seafood to local chicken and beef specialties, under the shade of native trees. The sounds of traditional live music and the water channel's gentle cascade offer an enchanting backdrop for a classical dining experience.

In-Room Dinning:

Well sometimes, enjoying food in the privacy of our cozy room or a Monarch like feel of dinning in the private balcony is what I would love. In the Hotal, around the clock service is available. Framed by traditional wood architecture, awe-inspiring views of the snowcapped Karakoram Mountain Range and lush organic orchards and gardens, Gilgit Serena Hotel is the most unique and beautiful hotel in the Gilgit Valley. Merging the finest of local culture and heritage with personalised service, hotel offers exclusive and immersive experiences designed to make your holiday an unforgettable experience. Whether you wish to visit one of Gilgit's three hanging bridges, picnic by the Jutial Stream or ski the slopes of Naltar, the staff will help you experience all the wonders Gilgit-Baltistan has to offer.

During my visit I learned about "Karighar" a CSR project of Serena Hotels', a vocational center that was established back in the year 2016, has been making a significant contribution to provide entrepreneurship training to various segments of communities mainly women in Gilgit-Baltistan region of Pakistan, for a sustainable growth and quality of life.

On my visit I found Karighar an economic lift-up, empowering the community in this remote region to supplement the household income by providing them with education and training related to the bee-farming, besides stitching and embroidery.

This is not just a hotel but a value chain, however after visiting Gilgit Serena Hotel, where hospitality is culture and tradition, I understood why it has been said.







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Briefs

Trump 'gleefully watched' while riots unfolded

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: The congressional committee investigating the mob attack on the US Capitol has said in its latest hearing that the former president refused to take action to stop his supporters, despite pleas from aides. The congressional committee investigating the January 6 riots on Thursday presented more evidence accusing former US President Donald Trump of deliberately choosing not to act as his supporters ransacked the US Capitol and threatened lawmakers with violence.

In what is likely the final hearing until September, the committee documented the time frame from when Trump sent his supporters to the Capitol after a "stop the steal" rally, to when the president appeared in a video in front of the White House telling the mob to disperse, while praising them as "very special," some 187 minutes later.

For two months, a bipartisan panel has held several televised hearings including live testimony by key witnesses and pre-recorded depositions as well as documents and footage presenting evidence of Trump's role in the assault on the US Capitol.

US lawmakers accuse Russia of 'genocide'

DNA

WASHINGTON: A group of seven US lawmakers has accused Russian forces of committing "genocide" during the Ukraine conflict. Russian forces launched a special military operation in eastern Ukraine's Donbas region in late February.

The Russian head of state has repeatedly said that USled NATO forces' eastward expansion forced Russia to take defensive steps. US Senators Jim Risch

(R-ID), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Rob Portman (R-OH), Ben Cardin (D-MD), Roger Wicker (R-MS), and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) introduced a resolution on Thursday claiming Russia's special operation in Donbas amounted to a genocide against the people of Ukraine. "There is no question that what Russia is doing in Ukraine is a genocide ... It's time the United States and the world recognize it as such," said Jim Risch (R-Idaho), ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Since the beginning of Russia's brutal assault on Ukraine, Russian forces have demonstrated a clear pattern of targeting and killing Ukrainian civilians en masse, while also deliberately shelling schools, maternity wards, hospitals, homes. apartment buildings, and other civilian infrastructure.

Iraq's security official calls for 'restraint'

DNA

BAGHDAD: Iraq's national security adviser has reacted to a recent Turkish attack on a tourist resort in the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region of northern Iraq, calling for "restraint" in response to recurring crossborder violations by Turkey. "Two days ago, the Turkish forces bombed a tourist resort in Dohuk Governorate, and the national forces condemned the Turkish bombing with a unified position," Qassem al-Aaraji said at an international event in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad on Friday. "We demand restraint in responding to these violations.

Al-Araji also pointed out that "some media institutions had a destructive role in society and distorted the facts." Nine Iragis were killed and 23 others sustained injuries in the Turkish artillery bombardment of the northern Iraqi hill village of Parakh in the Zakho district in Dohuk on Wednesday.

