



Islamabad POST

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Myanmar junta court jails Aung San Suu Kyi for six years

Detailed News On Page-07

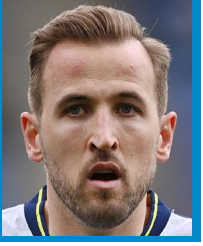
Japan Prime Minister vows no more war

Detailed News On Page-08



Harry Kane salvages point for Tottenham

Detailed News On Page-06



PM to attend SCO summit

Uzbekistan's role in regional connectivity vital: Shehbaz

Ambassador of Uzbekistan calls on the Prime Minister; PM assures to start direct flights to Uzbekistan

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif has highlighted Pakistan's vision for deeper engagement with Central Asia and the important role of Uzbekistan in this regard. He expressed satisfaction at the level of close and fraternal relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan and emphasized the importance of further deepening bilateral trade and economic ties. He expressed these views during a meeting with the Ambassador of Uzbekistan, Mr. Oybek Usmanov, who called on him on Monday. The Ambassador conveyed warm greetings from the President of Uzbekistan for Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and said that President Shavkat Mirziyoyev was looking forward to welcome the Prime Minister to the SCO Summit at Samarkand next month. The Prime Minister underlined the significance of Trans-Afghan Railway Project to advance the connectivity agenda and promote regional prosperity. He also invited Uzbek investments in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) of Pakistan, particularly in industrial, electronics and agricultural sectors, which would accrue mutual benefits. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif underscored the need to urgently operationalize the Transit Trade Agreement and

Continued on Page 06

PM, Saudi crown prince talk on phone

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on Monday expressed the resolve to further strengthening the strong, longstanding Pakistan-Saudi Arabia fraternal ties. The two leaders in a telephonic conversation also exchanged views on issues of mutual interest, the PM Office said in a statement. PM Sharif conveyed his deep respects to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz. During the telephone call, the crown prince congratulated the prime minister and the people of Pakistan on 75th anniversary of Pakistan's independence. The crown prince also conveyed best wishes for the continued progress, prosperity and development of Pakistan. The prime minister and the crown prince reviewed

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Uzbekistan Aybek Usmanov calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, on Monday. – DNA

Terrorist killed during IBO in N.Waziristan

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Security forces gunned down a terrorist involved in the killing of a JUI-F leader during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the general Mir Ali area of North Waziristan. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), in a statement, said that as the security forces conducted the operation, an intense exchange of fire took place between the troops and terrorists. As a result, not only the terrorist was killed, but weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the person, the military's media wing said. The ISPR further added that the terrorist remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces and killing of innocent citizens.

The military's media wing added that the terrorist was also involved in the targeted killing of Qari Sami in the North Waziristan District – which took place last month. JUI-F's Sami and Hafiz Nauman were shot in July after gunmen riding motorcycle ambushed their vehicle in the Eidak area in the Mir Ali tehsil. Sami was an administrator at a religious seminary in the area and a local leader of the JUI-F. "Locals of the area appreciated the operation and expressed their full support to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the area," the military's media wing added.

PTI to launch anti-govt mass movement

IRSHAD ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senior Vice President Fawad Chaudhry announced that the PTI would launch a well-conceived countrywide anti-government movement to send the current corrupt imported setup packing, which was hell-bent destroying Pakistan economically and politically. Talking to media here on Monday, Fawad Chaudhry said that Chairman PTI Imran Khan would address public gatherings in major cities across the country to rid the country of the inept and imported government, making life of rank and file a hell. He said that the Chairman PTI would formally launch the anti-government movement from Karachi on August 19, where the PTI would

Continued on Page 06

Gill challenges incitement in IHC

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shahbaz Gill filed an application in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday against the 'malicious' seditious case registered against him. Gill had been arrested last week, on August 9, at Bani Gala Chowk in the federal capital after a video clip of his controversial remarks went viral on social media. He was subsequently booked on charges of inciting mutiny in the military. According to the petition, the "malicious" case against Gill was filed by

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Sherry warns against drought

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman has stressed the need to take effective and timely measures to avert the threats of drought in the country. Addressing a conference in Islamabad on Monday, she said saving water is the only solution to this problem. The Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman said small dams should be constructed on priority basis for this purpose. The Minister said her Ministry will brief the cabinet on water shortage in the country and soon will devise a new policy to resolve this issue.

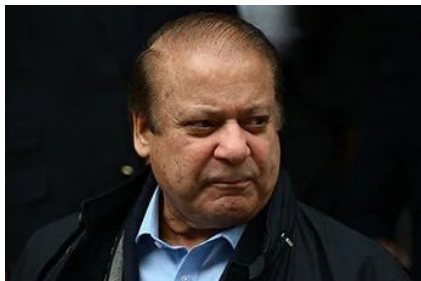
Elahi reshuffles Punjab cabinet

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: In a surprise move, Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Monday reshuffled his cabinet and changed portfolios of provincial ministers, including bigwigs like Muhammad Raja Basharat and Dr Yasmin Rashid. According to a notification of the new portfolios, Raja Basharat has been removed from the office of Minister for Public Prosecution and the charge has been given to Brig (retd) Muhammad Musaddiq Abbasi. Raja Basharat has been assigned the portfolios of Parliamentary Affairs and Environmental Protection.

Nawaz to return in Sept: PML-N

The nation has announced its decision that Nawaz should come back, Latif says



BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Federal Minister and senior PML-N leader Javed Latif confirmed Monday that PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif – after a long hiatus – will return to the country in September to represent "the people". In a press conference alongside PML-N Punjab spokesperson Azma Bukhari, Latif said that the "doctors" have announced their decision and Nawaz will come back in line with their call. "The doctors change their opinion with time. The people are his doctors; the nation has announced its decision that Nawaz

Sharif should come back," Latif said. In 2018, an accountability court sentenced Nawaz to seven years in prison in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills corruption reference, while he was also sentenced to a total of 11 years in prison and slapped an £8 million fine (Rs1.3 billion) in the Avenfield properties reference. Subsequently, in 2019, the Lahore High Court (LHC) after suspending his sentence, allowed Nawaz to go abroad for medical treatment. He departed for London on November 19, 2019, and since then, he never returned to the country. Latif's statement comes after PTT Chairman Imran Khan, during his address to his party's jalsa in Lahore, claimed that a conspiracy was being hatched to disqualify him in the Toshakhana and prohibited funding cases to pave the way for Nawaz's return from London. "They have made a new plan to register new cases and disqualify Imran Khan in Toshakhana and prohibited funding cases," he said. "Under the conspiracy, Nawaz will be brought back to the country by the end of September [...]" and a character assassination campaign will be launched to malign me."

Afghanistan under Taliban rule, considered a prison

Killing of Al Qaeda's Al Zawahiri has not only degraded further credibility of Taliban in global communities but it also cast very bad impact on Its regime- which is yet to get recognition of any member of UN

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Whatever might be claims on the part of Taliban or their alien patrons and financiers, they repeated the history by converting Afghanistan into a prison where the inmates are living like chained slaves. Even they have put at stake very sovereign and autonomous status of the country where it's some of dwellers are engaged in resistance against visible and non visible aggressors from abroad. Though Taliban are making claims of getting occupation of Afghanistan by defeating United States lead allies and its installed regime in Kabul but the fact is different. Despite hectic efforts including carrying out wide

range terror acts from 2009, started with second term of Hamid Karzai, the Taliban even had failed to get control or occupation of any important city or province till August 2021 last. During this period, the Taliban claiming them as Emirate Islami Afghanistan has claimed responsibilities for hundreds of deadly terror acts even that caused lives to innocent women, children, Ulema, seminary and school going students. It is premature to say something about hidden agenda or future strategies of US lead allies but Taliban could capture Kabul on August 15th through well accomplished Doha Qatar Agreement. The Emirate Islami Afghanistan has not only made commitments not to allow anyone to use

Afghanistan soil against other countries but in particular it promised of didn't gifting sanctuaries to all those who are either on UN black list or wanted to US. And killing of Al Qaeda Chief Dr Aiman Al Zawahiri couple of days back in Kabul has exposed the Taliban who are making claims of controlling almost all of the country. Even Prime Minister and Defense Minister remain unaware of high profile guests in the well guarded residence of Interior minister in heart of Kabul city. Killing of Al Qaeda's Al Zawahiri has not only degraded further credibility of Taliban in global communities but it also posed very bad impacts on Its regime- which is yet to get recognition of

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Briefs

Opp failed to nominate leader in PA

LAHORE: Spokesman for Chief Minister Punjab Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Chohan on Monday said that the opposition failed to nominate leader of the opposition in Punjab Assembly. Talking to media persons in Punjab Assembly premises here, Chohan said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) held a very large public gathering in Lahore on the occasion of Independence Day, adding that the huge number of people reflected their confidence in PTI chairman and the party as well. Fayyaz said that he respected every institution of the country. - APP

Minister reviews industrial estates' matters

LAHORE: Provincial Minister of Industries and Commerce Mian Aslam Iqbal here Monday chaired a meeting to review provision of infrastructural facilities, electricity and gas supply, prices of plots and other problems in industrial estates established by Punjab Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (PIEDMC) and FIEDMC (Faisalabad). Punjab Board of Investment & Trade (PBIT) Chairman Fazeel Asif, Secretary Industries and Commerce Dr. Ahmed Javed Qazi, CEO Jalal Hasan and concerned officers attended the meeting. The Provincial Minister said that special economic zones are the engines of economic development, there would be no excuses regarding development work in industrial estates. It is no way that the completion of development work would take years. He also said that the construction work on M-II Interchange should be started in the first week of September. He said that the traffic problems on Sunder Raiwind Road should be resolved on priority basis for the convenience of the industrialists. - APP

Police arrest 90 for wheeling

RAWALPINDI: The police, during operations against one-wheelers, conducted raids in different areas and managed to net 90 violators and impound 75 motorcycles. According to a police spokesman, Rawal and Potohar division police, on the directives of City Police Officer, Rawalpindi, launched crackdown against one-wheelers and sent many traffic rules violators behind the bars. He informed that Rawal division police rounded up 54 while 44 motorcycles were also impounded. Similarly, Potohar division police conducted raids in their jurisdiction and arrested 36 with 31 motorcycles. He said, in a bid to curb the dangerous practice of one-wheeling in Rawalpindi, police had launched a major operation on Aug 13 and 14 and took action against the violators. Rawalpindi District Police and City Traffic Police had formed special squads to monitor one-wheelers in the city. - APP

BC partners with Koel Gallery on Art for Climate Change



DNA

KARACHI: The British Council and Koel Gallery have partnered to launch the 'Saahil Ki Kahaaniyan - Stories from the Coast' project exhibition at the Koel Gallery in Karachi on Friday, 12 August. The exhibition which continues until 19 August features multidisciplinary works that aim to raise awareness of the impact of climate change on the coastal areas of Pakistan, particularly its fragile mangrove ecosystem, with a view to promoting sustainable coastal development. The project is part of the British Council's Pakistan-UK Season: New Perspectives programme to mark the 75th anniversary of Pakistan.

In February 2022, the project awarded grants to Pakistan-based artists exploring this theme through a variety of mediums,

culminating in the curated exhibition close to Pakistan's independence day. The British Council arranged a diverse selection committee, including experts from the UK, to review applications - a process that was quite intensive, given the large number of high-quality applications that were received. After a detailed vetting exercise, four creative teams were selected to work on this project. Visual Artist, Curator and Director KOEL Gallery, Noorjehan Bilgrami said: "I am sincerely hoping that these projects through the common platform of 'Saahil Ki Kahaaniyan', amalgamating at KOEL Gallery, will begin the process of collective research that records, investigates and disseminates the awareness of our legacy that needs to be owned, protected and treasured. It is a beginning for this exciting work to continue." Artist Mahera Omar presented a silent cinematic journey through a deli-



cate wetland ecosystem on the shores of an industrial city, documenting the precious biodiversity which is in grave danger of being lost under her project titled, 'Kabhi aaisy bhi hota hai ke kinare doob jate hain...'. Marvi Mazhar, Abuzar Madhu & Swalay Muhammad presented 'Milaap', an exploration of the sacred geography of the urban/rural estuary where the river meets the coast, focusing on Khizr, the Darya Shah, whose coordinates are sometimes imaginary on liquid grounds in the form of astana, a promised space to protect the coast from climatic and human infrastructural ruptures. Taqi Shaheen & Sara Khan Pathan worked on 'The Shape of Island', a research project to design 'Machi Wachi' - a board game that acts as a storytelling interface for reflection and ecological understanding about scarcity of natural resources around Bhit Island. While, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto & Janan Sindhu

presented 'Bulhan Nameh', a series of immersive installations of fabric and video that speak to the plight of one of Pakistan's shyest animals, the Indus River Dolphin, as well as the communities that have been key to its conservation.

Director Arts, British Council Pakistan Laila Jamil said: "Saahil Ki Kahaaniyan" has been a very exciting project for us - to have been a part of the selection of such wonderful artists and activists, to be able to see the variety of topics they have chosen, their sensitive approaches, deep research, and love of their respective areas of work - it has been a privilege to be part of their creative journey. We believe art has the potential to challenge and change mindsets for a more sustainable and inclusive future. We are grateful to Koel Gallery for showcasing this project and to the Rangoonwala Foundation for their ongoing support for the arts in Pakistan."

FESCO issues shutdown program

FAISALABAD: The Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has issued shutdown programme for Tuesday due to necessary repair, maintenance and expansion of electricity lines. According to the programme, issued by the company, power supply from Forest Park, Rafiq Spinning and Lathianwala feeders emanating from 132-KV Khurarianwala grid station, Minara, Jame Abad, Anayat Ali Shah and Bukharian feeders originating from 132-KV Bhowana grid station will remain suspended from 7 a.m. to 12 noon while Makkoana, Gulab, Sultani, Edan Valley and S-II feeders emanating from 132-KV Scarp Colony grid station, Hamdard-1, Faisal/Sheikhupura Road and Paradise feeders originating from 132-KV Steam Power grid station will observe shutdown from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Tuesday (August 16). - APP

11 more test positive for COVID-19 in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD: As many as 11 people tested positive for COVID-19 in the district during the last 24 hours. According to the Health Department spokesperson, 303 coronavirus tests were conducted in public and private sector labs during the same period. He said that total active cases in Faisalabad were 53 while 28,954 patients had so far recovered from the disease. - APP

Zahid starts tree plantation campaign

FAISALABAD: Divisional Commissioner Zahid Husain inaugurated tree plantation drive by planting a sapling in the lawns of Commissioner Complex, here on Monday. He said that trees were essential to protect the living creature from environmental hazards. He said that Pakistan was among those countries which were facing severe climate changes. Therefore, the government had decided to plant maximum trees during every plantation drive so that environmental pollution could be controlled to the maximum extent, in addition to saving people from health hazards. - APP

UBG facilitates Commerce Minister

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Chief Patron of United Business Group (UBG) SM Muneer, President Zubair Tufail, Chairman Shahzad Ali Malik, Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari, Chairman Sindh Zone Khalid Tawab and other Leaders and members of UBG have congratulated Naveed Qamar Commerce Minister for signing of Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with Turkey to boost bilateral trade in certain products between the two countries. They said that signing of PTA is accompaniment of a long desire of the business community of both countries.

