



Islamabad POST

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EU praises Turkiye brokered deal for Ukraine-Russia grain

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Journey of democracy to continue

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Shakib returns as Bangladesh T20 Captain

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Briefs

Bilawal felicitates nation

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari congratulated the nation on the 75th Independence Day and said that the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was to create a Pakistan that would be a role model for the Muslim world with an egalitarian society. "Every Pakistani has to play a role in making this country an ideal Muslim state," he urged. In his message issued on the occasion of the 75th Independence Day, Chairman Bilawal stated that democracy and equality were the aspirations of the founding fathers of the country.

Ahsan directs to expedite relief efforts

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has directed National Disaster Management Authority and all the provinces to expedite the relief assessment survey in flood-affected areas particularly in Balochistan. He issued these directions while chairing a Flood Relief Committee meeting to review progress over flood relief activities in Islamabad. The representatives from all the provinces informed the meeting that soon after the flood, immediate measures were taken and further progress is underway in collaboration with NDMA.

Police serves notice to Atta Tarar

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The Punjab police paid a visit to PML-N leader Atta Tarar's residence in Lahore in the wee hours of Saturday and delivered a notice ordering him to appear before the authorities for investigation, Home Minister Hashim Muhammad Dogar said. Tweeting the development earlier, he revealed that a notice had been served to the PML-N leader. He added that if the politician understood the law, he would follow the police's orders.

PM addresses nation Independence sans economic self-reliance not possible

"Why this nation is still lost even when God has blessed it?" he questioned



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: On the eve of August 14, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif told the nation that there is no concept of a nation's independence without economic self-reliance. In a televised address to the nation on Saturday, the prime minister reiterated his call for the formation of a "charter of economy", saying that time has come for Pakistan to head in the right direction. "We should keep national interest above personal interest [...] as real political leadership does not look towards the next elections, but at the future of the next generation," he said. "Most importantly, we will need to revive

the passion that led to the creation of Pakistan," he said, noting that this passion will lead to the establishment of a great nation. The prime minister's call for economic stability comes as the cash-strapped nation desperately seeks financial assistance from friendly countries and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The country's foreign reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan were recorded at \$7,830.3 million, down \$555 million compared with \$8,385.4 on July 29, data released by the SBP on Thursday showed, which can cover fewer than 1.12 months. Shehbaz Sharif-led government came into power in April after the ouster of PTI Chairman Imran Khan – and since then, the incumbent rulers have been trying to stabilise the economy. At the outset of his address, the prime minister congratulated the nation on completing 75 years as an independent nation. He said that the people celebrate Independence Day, Pakistan Day, Quaid-e-Azam Day, and Iqbal Day but the "truth" is, in the last 75 years, the nation has only celebrated these days but not acknowledged the founding father's purpose. The premier noted that the country failed to provide the young generation what they deserved. "Why this nation is still lost even when God has blessed it?" he questioned

Jeddah Terror Attack Pak reiterates 'full support' to KSA

The Foreign Office (FO) expresses solidarity with the kingdom

NEWS DESK / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Saturday condemned the recent terror attack in Saudi Arabia's Jeddah in which four people were injured, including a Pakistani national. Earlier this week, a Saudi Arabian man wanted in connection with a deadly 2015 bombing in the kingdom detonated an explosive device in Jeddah as security forces attempted to arrest him, killing himself and injuring four others, state media reported. The Saudi news agency SPA identified the man as Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Shehri. The report said that Al-Shehri detonated the explosive belt on Wednesday night in Jeddah's Al Samer neighborhood, injuring three members of the security forces, who were seeking to arrest him, and a Pakistani national. The injured, who were not

named, were taken to hospital, SPA said, without giving details of their injuries. According to Saudi state media reports, Al-Shehri was suspected of being a member of a domestic terrorism cell that coordinated the 2015 suicide bombing of a mosque in Abha frequented by security force members. The Saudi Arabian government named Al-Shehri in early 2016 as one of six Saudi nationals wanted in connection with the bombing. The Foreign Office (FO) expressed solidarity with the kingdom and prayed for the speediest recovery of those injured. "The government and people of Pakistan reiterate their full support for and deep solidarity with the leadership, government and brotherly people of Saudi Arabia against any threats to the Kingdom's sovereignty and territorial integrity," it said in a brief statement.



ISLAMABAD: Mehmet Mus, Turkiye minister of Trade visits Turkish embassy Islamabad and meets Turkiye envoy. – DNA

Italian envoy extends greetings



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese has extended his best wishes and congratulations to the Pakistani government and people of Pakistan on the occasion of Independence Day of Pakistan. In a video message Ambassador Andreas said it gave him real pleasure to be part of Diamond jubilee celebrations of Pakistan and would like to extend greetings from the government and people of Italy. He said next year marks the Golden Jubilee of the Italy, Pakistan friendship. It has been a wonderful journey of cooperation in all fields including political, trade, social and cultural sectors. There is a lot more we can achieve together and today we reaffirm our commitment to common goals. Pakistan, Italy dosti zinaabad, he added. – DNA

Japanese envoy extends greetings

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador WADA Mitsuhiro together with the Embassy of Japan in Pakistan extended their heartfelt congratulations to the people of Pakistan. "We share our feelings of happiness and celebrations on this auspicious occasion". An official statement from Japan Embassy read, "As 'Derinah Dost', together we celebrate the 70 years of our diplomatic relations and the Diamond Jubilee of Pakistan's Independence".

Friends, not masters; Imran tells America

Seeks masses support for real independence

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: PTI Chairman Imran Khan has said that the Pakistani nation still is not fully independent as the father of nation Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had dreamt. Addressing a massive PTI gathering in Lahore hockey ground, he said that unfortunately Pakistan still has ruling elites who happen to be slaves of western world. He said that Quaid e Azam was of view that we must not be enslaved by anyone, yet we are slaves even today. Khan said that a nation who does not strive to be independent from foreign interference and pressure can never become real independent. Imran Khan said that the Pakistani nation must get rid of the inferiority complex if we want to succeed as a nation. While talking about relations with the United States Imran Khan said he was not against the US nation, rather he was against the policies of the US administration.

Imran Khan has good relations with Army: Elahi

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Ch. Pervez Elahi Chief Minister Punjab has said Imran Khan has good relations with the armed forces of Pakistan adding all conspiracies to pitch PTI against Army have failed. He expressed these views while speaking in the PTI rally in Lahore. He further said Imran Khan is the only person who can steer this country clear out of all crises. He declared Imran Khan a messiah after Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He said after taking over the Chief Minister Punjab he immediately provided relief to the traders and eliminated business timings. He said his government will continue to provide more facilities to the business community.

Continued on Page 06

14th AUGUST HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

2nd PAKISTAN INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY EXPO AND CONVENTION

18-19-20 NOVEMBER, 2022

Pak China Friendship Centre Islamabad.

Organized by PAEI Pakistan Association of Embassies Industry

For Information & Contact Fahad Barlas (COO) Cell: 0311 888 8878 fahadbarlas@pakworldexpo.com

Pak World Trade Expo Centre

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Taliban violently disperse women's protest in Kabul

About 40 women – chanting "bread, work and freedom" – marched in front of the education ministry building in Kabul, before the fighters dispersed them

AGENCIES

KABUL: Taliban fighters beat women protesters and fired into the air on Saturday as they violently dispersed a rare rally in the Afghan capital, days ahead of the first anniversary of the group's return to power. Since seizing control on August 15 last year, the Taliban have rolled back the marginal gains made by women during two decades of US intervention in Afghanistan. About 40 women – chanting "bread, work and freedom" – marched in front of the education ministry building in Kabul, before the fighters dispersed them by firing their guns into the air, an AFP correspondent reported. Some women protesters who took refuge in nearby shops were chased and beaten by Taliban fighters with their rifle butts. The demonstrators carried a banner

which read "August 15 is a black day" as they demanded rights to work and political participation. "Justice, justice. We're fed up with ignorance," they chanted, many not wearing face veils. "Unfortunately, the Taliban from the intelligence service came and fired in the air," said Zholia Parsi, one of the organisers of the march. "They dispersed the girls, tore our banners and confiscated the mobile phones of many girls." But protester Munisa Mubariz vowed to continue fighting for women's rights. "If the Taliban want to silence this voice, it's not possible. We will protest from our homes," she said. Some journalists covering the demonstration – the first women's rally in months – were also beaten by the Taliban fighters, an AFP correspondent saw. While the Taliban authorities have allowed and even promoted some rallies against the United States, they have

declined permission for any women's rally since they returned to power. After seizing control last year, the Taliban promised a softer version compared to their time in power from 1996 to 2001. But many restrictions have already been imposed, especially on women, to comply with the movement's vision. Tens of thousands of girls have been shut out of secondary schools, while women have been barred from returning to many government jobs. Women have also been banned from travelling alone on long trips and can only visit public gardens and parks in the capital on days separate from men. In May, the country's supreme leader and chief of the Taliban, Hibatullah Akhundzada, ordered women to fully cover themselves in public, including their faces – ideally with an all-encompassing burqa.

Over 8.86 million people vaccinated in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD: Over 8.86 million (8,866,456) people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in the district. District Health Officer Dr Ataul Mun'im said on Saturday 4,756,802 citizens were injected first dose while 4,024,397 were administered the second dose of vaccine. He said that 39,878 health workers were given first dose whereas 45,379 received the second dose of vaccine. He said that sufficient stock of coronavirus vaccine was available in the district. As of now 60,541 first doses and 40,360 second doses were in the stock in Faisalabad. He said that 37 vaccination centers and 20 mobile vaccination camps were operational in Faisalabad where registered people were being vaccinated. In order to facilitate the people these centers had been established in various areas of the city including Allied Hospital, District Head Quarters Hospital, Government General Hospital G.M Abad, Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology, Government General Hospital Samanabad, Children Hospital, sports Complex Samanabad, Tehsil Head Quarters Hospital Jaranwala, Samundri, Tandlianwala, Chak Jhumra, Sports Complex Chak Jhumra, Sports Complex Jaranwala, Government General Hospital Chak 224-RB, New Building RHC Khurrianwala, New Building THQ Samundri, New Building THQ Tandlianwala, Social Security Hospital Madina Town, Wapda Hospital, Rural Health Centers Mureed Wala, Chak 174-JB, Chak 134-JB, Chak 229-RB, Chak 65-GB, RHC Lundianwala Jaranwala, RHC Khurrianwala Jaranwala, Pindi Sheikh Musa, Kanjwani, Mamukanjan, RHC Chak 400-GB, RHC Chak 153-RB, RHC Chak 374-GB and Chak 469-GB, he added. He further said that timing of these vaccination centers was 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. except Sports Complex Samanabad center which would remain open round the clock. - APP

TVET SSP, WWF ink MoU to reintegrate returnees

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: In order to offer assistance to Pakistani returnees as well as locals in exploring quick and effective income opportunities and gaining socio-economic stability, TVET Sector Support Programme (TVET SSP) "Reintegration of Returnees in Pakistan" joined hands with World Wide Fund for Nature - Pakistan (WWF) for joint ventures. TVET Sector Support Programme (TVET SSP) organized an event in this regard to sign a partnership between the two. The event, held at a local hotel, was attended by representatives of various stakeholders of the TVET sector including Punjab Vocational Training Council (PVTC), Punjab Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (PTEVTA), and Punjab Skills Development Fund (PSDF). The partnership agreement was signed by Mr. Hammad Naqi Khan, Director General/Chief Executive Officer WWF-Pakistan, and Mr. Olaf Handloegten, Head of TVET Sector

Support Programme, GIZ Pakistan. Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Hammad Naqi Khan, Director General/Chief Executive Officer WWF-Pakistan opined, "Honeybees have a pivotal role in sustaining natural and human environments and based on WWF's experience, apiculture trainings and workshops prove to be a viable offering for deserving communities. Apiculture businesses are known to be a sustainable economic solution for rural families, and we believe, there is a big opportunity to support returnees through these solutions. Through this partnership between WWF-Pakistan and TVET SSP, together, we will be able to provide suitable training and skills development opportunities to returnees as well as the local population." "Reintegration of Returnees in Pakistan" supports returnees and the local Pakistanis (non-returnees) by offering them quick and effective start-up opportunities, especially in Punjab, as this region is most affected by return migration. The project will support 15,000



individuals, including 6,500 returnees from Germany and GCC countries. The support measures provided to the returnees and local population, to facilitate their economic reintegration after returning to Pakistan fall under four intervention areas which are Career and Entrepreneurship Advisory Services, Competency-based Training & Assessments, Recog-

nitition of Prior Learning, and Employment Promotion. In his remarks at the event, Mr. Raja Saad Khan, Deputy Head of TVET Sector Support Programme/Team Lead Governance & Policy, expressed his gratitude to WWF-Pakistan, "It is a pleasant sight to see this initiative come to life. TVET Sector thrives on such novel initiatives and joint efforts, and we

believe, if we continue our rigorous efforts for the development of Pakistani people, we will see people in the informal sector become more financially independent and ambitious." The initial partnership between TVET Sector Support Programme and WWF-Pakistan promote entrepreneurship and facilitate self-employment of 200 individuals and 100 households.



