



# Islamabad POST

Thursday, August 18, 2022

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**Army Chief receives 'Order of the Union' from UAE President**

Detailed News On Page-08

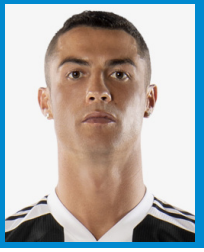
**Rep. Liz Cheney may run for US Presidency**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Ronaldo will reveal truth about his future**

Detailed News On Page-06



**Briefs**

**Imran imposed worst media gags**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb says PTI Chairman Imran Khan cannot claim to be a protagonist of media freedom as he had imposed worst media gags during his tenure as Prime Minister. In a statement on Wednesday, she said International Media Watch has declared Imran Khan a fascist because of his suppressive measures against media. Marriyum Aurangzeb said it was during Imran Khan's tenure that thousands of media workers were left unemployed.

**FM seeks investors investment**

IRSHAD ALI

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has urged the international investors to take advantage of the investment opportunities in Pakistan. He was talking to Swedish Ambassador Henrik Persson, who called on him in Islamabad on Wednesday. The Foreign Minister emphasized on further strengthening the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Sweden. He said it is good that Swedish companies are taking advantage of investment in Pakistan. He said he will be happy if other countries of the world come to invest in Pakistan.

**China lauds PM's remarks**

BEIJING: The Chinese Foreign Ministry appreciated PM Shehbaz Sharif for his words uttered on multiple occasions on Pak-China bilateral relations and the CPEC. "Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif spoke highly of China-Pakistan relations and CPEC on multiple occasions. He is very committed to the practical cooperation between our two countries. China appreciates that," Spokesperson Wang Wenbin in a response to a question asked by APP during his regular briefing. - APP

## Anti-Army campaign 'PTI, Indian elements involved'

Defence minister says that 18 Indian Twitter accounts involved in anti-army smear campaign



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said Wednesday that the appointment of the army chief should not be turned into a political debate. "I can assure you that, at the moment, there is no ongoing process regarding the appointment of the army chief," Asif said in response to a question during a press conference. The army chief's appointment is due in November this year, with Director-General of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Major General Babar Iftikhar already

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**PM Shehbaz felicitates Gen Bajwa**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Wednesday congratulated Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa for receiving UAE's highest civil award, the Order of Zayed or Order of the Union Medal. Taking on Twitter, PM Shehbaz wrote: "Congratulations to COAS General Qamar Javed Bajwa on the conferment of Order of the Union by UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan." The prime minister said that the award has been an honour for COAS General Bajwa and for Pakistan. "The relationship between our two brotherly countries has gone from strength to strength," he added. The award was bestowed on COAS General Bajwa by UAE President Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan at a ceremony in Abu Dhabi.

## Target killings of Afghan Taliban leaders continue

Maulvi Mehdi Mujahid a leading Shia leader was shot dead in border areas of Hirat province

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Target killing of leading pro and anti Taliban leaders and office holders in regime-called Emirate Islami Afghanistan is continuing across the border in that war devastated country, bordering with violence and terror affected Khyber Pakhtunkhwa of Pakistan. Latest report from Afghanistan reveals that Maulvi Mehdi Mujahid a leading Shia leader was shot dead in border areas of Hirat province, bordering with Iran. According to media reports, the Taliban Defense ministry through a communiqué confirmed killing of Maulvi Mehdi Mujahid who was on way from Afghanistan to neighbouring Islamic Republic of Iran. Belong to Shia school of thoughts Maulvi Mehdi Mujahid was considered amongst top pro-Taliban leaders in Western and Central-Northern provinces where a reasonable Shia population residing. He was leading resistance against the Taliban

elements in Balkhab district of Saripul province in North-Western Afghanistan, after his removal from his office as Intelligence chief. Media reports further reveal that Taliban after takeover in Kabul last year, appointed Maulvi Mehdi Mujahid against important military and intelligence offices. However on the grounds of some charges or allegations he was removed from the office and in reaction he started opposition. There were also reports of Mehdi Mujahid arrests but Taliban didn't confirm these reports. Media reports reveal that the Taliban forces attacked Maulvi Mehdi Mujahid forces in Balkhab district and making an attempt for saving his life. Mujahideen was on flee to Iran or his native Saripul province when came under attack of Taliban along with some loyalists. However, exact strength of Mehdi Mujahid loyalists killed in Taliban attack couldn't be ascertained. Besides other international Human Rights bodies, the UN also denounced the Taliban regime for victimization of local people, especially from Shia-Hazara communities. According to UN the Taliban attack on Balkhab district also displaced more than 30 Thousand of residence of this district. So far aides and supporters of Maulvi Mehdi Mujahid didn't made any reaction over the attack.



ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Resident Coordinator in Pakistan, Mr. Julien Harneis, calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. - DNA

**Israel, Turkey restore diplomatic relations**

'Return of ambassadors is important to improve ties'

NEWS DESK

TEL AVIV: Israel and Turkey announced the resumption of full diplomatic ties on Wednesday, following years of strained relations between the Mediterranean nations. Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid hailed the diplomatic breakthrough as an "important asset for regional stability and very important economic news for the citizens of Israel". Lapid's office said the diplomatic development will see ambassadors and consuls general posted to the two countries once more. The announcement follows months of bilateral efforts to mend ties, with reciprocal visits by top officials. Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said the return of ambassadors "is important to improve bilateral ties", while still vowing to "defend" Palestinian rights.

**Pak sends back letter of intent to IMF**

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Miftah Ismail confirmed Wednesday that the government has sent the letter of intent (LoI) back to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) after fulfilling the pre-requisites, paving the way for the executive board's meeting. In his conversation with journalists, the finance minister said

Continued on Page 06

## Imran Khan terms Gill's torture 'part of conspiracy'

- Ex-PM directs home secretary, jail IG to shift Gill to a hospital

DNA

LAHORE: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan on Wednesday expressed concern about party leader and former SAPM Shahbaz Gill being sent into police remand again. In his latest tweets, the former PM wrote, "Very concerned about Shahbaz Gill being sent into police remand again. He is in a fragile state of mental and physical health because of the torture inflicted on him when he was abducted & taken to undisclosed location & then again at the police station." He also said, "This is part of conspiracy to target me and PTI by forcibly getting false statements against us similar to what they have been doing against social media activists." "This is absolutely unacceptable. We will take all legal & pol actions to counter not only this torture being inflicted upon Shahbaz Gill but also any such extra-Constitutional & extra-legal actions being devised against us," the PTI chairman added.

Continued on Page 06

**Shahbaz Gill handed over to Islamabad Police**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Following a heated standoff between Islamabad and Rawalpindi police over the custody of Shahbaz Gill, the Adiala jail authorities handed over the custody of the PTI leader to the former, Geo News reported Wednesday. Islamabad Police has left the jail with Gill as Punjab Police personnel returned back after hours-long drama outside the jail premises. It was further learnt that Gill will be first taken to PIMS for a medical checkup. Gill's custody has been given to Islamabad Police according to the directions of the court. Sources in the police said that he will be shifted to a police station after the medical examination.

Continued on Page 06

## Pak, UK sign pact on criminals' repatriation

DNA

LONDON: Pakistan and the United Kingdom on Wednesday signed the landmark agreement for repatriation of convicted criminals and immigration offenders from the UK to Pakistan. "I'm proud to have signed a new landmark agreement with our Pakistani friends to return foreign criminals and immigration offenders from the UK to Pakistan," British Home Secretary Priti Patel announced in a tweet. "This deal shows our #NewPlanForImmigra-

tion in action, as we deliver for the British people," she further wrote on her official Twitter handle. The deal will allow Pakistan and the UK to repatriate their convicted criminals. However, it will only allow the repatriation of citizens sentenced by relevant courts. The first round of negotiations on a criminal extradition treaty took place in October 2019. Later in April 2021, the then interior minister, Sheikh Rashid met British High Commission Christian Turner and discussed the repatriation of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, who is in London after his release from prison on medical grounds.

**Inside...**

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NA body for transparency in PHF elections - Page 06

Iran ready for implement prisoner swap deal with US - Page 07

UAE President presents Order of the Union to COAS - Page 08

## Asim Iftikhar Pak Ambassador to France, Aisha to Ireland

Raza Tarar, Faisal Tirmzi, Aftab Qureshi will serve in Japan, UAE and Greece respectively

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif has approved nominations of various Ambassadors and High Commissioners to various countries. The prime minister gave this approval after getting recommendations from the Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. According to details, the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Asim Iftikhar Ahmed has been appointed Pakistan's Ambassador to France. The post fell vacant after the posting of Moin Ul Haq in Beijing, China as Pakistan's ambassador.

Then happened the cartoons episode in France because of which the appointment of Pakistan's ambassador to France got delayed. But thanks to efforts from both sides, all hurdles have now been overcome and Pakistan, France relations are well on track again. France, as a goodwill gesture, recently rescheduled Pakistan's loans and intends to be partner with Pakistan in a number of projects. Similarly, Pakistani side is also keen to expand and diversify relations with France.



Aisha Farooqi

Another seasoned diplomat and former Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Aisha Farooqi, who was taking care of the SCO desk has been posted as Pakistan ambassador to Ireland. Aisha is also a career diplomat and has vast experience in diplomacy. During her tenure as Pakistan's ambassador to Ireland relations between the two countries are expected to be strengthened further. Raza Bashir Tarar, another seasoned diplomat has been appointed in Japan



Asim Iftikhar

vice Imtiaz Ahmed was got retired recently. Raza Bashir was also a strong contender for the new foreign secretary but after his posting, he seems to be out of that contest. Raza previously served in Canada from where he was called back and Ameer Khurram Rathore was sent there to replace him, however Rathore after few months was shifted to Saudi Arabia from Canada. Faisal Tirmzi, who was heading the Administration wing in the Ministry, has



Raza Bashir Tarar

been posted out as the Ambassador to United Arab Emirates. Tirmzi is also a career diplomat and understands the region very well. His posting is likely to bring both Pakistan and UAE even closer. Amir Aftab Qureshi has been appointed Pakistan ambassador to Greece while Junaid Yousaf will head Pakistani mission in Ankara, Turkey. Similarly Ali Javed is heading to Italy while Asif Memon will hold the fort in Hungary. All these diplomats have rich experience in diplomacy and therefore it



Faisal Tirmzi

is strong hope that Pakistan's relations with these countries will further flourish. Aftab Hassan Khan will be Pakistan's new ambassador to South Africa while Salman Sharif will replace Aftab Khan has head of the Pakistani mission in New Delhi. The new ambassadors are likely to take charge of their new assignments soon. It may be mentioned here that Khalid Memon, Special Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had already been appointed in Poland as Pakistan's ambassador.

# Businesses need to build green technology and green goals

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman, during her keynote speech at the "Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit 2022" on the topic 'Climate Change and Way Forward for Pakistan,' highlighted, "Climate change is a cross-cutting national issue that needs immediate action. We need to work towards building green technology and green goals for a thriving business landscape in Pakistan."

Taking the floor at the Summit, Minister Rehman stressed, "Seeing the country ravaged with climate catastrophes in the form of long, disastrous monsoon spells, unbearable heat waves, and apocalyptic flash floods, etc. make it all the more relevant for us to talk about how climate change and its environmental impact will directly affect businesses, society, and ecosystems. Balochistan alone faced 60% of rain this year on a 30-year average, leading to damages to life and property. All these changes have made Pakistan the ground zero of climate catastrophe. Damage to agricultural productivity,

livelihoods, human health, and economic stability has led to irreversible impacts, including GDP losses of 9.1% (UNESCAP). Until recently, a large number of companies, unfortunately, have freely emitted carbon, dumped effluent in our water bodies, and increased single-use plastic production. We will face disastrous consequences if we keep up with these practices."

Highlighting the lack of global climate action, Minister Rehman said, "Pakistan will now have to look at its own climate solutions since the Global leadership is well behind the curve on climate targets. The North has gotten rich from exploiting natural resources, which is why the GHGs have gone through the roof. The pledges are not matched by processes, and the ambitions are not matched by actions. The pace of climate change and its impacts are far more accelerated than the benchmark of 2050 set by world leaders at COPs. Notwithstanding mitigation, which is not a goal to be lost sight of, we are shifting our focus to building a National Adaptation Plan to face climate disasters and create resilience."

Addressing the business community,

Minister Rehman remarked, "Countries are enhancing their climate literacy and seeking to decarbonize their production cycle. Everybody is looking at the nature to go back to default, which is not happening, it will not, not on its own. We have to reset priorities to level up our resources and face climate disasters head-on. The provinces, too, will need to scale up. Our ambit is to provide them with policy guidelines. We need to build green technology and goals, and we would appreciate initiatives from the Tech companies. Many companies are merely greenwashing their pollution by funding projects to merely tick boxes with a dash of CSR. This needs to stop. Companies with innovations and technology to help deal with this climate crisis are welcomed and should come forward. A company's climate plan should not stop at decarbonization; rather, it should start there. Transparent & ethical sourcing of materials, environmentally conscious manufacturing practices, waste-conscious packaging, shipping choices negating carbon footprint are just a few ideas of sustainable practices."



