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Indonesian cultural exhibition concludes at a positive note

Detailed News On Page-06

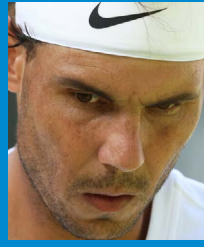
Iran nuclear deal is 'still possible', says Macron

Detailed News On Page-08



Alcaraz youngest top-five player since Nadal

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Pakistan going through a test

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Saturday said that Pakistan was going through a test and everybody, including democratic forces, media and establishment would have to work for formation of a government which was reflective of the aspirations of the people. In a tweet on social media platform Twitter, he said democracy would not be allowed to be hijacked at the hands of vested interests. "May Allah guide us. Ameen." - APP

PML-N respects courts

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar says PML-N respects the courts. Addressing a press conference along with PML-N leader Ataullah Tarar in Lahore on Sunday, he said members of assembly are bound to cast vote as per the direction of the party leader. He said constituting a larger bench of the Supreme Court is necessary to ensure justice. Speaking on the occasion, Ataullah Tarar said the ruling of the Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly is according to the law and constitution. - APP

'Hidden forces' obstacle in way of IMF deal

DNA

LAHORE: PML-N MNA Javed Latif on Sunday claimed that so many "obstacles" are being put in the way of a deal with "global money lenders" that would save the country from default that "it seems unlikely it can be fulfilled". The remarks by the senior party leader, considered a close confidant of PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz and a loyalist of her father, Nawaz Sharif, came during a press conference in Islamabad. The agreement is subject to approval by the IMF's executive board, following which Pakistan will get \$1.17 billion, bringing the total disbursements under the programme to about \$4.2 billion.

Punjab govt status

PDM decides to file petition for full court

Aside from PML-N, PPP, and JUI-F, petitioner parties include MQM-P, ANP, BNP, and BAP, among others

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The coalition government and parties of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) Sunday decided to file a petition to the Supreme Court of Pakistan, seeking the formation of a full bench to hear the case related to the Punjab chief minister's election. The country's top court will hear the petition filed by the PTI against the ruling of the Punjab Deputy Speaker Dost Mazari during the election of CM Punjab. At the time of the voting process, Mazari, citing Article 63(A) of the Constitution, had rejected 10 votes of PML-Q members. As a result, PML-N's Hamza Shahbaz was able to retain his post as the chief minister after defeating PTI's candidate Pervez Elahi with three votes. Unhappy with Mazari's decision and terming it "unconstitutional and illegal," the PTI had approached the apex court in this regard. According to media, in the petition, the government and its allies will demand the formation of a full bench to hear the case

Continued on Page 06

37-member Punjab cabinet takes oath

Punjab Cabinet violation of SC order: Elahi

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE, A 37-member Punjab cabinet was sworn in at a ceremony held at the Governor's House here on Sunday evening. Punjab Governor Baligh-ur-Rehman administered the oath to the ministers after their letter of appointment was read out. When Governor Baligh-ur-Rehman administered the oath, the venue reverberated with political slogans. The ministers are: Rana Muhammad Iqbal Khan, Mehr Ijaz Ahmad, Siddique Khan Baloch,

Continued on Page 06

No provision of trustee CM: Kaira Slams PTI for pushing country towards crisis

GULZAR NOSHI

LALAMUSA: Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira called for the Apex Court to constitute a full court bench for hearing the current political and constitutional crisis in the Punjab. Addressing a press conference at Lala Musa, he said that incumbent government and its allies have their reservation over the current apex court bench which was hearing the current Punjab Chief Minister election case. Qamar expressed that the decision of full court bench would be acceptable to all political parties of the country. He criticised the role of Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf head Imran Khan who is blaming and threatening the national institutions. The Advisor blamed that the members of PML-Q have violated the direction of party head adding he said there is no space of such thing in the constitution and rejected the term of Trustee Chief Minister. To a question, Kaira said the incumbent regime and its allies will accept the court decision.



LALAMUSA: PM Adviser on Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs, Qamar Zaman Kaira addressing a press conference. - DNA



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif exchanging views with Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Ambassador Zhang Ming. - DNA

Shehbaz wishes Biden speedy recovery



DNA

ISLAMABAD, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Sunday wished President of the United States Joe Biden a speedy and complete recovery from Covid-19 infection. On his twitter handle, the prime minister posted "I wish President Biden speedy and complete recovery from corona." White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told media that president Biden was experiencing "very mild symptoms" and would continue to carry out all his duties in isolation. President Biden tested positive for COVID-19 on July 21. In a separate tweet 79-year-old president Biden said he was "doing great" and "keeping busy". The White House said the president tested positive for Covid on Thursday and had been fully vaccinated and twice boosted.

PM reaffirms Pak support to SCO charter

SCO members would continue to work together for building peace

ABID RAZA

LAHORE, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday assured Pakistan's full support in the fulfillment of the purposes and objectives of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), under his stewardship. He hoped that all SCO members would continue to work together for building peace, enhancing international solidarity and cooperation. The prime minister was talking to Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Ambassador Zhang

Continued on Page 06

Corruption increased during tenure of Imran

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Saturday said corruption increased during tenure of Imran Khan as per Transparency International Report and even transfers and postings were on sale. In tweets on social media platform Twitter, he said,

Continued on Page 06

Punjab: Fawad Ch, Marriyum barb wires

PML-N will begin 'speaking against army' in next few days, Fawad Chaudhry alleges

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A war of words between the PTI and PML-N erupted on Sunday with PTI's Fawad Chaudhry alleging that the PML-N "has begun to speak against the judiciary, and over the next few days, it will begin

speaking against the army too." He further alleged the PML-N "feels it has made a big mistake by aligning itself with the establishment against Imran Khan" and now the party's vice-president Maryam Nawaz will "seek to push an anti-establishment narrative". "The flaw in this scheme is that the people are no longer those

of the 1990s and the competition is with Imran Khan," Chaudhry said. The PML-N leader chalked up the institutions being "stuck in a vortex" to the mistakes of their leaders. "Had they stayed within their limits this would not have happened, but anyway, the PML-N will now target institutions," he said. Chaudhry censured the party for what he characterised as oscillating between two narratives depending on the situation. "They were brought into being by the establishment and the brothers decided that one will do pro-establishment politics, whereas the other will sell an anti-establishment narrative. When one narrative failed, they sought to push the other. This formula is also being transferred to the next generation," he alleged. "Stop dragging the army and judiciary into politics" In response to Chaudhry, PML-N spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb, who is also the information minister, said that "he who abuses



Continued on Page 06

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Inside...

