

Samana

Friday, August 12, 2022

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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160 years of modern Romanian diplomacy: Bogdan Aurescu

Detailed News On Page-07

US Ambassador pays tribute to Quaid-e-Azam

Detailed News On Page-08



Pak-India clash always has pressure





Briefs

All govt promises to be fulfilled

DNA



said promises made with the public in the budget vis-vis relief. reducing inflation and bolstering exports by strengthening the agriculture, industrial and IT sectors will be fulfilled. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad on Thursday, she said the economic policies are heading in the right direction. She pointed out that the rupee has started appreciating against dollar as a result of these policies.

Pakistan committed to root out terrorism

DNA

Foreign



Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has reaffirmed Pakistan's

commitment to countering the three evils of terrorism, extremism and separatism. Talking to Director of Sub-Committee on Counter-Terrorism of Shanghai Cooperation Organization Ruslan Mirzayev in Islamabad on Thursday, he commended contribution made by SCO-Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (SCO-RATS) towards regional peace and security.

Asif warns of increasing TTP threat

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister waja Asif on Wednesday said the lawand-order situation in

Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) was worsening because Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)led provincial government had previously welcomed the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Asif expressed these views on the floor of the National Assembly while responding to MNA Mohsin Dawar, who had voiced concern over the increase in incidences of terrorism in the province following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.

Pak values ties with EU: PM

Newly appointed EU Ambassador Dr. Riina Kionka calls on the PM; wants deepening of relations

Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: The newly appointed Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Dr. Riina Kionka called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. The Prime Minister underlined that Pakistan attached high importance to its relations with EU as well as its historically close and cooperative bilateral ties with EU member states. Recalling his recent telephone conversations

with the EU Council President Mr. Charles Michel and the President of the European Commission Ms. Ursula von der Leyen, the Prime Minister expressed the confidence that the upcoming visits to Pakistan by the EU Parliamentary delegations as well as the next rounds of political and security Dialogues under EU-Pakistan Strategic Engagement Plan would pave the way for more substantive cooperation between the two sides. He credited the current GSP Plus scheme with enhancing the mutually beneficial trading ties between Pakistan and EU and hoped that Pakistan would continue to be part of the arrangement beyond 2023.

Continued on Page 06

EU Ambassador calls on Law Minister

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

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan Dr. Riina Kionka on Thursday called on Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar at the Ministry of Law. Both the dignitaries discussed issues of mutual interest and further development of bilateral relations. The Law Minister informed the EU Ambassador about the legislation in Pakistan regarding enforced disappearance and missing persons. He also informed the EU Ambassador about legislation regarding minorities in Pakistan. He said that solving the issue of missing persons was among the priorities of the government. The government was fully aware of the issues of minorities in Pakistan and was committed to solving their problems, he added.

EU envoy plays national anthem on Trumpet

The EU is one of Pakistan's largest trading partners. The EU supports Pakistan's integration into the world economy



MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: As a special gesture to honour Pakistan on its 75th Independence Day, the EU Ambassador Dr Riina Kionka played the national anthem on trumpet. This unique way to mark the 14th of August when Pakistan obtained independence in 1947 was shared through a special campaign on the social media channels of the European Union Delegation to Pakistan in Islamabad. The year 2022 also marks the 60 years of EU-Pakistan relations in a long

standing partnership that makes both countries stronger together. In Pakistan, the EU is committed to a stable, democratic and pluralistic country that respects human rights and benefits from its full economic potential by supporting sustainable and inclusive development for all its citizens.

The collaboration between the European Union and Pakistan is grounded in the Strategic Engagement Plan (SEP) signed in 2019. Areas of cooperation under the SEP include peace and security,

Continued on Page 06

ISLAMABAD: The newly appointed Ambassador of the European Dr. Riina Kionka calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. - DNA

Pak diplomat in Spain sacked over harassment charges

MONITORING REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A senior Pakistani diplomat and Consul General of Pakinstan in Spanish city Barce-lona, Mirza Salman Baig, has been sacked from his position sexual harassment charges levelled by a local staffer of the consulate.

The sources said that the name of the staff-er lodged the complaint with Pakistani Ambassador Shujat Ra-thore in Madrid, who later re-ferred the matter to Foreign Office in Islamabad for fur-

ther investiga-tion. The For-eign Min-istry sent a two-mem-ber team to Barcelona and Madrid to probe the case. They complet-ed the investigation, on the basis of which the Foreign Of-fice removed the officer from his position and recalled him to the headquarters in Islam-abad, where he is facing disci-plinary proceedings.

According to more details, the victim who was hired local-ly also filed the complaint with the Spanish justice department which contacted the Pakistan Ambassador in Spain.

In her complaint, she alleged that the counsel general used to send her messages through social media, which, she claimed, were harassment. She in her complaint also claimed that the officer tried to make sexual assault on her in a hotel in Barcelona.

Mirza Salman Baig during the interrogation, however, de-nied the charges against him and disclosed that he wanted to sack her (the complainant), which was why she turned against him.

13 August Jalsa Imran says will tell what true freedom entails

Terms absence of rule of law one of the biggest problems in Pakistan

IRSHAD ALI

ISLAMABAD: PTI chairperson Imran Khan Thursday said he will show the masses what true freedom actually entails on August 13 during his "power show" in Lahore on the eve of Independence Day. Addressing the minority convention in the federal capital, he said that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) signed the Madina Pact with the non-Muslims, "which proves that a humane society is created when people have humanistic values." "The country cannot move forward until justice prevails," he said, asking the people present at the convention to highlight those countries where

'Imported' govt destroying Pakistan: Fawad

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senior Vice President Fawad Chaudhry lashed out at the 'imported' government for plunging the country into the quagmire of problems and said that the cabal of crooks just came to Pakistan to rule and loot and plunder

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

Top Taliban cleric killed by IS blast

his fiery speeches against the Islamic State (IS) was killed Thursday at his madrassa in the Afghan capital in a suicide attack claimed by the jihadist group. Rahimullah Haqqani, who had recently spoken publicly in favour of girls being allowed to attend school, had survived at least two previous assassination attempts - including one in Pakistan in October 2020.

"He is the only one martyred," Kabul po lice spokesman Khalid Zadran told AFP, adding that at least four others were wounded in the blast. Government spokesman Bilal Karimi confirmed his death "in an attack carried out by a cowardly enemy", but did not offer further details Hours later, IS claimed the attack on its telegram channels, saying the bomber had detonated his explosive vest inside the office of the cleric. Haqqani was one of the most "prominent advocates for the Taliban and one of the biggest of them who incited to fight" IS, jihadist monitoring group SITE said, translating a statement from IS. Taliban sources said that although he held no official position, Haqqani was an influential figure who had taught many of the group's members over the years. Scores of Taliban officials took to social media to express their condolences. "You have fulfilled your responsibility. Destiny cannot be prevented, but the Muslim community has been orphaned," tweeted Mobin Khan, a former spokesman for the Kabul police. Haqqani was known for angry speeches against IS, who have claimed several attacks in Afghanistan since the Taliban's return to power in August last year. - APP

Inside.

Applications open for Chevening S. Asia Fellowship - Page 02 Govt committed to facilitate

PM to unveil national anthem on August 14, says Marriyum

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- Page 05 Asia Cup: Pak-India clash is a pressure match: Babar Azam - Page 06

Moscow accuses Kviv of 'nuclear terrorism - Page 07

Pak, China vow to rengthen cooperation in diverse fields - Page 08

UN alarmed as Ukraine nuclear plant shelled again

Crimea airbase badly damaged, satellite images show; UN Secretary General warned the fighting could "lead to disaster"



CENTRELINE REPORT

KYIV: More shelling of Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant has been reported, with Ukraine and Russia again blaming each other for the attack.

Each side said there were 10 hits on the plant's administrative office and fire station on Thursday. UN Secretary General António Guterres warned the fighting could

"lead to disaster" at Europe's largest nuclear plant, seized by Russia in early March. Ukraine warned that Russia may provoke the world's worst nuclear accident.

On Wednesday, foreign ministers from the G7 group of industrialised nations said Russia must immediately hand back control of the plant to Kyiv. The facility and its surrounding area in central-eastern Ukraine saw shelling last week, with Russia and Ukraine also accusing each other over that attack. Ukraine says Russia has turned the site into a military base, launching attacks from there, knowing that Ukrainian forces are unlikely to retaliate. Moscow denies the claim. In a statement on Thursday, Ukraine's nuclear agency Enerhoatom said that "Russian invaders again shelled the Zaporizhzhia plant and territories near the nuclear facility".

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AUGUST 2022

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

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Applications open for Chevening S. Asia Fellowship

ISLAMABAD: The Chevening South Asia Journalism Fellowship (SAJP) online application window is now open to receive applications for the 2022/23 cohort. The scheme is aimed at mid-career journalists from South Asian countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives who are passionate about increasing their knowledge, networks, and potential through tailored short courses, research, or professional placements at UK institutions.

The fellowship scheme is hosted by the University of Westminster and funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office. Only online applications are being accepted between 02 August and 12 October 2022. Interested journalists can find all the information about eligibility, timelines, and the online application system on

DNA

KARACHI: President of

United Business Group

(UBG) Zubair Tufail ar-

rived in Islamabad in con-

nection with the election

activities of Federation of

Chambers of Commerce

and Industry (FPCCI) Elec-

tion 2023 and after arriving

in Islamabad last night,

Zubair Tufail met with the

representatives of various

associations and chambers

Navy search,

rescue

operation

off Gwadar

KARACHI: On August 9th,

an Indian sailing vessel

'Jamna Sagar' sunk in Arabi-

an sea near Gwadar with 10

On responding to distress

call, Pakistan Maritime In-

formation Centre request-

ed a nearby merchant ship

MT KRUIBEKE to provide

necessary assistance to the

stranded crew of drowning

sailing vessel, said a news

The merchant ship eventual

ly recovered 9 crew member

and continued voyage to its

next port Dubai and onward

At the same time one Paki-

stan Navy Ship along with

two helicopters also reached

the areas and located the

dead body of one crew mem-

ber who was earlier missing

at the time of drowning of

sailing vessel. The dead body

was recovered and handed

over to Pakistan Maritime

Security Agency (PMSA) au-

thorities for further proceed-

10 outlaws,

criminal

gangs held

DNA

Capital territory police have

arrested 10 outlaws including

five members of two crimi-

nals gangs from different ar-

eas of the city and recovered

eight stolen motorbikes, cars,

drugs and weapons with am-

munition, a Police Public Re-

He said that, fowling the directions of Inspector Gen-

eral of Police Islamabad

Dr. Akber Nasir Khan, 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 in-

nocent people and involved

Kohsar police station team

arrested four members of a

dacoit gang namely Zakar

Ullah, Kaftan Khan, Farshad

and Sana Ullah and recov-

ered two stolen motorbike

and four pistols along with

ammunition from their pos-

session and different cases

were registered against them

Similarly, Ramana Police

in kohsar police station.

in illegal activities. Following these directives.

lation Officer said.

Islamabad

ings. - APP

ISLAMABAD:

disembarked the crew.

release on Thursday.

Crew members onboard.

or www.chevening.org/fellowship/sajp Seven journalists from Pakistan will be selected who will undertake a bespoke fellowship titled 'Good Governance in a Changing World: the Media, Politics, and Society'.

These fellows will participate in eight intensive weeks of lectures, visits, and discussions that introduce them to key UK academics, media, and political figures in the field. They will also spend time meeting their peers in some of the UK's top media organisations, as well as running a symposium on a topic of their choice in the final week.

Fellows of the scheme will also be invited to participate in exclusive networking events and talks. On graduating, fellows will join over 50,000 other Chevening Alumni who together form an influential and highly regarded global network. The British High Commission support women and minorities. In the last two years 58% of journalists chosen for the SAJP pro-

President UBG holds important

meetings with business leaders

of vice presidents in the

FPCCI elections on behalf

of the United Business

Group will be complet-

ed soon. Chairman UBG

Shahzad Ali Malik and oth-

er Leaders will make an

important visit to Karachi

in the next few days, the

UBG leadership is decid-

ing on the nomination of

candidates on merit after

President UBG Zubair Tu-

fail strongly condemned

Erratic rain events

to cause severe

consultation.

of commerce. According to

the central spokesperson

of UBG Gulzar Feroze, Zu-

bair Tufail also discussed

with Atif Ikram Sheikh, the

presidential candidate and

and Arif Yousuf Jewa as the

senior vice president candi-

date in the federation elec-

tion on behalf of UBG. On

this occasion, UBG leader

Malik Sohail Hussain was

Zubair Tufail said that the

stage of nomination of

candidates for the seats

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate

Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Thurs-

day said abnormal monsoon rains would

remain a regular feature and the country's

such disasters which would lead to severe

humanitarian crisis. The minister was ex-

pressing these views at the Senate Stand-

ing Committee on Climate Change presided

by Senator Seemee Ezdi held here that dis-

cussed the prevailing weather conditions,

monsoon rain damages and glacial lake out-

burst floods (GLOFs) events management.

Sherry briefed the forum that the Pakistan

Meteorological Department (PMD) or MET

office, which comes under the Ministry of

Aviation, was responsible for weather warn-

ings. She said that it was the role of the pro-

vincial government for preventive measures

She added the MET office warnings which

were loud and clear, were of no use since

the provincial governments did not have the

capacity to rescue a disaster because of its

and rescue and relief operations.

also present.

gramme in Pakistan were female. We strongly encourage female journalists to apply for the scheme.

SAJP Fellow, Saher Baloch, a bilingual correspondent for BBC Urdu, said: "This Fellowship was one of the best experiences of my career, where I got to meet colleagues from different South Asian countries and learn from them. It was encouraging to see many female journalists as part of the cohort and I wish more women would apply for this fellowship in the future." This year is historic as it marks 75 years of UK-Pakistan relations. To mark the anniversary, a second phase of the Chevening Mentoring scheme will be launched later this year to support women and minorities in the journalism profession. The first phase was launched earlier this year with 50% of mentors being female Chevening jour-

nalists. The British High Commission will continue to celebrate 75 years of UK-Pakistan relations with a series of events and activities throughout 2022.

against the military heli-

copter accident in Lasbe-

la and said that our brave

forces are not only the

forces of Pakistan but also

the forces of the entire Is-

lamic world, have helped

and served the nation, we

are always ready to make

any kind of sacrifice by the

side of our brave forces,

unfortunately some po-

litical elements are con-

tinuing the propaganda

campaign against the army

infrastructure, road construction and poor

She said that as long as the nullahs (water chan-

nels) would not be cleared and the country

there would be no way forward. "All the stake

holders should sit together and work on a plan

each contributing to redress this problem

which will now seem to occur regularly as the

climate change occurs globally." Senator Taj

Haider, while discussing possible solutions to

address such calamities, said the country was

also lacking water reservoirs, through which

adversity could be changed into opportunity

and accumulate water, addressing the issue

of water scarcity. The Secretary Ministry for

Climate Change also argued that early warn-

ing was area-specific as certain areas could

not forecast due to lack of modern equipment.

