



# Islamabad POST

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**Early elections may help overcome uncertainty: President**

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## Apex Court trashes Dy Speaker ruling

# Pervez Elahi new CM Punjab: SC

Appointments made by Hamza Shahbaz 'null and void'; court also dissolves Hamza cabinet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT



ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Tuesday declared Deputy Speaker Dost Muhammad Mazari's ruling in the Punjab Chief Minister's election "illegal" and ruled that PTI's candidate Pervez Elahi will be the new CM of the province. "The deputy speaker's ruling is illegal. There is no legal justification for his ruling," said the Supreme Court in an 11-page short order. The three-member bench — comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijazul Ahsan, and Justice Muneeb Akhtar

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## People's mandate respected: PTI

ISLAMABAD: Following the verdict of the Supreme Court of Pakistan to instate PTI's candidate Pervez Elahi as the chief minister of Punjab, the party's senior vice chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that "today, the Constitution's rule has been accepted and the Pakistani people's mandate has been respected". "On July 17, the people of Pakistan accepted Imran Khan's narrative wholeheartedly and we reject this imported government," the ex-foreign minister said in a press conference. A three-member bench of the Supreme Court today declared Deputy Speaker Dost Muhammad Mazari's ruling in the Punjab Chief Minister election "illegal" and ruled that Pervez Elahi will be the new CM of the province. Berating the deputy speaker's ruling, Qureshi said Mazari "trampled the Constitution and did not follow the principles", adding that he did not care about the law. He said that the judiciary tolerated the criticism with patience and fulfilled its responsibility. "The coalition government tried to employ delaying tactics to intimidate the judiciary," Qureshi said that the decision has proved that Pakistan's judiciary is independent. Former minister for planning and development Asad Umar said that Pakistan's politics has taken a new direction.

## Decision to lead to anarchy: PML-N

ISLAMABAD: In a press conference, Information Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb said it was "clear" a day earlier that this decision will be announced today. "This decision is tantamount to judicial coup [...] and this will lead to further anarchy and divide the nation. More than half of the people of Pakistan do not accept this," Aurangzeb said. The information minister said that the majority of political parties demanded a full court to hear the case as this bench "is considered a biased bench". Aurangzeb added that the petition filed for a full court to hear the case had already shown that it had "no confidence in the current bench" and today's decision shows that the decision to file the plea was right. In his tweet, Labour Minister Sindh and PPP leader Saeed Ghani said he was amazed that the top court instructed either the governor or the president to administer the oath to Elahi.

## 'Judicial coup': Maryam slams SC verdict

[Order] has made a mockery of Pakistan, says Nawaz Shairf

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The coalition government Tuesday strongly responded to the Supreme Court's verdict to place Pervez Elahi as Punjab's chief minister, removing Hamza Shahbaz from the province's top office. The Supreme Court declared Deputy Speaker Dost Muhammad Mazari's ruling in the Punjab Chief Minister's election "illegal" and ruled that PTI's candidate Pervez Elahi will be the new CM of the province. The three-member bench — comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijazul Ahsan, and Justice Muneeb Akhtar — also ordered Punjab Governor Baligh ur Rehman to administer the oath to Elahi at 11:30pm, adding that if he refuses to perform his duties, President Arif Alvi will administer the oath. "Judicial coup," PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz said in a tweet, who had hours before the verdict asked the government to take a firm stand on the matter. She also termed the decision "the murder



of justice." In his tweet, Labour Minister Sindh and PPP leader Saeed Ghani said he was amazed that the top court instructed either the governor or the president to administer the oath to Elahi. "If we say something, then they will hold us in contempt," Ghani said. PML-N supremo

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# EU agrees to cut Russian gas use

Brussels is urging member states to save gas and store it for winter

NEWS DESK

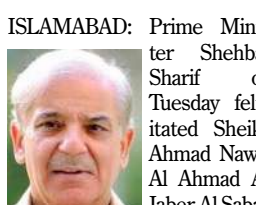
BRUSSELS: European Union countries approved a weakened emergency plan to curb their gas demand on Tuesday, after striking compromise deals to limit the cuts for some countries, as they brace for further Russian reductions in supply. Europe faces an increased gas squeeze from Wednesday, when Russia's Gazprom (GAZP.MM) has said it would cut flows through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to Germany to a fifth of capacity. With a dozen EU countries already facing lower Russian supplies, Brussels is urging member states to save gas and store it for winter for fear Russia will completely cut off flows in retaliation for Western sanctions over its war with Ukraine. Energy ministers approved a proposal for all EU

countries to voluntarily cut gas use by 15% from August to March. The cuts could be made binding in a supply emergency, provided a majority of EU countries agree to this. But countries agreed to exempt numerous countries and industries from the binding 15% cut, after some governments opposed the EU's original proposal to apply it to every country. German Economy Minister Robert Habeck said the agreement would show Russian President Vladimir Putin that Europe remained united in the face of Moscow's latest gas cuts. "You will not split us," Habeck said. Hungary was the only country that opposed the deal, two EU officials said. Russia's Gazprom has blamed its latest reduction on needing to halt the operation of a turbine - a reason dismissed by EU energy chief Kadri Simson, who called the move "politically motivated".

## Briefs

**PM greets newly appointed Kuwait's PM**

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday felicitated Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on his appointment as prime minister of Kuwait. In a tweet, PM Sharif said he looked forward to working with the new Kuwaiti prime minister. "I look forward to working closely with him to further strengthen Pakistan-Kuwait fraternal relations, rooted deep in shared values and commonality of interests," he said. Kuwait named the emir's son as prime minister on Sunday, replacing caretaker premier Sheikh Sabah al-Khalid who faced a combative parliament amid a feud between the government and elected assembly that has hindered fiscal reform.

**Khar to attend D-8 FMs Meeting**

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar will represent Pakistan at the 20th Developing-Eight (D-8) Council of Foreign Ministers meeting hosted by Bangladesh in hybrid format on 27 July 2022. The D-8 Group was established in Istanbul on 15 June 1997. In addition to Pakistan, its founding members include Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, and Türkiye.

# Imran slams Indian govt over Yasin Malik treatment

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairperson and former prime minister Imran Khan Tuesday called upon human rights organisations to take action against the Indian government for torturing Kashmiri freedom fighter, Yasin Malik. Taking to Twitter, the PTI leader condemned Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "fascist" government for forcing Malik to go on a hunger strike. "Strongly condemn fascist Modi government continuing torture of Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik in Tihar jail forcing him to go on hunger strike," he wrote. The former prime minister said that Malik's life was in extreme danger, urging the United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR). "His life is in extreme danger. I call on UNSG, UNHCHR and international human rights [organisations] to take action against India and save Yasin Malik's life," wrote Khan.

## Pakistan rejects Indian MEA's remarks on CPEC

ALI FURQAN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday categorically rejected as "baseless and misguided" the remarks made by the official spokesperson of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), calling it an effort to politicize the project. The Foreign Office spokesperson, in a statement, said CPEC was a transformational project and a harbinger of stability, mutual cooperation and shared

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# Early elections may help overcome uncertainty: Alvi

Dr. Arif Alvi says his relations with the sitting govt fine; clarifies that he received 74 summaries out of which he had signed 69 within no time. He did not sign four summaries that mainly pertained to the NAB laws and the Electronic Voting Machines

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi on Tuesday said that no party had clear mandate therefore in order to evolve a consensus the stakeholders should either sit and talk or go for early elections. That was the only way to end uncertainty and overcome economic issues. The President expressed these views during an interaction with the senior journalists, at a luncheon meeting. The President answered questions for at least two hours.