- Hashoo Hunar Association signs MoU with B-TEVTA - Page 02
- Admin foils bids to smuggle wheat, confiscates 30,000 bags - Page 03
- Muharram procession's security plan reviewed - Page 04
- Climate change is not negotiable - Page 05
- All-round batting display puts Lanka in strong position - Page 06
- WHO triggers highest alert on monkeypox - Page 07
- Indonesian cultural exhibition concludes at a positive note - Page 08

'PML-N victimized for constitution's supremacy'

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE, Federal Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique on Saturday said the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leadership faced worst victimization in the name of accountability for the only reason of raising voice for the supremacy of the law and the Constitution during the previous PTI tenure.

The minister said that the parliament was the supreme institution as it had the mandate to make or amend the laws whereas the courts were there to interpret the constitution.

ing on the occasion, PML-N leader Attaullah Tarar said that the mega corruption was committed during the past four years in the Punjab. The PML-N led coalition government was taking tough decisions to save the country from default which was a result of poor economic policies and incompetence of the previous PTI government.

Qadir Patel directs to step up surveillance to check monkeypox

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Health Abdul Qadir Patel on Sunday said that the government decided to increase surveillance in the country in view of the WHO's statement, declaring the monkeypox outbreak a global health emergency.

mechanism had been developed on a scientific basis at all points of entry. The screening of all incoming passengers will be ensured particularly passengers coming from African countries, he added.

rus. Although the natural reservoir of monkeypox remains unknown, African rodents and non-human primates like monkeys may harbor the virus and infect people.

Rs. 200 million for identification of landslide 'hotspots'

ISLAMABAD: The government would spend funds amounting to Rs. 200 million to advance an ongoing project, during the current fiscal year, to identify and compile data of the country's 'active faults' and possible landslide 'hotspot' zones aimed at minimizing the disaster risk activities.

Pakistan Railways starts rehabilitation work on Quetta-Bostan track

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways (PR) has started rehabilitation work of 33.50-kilometer track 'through sleeper renewal' between Quetta-Bostan and Quetta-Chaman section.

old and on certain stretches, engineering speed restrictions have been imposed due to deferred maintenance and owing to resource constraints," he said adding that the routine maintenance of track was being carried out with available resources.

shortly to facilitate the passengers. The source said the establishment of Chaman Terminal in collaboration with Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and track renewal Sibi-Khost section was also in progress.



NARAN: People enjoying boat rides in Saif ul Malook lake. - APP

PM felicitates newly elected PFUJ office bearers

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday congratulated the newly elected office bearers of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ). Extending his felicitations to the newly elected members, the prime minister said that the election of Afzal Butt and Arshad Ansari as president and secretary general of PFUJ respectively reflected the confidence of the journalists' community in their leadership.

Ch. Ansar elected President Int'l lawyers body

OUR CORRESPONDENT



KHARIAN: Chaudhry Ansar Mahmood Advocate was elected unopposed as the President of International Lawyers Association. It is an important honor to be elected president of the large and active organization of the lawyers' community, "International Lawyers Association", by the member of the Bar Association Kharian, Chaudhry Ansar Mahmood Advocate.

Lawyers Wing UK. He is one of the well-known personalities of the Pakistani community living in the UK.

PBF for maintaining positive momentum in Pak-Russia trade

LAHORE: Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) President Mian Usman Zulfikar said on Sunday that business community wished to maintain positive momentum in bilateral trade relations with Russia.

ports to Russia in 2020. He observed that Russian market presents an opportunity to Pakistan to increase its exports but access was hampered by factors including those relating to banking and payment channels, a strict Russian business visa regime, the absence of direct cargo and passenger flights, very long transit shipment routes, increased freight charges in recent months, language barriers, and absence of an International Road Transport (TIR) agreement etc. - APP

Admin kicks off operation against electricity theft

ABBOTTABAD: Wapda under the supervision of District Administration Abbottabad has kicked off operations against electricity theft and non-payment of electricity bills.

House collapse; 13-year-old boy dies

PESHAWAR: A thirteen-year-old boy was died when a roof of a house collapse caved-in in Muwak Kotha area, District Swabi as torrential rain continued on the second day, Swabi Police and Officials of the Rescue 1122 confirmed the incident on Sunday.

road in Chitral and other districts, the officials of the PDMA said when contacted. District administration of Dera Ismail Khan along with revenue field staff is on the spot with machinery and clearing the way blocked due to rain-water and rain-flooding, the official said.

Team save dreams visits Asma Homes Alone we can do so little; but together we can do so much"

HAYAH BAHRONI

Hayah Bahroni, student of class AS at Super Nova School, F-8/1 along with my Ex-classmates of FESS who had earlier completed two projects successfully yet again achieved another milestone under the umbrella of Save Dreams.

the lives of Pakistani population and its economy if the deserving children are given close attention and provided quality education regardless of their ethnic, communal or financial background.

ety. The children are nurtured with love, care and attention so they may overcome their past setbacks and begin to live meaningful & purposeful lives.

During the visit different activities were carried out including playing chess, heads up, blind man's buff, reading books, drawing, painting etc. It was a lovely sight to see the children happily playing around enjoying their youth.

Individuals like Ma'am Asma Munir Salman are a beacon of hope in this busy world and a reason for us Pakistanis to beam with pride. Learning from her, we, Team Save Dreams, as the voice of Pakistan, promise to instill the compassion of giving to the society and helping our brothers & sisters in need.



Advertisement for Islamabad POST available in various cities including Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Karachi, Peshawar, Faisalabad, Gujrat, Jhelum, Kharian, and Lalamusa. Includes contact details for each location.

Briefs

4 criminals including wanted member of gang held

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad capital territory police have arrested four criminals including a wanted member of a robber gang, a Police Public Relation Officer said. He said that Islamabad capital police had categorically started a crackdown against criminal elements in order to safe the precious life and property of citizens. According to the details, a Tarnol police team headed by SHO Tarnol got information that a robber gang involved in series of robberies in twin cities coming from Jodah road. On this information, a police team erected a picket and started checking every single car and bike. During the checking, the police team signaled a bike riding by three suspicious suspects to stop. After seeing the police team, suspects started indiscriminate firing. During the exchange of fire one accused was arrested in injured condition the other two managed to escape. The arrested accused was identified as Muhammad Zada alias M. Khan. Police team recovered one 30 bore pistol with ammunition and one motorbike from his possession. The accused have previous record also and case has been registered against him. Furthermore Khanna police arrested an accused named Anwar Zada and recovered one 30 bore pistol with ammunition from his possession.