He said that one million people were residing

at the bed of the River Indus when the flood

occured and these residents disseminated in

the local area which continued to disrupt the

rescue and relief operation. - APP

rain water drainage system.



addressing at a dialogue held in connection with National Day of Minorities. - DNA

FESCO to celebrate **I-Day with** enthusiasm

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) is celebrating the 75th Independence Day of Pakistan with great enthusiasm. On August 14, the day will begin with special prayers for the security and development of the country after the Fajr prayer. The main flag hoisting ceremony will be held at FESCO headquarters at 9am, in which Chief Executive FESCO Engr. Bashir Ahmed along with FESCO officers and employees will sing the national anthem in unison after the flag hoisting, while flag hoisting ceremonies will also be held in Jhang, Sargodha and Mianwali Circles of FESCO jurisdiction. All FESCO offices including SEs, XENs, SDOs & ROs will be illuminated with lights and will be decorated with buntings.

Minorities day observed in befitting manner

ISLAMABAD: The National

Day of Minorities on Thurs-

day observed across the country to honour the services rendered by minorities for the creation of Pakistan and their subsequent contribution in nation building. had declared August 11 as National Minority Day in 2009. To celebrate Minority Day, National Assembly organized a Minority Convention at the National Assembly Hall in connection with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of 1st Constituent Assembly in Islamabad. Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf said that the founder of Pakistan in his inaugural address to the 1st Constituent Assembly presented the constitutional outline for newly independent state of Pakistan where every citizen of the state was declared an equal citizen without distinction of color, race, religion, caste and language. The convention was attended by Federal Ministers, Parliamentarians, Members of Provincial Assemblies, and leaders, representatives and notables of all religious minorities. Events, seminars, and social gatherings were arranged across the country on the day by members of various religious minorities. The day was basically dedicated to the minorities, who played their constructive role in

the Pakistan movement. Pa-

kistan was the first country

in the world which reassured

its minorities about their

future rights by specifically

allocating a portion of the

national flag. - APP

Russian CG visits IoBM, highlights changing trends in diplomacy mation. IoBM will also regeopolitical status of various

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Russian Consul General in Karachi, H.E Mr. Andrey Viktorovich Fedorov visited the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) on August 10, 2022. During his talk, he shed light on Pakistan-Russia diplomatic ties and how they have evolved over the last many years. Mr. Fedorov shared that Russia has offered several scholarships to Pakistani students. He highlighted the changing

trends in diplomacy and the

regions and how they will impact Central Asia, South Asia, and Europe. Earlier, in his Welcome Address, President IoBM, Mr. Talib Karim shared that the talk by H.E Mr. Andrey Fedorov will bring to light a better understanding of the Russian culture and traditions. He added that IoBM has created an academic linkage with the Institute of Business Studies in Moscow. He was hopeful that IoBM will continue to invite Russian dignitaries to share

ideas, research, and infor-

vive its student exchange program with Russia, President IoBM said. Professor Dr. Shahida Wizarat, Dean, College of Economics and Social Development (CESD), IoBM shed light on the economic, social, and political relations between third world countries and Western nations. Dr. Nadia Ayub, Associate Dean, CESD, gave the vote of thanks. This event was organized by IoBM's CESD and Entrepreneurship and Management Excellence



1,450 new industrial units to be set up

LAHORE: Punjab Minister pleted by working day and for Industries and Commerce Mian Aslam Iqbal said on Thursday that 1,450 new industrial units had been set up in 24 small industrial estates of the province. He was presiding over a meeting in the committee room of the Punjab Board of Investment & Trade (PBIT) to discuss affairs and development proiects of the department. The minister ordered for

speeding up development work in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and said that development work at industrial states should be com-

night. He said that a new board of Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development Management Company (FIEDMC) should be formed and all matters of the board should be set right within a month, adding that the PBIT would decide the applications for SEZ enterprises' status within three days. He said that delay would not be tolerated under any circumstances in this regard. He ordered for speeding

up the pace of colonization in industrial states and said that the development work

of export processing zone Sialkot should be completed on priority basis. Mian Aslam Igbal ordered to

speed up the loan schemes of Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC) and also directed the Director General Industries to fully implement the price control mechanism. He said that the target of preparing quality skilled manpower must be achieved, adding that three new technical universities had been established in the province aiming to impart technical education to the youth. - APP

PHC stops FIA from probe of Asad Qaiser

National Assembly speaker for questioning him today, but he refused to appear before the body as he had challenged their decision to summon him a day earlier. In a short order issued after today's hearing, the court prohibited the anti-corruption watchdog from investigating the ex-NA speaker till the next hearing. The court asked the FIA what were the dithe probe. The PHC asked the FIA whether the federal government asked it to probe the 2022 comes under the ambit of the body. On Wednesday last, Asad moved the Peshawar High Court against the start of an inquiry by FIA into two bank accounts of his party, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf, allegedly managed by him from 2008 to 2013 as its then provincial president. Qaiser filed a petition requesting the court to set aside a notice issued by a FIA official to appear before him in connection with the bank accounts inquiry. - APP

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) here Thursday stopped the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) from investigating former speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser in the PTI prohibited funding case till next hearing. The FIA summoned the former rections that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had issued to the body regarding PTI leaders. It also asked the FIA whether the probing under the Political Parties Order

PM welcomes Japanese investment of \$ 1 billion

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Japanese investors called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here on Thursday and discussed matters related to investment in Pakistan. The delegation of BPS Investment Group led by founder Takaji Tsuji during the meeting expressed its interest to make an investment of \$ one billion in the different sectors of the Pakistani economy. The prime minister appreciated decision of the Japanese inves-

tors to invest in Pakistan and directed officials of the Investment Board to take all necessary steps in this direction. He welcomed the

Japanese investment

as it would lead to progress and prosperity in the country and would create employment. He assured all possible assistance of the Pakistan government for the investors. He further said Japan was a sincere friend of Pakistan and Pakistan valued its cooperation in Japan in various sectors.

Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhamad Asif, Minister for Investment Board Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Minister for Education Rana Tanvir Hussain, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Sved Tariq Fatimi and officials concerned attend-

Pak-China agri co-op to counter climate change: Report

Sixty percent of the population of Pakistan is directly or indirectly reliant upon rain-fed agriculture that depends on predictable weather patterns. Global climatic change affects its agriculture and its impacts seem to increase daily

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China and Pakistan have agreed to further strengthen cooperation on natural disasters prevention and mitigation to build a China-Pakistan community with a shared future which will ensure a stable platform for preservation of natural resources, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Thursday.

team arrested a wanted member of a bike lifter gang namely Umair and recovered 06 stolen motor-It was believed that mainly cooperation in agriculture bikes from his possession needed to counter climate and further investigation is change. This year Pakistan underway. Likewise, a Kahas experienced the hottest rachi company police team apprehended a bootlegger summer in the last thirty namely Aadil Munair and years which has badly afrecovered 40 liters liquor fected its people, crops and from his possession.

The heat was intensified, prolonged and widespread and coupled with below-average rainfall, impacting hundreds of millions of people in the country.

According to an official study (2020-2021), rice crops would be badly affected in the country due to alarming high temperature. Even wheat and rice yields will decrease by 6 percent and 15-18 percent respectively across Pakistan, except for the northern areas. Climate change also gearedup water shortage in the country even "metropolitan cities" like Lahore, Karachi, Islamabad, Rawalpindi and many others are facing the bitter reality of water depleting situation. Life has become more vulnerable

and miserable in big cities in the country. Cholistan is one of the most

affected areas, which is going through acute shortages of water. People are suffering and losing their sources of livelihood, e.g. livestock. Sixty percent of the population of Pakistan is directly or indirectly reliant upon rain-fed agriculture that depends on predictable weather patterns. Global climatic change affects its agriculture and its impacts seem to increase daily.

Therefore, Pakistan should cooperation with seek China on diverse sectors of agriculture production, climate change, water conservation, cultivation of hybrid crops, scientific cooperation to mitigate spillover ramifications of climate change in the country. The ongoing cooperation between Faisalabad Agriculture University and Chinese universities should be further strengthened, highlighting new areas of mutual and befitting cooperation. In this regard, the establishment of a Special Agriculture Technology Zone (SATZ) in Faisalabad should be built as soon as possible and invite Chinese

The China Machinery En-Corporation gineering (CMEC) showed keen interest in setting up an Agriculture, Science and Technology Transferring Center in Pakistan to boost cooperation in agriculture mechani-

counterparts and enterpris-

es for this project.

sation for the improvement of crops' yield and seeds' quality in the country which is good omen for the development of mechanized agro-production, economy an industry alike in the

country. Even, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and Chinese Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences (YAAS) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to promote agricultural cooperation between Pakistan and China.

Hopefully, it will further enhance agriculture cooperation in diverse sectors of research, plantation and production in the country. Moreover, plant protection and pest control will be increased manifold and cross-border agricultural pest research, talent cultivation and scientific and technological training will also be further strength-

ened and streamlined. The Joint Working Group on Agriculture under CPEC is working on Joint Action Plan and recently China-Pakistan Green Corridor was also launched to further streamline cooperation in the areas of food security, new seed development, crops yield, corporate farming, irrigation etc.

Furthermore, the Chinese contract-based partners' chili farming in the country is about to cultivate a cumulative 5,000 acres. Even onion exports to China are recent dividends of deepened agricultural trade.

CM vows to support CP&WB

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chauhdry Parvez Elahi appreciating performance of the Child Protection & Welfare Bureau (CP&WB), vowed to extend governmental support to the bureau for protecting rights of underprivileged children. During a meeting with Chairperson CP&WB Sarah Ahmad here on Thursday, the chief minister said the CP&WB had played an important role in the welfare of abandoned children and added that the scope of the CP&WB needed to be extended to every district of the province.

Elements involved in torture and abuse of children besides using them for beggary did not deserve any leniency, he asserted and maintained that indiscriminate action against them was the need of the hour. - APP

National Days and Armed Forces Days

AUGUST

Aug 01/ CHINA Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/ SWITZERLAND

National Day

Aug 01/ LEBANON Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/ SYRIA Armed Forces Day

Aug 4/ BUKINO FASO National Day

Aug 09/ SINGAPORE National Day

Aug 15/ DPR KOREA Independence Day

Aug 15/ INDIA Independence Day

Aug 15/ POLAND Armed Forces Day

Aug 17/ INDONESIA Independence Day

Aug 24/ UKRAINE Independence Day

Aug 25/ URUGUAY Independence Day

Aug 30/ TURKEY

Armed Forces Day

Aug 31/ KYRGYZ Independence Day

Aug 31/ MALAYSIA National Day

Hotels & Restaurants

NIMA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Seminar on

"Pakistan and the Changing

Power Dynamics in the In-

dian Ocean" was organized

by the Indian Ocean Study

Centre, at National Institute

of Maritime Affairs, Islam-

abad in collaboration with

the Institute of Regional

Studies. Eminent speakers:

Dr. Huma Naz Baqai, for-

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



| Rescue (Police) |
|---------------------------|
| Bomb Disposal1 |
| Fire Services Rawalpindi |
| Islamabad1122 & 16 |
| Emergency Ambulance112 |
| & Rescue Services.4451122 |
| Motorway Police926604 |
| Motorway Police9270601-20 |
| Women Police Station |
| Islamabad922259 |
| Rawalpindi9270601-20 |
| |



Enquiry

| Edhi Ambulance | 115 |
|-------------------|----------|
| PIAFlightInfo | 114 |
| PIACargo | .9280979 |
| Railway Inquiry | 117 |
| Railway Exchange9 | 270831-5 |
| WASA Rawalpindi. | .5555489 |
| CAA | 9281092 |



Hospitals

| 1105616 | uis |
|-------------------|-------------|
| CMH | 5611111 |
| MH | 561116 |
| Cantt Hospital | 9270907-11 |
| DHQ | 5556311-4 |
| RGH | 9290301-7 |
| Holy Family | 9290322-7 |
| PIMS | 9261170-79 |
| Polyclinic | 9218300-09 |
| Shifa Internation | nal.4603666 |



Departments

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Govt committed to facilitate minorities

"The idea is to enable and facilitate all segments of society, particularly our non-Muslim citizens, to take a full part in the national life," PM said in a message on the National Day of Minorities.

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said the government was taking steps to mainstream minorities in the country by ensuring a level-playing field for them. "The idea is to enable and facilitate all segments of society, particularly our non-Muslim citizens, to take a full part in the national life," he said in a message on the National Day of Minorities.

PM Sharif said the government was taking steps to provide equal opportunities to minorities such as allocation of special quota at representative fora, and also in educational institutions and other services. He mentioned other measures for the up-

lift of poor minorities including dedicated financial support for their emancipation.

He said mending the fault lines of socio-religious exploitation besides eradicating its causes was the cornerstone of

the government's policies. The prime minister mentioned that National Day of Minorities, which is celebrated on the 11th of August every year, serves to highlight the contributions that the non-Muslim Pakistani citizens made to national development. "This day we express our gratitude to our minority communities for their meritorious services for the uplift of the motherland," he said. "The day also reminds us of our constitutional, religious and political responsibility to protect their rights and freedoms."

Indian Ocean to become

next power ground: Experts

further been statutorily formalized in the country's constitution. He said Islam is a religion of peace, har-

mony, and tolerance. According to the Holy Quran, there is no compulsion in matters of religion, he added. He said the Quranic precept coupled with the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) provides a basis for the principle enunciated by Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in his historic address to the nation on 11th August 1948. Emphasizing freedom of religion and sanctity of the lives and property of minorities, he said the right had

PM Sharif said the government stands committed to these obligations and officially celebrates the 11th of August to reiterate its resolve towards the achievement of the noble objective of building an inclusive society in line with the vision of the Quaid-i-Azam. He reaffirmed the coalition government's resolve for the betterment and welfare of minorities and their fullest inclusion in national life and development.