On the auspicious occasion of Independence Day of Pakistan, I extend my warm greetings to all fellow citizens. Every year this day reminds us of the epic struggle by our illustrious predecessors for a separate homeland. Certainly, they stood firm and united under the visionary leadership of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and eventually realised their long-wished-for dream of an independent country. We pay rich tributes to our worthy ancestors for their supreme sacrifices. This year 14th August is all the more significant as we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of our independence - indeed a landmark in the history of our nation. No doubt, during the course of our journey since creation of Pakistan, we have encountered numerous challenges. At the same time, we have achieved many triumphs to take pride in. On this happy day, I urge you to reflect on past, chart your destiny and work with renewed enthusiasm for progress and prosperity of the country. I am confident that on the strength of our determination and unity we can achieve new heights of glory and excellence.

My Dear Countrymen! On this day of national pride, I assure you that Pakistan Air Force has a legacy of rising to the occasion and remains fully prepared to defend sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakistan. Upholding Quaid's Vision of being "Second to None", PAF relentlessly pursues excellence in all domains. Our focus remains on Operational Excellence, Continued Modernization through Smart Inductions of Cutting-Edge Niche Technologies, Effect-Based Training, and better Human Resource Development to befittingly address contemporary and future challenges. On this special day, we also salute the generations of Kashmiris who have laid down their lives fighting for freedom. I assure Kashmiri brothers and sisters of our resolute commitment and steadfast moral, political and diplomatic support. May Allah grant us strength to defend our motherland in keeping with the expectations of the nation! I once again wish you all a happy Independence Day

Pakistan Air Force Zindabad!
Pakistan Paindabad!
Air Chief Marshal
ZAHEER AHMED BABER SIDHU, NI (M)
Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force

PAKISTAN AIR FORCE
A SYMBOL OF PRIDE FOR THE NATION
PID(1)#842/22

PTC, KP Forest Deptt join hands

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tobacco Company (PTC) and KP Forest Department join hands to plant 30,000 saplings on Hazara Motorway to clean and green the environment. Tehamsab Khan, Chief Conservator Forests on Saturday expressed this at inauguration of the plantation drive on Hazara Motorway. In the private sector, Pakistan Tobacco Company Limited has always played a significant and positive role regarding plantations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. PTC is providing 110,000 free saplings to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Forest Department this year. While in the first phase, a forest will be developed by planting 30,000 saplings on Hazara Motorway under Miyawaki technique. - APP

Painting exhibition at FAC

FAISALABAD: The Faisalabad Arts Council (FAC) is organising a painting exhibition titled "Azadi Ka Safar" to mark the 75th Independence Day of Pakistan. Provincial Minister for Mines and Minerals Chaudhry Latif Nazir, flanked by Divisional Commissioner Zahid Hussain, inaugurated the exhibition on Saturday in which masterpieces of renowned painters and calligraphers have been displayed. The minister said that freedom is a great blessing of Allah Almighty which is imperative for national progress and prosperity. He said that the Quaid-e-Azam secured a separate homeland for the Muslims of the Subcontinent after a struggle of seven years only after Pakistan Resolution was passed. - APP

Education is main artery for development of Pakistan, says speakers

ALPURI: An educational seminar and awareness walk was organized in Shangala in connection with the admission campaign of the Education Department here at Shahpur on Saturday. Speaking at the event, former Nazim Union Council Shahpur Ziaul Haq has said that education is the main artery for the development of the country and only those nations develop which give education as their first priority. Sub-Divisional Education Officer Aurangzeb, ADEOP&D Obaidullah, Tahir Ali and Head Teacher Misbahullah also addressed the function organized in connection with the admission campaign 2022 in Government Primary School Shahpur. Former Nazim Zia-ul-Haq said, we

cannot present ourselves as a stable nation in the world because we have not given priority to education. He said the government is taking steps for the development of education, but teachers also have a heavy responsibility on their shoulders to raise the children of the nation in such a way that they can serve the country and save it from poverty. He appealed to the people to enroll children who are of school age and all those who are not being enrolled and are outside the schools. In his address at the event, Sub-Divisional Education Officer Aurangzeb said that for the development of the education sector, concerted efforts are needed for which joint

efforts of teachers and parents can be utilized. He said that the government is providing children with free books, furniture, better school building and qualified teachers, so we should not deprive our children of education and should enroll them in schools. He urged the teachers to go door to door to contact the parents and bring the out of school children to the schools and convey this special message of the present government. On this occasion, former Nazim Ziaul-Haq and Sub-Divisional Education Officer Aurangzeb admitted children and inaugurated the admission campaign in Circle Ranyal by giving them books. Later, an awareness walk was organized in Shahpur Bazar. - APP

PAF releases national song for 14th August

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Directorate General of Public Relations, Pakistan Air Force (PAF) on Saturday released a national song to mark Pakistan's 75th Independence Day celebrations. The song paid tribute to the brave Shaheens (falcons) of the Pakistan Air Force who were always alert and ready for the defence of the country, a PAF news release said. The song also highlighted that Pakistan Air Force is moving towards innovation and self-reliance to further increase its operational capabilities. Moreover, the pledge has also been renewed in the National Song that every soldier of Pakistan Air Force will not hesitate to make any sacrifice to protect the honor of the motherland.

PTC, KP Forest Deptt join hands

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tobacco Company (PTC) and KP Forest Department join hands to plant 30,000 saplings on Hazara Motorway to clean and green the environment. Tehamsab Khan, Chief Conservator Forests on Saturday expressed this at inauguration of the plantation drive on Hazara Motorway. In the private sector, Pakistan Tobacco Company Limited has always played a significant and positive role regarding plantations in KPK. - APP

City Mayor presents annual budget

PESHAWAR: Mayor Peshawar, Haji Zubair Ali has presented annual budget for fiscal year 2022-23 worth Rs4.40 billion for Capital Metropolitan with an allocation of Rs 60million each for beautification of Peshawar, annual repairs of Eastern Zone and Western Zone of the city. In a statement issued by Mayor Office on Saturday, the budget has been approved in a meeting held here on the other day. The members of City Council Peshawar attended the meeting. Mayor Peshawar in his budget speech elaborated the allocated amount and said that Rs20 million allocated for repair works of street light in Western Zone and Rs30 million allocated for repair works of street light in Eastern Zone. Rupees five million has been allocated for supply of water coolers in public places, three million for sports activities and Rs7.5million for natural calamities including anti-dengue and anti-corona vaccination. An amount of Rs20 million has been allocated for repair of seven electricity transformers, Rs115 million for purchase of machinery for municipal services including funeral vehicles and water tankers, Rs 115 million has been allocated for construction of toilets in public places and for water supply besides sanitation services. - APP

350 new cases of virus reported in Punjab

LAHORE: As many as 350 new cases of coronavirus and two deaths were reported in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to the data shared by the spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 517,678, death toll 13,593 and 500,108 recoveries were recorded. The P&SHD confirmed that 275 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Lahore, 4 in Rawalpindi, 28 in Faisalabad, 9 in Multan, 4 in Okara, 3 in Bahawalpur, 3 in Dera Ghazi Khan, 3 in Sialkot, 2 in Rahimyar Khan, 01 in Attock, 01 in Gujran-

wala, 01 in Toba Tek Singh, 4 in Sargodha, 5 in Sahiwal, 4 in Sheikhpura, 01 in Muzaffargarh, 01 in Jhang and a case was reported in Nankana Sahib district during the last 24 hours. The Punjab health department so far conducted 11,754,533 tests for COVID-19 in the province. The Punjab health department has urged the masses to follow SOPs for their protection and cover their faces with masks. People should wash their hands with soap several times in a day to protect themselves from COVID-19. Citizens above the age of 12 years must ensure vaccination against the coronavirus. - APP

MUSLIM LEAGUE

THE CREATOR OF PAKISTAN

قیام پاکستان کی جمہوری جدوجہد 1939 تا 1947

1942 کرشن مشن

1940 ڈروہوا ایئر

1939 میراجات

1946 میراجات اقدام

1945 انڈین نیشنل اسمبلی کے اجلاس

1944 جناب اور کاٹھی کے درمیان مذاکرات

1947 پرنسپل ٹیوشن

1947 ڈاکٹر ایچ ایم جی کے اجلاس

1947 ڈاکٹر ایچ ایم جی کے اجلاس

1947 ڈاکٹر ایچ ایم جی کے اجلاس

1947 ڈاکٹر ایچ ایم جی کے اجلاس

حکومت پاکستان

Government of Pakistan

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PID (1) 906/22

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

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

Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949

Emergency

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

Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489
CAA.....9281092

Hospitals

CMH.....5611111
MH.....5611111
Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International.....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
Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: First Lady Begum Samina Arif Alvi inaugurating Craft Bazar organised by Behbud Craft and Serena Hotel. – DNA

Nation will celebrate 75th Independence Day today

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Nation will celebrate Diamond Jubilee, the 75th Independence Day of motherland tomorrow [Sunday] with a renewed pledge to work with the spirit of Pakistan Movement to make the country a true formidable Islamic welfare state. The day will dawn with thirty-one gun salute at the Federal Capital and twenty-one gun salute at the provincial headquarters. Special prayers will be offered in mosques at dawn for peace, solidarity and prosperity of the country. The main feature of the celebrations will be a national flag hoisting ceremony in Islamabad. Similar flag hoisting ceremonies will also be held at provincial, divisional and district headquarters level throughout the country. Different public and private departments would hold

special functions and activities, including seminars, discussion programmes, photographic exhibitions, painting, poetry, national songs, and debate competitions with the focus on acknowledging the contribution of leaders of the Pakistan Movement and sacrifices of national heroes. All the major roads and avenues of the federal capital, like other cities, were decorated with flags, banners, and bunting to present a festive look. The major public and private buildings in the city were also illuminated to mark the Jubilee celebrations of the big day. The televisions would highlight the services of Pakistan Movement heroes on the day and pay tribute to their extraordinary contributions to making Pakistan come into being. In this regard, the Islamabad Capital Territory Police as well as provincial govern-

ments have finalised traffic management plans for the convenience and safety of the general public. Literary and cultural organizations have chalked out a number of programmes to mark the day. Various shows including national songs, folk tales, skits, and folk dances would be held to provide infotainment and highlight Pakistan's independence journey and its historical background. Special online cultural programmes on August 14 would also be organised to pay tribute to national heroes and forefathers for their great struggle for the Independence of Pakistan. Similarly, educational institutions both private and the government would also hold different activities including competitions, functions, and sessions to educate the students about the historical struggle behind the creation of Pakistan.