Four outlaws held narcotic and wine recovered

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) of Islamabad Capital police apprehended four accused and recovered wine and narcotic, a police public relations officer said. He said that DIG Operations Sohail Zafar Chatha had categorically ordered all zonal officers to curb the crime in their respective areas and arrest those involved in looting innocent people. Following these directives, a CIA police team used the latest technology and human resources and arrested two members of a dacoit gang. The accused were identified as Zakar Khan and Usman Khan. The accused have been sent to jail on judicial remand for identification parade. Further-more police team arrested an accused Habib-Ur-Rehman and recovered 450 litres of alcohol from him, while a CIA police team arrested a drug peddler named Chras and recovered 2150 gram hashish from him. Cases against nominated accused have been registered and further investigation is underway. DIG Operations Sohail Zafar Chatha said that the safety of the lives and property of the citizens is our prime responsibility and no laxity will be tolerated in this regard.

ANF recovers over 40 kg narcotics

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) and ANF Intelligence on Sunday conducted three operations and managed to recover over 40 kg narcotics besides netting three accused including a woman. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, in an operation conducted near Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad, ANF recovered 27 kg heroin and three kg suspected chemical from a car and arrested Shahbaz Ali and Humera Naveed. In another raid conducted at an office of private courier company, ANF foiled a bid to smuggle Ketamine to America and recovered 1800 grams Ketamine tactfully concealed in boxing gloves. The parcel was booked by Muhammad Razaq resident of Faisalabad. Third operation was conducted in Lee Market Karachi and ANF managed to recover 11,500 kg charras concealed in gear box of a Suzuki Bolan. An accused named Abdul Kamal was arrested during the operation. Separate cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate Mirza Muhammad Afridi inaugurating the mango festival at Centaurus Mall. – DNA

Muharram procession's security plan reviewed

The deputy commissioner flanked by SSP Operations, SSP Traffic, Additional Deputy Commissioner, SP City and others inspected the route of the main procession

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon visited Imam-bargah Asna Ashri in Sector G-6/2, and reviewed security arrangements for the annual procession of ninth Muharram-ul-Haram the other day. The deputy commissioner flanked by SSP Operations, SSP Traffic, Additional Deputy Commissioner, SP City and others inspected the route of the main procession and directed the municipal officials to clean all roads and streets through which the processions would pass. He also

directed to deploy sufficient police contingents at various sensitive points. Irfan also met the management of Imam-bargah, discussed security arrangements and sought their cooperation for ensuring peaceful culmination of the procession. He urged the management to conclude the procession and Majalis within stipulated time frame. He instructed the police deployed at entry and exit points of Imam-bargah to remain vigilant and alert. Strict measures are being taken to protect the lives and properties of the people during the sacred month of Muharram ul Haram. Meanwhile, the DC urged the ulemas (re-

ligious scholars) belonging to different sects to demonstrate brotherhood and create religious harmony during Muharram-ul-Haram. Talking to APP on Sunday, he said ulemas were asked to extend maximum cooperation with the local administration in maintenance of peace by keeping their processions in prescribed areas. DC Memon said ulemas should abstain from delivering instigating speeches at mosques, Imam-bargahs and other religious places and let others spend the Muharram in a peaceful environment. "Law and order and sanctity of Muharram can remain intact only through mutual co-

operation," he remarked. He said officials of capital police were directed to ensure foolproof security of Imam-bargahs, majalis, processions and other religious programs during the days of Muharram and keep strict eye on rioters, miscreants and those involved in disturbance of peace. He said health departments would ensure availability of required medicines, doctors and paramedical staff along with ambulances at all hospitals and health centers. All the assistant commissioners would remain in contact with ulemas and hold meetings with them to ensure law and order and other arrangements, he maintained.

CDA to procure 20 additional buses

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) would procure 20 additional buses for Green and Blue Line service within a week to meet the ever increasing rush of commuters. The decision to this effect came during CDA Chairman Aamer Ali Ahmed's visit to Blue and Green Line service stations at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) the other day. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had inaugurated the Green and Blue line metro bus services on July 7. The chairman during his visit was informed that currently eight Blue Line buses were carrying the total load of 5,800 passengers per day. Likewise eight buses of Green Line were accommodating nearly 6,000 passengers daily. The chairman inspected various other routes and bus stops of Islamabad bus services and ensured optimum facilities to specially-abled passengers at bus stops. – APP

ICLAPA continues free treatment for Cleft lip and palate patients

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Cleft Lip and Palate Association (ICLAPA) continued the process of providing free medical treatment to the children with cleft lip and palate. If needed, an ICLAPA's team of surgeons are available to operate affected children. According to the Association's senior member Mrs. Farhat Akhtar Rehman, the surgery takes place at the Fuji Foundation Hospital and Heart International. "We welcome the affected patients to get the treatment on urgent basis free of charge," she added. The parents of the affected children have been asked to contact Mrs. Farhat on her cell numbers 03335157676 and 0300-5192490 to get them registered for the normal treatment or surgery. – APP

UN must listen to Kashmiris: Mushaal

Nayeem Khan deplors world's indifferent towards Kashmiri

ISLAMABAD: Peace and Culture Organisation, Chairperson Mushaal Hussein Mullick has said Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Chairman Yasin Malik was battling for life in notorious Tihar jail as he was deprived of all legal, constitutional and fundamental human rights. According to Kashmir Media Service, she was speaking at a hunger strike camp set up in front of the Islamabad Press Club the other day. Mushaal Mullick revealed that fascist Narendra Modi-led Hindutva regime had crossed all limits of barbarism to silence the most powerful voice of Kashmir's peaceful freedom struggle but they failed in their nefarious designs. The chairperson said people of Kashmir set up hunger strikes camps worldwide to express solidarity with their beloved leader. Mullick said that despite using all inhuman and unlawful tactics, the JKLF chairman refused to surrender and compromise on the birth rights of Kashmiris. She urged the UN to listen to the voice of Kashmiri people. – APP

ISLAMABAD: Illegally detained senior leader of All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Nayeem Ahmed Khan, has deplored the indifferent attitude of the international community towards the sufferings of the oppressed people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. According to Kashmir Media Service, Nayeem Ahmed Khan in a message from New Delhi's infamous Tihar Jail said the people of IIOJK had been facing the worst Indian state terrorism for the last over seven decades but the world was watching as a mute spectator. He pointed out that the criminal silence maintained by the United Nations and world human rights