"I will also avail myself of this opportunity to call upon our brothers and sisters from all minority communities to keep playing their role for the promotion of an atmosphere of tolerance and mutual accommodation," he said. He said, "This is the only course which leads to the achievement of our shared objective of promoting interfaith harmony and peace in our society. Pakistan belongs to its people without any discrimination of caste, creed, and colour." - APP

HEC announces

ISLAMABAD: Government of Cuba through Higher Educa-

Under selection criteria process, candidates must apply onto scholarship awardee after his departure to Cuba (Scholar should have a working bank account in Pakistan). – APP

one scholarship in **Medicine in Cuba**

tion Commission (HEC) Pakistan has offered one undergraduate scholarship in field of Medicine (MBBS) for Pakistani nationals for the Year 2022-23. According to sources, as per basic eligibility criteria, at least 70 percent or above marks are required in F.Sc. /A level (Pre-Medical) & 60 percent or above marks in SSC/Matric (O level). Result awaiting candidates are not eligible to apply as HEC require final score for merit.All Pakistani/AJK nationals, aged between 18-25 years as on closing dates of application are eligible to apply.

line at HEC website: https://scholarships.hec.gov.pk/#/auth/ login. After registering and filling your profile, please select "Learning Opportunities Abroad". After submission of the application, get its printed copy to be signed by applicant. HEC online application portal shall close on 12th September 2022 (04.00 PM). It is to mention here that deadline to apply online at HEC e-portal is on or before 12th September 2022. The final selection will be based on Merit Formula 50% FSC + 50% Matric marks. Sharing the details of funding, the sources revealed that the government of Cuba will borne following expenses: Tuition fees (Hostel accommodation & toiletries), Food (as per rules of Cuba) Contribution to living expenses in form of Stipend (100 Cuban Pesos per month). However, other expenses like round trip air-tickets, buying of halal food, medical insurance (disease or other causes) and visa fee shall be borne by the student/guardian. However, a one time grant of Rs 300,000/- shall be provided

Nadeem Riaz while concluding the session stated that re-conceptualization of evolving security, ecotrends is necessary to envisage the prospects of conflict and cooperation in the Indian Ocean.

World Humanitarian Day to be marked on August 19 ganizations try to increase

ISLAMABAD: World Humanitarian Day will be marked on August 19 (Friday) across the globe including Pakistan. The day honors all humanitarians who have worked in the promotion of the humanitarian cause, and those who have lost their lives in the cause of duty. It aims to increase public awareness about humanitarian assistance activities worldwide and the importance of international cooperation.

World Humanitarian Day is a day dedicated to humanitarians worldwide, as well as to increase public understanding of humanitarian assistance activities. The day aims to honor humanitarian workers who have lost their lives or injured themselves in the course of their work, and to acknowledge the ongoing work of humanitarian staff around the world. Many communities and or-

the importance of humanitarians by distributing publicity and information material. Additionally, some try to speak to the press to help spread these key messages of World Humanitarian Day, while other groups organize public events worldwide that feature humanitarian work. For the year 2010 and beyond, it is anticipated that World Humanitarian Day will focus on particular humanitarian themes to help increase public awareness. provide Humanitarians life-saving assistance to millions of people worldwide. They place their own lives at risk to help others in conflict zones and areas of natural hazards. More than 700 humanitarian workers have died or experienced the most dangerous situations while trying to help those in need. - APP

mer Ambassador Naghmana

Hashmi, Dr. Anjum Sarfraz,

R/Adm (Retd) Farrokh Ah-

mad shared their intellectu-

al insights. V/Adm Abdul Al-

eem, DG NIMA welcomed

all the worthy speakers &

participants and highlight-

ed the significance of the

dian Ocean and its future

Dr. Huma delivered an

analysis of the significance

NADRA registers over 2,943 transgenders

of the Indian Ocean. She

identified that IO is for our

children and grandchildren.

Former Ambassador Nagh-

mana stated that the Indi-

an Ocean will be the next

battleground and to combat

this battle, a stronger navy

tion of nuclear submarines

by Australia (AUKUS) will

result in the proliferation

of nuclear submarines, it

should be built.

ISLAMABAD: National Database and Registration Authority (NAD-RA) has registered over 2,943 transgenders so far from all provinces including federal capital, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Out of total, the authority has registered transgenders Punjab, 491 144 Khyber from Sindh, Pakhtunkwa and 104 Balochistan, as per of-

ficial data. Similarly, as many as 30 transgenders have been registered from federal capital followed by 14 from Azad Kashmir and one from GB. Moreover, computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) have been issued to 1148 since June 2018 to Feb 2022. - APP

CCAC to meet by end of current month ISLAMABAD: Cotton Crop Assessment Committee

is likely to be followed by

other countries which will

enhance nuclearization of

President IRS Ambassador

the Indian Ocean.

(CCAC) is scheduled to meet by last week of current month (August) in order to make the first estimation of crop output for the season 2022-23 as well as setting the priorities to achieve sustainable growth in crop of vital economic importance.

The Minister for National Food Security and Research is likely to Chair the meeting, whereas all other stakeholders including provincial departments of agriculture, field extensions and progressive growers would attend the meeting, said Cotton Commissioner in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research Dr Khalid Abdullah.

Talking to APP here on Thursday he said that, besides others, the CCAC meeting would also be attended by the representatives of All Pakistan Textile Mills Association, Cotton Ginners Association and other relevant stakeholders. The meeting would also discuss the ways and means to revive, promote and develop the cotton crop, which was on declining from last many years, but due to government's efforts it had gained momentum during last season, he said adding that measures would be dis-

cussed to enhance area under cotton cultivation. He said that the meeting would also take stocks of the crop destroyed due to current spell of torrential rains and flash floods.

In this regard, he said that Ministry of National Food Security and Research has directed all provincial governments for conducting survey and damage assessment of cotton crop which was affected due to rains and flash floods across the

crop sowing areas. The provinces were also

asked to collect data about the partially damaged crop and the crop which was completely destroyed in order to form appropriate policies for the compensation of cotton growers. It is worth mentioning here

that cotton crop standing over thousands of hectares in Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was damaged due to recent heavy rains and flash floods. The efforts were being made to control the damage and revive the crop in affected areas.

The respective governments have also activated their field extension departments to provide technical assistance for cotton growers to minimize the damage by taking immediate steps including sanitation and drainage of stagnant water from the fields. - **APP**

Amar opens up about struggles as an actor

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani actress and filmmaker, Amar Khan has slowly yet surely built a niche for herself in the entertainment industry, as she continues to amuse fans with her charismatic performances and stunning looks. Recently, the 'Dum Mastam' starlet opened up about the daily life struggles of actors as well as the efforts they put in every project, regardless of what's going on in their own life.

The diva turned to Instagram, penned a heartfelt note and gave an insight into the glamorous looking tough life of an artist, "Getting up everyday, putting the paint, making the brush strokes, wearing so many characters.' Furthermore, Khan stated the emotional struggles of stars to overcome their own state of mind and playing a character that is entirely different from their own personality. "Embracing a state of mind that is not yours. Trying to make it interesting but letting go off your own state of mind, forgetting your own emotions you slept with last night. Everyday putting up a face that isn't yours. Do we forget our own?," she asked. "Every day an action call is a tough call," the 'Baddua' starlet concluded the note. On the work front, Khan's latest drama serial Daraar's first episode went on air yesterday, garnered immense appreciation from celebrities and fans. - APP

Chairman Senate calls for elevating trade volume with Togo

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, In a meeting with Togolese Foreign Minister Prof Robert Dussey here at Parliament House on Thursday, has determined joint interests as well as mutual respect as the primary force in the Pakistan and Togo relationship. The duo stressed the need for further enhancing bilateral cooperation in diverse fields of mutual interest, said a press release issued here. Sadiq Sanjrani appreciated the Foreign Minister of Togo participation in the OIC-CFM conference held in Islamabad in March 2022 and underlined the importance of bilateral relations based on common values, aspirations, and mutual respect. The bilateral trade which stands at \$27mn needs to be enhanced further, he observed.

The Chairman Senate, on his part, emphasized that Pakistan affixes great importance to further boosting amicable ties with Togo. He praised the positive and substantial contribution of Togo to multilateral platforms like the AU, OIC, UN, and ECOWAS. He also applauded traditional coordination of positions and mutual support for each other's candidatures at international fora. The meeting called for exchanges at bilateral political, trade and Military levels. The Chairman also extended an invitation to the Chief of Togolese Defense Forces to visit Pakistan. Sanjrani suggested the formation of a Joint Business Council and proposed the finalization and signing of an MoU for Bilateral Political Consultations, pending since March 2021.

Soft launch of 11th edition of IDEAS 2022

Ceremony was followed by unveiling of a Commemorative Postage Stamp by Federal Minister, which will be issued by Pakistan Post on 14th August 2022, signifying the holding of 11th edition of IDEAS in 75th year of independence of Pakistan for Defence formally de- (R) Humayun Aziz and Diaddress stated that the 11th inland and abroad and

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "It is indeed a matter of great pleasure to see the IDEAS gaining prominence with every passing year, over a span of twenty two years", Federal Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif stated during Soft Launch ceremony for International Defence Exhibition And Seminar IDEAS - 2022.

He further expressed, "I wish the organizers of this event success in the conduct of IDEAS and look forward to an overwhelming participation from defence industries from inland and abroad". Towards the end of his

address, the Minister

clared the launching of IDEAS - 2022. Upon arrival at the venue, he was received by Secretary Defence Production Lt Gen

rector General Defence Export Promotion Organization (DEPO) Maj Gen Muhammad Arif Malik. DG DEPO in his welcome

edition of IDEAS is planned to be held at Karachi Expo Centre from 15 - 18 November 2022, the year of 75th celebration of Independence of Pakistan. He added that despite a gap of four years, more than 70% of the available space has already been booked by exhibitors from



hoped that IDEAS-2022 will substantial in size and stature than ever before. The ceremony was attended by the Ministers, Federal Secretaries, large number of Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Military and Civil officials, CEO Badar Expo Solutions - the Event Manager of IDEAS 2022 and elites from the Media and Business community.

The ceremony was followed by unveiling of a Commemorative Postage Stamp by Federal Minister, which will be issued by Pakistan Post on 14th August 2022, signifying the holding of 11th edition of IDEAS in 75th year of independence of Pakistan.

Lost and Found Lost Documents

of Plot I, Raheela Naz wife

of Shahbaz Ahmed Janjua having a Plot in new metro city 10 Marlas, situated in Block A, General Enclave No: 194, Registration #:00-C-077. The Original File of

plot is lost in Main Bazar Lalamusa on 20-07-2022. Anyone who find the file, place address it to. From: Raheela Naz wife of Shahbaz Ahmed Janjua Resident of Ahmed House Street, #:11/127, Lalamusa, Tehsil Kharian, District Guirat.

Friday, August 12, 2022

ANF recovers

227 narcotics filled

capsules

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Nar-

cotics Force (ANF) in two operations conducted at

Airport on Thursday recov-

ered 227 narcotics-filled

capsules from the posses-

quarters spokesman, in an

operation, ANF recovered

102 Ice-filled capsules from

the possession of Kashif, go-

ing to Doha while in second

operation, ANF recovered

125 heroin-filled capsules

from the possession of Nabi

Two cases have been regis-

tered against the accused

while further investigations

Gul, going to Dubai.

sion of two accused. According to an ANF Head-

International

Islamabad

NH&MP committed to ensure safe travel

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General National Highways and Motorway Police, Khalid Mahmood has said that Motorway Police was committed to ensure safe travel of passengers on national highways.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, he said that motorcyclists without helmets and side mirrors on national highways would be fined as per law, adding that all possible measures were being taken to ensure the use of helmets and side mirrors by the public.

Mahmood said that more than 25,000 motorcycles had been confined on national highways for riding without helmets and side

He said that uniform and effective enforcement of the law was the top priority of the Motorway Police and added "Motorway Police is also conducting regular briefing sessions to create road safety awareness among the public". – APP

PFA confiscates 2,076-liter fake drinks

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA), in its ongoing drive to check food outlets, inspected various sites and confiscated 2,076-liter fake drinks in the area of Chakra here Thursday. The PFA spokesman said that teams raided a warehouse in Chakra and seized 5000 bottles,20 Kg lids, three gas cylinders, one mixing machine, and 16 kg of packing material labelled with a famous brand after a hectic four hours long operation.

He said that an FIR had been registered against the warehouse's owner, and samples collected had been sent to Lahore for laboratory testing. He added that strict action was being taken against violators to ensure hygienic food to the residents, and no compromise would be made with those who were playing with the citizens' health. - APP

Political parties asked to submit assets statement

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 by 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 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 which 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. The statement to be submitted to the ECP shall accompany the report of a chartered accountant with regard to the audit of accounts of a political party and a certificate signed by an office-bearer authorized by the party head stating that no funds from any source prohibited under the Elections Act, 2017 were received by the political party and the statement contains an accurate financial position of the political party. The statement of accounts is to be submitted on Form-D as provided in the Elections Act, 2017.

Printed Forms are available, free of cost, in the Election Commission Secretariat, Islamabad and in the offices of the provincial election commissioners, Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Form-D/Proforma for the source of funds are also available on ECP's Website. ECP said that the overwriting should be avoided and the membership or certificate issued by ICAP in respect of the Auditor engaged shall be annexed to the Form-D along with last valid renewal certificate. - APP

Briefs PM to unveil national anthem on August 14, says Marriyum

The national anthem, she said, was recorded for the first time in 1954, after that it was updated regularly. Marriyum said that artists from all over Pakistan had sung the national anthem together as its re-recording process had started in 2017 istry was proud of this

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Thursday that the national anthem had been re-recorded and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would unveil it on August 14 at the national flag hoisting ceremony. Delivering her speech as chief guest at the opening ceremony of Digital Photography Exhibition organised by Directorate of Electronic Media and Publications (DEMP) on the occasion of 75th Independence Day of Pakistan, she said that the event was being celebrated fervently and achievements of national heroes were being highlighted and culture and heritage being promoted. She said that the entire Pakistani nation was excit-



ed and the event was being celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm and multiple events had been scheduled by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on the instructions of the prime minister. The minister said that the national anthem had been re-recorded and its promo would be released today.