Sadiq Sanjrani for collective efforts to curb Islamophobia

Turkiye Envoy, Mehmet Pacaci maintained that Pakistan is an important country in the region and expressed his desire to play an active role in broadening bilateral relations with Pakistan. He also appreciated Pakistan's role in regional stability

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani here on Friday stressed upon the need for joint efforts to stepping up collective efforts to counter the scourge of Islamophobia. "All Islamic countries must unite against the scourge of Islamophobia and raise their voice at every forum," he said while talking to the newly appointed Ambassador of Turkiye to Pakistan Prof. Dr. Mehmet Pacaci who made a courtesy call to him, said a news release. Chairman Senate congratulated Mehmet Pacaci on his appointment as ambassador to Pakistan and expressed hope that his appointment will further promote and take bilateral relations to new heights.

"The exceptional relations between the people of two countries - embedded in common religious, cultural, and spiritual heritage - go back centuries and have withstood the test of times", Sanjrani remarked.

He expressed hope that bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade and investment will be further strengthened. Sadiq Sanjrani expressed his gratitude for Turkiye's continuous and unflinching support to Pakistan on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

The two sides desired for strengthening cooperation between Pakistan and Turkiye in all areas of mutual interest. The 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Turkiye will be celebrated with



full zeal and fervor, Sanjrani underscored. The meeting also called for increased cooperation between Pakistan and Turkive in the fields of trade, culture, and defence.

Both the dignitaries reiterated their resolve to further enrich bilateral relations and support each other at various regional and international forums. Turkiye Envoy, Mehmet Pacaci maintained that Pakistan

is an important country in the region and expressed his desire to play an active role in broadening bilateral relations with Pakistan. He also appreciated Pakistan's role in regional stability. Mehmet Pacaci affirmed his commitment to intensifying diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels. Sanirani hoped that Institutional cooper-

ation between the two countries will help

mentary diplomacy is the need of the hour.

benefit from each other's experiences. 'With the strong resolve of the political leadership on both sides, the historic, multi-faceted strategic relationship between the two countries will continue to grow from strength to strength", he maintained. The Chairman Senate stressed that speeding up the exchange of delegations through parlia-

Coronavirus claims seven more lives

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan recorded a slight increase in fresh COVID-19 cases as the virus claimed seven more lives during the last 24 hours, the National Institute of Health, Islamabad's (NIH) data showed Friday morning. According to the NIH data, during the last 24 hours, 23,035 diagnostic tests were conducted, out of which 679 came back positive. However, as per NIH statistics, the positivity ratio across the country in the last 24 hours was recorded at 2.95%. Meanwhile, the data showed that the COVID-19 pandemic claimed seven more lives in the country during a single day, which brings up the death toll to 30,462 since the start of the pandemic.

With the slight increase in fresh cases, according to the NIH data, 166 patients of COVID-19 are still being treated in intensive-care units (ICU) at different medical facilities across the country. BA5, part of the Omicron family, is the latest coronavirus variant to cause widespread waves of infection globally. According to the World Health Organisation's most recent report, it was behind 52% of cases sequenced in late June, up from 37% in one week. In the United States, it is estimated to be causing around 65% of infections.

BA5 is not new. First identified in January, it has been tracked by the WHO since April. It is a sister variant of the Omicron strain that has been dominant worldwide since the end of 2021 and has already caused spikes in case rates – even with reduced testing – in countries including South Africa, where it was first found, as well as the United Kingdom, parts of Europe, and Australia. - DNA

EU launches infringement procedures against UK

WEB DESK

BRUSSELS: The European Union has launched four new infringement procedures against the United Kingdom. a non-member state, for failing to comply with significant parts of the protocol governing post-Brexit trading arrangements for Northern Ireland. The latest dispute relates to commitments on customs requirements, general excise duties, duties on alcohol, and VAT for e-commerce - all of which the EU says are not being properly implemented by the UK. "In a spirit of constructive cooperation, the Commission refrained from launching certain infringement procedures for over a year to create the space to look for joint solutions with the UK," the European Commission said in a statement on Friday. "However, the UK's unwillingness to engage in meaningful discussion since last February and the continued passage of the Northern Ireland Protocol Bill through the UK Parliament go directly against this spirit." On Thursday, the British lower house passed the Northern Ireland Protocol Bill, which would scrap some of the rules governing its arrangement with the EU. The new infringement procedures announced by the EU on Friday build on prior legal action taken by the EU against the UK back in June. There are now a total of seven infringement procedures pending against the UK. This time around, the EU accused the UK of not enforcing EU customs requirements on goods exported from Northern Ireland to Great Britain. "This significantly increases the risk of smuggling via Northern Ireland," the European Commission said, nothing that the export of some goods is restricted or even prohibited.