UNODC training on 'basic investigation skills' concludes

DNA

ISLAMABAD: UNODC Criminal Justice and Legal Reforms Programme in collaboration with Balochistan Levies Force has successfully completed the 2nd batch of training on "Basic Investigation Skills" for Investigation Officers of the Balochistan Levies Force. According to a press statement Saturday, the training was held from 18-22 July 2022, at the Levies Headquarters in Quetta comprising of 30 Investigation Officers while the training for the first batch was held from 27 June to 1 July 2022 for 34 Investigation Officers. Following the last training session on Basic Investigation Skills, UNODC will commence training the same Investigation Officers on "Advanced Investigation Skills" to build on their initial knowledge and skills acquired through the initial training. This landmark initiative aims to bring professional effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of services by building on core competencies such as crime scene management, learning of advanced laws, investigation skills, handling of gender-based violence cases, community policing, and forensics evidence gathering. The training was broken down into modules to enhance the understanding of best practices and application of skills for effective and efficient investigation, interrogation, and interviewing of victims, witnesses, and suspects. The training programme also focused on stress management, professionalism, and a positive behavioural change while assuming duty. In his concluding remarks Mr. Qadir Baksh Pirani, Director General Balochistan Levies Force stated, "We are thankful to UNODC for this training."

It is time to think beyond political affiliations

The challenge seems too gigantic to be beyond the grip of any single political force

SHAMS ABBASI/APP

ISLAMABAD: When the political bigwigs are busy in massive politicking, country's economy is struggling against local and international challenges with the trade deficit and rupees value downing to every lowest. Although the incumbent government is striving hard to level the country's imports with exports and enhance remittance volume to control ever-increasing trade deficit, the challenge seems too gigantic to be beyond the grip of any single political force. Therefore, the financial pundits urge the political leadership in the country again and again to join hands for evolving consensus strategy for economic revival and boosting exports since trade deficit had remained a challenging task for successive governments over the decades. Inheriting it from the previous government, the present PML-N led coalition government is serious moving forward to take on the gigantic task of overcoming trade deficit for sustainable economic development. Minister of Finance and Revenue, Miftah Ismail has also acknowledged that import substitution had not been in line with modern trade principles and highlighted the importance of enhancing export base for Pakistani products. "We have to increase our exports in the global market by making our products competitive," he remarked and mentioned to the government steps aimed at bridging the gap between imports and exports.

"The government is working on diversifying both the dimensions; producing cheaper and quality products and explore new markets for export of Pakistani goods," the minister said as he referred to fresh initiatives taken by the government to strengthen exports in European and African markets. He said, the EU delegation recently visited Pakistan and reiterated its commitment to promote trade and economic relations between Pakistan and the European Union. "Trade and GSP plus was particularly discussed during meetings with the delegation to enhance country's exports." There is no denying the fact that successive governments throughout the past had taken several measures to deal with the issue, however no productive outcome could be witnessed. The PML-N led coalition government soon after assuming power took fresh measures to control trade deficit that had widened to around US\$48.259 billion during the fiscal year 2021-22, according to latest data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). The government is adopting both traditional and non-traditional approaches under the Import Compression Strategy and had recently banned import of around 750 items, particularly luxury items for the first two months of the current fiscal year. Under the decision, imports of cars, mobile phones, cosmetics, cigarettes, food products, some garments and many other luxury items were banned. Under this decision ban has been imposed on import of items like pet food, weapons and ammunition,

shoes, chandeliers and lighting, headphones, decoration pieces, sauces and ketchup, home appliance, cosmetics, crockery, luxury leather apparel, musical instruments, saloon items and chocolates in retail packing, travelling bags and suitcase, sanitary ware, fish and frozen fish, bathroom ware, toiletries, heaters, blowers, sunglasses, kitchen ware, aerated water, frozen meat, juices, pasta, ice cream, cigarettes, shaving goods, preserved fruits, tissue papers, furniture, shampoos, cars, confectionary, luxury mattresses and sleeping bags, jams and jelly and cornflakes. The strategy worked as the imports were constrained to almost US\$2.609 billion during the first eighteen days of July 2022, indicating that there would not be more than \$5.5 billion imports throughout the month. This is a positive development, showing decline of almost US\$2 billion against the imports of \$7.5 billion recorded in June 2022. "European Union is a major trading partner of Pakistan and there are many opportunities for Pakistan to increase its trade volume with EU," said Commerce Secretary Muhammad Suleh Ahmad Faruqi and informed that exports to several EU countries including Italy, the Netherlands and Spain had already been on rise. Successive governments also held several conferences and seminars in African countries under 'Look Africa' initiative over the years to promote trade. Currently, Pakistan's annual trade volume with African countries is approximately US\$4.20 billion, which is far below than its potential. In addition, negotia-

tions were currently underway with the United Kingdom (UK), the third largest global trading partner of Pakistan, to boost bilateral economic and trade relations and increase bilateral trade to £seven billion by 2025. "United Kingdom (UK) and Pakistan have discussed to further strengthen economic ties between the two countries and double their trade to £seven billion by 2025," Counselor and Group Head (Economic and Trade), British High Commission Mahesh Mishra told APP. Since, the bilateral trade between Pakistan and United Kingdom was recorded at £3.5 billion during last fiscal year, Mahesh Mishra said, as United Kingdom is also the second largest investor in Pakistan in development sector, "We desire to explore more avenues for joint ventures and investment in the country." Meanwhile, President of Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Irfan Sheikh reiterated to contribute in the government efforts for bridging the trade deficit. "We need concrete measures to control deficit and promote and protect local industry for laying down sustainable base for country's economy." He also highlighted the importance of trade diversification mentioning to the information technology as a lucrative sector to help boost country's exports. Since all segments of society are worried about present economic situation, it is high time for political forces and economic experts to join hands for evolving a long term and sustainable economic policy to steer country out of crisis and secure the future of coming generations.