D-Chowk hosts Pakistan's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

ISLAMABAD: The D-Chowk, Islamabad, which was mostly in the highlights for hosting protests of different political parties, Saturday, saw stunning pictures of Pakistani flag and Minar-e-Pakistan painted by children of different schools, to express solidarity with their homeland and marking the Diamond Jubilee (75th anniversary) of Pakistan. In the national flag painting ceremony, children from different schools of the federal capital Islamabad painted the Pakistani flag and Minar-e-Pakistan with their own hands showing love and enthusiasm for their homeland. On the occasion, troops of Islamabad, Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Kashmir police, and Frontier Corps paraded on the D-Chowk to celebrate Pakistan's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Besides, singing the national anthem, children sang national songs including 'Sohni Dharti Allah Rakhe', 'Ae Watan Pyare Watan' and 'Dil Dil Pakistan'. Anchors Nadeem Jafferi and Asma Iqbal also cheered children by asking them questions on what the Pakistani flag colours stands for, to which they replied, "The white and dark green field represents Minorities and Muslim majority, respectively. While the crescent on the Flag represents progress and the five-rayed star represents light and knowledge." Troops of Police force, Frontier Corps, Special Security Unit Sindh Police and Counter-Terrorism Department saluted the distinguished guests while raising slogans of "Allah Ho Akbar (Allah is great)". – APP

Independence Day: PIA announces 14% discount

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) on Saturday announced a 14 per cent discount on all domestic flights in line with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the country's Independence Day. "The national flag carrier offers 14% discount on domestic travel on 14th August - the 75th Independence Day of Pakistan," PIA spokesman Abdullah Hafeez Khan announced in a brief press statement here. He said the discount was a gift from the PIA to the compatriots on the occasion of independence day, being commemorated across the country with great national zeal and fervour. – APP

Debunked Monetary Policy to shut industries

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's industry in general and the steel sector in particular are fighting for sheer survival and are greatly concerned with the current economic situation that is getting worse day by day. The industry fears of more burden which is expected in the upcoming monetary policy of State Bank of Pakistan, due to be announced in its Monetary Policy Statement on August 22, 2022. The key rate currently stands at 15%, which is highest since the last two decades last seen in April 1999. The industry experts believe that the unbearable benchmark interest rate of 15% is unsustainable for the

industry. Comparing it with other regional countries, the benchmark interest rate in Malaysia was 2.25pc, Indonesia 3.5pc, China 3.7pc, Bangladesh 4.75pc and India 5.4pc. The upcoming Monetary Policy Statement will be disastrous and is set to shutdown industries of Pakistan and create unemployment if the interest rate is not reduced effectively immediately. The SBP has raised rates in previous 7 meetings since September 2021, cumulatively increasing the interest rates by 800 basic points and is expected to hike further. Pakistan Association of Large Steel Producers (PALSP) notes that it is impossible for any businesses to plan expansions or working capital

with such abrupt changes. Secretary General PALSP, Wajid Bukhari, states, "Such fast hikes are a perfect recipe to shut down businesses. How can a business sustain if an interest rates doubles in only 8 months, whereas your regional peers are at around 2-5%?" Industries are facing problems as Banks are not opening LCs for raw materials. Further exacerbating the situation, spare parts and even consumables falling under Chapter 84 and 85 have become impossible to seek approval from SBP, leading to shutdowns imminently. "Our members are complaining that SBP has become defunct and approvals are just not coming, whereas banks are hesitant to open LC's for raw materials."

3-day cultural festival at Lok Virsa in full swing

ISLAMABAD: A 3-day cultural festival marking 75th anniversary of Pakistan's independence was in full swing at Lok Virsa Heritage Museum here at Shakarparian on Saturday. Major features included a representative exhibition of Artisans at work, photo exhibition on Pakistan movement organized in collaboration with National Archives of Pakistan, exotics craft bazaar, folk cuisine and others – APP

12 outlaws including pickpocket gang netted

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital police apprehended 12 criminals including five members of pickpocket gang and recovered two stolen motorbikes, mobile phone, cash, hashish, heroin and weapons from their possession, a police public relations officer said. He said that Islamabad capital police had categorically started a crackdown against criminal elements in order to save the precious life and property of citizens. According to the details, the Shalimar police team under the supervision of SP Saddar used the latest technology and human resources and arrested five members of the pickpocket gang. Police team also recovered stolen cash and mobile phones from their possession. The accused were identified as gang identified as Muhammad Asif, Akram Ullah, Sulman, Abdul Ghafar and Ali Muhammad and recovered stolen cash and mobile phone from their possession. Cases against nominated accused have been registered and further investigation is underway. Similarly, Secretariat police team arrested an accused namely Muhammad Kasar and recovered 115 gram heroin from his possession. – DNA

President approves NITB Bill 2022

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has granted his approval to the National Information Technology Board (NITB) Bill 2022 under Article 75 of the Constitution of Pakistan. Under the said bill, NITB would be established, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on Saturday. – APP

President announces remission in sentences

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of Independence Day of Pakistan, President Dr Arif Alvi on Saturday announced remission in the sentences of prisoners under Article 45 of the Constitution. Under the announcement, complete remission was granted to the elderly male prisoners who are 65 years of age or above and have undergone at least 15 years of jail term or more. Similarly, complete remission was also extended to those female prisoners having an age of 60 years or more and who had spent 10 years or more in jail, besides the same would be applicable to those prisoners who had completed 10th of their substantive imprisonment terms, President Secretariat Media Wing said in a press release. Those jail inmates would also get benefits of complete remission who had completed 20-year of their substantive sentences. The jail sentences of general prisoners would be reduced by a fifth. – APP

"SAY NO TO CORRUPTION"
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY
(PUNJAB-SOUTH REGION, CENTRAL ZONE)

PUBLIC/OPEN AUCTION OF STANDING TREES ON RIGHT & LEFT SIDE FROM KASHMORE TO RAJANPUR KM 530+000 TO 599+000 (N-55)

1. National Highway Authority (NHA) intends to dispose of following standing trees on Right & Left Side from Kashmore to Rajanpur Section of Indus Highway (KM 530+000 To 599+000) N-55 through Public/Open Auction:-

Lot No.	Kind of Trees	No. of Trees	Total Volume of Wood (Cft)	Chainage/Section	Road Side
01	Eucalyptus	871	23,526.068	KM 530 – KM 548 Kashmore – Rajanpur (N-55)	Right Hand Side
	Kikar	40			
	Shisham	00			
	Others	16			
Total No. of Trees			927		
01	Eucalyptus	131	11,942.366	KM 536 – KM 578 Kashmore – Rajanpur (N-55)	Left Hand Side
	Kikar	294			
	Shisham	00			
	Others	27			
Total No. of Trees			452		
02	Eucalyptus	141	12,135.411	KM 548 – KM 579 Kashmore – Rajanpur (N-55)	Right Hand Side
	Kikar	266			
	Shisham	01			
	Others	08			
Total No. of Trees			416		
02	Eucalyptus	200	17,754.1	KM 578 – KM 583 Kashmore – Rajanpur (N-55)	Left Hand Side
	Kikar	10			
	Shisham	00			
	Others	04			
Total No. of Trees			214		
03	Eucalyptus	283	20,842.118	KM 579 – KM 585 Kashmore – Rajanpur (N-55)	Right Hand Side
	Kikar	42			
	Shisham	2			
	Others	13			
Total No. of Trees			340		
03	Eucalyptus	311	20,483.005	KM 583 – KM 588 Kashmore – Rajanpur (N-55)	Left Hand Side
	Kikar	47			
	Shisham	02			
	Others	19			
Total No. of Trees			379		
04	Eucalyptus	159	11,350.051	KM 585 – KM 599 Kashmore – Rajanpur (N-55)	Right Hand Side
	Kikar	90			
	Shisham	3			
	Others	47			
Total No. of Trees			299		
04	Eucalyptus	277	19,301.461	KM 588 – KM 599 Kashmore – Rajanpur (N-55)	Left Hand Side
	Kikar	23			
	Shisham	00			
	Others	15			
Total No. of Trees			315		

2. Public/open auction will be held on **29.08.2022 @ 1100 Hours** on "As is Where is Basis" by the Auction Committee at NHA Regional Office, Chowk Nag Shah Multan. The above mentioned trees can be inspected at site on any working day on or before **28.08.2022**.

3. Pay Order/Demand Draft amounting to Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand only) in favor of General Manager (Punjab-South) NHA, Retention Money Account, shall be submitted by each participant bidder along-with contact number and copy of valid CNIC, as Expression of Interest/token money (**Refundable**) on **29.08.2022**, failing which the bidder shall not be allowed to participate in public/open auction. Entry of bidders will start at sharp **0800 Hours** and gates will be closed at **1030 Hours**.

4. The successful/highest bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the highest bid amount (**in cash**) at the spot as earnest money (**Non-Refundable**), failing which the bid shall be rejected, token money of such bidder shall be forfeited and auction process shall be continued. All applicable Government Taxes will be charged in addition to highest bid amount.

5. The successful/highest bidder shall deposit the remaining 75% amount within 10x working days after approval of the bid by the Competent Authority. In case successful bidder fails to deposit remaining 75% amount within the prescribed time, the token and earnest money of such bidder shall be forfeited and NHA may re-auction the trees at its will. No claim whatsoever of such bidder will be accepted by NHA.

6. The successful/highest bidder will be accorded written permission for cutting/removal of auctioned standing trees within specified time after depositing full payment including all applicable taxes. If the successful bidder fails to remove the trees within specified time, 5% of bid amount shall be charged as ground rent up-to period of **15x Days** and thereafter the whole amount will be forfeited and NHA may re-auction the trees at its will. No claim whatsoever of such bidder will be accepted by NHA.

7. Queries (if any) can be cleared at the spot, thereafter, no objection shall be entertained and decision of Auction Committee in case of any dispute shall be final.

8. NHA reserves the right to reject all bids or proposals in accordance with the PPRA Rule No. 33(1).

GENERAL MANAGER (MAINTENANCE) PUNJAB-SOUTH
 NHA Regional Office, Nag Shah Chowk (N-70), Multan
 Tel: 061-4263311 & 061-4263300, Email: gm-maint-p-s@nha.gov.pk
 Websites: www.nha.gov.pk & www.ppra.org.pk

Briefs

425 cops to perform duties on today

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) have decided to depute 425 officers and officials to control traffic in the capital on the occasion of Independence Day (today). Following the directions of IGP Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, a special plan has been chalked out for smooth traffic flow and safe road environment in the city on this day.

A total of 425 officers and officials including SSP, SP, four DSPs and 19 Inspectors will perform their duties on different roads of the city to guide the people as per devised traffic plan.

Moreover, 55 police posts would be erected on various avenues, including the Srinagar Highway, Islamabad Expressway, Faisal Avenue, Murree Road, 7th & 9th Avenues, and Park Road. Special police squads would perform duties at these posts and to ensure strict action against one-wheelers and others involved in risky driving or driving vehicles or bikes without silencers.

SSP (Traffic) Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer has appealed the parents to monitor the activities of their children and not to allow them for one-wheeling.

He said those involved in road stunts would have to face strict action and their vehicles to be also impounded. The officials of ITP, for guidance of the citizens, would be deployed. Besides this, ITP radio FM 92.4 would also update the citizens with real time traffic situation. - APP

Gold price declines by Rs.500

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed a decrease of Rs.500 on Saturday and was sold at Rs.138,500 in the local market against its sale at Rs.139,000 the previous day. The price of 10 gram 24 karat gold also declined by Rs.429 and was sold at Rs.118,741 against its sale at Rs.119,170 whereas prices of 10 gram 22 karat went down to Rs.108,846 against its sale at Rs. 109,240.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs1560 and Rs1337.44 respectively, All Sindh Jewellery Association reported. The price of gold in international market increased by \$12 and was sold at \$1802 against its sale at \$1790, the association reported. - APP

18 motorcycles impounded

RAWALPINDI: On the instructions of City Police Officer Syed Shahzad Nadeem Bukhari, Rawalpindi police have arrested 24 accused on violation of one-wheeling, speeding, reckless driving and performing stunts on motorcycles during crackdown. Police have also impounded 18 motorcycles prepared for illegal activity.

According to police spokesman, Waris Khan Police have arrested 9 accused Shayan, Salman, Asif, Dhul, Roshan, Zahid, Ehtsham, Daniyal and Sameer and seized 06 motorcycles from their possession. Similarly, Sadiqabad police held 05 accused Nabeel, Abdul Rehman, Ali Shah, Muhammad Sagheer and Faisal and recovered five motorcycles from their custody. - APP

Gang involved in motorcycle theft arrested

RAWALPINDI: Police arrested two member gang involved in robbery and motorcycle theft and recovered 8 stolen motorcycles, Rs 18,000 and weapons used in crime, informed police spokesman.

The arrested accused were the leader of the gang Ahsan alias Hosni and his co-accused Ayaz.

Pirwahi police have registered separate cases against both of them and further investigation was in progress. SP Potohar appreciated the performance of police team adding that the other facilitators of the accused will also be arrested.