Another picture on Page 3

President Alvi further said by dissolving the National Assembly on the advice of the then Prime Minister, he in fact had acted as per the provisions of the Constitution. After getting such an advice he was bound to act. To a question about the 58 8 2 B, according to which the Presidents could dissolve the assemblies, the President said he personally was not in favour of investing so much powers in one person therefore it was good decision to do away with the 58 2 B. When the president was asked what he thinks of the suggestion that the



ISLAMABAD: President of Pakistan Dr Arif Alvi holding an interactive session with the senior journalist, at the President House, on Tuesday. - DNA

new army chief be appointed in advance due to the ongoing political crisis in the country, President Alvi said it may be done in the light of the prevalent norms and regulations. President Alvi said that it is suggested he "play his part" after meeting the army, naval or air chiefs, which he "cannot do" because this kind of initiative should be a two-way initiative. He added, it is possible for him to call a meeting of the services chiefs or meet them individually as being the supreme commander of the armed forces of Pakistan, nevertheless he thinks this kind of interaction may not help at this particular juncture. He said that a dialogue is possible only when all the stakeholders agree. "The President House can play its role only in this case." "The neutrals need to remain neutral always," the president said. Moving on to the current situation in the top courts, Alvi said that he regrets that such an atmosphere has been created. "I had appreciated the houbara bustard ruling by Justice Qazi Faez Isa," he said, adding: "I don't want to create controversy again and again." To yet another questions about Qazi Faez Isa reference, the President said he received the reference from the Prime Minister and simply forwarded it to the Supreme

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# CDA eases property transfer procedures

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: In order to facilitate the general public, Capital Development Authority has eased property transfer and other related procedures. In this regard, unnecessary requirements have been abolished so that property related matters could be disposed swiftly. In this regard, initially the printing of transfer letters of the sectors dealt in Estate Management-I has been centralized. According to which, from August 1, the Assistant Director Admitting One-Window Operation Directorate, after admitting the case, shall take print of the transfer letter, sign, stamp and embossing will hand it over to the transferee on the same day. In this regard, instructions have been issued to the Directorate of Information Technology to ensure all arrangements by 1st August. Initially, the process of issuing transfer letters of all sectors dealt with in Estate Management-I has been centralized, after which the process of issuing transfer letters of properties of sectors dealt with in Estate Affectees Section will be centralized.

Similarly, the condition of obtaining NOC from the Building Control Section for the process of transfer of properties to legal heirs under inheritance has also been replaced with an undertaking. In this regard, the legal heirs will now submit an undertaking to the Capital Development Authority that they will be bound to remove any illegal structure after completion of the legal heirship process. In this regard, the prescribed processing fee of the Building Control Section has to be deposited as per practice. Under this process, Estate Management-I, State Management-II and Estate Affectees Section on receipt of application /legal documentation for legal heirship will forward the case for obtaining reports from Building Control Directorate to ascertain the violation of Building Control Regulations. In case of violation of Building Control Regulation, the legal heirs shall submit an affidavit to the Capital Development Authority that they will remove the violation within 6 months, but the property transferred to the legal heirs could not be transferred further until the violation of Building Control Regu-

lations 2020 is not eliminated. It should be noted that if a property is falling under the category of non-conferring use, then the non-conferring use must be terminated before the property is transferred to the legal heirs. Similarly, the period for issuance of No Demand Certificate (NDC) issued by Estate Management-I and Estate Management-II has also been reduced to 4 days. In this regard, instructions have been issued to complete the process of issuing NDC within 4 days after submission of application. In this context, in case of any legal complication, the allottee or the applicant will be informed in time as to why the NDC is not being issued on their request. It should be noted that the present management of CDA has taken several steps for early disposal of property related issues of general public. CDA Facilitation Center has been activated and helpline 1819 has also been established to provide efficient facilities to the citizens using modern technology. These initiatives are aimed at quick resolution of citizens' problems and will also help in making CDA an effective service delivery institution.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance Miftah Ismail held a meeting with Foreign Minister of Pakistan Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. – DNA

## Uzbekistan's Ambassador calls on Acting Governor Balochistan

QUETTA: Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Aybek Arif Usmanov called on Acting Governor of Balochistan, Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali here on Tuesday. During the meeting, issues of mutual interest including historical and cultural relations and new economic and trade prospects of the two Islamic brother countries Pakistan and Uzbekistan were discussed. On this occasion, the Acting Governor of Balochistan Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali said there are bright possibilities of cooperation and increasing relations between the two brotherly countries in many fields which are in dire need of utilization. The Uzbek ambassador remained with the Acting Governor of Balochistan for some time, later they expressed their resolve to strengthen the relationship between Pakistan and Uzbekistan and exchanged gifts between the distinguished guests. – APP

## Mushaal urges world's bodies to save Yasin's life

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussein Mullick Peace and Culture Organisation Chairperson urged the world's bodies to force India to release Yasin Malik who was shifted to the medical investigation room due to his fast deteriorating health condition. Mushaal, who is wife of Yasin Malik, in a statement on Tuesday, said that JKLF Chief was on hunger strike in Tihar jail for the last six days against the fascist Indian government's biased attitude not to provide him opportunity of fair trial, said a press release here Tuesday. She stated that Yasin Malik was being given intravenous fluids and he was battling for life. Mushaal said that Yasin Malik was kept in solitary confinement in a high-risk cell in a false and fabricated cases to defuse the intensity of Kashmir freedom movement. The Chairperson said that her husband informed the court that he had written a letter to the government seeking his transfer to a Jammu jail so that he could physically appear in the case and contest the allegations against him but his request was not entertained. Therefore, she said that went on an indefinite hunger strike inside the jail in protest against the



callous attitude of the authorities. Mushaal feared that Yasin being the most powerful and effective voice of Kashmir liberation movement, hence the fascist government was using all barbaric and unlawful tactics to silence him. The Chairperson lamented the world silence over the criminal and unjust treatment meted out to JKLF Chief. She urged that the United Nations, European Union, human rights organizations and world powers should build pressure on the Hindutva regime to not only save Yasin Malik's life but to ensure his safe release.

## CM Bizenjo for aerial operation in Aurki, Lasbela

ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo on Tuesday took notice of flood situation in Aurki area of Lasbela district and issued instructions for carrying out aerial operation to rescue stranded people. The CM also directed the relevant departments to take special measures for delivering food and water to the affected people by boats until the aerial operation, said a news release. Meanwhile, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) deployed rescue teams in the flood hit area to conduct relief and rescue operations. So far, 50 people including men, women and children have been rescued from Karwan area of Lasbela district. Abdul Quddus Bizenjo expressed satisfaction over the rescue operation and appreciated PDMA for saving precious lives. The Chief Minister has also issued directives to use all-out resources to provide relief to the people stranded in flood-hit areas. – DNA

## Bar presidents seek action against PDM leadership

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The legal fraternity and various bar associations condemned the government for launching organized anti-judiciary campaign and boycotting judicial proceedings in the Supreme Court. The lawyers and bar associations protested all over the country against the PDM coalition parties on Tuesday. They termed the boycott of judicial proceedings as highly inappropriate and against the constitution and law, demanding contempt of court action against those who criticized the judiciary by using inappropriate words. High Court Bar Association Bahawalpur President A-R Aurangzeb and General Secretary Syed Faisal Abbas Bukhari strongly condemned the government.

President District Bar Association Rahim Yar Khan Chaudhry Basharat Ali Hundal strongly condemned the threatening behavior of PDM towards the honorable judiciary. Takhtbhai Bar Association President Nadeem Shah Advocate also strongly condemned PDM for boycotting judicial proceedings in the apex court. Lawyer leaders said in their statements that they pay tribute to the honorable judges for rejecting the illegal demand of PDM leadership. They condemned the insulting attitude of PDM's attitude towards Supreme Court's judges and the announcement of boycott of judicial proceedings was condemnable and sheer violation of law and constitution. Lawyer leaders were of the view that the same bench against declared the ruling

of Deputy Speaker National Assembly Qasim Suri as unconstitutional and illegal. They said that when the Chief Justice sent Imran Khan home, instead of threatening the judges, he resorted to the public and recorded his protest. The announcement of boycott of judicial proceedings would be remembered as a black spot in the history of Pakistan, they added. They stated that a convicted woman sitting in the Prime Minister's Secretariat and threatening the courts and institutions was highly condemnable, demanding that the SC should take notice of Maryam Nawaz's threats from the PM's Secretariat. The lawyer leaders said that it was the right of every citizen to criticize the decision of the court, but bullying and threats before the decision was not acceptable.