Court Order

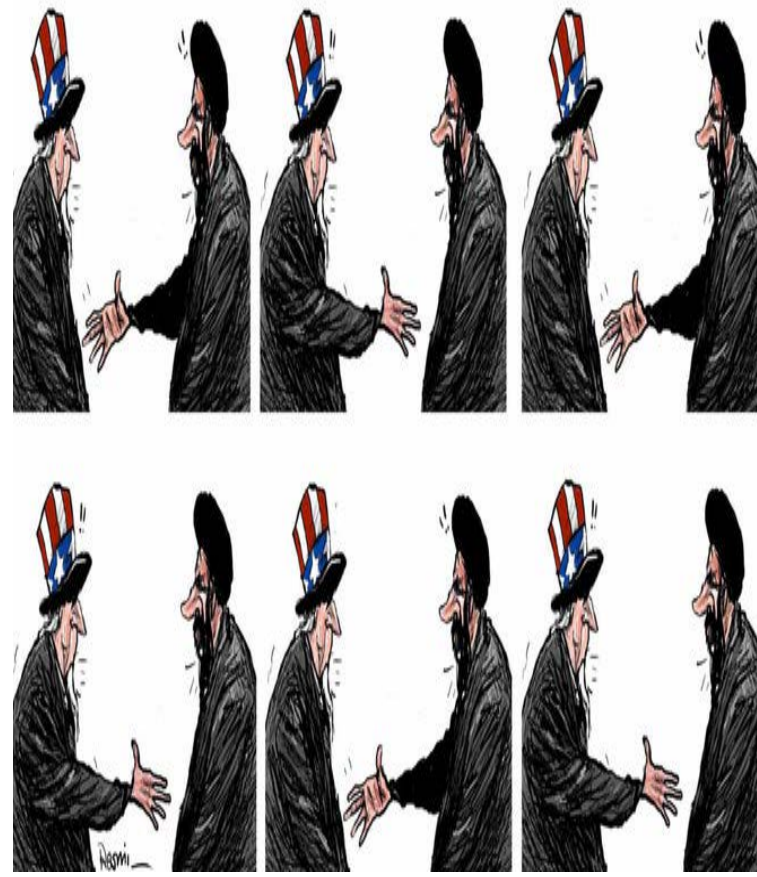
In the Court of Nadeem Masood Barth Tehsildar Gujrat
Title: Zahid Rubbani Versus M u h a m m a d Ijaz etc.
Notice to:
Muhammad Ijaz, Abdul Rehman sons, Khalida Parveen Daughter of Abdul Rasheed Caste Qureshi Resident of Mohallah Qasim Abad City Gujrat, 4, Shahid Mehmood Hashmi S/O Abdul Aziz Hashmi Caste Qureshi Resident of Mohallah Sardar Pura, City Gujrat
Application for Separation of Land with Possession
Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 27-07-2022, otherwise case will be decided ex party.

Court Order

Court Notice
In the Court of Muhammad Abbas Sherazi Civil Judge Gujrat
Title: Muhammad Akram Versus M u h a m m a d Yaqoob etc.
Notice to:
1. Muhammad Yaqoob S/O Ghulam Rasool Cast Jatt Resident of Kot Ranjha, 2. Muhammad Asif Son of Muhammad Bashir caste tailor Residents of hajiwala Tehsil and District Gujrat 3. Zafar iqbal son of ghulam nabi caste jutt Residents of Sargodha.
Suit for Declaration with consequential relief and permanat injunction.
Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 04-10-2022, otherwise case will be decided ex party.

Climate change is not negotiable

Mr. Biden made bold promises to America and the world in his early months in office, designed to honor, at long last, America's commitment at the Paris climate summit in 2015 to keep global temperatures from rising 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels. That is the threshold, scientists believe, beyond which wildfires, floods, biodiversity loss, rising seas and human dislocation become significantly more devastating — and just a few tenths of a degree hotter than the world is today. Mr. Biden matched his ambitions to these goals: a 50 to 52 percent cut in American emissions from 2005 levels by 2030, and net zero emissions by 2050. Along the way, he said, he would eliminate fossil fuel emissions from power plants by 2035. This was anathema to Mr. Manchin, who has strong ties to West Virginia's coal industry and has received generous campaign contributions over the years from oil and gas interests. Without congressional backing, Mr. Biden has fewer tools to achieve his goals, which now seem out of reach. His best course is to take the same regulatory path President Barack Obama was forced to follow after the Senate's last colossal climate failure — a cap and trade bill that passed the House in 2009 but died in the Senate the following year. Using his executive authority, Mr. Obama secured big improvements in automobile efficiency and ordered reductions in power plant emissions, which didn't take effect, although the power companies managed to achieve them on their own by burning cleaner natural gas and closing inefficient coal-fired plants. Mr. Biden is obviously in a tough place on drilling, given the political peril of high gas prices and their toll on American household expenses, plus the possibility that Vladimir Putin's hold on Russian oil and gas supplies could drive them even higher. The environmental community is beyond nervous about the potential for more drilling in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska. Meanwhile, there are other protective measures that are still available to the president, including reforms of climate-intensive farming practices and nature-based solutions to climate change, which would involve putting large areas of land and water off limits to commercial activity. That, as they say, is not nothing, but it's nowhere near enough to meet Mr. Biden's pledge to the world. For that, we will need a huge infusion of federal money, which in turn means a concerned and engaged Congress. The threat posed by climate change to Americans' lives and livelihoods is urgent and severe, and it requires significantly more commitment from those who are elected to protect them.



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

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Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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

Education outlook of Pakistan

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

Hiring competent teachers is the first and only rule that will bring Pakistan's education system out of its quandary. Where private educational institutions in the metropolis hire qualified teachers, the public sector schools and colleges in rural areas present a dark reality. Either they are ghost schools or the teachers are not available at all. The students have no idea how to study. The educational system in the rural areas of all provinces needs to be streamlined at the earliest. We cannot waste students' time just because qualified faculty is not available. If the children and youth of today are unable to broaden their mental horizons then it will remain stagnant for years to come. It is the responsibility of the concerned authority to ensure all public schools, colleges, and universities operating in all provinces have the required resources.

These include infrastructure, capital, financial, capacity building, and human resources in the form of management, teachers, staff, and others. Pakistan has already lost decades of evolution and innovation because of a lack of good governance. It is high time we focus on promoting education in letter and spirit. The children of today need to be aware of the latest trends in society. They must be taught and made aware of the basic and advanced concepts about various subjects. Skills development, furthermore, must also be taught in the schools in rural areas. The same should be followed in private schools operating in the country's metropolis. The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training must present a five-year plan that strategizes how education should be promoted across Pakistan. If the single national curriculum is not implemented then alternatives must be suggested. We have already spent 75 years without constructive growth in education. We cannot afford to spend another decade with such a lack of direction.