He said that action would be taken against those who deprived the citizens of their valuable assets. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Adviser on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira posing for a picture with office bearers of ICCI during the flag hoisting ceremony. - DNA

Alvi urges nation to remain firm to overcome challenges

“We not only emerged as a nuclear power but also defeated the menace of terrorism. In recent past, we successfully managed the Covid-19 pandemic”

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has urged the nation to remain steadfast and work wholeheartedly for the development and progress and prosperity of the country. “We need to remain united to overcome financial, economic and security challenges faced by the country. Let us pledge that we will remain steadfast to render any sacrifice for the dignity and self-respect of our people and greatness and glory of our beloved homeland,” the president said in a message on the 75th anniversary of Independence of Pakistan being observed on August 14. Felicitating the nation on the joyous occasion of the 75th anniversary of Independence, the president said that the day reminded them of the unmatched sacri-

fices rendered by the founding fathers of Pakistan under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah for the creation of a motherland. “Today, we also reaffirm our resolve to uphold Pakistan’s ideology and transform Pakistan into an ideal modern Islamic welfare nation-state,” he added. He said “Although today, Pakistan is facing challenges on economic and political fronts, but I strongly believe that our nation will overcome these challenges with its proven commitment, determination and patriotism as well as with hard work, unity, discipline, mutual harmony and solidarity.” This year, he said the nation was also celebrating the diamond jubilee of its independence and in this regard various ceremonies were being organized across the country to mark this auspicious occasion. “The aim of these events is to educate and

create awareness among our people, especially the Pakistani youth, about the significance of national solidarity, Pakistan’s ideology and the Freedom Movement. I would like to commend the efforts of all stakeholders in organizing events to commemorate this historic moment,” he opined. On this occasion, there was a dire need to assess the successes and failures. In 75 years of country’s history, the nation had successfully overcome numerous challenges. “We not only emerged as a nuclear power but also defeated the menace of terrorism. In the recent past, we successfully managed the COVID-19 pandemic,” he maintained. On this historic day, the president observed that they paid homage to the personnel of armed forces and law enforcement agencies who had laid down their lives for the defence, security and safety of the motherland.

The nation also appreciated workers, labourers, women, youth, business community, and minorities and all those who had played their role in the development and progress of the country, he added. While celebrating the Day, he stressed that they should not forget their oppressed brothers and sisters of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). India had been committing egregious human rights violations in IIOJK for decades and it had been three years since India unilaterally revoked Article 370 and abolished Article 35A to deprive IIOJK of its special legal status on August 5, 2019. “I assure our Kashmiri brethren that Pakistan will continue to extend its all possible political, diplomatic and moral support to them in their legitimate struggle for self-determination in accordance with the UN Resolutions,” he resolved.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Sherry Rehman celebrated 75th Anniversary of Pakistan, leading a cleanup drive at the Margalla Hills National Park. - DNA

PMD alerts authorities of more torrential rains in coming week

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast more torrential rains in Sindh, Balochistan and South Punjab from August 14-18 under a vigorous monsoon activity. The met office informed that a depression has developed in Arabian Sea which is likely to move towards west along Makran coast. Due to this weather system monsoon currents are continuously penetrating in southern parts of the country. Another low pressure (LPA) is likely to approach Sindh on August 16. Under the influence of this weather system: Rain-wind/thundershower with few heavy falls are expected in Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab, Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir from August 14-16 with occasional gaps. Widespread rain-wind/thundershowers with scattered heavy to very heavy falls are expected in Sindh and Balochistan from

August 16-18 with occasional gaps. About the possible impacts, the met office said that the heavy rains may generate urban flooding in Karachi, Thatta, Badin, Hyderabad, Dadu, Jamshoro, Sukkur, Larkana, Shaheed Benazirabad and Mirpurkhas from August 14-18. Flash flooding is expected in Qilla Saifullah, Loralai, Barkhan, Kohlu, Mosa Khel, Sherani, Sibbi, Bolan, Kalat, Khuzdar, Lasbela, Awaran, Turbat, Panjgur, Pasni, Jiwani, Ormara, Gwadar and hill torrents of Dera Ghazi Khan during the forecast period from August 14-18. Heavy rains may generate urban flooding in Rawalpindi/Islamabad, Peshawar, Nowshera, Mardan, Faisalabad, Lahore and Gujranwala from August 14 (night) to August 16. Flash flooding is expected in local Nullahs of Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Shakargarh, Sialkot, Narowal, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Dir, Karak, Lakki Marwat, Bannu and Kashmir on August 15 and August 16. The rainfall may trigger landslides in Kashmir, hilly areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Galiyat, Murree, Chillas, Diamir, Gilgit, Hunza, Astore, Ghizer and Skardu during the forecast period. Fishermen are advised to remain more cautious from August 16-18. Travelers and tourists are advised to remain more cautious during the forecast period. All concerned authorities are advised to remain alert and to take necessary precautionary measures during the forecast period. - APP

Imran Khan’s fake narrative exposed: Musadik Malik

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik on Saturday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan’s fake narrative of regime change operation got exposed after its US chapter hired the services of a firm to maintain relations with the American administration. “On the one hand, Imran Khan claimed that his government was changed as a result of foreign conspiracy, while on the other side, he was hiring the services of a firm to improve relations with the same country,” he said while addressing a news conference here. The minister said Imran Khan was misleading the

nation over the regime change conspiracy. He should tell truth to the nation about the firm named Fetton Group hired by his party in the United States for lobbying there. Musadik Malik said the PTI chief made a mockery of the nation by spreading lies that coalition government was foreign sponsored to weaken Pakistan, while he hired the services of a firm headed by David Fenton, who had been striving to denuclearize Pakistan and also written several books on it. “Moreover, the PTI chief and other party leaders want that no institution should question their conduct, nor

ask them about the amount of prohibited funding received from the different countries,” he added. The minister said PTI used the donations to run the affairs of the party and received funds from over 350 foreign companies. The details in this regard were provided by the State Bank of Pakistan to the Election Commission when Imran Khan was in power. He said PTI government had not deposited billion of rupees recovered from business tycoon Malik Riaz in the national exchequer, adding that the former SAPM on Accountability Dr Shahzad Akbar man-

Shahbaz Gill files petition seeking post-arrest bail

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader and Imran Khan’s chief of staff Shahbaz Gill on Saturday submitted a petition to a sessions court in Islamabad seeking his post-arrest bail. Gill filed his petition through PTI lawyers Faisal Chaudhry and Ali Bukhari. In his petition, he said that the government registered a case against him to settle political scores with the PTI. He stated that the police could not prove any allegation against him during investigation. A false First Information Report (FIR) has been lodged for political gain, the petitioner said pleading with the court to accept his post-arrest bail. The district and sessions court on Friday rejected a plea by the police to extend the physical remand of Shahbaz Gill and sent him to jail on judicial remand. In his written judgement, the sessions court judge said that the court could not allow the physical remand of Shahbaz Gill owing to lack of substantial proofs. Islamabad police on Tuesday arrested Gill from Banigala Chowk on charges of sedition and inciting public against state institutions and their heads. - DNA

عزم عالی نشان شاد رہے پاکستان

EQUIPPING THE DEFENDERS OF OUR FREEDOM WITH QUALITY & RELIABILITY

BW20 BATTLE RIFLE

CALIBER	7.62X51 mm
WEIGHT	3.9 KG
RANGE	600 METERS
RATE OF FIRE	600 RPM
AMBIDEXTROUS LOADING	
RAILS FOR OPTICS AND ACCESSORIES	

MP55

CALIBER	9X19 mm
OPERATION	ROLLER DELAYED BLOW BACK
RATE OF FIRE	800 RDS/MIN
MAGAZINE CAPACITY	30 ROUNDS
RAILS FOR OPTICS AND ACCESSORIES	
ADJUSTABLE STOCK	

LIGHT SNIPER RIFLE (LSR)

CALIBER	7.62X51 mm
WEIGHT (WITHOUT MAGAZINE)	5.68 KG (APPROX)
EFFECTIVE RANGE	800 METERS
ACCURACY	SUB 1 MOA
RAIL	20 MOA
TRIGGER PULL	1.5 LBS (ADJ)
SCOPE	LEOPOLD MARK 4 ILLUMINATING

Today POF reiterates its pledge to continue uninterrupted supply of quality arms and ammo to Pakistan Defence Forces.

PAKISTAN ORDNANCE FACTORIES

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An year of Taliban's victory

ON Monday it will be a year since the Taliban seized Kabul, marking "not the collapse of a regime, but the collapse of the dreams of a nation", in the words of one Afghan interviewed by the BBC. Some welcomed the departure of foreign troops and the prospect of peace after two decades of appalling civilian casualties and corruption. But despite the violence and suicide bombings, for many others these years were shaped by increases in life expectancy and literacy, and new opportunities and aspirations: women in rural areas as well as big cities wanted education and freedom of movement. The nightmare is deepening. Afghans are now living with both Taliban repression and mass hunger. The claim was that, 20 years after their overthrow by the US-led coalition, the world was likely to see a more moderate "Taliban 2.0" when they took power. It is true that the mass executions many feared did not materialise. But critics and opponents have been killed or arbitrarily detained and tortured, and media silenced. A struggle between pragmatists and hardliners is ongoing: in March, excited girls arrived at secondary schools to resume their studies – only to be told that classrooms remained closed to them after the central leadership overruled education officials. Women have been barred from many jobs, and prevented from travelling or going to work unless accompanied by a male guardian. Some have been threatened or beaten for ignoring the order to cover their bodies or faces in line with the Taliban's interpretation of Islamic dress codes. Observers say that for now at least the Taliban appear less corrupt than their predecessors. But they are seeking to translate a rural insurgency into national government, and cannot meet the basic needs of 38 million Afghans in the midst of economic collapse. Cracking down on your citizens is easier than ensuring they have food. The UN calls this the world's largest humanitarian crisis; parents have been forced to sell kidneys and children. The World Food Programme is feeding almost half the population. Though the US has issued sanctions exemptions for humanitarian support, Afghans need development aid and a functioning economy. The brain drain comes not just from fleeing young professionals, but the squandering of female talent. Washington has no desire to dwell on its own role and responsibility. Public concern has been largely redirected towards Ukraine. Yet the women and men who have dared to protest against Taliban oppression; the teenage girls covertly attending school; and indeed the Afghans who fled to the UK and elsewhere, but remain unable to rebuild their lives – all these hope for, and deserve, much better.



One step closer

THE receipt of a letter of intent (LoI) from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) augurs well for the bailout facility, which continues to hang in the balance as the Fund's executive board meets on Aug 29 to decide on it. The word on the market floor is that this all put puts the final stamp on the \$1.7 billion tranche that will stabilise national reserves and make it much easier and cheaper to go fishing for more debt. Yet even though this is good news for the government because it one step closer to its most urgent aim, there's still no light at the end of the tunnel for the people that have sacrificed so much to bring the government this far in restoring the extended fund facility (EFF). That's because on top of the subsidies they've had to be deprived of and additional taxes they must pay so the government can stay solvent, there will now, for sure, be a mini budget very soon that will slap even more taxes on them. And the reason is that the government was just blackmailed by traders and retailers into taking back the fixed tax imposed on them through their electricity bills and this shortfall, like all others, will also have to be met by squeezing more out of ordinary, hard-working Pakistanis. So, while they will cheer that a Sri Lanka or Lebanon like situation has been averted, for now, a lot of Pakistanis will still end up looking and feeling just like a lot of Sri Lankans and Lebanese. The big question, then, is how long will the economy take to stabilise once we're back in the good books of the Fund and therefore able to get all the loans that we need for the present fiscal? And the answer is sure to disappoint everybody, because it will take a very long time. We must first stand on our own two feet, then completely revamp production and manufacturing, while at the same time carve out more export markets, and then offer a new, value-added export basket to the world. We'll be a lot better off as soon as we can get at least half of that going.

The politics of confrontation is a losing trade

Attiya Munawer



Surprisingly, the Election Commission has pronounced the judgment of the case related to the foreign funding of Tehreek-e-Insaf but there is a delay in pronouncing the judgments of other parties, although the Supreme Court has clearly said that all political parties decisions should be taken together, cases of foreign funding against JUI, PPP and Muslim League (N) have been pending before the Election Commission for four years although hearings on many cases...