## KP CM expresses dismay over slow pace of work

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has expressed anguish over the slow pace of work on the up-gradation of Arbab Niaz Cricket Stadium and directed the quarters concerned to immediately suspend the concerned Executive Engineer and Sub Divisional Officer and ordered enquiry against them. He issued these directives while chairing a meeting held here on Tuesday to review progress on mega development projects in various sectors. Additional Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Amjid Ali Khan, administrative secretaries of concerned departments and other relevant officials attended the meeting. The chief minister also directed stern action against the concerned contractor adding that action may also be initiated against the relevant officials of the

sport department as per the report of monitoring and evaluation. The chief minister also expressed dismay over the delay in the implementation of Safe City Project Peshawar and directed to hold a special meeting of relevant higher authorities to this effect. Briefing the meeting about progress made so far on various developmental projects, it was informed that an administrative approval has been accorded for the acquisition of land for 30KM long Dir Motorway Project whereas Section-IV would be imposed on the proposed land after the alignment of the project is finalized. Similarly, work orders for Patrak - Thall - Kumrat Road Project would also be issued within the next one and half month. Briefing about the development projects in the health sector, it was informed that establishment of Timer-

gara Medical College had been completed adding that classes would also be commenced from the new academic year. Besides, under the project revamping of non-teaching DHQ Hospitals, procurement of equipment for the hospitals had been completed partially whereas outsourcing of various non-clinical services of these hospitals had also been completed. Similarly, various health-care facilities of merged areas have been outsourced which were now functional with emergency and OPD services. Under the project for the establishment of twenty degree colleges in the province, sites have been identified for 18 colleges. It was told that the PC-I for Timergara Water Supply Scheme had also been cleared from PDWP and submitted to the planning commission of Pakistan for final approval. – APP

## FESCO chief to hold E-court on Thursday

FAISALABAD: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) Engineer Bashir Ahmad will hold an E-court (Khuli Kutchehry) on facebook on Thursday, July 28, 2022. A spokesman said here on Tuesday that the open court would start at 10:30 a.m. and the FESCO chief would listen to electricity related complaints till 12:30 noon. The electricity consumers belonging to entire FESCO region including districts Faisalabad, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Chinot, Sargodha, Minwali, Khushab and Bhakkar could contact the FESCO chief through his facebook page [www.facebook.com/FESCOOFFICIAL/](http://www.facebook.com/FESCOOFFICIAL/) and he would issue on-the-spot orders for redressing the issues, he added. – APP

## Atif directs completion of Food Deptt's digitization

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Minister for Food, Science & Information Technology, Sports and Youth Affairs, Muhammad Atif Khan directed the authorities concerned for timely completion of the digitization of the Food Department to prevent corruption and ensure transparency in the department. He issued these directives while presiding over a meeting regarding various projects of the Food Department here on Tuesday. Besides, Secretary Food, Mushtaq Ahmad, Director Food Kashif Jilani and other authorities concerned also attended the meeting. The participants of the meeting were given detailed briefing regarding progress on the digitization project, supply of subsidized food and Insaaf Food Card scheme. Speaking on the occasion, the Provincial Minister for Food, Science & Information Technology and Sports & Youth Affairs, Atif Khan said that the supply of subsidized flour is continued to all districts. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Deddy Faisal Ahmad Salleh Charge'd Affair High Commission of Malaysia called on Federal Minister for Overseas Sajid Husain Turi. – DNA

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## Maya Ali enjoys pre-birthday celebration

ISLAMABAD: Gorgeous Pakistani film and television actress Maya Ali shared her surprise birthday celebrations with all smiles and fun. Though the actual birthday of the celebrity falls on 27th of July but due to the unavailability of the birthday girl at her special day, her family decided to surprise her with a sudden pre-birthday celebration. Delighted with immense happiness the star took it to social media while sharing her beautiful moments with all the fans as well. "I knew I won't be with them on my birthday so my family decided to give me a surprise and already made it special for me. Love you Noshah and Afnan to the moon and back," the actress stated via her official Instagram post. Expressing her gratitude for the family via post, 'Mann Mayal' star also uploaded some lovely clicks from the celebration party looking all dolled-up in an elegant attire holding up the birthday balloons along with a sweet cake. Soon after the post, friends and colleagues from the fraternity including Ahmed Ali Butt, Sidra Batool, Manzar Sehbai, Zara Noor Abbas were also quick to shower their blessings and wishes for the birthday girl. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Senior journalists in a group photo with the President Dr Arif Alvi during a media interaction at the President House on Tuesday. - DNA

## Ushna Shah, Affan gear up for SeePrime's 'Junction'

ISLAMABAD: Bollywood diva Ushna Shah and Pakistani heartthrob Affan Waheed are all set to dazzle audience with their upcoming short film 'Junction', presented by SeePrime's official YouTube channel, which will hit the screen on 29th of July. SeePrime, Pakistan's rapidly growing digital entertainment platform never fails to impress its viewers as it gives hits after hits and this time they present to us yet another short film titled 'Junction'. Penned by the lady with a golden pen Radain Shah and directed under the vital direction of Mohsin Talat. Taking to her Instagram, the Parizaad starlet amused fans with first official poster of short film along with the caption, "Taking you back in time with this short film". The actor and model further expressed her emotions regarding Junction, "I cried when I read this beautiful script and that's a first". "Partition in 1947 destroyed many homes, families and broke many limbs and lives," Ushna Shah stated, hinting that the storyline was based on partition. From the clips that have been shared by the duo, Junction seems to tell a love story that has been left unfulfilled by the war. On the work front, Shah has been riding high on success for her drama serial 'Habs' while Affan Waheed has been lauded for his spectacular performance in blockbuster serial 'Dil Awaiz'. - APP

## Ministry to hold seminar on corporate governance

ISLAMABAD: The finance ministry would organize a stakeholder seminar here on Wednesday to raise awareness and improve understanding of major reform initiatives of State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) taken by the Finance Division. According to press statement issued by the finance division, the seminar is also aimed to consult on major challenges to improve corporate governance and commercial performance, and share information and practical experiences on international best practices and lessons learned that could further inform the scope and design of the government's SOEs reform program. Federal ministers, country director Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other officials from ADB and the World Bank would participate and address the seminar scheduled on July 27. According to the press statement, Pakistan's economy needed comprehensive structural reforms for inclusive, smooth and sustainable growth and SOE reform was one of the key priority areas. - APP