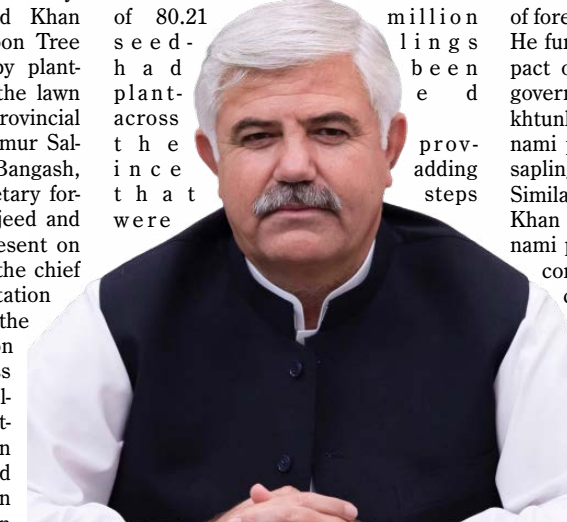
The signing of PTA will enhance the volume of bilateral trade more than double the existing bilateral trade, UBG said. The UBG advised all the Trade Bodies of Pakistan to gear up their members to drive maximum use of the PTA. They further asked the trade bodies to educate and enhance the knowledge of their members of the PTA which will come into effect from 1st January 2023 and the concessions will come into force in three phases - immediately, upto five years and upto 10 years. The categories of products which will get benefit from the concessions are leather, footwear, glass, ceramics, articles of base metal, plastics and rubber, furniture, mattresses and lamps, sports and engineering goods, chemicals, and cosmetics, agriculture products and processed agriculture.

CM opens monsoon plantation

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan on Monday launched Monsoon Tree Plantation campaign 2022 by planting a sapling of avocado in the lawn of Chief Minister's House. Provincial Ministers Ishtiaq Umar, Taimur Saleem Jhagra, Kamran Khan Bangash, Faisal Amin Gandapur, Secretary forest & environment Abid Majeed and other high ups were also present on the occasion. While briefing the chief minister about monsoon plantation drive, it was told that during the campaign total of 37.5 million saplings will be planted across the province. Some 19.6 million seedlings would be planted in central southern region I including newly merged districts, while 8.9 million saplings would be planted in northern forest region II. Similarly, 9 million saplings would be planted in Malakand forest region III. It was further told that, plantation would be carried out by forest department, civil society organizations, educational institutions, industries, government departments and other public and private organizations etc.

The chief minister was also informed that during the Spring Tree Plantation Drive 2022 a total of 80.21 million seedlings had been planted across the province providing steps



also being taken to increase survival of those plants and decrease their mortality rate. Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said that forests are the gifts of God, and their preservation is our collective responsibility. He added that the government was going

all out to increase the forest cover from day first. In order to overcome the challenges emerging from environmental pollution, the importance of forest acre has increased many fold. He further said that to reduce the impact of climate change the previous government of PTI in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa initiated a Billion Tree Tsunami project under which one billion saplings were planted in the province. Similarly, then Prime Minister Imran Khan launched a 10 Billion Tree Tsunami project at national level to overcome the challenges of the climate change and environmental pollution. Under 10BTP a target of planting one billion saplings is also near to completion. 10 BTP not only got recognition at national level but also received international appreciation as well.

The chief minister on the occasion directed the authorities of forest department to further directing them to devise a strategy to this end in collaboration with urban development authorities. He also urged upon the public to participate in plantation drive and plant sapling for Pakistan.



PESHAWAR: National Bank of Pakistan cutting cake in connection with Pakistan's 75th Independence Day at Tench Bhata Branch Rawalpindi. - DNA

Distt Admin sealed ill-maintained swings

DNA

ATTOCK: The local district administration has sealed all ill-maintained rides, slides and swings including mechanical, conventional and electrical at an amusement park located on private land in the Pingdighat city to avert any untoward incident. However, this action drew ire of the visitors and picnickers who termed it a "wrong decision at a wrong time" depriving people of a cheap entertainment. Sources said that a team of local administration, led by assistant commissioner Ejaz Abdul Kareem visited the park established on a private land the directives of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Zulqurnian to check safety measures and inspect documents for the regularization of the mechanical swings. The visit was part of a drive for checking safety measures and for verifying the no-objection certificates issued by the district administration for

such swings in amusement parks. However, the team found no prior approval was taken from the district administration for the swings in the amusement park, subsequently it was sealed as per law. According to officials, these swings were not only being operated without fitness certificate. "Many of the swings were installed without approval from the concerned departments and the Park administration has been asked to provide documents under Rule 4(2) of the Regulation of Mechanical Rides Bylaws 2017," Said Ejaz Abdul Kareem while talking to newsmen on this occasion. He said that details of ride including the structure, mechanics, electricity supply, control, safety hydraulic and pneumatic system are to be submitted to the district administration.

Traders call for adopting consistent policies

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Businessmen in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa underscored the need of adopting consistent economic policies and due consultation with them for sustainable economic growth, prosperity and development in the country. Traders emphasized that it is highly imperative that to make proper consultation with relevant stakeholders before formulation of policies put the country on a path of economic prosperity and progress. Members of the business community made these remarks during a meeting here at the chamber house on Monday. The meeting was chaired by acting president of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Imran Khan Mohmand during a visit of a delegation of officers belonging from various government departments, of the 31st Senior Management Course of the National Institute Management (NIM) Lahore. The delegation was headed by NIM Lahore, Directing Staff, Dr Muhammad Farooq Adeel. Besides, the SCCI's vice president Javed Akhtar, former presidents Zahidullah Shinwari, Faud Ishaq, Faiz Muhammad Faizi, ex-senior vice presidents Engr Manzoor Elahi, Ziaul Haq Sarhadi, ex-vice presidents Malik Niaz Awan,

Abdul Jalil Jan, members of the chamber's executive committee, Ghulam Hussain, Zahoor Khan, Naeem Qasmi, Muhammad Naeem Butt, Minhajuddin, Abdul Hakim Shinwari, Mujeeb Rehman, Shams Rahim, Fawad Amin, Rashid Iqbal Siddique, Ishtiaq Muhammad, a large number of traders, industrialists and exporters were present in the meeting. Zahidullah Shinwari on the occasion briefed the visiting senior officers through a multimedia presentation regarding SCCI's functions, objectives, various projects and achievement



comprehensively. Mr Shinwari stressed the need of making proper consultation with the business community before formulation of economic policies, which would be sustainable and result-oriented, especially that would also avoid creating gulf between traders and relevant government authorities. Imran Mohmand in his welcome-speech emphasized that business community proposals should be considered seriously during formulation of policies. Essentially, he called upon the Ministry of Commerce that it should give tasks to commercial attachés to conduct a survey in markets of the hosting countries and find out opportunities, prospects of Pakistani manufacturing products in global markets. The acting president of the SCCI's also elaborated about investment potentials, prospects of Pak-Afghan Bilateral Trade, particularly promotion of regional trade to boost up the country's economy and export. Zahidullah Shinwari and Faud Ishaq, Javed Akhtar and others on the occasion responded to various queries of the visiting senior officers comprehensively. They stressed the need of formulation of consistent policies to put the country on a path sustainable economic growth and development.

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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
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RAWALPINDI: RCCI President Nadeem Rauf hoisting national flag to mark 75th Independence Day. – DNA

Food security challenge needs systematic approach

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at an international symposium on "Climate Smart Sustainable Rice and Wheat Production System" held on Monday stressed the need to have a systematic approach to address food security challenge in the country. The symposium was held at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of the Punjab in cooperation with COMSTech, UPSIGN, SAWIE, SACAN and Dawood Agro. The eminent scientists emphasized design policies, indigenous farming solutions, and better management of the most important resources of soil and water to address the climate change crisis. Chairman Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), Prof Shahid Munir inaugurated the symposium saying that food security is strategically important for Pakistan to feed its growing population, and the research and industry linkages could play a vital role in developing new technologies and promoting farmers to enhance their yield under the changing climatic conditions. Prof. Munir said that the per capita annual water availability in Pakistan has dropped to 1,017 cubic meters from 5300 in 1947 and may lead to absolute water scarcity by 2025.

He said this will result in severe water shortages for the next generation of farmers. Future water requirements and challenges impose a serious threat to Pakistan due to its agrarian economy where wheat and rice are primary food crops, he informed. There is an urgent need to develop innovative solutions for efficient and sustainable use of water, improving nutrient use efficiency, reducing the crop losses from pests and diseases both pre and post harvesting, and thus requires utmost priority in our national planning, he suggested. Prof. Munir mentioned that Pakistan will be importing four million tons of wheat this year to meet its food demand, which is quite an alarming situation for our nation. Program Manager COMSTech, Ms. Khazima gave an overview of COMSTech's support for promoting science and innovation in the Muslim world to tackle the food security challenge. Co-founder UPSIGN, Dr. Khalid Mahmood emphasized on the need to better build collaboration, cooperation, and communication among all the stakeholders. Dr. Mahmood Farooq from Sultan Qaboos University said that Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries severely affected

by climate change causing unprecedented droughts, floods, the influx of pests, diseases and locust attacks in 2020, and the severe heat wave in 2022 affecting wheat crop. The heavy rains and hailstorms have adversely impacted the wheat crop with reducing yields by 25% to 30% in 2020. CEO of SAWIE/SACAN, Eng. Mushtaq Gill (TI), said Pakistan needs to address its rice and wheat system on an emergency basis. Wheat prices around the world are soaring due to the Ukraine war and the climate change crisis. Pakistan is ranked 77/113 in the Global Food Security Index, 71/113 for food affordability, and 74/113 for food quality and safety, having few food safety net programs, and scoring 40.5% below average. Director of Rice Research Institute, Syed Sultan Ali, said our Rice production is 100% dependent on flood irrigation which consumes 35% of total water available in the country. Its future is at risk if we do not promote sustainable practices. Rice crop supports foreign exchange earnings by more than \$2.5 billion. Director General Punjab Agriculture Research, Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Khan, chaired the first session and shared developments of the Punjab Agriculture Department to develop climate-smart varieties to

address the water scarcity and heat challenge. He said that Rice and Wheat crop yields in Pakistan are low compared to the rest of the world due to an array of factors such as water shortage, crop pests and disease infestations, and improper use of fertilizers like nitrogen. Director of Wheat Research Institute, Dr. Javed Ahmad said AARI is taking a challenge in developing new germplasm to tolerate drought and heat and also improving the nutrients uptake. Dr. Abdul Wakeel, from the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, said that the nutrient use efficiency of wheat and rice crops is the lowest in the region. We use more nitrogen fertilizer compared to other countries in the world. Only one-third of the nitrogen is available to plants and the rest all gets wasted. This is not only a loss for the farmer but causing damage to our environment due to NO2 emissions. International speaker, Prof. Bijay Singh from Punjab Agriculture University Ludhiana said, there is a dire need for a second green revolution to enhance our grain yields based on developing strong communication links between farmers, academicians, planners, and politicians. Abdul Hanan explained the features of SAWIE App that are available for farmers for free.

5th leader in Islamabad business summit to be held on August 17

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The 5th edition of LEADERS IN ISLAMABAD BUSINESS SUMMIT, is to be held on August 17 and 18, 2022 at the picturesque Serena Hotel in Islamabad. The Summit will be jointly hosted by Nutshell Conferences Group and Martin Dow Group, in strategic partnership with OICCI - Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce & Industry. LIIBS 2022 is 5th in the series and brings together the top local and international business and corporate leaders, as well as notable Government and political personalities, entrepreneurs, strategists, tech gurus and intelligentsia, to discuss and share best practices and routes, reflect on challenges, envision the future, and share creative and innovative strategies. The Summit highlights the best way forward for success, which is sustainable, inclusive, and profitable. Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Dr. Miftah Ismail; Senator Sherry Rahman, Federal Minister for Climate Change; and Senator Musadik Malik, Minister of State (Petroleum Division); will grace the event as guests of honor. "Imagineering the Future" will be the theme of this year's two-day Summit, which will bring together more than 30

distinguished and renowned panelists belonging to diverse industries. The primary agenda will entail discussions and solutions about the present and the future of public health, digital opportunities, healthcare, value systems, economic realities, productivity, innovation, and investments. The Summit will have the leadership from Pakistan's corporate and public sectors, joined by the following international speakers:

- Ralph Simon, Founder & Chief Executive, Mobilium Global Limited, UK
- Jimmy Nguyen, Founding President, BSV Block Chain Association
- James Michael La erty, CEO & Board Member, Fine Hygienic Holding; Olympic Coach, Speaker & Corporate Trainer
- Khoo Boo Hock, Chairman, InfraZamin; Director & Co-Founder, Green Guarantee Company, UK
- Malak Al Akiely, CEO, Golden Wheat for Grain Trading Limited
- Markus Strohmeier, Managing Director & CEO, Siemens Pakistan
- Prof. Francis Davis, Professor of Public Policy, University of Birmingham & Visiting Professorial Fellow, University of Oxford, UK
- William Bao Bean, General Partner, SOSV and Managing Director, Orbit Start-ups
- Ron Thomas, Managing Direc-

tor, Strategy Focus Group, USA & UAE

- Douglas Corley, Founder, DHB Global & CEO, Alanius Technologies & Global Panel Member, MIT Technology Review
- Dr. Selena Milanovic, Strategy Consultant - Healthcare, Siemens Advanta Consulting and Global Shaper, World Economic Forum
- Joey Wilson, Senior Consultant, EY-Parthenon and Global Shaper, World Economic Forum
- Nick Van Breda, Co-Founder, Vertelknu el & Premium Coach, ExO Works
- Dorine Van Der Wijk, Founder & Researcher, Swirls of Life, The Netherlands
- Paul Papadimitriou, Founder, Intelligencr, London; Global Keynote Speaker & Futurist
- Oscar Wendel, Journalist, Author / Partner, METAL International, USA
- Michal Kugleman, Deputy Director & Senior Associate for South Asia, The Wilson Centre
- Arif Anis, USA Today & Wall Street Journal Bestselling Author of "IMPOSSIBLE" and "MADE IN CRISIS" & Founder of HumanX, UK
- Zain Jeewanjee, CEO & Founder, Zain Jeewanjee Insurance Agency, USA and Member Board of Advisors, RAND Corporation