FOR the coalition government, the foreign funding case is more important than the people. The government is going to file a reference in the Supreme Court regarding this case in a wish to declare Imran Khan disqualify for life and ban PTI. In this regard, Mian Nawaz Sharif has also strongly said that a reference should be filed against Tehreek-e-Insaf and Imran Khan in the Supreme Court within fifteen days. PDM leadership also wants to put the names of Tehreek-e-Insaf leaders in ECL and to arrest Imran Khan, all these things make it regrettable that the current rulers cannot compete with Imran Khan in the field of politics, especially after the Punjab by-elections, the rulers plan that Imran Khan should be technically thrown out of politics because they are starting to see their defeat in the upcoming elections. Surprisingly, the Election Commission has pronounced the judgment of the case related to the foreign funding of Tehreek-e-Insaf but there is a delay in pronouncing the judgments of other parties, although the Supreme Court has clearly said that all political parties decisions should be taken together, cases of foreign funding against JUI, PPP and Muslim League (N) have been pending before the Election Commission for four years although hearings on many cases have not even started yet, the Election Commission wants to deal with this kind of disputes with sincere intentions but their reputation is at stake due to insufficient capacity. If there are public objections to the institution, there is a need to establish a permanent tribunal for the elections, which can deal with the issues promptly in light of the election laws. The Tehreek-e-Insaf leadership is already objecting to the election

commissioner's bias while after this controversial decision, the role of the election commission has become more doubtful. The PTI leadership says that the legislation regarding foreign funding has been passed in our country in 2017 instead we have party funds coming from 2012 and 2013 and all the funds have been given by Pakistanis living abroad. Similarly, if money has come from a firm or company, it is mostly made by Pakistanis, despite this, the Election Commission has given a decision of prohibited foreign funding against Tehreek-e-Insaf by showing partiality. Certainly, if this case goes to the Supreme Court then there will automatically be proven clear as water because there will be many questions and answers. If the Supreme Court decides against PTI, which is unlikely, even the allies will not be able to survive in its vindictive politics after that it will be their turn and the same verdict will come against them in the same way. If all the convicts are disqualified by the decision of the Supreme Court then who will sit in power or maybe a third party will run the government? This is not the time for confrontation and chaos but understanding, the coalition government should refrain from the path of revenge politics withal it is bent on making legitimization and illegitimacy which is causing less damage to PTI and more to the coalition government. Because the politics of divisiveness is a loss-making business. There is still time for the political parties and politicians of Pakistan to look into their own to improve the quality of politics by abandoning the politics of blame and doing politics based on the fundamental rights of the people, otherwise, people will not take a moment to stumble upon them.

Nizami-A Poet of Humanity

Qaiser Nawab



The famous "Khamsa" of the poet-thinker stands at the peak of the search for spiritual riches of mankind and occupies a worthy place among the masterpieces of world literature. The modern concepts on literary theory like onstructionism, post-structuralism...

LOVE is wise, hatred is foolish-this is a primary fabric of humanity. In this world which is getting more and more closely interconnected, we have to learn to put up with the fact that some people say things that we do not like - we can only live together in that way. But if we are to live together, we must learn a kind of charity and a kind of tolerance, which is absolutely vital to the continuation of human life on this planet. These are famous words expressed by the great philosopher Bertrand Russell which can be applied to

understand NizamiGanjavi philosophy and poetry in contemporary context. Philosophers, saints, poets and all the greatest minds always think to make this world a more peaceful, prosperous, dignified and inclusive living palace for humanity through patience of love, kindness, affection and trust building. Love, kindness, diversity and passions of romanticism are the fundamental principle on which Humanity is based on. These human values are the backbone of integrating humanity around the world. NizamiGanjavi ideas on these values have had a huge influence on romanticism around the world since the 11th century. Today when we remember our great poets like Ganjavi, we ultimately feel ourselves connected to the greatest humanistic values of love, kindness, affection, peace, harmony and dignity. In today's world Ganjavi teachings are more relevant to strengthen peace. The global agenda for Sustainable Development 2030 can be achieved through promoting humanistic values reflected in the literature of world civilizations. Poverty, hunger, inequality, tolerance and diversity are the main indicators portrayed in the poetic expression of Ganjavi. Nature, planet and life are the key determinants which can be easily observed in the literature of these great poets. NizamiGhajavi's philosophy is a humanistic tool to understand soul and matter, as well as human-nature relationships. The famous "Khamsa" of the poet-thinker stands at the peak of the search for spiritual riches of mankind and occupies a worthy place among the masterpieces of world literature. The modern concepts on literary theory like constructionism, post-structuralism and deconstructionism thoughts also provide profound insights into aesthetics of romanticism. NizamiGanjavi poetry's romanticism embraced numerous facets of human life, from infrastructure development to the protection of human dignity. It is a philosophy of romanticism that has been widely used in present day town planning, infrastructural development, interior designing and city and landscape beautification. In today's world proclaiming that it will achieve a global agenda for sustainable development by 2030, it means the inhabitants of the global world want a peaceful, prosperous and inclusive planet where they can live without jeopardizing the share of future generations. The underlying philosophy behind this development agenda is romanticism. It is the romanticism of global sustainable development which led to romanticizing life on this planet. The remedy

to today's global challenges, according to romanticism, is to return to nature. Nature is a pure and spiritual source of renewability and sustainability. Today the world needs inclusive economic growth, where no one is left behind - and ensuring social connection and diversity to enable that end. This is juxtaposed on a world stage that is a mess, where our systems are overwhelmed, cooperation is fragile and COVID-19 has disoriented people. The world leadership needs to focus on the SDGs that they have set - and to not delay it. The global order needs goodwill and some sense in having good neighborly relations. The Azerbaijani National poet NizamiGanjavi has inspired romanticism in Europe and other parts of the world. For example, the great pioneers of romanticism in Europe including John Keats, William Wordsworth, Mary Shelly, and Shakespeare, received their inspiration from NizamiGanjavi's philosophy. NizamiGanjavi inspired humanity with the philosophy of romanticism, to make this world a place of growth, opportunity, excellence and sustainability for everyone - and for future generations. Nizami's work can be translated into policies and practices that the world needs today. The 21st century necessitates trust. We cannot have inclusive growth unless people, communities, countries, and regions trust each other. Leadership would be founded on the virtues of love, care, responsibility, tolerance, and dignity if it were rooted in NazamiGanjavi's vision. All of these qualities enable and can result in more trusting relationships and outcomes to accomplish the urgent need to achieve SDGs that the world is endeavoring to accomplish. NizamiGanjavi's philosophy is centred on human nature as a kid, emotions and feelings, wonder of nature, individual celebrations, and the value of imaginations. The intellectual foundation of this philosophy is based on intuition rather than induction. The indicators reflected in Ganjavi's teachings are closely linked with the revolutions and democratic movements around the world. These teachings underpin the policies and practices that we need - and we must - achieve for the Sustainable Development Goals today, Nizami's ideas inspired us to consider exaltation, beauty, inventiveness, and eventually, love for nature. Without romanticizing and celebrating trust between people, communities, countries, and regions, the world cannot achieve inclusive growth. In conclusion, NazamiGanjavi's teaching can support us in addressing global crises, which can - and must - be sustainably resolved through trust, dignity, love and mutual understanding.

Will America ever keep its climate promises?

Ranvir S. Nayar

This kind of fudging needs to end, but that would need an unprecedented amount of sincerity from politicians, which is perhaps extinct in today's world

JUST days after he was sworn in as US president, Joe Biden announced with much enthusiasm that "America is Back." The statement, which meant different things to various people, was welcomed by the global community, notably the environment and climate change activists as well as US allies for its reference to NATO and climate change. The abrupt exit of the US from the Paris Climate Change Treaty, ordered by Donald Trump, was a near fatal blow to the agreement that has floundered since it was signed seven years ago. Though Biden did reverse his predecessor's decision to exit Paris immediately and brought the US back to the negotiating table, the world has had to wait for over 18 months to see Biden take any meaningful step toward cutting carbon emissions in the US, which is by far the largest major polluter per capita emissions; its total emissions in 2019 stood at 5.2 gigatons, or 15.6 tons per capita per year. This compares poorly with even large economies such as India (1.87 tons) or China (7.38 tons). Historically, too, the US is responsible for the bulk of carbon emissions, accounting for 21 percent of all carbon ever emitted by human activity. Thus, it was key that the US begin some meaningful action to cut its emissions. Biden's signature legislation, the Inflation Reduction Act, fits the bill nicely, even if just a start. With over \$369 billion allocated to climate and energy provisions, the act seeks to change how the country's energy is produced and is expected to put the US on the path to its stated goal of cutting its carbon emissions 40 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. Though that is clearly far from enough to save the world, most environmentalists would welcome the idea of the US taking climate change seriously, at least. The act also should spell an end to the decision of Biden administration to boost oil and gas output to combat sky-high energy prices. But while the act is certainly expected to nudge the US toward tackling climate change in a serious manner, the country needs to do far more to come anywhere close to its commitments, both binding and moral, in cutting carbon emissions and leading the battle against climate change and global warming. First, the US would need to not only ensure that it meets the commitment of 40 percent of emissions from 2005 levels, or not even the 50 percent as agreed in Paris, but as climate scientists have been pointing out the battle to restrict the rise in global temperatures to below 1.5°C from pre-industrial era is almost certainly lost and the world needs to do much more than meeting current commitments to even keep the rise below 2.5°C. As of now, no major economy is anywhere on the path to even meet their commitments, let alone do anything more. Here, the US is definitely among the laggards rather than the leaders. But Biden's legislation fails on another key measure that is of immense significance to the billions of people living in poor countries around the world facing the worst impact of climate change through desertification, rising sea levels, flash floods and prolonged droughts. And even in these minuscule payments, the West has resorted to "smart" financial fudging - or cheating, in simpler terms. Instead of giving this money as outright grants or at best soft government-to-government loans and only for climate-related projects, the West has started counting any kind of loan or investment by a Western company made out to the poor world as part of climate finance. Even if Biden and all the other Democrats wanted to set an example for the rest of the rich countries and honestly meet their commitments on climate, domestic political compulsions would stop them from even trying. The US is headed for mid-term elections in a few months and Donald Trump is sniping at the Democrats' heels. Though it is still early to call, most polls say that the Democrats will lose control of both houses of the US Congress, rendering the next two years of Biden's term almost useless in terms of even moderate policy changes, let alone something as "revolutionary" as the US actually doing what it signed up to do. Indeed, it should not come as a big surprise, if the Republicans, wholeheartedly opposed to the Inflation Reduction Act, actually try to force a roll back of at least some of its measures, notably for cutting oil and gas investments and hiking corporate taxes, rendering the entire act at best a paper tiger, and at worst a dead one. - Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Briefs

Ross Taylor claims 'IPL franchise owner slapped him'

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: Former New Zealand cricketer Ross Taylor revealed that one of Rajasthan Royals, IPL's inaugural edition champions, owners slapped him for getting out on a duck. In his autobiography, Taylor claimed that one of the Royals owners slapped him while having a laugh but he wasn't sure if the latter was serious or not. "Rajasthan played Kings XI Punjab in Mohali. The chase was 195, I was lbw for a duck and we didn't get close," Taylor was quoted in his autobiography. "Afterwards, the team, support staff and management were in the bar on the top floor of the hotel. Liz Hurley was there with Warnie, "One of the Royals owners said to me, 'Ross, we didn't pay you a million dollars to get a duck' and slapped me across the face three or four times," the New Zealand cricketer claimed. "He was laughing and they weren't hard slaps but I'm not sure that it was entirely play-acting. Under the circumstances, I wasn't going to make an issue of it, but I couldn't imagine it happening in many professional sporting environments," the ex-cricketer shared confusing thoughts. The veteran of 450 international matches, Taylor hung his boots earlier this year in April.

Friends, not masters; Imran tells America

FROM PAGE 01

He further said I also want good relations with the United States of America however there should be a marked difference between friendship and slavery. He defended his visit to Russia adding he wanted to get cheap oil from Russia for Pakistan. "I especially talked to the President of Russia Vladimir Putin and he agreed to help Pakistan", he added. He quoted the Indian Foreign Minister when he refused Americans to oblige when India was asked not to buy oil from Russia. He called upon people of Pakistan to help him seek the real independence. He said from now onwards his sole goal is how to get rid of slavery. He again reiterated his stand that he will never allow anybody to make the Pakistani nation slaves.