# Residents face water shortage in G-13 sector

## Surra Dam to address water scarcity, irrigation issues

ISLAMABAD: The residents of G-13 sector were irked by water supply from the Federal Government Housing Authority (FGEHA) to the area, as they had to bear heavy expenses for getting private water tankers for their houses to fulfill the requirement. According to the residents, despite several complaints the concerned body was unable to address their issues and in particular the supply of sufficient water to the residents. "We have to bear heavy expenses upto Rs 4,000 to Rs 5,000 on getting private water tankers," they said. They said the water was supplied once a week and sometimes not at all and people were left on the mercy of the tanker mafia. They said that water scarcity has become a worrisome issue for the residents of sector G-13 of Islamabad where demand for supplying the water facility from external sources

was escalating due to a sharp increase in its population and minimal availability of tankers and storage tanks in the sub-sectors. The residents also highlighted that water storage tanks were not available for all sub-sectors and measures should be taken in this regard so that residents could have a sigh of relief. When contacted, an official of the civic agency said efforts were being made to address the concerns of the residents of sector G-13. "FGEHA had also launched a mobile application for timely redressal of grievances of complaints regarding sewerage, streetlights, garbage collection and illegal land grabbing at its housing projects in sectors G-13 and G14 of the federal capital. He said the Director General FGEHA was personally monitoring the complaints himself on FGEHA Resident Complaint Portal. "The residents living in the au-

thority's housing projects should download the app and start registering their complaints in a hassle free manner. He said because of the app, the residents won't have to stand in long queues to register their complaints about water, sewerage, sanitation or any other issue. Surra Dam to address water scarcity, irrigation issues The first of its kind rainwater harvesting project of Surra Dam will address the water scarcity and irrigation issues of Taunsa Tehsil of District Dera Ghazi Khan as the dam has the potential to store a large quantity of water. The Surra Dam would provide water to people of Taunsa in abundant quantity, besides ensuring development of agriculture sector. "The Surra dam project will prove to be a game-changer for the area," an official of the Punjab Government told APP. The Punjab government, he said, has de-

ecided to initiate Surra Dam project near Sanghar town of Dera Ghazi Khan district to store hill-torrents water in the district which would be used for agriculture and irrigation purposes. "The torrential floods and abrupt rain spells are major concerns in the area during monsoon. The dam will be constructed to store the hill-torrents' water in Dera Ghazi Khan," he added. The Punjab government has directed that the feasibility study of the Surra dam project should be completed at the earliest. The Punjab government would start the Surra dam as a pilot project to conserve rainwater that went down the drain during the rainy season. He added it was very important to utilize this water after storing it. The project would also generate jobs for the local people to earn their livelihood. He said the dam construction would also promote tourism in the area. - APP

## BISP sets target to enroll 3 million during FY 2022-23

ISLAMABAD: Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) has so far enrolled eight million children and disbursed Rs. 40 billion among them under the Benazir Taleemi Wazaif Program which is a Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) initiative. While the future target is to enroll three million additional children by financial year 2022-23 through the allocation of Rs. 35 billion, an official source revealed. Benazir Taleemi Wazaif, initiated in 2012, has been focusing on school enrollment and reducing the dropout rate of children of BISP beneficiaries through cash incentives. The objec-

tive behind this program was creating awareness amongst beneficiary families on importance of education, increasing enrollment rates and reducing the dropout rate by ensuring the retention. The program enrolls the children of Benazir Kafalat beneficiary family, aged between 04-22 years, from Primary to Grade 12 level. The program includes quarterly disbursement of Rs. 1500 for primary, Rs. 2500 for secondary and Rs. 3500 for higher secondary to the boy child while the quarterly disbursement of Rs. 2000 for primary, Rs. 3000 for secondary and Rs. 4000 for higher

secondary to the girl child. The program is providing higher stipend for girl child, with a one-time graduation bonus of Rs. 3000 on completion of primary education. The cash transfer is linked with 70 percent school attendance. The biometric based payment mechanism is in place while the stipend is paid through the mother of enrolled children. The program is being executed through end-to-end digital enrollment and monitoring mechanism to minimize leakage to ensure transparency in implementation. - APP

## PTI criticizes govt for increasing power tariff

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Monday blasted the incumbent government for further burdening the inflation-ridden masses by massive upsurge in power tariff. PTI leaders said that the miseries of the people compounded manifolds due to the cabal of crooks' callous attitude towards them, as they were more inclined and interested to protect and safeguard their power instead of easing their woes. PTI Secretary General Punjab Hammad Azhar lashed out at the corrupt government for further increasing the price of electricity. He said that the government has increased the power tariff by Rs 3.50 per unit, adding that the power plants was running on the imported fuel, which was the sole reason the current increase in power tariff. Hammad said that these power plants were making the most expensive electricity, as the whole nation was paying the price for this mistake of the PML-N.

# 'Location of Pak beneficial for Bangladesh'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Bangladesh High Commissioner to Pakistan Ruhul Alam Siddique called on Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh President of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), & Mirza Abdul Rehman, Chairman Coordination Capital office in FPCCI capital office, Islamabad. Ruhul Alam Siddique said that Bangladesh has great importance to its relationship with Pakistan and there are deep historic bond between the two countries. The high commissioner said that trade opportunities between two countries can be explored in the construction material, light engineering, surgical goods, sports goods, food processing, denim cotton, yarn, tourism, and pharmaceutical sectors. He said that this is his first visit to any chamber in Pakistan. He said the current bilateral trade volume has been increased upto \$900 million and hope that it will continue to rise at a faster pace. He said, hoping that the rising trend continues in the days to come, which would be very encouraging for the business communities of both countries. High Commissioner mentioned that the Bangladesh wishes to cooperate with Pakistan in the fields of food processing, dairy, and textile, citing that He said that Pakistan is very important to Bangladesh in terms of trade and investment and both the countries must facilitate each other, instead of becoming competitors. There is enormous trade

potential between the two countries and we must exchange our skills and capabilities for the benefit of each other. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President of FPCCI appreciated the efforts of Bangladesh's government for improving trade and investment with Pakistan. He suggested some other measures to facilitate the rapid promotion of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Bangladesh. These include formulation and effective implementation of a joint trade promotion strategy for the rapid increase in bilateral trade for more joint ventures in textile production and services. President, FPCCI further said that both

countries should make it easier to boost export trade. This will enhance the trade of jute, tea and tobacco in Bangladesh, Pakistan will also increase the export of yarn, sugar, etc to Bangladesh. However it will make the current trade balance more favourable for Bangladesh, policy support from Pakistan is required. He further said that the Pakistan wants to move forward by developing trade relations with Bangladesh. There is vast opportunity available to enhance the trade and economic relations between the two countries. Mirza Abdul Rehman Chairman Coordina-

tion FPCCI said that investment cooperation is another area in which both countries should collaborate for mutual benefits. Information technology, pharmaceutical, telecommunication, construction, automobile parts, food processing, fisheries, agriculture, hotel industry, and real estate offering tremendous opportunities and potential for cooperation. He said that organizing joint cultural shows and frequent exchange of business delegations can bring people of both countries closer to each other that would eventually enhance the mutual cooperation between Pakistan and Bangladesh.



### National Days and Armed Forces Days

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



**Hotels & Restaurants**  
Serena Hotel.....111 133 133  
Marriott.....051-2826121  
Monal.....0334-5421812



**Airlines**  
Turkish Airlines.....8494949



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

**Islamabad Metropolitan**  
Corporation.....9209224  
Potohar Town.....9209224  
Rawal Town.....5773343

**Water Tank**  
Islamabad.....0321-5744480



## Precautions necessary

Covid-19 cases have shown a slight decrease after witnessing a surge over the past couple of weeks. Pakistan has registered a sharp drop in its daily coronavirus infections as the country reported 371 cases and only one death during the last 24 hours, showed the statistics released by the National Institute of Health Pakistan on Tuesday morning. As per the NIH data, the death toll in the country now moved up to 30,470 after adding the one fatality while the number of total infections now stood at 1,551,251 after adding the fresh 371 cases. During the last 24 hours (Monday), 13,439 tests were conducted throughout Pakistan whereas the positivity ratio stood at 2.76 percent. The number of patients in critical care was recorded at 184. The maximum positivity ratio during the last 24 hours was recorded in Peshawar which was at 9.02 percent, followed by Lahore at 7.05 percent. During the last 24 hours (Monday), another 308 patients have recovered from the Covid-19 in Pakistan and the number of total recoveries now stood at 1,513,149.