The national anthem, she said, was recorded for the first time in 1954, after that it was updated regularly. Marriyum said that artists from all over Pakistan had sung the national anthem together as its re-recording process had started in 2017. "We have been working on it for the last four months", she said, adding the min-

view the coffee table book by downloading it on their mobile. The coffee table book had been linked to the QR code, which could be viewed by scanning the QR code through the mobile phone, she remarked. The minister advised the viewers to watch Pakistan Television these days as various series were being presented on the national channel under the name of 'Pakistan Kahani.' All these stories were being presented on Radio Pakistan and PTV for children and youth in which the sacrifices made for the establishment of Pakistan had been highlighted. Moreover, she said that daily activities regarding Pakistan's 75th anniversary were being telecast on PTV.

viders to the Pakistani com-

munity in this city. "My main

responsibilities were to main-

tain order in the queue, prob-

lem with health QR code,

translation and also solve

other relevant problems in

a timely manner", Ashraf

mentioned. He believes that

taking on such kinds of re-

sponsibilities helps experts

get more understanding of

local culture and one may

project. The minister said

that the coffee table book

highlighted the culture of

Pakistan and anyone could

were under process. - APP Police arrest six gamblers

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district police have arrested six gamblers and recovered Rs 23,000 stake money, 10 mobile phones and valuables from their possession here on Thursday, a police spokesman said.

He informed that Wah Cantt police conducted a raid and arrested six gamblers namely Numan, Shaheen, Waqas, Naveed, Hamza and Wagas Majeed. A case has been registered against them while further investigation in under process.

Superintendent of Police, Potohar, Rana Abdul Wahab said that gambling is the root cause of other evils and those involved in such crimes do not deserve any concession. - APP

"Hamari Pehchan Pakistan" staged at PAC

RAWALPINDI: The Pun-

iab Arts Council (PAC) on Thursday staged a drama, 'Hamari Pehchan Pakistan' in connection with the Diamond Jubilee of Pakistan celebrations. The play was written and directed by Jalil Khan, while the drama characters included Shaughta Khan, Sofia Ali, Gul, Jalil Khan, Naseer Khawaja, Swati Mama Shahir Khan Sadia Gul, Sheri Khan and others. Speaking on the occasion, Director PAC Waqar Ahmed said Pakistan had been our identity and "we should be proud of our identity." He said there was no blessing in the world greater than freedom, and the Muslims of the subcontinent had achieved this homeland by sacrificing millions of lives during years of struggle and migration. In the end, he congratulated all the cast on the play's success. Assistant Director PAC Muhammad Suleman said on August 14, 1947. the Muslims of the subcontinent were sanctified with a separate state where they could live according to their religion. - APP

Preparations in full swing to celebrate Independence day

RAWALPINDI: Like other parts of the country, preparations for the 75th Independence Day are in full swing in Rawalpindi division as the national flags, buntings and badges are selling like hot cake. The printers and makers of buntings, flags, banners and badges are fully engaged in their business as Jashan-e-Azadi preparations are at its peak and the citizens are getting ready to celebrate the Independence Day on Sunday with great enthusiasm and national zeal. According to roadside vendors, the most enthusiastic are the children who are busy in collecting badges and also beautifying their bicycles with special stickers inscribed with messages of Independence Day. A vendor, Arif near Shamsabad park while talking to APP said the demand for the national flag and badges was on the rise as August 14 is getting nearer, adding that most of the motorists were buying flags to hoist on their vehicles. - APP

Pakistani volunteer fights pandemic resurgence China

Pakistani businessman Ashraf Hussain is assisting Yiwu' anti-epidemic force as a volunteer for a couple of days, which is appreciated by Chinese and foreigners around China, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday. Wearing a full protective kit and a face shield, Ashraf rendered his service in the Choujiang local community where he His tasks were to guide foreigners and Chi-

nese in registration and following the rules on the side. Ashraf Hussain has been doing business in Yiwu city, for the past 20 years and has also been volunteering for the Pakistani community in Yiwu city for the past 15 years. He is closely coordinating with the local municipal government and Yiwu foreign office to help Pakistanis and other foreigners as well. "I'm living here for the past 20 years and witnessed China's competence and success in fighting against COVID-19. I'm very happy to help foreigners and my Chinese brothers and sisters. The reason is very simple, as we Pakistanis consider China as our second home. Therefore, we care like family", he told China Economic Net. The local city government and Pakistani community are acknowledging the valuable services of Ashraf Hussain, who is one of the prominent service pro-

adjust easily to new living environment. - APP **ADB** suggests policy reforms to strengthen railwavs in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has identified six policy reforms to strengthen railway system in Pakistan and across the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) region saying that railways across the region must consider implementing key reforms that would make them more efficient and financially sustainable. A new study by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) assessed the state of CAREC railways and identified opportunities for investment, commercialization and reform. By implementing key reforms, railways across the region can help increase economic growth and improve the lives of ordinary people. According to the study, Pakistan railways has 466 locomotives and 16,159 freight wagons out of which 23% of locomotives and 24%

serviceable. The study said most of the regional railways currently use accounting systems that do not follow internationally rec ognized commercial standards. These old systems cannot

formance is also crucial.

of wagons are un-

accurately measure the true financial performance of railway entities or separate the financial performance of each business activity. The region's railways must develop modern commercial accounting systems that provide reliable and transparent real-time information about costs, revenues, and financial performance. Strengthening staff expertise in operating the system and using it to analyze railway per-

Furthermore, railways need to introduce enterprise resource planning systems to help them adopt more commercial approaches that would increase productivity and profitability. These systems also help railway planners to maintain an overview of existing railway resources such as staff or rolling stock and determine more efficient ways of using them. They can be used to determine the full cost of operating railway services and routes, which is necessary to optimize tariff levels and understand which routes are most profitable. They are used to monitor and improve productivity and asset utilization, and ultimately increase profitability. Likewise, nearly all the CAREC member countries regulate railway freight tariffs. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar meeting with Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan Republic Ulanbek Totuiaev at his office. - DNA

President directs HEC to resolve accreditation issue

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has directed the Hunerkada College of Visual and Performing Arts to resolve the issue of accreditation by fulfilling the requirement of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to save the career(s) of the student(s).

The President issued these directions while disposing off the representation filed by Mr. Imran Minhas against the order of the Wafaqi Mohasib (WM) wherein WM had found HEC negligent in taking action against the Huner-

kada College of Visual and Performing Arts, an act which was tantamount to maladministration on the part of HEC with the added directions to take

suitable action against the college management so that more students do not fall victim to unrecognized college(s). The President admitted

the report filed by HEC wherein HEC had stated that, ".....the record provided by Hunerkada College of Visual and Performing Arts and to resolve the issue of the applicant, it is recommended that the college shall submit complete record of the student to

the university with the request to place it before the University's Statutory bodies [i.e. Affiliated Committee, Academic council, Syndicate, Senate, etc] for consideration.

The President disposed off the representation with the advice to the college management to submit the record of the student to HEC and directed HEC to forward the record to the concerned University with its recommendations for the necessary processing. As per the details of the case, the complainant had alleged that his son got admission in four-year degree program of Fine Arts at Hunerkada College, Islamabad which was affiliated with the University of Balochistan and was run by a renowned artist. After completion of the program, the college was requested to provide a de-

gree but to no avail. He was informed that the University Degree could not be awarded because his son was not registered with the University of Balochistan. Feeling aggrieved, he approached the Wafaqi Mohtasib who passed the impugned order. Later, he filed the representation against this order of the Wafaqi Mohtasib to the President of Pakistan

Togo keen to enhance trade ties with Pakistan

President, ICCI warmly welcomed Robert Dussey, Foreign Minister of Togo and distinguished members of his delegation to ICCI and gave them a brief introduction of the Chamber

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Robert Dussey, Foreign Minister of Republic of Togo along with a delegation visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and addressing the business community, said that his country was keen to enhance trade relations with Pakistan as both countries have good potential to promote bilateral trade in many areas. He said that Togo and Pakistan should develop a mechanism for sustainable development of two-way trade ties to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

He said that Pakistan could achieve better market access to the African region by developing close cooperation with Togo. He said that increased trade between Togo and Pakistan would present a win-win situation to both countries. He hoped that his visit to Pakistan would open up many new avenues of promoting trade and economic relations between the two countries.

Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad

Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry warmly welcomed Robert Dussey, Foreign Minister of Togo and distinguished members of his delegation to ICCI and gave them a brief introduction of the Chamber. He said that Togo is located in West Africa and Pakistan is focusing on the African region for promoting its trade and exports. He said that the close cooperation of Pakistan with Togo would help it in exploiting the potential business opportunities in the African markets. He



said that the bilateral trade between Pakistan and Togo is not very encouraging and stressed that both countries should encourage regular exchange of trade delegations to explore all potential areas of mutual cooperation. He said that ICCI would like to develop close liaison with the chamber of commerce and industry in Togo for promoting business linkages between the private sectors of both countries and exchange information about potential areas of trade cooperation.

ICCI President said that Pakistan and Togo have good potential to enhance cooperation in agriculture, mining and other sectors for mutual benefits. He hoped that the visit of Foreign Minister of Togo along with a delegation to Pakistan would start a new chapter of growing bilateral trade and economic

relations between our two countries. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President, Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI and others also spoke at the occasion and gave useful suggestions for promoting bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Togo.

RWMC observes Anti-Dengue day

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC), on the instructions of Commissioner Rawalpindi, Noor Ul Amin Mengal, observed Anti-Dengue day here Thursday to create awareness about the hazards of dengue virus. According

spokesman, the RWMC was making all-out effort to free Rawalpindi from the fatal virus. He said that the company workers removed hundreds of tons of waste while desilting drains and mechanical sweeping of city areas was also being carried out regularly. He said that the communica-

tion teams distributed waste bags and pamphlets to the shopkeepers in the area of 6th road to highlight the importance of cleanliness and dengue prevention.

To eradicate dengue larvae, he said, comprehensive Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) and an action plan were being followed, and weekly reports were being submitted to the city district government and the government of Punjab.

The spokesman added that RWMC had cleaned its head office and provided awareness to its staff about foiling the dengue virus.

Furthermore, he urged the residents to keep an eve on junkyards, schools and under-construction buildings, which led to the spread of dengue larvae and not to leave any place wet or with stagnant water. - APP

05

POL price challenge

HE government is said to be mulling changing the pricing mechanism for petroleum products. The immediate concern is how to handle the PKR volatility while pricing motor gasoline (MOGAS) and high speed diesel (HSD). In the latest fortnightly price revision, the government changed the formula of using last day of exchange rate to the average during the period. Now the thinking is to use the exact rate of Letter of Credit retirement by Pakistan State Oil (PSO) for fixing pricing. That is even better. The government should move towards complete deregulation of pricing of POL products. Let the market determine prices and the government should leverage, if need be, the tax to provide relief to consumers. The price mechanism was changed from monthly to fortnightly basis after a petroleum crisis that hit the country in June 2020. At that time, international prices fell like nine pins and the demand went down significantly in Pakistan due to Covid-related lockdowns during April and May.

There were inventories at higher prices and the price formula was based on the operating (lower) international prices, and the result was little supply; hence shortage. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) preferred to forego their licences in order to avoid huge losses. Fast forward, in 2022, international petroleum prices rose sharply with the rate of rise higher on refined products than on crude as premium on petrol and diesel increased significantly. At that time, consumer prices in Pakistan were kept frozen. The currency was depreciating while international prices were rising. Everyone was expecting a Rs50-100 (or even more) increase in consumer prices and the dealers kept on hoarding whatever they could to book capital gains.

The result was that all the available storage in the country topped up. Imports by OMCs increased significantly and that too at peaking prices. Now, with increase in prices, the subsidised petroleum products by dealers are being offloaded. This is evident by a fall of 38 percent in demand of diesel and 15 percent in petrol's in July 2022. There is some decline in demand due to increase in prices — perhaps true for MOGAS. But, in case of the fall in HSD, it is partially due to supply by hoarders. Since HSD is less inflammable than MOGAS, it's prone to higher hoarding.

Islamabad POST

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: **051-2266165** / **051-2261960**Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



Selling of wildlife

NIMALS have as much rights as humans and all living things must be treated with a certain sense of dignity. Unfortunately, in Pakistan, these rights have long remained unacknowledged and are blatantly violated. The dilapidated state of zoos across the country and the horrific treatment of animals is a case in point. The Lahore Safari Zoo has decided to auction off a dozen lions – aged between two to five years old - to private collectors on August 11 in order to free up some space for big cats that were rapidly multiplying. The starting bid for each cat will be at Rs150,000 but it is expected to go up to two million rupees. In order to ensure the safety of animals, interested buyers will be registered and will have to show means for proper care and shelter of the animal. The Zoo's Deputy Director hopes that this will help decrease the feeding cost for meat in the zoo, and that funds can be used wisely.

The decision has of course raised concerns as conservationists as well as environmental and animal rights groups have expressed their displeasure at the idea of selling wildlife species. Instead, a more suitable option would have been to shift them to centers where they are properly taken care off. By initiating the selling of wildlife animals, authorities are setting a dangerous precedence. Not only will this create a culture of animal selling in zoos across the country, whereby officials may forcefully breed animals, but it will indirectly encourage poaching and trade of wildlife. There must be a no-leniency policy with regard to the selling of wildlife animals as it goes against conservation and sustainability. There is still time for officials to rethink their decision and take the right step to uphold the sanctity of living creatures.

Untapped land of opportunities

Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi

There are innumerable dimensions of Japanese society which fascinate an individual. Cultural Atlas states, "Since the 1950s, Japan has emerged as one of the most economically and technologically advanced societies in the world. This development has occurred alongside the continuation of intricate and longstanding cultural traditions

T was indeed a pleasure meeting an accomplished Pakistani settled in Japan for the last 26 years. He brought forth emerging dimensions of Japanese society which are not commonly known to the outside world except those who have interest or expert in those areas. He explained his experience of assimilation in the Japanese society. He emphasised that Japanese consider an individual as a most important component in their dealings; they do business with people not convincing features of the product. They don't develop rapport with strangers but once they have confidence on an individual they go all out to patronize him/her and facilitate. He explained his experience of promoting Halal certifications in Japan that how a lady owner of a hotel extended both moral and material support for a successful Halal expo.