Hijab 'discrimination unveiled' in the Netherlands, Germany

Monitoring Desk

ANKARA: Veiled women job candidates received significantly less positive feedback from employers in the Netherlands and Germany, new study finds. A strong evidence of job discrimination against hijab wearing Muslim women in the Netherlands and Germany has been made public in an academic article published by European Sociological Review journal. The blatant discrimination generally occurred when the job required faceto-face public dealings with clients and customers, according to an extensive field experiment.

The researchers also found that veiled women in Spain were less discriminated against compared to the Netherlands and Germany. The three researchers Marina Fernandez-Reino, Valentina Di Stasio and Susanne Veit identified whether employers discriminated against all Muslim applicants (veiled or unveiled), or just those who adhered to Muslim religious practices such as wearing the hijab or headscarf.

They picked a set of candidates and filed two job applications for each one of them. One application was attached with a hijab-wearing photograph and the other without a hijab. Religious affiliation of unveiled Muslim women

War could set

a precedent in

Taiwan

WEB DESK

TOKYO: Japan has warned that Russia's invasion of

Ukraine could set a precedent for China's ambitions in

Taiwan, which Beijing views as a renegade province to

be rejoined with the mainland. In its annual defense re-

port released on Friday, the Japanese government called

Russia's war a "serious violation of international law"

that has wide-reaching ramifications. "The political, eco-

nomic and military rivalries between nations is clear,

and the challenge posed to the international order is a

The paper identified Russia as one of the key threats to the

global issue," a white paper of the report said.

international order, alongside China and North Korea.

were signaled through their volunteering activities in a religious centre. The job postings varied from a hairdresser and shop assistant to receptionist and sales representative - the occupations that require a high degree of face-to-face customer contact.

The selected occupations vary in their educational requirements, with cooks, shop assistants, and hairdressers generally requiring lower qualifications than the rest of the jobs in all the three countries. In the Netherlands, almost 70 percent of job applications that included a photograph itive callback for jobs requiring high customer-contact. But for applications with hijab-clad photographs the positive rate was 35 percent.

"The high level of discrimination we found in the Netherlands, where the institutional context has traditionally been open to the accommodation of religious minority rights, is particularly surprising and points to the possibly stigmatizing effect of recent policies geared towards the cultural assimilation of immigrants," the researchers noted.

The field experiment in Germany has given similar results. While 53 per cent of unveiled Muslim women got a positive feedback from employers, only around 25 per cent of veiled women heard back from the workplaces.

In Spain, however, the level of discrimination against veiled Muslim women were not statistically significant.

The recent findings were complementary to some studies indicating that veiled Muslim women were disadvantaged in the job market.

A research conducted by Doris Weichselbaumer from Cornell University found in 2019 that in Germany, not only the hijab wearing women, but also women with non-German names implying immigrant background also faced discrimination. Call-back rates for a job interview of name and unveiled photo was 18.8 percent while it was only 13.5 percent when applicant had a Turkish name and unveiled photo.

The combination of a Turkish name and headscarf proved to be the most discriminated section among all applications as their call back rate remained only at 4.2 percent.

The most recent study published by European Sociological Review iournal notes that Muslim candidates wearing religious clothing can also be treated unfairly in job interviews for jobs that do not require in-person customer contact. The researchers pointed out that employers largely showed aversion to any type of religious clothing, including those worn by men.

It said Russia's invasion of Ukraine risks sending the message to other countries "that an attempt to unilaterally

clear capacity as a deterrent, which could in turn mean an uptick in activity around Japan, where Russian nuclear submarines are routinely active.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is expected to boost defense funding next month, with Japan currently having the lowest lowest ratio of military expenditure to GDP among Group of Seven (G7) countries, plus Australia and South Korea. The annual report also gave its most comprehensive over-

view yet of the security situation in Taiwan, noting that "since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Taiwan has been working on further strengthening its self-defense efforts."

In response to the analysis, China's Foreign Ministry said Friday that the assessment "makes accusations and smears China's defense policy, market economic development and legitimate maritime activities."

a daily news briefing that the report "exaggerates the socalled China threat" and interferes in China's internal affairs on Taiwan." "China has expressed its strong dissatisfaction and resolute opposition to this, and has lodged stern representations to the Japanese side," he added.

change the status quo by force is acceptable.' It also warned that Russia could increasingly lean on its nu-

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told

Peaceful Afghanistan crucial for region: FM

The Foreign Minister highlighted Pakistan's provision of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, including recent relief efforts in wake of the devastating earthquake in eastern Afghanistan on 22 June 2022

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Iran's Special Representative to the President on Afghanistan, Mr. Hassan Kazemi Ghomi, called on Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. The Foreign Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to a peaceful, stable, prosperous and connected Afghanistan. He underscored the importance of close cooperation between Pakistan and Iran on matters relating to Afghanistan, including refugee management, regional security, and institutional mechanisms.