As of Tuesday, the total count of active cases in the country was recorded at 7,632. As many as 590,008 coronavirus cases have so far been confirmed in Sindh, 511,958 in Punjab, 220,981 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 137,202 in Islamabad, 35,740 in Balochistan, 43,534 in Azad Kashmir and 11,828 in Gilgit-Baltistan. As many as 13,587 individuals have lost their lives to the pandemic in Punjab so far, 8,165 in Sindh, 6,329 in KP, 1,027 in Islamabad, 793 in Azad Kashmir, 378 in Balochistan and 191 in Gilgit Baltistan. It will be foolish for the people to fully ignore simple daily SOPs, as the threat of another wave looms over Pakistan. Without the government's restrictions, the citizens must keep following the simple SOPs like social distance, wearing of masks and washing the hands.

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## Pelosi's proposed visit risks heralding a storm

It seems that a bell has rung in Washington and the US administration at least recognizes the sensitivity of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's proposed visit to Taiwan. US President Joe Biden said on Wednesday that US military officials believe it is "not a good idea" for Pelosi to visit the island at the moment. Although Biden did not explicitly say that Pelosi will not go, his remarks give her a face-saving justification for her to drop her wild plan. A visit to Taiwan by Pelosi would undoubtedly trigger a strong response from Beijing, which said on Tuesday that it would respond with "forceful measures" should Pelosi visit the island. Repeated US provocations, such as sending US warships to sail through the Taiwan Straits, continuing arms sales to Taiwan, and visits to Taipei by high-ranking US officials and prominent lawmakers, have already made the situation increasingly complicated and combustible. Under such circumstances, as Beijing has made clear, a visit by Pelosi to Taiwan would be a highly provocative, even confrontational, move.

The clouds that are gathering after the announcement of Pelosi's proposed visit would herald a storm if her visit goes ahead. Speculation had been building that the two leaders would talk directly, as there are clearly compelling issues, on both the bilateral and international fronts, that the two leaders need to discuss. Whether Biden's implicit "no-go" message to Pelosi stems from his administration's better understanding of the sensitivity of the Taiwan question or is a temporary expediency in light of the expected telephone talk between the two leaders, it is certainly wise counsel that Pelosi should heed. There appears to be a broad bipartisan consensus building in Washington that the US must support the "independence" of Taiwan with military force and not just words. This has nothing to do with the status of the island. Instead it is a symptom of their hawkish desire to use force to reassert the US' own status in the region. Such a mindset is not conducive to the US acting rationally. There are no doubt some, ensconced in the insulating comforts of material well-being and their notions of what it means to be American, who think a Ukraine-style scenario involving Taiwan, or the threat of such a scenario, would be just the ticket to put Beijing in its place. They need to get a grip on reality. Beijing will never back off from its stance over Taiwan as it is a question of sovereignty and territorial integrity, on which it has no room for compromise.

## Leadership and management

Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi

Management produces order and consistency through planning & budgeting, establishing agendas, setting timelines and allocating resources; while leadership produces change and movement through establishing direction, creating vision, clarifying big picture and setting strategies

The debate about the dominance of leaders and managers, as a concept, over each other continues in the literature and popular discussions alike. Management gurus refer to the established four functions of management comprising planning, organizing, leading and controlling to establish management as a comprehensive concept to provide all what is required to ensure success for any organization from a family unit to the affairs of a national government or global organizations. Leadership experts emphasize the importance of charisma, vision, eloquence and empathy demonstrated by several successful leaders in human history. I think this debate will remain to exist on expert and general forums because of several technicalities surrounding these concepts which still need deeper research and clarifications.

However, one of my recent training sessions on June 23, 2022 at WAPDA Hospital Complex Lahore titled "leadership and management in healthcare" was an interesting experience to differentiate the role of both leaders and managers in the sector to provide effective and efficient healthcare services to the community. Interestingly participants had to perform dual roles as managers and leaders both due to their unique positions in their institutions as specialist doctors and heads of their respective departments/hospitals. This kind of hybrid organizational structure always remains demanding when an individual has to exhibit his lead-

ership and managerial activities both at functional and departmental front. This requires expertise in managerial skills and proficiency in the relevant specialisation to influence both line and staff activities. In the case of healthcare, performing as a specialist demands mastery as a surgeon, as a cardiologist, as a physician, as a gynaecologist and so on while as a head of the department or hospital the same individual needs know-how in human resource management & development, customer (patients and their relatives) relationship management, stakeholders' management, communications skills, financial management, even marketing skills in case of private sector and so on. This makes the job of healthcare professionals quite challenging and demanding. It is because of this reason that a separate discipline of healthcare/hospital management has evolved around the globe to develop specialised human resource for the sector. In the case of subject hospital, like many other public sector hospitals in Pakistan, the management structure is still hybrid. Despite extensive development of public health programs in terms of curriculum there remains a gap to learn about human resource management and development, financial management, accounting know-how, facilities management, dynamics of organizational behaviour, intricacies of planning & organizing, art of controlling and art & science of leadership. Therefore an interesting pattern has been observed that several medical graduates choose the management track through obtaining MBA degrees and try to bridge the gap while bringing explicit management and leadership perspectives to the healthcare sector.

In every organization it is about personal and position power which enables an individual to drive organizational members to the given objective. Position power is obvious which comes from the position one holds, it is an ability to reward or coerce. Personal power is based on the unique personal qualities that a person brings to the leadership/ management situation including expert power, a capacity to influence others because of one's knowledge and skills and referent power, a capacity to influence others because they admire the leader/ manager and want to identify positively with the leader/ manager. Charisma is the influence that is generated by a leader's style and persona which means the public image of leader's personality and the character that is presented to or perceived by others. Discipline is the product of management which

bring predictability, integration, efficiency and harmony in organizational operations. It means there is a significant difference between leaders and managers. To manage means to accomplish activities and master routines, whereas to lead means to influence others and create vision for change. Managers are people who do things right and leaders are people who do the right thing. Leadership is a multidirectional influence relationship and management is a unidirectional authority relationship. Leadership is concerned with the process of developing mutual purposes; management is directed toward coordinating activities in order to get a job done. Leaders and followers work together to create real change, whereas managers and subordinates join forces to achieve given objectives.

There is interesting overlap of leadership and management. When managers are involved in influencing a group to meet its goals, they are involved in leadership. When leaders are involved in planning, organizing, staffing, and controlling, they are involved in management. Both processes involve influencing a group of individuals toward goal attainment. It is important to note that the influence which inculcates integrity, courage, change, stewardship and care for others will be considered leadership. There are several instances of influence in human history including our recent times where people influenced masses to create unrest, chaos and instability in the society. Those who are advocates of anarchy, strife and volatility in the society are called pseudo-leaders. Therefore it is important to distinguish real leadership from the dark side of the leadership both in terms of behaviour and outcomes.

Management produces order and consistency through planning & budgeting, establishing agendas, setting timelines and allocating resources; while leadership produces change and movement through establishing direction, creating vision, clarifying big picture and setting strategies. Managers organize resources, ensure appropriate placements of people and establish rules and procedures; whereas leaders align people, communicate goals, seek commitments and build teams & coalitions. Controlling and problem solving, extending incentives to motivate people, generating creative solutions and taking corrective actions to avoid deficiencies are the domain of a manager; motivating, inspiring, energizing, empowering and satisfying unmet needs are in the sphere of a leader.