Japan has surprised the world with exceptional devel-

opment is several sectors after World War II. According to Okazaki Tetsuji, "The devastated Japanese economy rose quickly from the ashes of World War II. By 1956, real per capita GDP had overtaken the pre-war 1940 level. During the recovery period (1945-56), per capita GDP rose at an average annual rate of 7.1%. Recovery was followed by the era of rapid growth. Japan began closing in on the West at a speed far exceeding its prewar progress.In 1973, Japan's per capita GDP was 95% that of Britain and 69% that of the United States. That was the last year of the so-called rapid-growth era, but the Japanese economy continued to expand at a comparatively brisk rate for almost two more decades. By 1991-the last year of the "bubble economy"-Japan's per capita GDP was 120% that of Britain and 85% that of the United States. Despite the setback of World War II, the process of catching up with the West, begun a little more than a century earlier, was basically complete. There are innumerable dimensions of Japanese society which fascinate an individual. Cultural Atlas states, "Since the 1950s, Japan has emerged as one of the most economically and technologically advanced societies in the world. This development has occurred alongside the continuation of intricate and longstanding cultural traditions. For example, modern buildings and high-rises can be found next to historical structures, temples and shrines. The historical trading route that ran from Tokyo to Kyōto (known as Tōkaidō) continues to be heavily travelled, albeit on high-speed railroad lines and express highways. While the country develops and manufactures many of the world's modern appliances and gadgets, families continue to pass on the skills and techniques of long-practised crafts through generations. This relationship between the past and future has become a globally recognised feature of Japanese culture and society. Around 80% Japanese follow Shinto (the way of the gods) religion which considers cleanliness as godliness. Steve

Around 80% Japanese follow Shinto (the way of the gods) religion which considers cleanliness as godliness. Steve John Powell & Angeles Marin Cabello suggest, "At Japanese schools, cleaning is part of students' everyday routine. Some examples of extreme Japanese cleanliness have gone viral, like the seven-minute train-cleaning miracle has become a tourist attraction in its own right. During football world cups Japanese fans amazed the world by staying behind to pick up rubbish from the stadiums." KumikoMakiharaclaims, "The Japanese routinely berate themselves and praise others, upholding the culture's traditional respect." It is probably because of this rea-

son that bowing is very important in Japanese culture. Natashathe co-founder of The World Pursuitsays, "How many times you bow and how deeply you bow shows your level of respect to the person you're bowing to. Even friends bow to each other."

However, our guest indicated another dimension of Japanese society and its implications both in the short-run and the long-run. It is swift decline in the population of Japan leading this amazing nation into a ghost country very soon if trend continues. Japan's population has been declining since 2009 with the pace more than initial estimates. According to World Population Review, "The population is expected to fall below 100 million by 2058. The main cause of Japan's population decline is the rapidly decreasing number of births, which is currently at the lowest it has been since data started being collected in 1899. In 2019, only 864,000 babies were born in Japan - 54,000 less than the number from 2018. The fertility rate in Japan is 1.4 births per woman - far below the population replacement of 2.1." Japan is trying toprevent the population from falling below 100 million through different initiatives such as loosening regulations on childcare providers, easing the tax burden on part-time working parents and extending interest-free loans for higher education.

But, according to Hiroshi Shiraishi, senior economist at BNP Paribas Securities, "This will not boost the population growth. The more direct way is through immigration. was exactly the same thesis which our guest suggested on the 24th of July 2022 during the meeting. He emphasized the need for structured program to develop relevant human resource with required technical abilities, fundamental know how of Japanese language and above all strong moral values to quickly integrate in the Japanese society. He declared Japan as an untapped land of opportunities for Pakistani workforce provided they exhibit required language and technical skills to contribute to the sustainability of existing industrial and communal infrastructure of Japan. He desired attention of policy makers to set a strategic plan to involve local relevant organizations and also diplomatic channels for convenient immigration of skilled and groomed human resource to Japan who can contribute to strengthen economy of Pakistan through remittances and knowledge sharing in the long-run.

> The writer is Associate Professor Management Sciences Head, Center of Islamic Finance COMSATS University (CUI) Lahore Campus, Email: drabdussattar@cuilahore.edu.pk

Truth the first victim of Israeli war on Gaza

Ray Hanania

The govt of Naftali Bennett,
who last year ended
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Bennett turned over the
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the elections are held

months, Israel has been regularly attacking Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Most of the incidents have been ignored by the Western mainstream news media. Only one of them created a problem for Israel, when its soldiers entered Jenin on May 11 and, during a firefight, shot and killed American-Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh. Normally, when an American is killed, the US rallies to demand justice. In Abu Akleh's case, the US hesitated, believing the propaganda from Israel's military that she may have been killed by Palestinians. It took weeks for the US to grudgingly acknowledge that her death was "most likely" the result

of Israeli gunfire. As concerns surrounding that killing tapered off, Israel continued its assaults with very little media coverage. That was until two Israeli politicians — interim Prime Minister Yair Lapid and Defense Minister Benny Gantz — decided they needed to light a fire under their campaigns ahead of the November elections.

The government of Naftali Bennett, who last year ended Benjamin Netanyahu's long reign, collapsed in June. Bennett turned over the reins to his former political partner, Lapid, who will lead the country until the elections are held. These new elections reflect the turmoil and uncertainty of Israeli politics, being the fifth to take place in just over three years. That is a lot of elections and a lot of uncertainty. And uncertainty in politics always creates opportunities for politicians to take great risks. Israeli politics has always been the impetus for wars in Gaza. Lapid and Gantz must have realized that, in order to beat Netanyahu in the next election, they have to present themselves as being strong. And the easiest way for Israeli leaders to look strong is to turn their guns on the defenseless Palestinians who live under their oppressive apartheid rule.

As long as Israel has the support of the Western mainstream news media, it does not matter how hard the Israeli military assaults the Palestinians or even murders American citizens. It will always commit crimes with impunity. So, Lapid and Gantz decided to attack Gaza and target a leader of Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

VER the past six months, Israel has been regularly atg Palestinians in the Bank and the Gaza

VER the past six They used the usual propaganda, repeated by the media, that Israel had launched a "preemptive strike" on the group, claiming it was plan-

ning terrorist attacks. During the days-long assault, which included missiles, fighter jets and drones, Israel killed 44 Palestinians. including 15 children, More than 360 people were wounded. But instead of portraying the war as one started by Israel, most news media outlets instead focused on the Palestinian defensive response of firing missiles back at Israel. American officials and activists lamented how Palestinian Islamic Jihad was firing hundreds of missiles at Israel, causing poor Israeli civilians to run to their bomb shelters. Social media sites deleted many posts in which users argued that Israel had started the war.

In fact, in their usual determination to dominate the media and public relations spin, Israeli propagandists argued that, if Palestinian civilians died, it was as a result of failed missiles that landed on their own homes. When that was not enough, Israelis tried to argue at the UN and around the world that civilians died because Palestinians used their children as human shields. And, when that did not work, they just shrugged. So what if Palestinian civilians are murdered? Why is that attitude any different from the attitude that put to sleep stories about Israel's murder of Abu Akleh?

Pro-Israel talking heads were quick to dominate the media landscape with interviews. press releases, statements and social media posts that are never censored by Facebook or Twitter. Sadly, the first victim of any Israeli preemptive strike is the truth. It is massacred and used as a human shield by Israel. They fire missiles into crowded Palestinian neighborhoods that were once refugee camps and hit tower blocks, producing striking images of buildings collapsing. Israel's propaganda, with the support of the mainstream news media, presents the dead as the cause of the conflict, while no one is held accountable in Israel. Only in Israel can you kill 44 civilians, including 15 children, and be portraved as tough, strong leaders who should be voted in at the next election. But Lapid and Gantz can count on that, just as they can count

on silence from the US.
- Courtesy: Arab News

Digital World: the good, the bad, and the ugly

Iqra Munawar

In parallel with onslaught of technology, family time has decreased massively, and people living under one roof within one family hardly know what is going on within or outside.

This is because personal communication is withering

away, most are interacting..

S the excessive use of technology fostering aggression amongst teenagers?

With the influence of digital technology increasing day by day, the ability of children to access and use it for everything has become a normal. From ordering food online, to researching for projects, from watching movies for entertainment to online education, from virtual health services to global communication; every aspect of a teenager's life depends on technology. It is an irrevocable fact that technology is embedded in our lives in such a way that it can no longer be reversed. With internet cafes, smart phones, tablets and social media apps, it is estimated that 3.5 percent of teenagers around the globe suffer from digital dependency and screen addiction, reported UNICEF in 2017. There are multiple examples of children from different parts of the world, and the ways in which technology has affected their lifestyle The internet is all of these things, reflecting and amplifying the best and worst of human nature. Therefore, it is obvious that this digital era, with its pros, also has some cons. As the saying goes, 'too much of everything is bad for you.' So, excessive use of technology has its negative impacts, especially on teenagers they are the ones who spend most of the time on the internet and digital gadgets. As a result, technology addiction leads to mood swings and often fuel aggression among them.

The question remains: should the government regulate the exposure of the free internet to minors or teenagers? What are the protocols within our homes and schools for using digital technology? And is this a first world country problem as opposed to third world countries, where children may not have access to numerous digital devices? However, before we begin to ask these questions, it is crucial to understand the crux of the matter by inquiring as to how the evolution and increased usage of the internet and technology has affected

the minds. The role of social media as a menace in this entire equation should also be noted, according to a 2016 study in the Journal of Computers in Human Behavior, 4.1 percent of boys and 3.6 percent of girls who are intense social media users display internet addiction. The effect of these factors on anxiety and aggression levels is an important debate.

For instance, a teenager feels hungry at college one day, and cannot get a hold of internet signals, whereby he is incapable of ordering food online. Cellular methods of ordering food also require a device or a network connection. We therefore see that teenagers tend to be helpless without technology, and that vulnerability is what causes this confusion and leads to aggression. Years ago, you would be labeled illiterate in many parts of the world if you would not read or write, but now the definition of literacy is to be tech savvy. With the current pandemic circulating the globe has forced schools to teach virtually, technology has played a central role and makes it all the more relevant to address this topic with all its negatives.

With a growing number of children connecting online and staying for longer playing games etc. they actually get addicted which leads to social anxiety and in turn, obesity and health problems etc. just because of lack of exposure to the outside world. Children as young as eight or ten have become part of the bedroom culture where devices like smart phones, tablets and laptops are available with great ease. They can also easily access the internet from their bedroom, hence making it more personal and less supervised. A perfect example of the PUBG game which actually generated aggressive behavior among the teenagers. Another example is the excessive use of Tiktok by teenagers in Pakistan. Parents are unable to take their devices from children as these tech gadgets mean the whole world to these teenagers or children.

In parallel with onslaught of technology, family time has decreased massively, and people living under one roof within one family hardly know what is going on within or outside. This is because personal communication is withering away, most are interacting with everyone through social media, except the immediate family. Here social media plays an important role in socializing an individual. It establishes the standards of living. If our youth admire or fantasize the way of living of someone they see on social media, either it's a superstar or local video maker or some YouTuber, it makes them materialistic and their minds start the worldly possessions. They lose their spiritual, cultural and family elements of personality.

In this regard, a research by UNICEF has identified that there are three types of risks that minors can be exposed to while they are online whether on social media sites, researching or exploring the dark web: Content risks, conduct risks and contact risks. Children can unintentionally be exposed to sexually explicit pictures, or images that are not age appropriate and movies that contain scenes of violence. These kids could become the subject of child predators or those trying to radicalize them or introduce them to some agendas or ideologies. If left unaware or uneducated the children them

selves could become the very problem we are discussing. They could be the one inciting hate over the net, they may be under the illusion that spreading hatred, racism or sending hate email about enemies is acceptable and untraceable. Without being held accountable or liable for their actions all of the above can spiral out of control, bringing about a change in the values of future generations and the threat to the binding force that holds our communities together.

A TED talk by Indigo Mudbhary on the same - 'Technology, Teens, and Taking responsibility' gives clear insight on the solutions to this problem. As evident, excessive use of technology fosters aggression amongst teenagers, which is a mental health issue that lasts a lifetime. The speaker herself uses a flip phone and stays off social media, and narrates her peaceful experience because of this. Stress and frustration free, she manages to focus on better things in life; quite seldom around the world in contemporary times. Pakistan now has over 100 million smart phone users and is the fastest growing country using the internet. Although it is undeniable fact that the spread of the internet within our country has opened many windows of opportunity, though it has also led to increase in cyber bullying and cybercrime. Regrettably as with a lot of countries around the world. Pakistan does not have any specific legislation in place to protect minors. A social experiment conducted by Amy Joyce, about which she wrote in The Washington Post, source provides solutions to the problem of being addicted to technology and ways to deal with and handle kids going through aggression because of it. Limiting screen time was one of suggested solution as "50% of teens actually admitted that they feel addicted.

In my opinion, a lot more can be done to protect the youth of Pakistan from unnecessary harassment online. It should be the responsibility of the government to enforce stricter punishment for cybercrime that goes undetected and neglected. Greater burden of accountability needs to be put on the online service providers. From my stand point, most of the time spent on the internet is when children are under their own roofs. It should be the parent's responsibility to also keep checks and balances on how much screen time their child is getting and help them to avoid leaving behind a massive digital foot print. My country still hasn't tapped into the endless opportunities that digital technology can bring. Pakistan's position is at 110th on the World Economic Forum technology readiness index disappointing. In a crux, the digital world is indeed broader than imagined, with problems riddled throughout it, along with many benefits. I conclude that the excessive use of technology is indeed bad for a teenager's mental health. and should therefore be limited and supervised by an adult. Moreover, education system and at the societal level, an ecosystem should be created so that, the positive use of digital media surpasses way ahead of its negatives.

- The author is a Young Development Economist associated with Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad. She tweets @Iqraa_Munawar

Friday, August 12, 2022

Briefs

Pak values ties with EU: PM

From Page 01 The Prime Minister also underscored the importance of sustained high level exchanges to further strengthen the growing partnership. Noting the 60th anniversary of Pakistan-EU relations this year, the Prime Minister stressed that this milestone should be commemorated by both sides in a fitting manner.

Minister Prime stressed the importance of a peaceful and stable Afghanistan as well as highlighted the unprecedented level of cooperation that Pakistan had extended to the international community in regard to Afghanistan, especially since the developments of August last year.

Dr. Riina Kionka thanked the Prime Minister for receiving her and expressed her resolve to work for further deepening of EU-Pakistan relations during her tenure in Islamabad.

EU envoy plays national...

From Page 01 democracy, rule of law, human rights, and migration but also sectors such as energy, climate change and science and technology.

The EU is one of Pakistan's largest trading partners. The EU supports Pakistan's integration into the world economy and its sustainable economic development, namely by granting it preferential access to the European single market under the GSP+ system since 2014.

UN alarmed as Ukraine nuclear...

From Page 01

It said an administrative of fice near the welding area was hit, and the storage of radiation sources. There was a small fire on some nearby grass, but no inju-Enerhoatom added that the fire station located near the plant was also targeted. Because of the shelling, it was impossible to change the personnel after their shift, so they had to continue work overtime.

But the situation was currently under control, Enerhoatom said. The Russian-installed officials issued a mirroring statement, accusing Ukraine of carrying out the shelling.