The Foreign Minister highlighted Pakistan's provision of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, including recent relief efforts in wake of the devastating earthquake in eastern Afghanistan on 22 June 2022. He also reiterated the importance of continued con-



ation with the Interim Afghan Government in order to promote the objective of sustainable peace and security in the region.

pressed Pakistan's keen desire to further strengthen relationswith Iran, which are rooted deep in common faith, shared his-

tory, and cultural affinities. He highlighted the importance of regular exchanges to advance economic and trade relations, energy cooperation, regional security and connectivity. Special Envoy Mr. Hassan Kazemi Ghomi noted that Iran associated high importance to its relations with Pakistan. He appreciated the constructive role played by Pakistan in Afghanistan and underscored that peace and stability in Afghanistan were essential pre-requisites for the region's long-term stability and prosperity.

Earlier, the Iranian Special Representative met his Pakistani counterpart, Ambassador (r) Mohammad Sadiq, where both sides discussed the evolving situation in Afghanistan, highlighted the importance of pursuing continuous and practical engagement, and reviewed various trade and connectivity initiatives in the region.

New Zealand Covid-19 death rate at record levels

DNA

WELLINGTON: New Zealanders are dying from COV-ID-19 at record rates as the country battles a new wave of the Omicron strain that is particularly affecting the older population.

Deaths from the virus reached 151 in the seven days to July 16, compared with 115 in the worst week of the previous wave, in March, according to Health Ministry data. In the latest 24 hours, 26 people died from COVID, all aged over 60, the ministry said in a statement on Friday.

The Omicron BA.5 sub-variant is driving the current wave in New Zealand, which has 5.1 million people. There have been 64,780 active cases in the past seven days, although authorities say many infections are unreported. Once regarded as a model for preventing COVID infection, New Zealand's swift response to the pandemic and its geographic isolation kept it largely free from the virus until the end of last year.

The government dropped its zero-COVID policy this year once the population was largely vaccinated. Since then the virus has been allowed to spread.

Emergency departments, practices and general medical centres are under pressure. However, Health Ministry data shows hospitalisation levels remain below those seen during the March peak. The government is resisting pressure from some doctors to reinstate curbs on public gatherings or mandate the wearing

Russia 'about to run out of steam' in Ukraine

LONDON: Russia is "about to run out of steam" in Ukraine, giving Kyiv's military a chance to strike back, said the head of Britain's foreign intelligence agency, or MI6. Speaking at the Aspen Security Forum on Thursday, Richard Moore said Russian troops would face supply and logistics problems in the coming weeks. "The Russians will increasingly find it difficult to supply manpower and material over the next few weeks," he said. "They will have to pause in some way and that will give the Ukrainians opportunities to strike back.

Noting that Russia only made "a small number of miles of advance" in the recent weeks, he said: 'When they take a town, there's nothing left of it ... it is obliterated, and so I think they're about to run out of steam." Asked about speculation that Russian President Vladimir Putin was unwell, the intelligence chief said that "there's no evidence" he has serious health issues. Over 5,100 civilians have been killed in Ukraine since the beginning of the war on Feb. 24, according to UN figures. Over 15 million people have also been forced to flee their homes, including more than 9.5 million that have fled to other countries.

Israeli strike kills 3 soldiers in Syria

DNA

DAMASCUS: An Israeli missile attack on Friday near Damascus killed three soldiers and wounded seven more, Syrian state media reported, in what a war monitor said was the 17th Israeli attack on Syrian territory this year. The Israeli military said it does not comment on foreign reports. Israel has been carrying out strikes for years against what it has described as

Iranian and Iran-backed targets in Syria, where Tehran has deployed forces in support of President Bashar Assad since the Syrian war began in 2011. Citing a military source, Syria's SANA news agency said Israel "carried out an aerial aggression" at 00:32 a.m., (2132 GMT Thursday), firing missiles from the Golan Heights targeting "a number of positions in the vicinity of Damascus."