RWALPINDI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif offers Fatiha for Lt General Sarfraz Ali, who got martyred in Balochistan helicopter incident, at his residence. Minister for Defence Khawaja Asif and Minister for Information Marriam Aurangzeb also accompanied the Prime Minister. - DNA

## KP business community reacts over fuel price hike

Acting chief observed fuel prices are consistently downward in the global market, while oil prices frequently escalate instead of decreasing in line with the international market

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Members of the business community in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa strongly reacted over the recent hike in petrol price, what, they say, a gradual decrease in price of crude oil is witnessing in the global market, despite the fact that fuel prices continue to upward in the country. The community demanded to bring down fuel prices in line with the international market. Traders remarked that the incumbent coalition government is completely directionless, alleging it is putting the national economy at stake at the behest of international financial lenders and jacking up fuel prices on their dictation. The business community expressed fear cost of doing business would be further increased after frequent hike in fuel prices, besides the already sluggish industrial growth would become a complete standstill in the country. A new wave of inflation would come as a result of the present coalition government to further hike fuel price, commented Imran Khan Mo-

hmand, an acting president of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), according to a statement issued here on Wednesday. The acting SCCI chief viewed the present government flawed economic policies have brought negative impacts on the economy while spiraling 'price-hike' also elevated miseries of poor masses. Imran Mohmand criticized the 'double-standard' policy, which is being adopted by incumbent coalition government completely incomprehensible, as it is making tall claims about taking practical steps for provision relief to poor masses while on the other hand adding to their miseries by jacking up fuel prices, he added. "We completely reject the recent fuel price hike of Rs6 per/litre," The acting chief observed fuel prices are consistently downward in the global market, while oil prices frequently escalate instead of decreasing in line with the international market, which is unjustifiable and reflecting the present government 'anti-masses' policy. Imran Mohmand criticised the inconsistent policies of the present

coalition government that had brought the country's economy on the brink of destruction. He termed incessant drop in country's export, foreign exchange reserves, surging circular debts, and putting national economy on direction by obtaining loans from foreign lenders, as a testimony of the present government flawed economic policies. The acting chief stressed the need of enhancing exports and efficiently tapping indigenous resources, natural reserves to stabilize the national economy. Imran Mohmand urged the incumbent coalition government to review its economic policies for the best interest of businesses, economy and the country. He demanded the government to announce a special relief package for small traders and shopkeepers. The acting SCCI chief warned that the incumbent government couldn't restrain from putting the national economy on stake at the behest of foreign financial institutions and not bring down fuel prices in line with the international market then the chamber along with traders' community will lodge strong protest.



## Promotion of local languages, literature imperative: Muqam

PESHAWAR: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs, National Heritage and Culture Division Engr Amir Muqam on Wednesday underscored the need for promotion of regional languages and literature for a well-informed, educated, and knowledgeable society. Speaking at the inaugural of the newly-constructed building of the Provincial Office of Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) at Hayatabad, he said that regional languages, literature, culture and art defined identity of a

nation and the government had been taking measures for promoting them to create a knowledgeable, educated and well-informed society where could enjoy peace and prosperity. Amir Muqam, who is also the President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said the nations that achieved heights of progress and development had a complete command on their national as well as regional languages and literature and they loved traditional art. "Developed nations do not forget their heritage, art, and

culture, and they feel proud of their artists." He said great Pashto poets such as Rehman Baba, Khushal Khan Khattak, Amir Hamza Khan Shinwari, Dr Azam Azam, and Hafiz Alpuri promoted peace, brotherhood and inter-faith harmony through their poetry and brought people closer. Muqam directed PAL officials to work for promotion of regional languages, poetry and literature, including Pashto, Hindko and Saraiki so that the youth of KP could be acquainted with regional languages, literature, art, and cultural.

## NDMA to conduct damage assessment survey

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal Wednesday said, the federal government has directed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to jointly conduct a damage assessment survey of recent heavy rains and flash floods across the country. All provincial governments and Pakistan Army would fully support the NDMA to conduct the survey to expedite the rescue and relief activities in the flood hit areas of the country, the minister said while addressing a press briefing along with the Chairman NDMA, Lt. General Akhtar Nawaz. The minister said, the NDMA would conduct a joint survey with the help of all provinces to assess the real damage incurred to the houses and the people across the country. For this purpose, he said the federal government had offered every type of support to the provinces without any political differences. Further he said that after the survey, the presentation of the total losses would be presented to the multilateral partners such as World Bank

to receive help from the international institutions. Chairman NDMA said some 630 people had been died and 1130 people were injured until now 630 people died, 1130 people injured due to recent rains and flash floods. Moreover, he said 1.087 million people were directly or indirectly affected from the rains, 72,500 houses were damaged and 1.011 million animals were affected. This year, he said on average, the country faced 150% more than average rainfall. Balochistan was the worst hit province which received 280% more rains followed by Sindh that received 228% extra rains. However he said Kashmir received less than average rainfall during the Monsoon season. He informed that 98% of Tarbela Dam had been filled to its capacity while only 38% of Mangla dam had so far been filled due to less rains in the catchment areas. The NDMA Chairman maintained that three districts of Balochistan including Lasbela, Jhal Magsi and Jafarabad were badly hit by the rains, three from Punjab in-

cluding Mianwali, DG Khan, Rajanpur, three from Sindh including Dadoo, Sajawal and Thatha, and four from KP including DI Khan, Tank, Laki Marwat, Kohistan and Charsada. He said the information given were based on the initial assessment while the final and accurate assessment would be ascertained after the joint damage assessment survey. Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal said the country was facing unprecedented heavy rains across the country especially in Balochistan. He said the pattern of rainfall was changing due to climate change and the pattern impacted Balochistan, Southern KPK and Punjab and some areas of North Chitral and Gilgit Baltistan. Mangla dam, he said could not filled to its capacity due to less rains in the catchment areas of the dam. Ahsan Iqbal said Prime Minister had formed a special committee comprising of federal government representatives and ministers to assess the real damage during the recent rains and flash floods.

## Second shift in 228 more schools approved

PESHAWAR: On the recommendations of education monitoring authority's report, Provincial Minister for Education, Shahram Khan Tarkai has approved starting of second shift in 228 more schools in the province. He directed the education authorities to bring salaries of the second shift employees at par with the government's approved minimum wages. Presiding over a high level meeting here, the minister said second shift in the government schools were started to increase literacy ratio and bring out-of-school children under education-net. The minister was told that a total of 25,765 students including 10,000 female were enrolled in the second shift in the existing 1181 schools. - APP

## KP cabinet approves biosphere reserve in Upper Chitral

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cabinet, with Chief Minister Mahmood Khan in chair accorded approval on Tuesday for the establishment of biosphere reserve in the province, informed Chief Conservator Wildlife Department Dr. Mohsin Farooq. He said with the establishment of this first-ever biosphere reserve, the total protected areas would reach to 16.85 per cent of the province. "The decision to establish biosphere reserve is taken in accordance with section 30 of KP Wildlife and Biodiversity Act 2015 which states that 'when an area has potential for promoting solutions to reconcile the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use, government may by notification declare the area to be a biosphere reserve comprising of a core zone, a buffer zone and multiple use zone'," explained Dr. Farooq. "Biosphere reserves are the protected areas meant for the conservation of plants and animals. It also restores the traditional life of the people living in that vicinity and conserve biodiversity of that area," he said.

The approved biosphere reserve would spread over an area of 220,848 acres and consist of Bashqar Gol and Shandur Valleys situated near Laspur Valley in Upper Chitral district. Giving a break up of total 220,848 acres of land, Chief Conservator Wildlife Department said, its core zone consists of 124,704.2 acres: 59,273.17 acres as buffer zone and 36,870.59 acres as multiple use zone. "The proposed area of Bashqar Gol provides prime habitat for certain charismatic wild animals, including snow leopard, Himalayan brown bear, Himalayan lynx, cape hare, red fox, ungulates/ large mammals like Himalayan ibex and Ram Chakor, Chukar partridge, Tibetan wolf and Indian jackal." Dr. Farooq also informed that KP government had recently notified Shahi Nagar Community Game Reserve in Buner district. The Shahi Nagar community Game Reserve would spread over an area of around 161 hectares, he added He said the department had been working for increasing the range of protected areas from existing 16.85 percent to 18 percent by adding more areas in near future. - APP

## Civil officers sensitized on media management

Article 19 of the Constitution provided every citizen freedom of speech and expressions

PESHAWAR: The civil officers from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and other areas of the country were sensitized on media management during crisis situation through lecturers, trainings and mock exercises here at Pakistan Provincial Services Academy (PPSA) on Wednesday. A day-long workshop on 'media management in crisis situation and handling of social media' was arranged for 91 pre-service courses of Provincial Management Service (PMS) Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Assistant Commissioners and Sections Officers of Government of Balochistan here at PPSA. The participants were exposed to different scenarios through mock and individual press talk exercises. Faculty member Col (Retd) Ejaz Ahmed said the prime objective of the workshop was to improve public service delivery through capacity building of the freshly recruited officers of KP and Balochistan governments and help them to handle media during crisis situations. He appraised the officers about different techniques of media management and reducing media speculations, holding of press conferences, preparation of press releases, control of emotions and strong opening statements. Col Ejaz advised them to confirm and recheck all information before sharing it to the media. Public Relations Officer, Finance and Health Departments Ataullah Khan said

that article 19 of the Constitution provided every citizen freedom of speech and expressions. Social and digital media had made deep inroads in society and great responsibilities rest on civil officers to take quick actions on verified information before it was converted into a crisis situation, he said, adding that delay in sharing information was tantamount to losing narrative and depriving masses from truth. Usman Zafar, a resource person from Islamabad, said in his video link address that breaking news culture furthered the TV journalism after the 9/11 tragic incident in the US. He said news speed of news papers were slow than TV channels and urged civil officers to make focus on accuracy, editorial checks and balances, response time, treatment and influence and other key elements of media management during crisis situation such as bomb blasts, earthquakes and fire eruption incident. Usman said nearly 60 per cent people of Pakistan had internet facilities and government officials would lose narrative if time was lost. He said TV journalism was more crisis oriented than print media and digital media was making great influence on people especially during COVID-19. Efforts should be made to respond quickly before the development of the crisis situation, he said, adding that media should not be considered as enemy rather to be treated as facilitators. - APP

## Chief Secretary reviews AIP projects in merged districts

PESHAWAR: To review the state of development in the merged areas, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dr Shahzad Khan Bangash on Tuesday called a detailed briefing on the second phase of the Accelerated Implementation Programme (AIP). The AIP translates the priority development agenda of the government into a measurable and implementable framework through specialized technical expertise and dedicated financial resources. The KP government launched the second phase of multi-billion rupee AIP in June to chart the course of development in the newly merged districts for the next three years. The second phase (AIP-II) has been designed with the input of the people of merged areas and sector experts with international standing. The AIP-II would build on the gains in health, infrastructure, agriculture, education, and other sectors delivered by the first phase. - APP

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**INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
(SINGLE STAGE - TWO ENVELOPE BASIS)

SEALED BID ON PRESCRIBED BIDDING DOCUMENTS ARE INVITED FROM REPUTABLE INSURANCE COMPANIES / FIRMS / CONTRACTORS, MUST BE REGISTERED WITH TAX AUTHORITIES AND ARE ACTIVE TAX PAYERS FOR THE FOLLOWING JOB ON F.O.R. BASIS:

| Tender No.   | Bid Doc. Submission             | Bid Opening Date & Time         | Earnest Money        | Description of Job / Items   | Qty     |
|--------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|--|---------|
| LP/T-1669/22 | 05-SEP-2022<br>10:00 AM<br>a.m. | 05-SEP-2022<br>10:30 AM<br>a.m. | RS. 200,000<br>FIXED | HIRING OF SERVICES FOR GROUP LIFE INSURANCE POLICY FOR PSPC EMPLOYEES (W.E.F. 1-10-2022 TO 30-09-2025)<br>DETAILS ATTACHED WITH TENDER DOCUMENTS | ONE JOB |

Specification / BOQ / Sample / Picture Detail attached with relevant document.  
BIDS WILL BE OPENED ON THE ABOVE BIDS OPENING DATE & TIME IN PRESENCE OF PARTICIPATED BIDDERS WHO WISH TO ATTEND.  
DETAILED TENDER REQUIREMENTS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE PPRA WEBSITE "www.ppra.org.pk" AND AT PSPC WEBSITE

GENERAL MANAGER (PURCHAS)

PID(K)380

## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### AUGUST

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Aug 01/ CHINA       | Armed Forces Day |
| Aug 01/ SWITZERLAND | National Day     |
| Aug 01/ LEBANON     | Armed Forces Day |
| Aug 01/ SYRIA       | Armed Forces Day |
| Aug 4/ BUKINO FASO  | National Day     |
| Aug 09/ SINGAPORE   | National Day     |
| Aug 15/ DPR KOREA   | Independence Day |
| Aug 15/ INDIA       | Independence Day |
| Aug 15/ POLAND      | Armed Forces Day |
| Aug 17/ INDONESIA   | Independence Day |
| Aug 24/ UKRAINE     | Independence Day |
| Aug 25/ URUGUAY     | Independence Day |
| Aug 30/ TURKEY      | Armed Forces Day |
| Aug 31/ KYRGYZ      | Independence Day |
| Aug 31/ MALAYSIA    | National Day     |

## Hotels & Restaurants

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



## Airlines

|                              |
|------------------------------|
| Turkish Airlines.....8494949 |
|------------------------------|



## Emergency

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



## Enquiry

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



## Hospitals

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| CMH.....5611111                 |
| MH.....5611116                  |
| Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11   |
| DHQ.....5556311-4               |
| RGH.....9290301-7               |
| Holy Family.....9290322-7       |
| PIMS.....9261170-79             |
| Polyclinic.....9218300-09       |
| Shifa International.....4603666 |



## Departments

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

## Islamabad Metropolitan

|                          |
|--------------------------|
| Corporation.....9209224  |
| Potohar Town.....9209224 |
| Rawal Town.....5773343   |

## Water Tank

|                            |
|----------------------------|
| Islamabad.....0321-5744480 |
|----------------------------|

# Mughal, British period artifacts exhibited at Punjab Arts Council

Our cultural heritage is very strong: Abdullah Mehmood, Farooq Riaz says that he has spent 28 years of his life in collecting ancient artifacts. People do not have awareness about old things, due to which they do not know their value



SAIFULLAH

RAWALPINDI: An exhibition of Farooq Riaz's ancient works related to Mughal and British rule was organized in Punjab Arts Council. The exhibition was inaugurated by Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Rawalpindi Abdullah Mahmood and Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmad.