Nine criminals nabbed, liquor and weapons recovered

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital territory police have arrested nine accused involved in various crimes from different areas of the city and recovered liquor and weapons from their possession, a Police Public Relation officer said. According to the details, ICT Police continued crackdown against criminal elements involved in illegal activities. During the crackdown, Bhara Kahu police arrested Arslan Saleem and recovered one 9mm pistol along with ammunition from him. Likewise, Secretariat Police arrested an accused named Jawad for possessing illegal weapons and recovered one pistol from his possession. Aabpara police team arrested a bootlegger named Anwar Masih and recovered 60 liters liquor from his possession. Similarly, Tarnol police team arrested two accused named Muhammad Bashir and Waseem Akram and recovered two 30 bore pistols with ammunition from their possession. Golra and Sabzi Mandi police teams arrested two accused Asim and Kashif who were involved in helping proclaimed offenders for escape. Moreover, Shehzad Town police arrested two accused during snap checking Danish Ali and Ehsan Ullah and recovered two 30 bore pistols along with ammunition from their possession. Cases have been registered against the nominated accused and further investigation is underway. Islamabad Capital police have accelerated its efforts against criminal elements in the city to curb the crime and to save the lives and property of the citizens. Citizens are also requested to cooperate with police and inform about any suspicious activity around them.

'PTI foreign funding details should be made public'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Central Information Secretary of PPP-P Shazia Atta Marri has demanded that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's Chief Imran Khan's details of foreign funding should be exposed to public from 2014 to 2018. She said that the investigation of Imran Khan Niazi prohibited foreign funding case is very important so far fundings case should be probed and adding that Imran Khan was funded to create chaos and unrest in Pakistan. Federal Minister Shazia Marri said that Imran Khan has been disrespecting and abusing on the power of money and Shahbaz Gil's narrative is Imran Khan's narrative. She further said that even the country's institutions were not safe from the evil and exploitation of Imran Khan while he himself (Imran Khan) reckons himself above the constitution and law of the country.

IESCO issues power suspension schedules

DNA

ISLAMABAD: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule: On 16th August, 08:00 AM to 12:00 PM New Kalliam, Old Kalliam, HPT-II, Industrial feeders, 07:00 AM to 12:00 PM Bolani, Puran, Fatehpur, Sarai Alam gir, Shamsabad, Chapran, Khor, Shukrila, Zubair Shaheed, Akram Shaheed, Garmala, Khoi Kohlian, Sanghoi, Chautala, Mandi Bhalwal, Chak Daulat, Pakhwal, Samot, Kangar, Islampur, Scheme-1, Angori, Pind Parian, Paswal, Sangiani, Shah Allah Ditta, Sarai Kharboza, Hussain abad, Ahmed nagar, Burhan, Kohsar Valley, Shafi Chauhan, Darya Sharif, Musa, Shah Deer, Hazro, Narh Topa, Vaisa, Haji Shah, Gagan, City-2, Lanwala, Sajjad Shaheed, Rural, Lahtrar Road, Masriyal Road, Ameer Hamza, Radio Pakistan, Millatabad, Peshawar Road, Range Road, Balkassar, Pipli feeders and surroundings will be closed. IESCO management apologizes to its esteemed customers for the power outage. If the work is completed ahead of time, the power supply can be restored even before the scheduled time and the surrounding power will be cut off.

Pakistan sweet home children visit Safe city

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan sweet home children visit Safe city Islamabad and were welcomed by DIG Safe City Rohail Akram and SSP safe city Saud Khan. Children were introduced to the work mechanism of Safe City Islamabad and informed about its usefulness for playing a key role in eradicating crime from the city. According to the details, on the occasion of the 75th Independence Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, a grand ceremony was organized in Safe City Islamabad, in which the children of Pakistan Sweet Home participated, DIG Safe City Romail Akram and SSP Safe City Saud Khan welcomed the children, the administration of Safe City Islamabad gave the children a complete tour of Safe City, the children also visited the command and control center, the children of Sweet Home were briefed to the work mechanism of Safe City Islamabad and about its useful role in eradicating crime from city.

NUST to launch Tech Fellowship Program

ISLAMABAD: National University of Science and Technology (NUST) has planned to launch "Digital Pakistan Tech Fellowship Programme" to equip youth with latest technology based insights to play an active role in developing a creative economy. In this regards, NUST has signed an MoU with Jazz which is the leading internet and mobile broadband provider, in a ceremony held here. Speaking on the occasion, Rector NUST, Engineer Javed Mahmood Bukhari expressed that NUST's partnership with Jazz is a reaffirmation of its commitment to fostering innovation-led growth in Pakistan. He maintained that creating an enabling

environment for technological development was one of the top priorities of NUST and they were continuously on the lookout for more avenues that could help in securing a bright future for youth. He also hoped to expand the scope of NUST-Jazz partnership in future. Speaking at the ceremony, Amir Ibrahim, CEO Jazz, said that industry-academia collaboration is instrumental in addressing the socioeconomic challenges of any country. He further said that our partnership with NUST is founded on our collective desire to bring about national development through leveraging Information and Communication Technology. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Chairman CDA Amir Ahmed Ali presenting a souvenir to the participants of Sindh SMC during their visit to the CDA Headquarters. – DNA

Briefs

Weekly inflation goes down by 0.08 %

ISLAMABAD: The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) based weekly inflation for the week ended on August 11 for the combined consumption group, witnessed a decrease of 0.08 percent as compared to the previous week.

SPI for the week under review in the above mentioned group was recorded at 209.01 points against 209.17 points registered in the previous week, according to the latest data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 37.69 percent. The weekly SPI with base year 2015-16=100 is covering 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The Sensitive Price Indicator for the lowest consumption group up to Rs 17,732 witnessed 0.12 percent decrease and went down from 216.03 points in last week to 215.76 points during the week under review.

Meanwhile, the SPI for the consumption groups from Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs22,889-29,517, Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175 decreased by 0.10 percent, 0.09 percent, 0.08 percent and 0.07 percent respectively. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 26 (50.98%) items increased, 09 (17.65%) items decreased and 16 (31.37%) items remained stable.

The items, which recorded decrease in their average prices on WoW basis, included onions (10.18%), bananas (2.71%), chicken (1.03%), vegetable ghee 1 kg (0.79%), vegetable ghee 2.5 kg (0.55%), mustard oil (0.36%), rice Basmati broken (0.33%), cooking oil 5 litre (0.17%) and LPG (1.10%). The commodities that witnessed increase on WoW basis included tomatoes (10.35%), salt (3.73%), eggs (3.67%), pulse mash (3.65%), pulse moong (3.18%), pulse masoor (2.13%), garlic (2.03%), firewood (1.36%) and tea packet (1.29%). On year-on-year basis, the commodities that witnessed decrease in prices included chillies powder (43.42%), sugar (16.27%) and gur (1.86%). - APP

SMEDA to organize training

ISLAMABAD: The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) will organize a one-day training programme on "Digital Media Marketing" for profitable business growth on August 17 (Wednesday). The session will be organized by SMEDA under National Business Development Programme (NBDP) for SMEs, to extend non-financial advisory services to small and medium businesses, according to a source in the authority. The training programme will provide information about digital marketing, a paradigm shift, introduction of the internet and e-commerce, the importance of digital marketing, tools of digital marketing, features of social advertising, power of content, strategies of E success, case study and story of plant studio.

The training session would be attended by small Business owners and their staff, emerging and existing entrepreneurs, professionals and practitioners in online marketing, sales and advertising and all those desirous of improving knowledge on the subject. - APP

President approves Mehdi Shah as Governor Gilgit Baltistan

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday approved the appointment of Syed Mehdi Shah as the Governor of Gilgit Baltistan.

The president gave the approval on the advice of the prime minister in line with Section 33(3) of the Gilgit Baltistan Order 2018, the President House said. Dr Alvi had accepted the resignation of Raja Jalal Hussain on June 24, 2022. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Women taking interest in various dresses displayed during an exhibition at Islamabad Serena Hotel. -DNA

PIDE study advocates growth-oriented focus

The PIDE's research also suggests reforms in taxation for sustainable growth, adding there must be a mandatory tax filing, need to abolish distinction between filers and non-filers

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) in its recent research study has highlighted the importance of focusing on growth with special focus on investment, productivity and exports. According to the 'One Year Growth Strategy for Pakistan' launched to mark country's 75th anniversary of independence, historically the country had been focusing on taxation, not on growth. "We have to shift the focus on growth; for that, we need to shine a light on investment, productivity, and exports," the report says, adding that for this purpose there was need to remove bottlenecks. According to the report, Pakistan was having the lowest investment rate in neighboring countries and the

policy was totally focused on the tax rate and revenue collection, with no priority to investment and growth. Pakistan's debt to GDP ratio was another concern which continuously been rising over the last decade. There is a negative linear association between debt and economic growth regardless of the types of debt and the countries' income levels. Moreover, since 1965, Pakistan approached International Monetary Fund (IMF) twenty-two times; the recent engagement with the fund makes it the 23rd time, it adds. The report terms problems in energy sector as chronicle that eight governments were not been able to resolve. Due to mismanagement and weak governance in the

power sector, huge transmission and distribution losses occurred (Rs.473 billion during 2021, out of which Rs. 402 recovered through tariff and Rs. 71 billion was added to circular debt). PIDE report suggests a decentralized billing system at the DISCO level and need to bring pre-paid meters to the market, which consumers will buy themselves. This will create the possibility to minimize losses. It also highlighted the importance of empowering the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) to facilitate 'wheeling' at the marginal cost to make it attractive for sellers (generation companies) and buyers (bulk power consumers). The PIDE's research also suggests re-

forms in taxation for sustainable growth, adding there must be a mandatory tax filing, need to abolish the distinction between filers and non-filers. It also recommends introducing joint return filing instead of individual, and Income tax should be universal and not segmented. The division of income based on agriculture, dividends, and so on must be abolished. An integrated, fair value single VAT-based system of Sales Tax is the need of the hour. Besides these four areas, the study suggests to focus on market spaces. It proposes that Pakistan must grow at 7-9 percent, adding the other crucial issues would settle through the spillover and the ripple effect of that much growth. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov and his wife enjoying beautiful weather at Chattar Park. - DNA

PM Shehbaz for resolving problems of foreign companies

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday constituted a committee to resolve the problems faced by the foreign investment companies, particularly related to Gwadar Free Zone. The committee will submit a comprehensive report along with recommendations to the prime minister within 10 days. Chairing a high-level meeting on investment, Prime Minister Sharif said the Chinese investment companies would be provided facilities on a priority basis. He directed to remove hurdles in the issuance of visas to Chinese personnel without any discrimination against the project workers related to China Pakistan Economic Corridor with other countries. The prime minister directed the Investment Board, Planning Ministry and Finance Ministry to jointly devise a comprehensive plan to promote investment. The meeting was attended by federal ministers including Miftah Ismael, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Ahsan Iqbal, and Advisers Tariq Fatemi, Zafaruddin Mehmood, and senior officials. - APP

CDNS attains Rs.100 billion through fresh bonds by July 31

ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) on Monday achieved the target of issuing Rs. 100 billion fresh bonds in the first months of current fiscal year 2022-23 from July 1st to July 31st, 2022. The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has set a saving target of Rs. 1.5 trillion for the current Financial Year (2022-23) which will promote savings culture in the country, the senior official of CDNS told APP here. At this time, the current market trend in the country and the ambitious target was set to further improve the savings culture, he said. Replying to a question, he said the CDNS surpassed its annual target in previous Fiscal Year 2021-22 and set a historic record of Rs. 1,250 billion savings till June 30, 2022. For the first time in its history, National Savings crossed Rs. 1,000 billion fresh deposits and achieved the target of Rs. 1,250 billion by June 30, 2022. The CDNS has attained the target of issuing Rs. 1,250 billion fresh bonds in the last months of current fiscal year 2021-22, from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. It had set an annual gross receipt target of Rs. 980 billion from July 1 to June 30 of the previous fiscal year 2020-21 to promote savings in the country. The senior official said the CDNS had set Rs. 250 billion annual collection target from July 1 to June 30 for the year 2020-2021 as compared to Rs 352 billion for the previous year (2019-20) during the same period to enhance savings in the country. The CDNS had set Rs. 352 billion annual collection target for the year 2019-20 as compared to Rs. 350 billion for the previous year (2018-19), he said. Replying to a question, he said the National Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) had reviewed and set a target of Rs. 60 billion in Fiscal Year (2022-23) for Islamic investment to introduce the new products in the market. In this year 2022-23, CDNS would achieve the investment target of Rs. 60 billion, he said. He said that the CDNS had entered the Islamic finance market in the coming month August 2022, and would now offer Islamic finance to its customers. In that regard, National Savings would work on Islamic Sharia bonds and certificates to give opportunities in Islamic finance to their customers, he said. - APP

Revival of value system imperative for national growth

DNA

ISLAMABAD: After three scores and fifteen years of independence, there was a serious need to revisit our national value system, agreed a group/cohort of youth. At a roundtable discussion titled "75 years of Pakistan-Reflections" held at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) here on Monday. The event featured a diverse group of undergraduate and graduate level students from Lahore and Islamabad. The discussion was organized with the aim of bringing forth the voice of youth which was Pakistan's biggest asset. The cohort agreed that while there had been major issues such as political turmoil, economic instability, religious disharmony, interprovincial discord and absence of nationalism, Pakistan's resilience in the face of all that it had been through since its inception was commendable. Sincerity and loyalty to our motherland regardless of the challenges confronting the country was the need of the hour, said the Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz, President IRS.