It was our consensus at the end of the training session that a society like Pakistan needs both the outstanding managers and exceptional leaders to solve pressing problems at institutional levels without any exception from politics to public health and education to the economy. The writer is Associate Professor Management Sciences, COMSATS University (CU) Lahore Campus drabdussattar@cuilahore.edu.pk

## Biden should count on diplomacy to save his presidency

Dalia Al-Aqidi

"Seventy-eight percent of Democrats are prepared to see higher energy costs, compared to 44 percent of Republicans, and 72 percent of Democrats are prepared to accept higher inflation, compared to only 39 percent of Republicans," the poll stated

It has been nearly six months since Russia invaded Ukraine. And doubts are now beginning to surface about America's ability to continue providing military, financial and diplomatic support to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and his country. Ukraine's First Lady Olena Zelenska traveled to Washington last week, at the invitation of US First Lady Jill Biden, for a series of high-level meetings to mobilize military support for her homeland and to convey the suffering of her people directly to an American audience. The highlight of her visit was her emotional 15-minute address to bipartisan lawmakers at the US Capitol on July 20. Zelenska urged them to provide the Ukrainian government with more weapons to repel Russia's full-scale invasion, something she said she would "never want to ask." "I am asking for weapons," she said. "Weapons that will not be used to wage war on somebody else's land, but to protect one's home and the right to wake up alive in that home." Earlier in the day, US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin confirmed that the next tranche of weapons would include more high mobility artillery rocket system launchers. US Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Brown said last week that America and its allies are considering providing Ukraine with non-Russian fighter jets, according to USA Today. Washington has provided about \$8 billion in military aid alone since the war began in late February, including about \$2.2 billion in the past month.

Given that inflation is at a four-decade high, and that energy and food bills are rapidly increasing globally, many commentators feel that the American people may soon begin to question the wisdom of the government placing such a heavy obligation on taxpayers for a war in which America is not directly involved. Already, the latest developments in Ukraine no longer headline US news bulletins and photos of Zelensky and the Ukrainian flag are disappearing from Americans' social media accounts. The American public is increasingly focused on domestic issues, including crime; the upcoming midterm elections; new abortion legislation; the Jan. 6 congressional hearing; and a new wave of COVID-19 infections. At the same time, it seems that high-profile politicians from both parties want to avoid discussing this issue for fear of a backlash that could make it more difficult for their party to connect with its base. The gap is widening between Democratic and Republican voters regarding the extent to which they are willing to accept the consequences of America's role in Ukraine, according to a recent opinion poll published by the University of Maryland.

"Seventy-eight percent of Democrats are prepared to see higher energy costs, compared to 44 percent of Republicans, and 72 percent of Democrats are prepared to accept higher inflation, compared to only 39 percent of Republicans," the poll stated. It added that Democrats and Republicans see Ukraine as faring better than Russia in the conflict so far. The White House faces a dilemma. President Joe Biden's approval rating is dropping, and he needs to convince his party and its base that his administration has made the right decisions. There is no doubt that Washington needs to open a diplomatic channel with Moscow to create a middle ground and find a reasonable settlement for all parties involved. Otherwise, there will be no option for the White House other than to keep providing aid to Ukraine until it is able to defeat the Russian invasion, regardless of how long that might take. That would be a costly and challenging path that could cost Biden his presidency in 2024.

Courtesy: Arab News

## How climate crisis is driving heatwaves, wildfires

Ashok Swain

High temperature also makes the drought situation worse for a country. Droughts have a severe impact on agriculture. Besides reduced agricultural output, droughts lead to a higher number of plant diseases and, in some cases, total crop failure. That can ultimately lead to famine. Extreme temperature threatens crops as well as cattle. This year's heatwave in India has reportedly led to the decline of crop yields to nearly 10-35% in parts of the country

This year, heatwaves have broken their earlier record in many continents. Last week, an extreme heatwave created havoc in most of the Western parts of Europe. Several countries declared a state of emergency; intense heat caused deadly wildfires, melted roads, and runways, and triggered widespread power outages. Nearly 800 heat-related deaths have taken place in Spain and Portugal. Several people drowned in the UK by jumping into water bodies to escape the summer heat. The heatwave continues to engulf more than half of China, and all but two of its provinces have issued high-temperature warnings. This year, the heatwave started much earlier

than usual, even before the Summer Solstice. By mid-June, one-third of the US was under some form of heat advisory. South Asia began to heat up in March and April unusually. The unprecedented heatwaves have become a common feature in different parts of the world in recent years.

It is no more a rare event. There is enough evidence to conclude that heatwaves are becoming longer, deadlier, and more frequent due to global climate change. Europe is suffering mainly due to Arctic warming.

If climate change is not controlled, heatwaves will soon become ordinary summer days. The IPCC has already warned that even with 1.5 degrees C of global warming, the planet is bound to experience more heatwaves, longer summer, and shorter winter days. If global warming reaches 2 degrees C, the extreme heat condition will have far-reaching effects on food security and human health. The WHO counts that more than 166,000 died worldwide from heatwaves between 1998 and 2017. Extreme heat has already become one of the biggest weather-related killers in the US. Many people, particularly the elderly and homeless face medical emergencies due to extreme heat. High humidity and increased night-time temperature make the impact of heatwaves on human health much worse. Hot and humid conditions deteriorate air quality and complicate heart-related diseases and respiratory illnesses.

High temperature also makes the drought situation worse for a country. Droughts have a severe impact on agriculture. Besides reduced agricultural output, droughts lead to a higher number of plant diseases and, in some cases, total crop failure. That can ultimately lead to famine. Extreme temperature threatens crops as well as cattle. This year's heatwave in India has reportedly led to the decline of crop yields to nearly 10-35% in parts of the country. Farm workers and farm animals are succumbing to extreme heat in larger numbers worldwide. In June this year, at least 2,000 cows died in Kansas due to a spike in temperature. Besides exacerbating drought conditions, extreme heat can result in drying out the ground and plants, and with

it, the greater chances of causing forest fires. Once the fire starts, warm and dry weather makes it easier for the fire to spread and difficult to contain. In the last two decades, 15 forest fires in the US have resulted in at least \$1 billion loss each. Not only trees and wildlife, but the high cost due to massive forest fires also includes homes, infrastructure, and the cost of firefighting.

Heatwaves are also causing massive infrastructure damage, particularly in northern Europe, where roads, railways, buildings, and factories are not built to withstand soaring temperatures. In a country like the UK, at least 20 per cent of its infrastructure is highly vulnerable to overheating. Power generation and supply systems and water distribution networks in this part of the world are facing severe strain under extreme heat. In several countries, critical infrastructures have started failing during heatwave conditions. Soaring temperature no doubt affects the health and well-being of people. Moreover, its cascading effects on food production, energy generation, and infrastructural capacity lead to enormous economic loss. In European Environment Agency's estimation, the continent's countries have incurred a loss of about \$71 billion between 1980 and 2000 due to hot weather.

As climate change has made the heatwave conditions more severe, the World Economic Forum calculates that by 2030, the heatwaves will result in the loss of 80 million full-time jobs worldwide, and the countries will bear a total cost of \$2.4 trillion. As global warming continues, intense heatwaves have become more common. There is no doubt that extreme heat events impact people and the economy across the globe. Still, developing countries are more vulnerable due to widespread poverty and lack of resources and technologies. They are far from adapting to this new situation emerging out of climate change. A recent study claims that climate change has made the occurrence of heatwaves 30 times more likely in a vulnerable region like South Asia. In these countries, poor people suffer more in extreme heat conditions as they have no option but to work outside to survive. Heatwaves are becoming more frequent and intense in a warming climate. It will be suicidal for countries to not seriously commit themselves to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees C. Even if they become successful in achieving that target, there is also the need for the rich and industrialised countries to support the developing world with resources and technologies that individuals, communities, and governments can use to manage the already developing extreme heat conditions.

Courtesy: Gulf News

Briefs

Pervez Elahi...

FROM PAGE 01

also ordered Punjab Governor Baligh ur Rehman to administer the oath to Elahi at 11:30pm...

However, after hearing arguments from all sides for nearly eight hours on Monday, the SC decided not to form a full court bench...

Time for Afghanistan to change into Asia crossroad



NEWS DESK

TASHKENT: Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttuqi on Tuesday said their government had firm determination to transform Afghanistan into the center of peace...

have made a commitment with the international community in the Doha Agreement that no group or individual will be allowed to use the soil of Afghanistan against another country.