Historical locks, watches, timepieces, swords, musical instruments, lamps, pots, coins, currency notes, postcards, stamps, historical documents are kept in the exhibition. Old weapons of Mughal and British era, guns, swords and spears, Video and still cameras are also part of the exhibition. Chief guest Abdullah Mahmood said on this occasion that every society has its own traditions, civilization and culture.



Culture of any region, nation or country is not only its historical interpreter rather; no society can remain connected to its history without preserving its culture. We should be proud that our cultural heritage is very strong. Farooq Riaz has taken care of our heritage for which I congratulate him. Farooq Riaz said that he has spent 28 years of his life in collecting ancient artifacts. People do not have awareness about old things, due to

which they do not know their value. The purpose of the exhibition is to raise this awareness among people. Old things are valuable, so they should protect them. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmad said that Arts Council has always nurtured talent. Dozens of artists have made the name of Pakistan internationally known by using the platform of the Arts Council. The exhibition will continue till August 19 at the Arts Council.

## Candidate not fulfilling Article 62, 63 ineligible: Talal Chaudhry

ISLAMABAD: Senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz, Talal Chaudhry Wednesday said that Imran Khan's theft has been caught in Toshi Khana and foreign funding cases and he is no longer honest and trustworthy. "Any candidate not fulfilling the conditions of Article 62 and 63 of the constitution is ineligible to participate in the elections," he said during a press conference held here. Talal Chaudhry said that the guardian of the state of Madina has eaten the entire Toshi Khana but no one is making him accountable. Imran Khan's participation in the elections from nine constituencies has been challenged and if he is allowed to participate in the elections, it would mean that there are two different laws in Pakistan, one for favourites and the other for common people. He said that Imran Khan is

trying to fool the people by creating a narrative of torture on Shahbaz Gill. The PML-N leader said that all the documents of Toshi Khana would be made public to show the real face of Imran Khan before the public. He said that those who had to lie down in front of the tanks have fled the country overnight. Talal Chaudhry said that objections are being raised to Imran Khan's contesting elections from nine constituencies and submitting nomination papers. "It is necessary for any candidate participating in the elections to be honest and fulfill Article 62 and 63 of the constitution," he said. How can such a person who has emptied the entire Toshi Khana and has not declared it in his assets can participate in the elections, he questioned. He said that examples of thousands of such cases can be given when can-

didates were disqualified for not revealing a single Marla land or a bank account with amount of only Rs. 10,000. Election Commission of Pakistan itself has written in its decision that Imran Khan has given five fake affidavits during the foreign funding case then how can a forger be honest and trustworthy? Explaining the difference between the case of Imran Khan and Nawaz Sharif, Talal Chaudhry said that Nawaz Sharif was disqualified for not declaring his receivable salary from his son's company however the Chairman PTI emptied the entire Toshi Khana, sold in the market at his desired price and didn't declare these in his annual statement of assets. He said that the ECP should fulfill its responsibility; Chief Election Commissioner was appointed by Imran Khan. If Imran Khan is re-

ally honest and trustworthy, then why are they running around seeking a court injunction?, he asked. The PML-N leader said that Interior Minister Punjab has denied Imran Khan's statement of torture on Shahbaz Gill and said that Shahbaz Gill is completely safe and has not been subjected to any kind of torture. If any torture has really taken place then Punjab Government is responsible for it as Adiala Jail is managed by Punjab Government. Imran Khan fears that his lies would be exposed, when Shahbaz Gill would start talking like a parrot and is creating a narrative of torture on Shahbaz Gill so that later he can say that Shahbaz Gill's statement was taken by torturing him. Imran Khan can't fool the people anymore, Talal Chaudhry said while asking the judiciary to reconsider its decision.

## IESCO issues power suspension notice

IESCO management apologizes to its esteemed customers for the power outage

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 temporarily suspended as per given schedule: On 18th August, From 08:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Muslimabad, Gulzar Shaheed, Quaidabad, Ahsanabad, Pirwadhai, Dhok Hasu, New Kalam, Old Kalam, HPT-III, Industrial Feeders, From 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM, Patriata, Sagarpur feeders, From 06:00 AM to 02:00 PM Birat Gala, Darbar Mai Toti, Khoi Ratta City, Cheruhi, Dana Bhal, Cheruhi Dungi, Sri, City, Kariala, Jandrot Dabsi, Ditot, Majajun Feeders, From 07:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Sagarpur, Abdullahpur, CWO, Jalalpur Sharif, Chip Borr, Industrial, Borain, Bakrala, Mumtaz Shaheed, Dina City, Colonel Akram, Bohi Ghar, Salar Gah, Haru, Ghor, Haji Shah, Misrial Road, Ameer Hamza, Radio Pak, Multabad, Peshawar Road, Range Road, Islamabad Feed Mill, Jhata Hatial, Lab I & II, Reliance Weaving Mill, Bhal, Jarar Camp, Basali, Pind Jatta 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. - DNA

## AIOU inks MoU with MoFEPT

IRSHAD ALI

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) in collaboration with the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, is launching four education TV channels to keep the students informed about educational activities in the remote and far-flung areas of the country. In this regard, an MoU was signed by Additional Secretary (MOFEPT), Waseem Ajmal Chaudhary and Registrar, AIOU Raja Umer Younis yesterday. This MoU includes significant upgradation of facilities and capacities at AIOU to set up and operate 04 satellite TV channels including earth station up-linking equipment and playout server, upgrading studios & postproduction facilities, additional personnel and technical support. During the ceremony, Minister of Federal Education and Professional Training, Rana Tanvir said that the task of providing educational facilities to remote areas has been given to Allama Iqbal Open University. MOFEPT and HEC will fully support Allama Iqbal Open University in launching these four satellite education television channels with 570 million rupees. Additional Secretary (MOFEPT) said that it will take five to six months to complete this project.

## Atta Tarar deplores transfer of jail officers

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister Attaullah Tarar questioned Wednesday, "Why are there earthquakes over two-day remand and two-day imprisonment [of Shahbaz Gill]? Did Imran Khan remove his chief of staff for giving the [seditious] statement?" He also said that in the whole game, Pervaiz Elahi was helpless while his sons were calling the shots. "Rana Sanaullah and Shehbaz Sharif were kept in prison. Did the jail superintendent was transferred then?" he questioned further. "However, when Ladla spent a night in jail, the entire administration sprang into action," he deplored. Meanwhile, PML-N leader Talal Chaudhry said that despite Toshi Khana case, Ladla was declared eligible to contest the by-election. "How can Imran Khan be eligible to contest election? Are there two laws in this country? One law for Ladla, the other for ordinary Pakistanis?" he questioned. - DNA

## Unanimity crucial for timely assistance: Senators

Fauzia Arshad said the details of relief measures taken by PDMAs, NDMAs and other relevant stake holders should be made public

ISLAMABAD: Senators at upper house on Wednesday stressed the need for collective efforts for timely assistance to flood affected regions. "We should express solidarity with the people of flood-affected areas by joining hands and extending strong support to address grievances of flood victims," they said while speaking at point of order. Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Maritime Affairs Rubina Khalid said instead of doing political points scoring on the natural disasters should come forward and stand with the needy in this hour of grief. Manzoor Ahmed Kakar said the entire Balochistan was flooded during monsoon rains and the recent rains broke all the previous records as most of the bridges

were collapsed and roads damaged. The people of far-flung areas were facing shortage of medical supplies and were unable to shift their patients to hospitals of other districts. Kakar paid tribute to the martyrs of Lasbella heli crash who lost their lives amid relief activities in Balochistan. The floods swept away agriculture fields and cattles in the province, he said while expressing dissatisfaction over relief efforts carried out by National Disasters Management Authority (NDMA). Senator Hidayat Ullah regretted that so far all political parties were failed to evolve a strategy after mutual consensus for flood-affected areas as well as on terrorism financing. He urged the government to chalk out a plan to address issues

of tribal areas. Commenting on the recent road accidents, he held responsible National Highways Authority (NHA) and National Highway and Motorways Police (NHMP) for the road mishap in Sindh that claimed at least 20 people's lives and several others injured when a passenger bus collided with an oil tanker. He stressed that all aspects of the incident should be investigated and those responsible be identified. Senator Fauzia Arshad said there should be a proper planning regarding disaster reduction risk. The attention should be focused on prevention, litigation, preparedness, rehabilitation and the response. She said Provincial Disasters Management Authorities (PDMAs) were failed to evolve a

strategy to mitigate flood risks, adding that 26 districts of Balochistan were flooded. Fauzia Arshad said the details of relief measures taken by the PDMAs, NDMAs and other relevant stake holders should be made public. She said the celebrations of 75th anniversary of Pakistan has come to an end so it is a high time to move towards right direction by setting aside differences to make the country progress and prosperous. Senator Taj Haider asked for constitution a committee to aware the Senate members about the ongoing relief efforts carried out by the disaster management authorities. He underscored the need for long-term planning in Balochistan to resolve issues of massive traffic,

water shortage, power supply interruptions and infrastructure. Haider asked for coordinated efforts between the federal and provincial governments to provide relief to the masses and resolve their problems. Senator Bahram Tangi while talking on a point of public importance said around 14000 students of Bahaudin Zakariya University (BZU) law department still awaiting their degree for the past many years. The Deputy Chairman Senate Mirza Mohammad Afridi referred the matter to the relevant Committee. Senator Hilal-ur-Rehman said funds over Rs136 billion were released for erstwhile FATA. After a lapse of seven months the forensic audit by the auditor general was yet to be received. - APP

## Briefs

## SSP Traffic meets NHA officials

ABBOTTABAD: SSP Traffic Abbottabad Qamar Hayat Khan Wednesday met with the officials of the National Highways Authority (NHA) department regarding Karakoram Highway (KKH) maintenance. In the meeting, the matter regarding ongoing works at various places on the main KKH road and the repair of Ayub Bridge Havelian came under discussion. Besides the police department, General (R) Ayaz Salim Rana and General Manager NHA Ameer Khan and his team were present in the meeting. During the meeting, discussing issues of KKH with the NHA officials, the SSP urged to complete work of the Havelian Ayub bridge as soon as possible and build a temporary road along the bridge for traffic flow. The NHA officials assured to make a diversion soon. Apart from this, the SSP said that the proposed U-turns on the main KKH road should be constructed as soon as possible. It was also discussed to complete the ongoing work at Nawaz State Chowk Mandian immediately and not to start work at any other place until completion of the ongoing scheme, marking work should also be completed on the roadside, and parking spaces to be constructed on the Supply Bazar area so that people can park their vehicles in order. - APP

## Ten more test positive for Covid in RWP

RAWALPINDI: Ten more people were diagnosed with deadly coronavirus during the last 24 hours, raising the district's tally of confirmed cases to 47,433. As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here on Tuesday, the infected cases included 43,840 from Rawalpindi and 3,593 from other districts. Among the new cases, seven arrived from Taxila, two from Potohar town and one from Islamabad. "Presently, 123 confirmed patients are quarantined at homes while two are admitted in the Benazir Bhutto Hospital and one in the Holy Family Hospital", the report added. The report further said that 6,996,670 people, including 44,797 health workers, had jabbed themselves against the lethal coronavirus (COVID-19) across the district since the vaccination administering drive launched on March 10, 2021. District Health Authority updated that during the last 24 hours, 1,501 samples were collected, out of which 1,491 were declared negative, while the positivity rate was recorded at 0.66 per cent. - APP

## DC directs PHA to turn city into green town

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Tahir Farooq on Wednesday visited the Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi and directed the authorities concerned to make efforts to turn the city into a green town. The DC along with Director General PHA Xenia Humayun also visited different city areas including Liaquat Bagh Park, Murree Road, Marris Hassan Chowk and Marris Hassan area and also inspected the ongoing plantation and beautification work. On the occasion, Director Horticulture and other officers concerned were also present. The DG PHA also briefed the DC about different projects being completed to enhance beauty and greenery in the town. The DC directed the officers to accelerate pace of the work to complete the ongoing projects within shortest possible time frame. Appreciating the performance of the PHA, he said that the officers concerned should make all-out efforts for beautification of Rawalpindi city and Murree. According to a PHA spokesperson, the authority was planting saplings in different areas under monsoon plantation campaign. She informed that to encourage the citizens and different organizations and to turn the city into a green town, the authority had prepared a plan.

## Rice varieties mulled for commercial cultivation

Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman, PARC appreciated the role of private and public sector for taking interest in research and development of rice in country

IRSHAD ALI

ISLAMABAD: Rice Variety Evaluation Committee (VEC) meeting was held at Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) Headquarters in Islamabad on Tuesday the 16th August, 2022. Dr. Muhammad Yousuf, National Coordinator (Rice) presented the working paper for the sixty-two rice hybrids/varieties. The representatives of national and multinational seed companies including Seed Association of Pakistan, Crop Life Pakistan, Pakistan Hi-tech Hybrid Seed Association and federal and provincial research institutes attended the meeting. Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman, PARC while addressing to the participants highlighted the role of private and public sector in research and development of rice in the country. He emphasized the importance of quality seed for enhancing the productivity and profitability of farmers and asked the seed companies for making efforts to provide high quality of rice to farmers in Pakistan. Dr. Imtiaz Hussain, Chairman VEC / Member Plant Sciences Division PARC presided over the variety evaluation committee meeting and informed participants that PARC is committed to perform its role in variety evaluation in transparent manner in collaboration with National Agricultural Research System. The VEC recommended nine rice hybrids and one long grain variety for commercial cultivation in the country. Representatives of seed companies appreciated the role of Pakistan Agricultural Research Council for its role in testing of rice hybrids/varieties in Pakistan for the benefits of farmers as well as rice sector in Pakistan.