The youth representatives expressed hope and optimism for Pakistan's bright future on the basis of what Quaid-e-Azam said, i.e., Pakistan could never be undone. Only 75 years had passed since the birth of Pakistan and 75 years in the life span of nations, were in fact formative years.

The reading on the wall about Pakistan's future read 'hope' and 'everything positive' said Ms. Ayesha Zafar, an undergraduate student from National Defense University (NDU), Islamabad. Ms Fizza Bano and Mr Malik Saad, undergraduate students from University of Central Punjab (UCP) Lahore pertinently mentioned the challenges that Pakistan had to endure since birth in addition to highlighting its resolve in standing tall among the comity of nations. Ms Bano stated that as a young political scientist she saw lack of ownership among Pakistani nationals as extremely concerning. She added that it was imperative for our people to own their national identity and let it prevail beyond their sub-national and ethnic identities to emerge as a united nation that was capable of addressing troubling issues at home.

"The reading on the wall about Pakistan's future read 'hope' and 'everything positive' said Ms. Ayesha Zafar, an undergraduate student from National Defense University (NDU), Islamabad,"



MoIB exposes fake campaign about I-Day ceremony

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MoIB) on Monday termed the social media post which claimed that a woman danced during Independence Day event. A tweet from facts checker MoIB twitter account stated that disseminating fake news was not only unethical and illegal but it was also disservice to the nation. The tweet further said it was responsibility of everyone to reject irresponsible behavior. It is worth a mention that some social media users had shared a photograph of a dancing woman and it was claimed that it was part on Independence Day event attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. - APP

AIOU to organize competitions

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is organizing various competitions in light of Independence Month celebrations including painting/poster and essay writing competitions among students across the country. The poster competition will be held on August 24 at 9:30 am in AIOU's Institute of Education Technology Building. "My Pakistan (in future)" will be the theme of the poster/painting competition.

Helping material for the participating students will be provided by the university including watercolor/ color pencils, rubber, brush, and pencil. Students are directed to be punctual at the event.

An essay writing competition is also being organized among the students of universities, colleges and schools on the topic "75 Years of Independence: Successes and Failures". Students will submit an affidavit on a separate paper, which is mandatory for participation in the competition and the last date for essay submission is August 26. According to Director Student Affairs, Rana Tariq Javed, the essay should be well-written, free from plagiarism in all aspects and must include references where required. Word limit for the essay is 1500 to 2000 words and the jury's decision will be final. All the participants in competitions will be given certificates in the grand prize distribution ceremony while the first, second and third place winners will be given cash prizes of Rs 7,000, 5,000 and 3,000 respectively. For more details, participants can contact Student Counselor, Faisal Altaf, on 051-9057812 / 0331-5065855.

Atta Tarar given 14-days protective bail

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday granted protective bail to Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) Atta Tarar and instructed him to approach the concerned court within fourteen days. Acting Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the case filed by PML-N's Leader Atta Tarar through his counsel Qaiser Imam Advocate.

The petitioner had named federation and Police Station Qila Gujjar Singh Lahore as respondents in his bail case. The petitioner stated that the police had raided his house a few days back in an FIR registered with Qila Gujjar Singh Police Station.

Attar Tarar said that he should be given an opportunity to appear before the relevant court. He contended that there was a risk of his arrest as the police had not been allowing him to appear before the concerned court. He prayed the court to stop the police from arresting him and grant him a protective bail. After listening arguments, the court granted protective bail to Atta Tarar and directed him to approach the relevant court within fourteen days.

It may be mentioned here that the Punjab Police had registered FIR against Atta Tarar with regard of torture on PTI's workers. - APP

Biden's green deal

WHEN the House of Representatives passed landmark climate legislation on Friday, Joe Biden chalked up one of the surprise successes of his presidency. Only last month his ambitious agenda appeared sunk after a conservative Democrat and coal baron, Joe Manchin, refused to back it. His vote is crucial in an evenly divided Senate. However, the climate proposals were largely resurrected in the form of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), co-authored by Mr Manchin, which Congress approved. The first major US climate law comes not a moment too soon. It is the country's best and last opportunity to meet its goal of halving greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and, with it, a world where net zero by mid-century is possible. After Donald Trump, Mr Biden can reclaim the mantle of global climate leadership for the US. But the act reveals the limits of his power.

This deserves a small cheer from progressives. Mr Biden is pursuing a muscular policy of state intervention in the economy. The act for the first time gives the federal government the power to negotiate lower drug prices. Significantly for the climate, it represents a new US industrial policy that subsidises zero-carbon power production via tax credits. It also recognises that the US is falling behind China in green technology – spending \$152bn less on renewable investments last year – and focuses on ways to encourage clean-energy manufacturing. To be a truly transformative president, Mr Biden will need to remake society. What the act demonstrates is that he does not have the votes – yet – in his own party for such a programme. Mr Biden's climate plans may fall short because he is relying on the carrot of spending rather than the stick of taxes to underpin an energy transition. Yet the wasteful consumption of the wealthy will have to be reduced with progressive taxation to make resources available for socially-useful spending. Ultimately the climate emergency needs a fundamental economic restructuring. Mr Biden's new environmental law is a good start, but there's a very long way to go.

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Solar initiatives

A WEAKENED economy, high demand and lack of renewable alternatives among other things have led to a severe energy crisis in the country. This crisis is currently being curtailed through sporadic lockdowns for electricity preservation – a short-term solution that has serious economic ramifications. The population continues to grow annually and scores of people are increasingly shifting to urban localities in search of work. The rising cost of fuel imported to generate electricity means high cost for both consumers and the government coffers. Therefore, developing a long-lasting, sustainable plan seems to be the wisest option. It is a relief to see that the government has identified this gap and now plans to launch solar projects of up to 14,000 MW – out of which projects of 9,000 MW are to be executed on a priority basis. The project itself will be cost-effective due to tax incentives on solar panels. Then, once the project is tried and tested, it will help generate cheap electricity in an eco-friendly manner, in turn lowering the burden on fuel imports as well as the energy sector. It is even more heartening to see that the Prime Minister called for giving priority to Balochistan in the provisions of solar systems as they have long been suffering from electricity shortage. In order to make this more sustainable in the long-run, the government can go a step further by introducing residential solar units and loaning them off to consumers. This will help citizens pay off the loan with ease through an installment plan and at the same time will allow the government to generate some revenue for reinvestment, and so on. The brewing problems of the country feed off each other. Once we achieve sustainability in major sectors, moving forward towards a clean, green future where renewable energy is at the core will be much easier.

When covering Afghanistan, what matters is the people

Soraya Salam

In the handful of times I interacted with Ali, a few things were clear: He was trying his best to hold it together and act tough. He was not, in fact, tough. He was tender-hearted and vulnerable, because he is a boy who has been burdened with the responsibility of saving his family from a life of poverty. That's a heavy weight to bear. He missed his family so much that it hurt, compounded in the moments he couldn't reach them on WhatsApp video call. He was scared, and his sense of identity was waning.

I DON'T want to be buried in Afghanistan." My grandfather's piercing blue eyes glazed over, belying the certainty in his voice. His request before his death in 2011 may have sounded unusual coming from a proud Kandahari man, a former Afghan diplomat turned prolific Pashtun scholar. But to me and my family, we knew it came from a place of deep pain. The kind of pain a lover feels for their beloved when

they've gone astray and no longer resemble the person they fell in love with. No, he wanted to be buried in his home of the past 30 years, America, despite not sharing his soil with the ancestors who came before him. Because, as he told me, the Afghanistan of today was not the Afghanistan he knew. He much preferred basking in the sunlight of his fond memories. The times when, to him, his country seemed to be thriving, human rights and sound education were on the brink of revival, and religion was used as a source of ethical and principled living, not political capital. For decades, the Afghan people have lived through war: from the Soviet invasion in 1979 – when my mother and her family left for the US – to civil wars, and the US invasion in 2001. Millions of people have been killed, maimed, and made refugees. One year ago, the Taliban regained full control of the country in an advance very few saw coming – as rapidly as it did, anyway. Since then, the group has had to grapple with being on the receiving end of attacks against the people they govern. They have also been in a fight for legitimacy in the eyes of the international community.

But at the broken heart of this story have been the real, lived experiences of Afghans struggling to feed their families, to rebuild their country after so many years of being in the crossfire, their lives uprooted or worse. Now, the stories we need to tell the most are the human ones. Not as tragedy for the sake of it, not as the refrain to a sad song we've been singing about Afghans for years, with the same depressing lyrics. But as a responsibility to put the people at the forefront of Afghanistan's narrative, not just the political leadership. Stories like, what has it meant for young, intelligent, emotional men and women with dreams of their own, to be the punctuation marks to failed policies, blown to pieces by those who don't even know their names? To be discarded as "collateral damage" by foreign forces, as though their existence never mattered? Or for the children who go to sleep one night soothed by the gentle murmurs of their mothers and fathers, only to wake up the next day alone, robbed of the only family they ever knew. What has happened to them? The war may be over, but its damage remains. And rebuilding isn't easy when the rest of the world abandons you, virtually overnight. We remember the surreal images last year of Afghans clinging to a US Air Force jet in what can only be described as desperation personified. They didn't know exactly where they would end up, or if they'd even make it, but they hung on to a conviction far greater than fear: They knew they didn't want to be home any more.

I recently met someone who made it to the US from Kabul airport last year: a foster son taken in by someone close to me. Ali (name changed to protect his identity) was 12 years old, one of 10 children, and his family chose him to literally take a leap of faith on what could be.

As a mother of three, I can only imagine the buried pain and the façade his mother must have had to project as she said goodbye to her son, knowing very well it could be several years before she saw him again. And that's if she's lucky. In the handful of times I interacted with Ali, a few things were clear: He was trying his best to hold it together and act tough. He was not, in fact, tough. He was tender-hearted and vulnerable, because he is a boy who has been burdened with the responsibility of saving his family from a life of poverty. That's a heavy weight to bear. He missed his family so much that it hurt, compounded in the moments he couldn't reach them on WhatsApp video call. He was scared, and his sense of identity was waning. There are so many stories like this. We aren't telling enough of them. There's a story we told last year that I still cannot get out of my mind. It was about thousands of Afghans escaping violence before the Taliban took over. Ghulam, a rickshaw driver from Kunduz, told our correspondent: "Our beautiful home is gone. It is covered in flames now." Elsewhere in the piece, a mother named Samia gathered her seven children in the middle of the night and fled to Kabul. She said, of the reasons she was forced to flee her home: "Both sides just fire away without looking at what they're hitting." My grandfather was fortunate enough to find a viable way to escape war and to have a choice between returning or remaining comfortably in another country. Although he no longer lived in Afghanistan, I know Afghanistan lived within him, and he dedicated decades of diaspora life to serving his country with his pen rather than his physical presence. Millions of Afghans have not been so privileged. So we must ask: What is going to be done to rebuild Ghulam's beautiful home? How will those in power support children like Ali? Or mothers like Samia? And what about young Afghans living under the Taliban who were not alive when they were in charge before? How do they feel about that? Afghans have more at stake than anyone else, and they want true, lasting peace, more than any internal or external actors speaking through a microphone to the world. They need to have a say in their country, rather than being spoken for. We can give them more of a voice. They deserve that much from us.

Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Raid on Trump's house makes a Biden rematch more likely

Dr. John C. Hulsman

The televised Congressional hearings into the Jan. 6 riots have reduced GOP voter support for Trump at the edges. A Reuters/Ipsos poll in July showed a significant 32 percent of Republican voters felt he should not run again for president in 2024, up from 26 percent in June

AS the early 20th-century US politician John Sharp Williams so perfectly put it: "My reading of history convinces me most bad government results from too much government." Judged by this yardstick, the FBI's raid on former US President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago mansion – a clumsy, authoritarian effort to forcibly retrieve mishandled government documents – was both. It makes it far more likely that the 2024 presidential contest is a Trump-Biden rematch, an outcome that an overwhelming 70 percent of Americans in recent polling simply do not want. First, to the merits of the Aug. 8 raid. The FBI's aim, with sign-off from the Biden-appointed Attorney General Merrick Garland, was to retrieve mishandled classified material, records from Trump's time in the White House that ought to be in the National Archives and not at his private mansion. In February, the National Archives took 15 boxes of material back from Trump, some containing classified documents. The government appeared to think the former president was holding out on them, and might have been unlawfully keeping further records. This was the first time a search warrant had been issued against a former president. Although Trump's conduct appears to be a clear violation of the law, the dramatic and draconian nature of the raid amounts to executive overreach, a fact highlighted by the treatment of previous high-level Democratic Party grantees who broke the very same law, which is rarely enforced and even more rarely (almost never) results in serious legal consequences. In 2005, former Clinton-era national security adviser Sandy Berger was caught trying to smuggle classified documents out of the National Archives in his socks and pants (you couldn't make this up), only to receive community service for his crime, in essence a slap on the wrist. His house was not raided by the FBI. Tellingly, in 2016 the FBI opened an investigation into Hillary Clinton to see if there was classified material among the 33,000 emails on her New York private server. They found 110 emails, deleted before 2014, containing classified information. While FBI Director James Comey noted that Clinton and her colleagues had been "extremely careless," absolutely nothing of legal consequence happened to them. It is hard not to identify with Trump's consistent populist critique of the left-leaning "deep state" – that the media, intelligence, law enforcement, entertainment and academic pillars of the American establishment hold him and Republican populists to one standard, and their favored Democratic Party leaders to another. That is, before the Mar-a-Lago raid, which plays perfectly into Trump's sense of victimhood, as well as the Republican Party's increasingly dominant view that the levers of government, as well as the American establishment, are no longer playing the political game fairly. This has mightily helped Trump's cause. GOP rivals such as DeSantis as well as established critics such as Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell have all rushed to the former president's defense after the raid. The Trump movement itself, long becalmed as the media's focus shifted to the hapless Biden administration, has found a second wind. For Joe Biden – deeply unpopular and seemingly overwhelmed by the demands of his office – this raid is manna from heaven. Biden has rallied his demoralized Democratic base by the attack on their favorite hate object, while reminding them of his number one selling point: Unlike his more leftist rivals in the Democratic Party, he can reach out to decisive independent voters and actually beat Trump, perhaps the only man in the country less popular than he is. The New York Times poll had Biden beating Trump in a 2024 re-match 44 to 42 percent. The greatest irony is that these two deeply unpopular rivals need each other. The raid makes it more likely, despite America's deep misgivings about them both, that they will face off again in 2024.