They said Ukrainian forces were using multiple-launch rocket systems and heavy artillery. The claims by each of the side have not been independently verified.

Meanwhile, UN Secretary General Guterres warned: "Urgent agreement is needed at a technical level on a safe perimeter of demilitarisation to ensure the safety of the area". Mr Guterres was speaking ahead of a UN Security Council crisis meeting over the issue in New York City. In Kyiv, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky warned that "Russia may provoke the world's worst nuclear accident... bigger than Chernobyl". He was referring to the 1986 disaster at the Soviet-build nuclear plant north of Kyiv. Mr Zelensky said that such an accident would be tantamount to Russia using its nuclear weapons without conducting an actual

Imran says will tell what true...

From Page 01 the decision is taken against

the head of the government. The former premier said: "A society can never prosper without the rule of law... everyone, including the rich and the poor, must have equal human rights."

He lamented that the absence of rule of law was one of the biggest problems in Pakistan. Speaking about his upcoming rally in Lahore, the former premier told the gathering that on August 13, his par ty will celebrate "real freedom" and give a message to minorities that they are equal citizens of Pakistan. He added that he will also unveil a future course of action on how to achieve "true freedom".

Asia Cup: Pak-India clash is a pressure match: Babar Azam

Pakistan cricket team is due to leave for the Netherlands on August 12 and they would play three ODIs on August 16, 18 and 21 at V.O.C. Rotterdam

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: As the Men in Green prepare to compete in the Asia Cup against their fierce rivals, Pakistan's captain Babar Azam stated on Thursday. "We usually try to treat it like a regular game, but obviously, there is different pressure on us," Babar told a press conference before the Pakistan team's departure to the Netherlands.

"There is pressure, but we tried [to keep ourselves calm in the T20 World Cup and] not [repeat the same thing] of comin Captain Babar Azam has expressed the hope that power-hitters Asif Ali, Khushdil Shah and Iftikhar Ahmad will follow suit and fill the gap in the middle-order batting, left by experienced Shoaib Malik and Mohammad Hafeez.

He said the team would miss the performance of the great players, adding that he would try to give the trio maximum opportunities and confidence to prove their mettle. He said Shadab Khan's batting from in the white ball cricket adds to the batting depth of the team in short format cricket. Pakistan cricket team is due to leave for the Netherlands on August 12 and they would play three ODIs on August 16, 18 and 21 at V.O.C. Rotterdam. Babar hailed Khushdil Shah for playing with restraint and doing well for the team in the recent past. On non-selection of Shoaib Malik, he said



the best team had been picked by the selectors in consultation with him and the head coach, and dispelled the impression that any changes in team selection were imminent before the Asia Cup to be played in UAE from August 26. The ODI and T20 No. 1 batter said Shaheen Shah Afridi has been picked to accompany the team doctor and physio in the Netherlands so that he might regain fitness and be available for at least one ODI in Netherlands or fully recover before the Asia Cup and the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

On Hasan Ali's exclusion from the team, Babar said: "I always support Hasan Ali because he is a team man but his recent form has not been good", adding that Hasan might regain form with good performances in the domestic season lying ahead and would make a strong comeback.

He said that fast bowlers like Naseem Shah, Dahani have been performing on the fringes and they need a chance to do well and add to the pool of fast bowlers. About team's chances against Netherlands, Babar said it was difficult to beat a team on its home conditions, adding that he was confident about batters and bowling battery of the Pakistan team to do well in foreign conditions.

On unfamiliar conditions, he said the the team was not wary of the conditions in the

Netherlands, claiming the team was in good stead despite less practice opportunities due to the rainy season in Lahore. He further said there was no fear as the Netherlands conditions were similar to the English weather. On selection of a young side for the Netherlands tour, he said it is not wise to rest the senior players, adding that young players are also part of the contingent selected for the tour. Babar said the Netherlands ODIs being part of the ICC men's Cricket World Cup Super League hold importance for the team as "we cannot afford to lose the vital points".

About Imad Wasim's chances of making to the World Cup contingent, he said Muhammad Nawaz has performed well in the red-ball format as well as the T20 cricket in the recent past, adding that no player was dropped for good and may make a comeback. The all-format skipper dispelled the impression that the team was weary and under pressure due to continuous cricket, adding that the young team was super-fit and ready to play more cricket.

He added that Shaheen Shah Afridi's injury was not caused by the work-load but due to an error of judgment in the field. Babar Azam hailed athletes Muhamamd Nooh Dastgir Butt and Arshad Nadeem for winning gold medals at the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham and expressed the hope their feat will inspire many young athletes.

'Technical incident' behind military base blasts: Belarus

MINSK: Belarus said on Thursday that blasts heard overnight at one of its military bases 30 km (19 miles) from Ukraine were caused by a "technical incident." At least eight explosions were heard after midnight near Zyabrovka military airport, according to reports on Telegram messenger. Reuters was not able to independently verify the reports. Commenting on the incident, the Belarusian Defence Ministry said "the engine of a vehicle caught fire after replacement ... There were no casualties." The incident occurred after powerful explosions rocked

Russia's Saki air base earlier this week in Russian-ruled Crimea, which Moscow had termed an accident. Ukraine has declined to publicly claim responsibility for the explosions at the base, while also not denying involvement.

Belarus is a close ally of Russia. Near identical impact craters seen in satellite images and simultaneous explosions appear to indicate the military airport was hit by a volley of new long-range weapons, capable of evading Russian defences. read more After reports of the blasts in Belarus, Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak noted what he termed an "epidemic of technical accidents," something he described as a warning to Russian troops. "The epidemic of technical accidents at military airfields of Crimea and Belarus should be considered by Russia military as a warning: forget about Ukraine, take off the uniform and leave," Podolyak said on Twitter. - Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari received Director Ex. Cttee of SCO-RATS Ruslan Mirzayev today. Reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to countering the "three evils of terrorism, extremism and separatism. Commended contribution made by SCO-RATS towards regional peace & security. - DNA

Serena Williams' intimidating aura still intact

TORONTO: Serena Williams may be in the home stretch of her career, but the 23-time Grand Slam champion's aura remains, Switzerland's Belinda Bencic said Wednesday.

"You can feel her presence everywhere. She has that aura ...whether you like it or not you are intimidated, you are scared," said Bencic, who nevertheless managed to quell her emotions and beat Williams 6-2, 6-4 in the former world number one's final match at the WTA Toronto Masters.

"I'm star-struck every time I see her, it's so difficult to play her," Bencic said. "I feel like I'm paralysed a little bit, just, like, watching her." Williams, who turns 41 next month, had beaten Spain's Nuria Parrizas Diaz on Monday for her first singles victory since the 2021 French Open, 14 months ago. She revealed in an essay in Vogue magazine and an Instagram post on Tuesday that "the countdown has begun" to her retirement from the sport.

She is expected to compete next week in Cincinnati and at the US Open later this month before turning her attention to new business pursuits and her family life. "It was a really special match, the occasion was really big,"

said Bencic, who won Olympic gold in Tokyo last year. "It was more than just about tennis, it was really all about Serena and her career." Bencic claimed her second career victory over Williams.

She was an 18-year-old on the rise when she stunned the American in the semi-finals at Toronto seven years ago. "It definitely felt very special to be able to be on court with her today again," Bencic said. "I never imagined ever playing against her - and beating her twice now in Toronto." Wednesday's victory, however, was bittersweet.

"Today is a little bit more sad in a way," Bencic said. "I don't really want her to retire.'

Muzaffarabad Tigers visit Pakistan Sweet Homes

bad Tigers contingent visited the Pakistan Sweet Homes as part of their campaign prior to the Kashmir Premier League (KPL) Season 2 beginning Saturday (August 13). Patron-in-Chief Pakistan Sweet Homes Zamurd Khan welcomed the contingent, which included Muzaffarabad Tigers Chairman Arshad Khan Tanoli, Captain Muhammad Hafeez, Anwar Ali, Iftikhar Ahmed, Zeeshan Ashraf, Amir Hamza Ahmed, Safi Abdullah, Ahmed Daniyal

A contingent of cadets consisting of children of Pakistan Sweet Homes greeted the Muzaffarabad Tigers contingent. Zamurd Khan on behalf of the sons and daughters of Pakistan Sweet Homes welcomed the Muzaffarabad Tigers.

Chairman Muzaffarabad Tigers Arshad Khan thanked the children of the Pakistan Sweet Homes and said that Muzaffarabad Tigers was their team and they had to cheer for them. "I had promised Zamurd Khan

al stars to meet the children of the Pakistan Sweet Homes," he said. Head coach Misbah-ul-Haq

thanked Zamurd Khan and Arshad Khan for giving him the chance to visit Pakistan Sweet Homes, Misbah also cut a cake with the children of Pakistan Sweet Homes. Assistant coach Saeed Ajmal said, "We all should support such organizations". Captain Muzaffarabad Tigers Muhammad Hafeez said he had prayers of all the children

of Pakistan Sweet Homes

for the League. "You all have to become stars of Pakistan one day," he added. Muzaffarabad Tigers stars also played cricket with the children of Pakistan Sweet Homes. A documentary about the welfare work of Pakistan Sweet Homes was also shown to the Tigers.

KPL 2 would run from August 13 to 26 at the Muzaffarabad Cricket Stadium. Reigning champions Rawalakot Hawks would play newly-introduced Jammu Janbaz in the opening match on August 13. - APP

have started the season well. I believe it can help us achieve better results and winning helps motivate the players." It was a particularly memorable evening for veteran French striker Benzema whose goal took him to 324 for the Spanish side, one more than Raul. Only Cristiano Ronaldo, who

scored 450, has more Real goals than Benzema. "Now he's in line for the Ballon d'Or. Is there any doubt? For me, no," added Ancelotti. Frankfurt had the best of the early stages, with Madrid keeper Thibaut Courtois forced into a stunning anticipation save when one-on-one with Daichi Kamada in the 14th minute. Madrid almost got their first, when Benzema released Vinicius to curl past Kevin Trapp in the penalty box, only for Tuta to clear the ball off the line. With Madrid dominating possession, Frankfurt mounted several counter-attacks until Madrid launched a counter of their own in the 37th minute. - DNA

Real defeat Frankfurt to win UEFA Super Cup

HELSINKI: Goals from David Alaba and Karim Benzema gave Real Madrid a 2-0 victory over Eintracht Frankfurt and a fifth UEFA Super Cup on Wednesday. While Frankfurt were dangerous, particularly in the first half, Madrid's experience and individual quality saw them through, as it did so often in their victorious 2021-22 Champions League campaign. "It wasn't an easy game, they were entrenched in their own half, but we managed to score and we controlled it well afterwards," Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti told Movistar TV. "At the start of the season, you can't expect the team to be already at 100 percent, but we won and we

Swiatek sails through as Gauff survives



who fell to Swiatek in the French Open final this year, held on to beat Rybakina 6-4, 6-7 (8/10), 7-6 (7/3). Gauff lost out on four chances to close out a straight-sets victory as a quartet of match points came and went.

Rybakina, Kazakhstan's aided by Gauff's service struggles, had looked as if she might pull off another marathon victory. She had needed three hours to get past Marie Bouzkova in the first round

But Gauff finally prevailed, 70 minutes after her first opportunities, claiming victory on her fifth match point. Both players were appearing for the first time in Francophone Montreal after making Canadian debuts a year ago in

> Toronto. World number 11 Gauff lost serve three times against Rybaki

na but broke on four occasions. Meanwhile, Swiatek glid-

ed through untroubled in her second-round match, defeating Australian Ajla Tomljanovic 6-1, 6-2 in 55 minutes. The top-seeded Pole with six titles this season faced nine break points, saving six.

From the first practice I played here I felt really good," Swiatek said.

Even though there was jet lag and I was coming from clay I felt like I was in a good place. It's this whole tournament and city that is giving me that, I really like being here."

Swiatek was playing her second tournament since losing to Alize Cornet in the third round at Wimbledon last month, a defeat which ended her 37-match win streak. "I'm pretty happy I could actually just play my game. It was the first match so it's never easy,' she said. "But I feel like I found my rhythm; it was a pretty solid performance. Defending champion Camila Giorgi made it to the third round a 6-3, with 7-5 defeat of Belgian Elise Mertens. Spanish fourth seed Paula Badosa lasted for just 13 games before retiring as she trailed 7-5, 1-0 Kaagainst zakh Yulia Putintseva. Simona Halep b e a t Zhang Shuai China

'Imported' govt destroying Pakistan: Fawad

From Page 01

the national wealth abroad. Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, he said that the incumbent government imposed through USbacked conspiracy was hell-bent to destroy Pakistan economically and politically.

Fawad said that gravity of the situation could be judged from the fact that Shehbaz Sharif, who was facing a money laundering case of whooping Rs. 24 billion, was made as the prime minister of the country and his son was made as chief minister of the Punjab.

Fawad stated that Sharif family could not befool the masses that Nawaz Sharif was disqualified for not taking salaries from his son company, adding that the Panama was money laundering case against Sharif family. He said that the PML-N leadership pretended as if the public knew nothing about the Sharif family corruption tales. He said that people were justifying in asking the question as how Hassan Nawaz bought such an expensive flat in London posh area. PTI Vice President said that Zardari and Sharif families' real hometown was London, as they just came to Pakistan to launder the money and left the country when voted

them out of power. Fawad said that look at Hamza Shehbaz who took not time to leave for London after being ousted through public power. He said that the imported government was imposed to destroy Pakistan economically and politically, fearing that Pakistan's troubles could be exacerbated manifolds until these thieves occupied the power. He contended that the government adopted a policy of intimidation and coercion and controlled some media houses and believed that they would manage the things, which would not yield any result.

Fawad said that the PTI was being pressure to accept the imported government: however he added that they could not accept the government imposed through foreign conspiracy and enjoyed no public mandate, as they were called thieves publically everywhere in the world. He stated that the cabal of crooks was so stupid that they were making all-out efforts to put a discard between PTI and army: however, they would not succeed in their nefarious designs, as Chairman PTI Imran Khan wanted a strong army. Talking about police

crackdown on August 25, Fawad said that the matter would be taken to logical ends and Rana Sanaullah and Ata Tarar would not escape punishment. However, he said that fascism can be dealt with fascism; hence they would not resort such brutal tactics like the federal government was doing against PTI's leaders and workers.

Fawad revealed that the PTI government turned the lose-making PTV into a profitable entity; however, Maryam Aurangzib reversed the hard-gains, fearing that the state institution could be turned again into a lose-making entity if the imported government remained in power for three more months. He said that Maryam knew nothing but just playing candy crush.