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## Govt takes corrective measures to stabilize economy: Marri

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri on Tuesday said that the government was taking correct measures to stabilize the economy. Addressing a conference on economy, the federal minister said that despite several interventions in the political system of Pakistan and the war against terrorism and extremism, we as a nation were strong enough to stand for our country and put it on the path of progress and stability. Quoting the famous sayings, Shazia Marri said someone rightly said that "strong economy is a source of national strength". "Economy is the start and end of everything and you cannot bring any reform unless you have a strong economy", she said. She said, "We are member of global comity. I am very happy to express gratitude to our international friends who always extended help to us in difficult times like disasters or calamities". Briefing about her ministry, Shazia Marri said that her ministry is working diligently to improve the socio-economic status of the poor. "All the shocks that economy has to face ultimately affect the living conditions



of poor segments of the country the most". Mentioning the alarming indicators faced by the country, the minister said that Pakistan is ranked among 43 countries which are most exposed to poverty while 54 percent of its population is vulnerable to poverty due to health shocks. She mentioned that around 52 million people in the country are living below poverty line while 30 percent of the households experience food insecurity so the whole state of economy impact the population of the country as well as poverty ratio. The minister elaborated that Benazir

Income Support Program, initiated in 2008, was the brain child of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. The program provides financial support and other facilities to the eight million families. The basic criterion of this program is to register the women member of the household for extending the benefits. She said that since the country inherited a destabilized economy from the previous government and recorded 38.2 billion dollar trade deficit when came into power, we have to take correct measures to ensure stability of economy and ensure the poor people graduate out of poverty. Shazia Marri observed that IMF study estimates that Pakistan's GDP can increase nearly 33 percent if women contribution towards the labour force is close towards the men participation. Quoting a study of International Labour Organization, she said that if Pakistan reduces gender gap in female participation and labour force by 25 percent, its GDP can increase up to nine percent. The federal minister also emphasized the need to incentivize the agriculture sector to increase the production level. - APP

## ICC holds a befitting event to celebrate Independence Day

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Citizens Committee (ICC) held here a befitting event to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the country. A gathering of the notables passed a unanimous resolution on the occasion, pledging to work for the betterment of the motherland. It was chaired by the ICC's President, Syed M. Siddiq Hasan. National Anthem was played and Pak flag was lifted followed by a cake cutting ceremony to mark the event in a befitting manner. A Dua was led by Ali Ahmad Farooqui, I.T. Secretary, ICC for the integrity and solidarity of the country, the participants shared their views on the occasion about the significance of the Day. They highlighted the objectives and goals of independent homeland. The resolution says, "We were fortunate enough to get an identity of our own 75 years ago as Islamic Republic of Pakistan. This independence was achieved after countless sacrifices of our ancestors and as a result of which we can live freely in our own homeland. To have a home, identity, is one of the most privileged things that money cannot buy. Therefore, it is up to us to make this homeland prosperous and bring deserved glory to it". It added, "This independence day, we pledge to make Pakistan proud by doing our part in our own capacity. We pledge to understand and stand by its principles, stay united and devote ourselves to the cause of working for Pakistan with dedication and sincerity. We hope to reaffirm our commitment towards our country and pray for its safety from all kinds of evils and disasters." The event was addressed among others by Naeem Siddiqui, Rashid Awan, Zafarullah and Allah Nawaz, Members of ICC's Executive Committee. They also called for upholding the golden principles, faith, unity and discipline, given by Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. - DNA

## Higher cost of back to school supplies unnerve parents

ISLAMABAD: As back-to-school shopping is picking up pace since opening of the educational institutions in the country after summer vacation break, the families are grappling with the higher prices on all the essential school items. Most of the private schools start their new academic session after the summer break. It is a common practice for most of the families to buy the back to school essentials for their kids during the first week of the opening of the schools by physically visiting the stationary stores or ordering through the online suppliers. The price of school supplies from glue, color pencils, markers, lunch box, water bottle, geometry box, school bags, and cut box to textbooks, notebooks and uniforms has registered a significant increase which made it difficult for families, especially salaried class, to manage the educational expenses. "I have spent around Rs 20,000 to purchase the school essentials for my son studying in Grade-I including books, notebooks and stationary while his uniform is still pending which I will buy on weekend as the students can wear colored clothes during the first week", Murad Ali Khan, a parent of two kids said. Although it has become difficult to bear the expenses of my one school going son who is studying in private schools but we have no option left when the government institutions lack facilities and educational standards, he lamented. Shagufta Amin, a mother of three kids, said, "I was surprised to hear the price of trolley bag during my visit to the school supplies shop what to talk of other items". Talking to APP, she said, "The price of an ordinary trolley starts from Rs 4,000 while those having fewer prices are not durable enough to be dragged in a long way in school premises. Getting education in a private school has become a luxury keeping in view the increasing fee structure and a long list of stationary and other items". - APP



ISLAMABAD: Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs hosted a luncheon for the Iranian delegation headed by Rostam Ghasemi, Minister for Roads and Urban Development to discuss matters of mutual interests. - DNA

## World Humanitarian Day on Aug 19

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

of humanitarian assistance activities. The day aims to honor humanitarian workers who have lost their lives or injured themselves in the course of their work, and to acknowledge the ongoing work of humanitarian staff around the world. Many communities and organizations try to increase the importance of humanitarians by distributing publicity and information material. Additionally, some try to speak to the press to help spread these key messages of World Humanitarian Day, while other groups organize public events worldwide that feature humanitarian work. For the year 2010 and beyond, it is anticipated that World Humanitarian Day will focus on particular humanitarian themes to help increase public awareness. Humanitarians provide life-saving assistance to millions of people worldwide. - APP

## Pakistan to enhance co-op with China on climate change

They have planted trees on both sides and have changed the landscape. Similarly, we have a forestation program appreciated all over the world. Thus, we enjoy high potential in this type of area to collaborate with China," he said.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "Pakistan will never close the door to China on climate change," said Joudat Ayaz, a senior official, Ministry of Climate Change of Pakistan. In an interview with China Economic Net, he said unfortunately, Pakistan does not have so much pronounced cooperation with China in the aspect of climate change. Joudat Ayaz pointed out that there are some historical reasons. "Normally Pakistan used to get funding from UN sources or multi-lateral sources," he said. As per Joudat Ayaz, from data of the last decade, he can tell that China has become more and more conscious about environmental protection. Up till now there was

not that much cooperation with China, but "I will say there is too much potential, because China itself is conscious about its environment and improving its eco system," Joudat Ayaz told the reporter. Also, China's technology stands at the level where it can compete with the Western countries, he added. "There should be more south-south cooperation and I am a big advocate of it. For us, adopting solutions from China would be easier as compared with the US and Europe since we cannot replicate their technology as it is," he pinpointed, adding that is why Pakistan needs to strengthen cooperation with China in tackling climate change. For example, in China there is a concept of "sponge city" where the rainfall is ab-

sorbed in the soil through leakage. "When it is dried it gives you an effect of soil like it releases water in the atmosphere. However, such a mega project has not been seen in any of Pakistani cities. And related technology has reached such a level that we should start thinking about it," Joudat Ayaz told China Economic Net. As he put it, there had been a lot of rain in Lahore, Islamabad and Karachi even today. "Our urban centres are not ready for 2 to 3 inches of rainfall. Water stands 2 to 3 feet on the ground when it rains. We need to utilise that water through rainfall harvesting techniques like China so that water would create minimum damage and can be utilised in some other areas like in agriculture sector as a substitute," he added. "I have visited Chi-

na seven to eight times," he told CEN, adding that Pakistan will never close the door to China on climate change. "If you had been to China and knew it well enough, you might know there was a desert once from Urumchi to Kashghar. They have planted trees on both sides and have changed the landscape. Similarly, we have a forestation program appreciated all over the world. Thus, we enjoy high potential in this type of area to collaborate with China," he said. To deepen the bonds between the two brotherly countries, Joudat Ayaz reckoned that expert exchanges, conferences and networking will be significant as they help both sides figure out where and how to collaborate. "Pakistan can learn a lot of local solutions from China," he further said.

## NPO to organize webinar on lean management

ISLAMABAD: The National Productivity Organization (NPO) will organize a webinar on "Lean Management to improve productivity" on Friday. The main process of the lean management is creating value to the customer by optimizing resources, according to NPO document. Lean management aims to create a stable workflow based on actual customer demand. Continuous improvement is a major part of lean management, ensuring that every employee is involved in the process of improving. Lean management is an approach to managing an organization that supports the concept of continue improvement, a long-term approach to work that systematically seeks top achieve small, incremental changes in processes in order to improve efficiency and quality. The webinar would provide information about lean management principals, concept of lean thinking, seven types of waste in manufacturing process and lean management tools. It would also highlight drivers for lean management implementation and lean management as a corporate strategy. - APP

## NHA temporarily restored traffic at Batal

ISLAMABAD: National Highway Authority (NHA) officials have temporarily restored traffic at Batal, 3 kilometer from Naran through an alternate route. NHA Spokesman said that an alternative route has been prepared on emergency basis. Traffic coming from Naran is moving now, said a press release. Federal Minister Maulana Asad Mehmood, Chairman NHA is personally supervising all the bridge restoration work, said Spokesman NHA. For the construction of the bridge, materials have been delivered from Mansehra. Senior NHA officials and field staff are present on the spot. The Ministry of Communications under the leadership of Federal Minister Maulana Asad Mahmood is trying to facilitate the passengers. The bridge collapsed in the afternoon at Batal near Naran due to flooding. - APP

## Meeting discusses means to uplift dairy sectors

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Tariq Bashir Cheema Wednesday said that government was determined to revamp livestock and dairy sectors through initiating structural reforms and policy interventions. The minister was chairing 3rd meeting of the Taskforce on Livestock, constituted by the Prime Minister, to discuss and prepare recommendations related to livestock and dairy development. The recommendations would be compiled by taking all the stakeholders and concerns on board and presented to the Prime Minister for final approval. Secretary Ministry of National Food Security and Research, provincial livestock secretaries, academia and stakeholders attended the meeting, said a press release. Speaking on the occasion the minister said that livestock census would be carried out on priority basis so that policy decisions could be set based on authentic data for effective monitoring and policy formulation. He said that through uniform policy across all provinces, quality and standards of livestock and dairy would be improved for better health and safety. The meeting also discussed proposals related to improvement in the livestock, dairy, meat, poultry, animal nutrition and breed improvement. The meeting was also directed to adopt a holistic approach for taking appropriate actions to improve the livestock sector productivity. During the meeting proposals related to capacity building at federal and provincial level were also discussed. Furthermore, there was a consensus among the participants that coordination between federal and provincial government on trade, export and disease management will uplift the livestock and dairy sector. - APP

## An old enemy

**M**ORE than six decades on, it is hard to imagine the joy and relief that greeted news of the polio vaccine. In the US, church bells sounded, children were let out of school early and people embraced in the street at the prospect of vanquishing a virus that can cause paralysis, sometimes fatally. The subsequent campaign against the virus has come remarkably close to eradicating it, in one of the great global health success stories. As recently as 30 years ago, 350,000 children a year were paralysed. Now, two of the three wild polio strains have been eradicated, and two years ago Africa was declared free of wild polio. Yet authorities are now offering the vaccine or booster to all children aged one to nine in London, after polioviruses were found in sewage samples. Similar testing has found them in New York, and one man living just north of the city has become paralysed – the first case diagnosed in the US for almost a decade. Israel has identified its first cases since 1988. All of these seem to be connected. Most of those detected in London have been vaccine-like, but some samples have contained vaccine-derived poliovirus; the oral polio vaccine (no longer used in the UK) has safeguarded huge numbers of people, but very occasionally mutates and causes paralysis in poorly protected populations. The risks are much greater in parts of the developing world. This spring, Pakistan confirmed its first case of polio for more than a year, and Mozambique confirmed its first wild (but imported) polio case in 30 years, after Malawi detected a similar strain in February. The pandemic disrupted immunisation programmes already challenged by war and other instability – compounding the relative lack of progress made over the last decade. The World Health Organization and Unicef, which hoped that 2021 would be a year of recovery, recently warned instead of the largest sustained decline in childhood vaccination programmes for about 30 years, with 6.7 million more missing their third dose of polio vaccine than in 2019. Assuring people that the polio vaccine is not only effective and safe but very well-established is important – as is reminding them that old foes as well as new can seriously threaten our health. So is facilitating immunisation: reminding busy parents when vaccines are available or due, and making them more easily accessible, perhaps by offering them at community centres or schools. Protecting the UK also depends on efforts elsewhere. Shamefully, Britain has slashed its funding for the global eradication campaign, which needs \$4.6bn. Covid made familiar the axiom that no one is safe until everyone is safe. That applies to old but persistent threats too.

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## More polio attacks

**I**T'S a never-ending story. Every few months the government strengthens its resolve to rid the country of the polio virus once and for all. And then a new campaign starts, compete with tough talk, fanfare, and promises, only to fizzle out in a few days when volunteers or policemen guarding them are killed, often enough in broad daylight. Then the usual wave of condemnations lights up twitter as well as the headlines, and promises of polio-free society turn into promises of justice, etc, for the victims. And so this cycle repeats itself, and the only thing that changes is the names and faces of the people that get killed so mercilessly. Considering these trends it seems that we're doomed to stay one of only two countries in the whole world – the other being Afghanistan – that have not yet been able to win the war on polio. The neighbour's problems are far more understandable than ours. After all, it has seen little except endless war over at least the last half-century. We, on the other hand, are not only a nuclear power but also the self-professed Fort of Islam. Yet somewhere down the road we let enemies of our state brainwash most of our people into believing that polio drops were somehow anti-Islam or even that giving them to our children would render them impotent in one of the grandest schemes ever allegedly rolled out by the Americans. And it's shameful that the state hasn't yet been able to counter these narratives. Daily Times, along with a whole host of other platforms, has cried itself hoarse about the need for the government to erect an over-arching narrative of its own, complete with input from notable religious scholars of all backgrounds, to put all sorts of rumours to rest. Yet nothing happens to that effect. In such circumstances, where the state action, or lack thereof, visibly makes the difference between life and death for volunteers as well as people only doing their jobs, those in charge must be made to act or taken to task.