Courtesy: Arab News

Art of controlling

Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi

Controlling in modern-day organizations starts right from the first day on the project/ task starting as a feedforward control. Controlling has a positive and necessary role in the management process to keep entire operation on the track and to avoid depletion of both material and human resources. Controlling ensures that the right things happen, in the right way, at the right time and on the right scale. Controlling is the pivot for organizational learning providing information about entire operation...

GENERALLY our perception about controlling is to grasp someone firmly through different means to ensure compliance. This view further strengthened a couple of months back when I was invited by an organization to deliver a training session on controlling in day-to-day operations. I think organizers were expecting some stringent theories or concepts to facilitate their hierarchies to fortify their control over others. It was sheer surprise for most of the participants when I linked control

with the goal/ objective. Success is linked with determination and commitment more than the ability and intellect. Having relevant capabilities and comprehension to perform is not uncommon. But it is the resolve and the promise which defines the success of an individual or an organization. Controlling as a function of management brings assurance and insistence in organizational operations. Controlling in modern-day organizations starts right from the first day on the project/ task starting as a feedforward control. Controlling has a positive and necessary role in the management process to keep entire operation on the track and to avoid depletion of both material and human resources. Controlling ensures that the right things happen, in the right way, at the right time and on the right scale. Controlling is the pivot for organizational learning providing information about entire operation for pre, concurrent and post action analysis for continuing corrective measures to remain focused on achieving the objective. A feedforward control is employed before a work activity begins to ascertain that objectives are clear. Napoleon Hill once said, "There is one quality that one must possess to win, and that is definiteness of purpose, the knowledge of what one wants, and a burning desire to possess it." According to Remez Sasson, "Clarity of purpose/ objective is vital for the achievement of success and for making dreams come true. It is one of the pillars of achieving plans and accomplishing success. It means knowing exactly what it is that you want. Not something unclear and vague, but a complete, clear and detailed goal. Only when you know exactly what you want you can get it. When there is clarity of purpose you know what steps to take. With clarity of purpose you focus on the goal, without wasting time or energy." A feedforward control, work inputs, establishes proper directions of the team to tell everyone how to complete the task or in which order to pursue the given objective. It also ensures that right resources are available. Significance of right and appropriate resources to achieve objectives can't be emphasized much because quality of resources help organizations get the most out of people, tools and equipment. Feedforward control focuses on quality of resources to avoid unnecessary delays, bring efficiency, strengthen planning and pre-empt bottlenecks well in advance. Concurrent control, work throughputs, solves problems while they are occurring in the course of process when groups and organizations are implementing their strategies and plan of action to achieve set objectives. It is of prime importance to monitor ongoing operations, a manager or a leader can't afford to leave things at the mercy of circumstances. It is his/ her responsibility to focus on day-to-day happenings within and outside the group or the organiza-

tion to control or eliminate unacceptable events for both affective and efficient outcomes from people and mechanical resources to save time and reduce wastages. Feedback which we usually use even in our everyday routine to seek responses of relevant stakeholders about any activity is technically a source of critical information for any person, a group, a project or an organization to spot deficiencies, to mark deviations, to observe gaps and to ensure that final result or the product is up to the desired standards. Feedback control enables constant delivery of desired standard of performance and quality. It is the feedback which provides opportunity to reflect back to the entire process to eliminate mistakes from future course of actions. Feedback control is linked with the work output thus solves problem after they occur and provides useful information for improving future operations. There are some other dimensions of controlling such as internal & external control and bureaucratic and clan control. People who have internal locus of control they exercise self-discipline to fulfill the job expectations and they form groups which set performance standards for themselves and realize dreams. External control occurs through personal supervision and the use of formal administrative systems which is a kind of bureaucratic control that influences behaviour through authority, policies, procedures, job descriptions, budgets, and day-to-day supervision. Probably the most important type of control is known as clan control which influences behaviour through norms and expectations set by the organizational culture. According to a website, "Clan control is an indirect form of control that uses shared expectations, values and social norms to encourage people to work toward organizational objectives. This form of control often links to company culture and helps the organization reach its goals by motivating the people." There are four distinct steps in control process: step 1 – establishes objectives and standards, step 2 – measures actual performance, step 3 – compares results with objectives and standards, and step 4 – takes corrective action as needed. If our managers and leaders can master the art of controlling as a strategy to achieve objectives and maintain quality & standards then I think we can do wonders in every field from manufacturing to the service industry, from entertainment to the leisure, from health to the sports and from technology to the education sector by delivering excellence in each arena.

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Briefs

Uzbekistan's role in regional...

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Preferential Trade Agreement in order to fully unlock the immense bilateral economic potential. He also reiterated Pakistan's commitment to provide transit access to Central Asian Republics to the ports of Karachi, Bin Qasim and Gwadar. The Prime Minister stressed closer collaboration in education, tourism and cultural spheres to promote people-to-people contacts. He underlined the importance of direct air connectivity in this context and urged upon the respective national airlines to start operations at the earliest to facilitate the movement of businessmen, students and tourists between the two countries. While highlighting convergent perspectives of Pakistan and Uzbekistan on regional issues, the Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's strong resolve for lasting peace, security and stability of Afghanistan.

PM, Saudi crown prince...

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the progress made on the decisions taken by the two sides during the visit of the prime minister in April 2022. They resolved to expedite the ongoing cooperation in investment, energy and trade fields. Recalling the historic support extended by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan in times of need, the prime minister thanked the crown prince for the economic and development support provided to Pakistan in recent times. The prime minister reiterated his cordial invitation to the crown prince for a state visit to Pakistan, which he graciously accepted.

Afghanistan under Taliban...

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any member of UN, even those who are on list or considered in rival camp of US led allies. On the issue of Human Rights, the Taliban regime yet to make satisfactory rest of the world and global organisations known for watching the HE situation throughout the world. The UN human rights rapporteur and Amnesty International time and again shown sever resentment over continuous violation of HR situation in Afghanistan where the extra judicial killing of personnel of former security forces and supporters of those who remained occupants of official posts since December 2001 is considered a routine. As a result fleeing on the part of Afghans is still continue. Almost hotels and guest houses in Islamabad Pakistan, Turkey, and other Central Asian Republics are occupied by women and children from Afghanistan waiting for turn if boarding on flights for Western and American destinations. The Emirates Islami Afghanistan's hostile attitude towards female schooling is no more secret almost girls are locked and now one amongst millions of girls babies are allowed to enter schools. Even the Talobans regime is turning to deaf ear UN, OIC and other international organisations requests and appeals.

Shehbaz Gill challenges...

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the police to showcase their "loyalty" to the incumbent government. The petition further stated that the case was filed only to "satisfy the political agenda of the government". "There is no option but to knock on the door of the high court to seek refuge from oppression," the petition said, adding that the court should accept the petition for dismissing the case and declare the first information report (FIR) against Gill as null and void. Shortly after the petition was filed, the IHC scheduled the case for a hearing tomorrow. Separately, the IHC earlier issued a notice to Gill on Jadoon's request in the case pertaining to the physical remand of the PTI leader.

Russia and N Korea will expand bilateral relations

Al Jazeera's Rob McBride, reporting from the South Korean capital, Seoul, said exchange of letters come at a time that both leaders faced international censure – Kim over his country's nuclear and missiles programme and Putin over the Russian invasion of Ukraine

AGENCIES

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin has told North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un that he wishes to expand ties between Moscow and Pyongyang, according to state media. North Korea's KCNA news agency said on Monday that Putin sent a letter to Kim on the 77th anniversary of the end of Japan's occupation of the Korean peninsula, saying closer ties would be in the interest of both of their countries. Russia and North Korea will "continue to expand the comprehensive and constructive bilateral relations with common efforts," Putin wrote, adding that this would help strengthen the security and stability of the Korean peninsula and the Northeastern Asian region.

Kim also sent a letter to Putin saying Russian-North Korean friendship had been forged in World War II with victory over Japan, which had occupied the Korean peninsula from 1910 to 1945. The "strategic and tactical cooperation, support and solidarity" between the two countries has since reached a new level, Kim wrote, particularly in their common efforts to frustrate threats and provocations from hostile military forces. KCNA did not



identify the hostile forces, but it has typically used that term to refer to the United States and its allies. Kim predicted cooperation between Russia and North Korea would grow based on an agreement signed in 2019 when he met with Putin. North Korea in July recognised two Russian-backed breakaway "people's republics" in eastern Ukraine as independent states, and officials raised the prospect of North Korean workers being sent to the areas to help in construction and other labour. Ukraine, which is resisting a Russian inva-

sion described by Moscow as a "special military operation", immediately severed relations with Pyongyang over the move. Al Jazeera's Rob McBride, reporting from the South Korean capital, Seoul, said the exchange of letters come at a time that both leaders faced international censure – Kim over his country's nuclear and missiles programme and Putin over the Russian invasion of Ukraine. "It is an interesting letter coming at an interesting time," McBride said. "Both of these leaders face isolation in the international community. For Kim Jong Un, it has of course been longstanding. For Vladimir Putin, it's been far more recent. But no less consequential. There does seem an almost inevitability about the two leaders drawing closer," he said.

Shahzab drives Jammu Janbaz to first victory in the tournament



DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: Shahzab scored 40 runs off 18 balls to help Jammu Janbaz beat Overseas Warriors by five wickets in the Kashmir Premier League (KPL) season 2 here at Muzaffarabad Cricket Stadium on Monday. The young batter caught major limelight by playing a match-winning

knock laced with four maximums and two boundaries. He handed Janbaz their first victory in the tournament. Sharjeel Khan smoked 29 runs including towering six, that broke the window glass, and four boundaries. Azaz Khan made 17 runs. Karachi's Sohail Khan bagged a maiden hat-trick of KPL 2. He took three wickets for 14 runs. Earlier, Azam Khan and

Imran Randhawa made the most of rainy conditions and hit quick 47 runs to help Overseas Warriors score 101-3 against Jammu Janbaz in eight-overs-a-side contest. After rain delayed the play on the third day, the two teams had to play a reduced overs match. Janbaz won the toss and asked Warriors to bat first. Openers Mohammad Shahzad and Kamran Ghulam

scored quick 30 runs in three overs to set the tone for the Warriors. Shahzad scored 17 while Ghulam made 15 including a six. Azam thereafter looked in solid form as he smacked three boundaries and a six alongside Randhawa who made 29 off 12 balls laced a boundary and three sixes. For Janbaz, Usama Mir bagged two wickets while Akif Javed managed a wicket.

Kane salvages point for Spurs

LONDON: Harry Kane headed in a last-gasp equaliser to earn Tottenham Hotspur a barely-deserved 2-2 draw in a feisty Premier League derby at Chelsea that ended with both managers being shown red cards after the final whistle on Sunday. Kane glanced home Ivan Perisic's corner in the sixth minute of stoppage time to salvage a point for the visitors who have now won only once in their last 38 visits to Stamford Bridge. It sparked chaotic scenes on the touchline where Chelsea boss Thomas Tuchel and his Spurs counterpart Antonio Conte clashed for the second time on a sweltering afternoon. "There's no hard feelings – I feel like it was a fair tackle from him and a fair tackle from me," Tuchel said. "We did not insult each other, we did not hit each other, and we were fighting for our teams." Reece James seemed to have sealed the points for the dominant hosts with a 77th-minute strike after Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg had equalised for Tottenham in the 68th minute. Centre back Kalidou Koulibaly marked his home debut in style by volleying Chelsea in front from a corner in the 19th minute and the hosts totally dominated the opening period. Chelsea wasted several chances to increase their lead with Raheem Sterling blazing one chance over and it was easy to understand Tuchel's frustration when Hojbjerg levelled. Tuchel raged at the referee, insisting Kai Havertz had been fouled in the build-up and that Richarlison had been standing in an offside position. He also clashed with Conte, earning both of them yellow cards. Havertz spurred a glorious chance to put Chelsea back in front but the hosts reclaimed their lead when the excellent James fired past Hugo Lloris from a pass by Raheem Sterling – Tuchel joyfully racing down the touchline in celebration. KANE NEARS RECORD Tuchel's mood darkened though as Kane snatched a draw with his 42nd goal in London derbies – one behind the record of former Arsenal forward Thierry Henry. Tuchel and Conte lost their heads after an aggressive handshake and had to be separated by their coaching staff. Chelsea and Tottenham, who finished third and fourth respectively last season, both have four points from two games. "I thought when we shake hands you looked in each other's eyes; he had a different opinion. It was not necessary but a lot of things were not necessary," Tuchel said. "We dominated for 90 minutes. We were sharp, we were hungry, it was a top performance. I'm sorry for all my players that we didn't get the result we deserved." Tottenham arrived full of confidence but were second-best for most of the game after allowing Koulibaly the freedom of the penalty area to volley superbly past Lloris. – DNA

Murray included in GB's Davis Cup team

LONDON: The Scot joins Cameron Norrie, Dan Evans and world doubles number one Joe Salisbury for the group stage of the competition in Glasgow next month. Draper, 20, has not been selected despite surging from outside the top 250 to 55 in the rankings this season. "It's always special playing in a Davis Cup tie in front of a home crowd," Murray said. "Some of the best moments of my career have come representing my country in the Davis Cup, so to be a part of the team again means a lot." The team will face the United States, Kazakhstan and the Netherlands and will be led by British number one Norrie, who welcomed Murray back to the team following a two-year absence. "Coming into a Davis Cup as the British number one - it doesn't get much better than that," Norrie said. "Having Andy in the team of course is a real boost. Both him and Dan were here in 2015 when we went on to win the competition and having that experience is really important, but it also drives the rest of us to get there as well." Murray, 35, is ranked 47th in the world, eight places higher than Draper who reached his first quarter-final of a Masters 1,000 tournament at the Canadian Open last week. Davis Cup captain Leon Smith said the selection process was "tougher than ever". He confirmed they would be adding a fifth player in the coming weeks, giving Draper and doubles specialist Neal Skupski, who won the Canadian Open title with Dutchman Wesley Koolhof on Sunday, another chance to make the squad. In 2015, Glasgow hosted Britain's opening-round tie against the USA and their semi-final victory against Australia as Great Britain went on to lift the trophy for the first time since 1936, Murray clinching the title-winning point. – DNA

Plane from India lands at Karachi airport

DNA

KARACHI: An aeroplane from India landed at the Jinnah International Airport (JIAP) in Karachi, with a dozen passengers on board, sources told Geo News. The sources said that the special flight departed from Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad, India, and landed at the Karachi airport at 12:10pm. A spokesperson for the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) confirmed the development and said the international charter flight had just flown in from India and it had no connection whatsoever with the country other than that. Shortly after landing in Karachi, the special flight took off with the 12 passengers on board. It is not yet clear why the plane had landed at the Karachi airport.