Tashkent wants Afghan reserves unfrozen

NEWS DESK

TASHKENT: The foreign minister of Uzbekistan on Tuesday called for the release of Afghanistan's frozen foreign reserves.



Infrastructure projects, including the construction of a railroad linking Termez, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kabul and Peshawar and a Surkhan-Puli-Khumri power line, was important, he believed.

assure objective inclusivity". Muttuqi said their supreme leader laid the foundation for a culture of tolerance and acceptance

Early elections...

FROM PAGE 01

Judicial Council for further investigation. "As a President I do not have authority of means to investigate such matters by myself, he added.

Pakistan rejects...

FROM PAGE 01

development for the region. "As a flagship of the Belt and Road Initiative and hallmark of the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, CPEC provides a vehicle for the people of the region to break from zero-sum approaches," he remarked.

Judicial...

FROM PAGE 01

and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif took to his Twitter to "salute the three judges", who heard the case.

US mulls more events after worlds success

FOREIGN DESK

EUGENE: As a metaphor for a sport with lofty ambitions, Armand Duplantis soaring to a pole vault world record was the perfectly scripted final act that a thrilling World Athletics Championships deserved.

Charged Lanka strengthen lead despite quick wickets

SPORTS DESK

GALLE: Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne and Dhananjaya de Silva scored 59 runs together in last session to finish day 3 of the second Test against Pakistan on a high note.



of him. A little spike on the bat, which umpire didn't hear, helped Salman get his maiden Test wicket.

score 31 runs together before Hassan fell to Prabath Jayasuriya. Hassan's brief knock of 21 runs included a maximum.

PSG end Japan tour in style

AGENCIES

LONDON: Paris Saint-Germain's new coach Christophe Galtier said his side conceded "two goals too many" despite Lionel Messi and Neymar combining to deadly effect in a 6-2 thrashing of Gamba Osaka on Monday.

"We trained a lot, we played a lot with little recovery time," he said, after PSG's third game in the space of six days. "But overall I'm satisfied both with this match and more generally with the three matches we've had here in Japan."

Pakistani wrestler Inam Butt asks for prayers

STAFF REPORT

KARACHI: Pakistani wrestler Inam Butt asked his fans to pray for him as he left the country to participate in Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2022, scheduled from July 28 to August 8 in Birmingham.



Indonesia, China agree to renew maritime co-op

Signing of the IA document between the ministries has launched a new chapter of maritime cooperation between the two countries after an earlier agreement expired in 2016

JAKARTA: The Indonesian Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and the Chinese Ministry of Natural Resources have agreed to renew cooperation in the maritime sector to strengthen the economies of the two countries.

omy principles. The maritime cooperation is contained in the Implementing Arrangement (IA) document signed circularly on July 26, 2022, by Minister Trenggono in Jakarta and China's Minister of Natural Resources Wang Guanghua in Beijing.

formal and vocational education, joint symposia, seminars, workshops, training, and exchanges of experts. The signing of the IA document between the ministries has launched a new chapter of maritime cooperation between the two countries after an earlier agreement expired in 2016.

maritime cooperation between the governments of Indonesia and China was signed on June 5, 2021, by the Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs and Investment Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, and Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi.



## Briefs

**Miftah, Bilawal discuss economic situation**  
*Miftah Ismail warmly received Bilawal Bhutto on his arrival at the Finance Division*

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail on Tuesday held a meeting with Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari here, during which current political and economic situation of the country was discussed. Various financial issues related to Pakistan's missions abroad and Ministry of Foreign Affairs also came under discussion during the meeting, a Finance Ministry press release said. Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Dr Aisha Ghous Pasha, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Industry Rana Ihsan Afzal, foreign secretary, Federal Bureau of Revenue chairman, and senior officers of the Finance Division and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were present in the meeting. Miftah Ismail warmly received Bilawal Bhutto on his arrival at the Finance Division. He acknowledged the importance and contribution of foreign missions abroad and assured the foreign minister to address their financial issues through appropriate procedures and directed the relevant authorities to expedite the process in that regard. - APP

**PKR continues to sink against US dollar**

*The rupee has been one of the world's worst-performing currencies, slumping more than 30% since the start of year (2022)*

DNA

KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee continued to lose ground against the US dollar on Tuesday, hitting a new low in the interbank market as the financial markets remained jittery amid an ongoing political crisis. The local unit closed at Rs232.93 in the interbank market, up from Rs229.88 a day earlier, as it shed Rs3.05 or 1.31% against the dollar, data from the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) showed. The rupee has been one of the world's worst-performing currencies, slumping more than 30% since the start of the year (2022), The News reported. Tahir Abbas, the head of research at Arif Habib Limited, said: "Shortage of dollars, political and economic uncertainty tagged with ambiguity regarding commitment from friendly countries, which is needed for disbursement of IMF tranche were the reasons behind rupee's persistent slide."

# US, Taliban make progress on Afghanistan's reserves

**While the Taliban do not reject the concept of a trust fund, they oppose a US proposal for third-party control of the fund**

DNA

KABUL/WASHINGTON: US and Taliban officials have exchanged proposals for the release of billions of dollars from Afghan central bank reserves held abroad into a trust fund, three sources familiar with the talks said, giving a hint of progress in efforts to ease Afghanistan's economic crisis. Significant differences between the sides remain, however, according to two of the sources, including the Taliban's refusal to replace the bank's top political appointees, one of whom is under US sanctions as are several of the movement's leaders. Some experts said such a move would help restore confidence in the institution by insulating it from interference by the group that seized power a year ago but which foreign governments do not recognise. While the Taliban do not reject the concept of a trust fund, they oppose a US proposal for third-party control of the fund that would hold and disburse returned reserves, said a Taliban government source who spoke on condition of anonymity. The United States has been in talks with Switzerland and other parties on the creation of a mechanism that would include

the trust fund, disbursements from which would be decided with the help of an international board, according to a US source who also declined to be named in order to discuss the matter. A possible model could be the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund, a World Bank-administered fund created to get donations of foreign development assistance to Kabul, the US source added. "No agreement has been reached yet," said Shah Mehrabi, an Afghan-American economics professor who is on the Afghan central bank's supreme council. The US State Department and Switzerland's Federal Department of Foreign Affairs declined to comment; the Afghan central bank did not respond to requests for comment. Some \$9 billion in reserves have been held outside Afghanistan, including \$7 billion in the United States, since the Taliban overran Kabul last August as US-led forces withdrew after 20 years of fighting the group. Foreign governments and rights groups have accused the Taliban of human rights abuses including extrajudicial killings during and after the insurgency, and the movement has curtailed women's freedoms since regaining power. The international community wants the group to improve its

record on women's and other rights before officially recognising it. The Taliban have promised to investigate alleged killings and say they are working to secure Afghans' rights to education and free speech within the parameters of Islamic law. **'Positive move'** At talks in Doha last month, the Taliban submitted to US officials their response to the US proposal for a mechanism to free up Afghan assets, said Mehrabi, the Taliban official and a senior diplomat. Experts cautioned that releasing funds would bring only temporary relief and new revenue streams were needed to replace direct foreign aid that financed 70 percent of the government budget before it was halted after the Taliban takeover. But the exchange of proposals was seen by some as a glimmer of hope that a system can be created that allows for the release of Afghan central bank funds while ensuring they are not accessed by the Taliban. Negotiations on the assets and other issues faltered after Washington cancelled meetings in Doha in March when the Taliban reneged on their promise to open girls' high schools. "It is a positive move overall," that the Taliban do not reject the US proposal, said Mehrabi, who added that he had not

seen the Taliban counter-offer. The Taliban official said the group was open to allowing a State Department-appointed contractor to monitor Afghanistan's central bank compliance with anti-money laundering standards, and that monitoring experts would be able to go to Afghanistan. But the Taliban were concerned the US idea could create a parallel central banking structure, the official added, and were not prepared to remove top political appointees including deputy governor Noor Ahmad Agha, who is under US terrorism sanctions. The US source denied the proposed trust fund would amount to a parallel central bank. **Initial tranche** Negotiations have focused on an initial release of \$3.5 billion that US President Joe Biden ordered set aside "for the benefit of the Afghan people" out of \$7 billion in Afghan reserves held by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The other \$3.5 billion is being contested in lawsuits against the Taliban stemming from the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, but courts could decide to release those funds too. US Special Representative for Afghanistan Tom West in February said funds set aside by Biden potentially could be used to recapitalize a reformed central bank and the paralysed banking system.