# Afghanistan's crisis started well before August 2021

Samira Sayed-Rahman

In Kamaa, a district of Nangarhar province, I spoke with a woman who said the only way she can feed her children is by picking food from the garbage: If she can get enough of the hair and dirt off, she brings it home. This was in a district only 40 minutes from the provincial capital, Jalalabad. Kamaa was largely spared from the violence of the last 20 years, but this woman came from a community...

**O**N the morning of August 15, 2021, I boarded a 9am flight from Kabul to Istanbul, thinking I would be back at work in a few days' time at the Afghan state-owned national utility company I called the office. When we landed in Istanbul late afternoon, the beeps and dings of cellphone notifications from people's devices were soon replaced by gasps and cries. Within seconds, I saw grown men and women fall to the airport floor in tears. While we were in the air, Afghanistan's elected leadership had fled and the Taliban had arrived in Kabul. I would eventually see images of Taliban fighters walking on the grounds of my old offices in the presidential palace. Everything I had spent the past seven years working towards unravelled in the time we were in the air. In the weeks and months prior, my colleagues and I were negoti-

ating long-term power-purchase agreements and investments in Afghanistan's energy sector. We were discussing 10 and 25-year plans. We were developing strategies to turn Afghanistan into a regional hub for connectivity. I believed in a vision of a sustainable, self-reliant country if only the latest war would end. The war did end, but instead of connecting Asia with the world, Afghanistan – which sits at the heart of the continent – is now isolated. Its people are without money, jobs and increasingly food, a year after the Taliban came back to power. When I returned in March to a very different Kabul from the city that I had left last August, it was as a humanitarian worker no longer focused on long-term strategies but on programmes aimed at ensuring basic survival. A country that has seen so many political upheavals over the last five decades is in a more dire situation than it has ever been. Still, the cessation of active warfare allowed me to travel to some of the most remote areas of the country that were difficult to access under the democratic governments before the return of the Taliban. From the earthquake zones deep in the mountains of Paktika province to Sangin district in Helmand province, I drove through riverbeds and dirt trails. After the earthquake in June, when I travelled to affected areas, we lost network coverage halfway there, with no cellphone or electricity tower in sight. I thought back to my days in the energy sector, and how I would get upset with our commercial team when they would list Paktika as having zero revenues. There was no grid, I would argue, so why did we even need to list it in our collection reports? Now I saw things differently. Billions of dollars of foreign aid had poured into the country, and national strategies for development had been created year after year, some of which I had directly worked on. Yet, regions like Paktika have seen little progress and remain disconnected from the rest of Afghanistan, let alone the world. Governments have come and gone, regimes have changed, and the lives of much of Afghanistan's population remain the same, stuck in cycles of basic survival with little to no access to any public services vital to uplift

their human and economic conditions. I sat with women in makeshift tents in Barmal, Paktika, after their mud homes were destroyed in the earthquake. They asked me what I was holding in my hand. How do you explain what a smartphone is to people who have never had electricity? In Kajaki, Helmand, I met with community elders who had never seen a clinic in their lives: They talked about the struggles of surviving from basic ailments. I met with women in Spera district of Khost province. They spoke of their adult children having no economic opportunities as they never got an education, and their grandchildren who now face the same fate. In Kamaa, a district of Nangarhar province, I spoke with a woman who said the only way she can feed her children is by picking food from the garbage: If she can get enough of the hair and dirt off, she brings it home. This was in a district only 40 minutes from the provincial capital, Jalalabad. Kamaa was largely spared from the violence of the last 20 years, but this woman came from a community that suffered from endemic poverty. This is not to say that there hasn't been progress in Afghanistan. Incredible gains have been made, particularly in the areas of public services, education, economic growth, and most critically, women's participation across all sectors. Many of these advances are now under threat and must be protected. However, my recent visits have revealed to me that while the Taliban introduce policies that cause trepidation, previous authorities and the international community also bear responsibility for the multiple crises Afghanistan faces. Whether it was from shortsighted Western technocratic models or the violence targeting infrastructure and development, we must come to grips with the idea that we have collectively failed the Afghan people repeatedly over the past several decades. Only then will we realise that the way to move forward is through acknowledging the needs of ordinary Afghan citizens. The status quo cannot continue: Every single Afghan deserves to have access to basic services and an opportunity to build a life on their terms.

– Courtesy: Al Jazeera

## There's much injustice to cover up

Rana Ayyub

Modi's "Har ghar tiranga" ("tricolor in every house") campaign has become yet another flash point in our society – a tool of distraction for what really matters. As India grapples with an economic crisis...

**T**O celebrate 75 years of independence, the government of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked people to proudly display the tricolor of the Indian flag – well, perhaps "asked" is not quite accurate. An initiative spearheaded by Modi's most radical nationalist minister, Amit Shah, is urging people to display flags at homes and businesses and post pictures on social media. But of course this could only lead to more polarization in Modi's India, where blind nationalism is displacing democracy at a rapid pace: In a viral video, daily wage workers complain about being forced to buy flags to "prove" their patriotism, when they barely have enough to buy a meal. Modi's "Har ghar tiranga" ("tricolor in every house") campaign has become yet another flash point in our society – a tool of distraction for what really matters. As India grapples with an economic crisis – with the rupee plunging to historic lows – and the pain of rising unemployment is felt on the streets, the Modi government has decided to announce an ambitious plan: display at least 200 million flags by Aug. 15, Indian independence day.

There's little to celebrate this independence day. The past eight years have made India a global cause of alarm, as the Modi government has subverted democracy in favor of his own brand of autocratic Hindu nationalism. India has fallen to the 150th position in the World Press Freedom Index as journalists are arrested every odd day over tweets or for reporting critical stories. Hate crimes against Muslims have been normalized, to the extent that news channels do not even consider them worthy of coverage anymore. Freedom House downgraded India from "free" to "partially free" in its annual report over attacks and discrimination of religious minorities and the weaponizing of government agencies against critics. For the fourth consecutive year, India suffered the dubious distinction of leading the list of countries with the most internet shutdowns. For the first time in the history of India, the country faced an unprecedented diplomatic backlash by 20 countries over a government spokesperson's insulting remarks against Islam. The country's powerful film industry has set out to dehumanize Muslims and promote Islamophobia. And the country continues to fail many of its most vulnerable citizens. In the Global Hunger Index, India ranks 101 out of 116 countries. On the eve of the 75th independence day, those who fought and gave their lives for India's freedom are being derided. Gandhi's contribution to the freedom movement is being questioned, while his assassins are glorified. Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of independent India, is being excluded and his legacy besmirched. There have been no references to him in official communications. Nehru's iconic speech on the eve of independence, "Trust With Destiny," laid the foundation for an inclusive India. Clearly there's no room for that in Modi's vision. This Aug. 15, the Indian government asks only one thing of us: Let's raise up our flags! Let's raise up the tricolor everywhere – to cover up the injustice, the poverty and desperation, the vindictive and pervasive cruelty of a government that has only succeeded in making us less independent and more narrow-minded.

– Courtesy: Washington Post

# Demographic change and its role in US politics

Kerry Boyd Anderson

Americans cannot move forward if voicing uncertainty about change leads to immediate accusations of racism. Many people – not only white Americans – are mourning what they see as the loss of a cherished past. They miss what they believe was a country...

**A**S more detailed census data comes out, there is an increasingly clear picture of US demographics. One finding with significant political implications is the continuing trend of a declining white population in the country. White Americans remain a clear majority of the US population, but a recent analysis of US Census Bureau data from the Brookings Institution found that the decline in the white population – a trend that began in 2016 – accelerated during the pandemic. Previous data found that US population growth had slowed to only 0.1 percent from mid-2020 to mid-2021. The Brookings analysis shows that declines in the white population are responsible for much of that overall slowdown. While census data shows slowing population growth among other racial and ethnic categories, the white population shows actual decline. This trend is not consistent across the country. According

to the Brookings analysis, 33 states experienced reductions in their white population. However, some others – mostly in the South – saw increases, especially Florida. Some major metro areas experienced overall population decline during the pandemic, and a loss of white residents was a major contributing factor. These trends have multiple implications for US politics. Shifts in population between large cities, small cities and more rural areas, as well as shifts between states, shape the distribution of political and economic power. One important impact of a decline in the white population is that it has become an activating issue for the political right in the US. The reasons for this are more complex than many observers often realize. One challenge to properly analyzing this issue is the difficulty of defining the "political right." Are we talking about Republicans? Donald Trump supporters? Conservatives? Christian nationalists? Right-wing populists? Are we talking about extremists or ordinary people? The political right in the US consists of different strands of political thought, often overlapping and sometimes conflicting. Another challenge is defining "white." Racially, white Americans might be defined as people of European descent with relatively light-colored skin. However, "white" people can descend from a wide range of places and look very different from each other. Furthermore, there are many people with specific ethnic backgrounds – such as Hispanic or Arab – who often identify as white. There are also increasing numbers of Americans who descend from more than one race. The US census has long struggled to respond to these nuances. To add to the complexity, "white" can be an identity as much as a skin tone. For example, quite a few Latinos are among those on the political right who express concern about the changing nature of racial demographics. Some people who might not be seen as "white" still identify with a sense of white cultural or political identity. Furthermore, many white Americans are not concerned about the country's changing demographics. On the political left and center, and sometimes on the right, many white people embrace the country's growing diversity and do not perceive it as a threat. The various strands of American politics that express fear over the decrease in

the white population are often intertwined with a range of other political, cultural and religious views. Fear of and anger over the decline in the white population is a salient factor in US politics because it relates to multiple other political and cultural grievances. To foster any sort of productive political discussion about how to adjust to changing demographic realities, there needs to be a recognition that such changes are difficult. The reality is that demographic and cultural change is hard. Many countries that experienced demographic transitions have struggled. On an individual level, it is difficult for many people to watch their communities change. Shifts in demographics in a community also frequently bring cultural differences, which is difficult for many people to adapt to. Furthermore, demographic change in the US aligns with many other cultural and economic changes in recent decades that many Americans – not only white Americans – see as damaging, even though many others see them as positive. It is also important to fully acknowledge that racism, xenophobia and other societal evils are playing a role in politics around the numerical decline of the white population. Many people who fear change but who might be open to adapting can instead turn toward voices that manipulate their fears for political advantage. People who are afraid, grieving or angry are easy targets for those who have truly hateful agendas. Americans cannot move forward if voicing uncertainty about change leads to immediate accusations of racism. Many people – not only white Americans – are mourning what they see as the loss of a cherished past. They miss what they believe was a country that was more religious, more disciplined, less confusing, stronger, better. Leaders on the political left need to distinguish between normal human concerns about change and the more insidious ideas that threaten to tear apart the fabric of the US. The story of America is of a country that has always struggled with racial inequalities but has also consistently embraced change and drawn strength from its diversity. Americans must now acknowledge the challenges of change and come together to forge a united future – or face allowing the forces of division to tear them apart.

– Courtesy: Arab News

## Briefs

## 'PTI, Indian elements involved'

FROM PAGE 01  
clarifying that COAS Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa will retire on November 29, 2022. The minister had spoken about the army chief's appointment while addressing a press conference on the government's action against the social media propaganda launched following the Balochistan helicopter crash in Lasbela.

The defence minister had shared that 18 Indian Twitter accounts were involved in the anti-army smear campaign following the copter crash.

"The law has come into action," the defence minister said and claimed that in the coming days, "more facts" will be unveiled. A malicious social media propaganda was started following the martyrdom of army officers in the Balochistan helicopter crash - which took place on August 1.

The defence minister added that the Lasbela helicopter crash was an unfortunate event, and it caused grief to the nation. "But the entire nation is ashamed [...] after the tweets that came to the fore."

## Pak sends back letter of intent to IMF

FROM PAGE 01  
that the document - received on August 12 - was sent to the lender after his and State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Acting Governor Murtaza Syed's signatures.

The development has paved the way for the IMF's August 29 executive board meeting, where Pakistan's request to approve seventh and eighth reviews and release a tranche of \$1.17 billion under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) will be taken up.

The IMF programme got stalled in February 2022 when the PTI-led government announced untariffed fuel and electricity subsidies soon after getting approval on completion of the sixth review and release of \$1 billion tranche from the IMF.

Amid dwindling foreign currency reserves, which have reduced to \$7.8 billion held by the SBP, the revival of the IMF programme was a must to bridge the external financing gap.

The challenging situation would persist because Pakistan would have to build up its foreign currency reserves to avoid the emergence of a default-like situation. It seems that after the completion of the ongoing EFF programme in June 2023, Pakistan would have to seek another IMF programme in the next fiscal year.

In response to a question, the finance minister said that no decision has been taken about introducing new taxes through an ordinance. "The prime minister will make a final decision in this regard."

## Imran Khan terms Gill's torture 'part of conspiracy'

FROM PAGE 01  
Meanwhile, soon after PTI leader Shahbaz Gill was remanded to Islamabad Police custody for another two days, Imran Khan ordered the Punjab administration to move him to a hospital.

Imran Khan gave this order to Punjab home secretary and Punjab jails Inspector General (IG). He ordered both government officials to immediately shift Gill to a hospital in Rawalpindi. PTI had alleged that Gill was stripped naked and tortured when he was in custody of Islamabad Police - which was under the federal government led by PML-N - after getting arrested on sedition charges.

The government officials told ex-PM that it would be illegal to do so. But, Imran Khan pushed them to follow his orders no matter what the consequences of it are going to be.

## NA body for transparency in PHF elections

The committee also recommended that a third party audit of PHF should be conducted to check the financial irregularities made by previous management so that culprits could be penalized, accordingly

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC) wants free and fair elections of the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) to be conducted so that the national game can prosper and regain its lost past glory.