US basketball player Brittney Griner appeals Russian conviction

MOSCOW: US basketball player Brittney Griner's legal defence team has appealed her conviction by a Russian court for narcotics possession and trafficking – for which she was sentenced to nine years in prison. Griner's conviction and sentencing in early August were condemned by Washington, with President Joe Biden calling it "unacceptable" and pledging to bring Griner and Paul Whelan, who is also imprisoned in Russia, home. The United States has said it will pursue a prisoner swap including the athlete and Viktor Bout, a Russian imprisoned in the US who was once a prolific arms dealer. The appeal was first reported by Russian media. Griner's lawyer confirmed to Reuters news agency on Monday the appeal had been filed. Griner, a two-time Olympic gold medalist and Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) star, was arrested at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport on February 17 after authorities found cannabis-infused vape cartridges in her luggage. She has said bringing the cartridges into the country, where she played for a Russian club team during the US off season, was an "honest mistake". The arrest came at a time of heightened tensions between Washington and Moscow, which escalated further following Russia's invasion of Ukraine five days after the arrest. Last month, the US State Department designated Griner as "wrongfully detained". Moscow has denied the arrest was political. Speaking shortly before the judge's ruling, Griner said: "I know everybody keeps talking about political pawn and politics, but I hope that is far from this courtroom." US athletes, activists and legislators have rallied behind Griner, while heaping pressure on the Biden administration to do more to secure her freedom. "It has been 178 days since our friend, Brittney Griner, has been wrongfully detained in Russia," wrote Seattle Storm power forward Breanna Stewart on Twitter on Sunday, tagging Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. "It is time for her to come home." It is common for US professional women's basketball players, who are paid only a fraction of male players' salaries, to join lucrative leagues abroad in the off season. – DNA

Indonesia can become center for geothermal industry

Geothermal energy that is used to produce green hydrogen would have a remarkable multiplier effect through its development, although it would need major investment

ANTARA

JAKARTA : Indonesia could become the center for the global geothermal industry on account of its huge geothermal potential, President Director of PT Pertamina Geothermal Energy (PGE), Ahmad Yuniarto, stated. "Indonesia has huge geothermal potential, with its abundant resources. The electricity produced from geothermal energy is more stable, and there is still room for competitive pricing. Geothermal energy is very competent as baseload generators for any power system," he noted here on Monday.

With its position as the center for the global geothermal industry, Yuniarto remarked that national geothermal-based energy resiliency can be achieved. Geothermal has become the most relevant renewable energy source to meet the domestic demand. PGE is part of the state-run energy firm Pertamina's power and new renewable energy subholding. According to Yuniarto, the government will need to put in additional efforts to achieve the target of geothermal development. Geothermal energy that is used to produce green hydrogen would have a remarkable multiplier effect

through its development, although it would need major investment. "We can use geothermal for our green economy. This will give Indonesia a higher value, but the point is how can we produce green hydrogen with cost efficiency," he stated during a workshop on geothermal recently. PGE has worked on cooperation with some related ministries for the development of green hydrogen. The company has also sought strategic partners in the business. "In future, demand for green hydrogen will not only come from the domestic industry but also from

abroad," he remarked. To date, PGE is ranked first in terms of national geothermal management, with an installed capacity of 1,887 megawatts (MW). A total of 1,205 MW is managed with partners and 672 MW is operated alone by PGE. Geothermal development is expected to reach 5,444.5 MW in 2030, with state-run electricity firm PT PLN's installed capacity of 1,077.5 MW and independent power producer (IPP), 4,367 MW. Within the next decade, PGE has targeted to double the installed capacity of geothermal-based clean energy that it operated alone. By 2030, it has targeted to

increase the installed capacity to 1,540 MW. "This means that in 2030, PGE has the potential to contribute to a potential emission reduction of nine million tons of CO2 per year and targets to become the top three geothermal producing companies in the world," Yuniarto stated. Meanwhile, PT PLN's Vice President of Geothermal Hendra Yu Tonsa Tondang said, a crucial problem in geothermal development is the gap in electricity tariffs and the project's economy. Tondang highlighted several instruments to close the gap, including the implementation of carbon tax, lowering the cost of elec-

tricity production in eastern Indonesia, capital expenditure incentives, government drilling, green/clean energy funds, and the application of appropriate technology, so as to increase the project success ratio. Renewable energy-based electricity tariffs are still higher than fossil fuels-based ones, thereby necessitating the government's involvement to encourage the use of new and renewable energy. "We need policies from the government, especially on tariffs. When the tariff is higher than the BPP (electricity generation cost), then the subsidy will also increase," he affirmed.

PTI to launch anti-government..

FROM PAGE 01

hold a mammoth power show, adding that Imran Khan would hold public gatherings till December 10 in various parts of the country. Fawad said that the PTI strongly condemned the police torture on Shahbaz Gill, which was unacceptable. He said that what was happening to Gill was the height of injustice and the entire party stood with him. He expressed his apprehension that Gill could be kidnapped so as to get his medical certificate from PIMS. Fawad went on to say that the PTI would take up the issue of Gill's torture globally. He expressed his shock over the court's decision to issue a notice for hearing regarding Gill's physical remand, as they just wanted this remand to torture him. Fawad urged that the matter should be resolved at the earliest, as Gill was being targeted because he was weak, adding that his case was similar to Nawaz Sharif, Fazlur Rehman and Maryam Safdar. The PTI said that Rana Sanaullah set a dangerous and new tradition to crackdown against innocent children and helpless women, adding that this was causing irreparable damage to Pakistan's politics. Talking about PM's offer of talk on Charter of economy, Fawad termed the proposal of a charter of economy a foolish idea, as the PTI could not support the destructive economic policy of the government of crooks that brought the country on the verge of economic collapse. He lashed out at the government flawed policies, which he would trigger tsunami of unemployment while PTI government provided 55 lac jobs.

Fawad revealed that the imported government was trying to put a rift in the judiciary, adding that the people did not forget the era of Rafiq Tarar, as how the judiciary was divided. He condemned all such efforts and vowed the PTI would foil all such nefarious plans to divide the judiciary. The PTI leader announced that the PTI would hold judiciary independence day on Monday and Imran Khan would address the address Bar Associations. Criticizing government for gagging media's voice, Fawad said that the PTI would hold press freedom day on Thursday to express solidarity with journalists being faced coercion and torture at the hands of the imported government. He said that the cabal of thieves made life a hell for journalists, as the private TV channel was closed for showing the activities of the PML-N strategic media cell. Fawad stated that they would raise voice for Arshad Sharif, Khawar Ghaman, Sami Ibrahim and Imran Riaz along with all the people who were suffered due to the inhuman and harsh policies of the current government. He said that the issue would be taken up with Amnesty and the international community, as Chairman PTI issued special instructions to Dr. Shireen Mazari to raise the matter at the international level. Fawad ruled out talks with the corrupt government; however, he added that the talk could only be held on a framework for early, free and transparent polls, because snap polls was the only solution to steer the country out of the current untold crises. He said that there was no need of back-door contacts or closed-door talk, as everything would be in open and public would set the narrative.

However, he made it clear that the government was running away from the elections because they saw the writing on the wall that they would face drubbing at the hands of Imran Khan. He said that the PTI would not tolerate any further delay because the imported government has already plunged the country into myriad problems. Fawad further said that the government should learn lesson from 1970 instead of conspiring to suppress PTI. Coming down hard on ECP, he said that the PTI had no trust on the electoral body, which worked as subsidiary of the government. He demanded that the PPP, PML-N and JUL's money laundering cases should be brought to the fore and Asif Ali Zardari, Nawaz Sharif and Fazlur Rehman should bring back their money stationed abroad.

Briefs

2,200 year old Roman fountain unearthed

FOREIGN DESK

CANAKKALE: The remains of a 2,200-year-old Roman fountain have been uncovered in northwestern Türkiye, archaeologists at the ancient site of Assos said on Monday. "According to our initial findings, we learned that it was a magnificent fountain structure. We know of many cisterns in Assos, but this is the first time we've come across a monumental fountain structure," dig site head Nurettin Arslan told Anadolu Agency. "It's a very important structure in terms of urban architecture," said Aslan, who is also a professor at the Onsekiz Mart University in Canakkale province, where the ruins are located. Underlining that the excavations at Assos have continued uninterrupted for 42 years, he said the current 30-strong team, including scientists and academics from Germany, were planning this season to unearth multiple cisterns added to the ancient city's gymnasium. The fountain they discovered was in front of these Roman-era cisterns, explained the archaeologist, adding that it had been seriously damaged during the Byzantine period. "Despite this, once the initial excavation is complete, we can re-erect the existing pieces and allow visitors to grasp the scene or appearance in front of the fountain a little better," he said.

OEC to export workforce to Kuwait

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC) will export the workforce to Kuwait in the different fields including scaffolders, equipment operators and skilled labour. An official of Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development told APP here on Monday that Ministry facilitating to all attached departments to export the skilled and unskilled workforce to the different countries. To a question, he said that workforce would be exported to Kuwait with different terms and conditions including free sharing accommodation and transport will be provided by the company. Company will provide free food or allowance to the workers, work insurance fit medical will be provided by the company as per the government. Contract term two years and renewable and probation period 100 days. He said that applications have been received from across the country and all selected candidate would be sent to Kuwait next month. Talking about the duty timing he said duty 8 hours in 6 days a week, more than overtime as per Kuwait labour law and 30 days leave in a year.

Six dead in explosion at Armenian market

AGENCIES

YEREVAN: The death toll in a fireworks storage explosion in Armenia's capital has risen to six, officials said on Monday, as rescuers comb through the rubble for victims. At least 18 people remain missing and more than 60 others injured in the powerful blast that tore through the popular market in Yerevan. Video footage from the Surmalu market on Sunday showed grey smoke billowing over a building and people scurrying away from the area. Some 70 rescue workers were searching the rubble for survivors, a statement by the civil defence authority said on Monday, after firefighters had largely extinguished the blaze following the explosion on Sunday. "Fireworks, fireworks – everything shattered in one minute," said one witness. "People could not get out of the stores." The emergency situations ministry said in a statement that preliminary information indicated that two large explosions had brought down part of a building housing fireworks, which set off a fire.

Nuclear talks positive but expectations not fully met

AGENCIES

TEHRAN: Iran's foreign ministry has said talks in Vienna earlier this month to restore its 2015 nuclear deal yielded results, but did not fully address Tehran's expectations. Foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani told reporters on Monday that "considerable progress" had been made during several days of talks mediated by the European Union in the Austrian capital. "But this progress didn't fully account for the legal demands of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and we had other expectations from the other sides that we believed needed to be provided," he said. Kanani said an agreement could be achieved in "the near future" provided the other sides, specifically the United States, consider Iran's "red lines" and guarantee it will enjoy the benefits it

was promised under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), as the deal is formally known. Internal discussions are ongoing in Tehran at the highest levels and contact is maintained with the European bloc, the spokesman added. After the latest round of the talks that concluded on August 8, the EU circulated what it called a "final text" and urged all sides to take the necessary political decisions to finalise a deal. Washington has agreed to the text, but Tehran has signalled that it has other considerations. Iranian foreign minister told reporters on Monday that Iran will officially convey its "final opinion" on the European text to the bloc by the end of the day. "We are after a good, sustainable and strong agreement, but if the other side speaks of a plan B, we also have a plan B," Hossein Amirabdollahian said, adding that Iran is awaiting US "flexibility" on the issue of

guarantees. The main sticking point at the moment appears to be a safeguards inquiry into Iran's nuclear programme by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which Tehran wants closed for good before the JCPOA is restored. The nuclear watchdog has demanded more cooperation on traces of man-made nuclear particles found at several Iranian sites years ago, saying that is the only way the inquiry could be terminated. There have been unconfirmed reports that the European text contains clauses that say the inquiry could be closed through the IAEA board of governors – populated by JCPOA signatories – provided Iran fully cooperates with the watchdog. Russia has said the text is a product of participation by all sides, and the EU has no authority to unilaterally declare the talks successful or failed. Meanwhile, Qatar's assistant foreign minister for regional affairs, Mohammed bin

Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi, was in Tehran on Saturday to discuss the nuclear deal among other things. A day later, the Qatari foreign ministry announced al-Khulaifi had held a phone call with IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi, who has so far not been invited to Tehran to discuss the safeguards issue. Neither Tehran nor Doha confirmed potential discussions about the inquiry. Doha has relayed messages between Tehran and Washington since last year and hosted two days of indirect talks between the two mediated by the EU in late June, which concluded without progress. Iran started gradually ramping up its nuclear programme in 2019, one year after then-US President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the nuclear deal and imposed harsh sanctions that have been enforced and expanded by his successor, Joe Biden.

Japan marks day of World War II surrender

NEWS DESK

ISTANBUL: Japan on Monday commemorated the 77th year since its World War II surrender, with the country's Emperor Naruhito expressed "deep remorse" for Japan's wartime past. "Reflecting on our past and bearing in mind the feelings of deep remorse, I earnestly hope that the ravages of war will never again be repeated," Naruhito told an official ceremony in Tokyo. The imperial was born after the end of the war, from which Japan announced its unconditional surrender in 1945. Japan lost around 2.3 million military personnel and 800,000 civilians in the war. Also attending the event, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida vowed that Tokyo would "join forces with the international community and make all-out efforts to solve the various problems the world is facing." However, Kishida avoided reference to Japan's wartime aggression in Asia, carrying on a tradition set by predecessors Yoshihide Suga and Shinzo Abe. Economic Security Minister Sanae Takaichi and Reconstruction Minister Kenya Akiba paid a visit to the war-linked Yasukuni shrine. This was the third year that Cabinet-rank Japanese officials visited the shrine, which more than 2.4 million war dead, including convicted war criminals. Takaichi and Akiba were appointed as ministers by Kishida last week.