## US accuses China of S.China Sea 'provocations'

China claims nearly all of the South China Sea and Pak called the claims "expansive and unlawful"

DNA

WASHINGTON: The United States on Tuesday accused China of increased "provocations" against rival claimants to territory in the South China Sea and other states operating there. "There is a clear and upward trend of PRC provocations against South China Sea claimants and other states lawfully operating in the region," Jung Pak, deputy assistant secretary for East Asia at the State Department, told a U.S. think tank event, referring to the People's Republic of China. Pak told the Center for Strategic and International Studies that Chinese aircraft had increasingly engaged in unsafe intercepts of Australian aircraft in international airspace above the South China Sea and in three separate incidents in the last few months had challenged marine research and energy exploration activities within the exclusive economic zone of the Philippines. Pak made the comment ahead of an anticipated call between President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping this week, which is expected to focus on ways to prevent the growing U.S.-China strategic rivalry veering into conflict, particularly over the self-ruled Chinese-claimed island of Taiwan. Her remarks also came ahead of meetings of Southeast Asian foreign ministers and partners, including the United States, next week in Cambodia. China claims nearly all of the South China Sea and Pak called the claims "expansive and unlawful."

## National meet to ponder upon challenges

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Task Force on Sustainable Development Goals is organizing a National Meet in Islamabad from 27th to 28th July 2022. This National Meet would deliberate in depth on challenges faced by Pakistan like Environment degradation, rising poverty, food scarcity, energy crisis, poor management in tackling flooding with special context to post covid-19 situation. In order to address these challenges, the Parliament adopted a localized approach and arranged this National Meet so that the issues at

grass-root level can be prioritized. Speaker NA Raja Pervaiz Ashraf will inaugurate the event whereas Federal Ministers, Members of the Federal, Provincial and legislative assemblies will participate. The senior government officials, representatives from public/private and Civil Society Organisations, Academia, Media and Members of the diplomatic corps would participate in conference. All stakeholders from around Pakistan participating in the National meet would ponder to workout a practical and implementable National Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Pakistan. This Event would also look into ways to achieve SDGs as only eight years were left to achieve SDGs. In the context of Pakistan and the multitude of problems, it was felt that the SDGs are prioritised with a national lens. This event would provide a platform for redesigning of the global goals in an inclusive, resilient and sustainable manner.

## US reiterates desire to boost cooperation with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: US Ambassador Donald Blome says his country has keen interest in investing and cooperating in the energy, digital services and agriculture sector of Pakistan. He said this while talking to Minister for Energy Khurram Dastgir Khan in Islamabad on Tuesday. Minister welcomed the Ambassador and said the appointment of US Ambassador is a step in the right direction for Pak-US relations. He further reaffirmed the joint goals for enhancing US-Pakistan bilateral partnerships. Khurram Dastgir invited the American Companies to take part in Solar energy plans of current government. The solar policy will be launched next month in line with government's commitment of reducing reliance on imported fuels. Ambassador expressed high hopes for the future of Pak-US relation and affirmed to strengthen the relations on broader terms. He said the private sector in Pakistan has enormous potential. US has keen interest in investing and cooperating in the energy, digital services and agriculture sector. He lauded Pakistan's ambitious renewable energy plan and commended Prime Minister and the Government for handling tough economic situation. - DNA

## ECP wants assets' statements till Aug 29

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has asked the political parties to submit their consolidated statement of accounts for the financial year 2021-22 before August 29. According to the ECP spokesman, political parties were required in terms of Section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017 read with Section 204 of the Act ibid and rule 159 and 160 of the Election Rules,

2017, thereof, that they were required to file with ECP their statement of accounts for the financial year, ended on June 30. It may be recalled that Section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017 provides that a political party shall, in such a manner as may be prescribed, submit to the Commission, within sixty days from the close of a financial year, a consolidated statement of its accounts audited by a chartered accountant on Form-D containing annual income and expenses, sources of its funds and assets and liabilities.

## Total 32 brigadiers promoted to Rank of Major General

RAWALPINDI: Promotion board from Brigadier to Major General was held at General Headquarters today, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Qamar Javed Bajwa presided. Those promoted include Brigadier Omer Naseem, Brigadier Syed Abbas Ali, Brigadier Muhammad Abbas, Brigadier Muhammad Shahid Abro, Brigadier Luqman Hafeez, Brigadier Mohammad Yasir Elahi, Brigadier Adeel Haider Minhas, Brigadier Syed Ali Raza, Brigadier Shahid Pervaiz, Brigadier Ahsan Waqas Kayani, Brigadier Azhar Yasin, Brigadier Qaisar Suleman, Brigadier Haroon Ishaq Raja, Brigadier Aamer Amin, Brigadier Haroon Hameed Chaudhary, Brigadier Waseem Iftikhar Cheema, Brigadier Muhammad Hussain, Brigadier Shoaib Bin Akram, Brigadier Kashif Khalil, Brigadier Kashif Abdullah, Brigadier Amjad Hanif, Brigadier Faisal Naseer, Brigadier Ahmad Kamal and Brigadier Saeed Ur Rehman Sarwar. Those approved from Army Medical Corps include Brigadier Tufail Ahmad, Brigadier Rizwan Sadiq, Brigadier Ijaz Ahmad, Brigadier Nadeem Fazal, Brigadier Shoaib Ahmed, Brigadier Tahir Masood Ahmad, Brigadier Waseem Ahmad Khan and Brigadier Sohail Sabir. - DNA

## Korea lauds Pakistan efforts to combat climate change effects

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Suh Sangpyo, Ambassador of Korea to Pakistan, on Tuesday said that the Korean government appreciated the Pakistani government's efforts to prevent and respond to climate change induced natural disasters. Addressing a seminar on climate change policy of Korea and Pakistan, he said, "our two countries have contributed a lot to the global efforts to address climate change induced challenges and also have worked together in multi-lateral forums including UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). He said that Pakistan was one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. Recently, a report published by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) estimated Pakistan's annual losses caused by climate change at 26 billion US dollars under the worst scenario. That cost is equal to 9% of Pakistan's GDP. This year Pakistan had experienced huge losses and damages all over the country due to the abnormal heavy



rainfalls. "In this monsoon season, this kind of natural disaster still haunts us here in Pakistan," he said. Pakistan is a member country of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), which was established by the Korean initiative to support and promote sustainable economic growth in developing countries. Korea and Pakistan continue to collaborate closely on all the climate related issues that our planet faces. Ambassador told that in

order to promote renewable energy, Korean Development Agency (KOICA) had established a Solar Panel testing laboratory in Islamabad and also worked on a project to enhance the water quality monitoring system by providing equipment and supporting capacity building. Moreover, with the Public and Private Partnership (PPP) model, Korean hydropower companies are constructing hydropower plants in northern areas, KP and AJK, he added. Korea Land and House Cooperation in partnership with UN-HABITAT was also working on a project to reduce greenhouse gasses. Korean Embassy also financially supported tree plantation in Pakistan in 2019 and 2021. Korea and Pakistan also collaborate in achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals. Ambassador, while explaining bilateral cooperation, told the participants that last year in January Korea and Pakistan held a DG-level consultation meeting on climate change, science, and technology. Since then, some of the meeting results were successfully followed up, so one of the outcomes was Pakistan's joining GGGI.

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