The meeting which was held here under the chairmanship of Member National Assembly (MNA) Nawab Sher unanimously passed a resolution that the Prime Minister of Pakistan who was the Patron-in-Chief should appoint a Senior Technocrat to ensure transparency in the upcoming PHF elections so that Pakistan Hockey could advance in a prompt way.

In the meeting, the committee members expressed concern over the below par performance of PHF as the World Ranking of Pakistan hockey was on the decline (6 to 18) due to lack of attention and mismanagement of previous PHF management.

The committee also recommended that a third party audit of PHF should be conducted to check the financial irregularities made by previous management so that culprits could be penalized, accordingly.

In the meeting, the committee was also briefed by Ex-Olympians on how to bring the national game back on track. The committee also directed the Ex-Olympians to submit a summary on how to remove the deficiencies in the existing system. Meanwhile, the committee also expressed concern over the non-cooperative and irresponsible attitude of the

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) officials as they were unable to satisfy the Committee with their answers. The Committee therefore, decided to hold its next meeting in Lahore to discuss the overall performance of PCB.

However, the IPC committee lauded the top performance given by Pakistani athletes in the recently concluded Commonwealth Games 2022. The athletes bagged two gold, three silver and as many bronze medals in the mega event.

The committee also appreciated the announcement of cash rewards for the medal winners and said this would encourage the athletes to do more and win laurels for the country. The committee however, directed that the IPC Minister

Shahbaz Gill handed over to Islamabad Police

FROM PAGE 01  
Earlier, sources, citing a document titled 'Emergency Shifting' available with Geo News, said that after Gill's checkup the doctors of the Adiala jail and the authorities concerned were directed to shift the PTI leader to DHQ Hospital Rawalpindi. Following the directions, Islamabad Police and Rawalpindi Police had reached the Adiala jail to shift Gill; however, he refused to go with the former. This led to hours-long drama between the two law enforcement agencies. The Rawalpindi Police was adamant about shifting Gill to DHQ Hospital while Islamabad Police insisted on transferring the PTI leader to the federal capital as per court orders. Following the argument, additional personnel of Islamabad Police were called to the jail.

According to sources in jail, it was learnt that Gill had complained of difficulty in breathing and ill health due to alleged torture after which he was shifted to the jail hospital for a checkup. Meanwhile, the sources had said that PTI Chairperson Imran Khan had ordered Gill to create an emergency-like situation so that he could be transferred to the hospital. Jail officials said that prisoners of Adiala jail undergo checkups in DHQ Hospital as the medical team from Islamabad cannot check prisoners of Adiala jail. Meanwhile, after reports of the worsening situation, the Ministry of Interior had also summoned Rangers and FC to execute the court orders.



MINSK: Pakistan ambassador to Belarus Sajjad Haider attended the award ceremony at Belarussian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE) where the first Pakistani company Sakafat Forever was accredited as the broker. - DNA

## Musk jokes he is 'buying Man Utd'

WEB DESK

NEW YORK: It was news no-one expected, and for a while it sent social media and the football world into a frenzy. Was the world's richest man going to buy Manchester United? Just after 01:00 BST on Wednesday, Elon Musk - who is reported to have a net worth of \$270bn (£223bn) according to Forbes - posted on Twitter: "Also, I'm buying Manchester United ur welcome." Cue pandemonium on the social network, with the American's tweet receiving more than 400,000 likes. It has been a painful start to the new season for United. They are bottom of the Premier League after two defeats, star player Cristiano Ronaldo could leave, while new signings are failing to materialise. Their fans are restless, and earlier this week the Manchester United Supporters Trust said it will "demand answers" from those running the club after a "humiliatingly bad" start to the season.

The club has been in decline since Sir Alex Ferguson retired as manager in 2013, and fingers have been pointed at the Glazer family, who have owned the club since 2005. There have been multiple protests against the Glazers' ownership in recent years - including one in May 2021 which caused the Red Devils' match against Liverpool to be postponed. United fans are planning another protest against the American family during their latest meeting with their bitter rivals on Monday. Some fans welcomed Musk's interest in their club, which was valued at \$4.6bn (£3.8bn) by Forbes earlier this year.

Former Liverpool and Netherlands winger Ryan Babel saw an opportunity. Other fans wondered what a club run by Musk would look like, given he also owns rocket company SpaceX and electric car company Tesla. But the thought of Musk branching out into football was short-lived. Musk, who has more than 103 million followers on Twitter and is currently trying to unwind his \$44bn (£36.3bn) offer to buy it, later clarified he was just joking. Meanwhile, United did not comment on the speculation. Just as the UK was waking up, Musk was asked if he was "serious" about the bid, and replied at 5:34 BST: "No, this is a long-running joke on Twitter. I'm not buying any sports teams." He added: "Stand-up is my side-hustle." But it turns out he is fan of the Red Devils, tweeting: "Although, if it were any team, it would be Man U. They were my fav team as a kid."

## Raducanu thrashes Williams to dampen farewell tour

Williams, 40, plans to retire after the US Open, which starts on 29 August, and lost 6-4 6-0 in what is set to be the penultimate event of her career

SPORTS DESK

WASHINGTON: British number one Emma Raducanu put a dampener on Serena Williams' farewell tour after thrashing the American great in the Cincinnati Open first round.

Williams, 40, plans to retire after the US Open, which starts on 29 August, and lost 6-4 6-0 in what is set to be the penultimate event of her career. The 23-time Grand Slam champion lacked sharpness and her 19-year-old opponent punished her in a composed display.

Reigning US Open champion Raducanu will play Victoria Azarenka in round two.

"I'm so grateful for the experience to have been able to play Serena and for our careers to have crossed over," said world number 13 Raducanu, who played superbly with her defence of the Grand Slam title in New York looming. "Everything she has achieved has been so inspirational and it was a true honour to share the court with her." Meanwhile, British men's number two Dan Evans lost 6-3 6-4 to Serbia's Filip Krajinovic. Evans, 32, reached the Mon-

treil semi-finals last week but was unable to sustain that form at the second successive ATP Masters event. Fellow Britons Andy Murray and Cameron Norrie meet in the second round at 16:00 BST on Wednesday, followed on the centre court by Raducanu's match against Belarus' former world number one Azarenka.

Ever since Williams announced her impending retirement last week - or her evolution away from the sport, as she put it - there has been the swell of acclaim which her legendary status deserves. The respect of the locker room for Williams has been demonstrated in the following days, with world number one Iga Swiatek and Raducanu among the WTA players lavishing praise on the American's achievements and her legacy.

Four-time major champion Naomi Osaka, who lost in the tournament earlier on Tuesday, cheered on her hero from the stands as Williams took on a player who was not born when she won her first four major titles.

But Williams showed, as many great athletes have in the past, that time has the knack of showing them up on the stages where they once dominated. There had been reports Williams' preparation was hampered by an injury in the build-up to the match, which was originally advertised to be played on Monday but then moved back to Tuesday.



## No PAK vs IND: PCB reveals men's FTP 2023-2027

DNA

LAHORE: ICC Future Tours Programme (FTP) yet again will not feature Pakistan vs India bilateral series. On Wednesday, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) revealed its men's FTP 2023-2027 which was approved in the ICC meeting.

Pakistan team will play 27 ICC World Test Championship fixtures (13 home and 14 away), 47 One-Day Internationals (26 home and 21 away) and 56 Twenty20 Internationals (27 home and 29 away) during four years. These include matches in the ACC 50-over Asia Cup and the ICC Champions Trophy, which Pakistan will stage in 2023 and 2025, respectively. The number of matches may increase depending on where Pakistan finishes in the ICC and ACC events between 2023 and 2027, as well as in the 2025 and 2026 three-nation ODI series.

In the ICC World Test Championship 2023-2025, Pakistan will play Tests against Australia (away), Bangladesh (home), England (home), South Africa (away), Sri Lanka (away) and West Indies (home), while their matches in

the 2025-2027 championship are against Bangladesh (away), England (away), New Zealand (home), South Africa (home), Sri Lanka (home) and West Indies (away).

The three-nation ODI series has returned to Pakistan's calendar for the first time since 2004-05. New Zealand and South Africa will join Pakistan in the tri-series in 2025, which will take place in the build-up to the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, while England and Sri Lanka will participate in the series in October/November 2026.

While Pakistan will host the Asia Cup 2023 and triangular series in February 2025 in the lead up to the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 and the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, respectively, it will play 11 T20Is against the Netherlands, Ireland and England in the build up to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, which will be jointly hosted by the United States and the West Indies. Likewise, ahead of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, which will be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka, Pakistan will play Australia in three home T20Is. Apart from Australia, three other sides - Afghanistan, Ireland and Zimbabwe -

will also play white-ball matches in Pakistan between 2023 and 2027.

Pakistan's FTP 2023-2027 reflects that it will play hosts to 10 out of 12 ICC Full Member nations for the first time in more than two decades.

**Pakistan Men's Future Tours Programme 2023-2027**

**2023-24**

July - Pakistan to Sri Lanka (two Tests)

August - Pakistan to Afghanistan (three ODIs)

September - ACC 50-over Asia Cup in Pakistan

October/November - ICC Men's Cricket World Cup India 2023

December/January - Pakistan to Australia (three Tests)

February/March - West Indies in Pakistan (two Tests, three T20Is)

May - Pakistan to Netherlands (three T20Is), Ireland (three T20Is) and England (five T20Is)

June - ICC Men's T20 World Cup USA/West Indies 2024

**2024-25**

August - Bangladesh in Pakistan (two Tests)

October - England in Pakistan (three Tests)

November - Pakistan to Australia

(three ODIs and three T20Is)

November/December - Pakistan to Zimbabwe (three ODIs and three T20Is)

December/January - Pakistan to South Africa (two Tests, three ODIs, three T20Is)

January - Pakistan to New Zealand (three ODIs and three T20Is)

February - New Zealand and South Africa in Pakistan (ODI tri-series)

February/March - ICC Champions Trophy Pakistan 2025

May - Bangladesh in Pakistan (three ODIs and three T20Is)

**2025-26**

July/August - Pakistan to West Indies (three ODIs, three T20Is)

August - Afghanistan in Pakistan (three T20Is)

August/September - ACC T20 Asia Cup (host/venue TBC)

September/October - Ireland in Pakistan (three ODIs, three T20Is)

October/November - South Africa in Pakistan (two Tests, three ODIs, three T20Is)

November - Sri Lanka in Pakistan (three ODIs, three T20Is)

February - Australia in Pakistan (three T20Is)

February/March - ICC Men's T20 World Cup India/Sri Lanka 2026

March - Australia in Pakistan (three ODIs)

March/April - Pakistan to Bangladesh (two Tests, three ODIs and three T20Is)

April/May - Zimbabwe in Pakistan (three ODIs and three T20Is)

**2026-27**

July/August - Pakistan to West Indies (two Tests)

August/September - Pakistan to England (three Tests)

October - Sri Lanka in Pakistan (three T20Is)

October/November - England and Sri Lanka in Pakistan (ODI tri-series)

November - Sri Lanka in Pakistan (two Tests)

March - New Zealand in Pakistan (two Tests)

HBL Pakistan Super League (these are tentative windows during the 2023-2027 cycle):

January/February 2024 - HBL Pakistan Super League 2024

March-May 2025 - HBL Pakistan Super League 2025

December 2025/January 2026 - HBL Pakistan Super League 2026

January/February 2027 - HBL Pakistan Super League 2027.

## Giggs admits to lifelong infidelity

LONDON: Former footballer Ryan Giggs admitted Tuesday to being unfaithful in all his past romantic relationships but denied ever being violent towards partners, as he gave evidence over charges of assault and coercive control of an ex-girlfriend. Taking the stand for the first time in his week-long trial, the Manchester United legend denied physically assaulting former partner, PR agent Kate Greville, nearly two years ago or controlling her during their rocky years-long relationship. But under questioning from his own lawyer, the 48-year-old admitted to a lifetime of infidelity, agreeing that he was "a flirt by nature" and unable to "resist" pursuing attractive women despite being married or in a relationship. Giggs is on trial at Manchester Crown Court over claims he subjected 36-year-old Greville to a "litany of abuse, both physical and psychological" which included headbutting her in the face as she tried to end their relationship. - APP

## Briefs

## Italy's government debt reaches record high

## AGENCIES

ROME: Pushed by a weaker euro and higher prices, Italy's public debt reached an all-time high at mid-year, the Bank of Italy announced Tuesday. The Public Finance Supplement of the bank's monthly bulletin, released Tuesday, said debt totaled 2,766 trillion euros (2,812 trillion U.S. dollars), the highest it has ever been in absolute terms. The total is 1.9 percent higher than the 2,714 trillion euros (2,759 trillion dollars) at the start of the year. A weaker euro has been one of the contributors to the rising debt level, as most of Italy's debt is priced in euros. In late June, when the data in the Bank of Italy report was tabulated, the dollar and euro began trading on roughly equal footing with the dollar briefly surpassing the value of the euro multiple times in July. Higher prices have been a mixed factor to the growing public debt, the Bank of Italy said.

## Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan mull dev't of TCI

## WEB DESK

BAKU: Amid emerging news of Kazakhstan allegedly planning to sell its crude oil through Azerbaijan, KazMunaygas state-owned oil and gas company chairman Magzum Mirzagaliyev visited Baku on August 15. During the visit, the official met SOCAR President Rovshan Najaf to discuss cooperation between the companies for the development of the Trans-Caspian infrastructure. The parties also exchanged views on other issues of bilateral cooperation.