Poland slow to act in ecological disaster

AGENCIES

WARSAW: Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki has admitted Poland was slow to react to an ecological disaster unfolding in the Oder River, firing two top officials. Thousands of dead fish have been found along the river running between Poland and Germany, with both countries warning of an environmental disaster. The Polish government has stressed the need to find and punish those responsible for the disaster. Morawiecki fired Przemyslaw Dacia, head of Poland's national water management authority, and Michal Mistrzak, chief of the general environmental inspectorate. According to Deputy Climate and Environment Minister Jacek Ozdoba, they are most likely dealing with a crime where a substance was introduced into the water. The police chief has set a one million zlotys (\$220,200) reward for help in finding the perpetrators.

Iraqi actress sues Economist

AGENCIES

BAGHDAD: An Iraqi actress, whose photo was used by The Economist to illustrate an article about obesity in the Arab world, criticized violations of Arab women rights by the West. Enas Taleb, 42, has sued the British weekly newspaper for violating her privacy after using her photo without permission in an article about why women are "fatter" than men in the Arab world. "The magazine has insulted all Arab women after using my picture in an article about obesity and overweight in the Arab world," Taleb told Anadolu Agency in an exclusive interview. "I'm against valuing a woman based on the shape of her body," she said. Taleb, a talk-show host, said she has taken legal action against the British weekly newspaper for using a photo of her taken nine months ago at the Babylon International Festival in Iraq in the article. "I felt offended when I saw my picture in the article. The magazine has used my photo in an offensive context," she said. "I'm an artist and have my social status. The newspaper did not respect my status among fans." There was no comment from The Economist on the actress' statements. Taleb said she sued the British newspaper for defending the rights of the Iraqi and Arab women.

Myanmar junta court jails Suu Kyi for six years

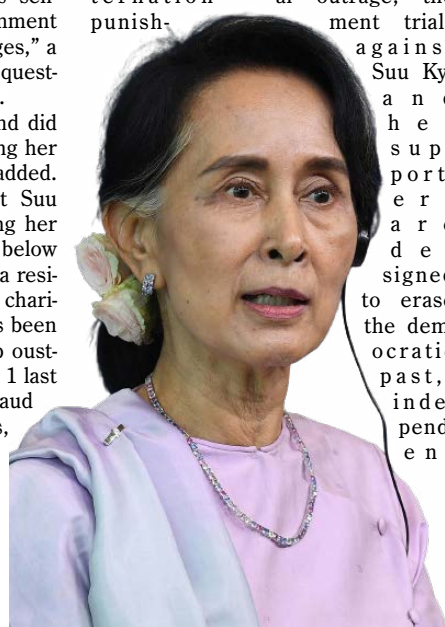
FOREIGN DESK

YANGON: A military court in Myanmar has sentenced ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi to a six-year prison term after finding her guilty in four corruption cases. Suu Kyi was sentenced to "six years imprisonment under four anti-corruption charges," a source close to the case who requested anonymity told media outlets. She appeared in good health and did not make any statement following her latest sentencing, the source added. The source further noted that Suu Kyi was found guilty of misusing her position to rent public land at below market prices and to have built a residence with donations meant for charitable purposes. Suu Kyi, 77, has been in military custody since a coup ousted her government on February 1 last year over accusations of voter fraud in November 2020 elections, plunging the Southeast Asian nation into turmoil. She is being held in solitary confinement in a jail in the capital Naypyitaw, and had already been sentenced to 11 years prison in other cases. Journalists have been barred

from attending the court hearings and her lawyers have been prohibited from speaking to the press. Many of her political allies have also been arrested since the coup, with one chief minister sentenced to 75 years in jail.

"Immune from domestic and international outrage, the punishment trials against Suu Kyi and her supporters are designed to erase the democratic past," independent Myanmar analyst David Mathieson told AFP. "Their intent is clear to everyone it seems, everyone but the international community." Suu Kyi, meanwhile, has also been charged with at least 18 other offences that carry a combined maximum prison term of more than 150 years if she is convicted.

Myanmar's military leaders claim that the Nobel Laureate – who coluded with them during her tenure as the country's civilian leader in the killing and brutal displacement of nearly 700,000 minority Rohingya Muslims – is on trial for committed crimes and is being given due process by an independent judiciary. Since her arrest, Suu Kyi has been charged with multiple crimes, from violations of electoral and state secrets laws to incitement and corruption. Her supporters insist that the allegations are trumped up to thwart any chance of her political comeback. The military takeover triggered mass protests in the country, which was followed by junta's brutal crackdown on dissent that killed at least 1,500 people and led to the arrest of 11,838 others, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), a local monitoring group.



China supports Pakistan in geomatics tech

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: The Advanced Seminar on Geomatics Technology for Pakistan sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce of China is ongoing online to help improve Pakistani scientists and officers' expertise in geomatics, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Monday. It's learned that a total of 19 Pakistani experts and officers from the Society of Engineering, National Institute of Computer Sciences, University of AJ & K Muzaffarabad, etc. attended this seminar. According to the seminar's organizer Hunan International Business Vocational College, the seminar is specifically designed to meet the actual needs of Pakistani geo-technical experts based on a series of investigation and research on the development of surveying and mapping technology in Pakistan. During the 20-day seminar, Chinese experts have been sharing the latest geomatics technology of data analysis, processing and application, and the successful experience and practice in the surveying and mapping industry in China with the Pakistani participants. The seminar is composed of classroom teaching, discussion on specific topics and visits to renowned Chinese enterprises, etc. Notably, cutting-edge equipment including VR drones has also been used for practice. "Through this seminar, Pakistani experts can learn about the updated development of geomatics technology in China, and the Sino-Pak cooperation potential in the field of surveying and geographic informatics has been fully discussed," Zhong Huiqun from Hunan International Business Vocational College told CEN.

Serbia working to preserve peace: President

WEB DESK

BELGRADE: Amid recent border tensions with Kosovo, Serbia's president said on Monday that he is planning to go to Brussels to maintain peace and stability before an upcoming meeting with the Kosovo premier. "We don't threaten anyone. We just want to ensure respect for international rules and international public law norms," including the 1999 UN Security Council Resolution 1244 and 2013 Brussels Agreement, Aleksandar Vucic told reporters ahead of a meeting slated for Thursday with Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti. Belgrade is interested in discussing all issues, but more importantly the matter of establishing the Community of Serb Municipalities, Vucic added, referring to a planned association of local administrations in Kosovo with Serb majorities. "It was understood that these powers would be much larger and broader, that's why we negotiated, it's clear what was negotiated," said the Serbian president. Vucic said he would have meetings with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg and the special representative of the US administration for the Western Balkans, Gabriel Escobar. Vucic and Kosovo's premier Kurti both accepted an invitation by EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell for a meeting on Aug. 18. The leaders will meet with Borrell and Miroslav Lajcak, the EU's special representative for Kosovo-Serbia dialogue, in the EU capital. Tensions between Belgrade and Pristina escalated in late July ahead of Kosovo's planned implementation of a new law making it mandatory for everyone, including Serbs living in Kosovo, to have a Kosovar ID card and license plate. Later, Kosovo announced that it had decided to delay the new measures until Sept. 1. Vucic called for dialogue to resolve issues with Kosovo. Launched in 2011, the EU-led Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue aims to normalize relations between the two Balkan countries and find a mutually agreeable solution for their disputes in the framework of a legally binding agreement. Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia in 2008, with most UN members, including the US, UK, France, Germany, and Türkiye, recognizing it as a separate autonomous country from its neighbor.

Türkiye rejects top Greek FM's remarks on Cyprus dispute

ANKARA: Türkiye on Monday released the facts on a decades-long Cyprus dispute and rejected the recent remarks of Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias. "Greek Cypriots violated the 1960 Constitution and destroyed the partnership Republic in 1963. Türkiye had to intervene after the Greek coup d'état in July 1974, aiming to stop bloodshed & violence against Turkish Cypriots," the Turkish Foreign Ministry said on Twitter in re-

ply to Dendias, who had claimed that Cyprus was "illegally" occupied. The ministry said: "Greece & Greek Cypriots never showed the necessary will for a permanent settlement on the Island. Greek Cypriots rejected the Annan Plan in 2004, left the table in Crans-Montana in 2017. "The inherent rights, sovereign equality & equal status of Turkish Cypriots should be reaffirmed for a equitable, just & viable settlement on the Island," the min-

istry said in a statement as opposed to Dendias, who on Sunday said on Twitter that the federal solution is the "only" one for the dispute. Cyprus has been mired in a decades-long dispute between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, despite a series of diplomatic efforts by the UN to achieve a comprehensive settlement. Ethnic attacks starting in the early 1960s forced Turkish Cypriots to withdraw into enclaves for their safety. – Agencies



OTTAWA: High Commissioner of Pakistan to Canada, Zaheer Aslam Janjua hoisting the national flag on 75th independence day of Pakistan at Pakistan High Commission.

Pelosi's trip to disorganizes geopolitical harmony

BEIJING: Some analysts in Pakistan have said that US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan last week created destabilization, feeling of insecurity and disharmony in this region. Dr. Mehmoed Ul Hassan Khan, Executive Director of the Centre for South Asian and International Studies in Islamabad, said the visit by the top US lawmaker has escalated tensions between the United States and China. He said it shows that the US is reneging on its promise to respect the one-China principle, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. "In this regard, I refer to a recent telephonic conversation between Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden, in which both leaders agreed to stay away from the Taiwan issue, because it is based on the one-China policy, which the US has already endorsed, accepted and recognized." Hassan said China had been doing a very meaningful engagement with the main stakeholders, especially the US. "Unfortunately, despite the diplomatic efforts, postures, and signaling of China, Pelosi

has landed in Taiwan, which has started a new game in the region. I personally fear that the economic recovery in the post COVID-19 has been further compromised and weakened," he said. "I must say that China is still showing a great restraint from any misadventure, any military escalation, which is indeed a very commendable thing. It is very sad and unfortunate that despite the best efforts of the Chinese government and policymakers, the US has discarded all the good faith of China. And I fear that the social economy, geopolitics will change and change very soon," Hassan added. Dr. Munawar Sabir, a political analyst and professor of Geography at the University of Punjab, said Pelosi's visit provoked an unannounced war between China and the US. "You can call it a new type of cold war in simple words. It is a war between East and West. We have to understand that America is a chapter of western history. Anyone capable of countering Western Europe and America must be some Asian power." "Pelosi's visit to Taiwan is an attempt to check and irritate China in this cold war.

The reason behind this visit is to look at the level of reaction by China. Otherwise, Taiwan has no significance in the world economy and politics except for being a region that creates chips. It just has a specific geographic location. Americans want to do something here and create some trouble to counter China," said Sabir. "China has responded to the provocation by imposing sanctions on Pelosi and members of her immediate family. China also canceled possible dialogues with the US in some channels involving military relations, climate change and other matters. You can understand that China has responded in clear words. The conflict between China and America is emerging and becoming more prominent," Sabir said. Touching on the future of China-US relations, Sabir said that in every situation, China is the winner. "I think China will wait for a while. It will adopt the strategy of wait and see. After that, it will show its reaction on Taiwan in some other way." The world noted that: There is only one China in the world and Taiwan is an inseparable part of

China. This solid fact was crystal clearly recognized by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) via its Resolution number 2758 back in 1971. Some 181 countries have established diplomatic relations with China on the basis of the one-China principle, including the US. Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory and any issue within the Taiwan Straits is purely an internal affair of China. "In this regard, I must highlight that Taiwan's claims about these separate origins are totally invalid, incorrect, false, fake and factional because the people living in Taiwan are actually Chinese who have unfortunately separated from the Chinese mainland," said Dr. Mehmoed Ul Hassan Khan. "Beijing released a white paper recently on the peaceful reunification of Taiwan with the Chinese mainland. It's very timely, very integrative, very interactive, comprehensive, and holistic to showcase China's national determination. I must say that the white paper of Taiwan reunification is the bold step China has made towards its peaceful national reunification in the new era," said Hassan. – APP

Briefs

Iran: Rushdie, supporters to blame for attack

NEWS DESK

TEHRAN: No one has the right to level accusations against Iran over Friday's attack on Salman Rushdie, for which he is to blame after denigrating the world's Muslims, the foreign ministry in Tehran said on Monday. The novelist, who has lived under a death threat for decades since enraging clerical authorities in Iran through his writing, is recovering after being repeatedly stabbed at a public appearance in New York state, read more

In Iran's first official reaction to Friday's attack, ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani said freedom of speech did not justify Rushdie's insults against religion. His 1988 novel "The Satanic Verses" is viewed by some Muslims as containing blasphemous passages. "(Regarding) the attack on Salman Rushdie, we do not consider anyone other than himself and his supporters worthy of...reproach and condemnation," Kanaani told a news briefing. "No one has the right to accuse Iran in this regard." Writers and politicians around the world have condemned the attack. His agent told Reuters that Rushdie had sustained severe injuries, including nerve damage in his arm and wounds to his liver, and was likely to lose an eye.

UK first to approve Omicron Covid shot

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Britain, the first country to approve a coronavirus vaccine in late 2020, has now also given the first green light to a variant-adapted shot that targets both the original and Omicron version of the virus. The UK medicines regulator (MHRA) gave the so-called bivalent vaccine made by U.S. drug company Moderna (MRNA.O) conditional approval as a booster for adults on Monday.

Britain's Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is now expected to issue a recommendation soon on how the vaccine should be deployed in the country. The MHRA's decision was based on clinical trial data that showed the booster triggered "a strong immune response" against both Omicron (BA.1) and the original 2020 virus, it said. Moderna in June said trial data showed that when given as a fourth dose, the variant-adapted shot raised virus-neutralizing antibodies by eight-fold against Omicron, read more

The MHRA also cited an exploratory analysis in which the shot was found to generate a "good immune response" against the currently dominant Omicron offshoots BA.4 and BA.5.