Parliamentary leaders in NA cut ribbon of Quaid-e-Azam's restored portrait

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary leaders of political parties in National Assembly on Saturday cut the ribbon to inaugurate the portrait of Quaid-e-Azam placed at the chamber belonging to the first directly-elected Legislative House and created by renowned Pakistani artist Prof Saeed Akhtar. Parliamentary leaders of various political parties including Bilawal Bhutto Zardari of PPP, Khawaja Asif of PML-N, Maulana Asad Mehmood of MMAP, Ghous Bux Mehar of GDA, Ahmed Hussain Dehar of PTI, Shah Zain Bugti of JWP, and Aslam Bhoatani (Independent) were invited by Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf to come to dais and cut the ribbon of portrait placed in the chamber. Speaker Raja Pervaiz said renowned artist of the country Prof Saeed Akhtar was entrusted with the task of creating a portrait of Quaid-e-Azam for the first directly elected Legislative House. He said that in the shadow of Saeed Akhtar's artwork, the first directly elected Assembly not only took oath but also made the constitution; the first elected Prime Minister Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Muhammad Khan Junejo also took oath under the same picture in 1977 and 1985 assemblies. He informed that when this new House was built in 1986, that image remained in the State Bank Building and was later destroyed due to the events of time. - APP

Pakistan Food and Cultural Festival held at Langfang, China

Pakistan Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque stated that 75th Anniversary of Pakistan's Independence was a historic milestone for Pakistan which stands today 5th largest nation of 220mln hard working, talented people

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: Pakistan Embassy Beijing on Saturday organized a Food and Cultural Festival at the state-of-the-art Silk Road Art and Cultural Centre in the city of Langfang, an hour drive from Beijing, to celebrate the 75th Independence Anniversary of Pakistan. The two-day festival is aimed to showcase Pakistan's rich history, beautiful landscapes, cultural heritage, products, arts and crafts, literature, and traditional food. The opening ceremony was attended by over 300 people including Chinese dignitaries, government officials, business executives, members of the diplomatic corps, media representatives and Pakistani community. Speaking at the opening ceremony, Pakistan Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque stated that 75th Anniversary of Pakistan's Independence was a historic milestone for Pakistan which stands today the 5th largest nation of 220 million



hard working, talented people. He highlighted the strengths of Pakistan as an investment and tourist destination and invited people of China to visit Pakistan

next year being celebrated as Year of Tourism Exchanges. The ambassador also spoke at length about the special friendship and iron brotherhood between China

and Pakistan which is time tested. He hoped this festival would help in promoting cultural cooperation and people to people exchanges between the two countries.

President of China-Pakistan Friendship Association, Ambassador Sha Zukang said that Pakistan and China have a long history of friendly relations and both the countries have been helping each other at difficult times. He expressed the confidence that the all-weather friendship between the two people would further deepen in future. CEO of Ennova Culture Group, Ms Li Xiaofei welcomed the audience and threw light on the importance of the festival. A number of activities were being organized as a part of this festival, including cultural performances, display of Pakistani products and handicrafts, photo exhibition, children games, and famous Pakistani dishes. A special children art activity to make a large painting symbolizing China-Pakistan friendship was held on the occasion. A Virtual Reality Booth offered virtual tours of Lahore Fort and Lake Saif ul Malook. Two famous movies 'Parvaz hai Janoon' and animated movie 'Allahyar' and legends of 'Markhor' are also being shown at the festival.

Yamauchi earns uppercut knockout over Neiman Gracie

DNA

NEW YORK: Goiti Yamauchi produced a clean uppercut to knock out Neiman Gracie in the second round of their welterweight contest at Bellator 284 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The 29-year-old dropped his hands, encouraging his fellow Brazilian opponent to come forward, before landing the shot to end the fight. It is the first time Gracie, 33, has been stopped in his nine-year career. Yamauchi said he channelled Kazakhstani boxing great Gennady Golovkin - also known as GGG - to win the fight. "I used to be a defensive fighter but this time I'm Triple G style, a big drama show," he said. The main event was predicted by some pundits to be a submission chess match, with both fighters possessing world class jiu-jitsu. Jap-

anese-born Yamauchi holds 21 career submission wins with nine of them in Bellator, while Gracie has nine in total, submitting six of his previous seven opponents. Yamauchi had spoken of his admiration for the Gracie family's legacy before the fight, with its members being pivotal to the growth of jiu-jitsu. However, it was in the stand-up that the fight was decided, with Yamauchi getting the better of the striking exchanges throughout. Yamauchi wobbled Gracie with a left hand in the first round, and preferred to keep the fight on its feet throughout, rather than following him to the ground. Gracie landed a combination in the second round, which prompted Yamauchi to taunt Gracie and drop his guard, before countering with the finishing uppercut. Yamauchi paid tribute to fifth-

ranked Gracie and called for another ranked opponent following his second win since moving up to welterweight from lightweight. "This is very meaningful, not just because it's my first main event but because it's Gracie, one of the best grapplers in history," he said. "Everybody above me in the rankings, I'm sure these guys are watching today, so I want to fight all those guys to be a welterweight title contender - to win is my destiny." Ukraine's Yaroslav Amosov is the current champion but is unable to defend his title because he is helping defend his country from Russia's invasion. American Logan Storley holds the interim title after beating Britain's Michael 'Venom' Page in London in May. The heavyweight co-main event ended in disappointment as an accidental eye-poke from Valentin Moldavsky left

Steve Mowry unable to continue, resulting in a no-contest. Ukrainian-born Russian Moldavsky, 30, was coming off a title loss to champion Ryan Bader in January, while American Mowry, 30, has quickly risen up to fifth in the Bellator rankings after winning his first 10 professional fights. A win for either fighter would have seen them make a strong case for a bout with Bader, so the result leaves the immediate future of the division unclear with a rematch being the most likely option. Elsewhere on the main card, Canada's Aaron Jeffery stunned Austin Vanderford, knocking the American out in the first round. A win over the second-ranked middleweight represents a pivotal moment in 29-year-old Jeffery's career, with Vanderford now suffering back-to-back defeats after being victorious in his first 10 fights as a professional.

Canada confirms 25,000 Covid cases

OTTAWA: The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) on Friday confirmed 25,204 new COVID-19 cases for the week of July 31 to Aug. 6. According to the weekly update issued by the PHAC, the number of total COVID-19 cases and deaths in Canada reached 4,109,931 and 43,178 respectively. The daily positive rate during the week averaged at 12.4 percent, and daily tests per 100,000 people were 69. The agency said that among the detailed case report data on 4,007,160 cases, 186,563 cases, or 4.7 percent, were hospitalized, of whom 29,074, or 15.6 percent, were admitted to the intensive care units. - APP

United States to conduct 'air and maritime transits' in Taiwan Strait

DNA

WASHINGTON: The United States plans to conduct new "air and maritime transits" in the Taiwan Strait in a step the White House says will reflect its response to China's military drills in the contested strait amid rising tensions over the self-ruled island. China conducted its largest-ever military drill around Taiwan, which Beijing considers its territory, during a trip by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi earlier this month. Kurt Campbell, the White House coordinator for Asia-Pacific issues and adviser to President Joe Biden, said despite tensions, US forces "will continue to fly, sail and operate where international law allows, consistent with our longstanding commitment to freedom of navigation". "That includes conducting standard air and maritime transits through the Taiwan Strait in the next few weeks," he told reporters.

Senior Kashmiri Leader Altaf Bhat urges Kashmiris to observe 15th August as black day

ISLAMABAD: Senior Kashmiri Leader and Chairman of Jammu & Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM) Altaf Ahmed Bhat has appealed to the people of Kashmir who living in IIOJK and around the world to observe 15 August as a black day to denounce Indian illegal occupation of Jammu & Kashmir, and send a clear message to the World that Kashmiris reject India and seek Right to Self Determination as agreed upon at United Nations. According to a statement issued here in Islamabad today, Senior Kashmiri Leader Bhat said that the Govt of India has no right to Celebrate independence day as it illegally occupied Jammu & Kashmir, started reign of terror, abolished basic human rights, violated all international norms and laws and butchered hundreds of thousands of Kashmiris to punish them for raising voice and demanding freedom. "India, so called biggest democracy of the world has no moral right to celebrate Independence Day, it occupied our Mother land by landing hundreds of thousands of troopers in IIOJK, occupied our land against the wishes of our people", Bhat said, adding that it's high time India must be held accountable for its neo-settler colonialism, and war mongering in South Asia. - APP



PARIS: 3rd edition of Ambassador Cup cricket tournament in which 24 clubs from all over Europe participated, was held in Paris with special reference to 75th anniversary of the independence of Pakistan. - DNA

Shakib returns as Bangladesh T20 captain

DHAKA: Shakib Al Hasan on Saturday was named to return as Bangladesh's Twenty20 international captain after he bowed to a Bangladesh Cricket Board ultimatum to scrap a deal with a betting site. The all-rounder was given the nod to lead the side for the upcoming Asia Cup in the United Arab Emirates and the World Cup in Australia. "Shakib realised his mistake," BCB cricket operations chief Jalal Yunus told reporters as he announced the decision. "He is a very important player for us." Earlier this

month Shakib announced a partnership with Betwinner News, a portal operated by a gambling firm based in the Dutch Caribbean island of Curacao. He wrote on his social media pages that it was the "one and only source of sports news!" Gambling is illegal in Bangladesh and he was forced to cancel the deal after the BCB president, Nazmul Hassan, issued an ultimatum ordering him to choose between the national team and Betwinner. Shakib captained Bangladesh to seven wins and 14 defeats in 21 T20Is until he was banned for two years - one of them suspended - in 2019 after he failed to record corrupt approaches. Shakib, who also returned as Test captain in July, replaces wicketkeeper-batsman Nurul Hasan as Bangladesh's T20 skipper. Nurul was retained in the Asia Cup squad despite undergoing surgery on a finger in Singapore last week in the hope that he would regain his fitness by the time the tournament starts on August 27 in Dubai. - APP

Raducanu to face Williams for first time

LONDON: Britain's Emma Raducanu will face 23-time Grand Slam singles champion Serena Williams for the first time in her career on Sunday. The pair have been drawn together in the first round of the Western and Southern Open in Cincinnati. Earlier this week, Williams suggested she would soon retire from tennis, saying she will be "evolving away" from the sport after the US Open. Raducanu is preparing to defend her US Open title later this month. The British number one won the Flushing Meadows tournament last year as an unseeded 18-year-old, 22 years after Williams won her first Grand Slam singles title in New York, aged just 17. The winner will face either Victoria Azarenka or Kaia Kanepi in the second round of the Cincinnati tournament. In the men's event, Rafael Nadal, who has a bye to the second round, will play for the first time since suffering an abdominal tear at Wimbledon that forced him to withdraw before his scheduled semi-final against Nick Kyrgios. British number one Cameron Norrie faces Denmark's Holger Rune and Dan Evans will take on Serbia's Filip Krajinovic in the first round, while Andy Murray meets Taro Daniel of Japan in qualifying. - DNA



2022 Ballon d'Or nominees unveiled

Messi, 35, a Paris Saint-Germain forward, has won the award a record 7 times, including in 2021

DNA

LONDON: Argentine football superstar Lionel Messi was not among the nominees for the Ballon d'Or for the first time as the list that was revealed Friday included Robert Lewandowski, Karim Benzema, Cristiano Ronaldo and Mohamed Salah. France Football magazine announced on their website the 30 players vying for the prestigious award in 2022. Also known as Golden Ball Award, the Ballon d'Or is given to the sport's best player. Messi, 35, a Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) forward, has won the award a record seven times, including in 2021. But the former Barcelona player was not nominated for the award for the first time since 2005. Like Messi, another PSG star, Neymar, from Brazil was also left off the ballot. But Manchester United forward Ronaldo, Barcelona's Lewandowski, Real Madrid's Benzema, and Liverpool winger Salah were among the other nominees. Portuguese veteran Ronaldo, 37, is a five-time winner in 2008, 2013, 2014,