Quoting Reuters, the report said that "Kazakhstan is expected to sell some of its crude oil through Azerbaijan's biggest oil pipeline from September, as the nation seeks alternatives to a route Russia threatened to shut". According to the publication, for 20 years, Kazakh oil exports have been shipped through the CPC pipeline to Russia's Black Sea port of Novorossiysk, which provides access to the global market. As Azernews reported earlier, Kazakhstan's state oil firm Kazmunaigas (KMG) was in advanced discussions with the trading arm of Azerbaijan's state firm SOCAR to allow annually 1.5 million tonnes of Kazakh crude to be sold through the Azerbaijan pipeline that delivers oil to Türkiye's Mediterranean port of Ceyhan.

## 5m in southwest China face power cuts in heatwave

BEIJING: More than five million people in southwest China were facing rolling power cuts Wednesday as a heatwave creates an electricity supply crunch that has forced factories to stop work. Temperatures across Sichuan province have surpassed 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in recent days, causing demand for air conditioning to spike. The region also relies heavily on dams to generate its electricity but the heat has caused reservoirs to dry up, exacerbating the energy shortage.

A local power company said Dazhou, a city of 5.4 million people in the northeast of the province, would receive only intermittent supply on Wednesday, according to The Paper, a Shanghai-based online media outlet. Residents would be hit with outages lasting up to three hours and the cuts could be extended if needed, the report said, citing Dazhou Electric Power Group. Factories in Sichuan including a joint venture with Japanese automaker Toyota have been forced to halt work after government officials said they would prioritise power to residential areas over commercial operations. - Agencies

## Iran ready to implement prisoner swap deal with US

## FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iran has expressed its readiness for swift implementation of a prisoner swap deal with the US while warning Washington against tying the issue of the release of Iranian prisoners in the US to irrelevant issues. In a statement on Wednesday, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kan'ani reaffirmed Tehran's commitment and determination to implement the deal concerning the issue of prisoners, calling on the US to fulfill its commitments than "performing theatrical shows".

"The Islamic Republic has, through various channels, repeatedly announced its readiness to the American side to address the issue of the prisoners regardless of the JCPOA," the spokesman asserted, referring to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). He urged the US to release jailed

Iranian citizens without any conditions. "We are ready to enable emancipation and expeditious return of the innocent Iranians, who have fallen victim to the injustice [practiced] by the US's legal establishment based on the hollow accusation of [them] violating the oppressive and illegal American sanctions," Kan'ani added. The agreement was reached in Vienna on the sidelines of negotiations concerning the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. Tehran has repeatedly said it is ready for a prisoner exchange with the United States based on the agreement and independently of the nuclear deal, which the US unilaterally abandoned in May 2018 despite Iran's full and strict compliance. Kan'ani's remarks came a day after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Washington's point man on Iran, Robert Malley, respectively accused Iran of "wrongful" detention of Americans and holding them

ransom to "political leverage." Reacting to the hostile rhetoric, Kan'ani blasted the US for performing "theatrical skits" against Iran instead taking practical measures in eliminating the obstacles that lie in the path of a prisoner swap between the two countries. "It is surprising that the US, instead of acting and removing the obstacles in this field, is only performing theatrical skits against Iran," he remarked. This is not the first time that the Islamic Republic has slammed the US for disregarding the prisoner exchange agreement. Iran has repeatedly urged Washington to release Iranian nationals who have been taken hostage on baseless charges of bypassing US sanctions, decrying the US for tying the humanitarian issue with the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal. Last July, then foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh reprimanded Washington for "denying simple fact that there is an agreed deal on the

matter of the Iranian detainees." It comes amid efforts by Iran and the European Union to revive the 2015 nuclear deal and to lift unjust, crippling sanctions imposed on Iran by the US. The US, under former President Donald Trump, left the JCPOA in May 2018 and re-imposed the anti-Iran sanctions that the deal had lifted. It also placed additional sanctions on Iran under other pretexts not related to the nuclear case as part of the "maximum pressure" campaign. In April last year, envoys from Iran and the P4+1 group of countries - Britain, France, Russia, and China plus Germany - started talks in Vienna on the revival of the deal and removal of anti-Tehran sanctions. Earlier this month, the European Union tabled a text during the last round of talks in Vienna, to which Iran presented its observations on Monday night. The EU says it is "studying" Iran's response at present.

## Indonesia's Independence Day Flag lowering ceremony at Merdeka Palace runs smoothly

JAKARTA: The Red and White Flag lowering ceremony held in the courtyard of the Merdeka Palace, Jakarta, as part of the commemoration of the 77th anniversary of Indonesia's independence went smoothly on Wednesday afternoon. A member of the Heritage Flag Hoisting Troop (paskibraka) "Pancasila Sakti," Ayumi Putri Sasaki from East Java, carried the flag after it was lowered. She did an excellent job of handing over the flag to President Joko Widodo (Jokowi), who acted as the Inspector of Ceremonies. The handover of the national flag went smoothly and, as the paskibraka returned to their spot, they received applause from all attendees and invited guests. The Red-and-White Flag was lowered by Arnold Steven Sinaga as the Commander of Group 8 representing Southeast Sulawesi, Isra Mashel Arifin from Banten as the flag stretcher, and Muhammad Rajwa Al Farizi as the flag lowerer. The ceremony closed with a report from Wing 4 Commander of the Atang Sendjaja Air Force Base, Colonel of Aviator Corps, Agni Prayogo—who acted as the Commander of the Ceremony—to President Jokowi. After the President and First Lady Iriana Jokowi, and Vice President



JAKARTA: First Lady Iriana Jokowi wore the traditional attire of the Buton Tribe from Southeast Sulawesi Province to attend the 2022 Commemoration of Seconds of the Proclamation of the Indonesian Independence Ceremony. Meanwhile, President Jokowi was dressed in the Buton Tribe's Dolomani suit, which is a long red robe and pants with white ornaments. - ANTARA

Ma'ruf Amin and Second Lady Wury Ma'ruf Amin left the ceremony venue, the ceremony was dissolved. This was followed by a parade held

to return the Sacred Red and White Flag and the Proclamation Manuscript from the Merdeka Palace to the National Monument. - ANTARA

## UK inflation tops 10%, highest since 1982

## FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: British consumer price inflation jumped to 10.1% in July, its highest since February 1982, up from an annual rate of 9.4% in June, intensifying the squeeze on households, official figures showed on Wednesday. The increase was above all economists' forecasts in a Reuters poll for inflation to rise to 9.8% in July, and will do nothing to ease the Bank of England's concerns that price pressures may become entrenched. Despite warning that a recession was likely, the BoE earlier this month raised its key interest rate by 0.5% to 1.75% - its first half-point rise since 1995. Its forecast inflation would peak at 13.3% in October, when regulated household energy prices are next due to rise. "Every upward inflation surprise tightens the bind the BoE finds itself in, with mounting inflation pressure combined with growing recessionary headwinds," said Luke Bartholomew, senior economist at asset management at asset manager abrdn. He, like most economists in a Reuters poll earlier this week, expect the BoE to raise interest rates by a further half point to 2.25% at its next meeting in September. Two-year British government bond yields - which are sensitive to interest rate expectations - surged to their highest since June 21, when they had struck a 13-year high.

## China begins 3-day military drills in Yellow Sea

## NEWS DESK

ISTANBUL: Amid tensions in Taiwan Strait due to back-to-back trips by US lawmakers to Taiwan, China on Wednesday began three-day military drills in the Yellow Sea. Chinese Maritime Safety Administration (CMSA) said the entry of non-military vessels has been banned to the areas where the drills will be conducted. Military exercises began around 8.30 a.m. (0030GMT) on Wednesday and will last till 5 p.m. (0900GMT) on Friday, Chinese daily Global Times reported. The Chinese military has held massive exercises since early this month soon after US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi paid an unannounced visit to Taiwan which Beijing views as its "breakaway province." Beijing condemned the trip, sanctioned Pelosi and her family, and downgraded military dialogue with the US besides taking five other "countermeasures."

However, this Sunday, 12 days after Pelosi's trip, another delegation of US lawmakers landed in Taipei where they held the security and supply chain dialogue with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen. Land, naval, and air force brigades of the People's Liberation Army held unprecedented drills, holding live-fire exercises with ballistic missiles flying over the self-ruled island and falling into waters, claimed by Japan as its exclusive economic zones. Beijing denies the two countries have demarcated their maritime boundaries. The PLA on Wednesday said its Southern Theater Command naval base dispatched a fleet to the South China Sea and conducted four-day long air and anti-missile military exercises, including intercepting missiles and destroying offshore targets.

Beijing has warned the US will "exploit" the situation in Taiwan Strait and increase its military deployment in the region, following Pelosi's trip. Qin Gang, Chinese ambassador to

the US, also urged Washington "to stop its words and actions that would escalate the tension." "Pelosi visited China's Taiwan region with the connivance and arrangement of the US government, which has seriously violated the commitments made by the US. Facts have proved that this is an out-and-out political provocation and farce," Qin told American journalists in a joint interview on Tuesday. Qin blamed the US side which "took the first step to provoke China on the Taiwan question and openly infringing on China's sovereignty and territorial integrity." "China had made the utmost efforts to prevent this crisis from being imposed on China. We had expressed firm opposition at various levels and through various channels. We had warned that if Pelosi made the visit, there would be very serious consequences. China would firmly and forcefully respond. To our regret, the US chose not to listen," he said.

## UNIDO introduces Energy Performance Awards

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: A first-ever Energy Performance Awards 2022 in Pakistan was organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Islamabad. The event was graced by Federal Minister of Industries and production Syed Murtaza Mahmud, who as the chief guest distributed awards among the winners. Honorable Minister in his remarks said, "It is heartening to see that UNIDO is bringing a new concept to incentivize energy efficiency actors in Pakistan. It is indeed an honor for the people, government, and other relevant institutions of Pakistan that UNIDO has worked so hard and achieved so much in this project that was much needed in an energy deficient environment. Mr. Tareq EMTEAIRAH, Director Energy - UNIDO, joined virtually from UNIDO HQ Vienna, and shared with the audience, "Pakistan, brings with it a broad yet specialized global expertise from UNIDO with its successful approaches to energy transition and energy efficiency. The success of this project is evident from the fact that a new paradigm of energy excellence has been created, where many industries have embraced the new concept of the energy management system and have gained immensely in terms of cost saving as well as continual improvements at operational levels." Speaking on this occasion, Mr. Julien Harneis, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan appreciated UNIDO and the GEF for creating avenues to jointly counter climate change, a global challenge. He added the steps taken to introduce energy management standards to improve industrial development are indeed commendable and this is high time that we



should all work together to reduce their adverse impact on the environment." Earlier, opening the ceremony, Ms. Nadia Aftab, UNIDO Country Representative, extended appreciation to the applicant industries for participating and said, "The objective of the UNIDO Sustainable Energy Project is to reduce GHG emissions through Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency technologies, meets many of the 17 SDGs but is closest to SDG 9, which is related to Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure." She also opined on UNIDO's mandate to eradicate poverty through inclusive and Sustainable Industrial development which implies that no one is left behind and all parts of society benefit from industrial progress. Dr. Sardar Muhazzam, MD National Energy Efficiency, and Conservation Authority appreciated the efforts of UNIDO and the GEF in setting up new standards for industries with the implementation of an Energy Management System in the industries in Pakistan. The Energy Performance Awards for Indus-

try were held under UNIDO's project "Sustainable Energy Initiative for Industries in Pakistan" a project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), in collaboration with National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA), and other sector project partners in Pakistan. The event was attended by a large number of professionals including the top management from the industry, as well as participants from academia, public sector organization, development agencies, energy service companies, etc. The award's objective was to set a platform for a regular national event to motivate the industrial sector to shift toward clean and green technologies, through recognition and appreciation of the high achievers for their commitment and hard work towards energy improvements in the industry under the project's Energy Management System implementation program in the 50 enterprises. The event featured an informative overview of the project as well as the Awards scheme and the whole process shared by Mr. Masroor Ahmed Khan, Na-

tional Project Manager UNIDO. The event conferred the best performing Enterprise Award to Serena Hotel Islamabad, while the best performing consultant award to Arch Associates. Additionally, the best Energy Professional Awards were conferred to Ms. Syeda Mehdiya of Ebrahim Textile (woman professional in the energy sector) and Mr. Fahad Ali Amjad of EMCO Industries. Another highlight of the event was the formal launch of the newly established Energy Desk at the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority (SMEDA). Energy Desk is one window facility established to facilitate SMEs on issues related to energy efficiency and Renewable Energy. Mr. Hashim Raza, CEO Small, and Medium Enterprise Authority oriented the audience on Energy Desk, for details visit <https://energydesk.smEDA.org>. UNIDO is a specialized agency of the United Nations focusing on Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development in the developing world. UNIDO works on different projects which are direct-

## North Korea fires two cruise missiles, Seoul says

SEOUL: North Korea fired two cruise missiles Wednesday, Seoul's defence ministry said, ending a month-long lull in Pyongyang's record-breaking spate of weapons tests this year. The isolated nation has not tested a cruise missile - which are not banned under United Nations sanctions on Pyongyang - since January, the Yonhap News Agency reported. The last time North Korea conducted a weapons test was July 10, when they fired what appeared to be multiple rocket launchers. "Early this morning, we detected that North Korea fired two cruise missiles into the West Sea from On-chon, South Pyongan province," a ministry official told AFP, using an alternative name for the Yellow Sea. "The US and South Korean military authorities are analysing detailed specifications such as flight distance." North Korea has conducted a blitz of sanctions-busting tests this year, including firing an intercontinental ballistic missile at full range for the first time since 2017. - Agencies

## Pak CG in Shanghai meets Mayor of Wuxi

BEIJING: Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai Hussain Haider visited Wuxi city in China's Jiangsu province and called on Zhao Jianjun, the Mayor of Wuxi Municipal People's Government. The two sides agreed on the need to strengthen the bilateral trade, investment and people-to-people cooperation through enhanced dissemination of information, and facilitating greater interaction between public sector departments concerned and businesses. Pakistan Investment Promotion Seminar was also organized jointly by the Consulate General Shanghai and Wuxi Municipal People's Government. The seminar was attended by 22 companies from different sectors including textile, automotive and auto parts, logistics, medical equipment, and metallurgy. The Consul General Shanghai briefed the participants on Pakistan's economy, incentives for Chinese investors in Pakistan and the priority sectors for FDI. The Mission will remain engaged with the interested companies and the Wuxi govt to encourage the Chinese enterprises to invest in Pakistan. - APP