China, Russia get closer to Taliban amid Western boycott

The killing of al-Qaeda leader in Kabul will add to mistrust between the Taliban and the West, prolonging the group's diplomatic isolation

NEWS DESK

KABUL: Monday marked a year since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan after almost 20 years of US occupation. But the Taliban rulers have much work left to do as they struggle to revive the country's lifeless economy and address the dire humanitarian situation. Meanwhile, the Taliban's international isolation has not helped its cause.

Despite repeated appeals and efforts by Taliban leaders, no country in the world has recognised the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), as the country is officially known under Taliban rule. The West has demanded that the Taliban ease curbs on women's rights and make the government more representative as a condition for recognition. The Taliban says the United States is violating the 2020 Doha Agreement by not recognising its government. Last month's killing of al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in a US drone strike in Kabul has led to Western governments accusing the Taliban government of failing to live up to its commitments under the Doha Agreement, which required the Taliban to deny safe haven to al-Qaeda and other armed groups in Afghanistan in exchange for the US withdrawal.

Several deadly attacks attributed to the Islamic State in Khorasan Province, ISKP (ISIS-K) have further raised concerns in the Western capitals about post-US Afghanistan's security landscape. Washington will find it hard to trust the Taliban in the wake of al-Zawahiri's killing, with the West likely taking a hardened stance towards the Taliban government amid growing support for sanctions imposed on it. The US's dwindling trust in the Taliban could prove disastrous from a humanitarian standpoint as the negotiations held between the two sides in Doha, the Qatari capital, for the release of funds to Afghanistan have come to a screeching halt.

Nathan Sales, the former US ambassador-at-large and coordinator for counterterrorism, said after al-Zawahiri's killing that "the risk is substantial that money released to [the Taliban] would find their way inevitably and directly into al-Qaeda's pockets". Although engagement between the West and Afghanistan is "likely to slow down" in the wake of al-Zawahiri's killing, "so far it is unclear if this development will impact regional engagement with the Taliban's de facto government", said Ibraheem Bahiss, an analyst with the International Crisis Group focusing on Afghanistan, in an interview with

Al Jazeera. "Al-Qaeda is not a key consideration for many of the regional countries and it is possible they may continue their engagement despite this development." It is important to examine how non-Western countries approach the Taliban government. Several of Afghanistan's neighbours, including China, Pakistan, and Iran, have accepted Taliban diplomats, along with Malaysia, Qatar (which hosts the Taliban office in Doha), Saudi Arabia, Russia, and Turkmenistan. In fact, Ashgabat, Beijing, Islamabad, and Moscow have even formally accredited Taliban-appointed diplomats, underscoring how the Taliban's international isolation is relative. Given how China, Russia, and Iran see ISIS-K as a far graver threat than al-Qaeda, these countries will "have at least some sympathy" for the IEA "as long as the Taliban continues to fight against [ISIS-K]", Anatol Lieven, a senior research fellow at the Quincy Institute of Responsible Statecraft, told Al Jazeera. "Hostility to [ISIS-K] helps explain why Russia and China reached out to the Taliban in the years before their victory [in August 2021]. However, these links stop well short of the kind of financial support that the Taliban urgently needs. Russia

does not have it to give, and China has always been extremely cautious about this kind of handout," Lieven said.

Although Tehran has carefully engaged the rulers in Kabul, the exclusion of the Hazara Shia minority from governance has not impressed Iran, which has also experienced border clashes and disputes over water rights with the Taliban since August 2021. Pakistan, a long-term Taliban ally which was one of only three governments to recognise the Taliban government in the 1990s, has also had major problems with post-occupation Afghanistan. Taliban rule has emboldened Pakistan Taliban, known by the acronym TTP, in its attacks against Islamabad, which has responded by carrying out cross-border air attacks. For China's government, a primary concern pertains to questions about how the Taliban will deal with armed Uighur groups which have a history of being based in Afghanistan in the 1990s. China worries that the Taliban might give such organisations the freedom to operate against China. Beijing has offered the Taliban economic and development support on the condition that Afghanistan cooperates with China vis-à-vis such armed factions and avoids targeting Chinese interests, particularly the Belt and Road Initiative – a global infrastructure project funded by Beijing.

COVID-19 claims two more lives

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Corona wars are going on all over the country, 2 more people died due to COVID-19 in the last 24 hours across the country. Another 459 corona cases were reported. According to the National Institute of Health (NIH), 18 thousand 45 tests were conducted in the last one day. 459 positive cases were reported. The ratio of positive cases reached 5.54. 172 patients are in critical condition in hospitals across the country. The highest ratio of positive cases was recorded in Islamabad at 7.71%. The ratio was 6.99 % in Bahawalpur and 5.98 % in Murpur. 5.83% ratio was recorded in Lahore and 5.74% ratio in Peshawar.

Punjab govt withdraws security provided to Sharif family

DNA

LAHORE: The Punjab government has withdrawn security provided to the Sharif family. The Punjab Home Department on Monday directed the provincial police to withdraw security provided to the Sharif family at their homes in Jati Umrah and Model Town.

Punjab Home Minister Hashim Dogar said that police would provide security only to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He said that the security officials were deployed only at the declared houses of PM Shehbaz. The Punjab police said that more than 500 police officials had been deployed for the security of the Sharifs. Before this, Ataulah Rehman and other PML-N leaders were also provided security, it added.

PM directs to provide Rs50,000 to each flood-affected family

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed to ensure the provision of Rs. 50,000 relief to each flood affected family in the flood hit areas through a transparent process within the three days. Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) will provide Rs. 50,000 cash relief to every flood affected family under the supervision of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), he added. The Prime Minister was presiding over a meeting of the Relief Coordination Committee constituted for the flood affected areas. The meeting was attended by Federal Ministers Miftah Ismail, Ahsan Iqbal, Marriyam Aurangzeb, Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Maulana Asad Mehmood, Advisor to PM Qamar Zaman Kaira, Chairman NDMA Lt. Gen. Akhtar Nawaz and relevant senior officials.

Minister for Housing Maulana Abdul Wasay, Chief Minister Balochistan Abdul Quddus Bizenjo and Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) Balochistan Sanaulah Baloch attended the meeting through video-link. The Prime Minister further said that the disbursement of cash relief should be ensured through electronic transfer so that the deserving people get relief. He directed the Flood Relief Coordination Committee to finalize the process of Rs. 50,000 cash relief disbursement and present its report by today evening.

The Prime Minister said that the joint survey in coordination with the provincial governments for the assessment of flood-related losses should be completed in three weeks instead of five weeks. The provincial governments should also cooperate and coordinate with NDMA regarding the joint survey at the earliest and to ensure timely relief for the flood affected people, he added. The Prime Minister said that it was the provincial governments' prerogative to become part of the federal government's flood relief efforts, adding, however, the federal government will ensure the relief and rehabilitation of the flood affected people through its own resources.

He also directed the Minister for Information and Broadcasting to formulate a comprehensive awareness campaign in that regard. The meeting was told that a survey will be conducted in coordination with the provincial governments to assess the damages caused by the recent spell of rains and floods. It was further told that by the time survey was completed, the government, through BISP, will provide Rs. 30,000 cash relief to each flood affected family. The Prime Minister, however, directed to enhance the cash relief to Rs. 50,000 for each affected family and disburse the same under the supervision of NDMA.



ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister presiding over a meeting of the Relief Coordination Committee constituted for the flood affected areas. – DNA

Japan PM vows no more war

DNA

TOKYO: Prime Minister Fumio Kishida vowed on Monday that his country would never again wage war, as members of his cabinet visited a shrine that honours war dead, angering South Korea and China. Japan's ties with China were already strained after China conducted unprecedented military exercises around Taiwan following the visit there by U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi this month.

During the drills, several missiles fell in waters inside Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone. "We will never again repeat the horrors of war. I will continue to live up to this determined oath," Kishida told a secular gathering in Tokyo, also attended by Emperor Naruhito.

Kenya election: William Ruto wins presidential poll

WEB DESK

NAIROBI: Deputy President William Ruto has been declared the winner of Kenya's presidential election amid dramatic scenes. He narrowly beat his rival, Raila Odinga, taking 50.5% of the vote, according to the official results. The announcement was delayed amid scuffles and allegations of vote-rigging by Mr Odinga's campaign.

Four of the seven members of the electoral commission refused to endorse the result, saying it was "opaque". "We cannot take ownership of the result that is going to be announced because of the opaque nature of this last phase of the general election," said Juliana Cherera, the vice-chairperson of Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC). "We are going to give a comprehensive statement... and again we urge Kenyans to keep calm," she said. Mr Odinga's party agent earlier alleged that there were "irregularities" and "mismanagement" in the election. This was the first time Mr Ruto, 55, had run for president. He has served as deputy president for 10 years, but fell out with President Uhuru Kenyatta, who backed Mr Odinga to succeed him. The 77-year-old former prime minister,

who got 48.8% of the vote, was running for president for the fifth time. Mr Ruto (r) called Mr Chebukati, the head of the electoral commission, a "hero".

The electoral commission chairman Wafula Chebukati said he had done his duty despite receiving threats. "We have walked the journey of ensuring that Kenyans get a free, fair and credible election. It has not been an easy journey - right now two of my commissioners and the CEO are injured," he said. In his speech, President-elect Ruto thanked the electoral commission for overseeing the election. "It is a wonderful evening... all sovereign power belongs to the people of Kenya," Mr Ruto said, calling Mr Chebukati a "hero". Mr Ruto said he wanted to be a president of all, and for the country to focus on the future. "To those who have done many things against us, I want to tell them there's nothing to fear. There will be no vengeance. We do not have the luxury to look back," he added. Celebrations have broken out in several parts of the country including in Mr Ruto's strongholds of the Rift Valley, and that of his deputy Rigathi Gachagua, in the Central region. Supporters of Mr Odinga have staged small protests in the western city of Kisumu and some parts of Nairobi.

Rashid wants PM to make charter of democracy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former interior minister and Awami Muslim League Chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmad has asked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to make charter of democracy instead of charter of economy while cautioning the ruling elite that politicians will be on target if political conflict rises in the country.

While taking to his Twitter handle, Rashid wrote: "Shahbaz Sharif must make a charter of democracy instead of charter of economy. Decide a date for holding transparent elections and leave the decision to the nation. 140 million intelligent youth have got mobile phones in their pockets. 10 crore people are in the grip of poverty. If the political conflict rises, politicians will also be on target. Delay in elections will be the death of democracy. "The nation understands that the illness of Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari is an excuse to run away. It does not matter whether coward Nawaz Sharif comes or does not come now, whether he is eligible or ineligible, it does not matter now.

7 PAF officers promoted to rank of Air Vice Marshal

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The government of Pakistan on Monday promoted seven officers of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) to the rank of Air Vice Marshal. The promoted Air Officers included Air Vice Marshal Farooq Zamir Afridi, Air Vice Marshal Aurangzeb Ahmed, Air Vice Marshal Taimur Iqbal, Air Vice Marshal Hakim Raza, Air Vice Marshal Tariq Mahmood Ghazi, Air Vice Marshal Mohsin Mahmood and Air Vice Marshal Tahir Mahmood, a PAF news release said.

Air Vice Marshal Farooq Zamir Afridi was commissioned in General Duty Pilots also GD (P) Branch of Pakistan Air Force in December, 1992. During his career, he has commanded Fighter and Operational Conversion Units, a Flying Wing and an Operational Air Base. He has served as Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Operational Requirements & Development) at Air Headquarters, Islamabad. He holds a Master's degree in National Security & War Studies from National Defence University, Islamabad. He is a recipient of Sitara-i-Intiaz (Military).

Air Vice Marshal Aurangzeb Ahmed was commissioned in GD (P) Branch of Pakistan Air Force in December, 1992. During his career, he has commanded a Fighter Squadron, a Flying Wing and an Operational Air Base. He holds a Master's degree in National Security and War Studies from National Defence University, Islamabad. He has also performed his duties in Qatar on deputation abroad. He is a recipient of Sitara-i-Intiaz (Military).

Air Vice Marshal Hakim Raza was commissioned in GD (P) Branch of Pakistan Air Force in December, 1992. During his career, he has commanded a Fighter Squadron and an Operational Air Base. He has served as Deputy Chief Project Director JF-17 and Secretary to Chief of the Air Staff at Air Headquarters, Islamabad. He holds a

1992. During his career, he has commanded a Fighter Squadron and an Operational Air Base. He has served as Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Operational Requirements & Development) at Air Headquarters, Islamabad. He holds Master's degrees in Military Arts from China and National Security & War Studies from National Defence University, Islamabad. He has also performed his duties in Saudi Arabia on deputation abroad. He is a recipient of Sitara-i-Intiaz (Military).

Air Vice Marshal Taimur Iqbal was commissioned in GD (P) Branch of Pakistan Air Force in December, 1992. During his career, he has commanded a Fighter Squadron, a Flying Wing and an Operational Air Base. He holds a Master's degree in National Security and War Studies from National Defence University, Islamabad. He has also performed his duties in Qatar on deputation abroad. He is a recipient of Sitara-i-Intiaz (Military).

Air Vice Marshal Hakim Raza was commissioned in GD (P) Branch of Pakistan Air Force in December, 1992. During his career, he has commanded a Fighter Squadron and an Operational Air Base. He has served as Deputy Chief Project Director JF-17 and Secretary to Chief of the Air Staff at Air Headquarters, Islamabad. He holds a

Master's degree in National Security & War Studies from National Defence University, Islamabad. The Air Officer has also served as Directing Staff at National Defence University, Islamabad. He is a recipient of Sitara-i-Intiaz (Military).

Air Vice Marshal Tariq Mahmood Ghazi was commissioned in GD (P) Branch of Pakistan Air Force in December, 1992. During his career, he has commanded a Fighter Squadron, Flying Wing and an Operational Air Base. He has served as Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Operational Requirements & Development) and Director (General Duties Group) at Air Headquarters, Islamabad. He holds Master's degrees in Strategic Security Studies from USA, Defence Studies from UK and Strategic Studies from Air War College Institute, Faisal. He is a recipient of Sitara-i-Intiaz (Military).

Air Vice Marshal Mohsin Mahmood was commissioned in Engineering Branch of Pakistan Air Force in June, 1992. During his career, he has commanded an Engineering Wing. He has also served as Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Radar Engineering) at Air Headquarters, Islamabad. He is a graduate of Air War College Institute, Faisal and also holds a Master's degree in Business Administration. The

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