Talking about Shahbaz Gill, he said that they did not know as where he was kept because they were shifting him after every three hours, adding that even his lawyer was not allowed to meet him. He condemned the police action against Gill's drive and his wife who was picked from their house. He said that the government had no plan to provide any relief to the masses, as oil prices witnessed a considerably decline internationally but the government was in no mood to pass on the benefit to the inflation-ridden masses. Fawad said that the PTI movement entered into a decisive phase and a historical public gathering would be held in Lahore on August 13.

Rajapaksa

allowed

stay in

Thailand

DNA

MANILA: Thailand confirmed that former Sri Lan-

kan President Gotabaya

Rajapaksa has been allowed

to temporarily stay in the

country upon his request,

local media reported. Prime

Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha

on Wednesday said Rajapak-

sa will look for permanent

asylum in another country,

"This is a humanitarian is-

sue. We have made a prom-

ise that it's a temporary

stay. No [political] activities

are allowed, and this will

help him find a country to

take refuge in," said Prayut.

President Rajapaksa re-

signed last month after flee-

ing to Maldives and then

Singapore when anti-govern-

ment protesters took to the

streets of Colombo and oc-

cupied his official residence

and offices. His brother,

Mahinda Rajapaksa, stepped

down as prime minister amid

mass protests in May. The

Indian Ocean island is fac-

ing its worst financial crisis

since political independence

in 1948 due to a massive bal-

ance of payment crisis, ac-

Bangkok Post reported.

Briefs

Disney+ surpasses **Netflix subscribers**

DNA

ANKARA: The Walt Disney Company's streaming service Disney+ saw its total number of subscribers surpassing its rival Netflix for the first time. The US-based multinational mass media and entertainment conglomerate added 14.4 million Disney+ subscribers during its fiscal third quarter, which corresponds to the April-June period of this year.

"We now have 221 million total subscriptions across our streaming offerings," the company said in its financial results statement released on late Wednesday. In contrast, Netflix's financial results statement released on July 19 showed that it had 220.6 million global streaming paid memberships in the April-June period of this year.

Netflix lost 200,000 subscribers during the first three months of the year, marking its first loss in users since October 2011.

It also lost 1 million subscribers in the second quarter of this year, which was lower than its forecast of 2 million, according to its financial statement. This marks the first time any streaming service surpassed Netflix in total subscribers, and it makes Disney+ the world's largest streaming service provider in the industry in terms of the number of subscribers.

ISIS member charged with terror offences

DNA

LONDON: Counter-terrorism police charged a former member of an ISIS/Daesh terrorist cell in the UK with terrorism offences after arresting him at London's airport, where his flight landed

on Wednesday evening. Aine Davis, 38, was arrested at Luton Airport by the Metropolitan Police's counter-terrorism command and taken to a police station in London. "We will always ensure the safety and security of the UK. and will not allow anything to jeopardize this," a statement from the Home Office said. "We can confirm that a British national has been deported from Turkey to the UK. but it would be inappropriate to comment further while police enquiries are ongoing," the statement added. According to the Met Police, Davis was charged in accordance with a number of sections of the Terrorism Act 2000. Davis left the UK in 2013 to join ISIS/Daesh in Syria, where he formed the infamous "Beatles cell" that was made up of other UK recruits.



LAHORE: RCCI Group Leader Sohail Altaf in a group photo with Chief Minister of Punjab, Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi along with President FPCCI Irfan Sheikh, Chairman BMP, Anjum Nisar and members of FPCCI delegation after a luncheon meeting at CM secretariat. - DNA

Moscow accuses Kyiv of 'nuclear terrorism'

"Switzerland, having joined the sanctions, has lost the status of a neutral state, therefore it cannot represent the interests of Kyiv in the Russian Federation"

DNA

MOSCOW: Russia on Thursday accused Kyiv on the "nuclear terrorism," claiming that Ukrainian shelling of the territory of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant could lead to a disaster worse than the notorious 1986 Chernobyl accident. Wednesday, the G-7 and EU voiced concern over the threats posed by Russia's possession of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, urging Moscow to hand over the war-torn

country's nuclear facilities

to the government in Kviv.

The Zaporizhzhia station stop issuing Schengen viis Europe's largest nuclear power plant, producing around 20% of Ukraine's electricity. On March 4, the Russian forces captured the facility with key strategical importance after they attacked Ukraine on Feb. 24. Ivan Nechaev, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson, said reports about the proposal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to send its volunteers to participate in Russia's "special operation" in Ukraine is fake, adding that no such negotiations are ongoing. of a number of countries to

sas to Russians is "an open manifestation of chauvin-"Switzerland, having joined the sanctions, has lost the status of a neutral state, therefore it cannot represent the interests of Kviv in the Russian Federation," he told the reporters. On Wednesday, Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman Oleh Nikolenko said his country reached an agreement in principle with Switzerland on the representation of Ukrainian interests in the territory of Russia. He also underlined Nechaev also said the calls that the recent US decision to allocate another package

of military assistance to Kyiv "only delays the fighting." Nechaev stressed that Moscow notes the focus of all countries, including the US, on the speedy return to the implementation of the Iranian nuclear deal. "A positive result in the negotiations on the resto-

ration of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is quite possible, there are no unresolvable issues between the parties," he said. The nuclear deal was signed in 2015 by Iran, the US, China, Russia, France, the UK, Germany, and the EU. Under the agreement. Tehran comactivity to civilian purposes and in return, world powers agreed to drop their economic sanctions against Iran.

Trump's withdrawal in 2018, with the US re-imposing sanctions on Iran, prompted Tehran to stop complying with the nuclear deal. The EU, as the coordinator of the deal, has made significant efforts to get Iran and the US back to the negotiating table since the beginning of the conflict. Speaking on the recent heightened tensions in Karabakh, Azerbaijan's Nechaev said Moscow is in constant contact with the Armenian and Azerbaijani sides on the situation ing but mere hypocrisy."

around Karabakh. He emphasized that Moscow considers criticism of the work of Russian peacekeepers in the region as "unjustified." Last week, Azerbaijan said it launched a retaliatory operation against Armenian forces in the Karabakh region after Armenia opened fire and killed an Azerbaijani soldier, according to its Defense Ministry. Armenia has accused Azerbaijan of violating the fall 2020 agreement that ended the 44-day Karabakh War, with Azerbaijan dismissing charge as "noth-

cording to financial experts. Global chipmakers face high volatility

DNA

ANKARA: Global semiconductor manufacturers face heightened revenue and cash flow volatility, Fitch Ratings said in a statement on Wednesday. Some of the major reasons for volatility are supply chain issues, elevated protectionism measures from some countries, geopolitical instability, and monetary and fiscal policy interventions by governments, the rating agency

said in a statement. On the demand side, weakening consumer electronics, computer and smartphone sales are weighing on chipmakers, causing them to reduce their capital expenditures, it added.

The US government's \$52 billion CHIPS and Science Act passed into law on Tuesday should accelerate semiconductor capacity production in the country, Fitch said. "The Act follows similar actions taken by the EU designed to wean the semiconductor supply chain from an overreliance on southeast Asia and relieve market constraints," it added. Fitch noted that government investment and support in some Asian countries have reshaped the semiconductor industry in the past 20 years, during which the US' share in the global chip manufacturing sector declined to the low teens from the mid-30% range.

Indonesia will remain world's investment destination in 2023

ANTARA

JAKARTA: Minister of Investment and Head of the Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) Bahlil Lahadalia expressed optimism that Indonesia would remain the world's investment destination in 2023.

"When asked whether Indonesia is still optimistic that in the future, we will become one of the investment destination countries? Yes, we are very optimistic," the minister noted during the online talk show titled "Optimism for a Stronger Indonesia" in Iakarta

on Wednesday. Recently, Indonesia has shown an excellent economic foundation. Indonesia's economic growth had reached 5.44 percent in the second quarter of 2022 (yoy), with the inflation rate maintained at 4.35 percent in June 2022 (yoy) amid global uncertainty that plagued the world, he remarked.

This achievement has made Indonesia as one of the countries with the best macroeconomic foundations in the world. This is especially when compared to other G20 member countries. Lahadalia remarked. "Our economic foundation is based

on our consumption growth that is around 5.1 percent, the investment grows at 3.1 percent, and good exports and imports," he stated. The minister's optimism is

also based on President Joko Widodo's direction that the investment target in 2023 must be higher than the 2022 target of Rp1,200 trillion. The higher investment target is needed to fill the declining financing gap since the state budget deficit must be kept below three percent. "In order to keep our growth above five percent, we need investment. Hence, I am sure that future investment

lion," Lahadalia noted. He is also optimistic that the investment realization target of Rp1,200 trillion in 2022 would be achieved. Until the first semester of 2022, the realization of investment had reached Rp584.6 trillion, or 58.4 percent of the existing target. He said that the flow of in-

vestment realization would continue to increase until the end of the year to pursue the company's targets. "Usually, the investment flow cycle is the smallest in the first quarter and then increases in the third and fourth quarters since people are pursuing targets.

China backs \$640 mln Sudan railway restoration project RABAT: Sudan secured Chinese backing to begin a \$640

million restoration of its railway network, pressing ahead with the ambitious project despite an economic crisis worsened by last year's coup. Authorities this week took receipt of freight-train carriages from China's CRRC Ziyang Co. worth 50 million euros (\$51.6 million), with Sudan paying 30 percent of that amount upfront, Transport Minister Hisham Abu-Zaid told reporters Wednesday. The new equipment will allow Sudan to transport 350,000 tons of cargo per month by rail, up from 80,000 tons, the minister said. He didn't give details on the next steps in the initiative or say if more Chinese assistance was coming. The North African nation, where Omar al-Bashir was ousted in 2019, announced plans July last year to revamp a more than 2,000-kilometer (1,242 miles) rail network that had been shattered by decades of sanctions and mismanagement. The African Development Bank, China State Construction Engineering Corp. and unspecified Gulf firms had all been said to show interest in assisting. - DNA

160 years of modern Romanian diplomacy



Bogdan Aurescu

BUCHAREST: On the Occasion of 160 Years of Modern Romanian Diplomacy, Minister of Foreign Affairs Bogdan Aurescu has issued a special message. He said in the message that In 2022, we mark 160 years since the establishment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania: 160 years of modern Romanian Diplomacy - 160 years of concrete and valuable contribution to the creation, continuance and development of Romania's international relations, to the democratic path of the Romanian state, 160 years of service in the defence of the interests and security of Romanian citizens, wherever they may be.

Looking back in history, we realize that the emergence of a modern institution dedicated to diplomacy and to the regulation and management of the young state's foreign ties in 1862 gave a boost to the efforts of political emancipation and the acquisition of a well-defined international profile, which would establish Romania as an independent and sovereign state. An essential component of Romanian foreign policy at that time was the encouragement of a pragmatic and courageous diplomacy, oriented towards achieving the fundamental objectives of the Romanian nation.

The first task of the newly established ministry was to achieve the fundamental objectives of international recognition and completion of the Union of the Principalities: the first objective was related to the recognition by Europe of the double election of the ruler Alexandru Ioan Cuza, the second objective was the acceptance by the Ottoman Porte and the guarantor powers of full political and administrative union.

In its 160 years of operation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also gone through difficult times, from the War of Independence, the Balkan Wars, the two World Wars and the fascist and communist dictatorships, to the acute challenges of today. Among the Ministry's employees have been heroes and veterans, rescuers considered "righteous among nations" for their actions during the Holocaust, personalities who acted with all determination to achieve national goals and interests. Despite historical difficulties, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has always acted as a vector for Romania's modernisation and progress.

Personalities such as Nicolae Titulescu, Grigore Gafencu or Vespasian Pella, along with many other diplomats contributed to the institutional and conceptual evolution of Romanian Diplomacy and our institution.

The history of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues to be written, day after day, by the people who serve today in an institution that defends the interests of a democratic, free country, a responsible member state of the European Union and a reliable NATO Ally, a Strategic Partner of the United States of America, a state strongly committed to promoting respect for international law. rules-based international order, effective multilateralism and fundamental rights and freedoms. At the same time, Romanian diplomacy will continue to support and promote democratic values, stability and security in the region and globally, strict respect for international law and rules-based international order, effective multilateralism. The benchmarks of foreign policy remain the strengthening of our country's influence in the European Union and NATO, the development and deepening of the Strategic Partnership with the USA. In a dynamic and complex global context, marked by a series of crises and substantial transformations of the reference framework for Romania's diplomatic action, for its national security, but also for the security, prosperity and exercise of the fundamental rights of its citizens, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues to transform and adapt. When, for the first time since 1945, the spectre of a brutal, unjustified and unprovoked war waged by Russia against neighbouring Ukraine descends on Europe, the implications can only be global. Today, we have before us a major test of mutual commitments based on solidarity and concrete action. In this sense, the firm European and Euro-Atlantic response is based on the same values that guide the entire action of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Together with our allies and partners, we are deeply committed to formulating a comprehensive diplomatic response to this aggression, with its tragic humanitarian consequences and inestimable economic costs. This is not the first time that the Min-

istry of Foreign Affairs has been faced with such circumstances. It is, however,

the first time that, also as a result of decades of diplomatic work, Romania is deeply anchored in a Euro-Atlantic system of unwavering values, security and solidarity. And this does not mean that threats and risks can be ignored; on the contrary, we must respond to them effectively, enhancing our ability to achieve our core objectives.