Defense reform may be the key to US-Saudi relations

James M. Dorsey

Saudi Arabia has since fielded and sustained a military force in Yemen for the past seven years but has been unable to reverse the territorial and strategic advances of the Houthi rebels or prevent one of the world's worst humanitarian crises

Thank you to all who have demonstrated their appreciation for my column by becoming paid subscribers. This allows me to ensure that it continues to have maximum impact. Maintaining free distributions means that news website, blogs, and newsletters across the globe can republish it. I launched my column, The Turbulent World of Middle East Soccer, 12 years ago. To borrow a phrase from an early proprietor of The Observer, it offers readers, listeners, and viewers 'the scoop of interpretation.' If you are able and willing to support the column, please become a paid subscriber by clicking on Substack on the subscription button and choosing one of the subscription options. The Turbulent World of Middle East Soccer is a reader-supported publication. To receive new posts and support my work, consider becoming a free or paid subscriber. Saudi Arabia's little touted effort to overhaul its defense and national security architecture may be the United States' best bet to rebuild relations with the kingdom in ways that imbue values and complicate the establishment of similar defense ties with China or Russia. "Through the vehicle of defense re-

form, the Biden administration has an opportunity to engage the Saudis on critical national security matters while safeguarding US strategic interests and honoring American values," said political-military analyst and former Pentagon official Bilal Y. Saab. "It's a wise form of US assistance that isn't politically controversial, doesn't cost much US taxpayer money, and doesn't require a significant US presence on the ground. It is perhaps the only way to reset the currently tense relationship by gradually rebuilding trust between the two sides," Mr. Saab concluded in a detailed study amid debate about the future of US-Saudi relations and controversy over a visit to the kingdom by President Joe Biden earlier this month. Mr. Biden's visit may have helped persuade Saudi Arabia to divert to Europe oil shipments destined for Asia but did little to restore Middle Eastern confidence in the reliability of the United States as a global leader and security guarantor. If anything the visit served to rehabilitate Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's reputation, tarnished by the 2018 killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi with little in return in terms of, for example, human rights in the kingdom. Drawing a comparison to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030 economic reform and diversification plan, Mr. Saab argued that the development of implementation mechanisms that are refined as plans move for-

ward would determine the success of the defense and other change programmes. "What Riyadh lacks in Vision 2030 is not strategies or ideas—it has plenty of those—but processes that help get them from point A to point B. It's the same problem with the defense transformation plan," Mr. Saab argued. "The trick for well-intentioned American advisers involved in the Saudi defense transformation plan is to get the Saudis to stop treating it as an end in itself and get them to work on essential processes they desperately need to defend the kingdom today and adequately plan for the future," he added. The overhaul of the defense and national security architecture, the most radical military reform since the creation of Saudi Arabia in 1932, aims to enable the kingdom to defend itself, absorb and utilize US weapons systems, and make meaningful military and defense contributions to regional security," Mr. Saab said. If successful, the reforms would offer "invaluable lessons for US military assistance across the region." So far, "the kingdom has been the model of dysfunctional US-Arab military cooperation, representing everything that has gone wrong in US-Arab defense ties," Mr. Saab, who at the Pentagon had oversight responsibilities for US Central Command that operates in the Middle East, noted. "For far too long, Washington has sold the Saudis and other Arab partners expensive weapons they either didn't need or know how to use and sustain properly, never bothering to assist them in developing their armed forces so they could ably assume their own national-security duties," Mr. Saab asserted. Over the years, Saudi expenditure on the acquisition of arms, among the highest in the world, juxtaposed with the kingdom's inability to perform on the battlefield and defend itself, made it the butt of jokes and ridicule. The Saudi failure was one driver of past widespread empathy

with jihadists who, with 9/11 and until the defeat of the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, appeared able to achieve more with less. To be sure, Gulf states have progressed since the days when they were unable to field a military response to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion of Kuwait and needed the international community to come to their rescue. Saudi Arabia has since fielded and sustained a military force in Yemen for the past seven years but has been unable to reverse the territorial and strategic advances of the Houthi rebels or prevent one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. Mr. Bin Salman, who has gained complete control of all of Saudi Arabia's defense and security forces since coming to office, has been driven in his national security reforms by the lessons of the war in Yemen, Houthi and/or Iranian attacks on oil and other critical infrastructure in the kingdom as well as the United Arab Emirates, and the US failure to respond robustly to those incidents. "Instead of breaking or downgrading defense ties with the Americans, the Saudis wisely chose to more effectively partner with them and seek their advice on how to create a better-functioning defense establishment. Washington answered the call," Mr. Saab said. But Mr. Saab cautioned that while "this change in the US attitude toward defense relations with Saudi Arabia and Saudi self-defense is monumental, necessary, and overdue," it was only one part of the equation. "The Saudis still have to execute, and given the broad scope of their defense reforms, the journey will be long and arduous," he said. Mr. Bin Salman set the tone for the reforms by noting, "when I enter a base in Saudi Arabia, I find the ground is made of marble, walls are ornamented and finished with high quality. When I enter a base in America, I see no ceiling; the ground is neither furnished with carpets nor made of marble, but only concrete and practical."

The state of Saudi defense was abysmal before the launch of the reforms in 2017. "Saudi Arabia had no ability to formulate a coherent national-defense strategy nor any effective operational and tactical guidance for its armed forces. Vision existed only in the minds of one or two Western-educated royals close to the king, and there were no clear procedures to ably communicate strategic and policy direction to the military," Mr. Saab said. The Saudis lacked systematic defense analysis and strategic planning to prioritize missions and capabilities and identify requirements, which would have helped them avoid buying expensive equipment they did not need. Analysis and planning world have also enabled them to monitor, assess, evaluate, or improve the readiness levels of their troops. Similarly, Saudi ground and air forces could not communicate with one another, which made coordination all but impossible. Saudi air and missile defense may be where the kingdom has progressed the most. It has intercepted hundreds of Houthi missile and drone attacks, even if some have defeated Saudi defenses. "Many of Saudi Arabia's defense problems... still exist. What's encouraging, though, is that the Saudis, under MBS's (Mohammed bin Salman's) leadership, now recognize these deficiencies and seem, for the first time, determined to address them in partnership with the United States and to a degree with the United Kingdom," Mr. Saab said. Atmospherics and public posturing may be one thing, the nitty gritty of US-Saudi cooperation another. In the ultimate analysis, cutting through the noise to focus on what is happening in the real world may be the best measure of the future of US-Saudi relations. And that may be a more optimistic picture than meets the eye.

Is the Unipolar World over?