2016, and 2017. The Ballon d'Or ceremony will be held on Oct. 17 at Paris' Theatre du Chatelet. **30 nominees for men's award** Thibaut Courtois, Vinicius Junior, Casemiro, Karim Benzema, Luka Modric, Antonio Rudiger (Real Madrid), Rafael Leao, Mike Maignan (AC Milan), Christopher Nkunku (RB Leipzig), Mohamed Salah, Trent Alexander-Arnold, Luis Diaz, Fabinho, Darwin Nunez, Virgil van Dijk (Liverpool), Joshua Kimmich, Sadio Mane (Bayern Munich), Ber-



nardo Silva, Riyad Mahrez, Phil Foden, Kevin De Bruyne, Joao Cancelo, Erling Haaland (Manchester City), Robert Lewandowski (Barcelona), Son Heung-min, Harry Kane (Tottenham Hotspur), Sebastian Haller (Borussia Dortmund), Cristiano Ronaldo (Manchester United), Dusan Vlahovic (Juventus), Kylian Mbappe (Paris Saint-Germain) **Women nominees** Alexandra Popp, Lena Oberdorf (Wolfsburg), Aitana Bonmati, Assiat Oshoala, Fridolina Rolfo, Lucy Bronze, Alexia Pute-llas (Barcelona), Wendie Renard, Ada Hegerberg, Selma Bacha, Catarina Meario, Christiane Endler (Olympique Lyon), Alex Morgan (San Diego Wave), Beth Mead, Vivianne Miedema (Arsenal), Marie-Antoinette Katoto, Kadidiatou Diani (Paris Saint-Germain), Millie Bright, Sam Kerr (Chelsea), Trinity Rodman (Washington Spirit) **"Trophee Yachine" (Best Goalkeeper)** Yassine Bounou (Sevilla), Alisson Becker (Liverpool), Thibaut Courtois (Real Madrid), Ederson (Manchester City), Mike Maignan (AC Milan), Edouard Mendy (Chelsea), Manuel Neuer (Bayern Munich), Jan Oblak (Atletico Madrid), Kevin Trapp (Eintracht Frankfurt), Hugo Lloris (Tottenham Hotspur) **"Trophee Kopa" (Best youngster)** Karim Adeyemi, Jude Bellingham (Borussia Dortmund), Eduardo Camavinga (Real Madrid), Gavi (Barcelona), Ryan Gravenberch, Jamal Musiala (Bayern Munich), Nuno Mendes (Paris Saint-Germain), Josko Gvardiol (RB Leipzig), Bukayo Saka (Arsenal), Florian Wirtz (Bayer Leverkusen)

Foreign funding linked with national security; probing it mandatory: Ranjha

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and Member of National Assembly (MNA) Mohsin Shah Nawaz Ranjha on Saturday said investigation on foreign funding case was mandatory as it was directly linked with national security. Talking to a private news channel, he said the United Kingdom had also decided to make its national crime agency investigate into the funds transferred to foreign country. Beside, Ranjha said, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was also obscuring people against national institutions, adding that the party had been pursuing undemocratic policies which could not be let go at any cost for larger interest of the country. He said process might take time to complete under the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). The MNA criticized Imran Khan for having fascist mind-set, adding that PTI was also politically victimizing other party leaders, was very evidently exposed before the public that to where it had actually been dragging the country and how it was spreading chaos among masses. - APP

Briefs

UAE, Ukraine
FMs discuss
bilateral ties

NEWS DESK

KIEV: UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed reviewed the latest developments of the Russia-Ukraine conflict with his Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba in a call. The foreign ministers discussed bilateral relations and ways to enhance them, and other issues of common interest, Emirates News Agency WAM reported on Friday.

During the call, the UAE minister praised the UN-backed agreement between Ukraine, Russia and Turkey to allow a resumption of grain exports from Ukraine's Black Sea ports. On July 22, Ukraine and Russia signed a landmark deal with Turkey and the United Nations aimed at relieving a global food crisis caused by blocked Black Sea grain deliveries. Ukraine's infrastructure ministry said on Saturday that 16 ships carrying 450,000 tons of agriculture products had departed from Ukrainian sea ports since early August under the deal which ensured safe passage for vessels. As part of the UN deal, all ships are inspected in Istanbul by the Joint Coordination Center, where Russia, Ukrainian, Turkish and UN personnel work. Their primary assignment involves monitoring the safe passage of Ukrainian grain ships along established routes and overseeing their inspection for banned weapons on the way into and out of the Black Sea.

Harmony
bolstered
through
Pesona

ANTARA

JAKARTA: Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs Zainut Tauhid Sa'adi stated that the 1st Arts and Sports Week (Pesona) of State Religious Universities (PTKN) had increased interfaith harmony as the capital for maintaining the identity of Indonesia. "Maintaining harmony amid various differences, especially regarding religion and belief, is quite a challenge for all of us," he noted in a statement here on Saturday. The 1st Pesona of PTKN was held on August 8-13, 2022, at State Islamic University (UIN) Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung City, West Java Province.

At the closing of the event, the deputy minister emphasized that maintaining harmony in diversity is also the main capital to build commitment to support religious moderation. "Religious moderation can only be realized if we respect each other, tolerate differences, as well as continue to cooperate or collaborate for common good," he remarked. Hence, he assessed that the 1st Pesona of PTKN was a strategic activity that helped students to not only become intellectually and religiously reliable but also maintain sound physical and mental health as well as develop superior artistic abilities.

Pakistan exported \$610m
of agri products to China

The United Nations has set "ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture" as the second of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for year 2030

DNA

SANYA: Pakistan exported \$610 million of agricultural products to China in the first half of 2022, up 30.85 percent year on year. Among them, rice exports to China amounted to \$345 million. This was stated here by a diplomat of Pakistan Embassy Rabbia Nasir, while attending the 2022 China Seed Congress and the Nanfan Agricultural Silicon Valley Forum, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro. Quoting Chinese customs

statistics, she said Chinese investors are also investing more and more in Pakistan's agricultural sector. Both countries are conducting agricultural cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative and the Global Development Initiative. To further enhance agricultural cooperation and food security, "we should make the most of the complementary factors of production in agriculture of both countries," Rabbia Nasir said. For example, she added, Pakistan can contribute a friendly policy of affordable

production factors, abundant agricultural products and investment in food processing. And China can share experience with Pakistan in training, agricultural modernization, cold chain technology, logistics, seed technology, agricultural demonstration areas, etc. As per data from World Economic Forum, the global food security challenge is straightforward: by 2050, the world must feed 9 billion people. The demand for food will be much greater than it is today. The United Nations has set

"ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture" as the second of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the year 2030. To achieve these objectives, as Rabbia Nasir put it, requires addressing a host of issues, from gender parity and ageing demographics to skills development and global warming. "Agriculture sectors have to become more productive by adopting efficient business models and forging public-private partnerships.

And they need to become sustainable by addressing greenhouse gas emissions, water use and waste," she explained. Moreover, countries must work together through bilateral and multilateral cooperation. The 2022 China Seed Congress and the Nanfan Agricultural Silicon Valley Forum held in Sanya, Hainan, China has brought together more than 2,000 scientists, experts and field workers from different countries to discuss challenges and breakthrough solutions for high quality and green

development of the seed industry. Factors of production in agriculture of Pakistan and China can be complementary to each other, said Rabbia Nasir. "Both countries need to strengthen cooperation in agriculture and food security to achieve a win-win solution," Rabbia Nasir added. As good neighbors and all-weather strategic cooperative partners, Pakistan and China have been working together to ensure food security with food as one of the major sources of trade between the two countries.

Pak embassy launches
documentaries on
Pakistan independence

BEIJING: Four in a series of seven mini-documentaries were released this week on Chinese social media platforms by the Pakistani embassy in China to celebrate the diamond jubilee of Pakistan's independence. China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Saturday. About two minutes each in duration, the videos explore the rich repertoire of Pakistani foods, handicrafts, festivals and architecture, juxtaposing artistic cooking and handmaking processes with a presentation of culinary delights and hand-made rarities, ranging from basmati rice to carpets and markhor-themed sculptures. Launched on the three popular platforms of Kuaishou, Douyin and Weibo in China, the three clips have grabbed favourable comments and responses from Chinese netizens. "The delicacies make my mouth water! I'd like to visit our brotherly Pakistan when the pandemic ends," read one comment. "Where can we get those handicrafts? Please share a link for purchase," said an audience. Another three clips will also be released to equip the Chinese audience with a better understanding of Pakistan, as per an online statement issued by the embassy. Over the years, the Pakistani embassy has organised a wide range of activities to enhance people-to-people bonds between Pakistan and China. Starting from July 2021, the embassy has produced the Discover Bati (or Discover Pakistan) series on Chinese social media platforms, with seven episodes out as of July 2022. - DNA



MINSK: Pakistan ambassador to Belarus, Sajjad Haider hosts dinner in honour of the newly appointed ambassadors of UAE, Austria and Sudan. Several other EU ambassadors also graced the occasion. - DNA

Planning for Xi-Biden
sit-down meeting
underway: White House

WASHINGTON: Planning for a face-to-face meeting between US President Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping is underway, the White House said on Friday amid exceedingly strained US-Sino relations. Biden and Xi "discussed a possible face-to-face meeting during their recent call and agreed to have their teams follow up to sort out the specifics," Kurt Campbell, Biden's Indo-Pacific coordinator, told reporters on a conference call. The directives to lay the groundwork for a sit-down were not mentioned in the readout of the presidential call issued after Biden and Xi spoke on July 28.

The Wall Street Journal earlier

on Friday reported that Beijing officials are working to set up the in-person meeting in November when Xi is planning to attend a pair of summits in Indonesia and Thailand in what will mark his first foreign trip since January 2020. Ties between Washington and Beijing have frayed significantly in recent weeks following House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, which was conducted despite repeated warnings from China. China views the trip as a threat to its claims of sovereignty over the island, which has ruled itself since 1949. China views Taiwan as a "breakaway province," and has vowed to reunify

it, including by force if necessary. China on Wednesday concluded its over one-week massive military exercises surrounding Taiwan that included missile launches and mass deployments of ships and aircraft. Apart from the show of military might, Beijing has downgraded military dialogue with the US and suspended cooperation on climate change issues, along with six other countermeasures. Commenting on China's response to Pelosi's visit, Campbell said China has "overreacted," and added that its actions "continue to be provocative, destabilizing, and unprecedented." He further said the US would continue to fulfill its obligations under the Taiwan Relations Act, which among other things, obliges Washington to provide Taipei with the weapons it needs to stave off a potential military invasion. "That includes supporting Taiwan's self-defense, and maintaining our own capacity to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize Taiwan's security, economy, or society," he said. "We will continue, consistent with our one-China policy, to deepen our ties with Taiwan, including through continuing to advance our economic and trade relationship." - Agencies

RMB settlement to
encourage industrial
transfer to Pakistan,
says LI Bijian

ISLAMABAD: To encourage industrial transfer from China and to ease the pressure on other foreign exchange currencies, Li Bijian, Chinese Consul General in Karachi, has advocated the adoption of RMB settlements. During a meeting with BOI Additional Secretary Khashih ur Rehman and Project Director, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Industrial Cooperation Development Project (CPEC-ICDP) Asim Ayub, Mr. Bijian appreciated the B2B CPEC Investment Conferences organized by BOI in Karachi, Lahore and Peshawar and invited BOI to take these endeavors to China for promoting the bilateral investments, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro. While suggesting BOI arrange delegations to China for enhancing the business-to-business and people-to-people exchanges, Mr. Li Bijian said, "The Chinese Consulate General in Karachi will provide all-out facilitation for issuing the visas and arranging road shows in China". He also appreciated BOI for meeting the Chinese and Pakistani associations in Karachi and bridging the gap between the private sector of both countries. Li Bijian said that through platforms like Pakistan Business and Investment Forum, the issues of the Chinese companies can be resolved as well as enhancing collaboration between Pakistani and Chinese enterprises. The Consul General praised the BOI's Honorary Investment Counselor, Yiman Li for arranging a charter plane for 163 Pakistani Businessmen to Yiwu, China in collaboration with the Yiwu Government. Khashih ur Rehman informed the Consul General about BOI's commitments with the National Development and Reform Commission of China for engaging the provincial and local governments of China for promoting Industrial Cooperation at all levels. "The Government of Pakistan has proposed to build a G2G SEZ in Pakistan in collaboration with China, in order to facilitate the influx of Chinese industries relocating to Pakistan," said Mr. Rehman, adding that BOI had simplified the work visa process and visit visa and encouraged the Chinese investors and companies to apply for the work visa. - DNA

Migrant
arrivals in EU
rises 86%

WEB DESK

BRUSSELS: There has been an 86% surge in the number of migrants in the European Union in the first seven months of 2022 compared to the same period last year, the bloc's border agency Frontex said Friday. In July alone, the number increased by 63% year-over-year to 34,570, according to a news release publishing the preliminary data. Overall, 155,090 migrants arrived in the EU from January to July, it said. Ukrainian refugees entering the EU through border crossings were not included in the figures, the agency said.