Whether we are talking about climate

change, economic crises, security crises, the adaptation of Romanian diplomacy aims at both the lessons learned in 160 years of modern diplomatic history and the structuring of a resilient diplomatic action, in all its dimensions. And the adaptation of our action takes shape both in the space of classical interactions and in the space of digital

We don't do all these efforts alone. In an era when our presence in the public space has become highly relevant, we aim to be increasingly open to citizens, so that the substance and complexity of our work is reflected in the public dimension of society.

in the size of the Romanian presence abroad after 1989, in parallel with the expansion of Romania's foreign consular network, required the creation of specialized structures for certain sectors of consular activity. Thus, in 2003 the directorate was reorganised as a general directorate, i.e. the Directorate General for Consular Affairs, which later became the Consular Department. In view of the realities that the consular network has to face today, we have started in 2020 an extensive effort to adapt consular tools by modernizing, de-bureaucratizing and digitalizing consular services, while expanding the consular network, so as to

ed and, at the same time, the increase in

the complexity of requests for consular

assistance and protection, all directly

determined by the significant increase

YEARS OF ROMANIAN DIPLOMACY

We want as wide an audience as possible to have direct contact with our work and to understand it, because it reflects the fundamental political lines we follow and the objectives we have set ourselves in the interest of citizens. Also, as part of our open government approach, civil society is our partner in our joint efforts to build and enhance the resilience of

Since the establishment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, relations with Romanian citizens abroad have been a priority line of action, managed through the Consular Directorate, a structure that can claim one of the longest histories, its history practically merging with that of our institution. The unprecedented diversification and multiplication of the consular caseload, the exponential increase in the volume of consular services providadequately respond to the legitimate expectations of our citizens, as well as to contemporary requirements, realities and challenges. And this consular reform effort will continue with determination.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to fulfil its duty towards Romanian citizens. It will do so by keeping as a benchmark the work of diplomats who contributed to the foundation and shaping of a united and modern Romania, through diplomatic conduct and action dedicated to the same fundamental goal: protecting and promoting the values, interests and objectives of our country and the welfare and security of our citizens. Additional information:

In the autumn of 1859, following the election of Alexandru Ioan Cuza as ruler of both principalities, on January 5,

1859 in Moldova and on January 24, 1859 in Wallachia, the Romanian diplomats of that time obtained, through intense efforts and skilful professional approaches, the recognition of the double election, even if it was of an exceptional nature, being valid exclusively for the duration of Cuza's reign. Two years later, the full political and administrative union of the country was also internationally recognised, and on January 22, 1862 the first government of modern Romania was formed.

The achievement of international recognition of the double election of Alexandru Ioan Cuza and the completion of the Union of the Principalities thus represented the first great successful steps of modern Romanian diplomacy, and for this purpose diplomatic representatives were sent to Constantinople, Paris and other important European capitals.

Among the measures to modernize the Romanian state and society advanced by Alexandru Ioan Cuza was the establishment of a single portfolio of Foreign Affairs, and thus in 1862, the first holder of this dignity was Apostol Arsache, before the corresponding institutional structure was organized. A doctor by profession, established in Wallachia in 1814, he had been the holder of the Foreign Affairs portfolio of Wallachia from April 24, 1835 to May 13, 1837 and from April 30, 1861 to January 21, 1862.

The Department of Foreign Affairs, the precursor of today's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was established on July 27/ August 8, 1862, by Decree of the ruler Alexandru Ioan Cuza, published in the "Monitorul", Official Journal of the United Principalities. Apostol Arsache was in office, as Minister of the new state, from January 22, 1862 to June 24, 1862. The next minister of foreign affairs of Romania, heading the Department of Foreign Affairs from June 24 to September 29, 1862, was Alexandru Cantacuzino.

- Bogdan Aurescu is the Foreign Minister of Romania



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Briefs

Iran rejects US claim of plot to kill ex-NSA

Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Iran dismissed as "fiction" on Thursday US allegations that it had plotted to kill former White House national security adviser (NSA) John Bolton in retaliation for the assassination of one of its top commanders. The US claim comes at a crunch moment in talks on reviving a nuclear deal between Iran and major powers that Washington had abandoned in 2018 but has said it wants to rejoin, with Iran now considering what European Union mediators have called a "final" text.

"The US Justice Department has made allegations without providing valid evidence, creating a new work of fiction," Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani said. "This time they have come up with a plot involving individuals like Bolton whose political career has failed," Kanani scoffed. "The Islamic republic warns against any action that targets Iranian citizens by resorting to ridiculous accusations." The US Justice Department said on Wednesday that it had indicted a member of Iran's Revolutionary Guards over allegations he had offered to pay an individual in the United States \$300,000 to kill Bolton. The plan was likely set in retaliation for the US killing of top Guards commander Qasem Soleimani in Iraq in January 2020, the department said.

Lebanon hostage-taker turns self in after drama

BEIRUT: Bystanders hailed as a hero an armed customer who held bank staff hostage for hours Thursday in Lebanon because he couldn't access funds frozen after the country's economic collapse. The suspect, identified only as Bassam, was armed with a rifle and had doused the interior of the bank with gasoline, security sources said.

But after eight hours the incident ended peacefully. "Bassam you are a hero!" cheering bystanders chanted outside the bank.

The incident was the latest involving local banks and angry depositors unable to access savings that have been locked in Lebanese banks since the country's economic crisis began in 2019.

Official media said the suspect turned himself in when the bank agreed to give him \$30,000 out of his more than \$200,000 in trapped savings. "Employees taken hostage have also begun to leave the bank," Lebanon's National News Agency (NNA) said. An AFP correspondent at the scene saw hostages and the suspect being escorted away in police cars from the Federal Bank branch where the drama unfolded, near west Beirut's commercial centre of Hamra Street. - APP

West pledges \$1.55 bln in military aid to Ukraine

DNA

COPENHAGEN: Western countries on Thursday committed more than 1.5 billion euros (\$1.55 billion) in cash, equipment and training to boost Ukraine's military capabilities in its war against Russia, Danish Defence Minister Morten Bodskov said. The money, which was pledged by a group of 26 countries at a conference in Copenhagen, will be used to supply existing weapons, missiles and ammunition. increase weapon production for Ukraine, train Ukrainian soldiers, and de-mine wartorn areas in Ukraine.

"We will continue to assist Ukraine in its military needs," Bodskov told journalists at the end of the conference that brought together European defence ministers to discuss long-term support for the country's defence against Russia's invasion.

Pak, China vow to strengthen cooperation in diverse fields

This resolve was expressed in a meeting between Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani and China's Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have reaffirmed the resolve to further strengthen their cooperation in diverse fields for mutual benefit. This came at a meeting between Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani and China's Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong during a meeting in Islamabad on Thursday. They also emphasized for collective efforts for regional peace and prosperity.

In his remarks, the Chairman Senate said strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries will take their relationship to new heights. Sadiq Sanjrani said both the countries have always stood by each other in difficult times.

He said Pakistan is committed to the timely completion of CPEC. He said the enemies of CPEC will not succeed in their designs. He said providing protection to the Chinese workers in Pakistan is our top priority.

The Chinese envoy said Pakistan is a close friend of China. He said his country desires to further strengthen relations with Pakistan. He said China will continue his efforts for regional peace.

A day earlier, Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani reiterated Pakistan's strong commitment to the One-China policy and reaffirmed Parliament and the people of



Pakistan's unflinching support for China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Pakistan is deeply concerned over the evolving situation in the Taiwan Strait,

and Parliament of Pakistan believes that it has serious implications for regional peace and stability, he said in a statement issued here on Wednesday. The Chairman Senate

remarked that the world is already reeling through a critical security situation due to conflicts, with destabilising implications for international food and energy security.

Pak Navy rescues 9 crew members of Indian vessel

The ship namely "Jamna Sagar" sunk with 10 crew members aboard on Tuesday (August 9), the navy spokesperson said in a statement

DNA

KARACHI: The Pakistan Navy on Wednesday saved nine crew members of an Indian vessel after it drowned in the Arabian Sea near Gwadar, according to the Director-General Public Relations.

The ship namely "Jamna Sagar" sunk with 10 crew members aboard on Tuesday (August 9), the navy spokesperson said in a statement, available with Dawn.com. "The navy immediately responded to the distress call and

the Pakistan Maritime Information Centre requested a nearby merchant ship 'MT KRUIBEKE' to provide necessary assistance to the stranded crew of the drowning sailing vessel," the spokesman said. "The merchant ship eventually recovered nine crew

members and continued voyage to its next port Dubai and onward disembarked the crew.'

Separately, the statement said that one Pakistan Navy ship, along with two helicopters, reached the area and located the dead body of one crew member who had gone missing when the vessel drowned.

His body was recovered and handed over to Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) authorities for further proceedings, it added. Earlier this year, the Pakistan Navy had intercepted and tracked an Indian submarine.

In a statement, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Maj Gen Babar Iftikhar had said that the Indian Navy had deployed its submarine against Pakistan with "ulterior motives"

400 private schools close in **Afghanistan**

KABUL: More than 400 private schools have closed their doors due to various reasons including economic problems, reported a local television channel the Tolonews on Thursday.

Tolonews quoted Zabihullah Furgani, a member of the Union of Private Schools, as saying that many students gave up school due to poverty, while girls from grade six to 12 can't attend classes under the current restriction. Zabihullah Mujahid, chief spokesman of the Taliban-run administration, has reportedly said that the restriction on girls attending schools is based on religious reasons.

Earlier, the administration's education ministry said that the closure of girls schools above grade 6th is temporality and would resume within the framework of Sharia, or Islamic laws, in the future. Tolonews quoted Mohammad Daud, the former head of the Union of Private Schools, as saying that thousands of people would lose their job with the closure of the schools. - APP

> Maritime Security rescues Chinese seafarer

> > DNA

KARACHI: The Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) base Sadaqat received distress call through Pakistani local fishermen. 01x Chinese Seafarer namely Zuo Xiang Wei was visually sighted by local fishermen drowning near Phitti Creek. The individual was recovered safely in coordination with local fishermen boat Al Madina Reg No 21675-B. Initially, First Aid was given to the rescued Chinese seafarer at PMSA base at Ibrahim Hydri. The survivor was transferred to HQ PMSA, for detailed medical checkup. Later, it was confirmed that

individual fell from a merchant vessel namely Xin Shang Hai (IMO 9307231) of Cosco Shipping on 10 Aug 2022 in near approaches to Karachi harbour.

Coordinated efforts of Pakistani fishing boat Al Madina and PMSA ensured safety and rescue of Chinese national which was highly appreciated by HE the Consulate General of China. Timely response by PMSA assets is a clear manifestation of PMSA resolve that it remains committed to safety of lives at sea.

US ambassador pays respects to Quaid-e-Azam

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: US Ambassador Donald Blome visited the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and paid his respects to the founder of Pakistan ahead of country's 75th Independence Day. Ambassador Blome laid a floral wreath at the mausoleum and signed the guest book on behalf of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad. Ambassador Blome later visited the tombs of Liaquat Ali Khan, Pakistan's first Prime Minister, and Fatima Jinnah, Jinnah's sister. He toured the adjoining museum and admired the artifacts related to the life of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Ambassador Blome noted in the guestbook, "It is a great honor to be here at the Mazar-e-Quaid to pay my respects and commemorate the legacy of Muhammad Ali Jinnah. United States shares Quaid-e-Azam's vision of a Pakistan at peace with itself and its neighbors, a Pakistan of religious tolerance, economic prosperity, and social inclusion. On behalf of the American people, I offer Pakistan warm congratulations on its 75th Independence Day."

This year marks 75 years of bilateral relations between the United States and Pakistan. The United States values this long-standing cooperation with Pakistan and has always viewed a strong, prosperous, and democratic Pakistan as critical to U.S. interests.



Afghan suspect in killing 4 makes court appearance

WASHINGTON: The Afghan Muslim man, who is a primary suspect in a string of killings, including 3 Pakistanis, in Albuquerque, a city in the southern US state of New Mexico, faced a judge for the first time Wednesday and was ordered held until an upcoming detention hearing, according to media reports. Muhammad Syed, 51, made a court appearance virtually (via Zoom) and was told he's being charged with the murders of 41-yearold Aftab Hussein, killed on July 26, and 27-year-old Muhammad Afzaal Hussain, slain on Aug. 1- both Pakistanis. He was also called a suspect by police in the two other slayings of Naeem Hussain, another Pakistani, and Mohammad Ahmadi, an Afghan.

"The state believes at this time there are no conditions that would keep the community safe with Mr. Syed's release," Bernalillo County Assistant District Attorney Joshua Boone told the court. A detention

hearing in Syed's case was set for Monday, a court

spokeswoman said. Syed was arrested Tuesday following tips from the public, authorities said. He was stopped by police while driving near Santa Rosa, New Mexico, more than 100 miles east of Albuquerque. Authorities found firearms during a search of his home, as well as information showing Syed may have known the victims "to some extent" and that "interpersonal" conflict may have led to the killings, police said Tuesday.

One of the firearms recovered has been linked to bullet casings found at the scenes of two of the killings, while casings for a handgun found in his car when he was stopped were linked to one of the scenes, accord-

ing to the arrest affidavit. Syed told police "he was driving to Texas to find a new place for his family to live because the situation in Albuquerque was bad," referring to the killing of Muslim

men, the affidavit said. On Wednesday, Syed, the primary suspect, heard proceedings through a Pashto interpreter and initially asked to address the court. But he eventually accepted the advice of defence lawyer Megan Mitsunaga and Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court Judge Renee

European firefighters battle 'monster' wildfire in France

DNA

BORDEAUX: More than 1,000 firefighters are battling a "monster" wildfire in south-western France that has already destroyed nearly 7,000 hectares (17.300 acres) of forest, officials say. The raging blaze near the city of Bordeaux has gutted a number of homes and forced 10,000 residents to flee. "It's an ogre, it's a monster," firefighter representative Gregory Allione told France's RTL Radio. Strong winds and high temperatures are hampering the firefighting operation. President Emmanuel Macron announced that Austria, Germany, Greece, Poland and Romania "are coming to aid" France in battling the blaze. "European solidarity at work!" he tweeted.

This summer France and a number of other European countries have seen a wave of deadly wildfires, triggered by record temperatures and droughts

deaths have been attributed to the heat in Portugal and Spain. In the UK, an amber extreme heat

warning has now come into force, with temperatures forecast to hit 37C (99F) in some areas over the next four days. The heatwave will probably affect health, transport and working conditions, the authorities warn. The huge wildfire in France's Gironde region has been raging for two days near the commune of Landiras, about 30km (19 miles) south-east of Bordeaux.

A number of firefighters have had to be urgently redeployed from other regions to boost the ongoing operation. They are being backed by specialist aircraft that have been dropping water and flame retardant. But despite all the efforts, the blaze

was still out of control on Thursday,

local officials said. "It's the first time

we've seen a fire like this," French

firefighter Jérôme Jean told BFMTV

Meanwhile, firefighters from Germany, Greece, Poland, Austria and Romania are being sent to France to fight a blaze south of Bordeaux that has reignited after being brought under control two weeks ago, the European Commission announced on Thursday. The deployment, at France's request, was hailed by French President Emmanuel Macron, who wrote on Twitter: "Thank you. European solidarity is at work!" France

has also requested data from the EU's Copernicus satellite on burned areas, according to the commission. Germany has sent a specialized unit of firefighters from Bonn, Düsseldorf, Leverkusen, Königswinter and Ratingen to France, according to the western city of Bonn. Firefighters from the state of Lower Saxony are accompanying them. France is also to receive four firefighting aircraft currently stationed in Greece and Sweden.