Elman Valiyev

It is absurd for the political arena to return to its former state. Russia will try to strengthen its surroundings further. Either by beauty or by force. I have no doubts that the Eurasian Union will try to establish a new union along with the CSTO. We can call this new union an analogue of the USSR. For Russia, Crimea would not be relinquished, and Odessa has the same approach

Since 1991, the world continued as a bipolar system (between the Soviet Union and the United States). The Cold War, which lasted 46 years, was a world war. With the collapse of the Soviets, America

is in power for now, but it won't be able to keep it stable forever. There is no stability within NATO. There are many forces with conflicting interests. If America used to help protect Greece from communism, now

was able to take control of the Pole, but it could not keep it. The world has already transitioned to multipolarity. China and Turkey occupy an important place in this pole. States will eventually go to war again for unipolarity. Russia has a strong coalition against it in this war. Russia's possession of nuclear weapons will not make it hegemon again. After all, this weapon is not only in the hands of Russia! America sees this state as an obstacle to Turkish power. Britain's status as an island nation both benefits and harms it. It is very advantageous in terms of defense. The fact that Hitler was defeated here is a proof of this. In the multipolar world system, I can say that Israel is in the first place. What makes Israel so powerful is its MOS-SAD. Iran also plays an important role in this system. One of the main reasons for Iran's survival is its strategic position, energy resources and interests. If Iran is still standing despite so many sanctions, it cannot be underestimated. One of Europe's big problems is energy. It has been dependent on Russia in this field for years. Europe is very wary of Russia because of the energy problem, and even turns a blind eye to its many illegal activities. Since he did not turn a blind eye this time, he must have found new alternatives or believed in America's promises. Only the Middle East can afford Europe's alternative to Russian energy. It is absurd for the political arena to return to its former state. Russia will try to strengthen its surround-

ings further. Either by beauty or by force. I have no doubts that the Eurasian Union will try to establish a new union along with the CSTO. We can call this new union an analogue of the USSR. For Russia, Crimea would not be relinquished, and Odessa has the same approach. Moldova is worried. Although the strategic position of Moldova is not very important on the border with Ukraine, it is important for the Transnistrian region! Finland and Sweden will apply for NATO membership. Some of the Central Asian countries will not celebrate May 9 at all. Russia intends to establish an alliance with any party that does not reject it. China, Belarus, Iran, Afghanistan (Taliban regime), Armenia, Serbia, some Central Asian states, some Middle Eastern states (especially the Assad regime) will stand by Russia in the new war. Israel is clearly acting in favor of Ukraine. The second cold war has already begun. However, this time's ideology focuses on the energy struggle as well as the struggle. Small states are unlikely to maintain their

sovereignty in the new power struggle. The West is very strong in this struggle. They will do everything in their power to turn Russia and China into a completely weak figure. After Russia, it will be China's turn. China has also begun to throw away its levers. China is not satisfied only with mastering the North China Sea, it also establishes regular relations with Eurasia, Central Asia, Africa, and even recently with the North Caucasus. China is no longer content with economic policy, but is also expanding in the military field. Serbia has acquired China's HQ-22 long-range air defense system. With that, Serbia became the first European country to use weapons sold by China. America cannot turn a blind eye to this. He must have prepared a plan for China. The Covid-19 plan has been deciphered. Taiwan card can be a good tool for America but it might not be useful after the Russian invasion in Ukraine because America could protect Ukraine from the Russian aggression.

Briefs

Army soldier martyred

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Fire exchange took place between troops and terrorist, in general area Draban, Dera Ismail Khan District, on Sunday, according to ISPR. Own troops effectively engaged the terrorist's location. However, during intense exchange of fire Lance Naik Mujeeb Ur Rehman (age 31 yrs, resident of Lakki Marwat) having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat. Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area. A day earlier, security forces killed three and apprehended four terrorists during two intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in North Waziristan district, according to a statement issued by the military's media wing. The Inter-Services Public Relations statement said a high-value terrorist commander, along with three other militants, was captured in an injured condition in the first operation. It added that three terrorists were killed in a second operation.

2 Palestinians killed in Israeli West Bank raid

AGENCIES

JERUSALEM: Two Palestinians were killed overnight during an Israeli army raid in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus, the Palestinian health ministry said early Sunday. The ministry said Muhammad Azizi, 25, was killed by a bullet to the chest while Abdul Rahman Jamal Suleiman Sobh, 28, was shot in the head.

Sindh gov't announces public holiday on Monday

DNA

KARACHI: In view of the heavy rains in Karachi and its aftermath in the form of urban flooding, the Sindh Government has decided to announce a public holiday on Monday, July 25. Taking to Twitter, Sindh government spokesperson Mur-taza Wahab wrote that aside from Karachi, there will be a public holiday in Hyderabad too because of the rains. "Due to heavy rainfall which is expected to continue even tomorrow, Sindh Government has decided to declare Monday, the 25th of July as a public holiday in Karachi and Hyderabad Divisions," tweeted Wahab. The spokesperson said that a notification regarding the public holiday will be issued shortly. Earlier, the provincial government spokesperson, who is also the KMC administrator, had said that the government is aware of the situation that has emerged after the rains that hit the province and added that Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah will take a decision after holding consultations on the situation.

Indonesian cultural exhibition concludes at a positive note

Ambassador Adam Tugio terms the event a great success; a large number of visitors thronged to Lok Virsa to witness the exhibition

STAFF REPORT/DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio has stressed the need to promote and strengthen existing cultural relations between the two brotherly countries. He said his government was considering inviting Pakistani artists from various walks of life including the media people in order to further strengthen people-to-people relations. Ambassador Tugio made these remarks while speaking to media people at the concluding ceremony, which brought the five-day cultural exhibition to an end. A large number of people thronged to the exhibition to quench their cultural thirst. The exhibition titled "A night at Lok Virsa Museum: The confluence of civilization between Pakistan and Indonesia" was inaugurated by the Indonesian Ambassador Adam Mulawarman Tugio amid presence of diplomats and art and history lovers, on July 20, 2022. The ajrak and batik booths, where shawl



makers from both countries described the tough grind of making the ajrak, re-

mained a centre of attraction among the visitors. A miniature model of Borobudur, the largest Buddhist temple in the world, built by a Pakistani craftsman also pulled the crowd from twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. The show also featured daily live musical performance from renowned musicians who kept mesmerizing the audience by playing world famous tunes with indigenous Pakistani instruments including Tabla, Rabab and Bansuri. A large number of citizens flocked to the exhibition featuring a collection of photographs and videos shedding light on inter-regional connectivity and cross-cultural influence on both countries.

Maheen Mirza, a student from National Defense University, said she was quite amazed to find many cultural similarities with the Pakistani art pieces and cultural depictions. "I was unaware of the similarities between culture, history and religion between the two countries before visiting the exhibition," she remarked. Irsa Bin Mairaj,

a foreign visitor who was keenly observing the temple model, said he was amazed to know that the miniature was made by a Pakistani craftsman. It reflected that Pakistani people had great potential in artwork that can scale up the design of such a difficult model with perfection, he added. Hooriya Shiekh, another visitor taking photos while draping the Indonesian Batik at the display booths Sindh Ajrak and Batik, termed both the crafts an excellent example of fusion of the two cultures.