According to Frontex, 7.7 million Ukrainian citizens have entered the EU since the start of the Russian invasion in February. More than 14,866 irregular entries, "nearly three times more" than in July last year, were recorded via the Western Balkan route, which continues to be "the most active." The main nationalities on this route were migrants from Syria, Afghanistan and Türkiye. The central Mediterranean route was used by more than 42,500 migrants between January and July, an increase of 44% compared to the first seven months of last year. The number of detections on the Eastern Mediterranean route remained high with 22,601 arrivals, "more than double" compared to last year.

The number of arrivals in the Greek Cypriot administration accounted for more than half of the total number of detections, with most migrants coming from Syria, Nigeria and Congo. On the EU's eastern border, the number of illegal crossings has fallen by 32% since the start of the year, to 2,923. The main nationalities present on this route were Ukrainian, Iraqi and Belarusian nationals.

Baku to host
int'l Sea
Cup military
contest

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijani capital Baku is soon to host the Sea Cup international military contest, Azernews reports, citing the Defense Ministry. The drawing for the international Sea Cup competition took place on August 12, the ministry reports. The event was attended by the heads of delegations from participating nations, as well as members of the Board of Referees. Representatives from the local and international media were also invited to the drawing. Commander of the Azerbaijan Naval Forces Rear Admiral Subhan Bakirov welcomed the participants and expressed his hope that the Sea Cup competition, which will be hosted for the fifth time in Azerbaijan, would be held in a transparent, high-level, and pleasant atmosphere. He wished the teams success and answered questions of media representatives, emphasizing the importance of international competitions in the mutual exchange of knowledge between personnel of different nations in enhancing their professionalism.

EU praises Türkiye-
brokered grain deal

FOREIGN DESK

BRUSSELS: EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell hailed the recently signed deal mediated by Türkiye and the United Nations, enabling Ukraine to ship grain for the U.N.'s World Food Programme (WFP). "Thanks to the Istanbul agreement, Ukraine is again able to deliver grain to the WFP," Borrell said on Twitter. He hailed the U.N. shipment of 23,000 tons of Ukrainian prod-

ucts to the Horn of Africa, which was the first humanitarian cargo that set sail since the Türkiye-brokered accord was signed on July 22 between Türkiye, the U.N., Ukraine and Russia. Borrell noted that Russia has used "food as a weapon" to worsen hunger around the world, calling on Moscow to "respect its commitment so that Ukraine's exports can continue to reach those in need, mostly in Africa." The U.N.-chartered carrier Brave Commander left Istanbul on Wednesday and arrived on Friday at the port of Yuzhny in southern Ukraine.

The ship will carry 23,000 tons of grain through the port of Djibouti to be distributed in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia have been experiencing one of their worst droughts in decades. The four-year natural disaster has left over 18 million people facing hunger. According to the U.N., Ukraine exported 45 million tons of grain before the war with Russia erupted in February. On July 22, Türkiye, the U.N., Russia and Ukraine signed a deal in Istanbul to reopen three Ukrainian ports - Odessa, Chernomorsk and Yuzhny - for grain exports. The historic deal, brokered by Türkiye and the U.N., has unlocked exports of grain stuck in Ukrainian ports since the beginning of the war. Internationally praised for its mediator role, Türkiye has also coordinated with Moscow and Kyiv to open a corridor from the Ukrainian port city of Odessa to resume global grain shipments.

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Briefs

'India hid Russian origin of fuel shipped to US'

DNA

NEW DELHI: The United States has expressed concern to India that it was being used to export fuel made from Russian crude, through high-seas transfers to hide its origin, to New York in violation of U.S. sanctions, a top Indian central banker said on Saturday. The U.S. Treasury Department told India that an Indian ship picked up oil from a Russian tanker on the high seas and brought it to a port in Gujarat on the west coast, where it was refined and shipped on, said Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor Michael Patra. U.S. sanctions on Moscow for its February invasion of Ukraine prohibit the import to the United States of Russian-origin energy products including crude oil, refined fuels, distillates, coal and gas.

Rushdie on ventilator after New York stabbing

DNA

NEW YORK: Salman Rushdie, the Indian-born novelist who spent years in hiding after Iran urged Muslims to kill him because of his writing, was stabbed in the neck and torso on Saturday at a lecture in New York state on Friday and airlifted to a hospital, police said. After hours of surgery, Rushdie was on a ventilator and unable to speak on Friday evening after an attack condemned by writers and politicians around the world as an assault on the freedom of expression. "The news is not good," Andrew Wylie, his book agent, wrote in an email. "Salman will likely lose one eye; the nerves in his arm were severed; and his liver was stabbed and damaged."

ISPR refutes presence of Taliban in Swat

DNA

RAWALPINDI: During the past few days, a misperception about alleged presence of large number of proscribed organisation TTP's armed members in Swat Valley has been created on social media. After confirmation on ground, these reports have been found as grossly exaggerated and misleading. Presence of small number of armed men on few mountain tops between Swat and Dir has been observed, located far away from population. Apparently, these individuals sneaked in from Afghanistan to resettle in their native areas. A close watch is being maintained on their limited presence and movement in mountains. Required measures are in place by all LEAs for the safety and security of people of adjoining areas. Presence of militants any where will not be tolerated and they will be dealt with full use of force if required.

US in July sets new record for overnight warmth

DNA

CALIFORNIA: Talk about hot nights, America got some for the history books last month. The continental United States in July set a record for overnight warmth, providing little relief from the day's sizzling heat for people, animals, plants and the electric grid, meteorologists said. The average low temperature for the Lower 48 states in July was 63.6 degrees (17.6 Celsius), which beat the previous record set in 2011 by a few hundredths of a degree. The mark is not only the hottest nightly average for July, but for any month in 128 years of record keeping, said National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration climatologist Karin Gleason. July's nighttime low was more than 3 degrees (1.7 Celsius) warmer than the 20th century average.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors and High Commissioners of various countries posing for a picture with Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, on the occasion of a reception hosted by the business community of Lahore. — DNA

Journey of democracy to continue with zeal & zest

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb Saturday said the journey of democracy would continue with same zeal and zest which had passed on numerous dividends to the nation under the leadership of previous democratic leaders. "The nation reaped dividends and fruits whenever there was a democracy in the country during the last 75 years," the minister said while reiterating vision of the Quaid-i-Azam who rightly said that the country's future was in democracy. Addressing the Flag Painting Ceremony here at D-Chowk, she said the country became nuclear power during the democratic rule of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Nawaz Sharif who connected all federating units by establishing net-

work of the motorway across the country. She said it was Nawaz Sharif who completed the nuclear programme initiated by Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1970s. He (Nawaz Sharif) made the country's defence impregnable despite the external pressure. Mariyum paid tribute to all scientists, engineers and others for their contribution in making the country an atomic power. She said Nawaz Sharif eliminated terrorism from the country, brought economic growth to 6 per cent and ensured zero load-shedding during tenure of his previous government (2013-18). "Whether it was nuclear deterrence, constitution, youth programme, Benazir Income Support Programme or 4G internet, we got all these fruits during democratic rules," she said while eulogizing the all those who had rendered sacrifices in the struggle for democracy. "Whenever democracy was attacked, it returned with full-force," she said

while terming the political system panacea for all the problems in the country. She said the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973 was a remarkable achievement of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's ear as it was passed with complete consensus of all the political parties. The Constitution ordered all the state institutions to perform their duties within their domain. The minister recalled that the largest province of country, Punjab was connected with all other provinces during the rule of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who had given mass transit system to all major cities. She said the national anthem had been re-recorded and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would unveil it on August 14 at the national flag hoisting ceremony. After Liaquat Ali Khan, PM Shehbaz would be the first prime minister to launch re-recorded national anthem, she added.

Moscow warns of possible end to relations with US

MOSCOW: The Russian Foreign Office has said if the US seizes its assets, it could lead to a total breakdown in bilateral relations. Meanwhile, the UK said Russia could face big logistical problems in Kherson. Read DW for more. The seizure of Russian assets by the United States would destroy Moscow's bilateral relations with Washington, the Russian state news agency TASS quoted a Russian foreign ministry department head as saying. It comes as top Western officials have suggested seizing frozen Russian reserves to help fund the future reconstruction of Ukraine. "We warn the Americans of the detrimental consequences of such actions that will permanently damage bilateral relations, which is neither in their — nor in our interests," said Alexander Darchiev, head of the ministry's North America department. It was unclear to which assets he was referring. Meanwhile, Darchiev said Washington's involvement in Ukraine had increased to the degree that "Americans are increasingly becoming more and more a direct party in the conflict." He also said that, if the US singled out Russia as a "state sponsor of terrorism," relations with Washington would have passed the point of no return. Two US senators seeking to pass a law designating Russia as such visited Kyiv last month to discuss the bill with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. — DNA

Mar-a-Lago that housed classified records

MONITORING DESK

WASHINGTON: The seizure of classified US government documents from Donald Trump's sprawling Mar-a-Lago retreat spotlights the continuing national security concerns presented by the former president and the property he dubbed the Winter White House. A search warrant has shown that Trump is under federal investigation for possible violations of the Espionage Act, which makes it unlawful to spy for another country or mishandle US defence information. Mar-a-Lago is a mansion and private-members club located in Palm Beach

County in Florida. It has guest rooms, a spa and hotel-style amenities for members. Trump maintains private quarters on the grounds of the century-old property that are closed off to club members. Mar-a-Lago was used by Trump to host meetings with international leaders such as then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping. The well-heeled members of the club and members of the public, also attended weddings and fundraising dinners for Trump at Mar-a-Lago. The Secret Service provided physical security at Mar-a-Lago while Trump was president and afterwards, but they are not responsible for vetting guests or members of the club.

Ukraine says it has taken out vital bridge in Kherson

KYIV: Ukraine says it has taken out another bridge that is vital for Russian forces occupying the southern Kherson region. It says the bridge on the dam at Nova Kakhovka - which it has attacked before - is now impassable. The claim has not been independently verified. It comes just weeks after the key Antonivsky Bridge was put out of action by Ukrainian forces. Ukraine is waging a counter-offensive towards Kherson city, which Russia captured in the early days of the war. "The destruction of the road bridge of the Nova Kakhovka dam was ensured, with the result that it was taken out of operation," the Ukrainian army's Operational Command South posted to Facebook. In a daily intelligence update, UK defence

officials said Ukrainian precision strikes were likely to have made the road crossing over the Dnieper River "unusable for heavy military vehicles". Nova Kakhovka lies about 55km (34 miles) north-east of Kherson. Russian forces had only succeeded in making superficial repairs to the main Antonivsky Bridge, the officials said, which Western military sources said was "completely unusable" after a Himars artillery rocket attack last month. The main rail bridge near Kherson was also further damaged last week, the UK update said. "Even if Russia manages to make significant repairs to the bridges, they will remain a key vulnerability," the UK defence ministry said. It added that thousands of Russian troops west of the river were now "almost certainly reliant on just two pontoon ferry crossing points" for ground resupplies. Military analysts say there is a growing risk of the troops being cut off from the rest of main Russian occupying forces. — DNA

Ex-hostage returns to Kabul to 'celebrate' Taliban rule

"I ask world to understand the Taliban and give them time," Weeks said in a recent interview with Turkish media

NEWS DESK

KABUL: An Australian teacher who was kidnapped in Kabul by Taliban forces in 2016, then held hostage for three years before being released in an exchange deal with U.S. officials, returned here Friday and announced that he planned to "celebrate" the upcoming first anniversary of Taliban rule. Timothy Weeks, 53, arrived at Kabul's international airport clad in a black tribal turban and white Afghan tunic. He told waiting journalists that he had first come to Afghanistan "with a dream to learn about Afghanistan, and now I'm coming again to complete my journey." Weeks converted to Islam during more than three years in Taliban captivity and changed his name to Baar Muad Jibra'il after returning home. During his many months as a prisoner he "saw these people in a light that nobody

else has been able to do," he said, adding that he has long "stood behind" the Taliban and continues to do so. He recently announced to Australian press his plan to return for the anniversary of Taliban rule, saying he now considers himself "an Afghan and a Pashtun," the ethnic group of the Taliban, and that he wants to help the Afghan people through a new charity in Australia. The country is facing a severe humanitarian crisis, with many Afghans unable to find enough food, according to international aid groups. "I ask the world to understand the Taliban and give them time," Weeks said in a recent interview with Turkish media. But Weeks's visit and supportive comments toward the Taliban drew immediate criticism from international human rights groups, many of which have recently denounced the regime for suppressing women's rights and refusing to let teenage girls attend school.

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