## New Zealand hikes official cash rate to 3 pct

WELLINGTON: The Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ)'s Monetary Policy Committee raised the Official Cash Rate (OCR) to 3 percent from 2.5 percent on Wednesday. The Committee agreed it remains appropriate to continue to tighten monetary conditions at a pace to maintain price stability and contribute to maximum sustainable employment. Core consumer price inflation remains too high and labor resources remain scarce, said the central bank in a statement. The central bank uses the OCR to control inflation, encouraging people to either spend or save. The OCR is the interest rate the RBNZ pays on settlement accounts and is reviewed seven times a year. Consumer price inflation has continued to rise, albeit with some recent reprieve from lower global oil prices, it said, adding the outlook for global growth continues to weaken, reflecting the ongoing tightening in global monetary conditions. In New Zealand, domestic spending has remained resilient to global and local headwinds to date. Spending levels are supported by a robust employment level, continued fiscal support, elevated terms of trade, and sound household balance sheets in aggregate, it said. However, production is being constrained by acute labor shortages, heightened by seasonal and COVID-19-related illnesses. In these circumstances, spending and investment continue to outstrip supply capacity, and wage pressures are heightened. A range of indicators highlights broad-based domestic pricing pressures, according to the central bank. - Agencies

## Briefs

**NATO ready to intervene if stability at risk**

### FOREIGN DESK

BRUSSELS: NATO's peace-keeping force in Kosovo is ready to intervene if stability between Serbia and Kosovo is at risk, the alliance's chief said after talks with Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic on recent tensions between the western Balkans neighbours. "While the situation on the ground has improved, it is the responsibility of all parties - particularly officials from Belgrade and Pristina - to prevent escalation again," Jens Stoltenberg told a joint news conference with Vucic in Brussels. "I call all sides to show restraint and to avoid the violence. NATO continues to monitor closely the situation on the ground. Our KFOR peace-keeping mission remains focused on its U.N. mandate. Should stability be jeopardized KFOR stands ready to intervene," he said.

**China to send troops to Russia for 'Vostok' exercise**

### DNA

BEIJING: Chinese troops will travel to Russia to take part in joint military exercises led by the host and including India, Belarus, Mongolia, Tajikistan and other countries, China's defence ministry said on Wednesday. China's participation in the joint exercises was "unrelated to the current international and regional situation", the ministry said in a statement. Last month, Moscow announced plans to hold "Vostok" (East) exercises from Aug. 30 to Sept. 5, even as it wages a costly war in Ukraine. It said at the time that some foreign forces would participate, without naming them. China's defence ministry said its participation in the exercises was part of an ongoing bilateral annual cooperation agreement with Russia. "The aim is to deepen practical and friendly cooperation with the armies of participating countries, enhance the level of strategic collaboration among the participating parties, and strengthen the ability to respond to various security threats," the statement said. Under Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, Beijing and Moscow have grown increasingly close.

# UAE President presents Order of the Union to COAS

DNA

Abu Dhabi, the Gulf Observer: President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan received at Qasr Al Bahr Majlis General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of the Army Staff of Pakistan, and discussed with him bilateral cooperation and joint action in areas of defence in order to serve mutual interests. President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed and General Qamar Bajwa also exchanged views on an array of latest regional and global issues and developments of mutual concern. His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed presented the Order of the Union, the second highest honour awarded by UAE to senior officials of brotherly and friendly countries, to the Pakistani top brass in recognition of his distinguished efforts in strengthening UAE-Pakistan's ties and his role in consolidating bilateral cooperation between the two friendly countries. His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed affirmed the depth of the longstanding relations between the UAE and Pakistan and the mutual keenness to continue strengthening them at various levels. He appreciated, in this context, the sincere



efforts made by General Bajwa to develop prospects for cooperation and joint work between the two countries for the best interest of their two friendly peoples. For his part, General Bajwa expressed his thanks and appreciation to the President of the UAE and his pride in this honour, which reflects the strength of the friend-

ly relations that unite the two countries, pointing out that his country is keen to develop and advance its fruitful cooperation with the UAE to serve the peoples of the two countries.

The meeting was attended by H.H. Sheikh Tahnoun bin Mohammed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi Ruler's Representative in Al Ain Region, H.H. Sheikh Saif bin Mohammed Al Nahyan, H.H. Sheikh Suroor bin Mohammed Al Nahyan, H.H. Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive Council, H.H. Sheikh Nahyan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Zayed Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation, H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court, H.H. Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, Adviser to the UAE President, H.H. Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Member of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council and Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive Office, H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, H.H. Sheikh Zayed bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence.

## Senate HR Committee condemns arrest of driver's family

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights on Wednesday severely condemned the arrest and proceedings against Ms. Saira Zafar, wife of Izzat Ullah Khan and her family. The committee was of the view that grave and serious violation of Human Rights has been committed and unanimously urged to withdraw the case against them. The Inspector General of Police Islamabad said that the bail application has been accepted and the court has granted bail to the accused. The High Court has referred the matter to the session court for trial. The committee unanimously urged for the trail to be withdrawn against Saira Zafar and her family. The Senate Human Rights Committee which met under the Chairmanship of Senator Walid Iqbal here at the Parliament House today, to receive a briefing by the Ministry of Human Rights, Ministry of Interior and Inspector General of Police Islamabad, on the application received from Malik Zafar Iqbal as father of Ms. Saira Zafar, wife of Izzat Ullah Khan regarding her arrest and police raid in the early hours of Thursday, 11th August 2022, purportedly in search of Dr. Shahbaz Gill's mobile phone and laptop. The meeting was attended by Senators Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Muhammad Tahir Bizinjo, Falak Naz, Semee Ezdi, Gurdeep Singh and Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui. Minister for Human Rights, Chair Person National Commission of Human rights, Inspector General of Police Islamabad and other senior officials were also in attendance.

# Miftah expresses desire to boost ties with Iran

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Miftah Ismail has expressed the determination of Pakistan to strengthen its ties with Iran in all areas, including enhancing bilateral trade. In an exclusive interview with an Iranian news agency IRNA on the eve of Joint Economic Commission (JEC) Wednesday, the Pakistani Finance Minister welcomed cooperation between the two countries in energy and trade sectors. Miftah Ismail said the government of Pakistan under Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif is ready to enhance ties with Iran in all sectors especially the bilateral trade. He added that Pakistan had proposed during the previous government term to elevate the bilateral trade volume to 500 million dollars or Euros by trading in local currencies. "I have asked the governor of Pakistani State Bank to talk with his Iranian counterpart as early as possible to materialize the proposal," said the Pakistani finance minister. He said: I think there should be more travel routes between Iran and Pakistan to facilitate trade. In Balochistan, there must be more facilities for passengers and enhanced people-to-people exchange would definitely facilitate more trade between Iran and Pakistan. Pakistan is in dire need of gas and energy that can be easily fulfilled by Iran, Finance



Minister Ismail said, adding that one major step the Pakistani government has taken is that we have increased import of electricity from Iran. "Our minister Khurram Dastagir traveled to Iran to enhance electricity imports from Iran which is a positive development," said the minister. He said the gas pipeline project is quite tricky as it came under sanctions soon after it was signed. Though the sanctions were lifted after a nuclear agreement between Iran and the P5+1 in 2015, but the US unilaterally walked away from the agreement and again imposed sanctions on Iran. "Our petroleum minister Dr Musadik Malik is trying to import gas and the Iranian option in this regards is still on the table," he stated. Miftah Ismail complained that the volume of Iran-Pakistan bilateral trade is quite low, despite the fact that they share common border and can do trade through barter trade mechanism or through cash. He said that Iran and Pakistan have strong brotherly, friendly relations, but expressed regret that trade ties are not as strong as the cultural, political and religious relations between the two nations are. "Iran produces lots of things which Pakistan buys or could buy and vice-versa," noted the Pakistani official, adding: "The one major agenda of the upcoming meeting of the Joint Economic Commission would be to enhance the bilateral trade between the

two friendly countries." The minister went on to say that the main hurdle in the bilateral trade is the currency and the lack of banking relations. "We cannot open LCs in US dollar in trade with Iran and this is a major difficulty." "Now there is a mechanism that the central banks' governors have figured out and in the JEC meeting this mechanism would be formalized to ease the trade," he said. He noted our trade with Iran should be doubled after two years, expressing confidence that if Iran and Pakistan resumed banking channel for payments, the trade between the two countries would be doubled in two years. "Pakistan banks are not under any pressure and we can do trade with Iran in local currency," he said. Ismail said that China is the biggest world market and needs energy and Iran which is one of the world's biggest exporters of energy can fulfill China's energy needs through Pakistan. "We think that Iran should become part of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. We welcome Iranian investment in Gwadar on any other energy projects under the CPEC," said the minister. Miftah Ismail noted that Pakistan will take every measure to remove any hurdle in trade with Iran. He said that Pakistan had opened border markets and that the major part of its Balochistan state's trade is with Iran and Afghanistan. "There are many markets in Quetta which export Pakistani goods to Iran and Afghanistan. All countries do trade with neighbors and there is nothing new about that. It is easier to trade with Iran for a person living in Pishin district of Balochistan than to trade with Karachi. There should be trade between border towns of Iran and Pakistan," he said.

# New UK scheme paves way for increase in exports

ISLAMABAD: On Tuesday, the UK's International Trade Secretary, The Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP, launched the Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS), providing tariff reductions and simpler terms of trade to 65 countries, including Pakistan, which will be implemented early next year. The scheme will help these countries grow and prosper, and in turn tackle poverty by harnessing the power of trade. The DCTS replaces the UK's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP), a preferential trading system that provides tariff removals and reductions on various products. Under the DCTS, Pakistan will continue to benefit from duty-free exports to the UK. In addition, the DCTS will remove tariffs on over 156 additional products. It will also simplify some seasonal tariffs, meaning additional and simpler access for Pakistan's exports to the UK. - DNA

# Pakistan, Iraq ties long-standing, brotherly

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Iraqi Ambassador Hamid Abbas Lufta called on Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at the Parliament House. Issues of mutual interest including bilateral relations and the current political situation in Iraq were discussed in detail. Chairman Senate said that relations between Pakistan and Iraq are based on religion, brotherhood, Islamic culture, mutual respect and common values. Pakistan attaches great importance to long-standing fraternal ties with Iraq and bilateral relations can be further strengthened through parliamentary and economic cooperation. He emphasized the need to increase parliamentary exchanges. He said that parliamentarians of both countries can play an important role in making bilateral relations more stable and bringing the two countries closer. Detailed discussion was held regarding further promotion of bilateral trade. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani was of the view that the current volume of mutual trade does not commensurate with the potential of both countries. Trade volume can be further increased by establishing contacts between the Chambers of Commerce of both countries.

# Liz Cheney to battle Trump, may run for US presidency

MONITORING DESK

JACKSON: US Republican Representative Liz Cheney vowed to do all she could to keep Donald Trump out of the White House and said she would decide in the coming months whether to run for president herself, after she lost to a Trump-backed primary challenger in Wyoming on Tuesday. But Senator Lisa Murkowski, another Republican who has defied the ex-president, cleared a hurdle in Alaska. She was set to face Trump-endorsed challenger Kelly in the Nov. 8 congressional election, as the two candidates advanced in that state's non-partisan primary. Cheney's defeat, by Trump-endorsed Harriet Hageman, marks a significant victory for the former president in his campaign to oust Republicans who backed impeaching him after a mob of his supporters stormed the Capitol building last year. "It would have required that I enable his ongoing efforts to unravel our democratic system and attack the foundations of our republic."

# Iran's roads minister arrives to attend JEC meeting

DNA

TEHRAN: Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Rostam Qassemi arrived in Pakistan on Wednesday morning to participate in the 21st meeting of the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) in Islamabad. Ambassador of the Islamic Republic Mohammad Ali Hosseini and officials of the Pakistan Economic Affairs Ministry received the Iranian delegation at Nur Khan Air Base, Islamabad. The 21st meeting of the Iran-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission is scheduled to be held in Islamabad

later today and will continue into Thursday. Besides leading the Iranian delegation at the JEC meeting, Qassemi will also hold important meetings with Pakistani officials. The last meeting of the Iran-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission was held in 2016 in Tehran and now Islamabad is hosting the new round. Important negotiations are expected to be held between high-level delegations of Iran and Pakistan regarding barter trade mechanism, activation of border markets, facilitation of exports and imports, strengthening of transit and transportation links, and expansion of people-to-people contacts.



ISLAMABAD: Iraqi Ambassador Hamid Abbas Lufta calls on Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at the Parliament House. - DNA

# Pak, Kyrgyzstan mull deepening of ties

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Mr. A. Artykbaev met with the with the Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic

Republic of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Sohail Mahmood during his visit to Pakistan for participation in 2nd political consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. During the meeting, the parties

discussed issues of political, trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan, and exchanged views on topical issues of the regional and international agenda, including the situation in Afghanistan. The parties noted the need for practical implementation of the existing potential in the development and strengthening of cooperation in the field of trade, investment, education, tourism, as well as close bilateral cooperation within the framework of regional and international platforms. Noting the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations this year between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H.E. Mr. A. Artykbaev proposed holding a number of joint events in the capitals of the two states, including organizing mutual visits at the highest and high levels, as well as developing and signing a Cooperation Program between Kyrgyz Republic and Islamic Republic of Pakistan for 5 years, which will give a significant impetus to Kyrgyz-Pakistani bilateral cooperation.



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