She hoped that the exhibition besides introducing the similarities of cultures between the two countries would ultimately bring the people closer. An Indonesian woman who holds the stalls of Batik explained the difficult process of Batik making and said it was a technique of wax-resist dyeing applied to the whole cloth, originated from the island of Java which took at least 4-5 days to finish a single piece. "The technique shows similarity with famous Sindh Ajrak and signifies cultural affinity between Indonesia and Pakistan," she added. (With additional input from the APP)

Pak-Uzbek to increase bilateral trade: envoy

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Aybek Arif Usmanov on Sunday said the Pakistan and Uzbekistan intend to increase the bilateral trade volume upto US\$1 billion in the coming two years. The current bilateral trade between the two countries is \$180 million, which is expected to reach \$1 billion in the next two years by the mid-2024, Ambassador of Uzbekistan, Aybek Arif Usmanov told a state run news agency here.

In response to a question, he said that the implementation of Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between Pakistan and Uzbekistan is going on and bilateral trade will get development through it. The Ambassador said that negotiations will be held every year to review the PTA between the two countries to make it further more productive for both sides. He further said that the two countries used to have online discussions in this regard, in which the process of discussion on Territorialization continues. He said that at this time mutual trade barriers and customs issues were major issues in both countries and for resolving these issues both of the countries are working on a mechanism? In response to another question, he said that a transit trade agreement has been signed between Pakistan and Uzbekistan in this last year, which has a very important role in promoting mutual trade. Related to this, the transport and logistics sector is also important, in which the governments of the two countries are in negotiate for improvement. The Ambassador said that on March 28 of the same year, a tripartite transport and logistic conference was held in Uzbekistan in which the transport and communication ministers of Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan participated and many problems were resolved through mutual discussions.

Rights group seeks arrest of ex Sri Lankan president

Singapore really has a unique opportunity with this complaint, with its own law and with its own policy, to speak truth to power

WEB DESK

COLOMBO: A rights group documenting alleged abuses in Sri Lanka has filed a criminal complaint with Singapore's attorney general, seeking the arrest of former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa for his role in the South Asian nation's decades-long civil war. The International Truth and Justice Project (ITJP) said Rajapaksa committed grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions during the civil war in 2009 when he was country's defence chief, according to a copy of the complaint. The South Africa-based ITJP argued that based on universal jurisdiction the alleged abuses were subject to prosecution in Singapore, where he fled after months of unrest over his country's economic crisis. Rajapaksa submitted his resignation in Singapore, a day after fleeing on July 13. Anti-government protesters had stormed the offices and official residences of the president and the prime minister. "The criminal complaint that has been

filed is (based on) verifiable information on both the crimes that have been committed, but also on evidence really linking the individual in question, who is now in Singapore," Alexandra Lily Kather, one of the lawyers that drafted the complaint, told Reuters by telephone from Berlin. "Singapore really has a unique opportunity with this complaint, with its own law and with its own policy, to speak truth to power." Rajapaksa could not be reached for comment through Sri Lanka's High Commission in Singapore. He has previously strenuously denied allegations he was responsible for rights abuses during the war. In response to questions from Reuters, a spokesperson for the Attorney-General's Chambers said it had received a letter from the ITJP on July 23. "We are not able to comment further on this matter," the spokesperson said. The country's foreign ministry has said Rajapaksa entered the Southeast Asian city-state on a private visit and had not sought or been granted asylum.



LAHORE: Chairman Muttahida Ulema Board Punjab and Special Representative of Prime Minister of Pakistan for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi addressing a press conference at 90 sharara. - APP

Pakistan, China soon to deal in RMB/PKR

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China are closing in to deal in Renminbi (RMB) and Pakistani Rupees (PKR) as Pakistan faces financial challenges. Federal Minister for Board of Investment (BOI) Chaudhry Salik Hussain told Gwadar Pro that the talks between Pakistan and China were ongoing to finalize the matter. "We can soon be dealing in RMB along with the US dollars. Both options can be utilised (side by side)," he added. Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to hold meetings with the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) and Bank of China for use of RMB/PKR for bilateral trade between China and Pakistan. Prime Minister Shehbaz gave the instructions to SBP during a meeting with the Chinese businessmen held on May 30 this year. RMB is the official currency of China and one of the world's

reserve currencies. It is also the eighth most traded currency in the world. For the promotion of trade in the Chinese currency, a pilot project encompassing the introduction of 'RMB pricing' will be introduced in the first phase. In the second phase, RMB settlement and financing policies will be focused on. The exchange rate for the currencies of both countries will be set in the China Foreign Exchange Trading System (CFETS) and in authorized banks declared as cross-border currency markets in China and Pakistan, according to the official details. China and Pakistan share strong economic ties. Pakistan has largely imported machinery, transport equipment, iron, steel, yarn, and textiles from China. Meanwhile, China imported textile yarn, resource-based products, and fabrics from Pakistan. Chaudhry Salik Hussain said that Pakistan and China will soon find a way out on the use of RMB/PKR. He maintained that this would boost trade ties between the two friendly nations.

Iran nuclear deal is 'still possible', says Macron

NEWS DESK

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron told his Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raisi that reviving the landmark 2015 deal on Tehran's nuclear capabilities was "still possible" but must happen "as soon as possible." Macron also "expressed his disappointment" at the absence of progress after the suspension of talks in Vienna and underlined the need for Iran to return to the accord and implement its nuclear commitments, according to a French presidency statement. The French leader's telephone call with Raisi comes as negotiations in Vienna between Iran and world powers including the US have stalled since March. The 2015 deal aimed to prevent Iran from developing the capability to acquire an atomic bomb in exchange for lifting sanctions that have hobbled its economy. But former president Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the US from the

accord in 2018 and reimposed sanctions, leading Tehran to begin rolling back on its commitments. In June, Qatar hosted indirect talks between the US and Iran in a bid to restart the diplomatic efforts in Vienna, but discussions were interrupted after two days without a breakthrough. The Iranian presidency said Raisi "condemned the unconstructive positions and actions of the US and European countries" during his two-hour conversation with Macron on Saturday. Last week, an Iranian official said Tehran had the technical capacity to make a nuclear bomb but clarified that it had not decided to make any. The Iranian foreign ministry said there was "no change" in its nuclear policy, referring to an Islamic ruling that forbids "arms of mass destruction." Macron also "reiterated his deep concern" about four French citizens "arbitrarily held" in Iran during his call with Raisi.



They include Benjamin Briere, sentenced to more than eight years in jail for spying, and French-Iranian researcher Fariba Adelkhah, who received a five-year prison term in May 2020 for endangering national security. The two other detainees are trade unionists held since May 11 and accused of threatening Iranian security.

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