



# Islamabad POST

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**Casemiro says excited to join Manchester**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

### Odinga challenges vote result

DNA

NAIROBI: Kenya's veteran opposition leader Raila Odinga has filed a challenge to the results of this month's presidential election in the Supreme Court, his legal team said, sharpening a political clash that has gripped East Africa's powerhouse. "What we did this morning is to file the online copy," lawyer Daniel Maanzo told Kenyan television channel on Monday. "After today there will be four days for the other parties to reply." A source at the judiciary confirmed they had received a copy of the file.

### Govt to be ousted before Sept 10

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader and former federal minister on Monday reacted to the current political situation, claiming that the coalition government will be ousted before September 10 and the power will be transferred to the public. In his statement, Fawad said the government feared of Imran Khan's yesterday rally and filed a case of terrorism. The fake FIR should be quashed, urged the former federal minister. Posing the question, Fawad said that why the action has not been taken on Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leadership over the threatening statements.

### Measures to be taken for Khan's safety

IRSHAD ALI

ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Pervez Elahi made it clear that Punjab government would make all arrangements for the security of Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan and other leaders. During his meeting with Chairman PTI here on Monday, CM Punjab voiced serious concern over retaliatory actions against PTI and vowed that Punjab government was with PTI in all circumstances.



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of UAE, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salim Al Zaabi meets with PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz Sharif. - DNA

## 21 people killed in Somali hotel terror attack

The gunfight between the attackers and security forces lasted 30 hours

CENTRELINE REPORT

MOGADISHU: Somali government confirmed Sunday that 21 people were killed in the terrorist attack on a popular hotel in the Somali capital Mogadishu on Friday evening. The Minister of Health Ali Haji Adan said 15 of the wounded persons sustained serious injuries and were in critical condition after the attackers who had detonated explosives and blasted their way inside the popular Hayat hotel and engaged the security forces in a gunfight that lasted 30 hours. "Twenty-one people were killed and 117 others wounded in the heinous terrorist attack on Hayat Hotel in Mogadishu", Haji told the state-owned Somali National Television. Earlier, Police Commissioner Abdi Hassan Mohamed told journalists in Mogadishu that the security forces ended al-Shabab's siege of Hayat Hotel in Mogadishu on Sunday morning.

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## Pak strongly condemns terrorist attack

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has condemned the cowardly terrorist attack in Mogadishu, Somalia which has resulted in loss of innocent lives and injuries to many others. A Foreign Office statement said, "We express heartfelt condolences to the families who lost their loved ones and pray for speedy recovery of those injured". The statement further said that Pakistan reiterates its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We express solidarity with the brotherly

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## Mariyum labels Imran Khan as 'drama expert'

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb on Monday while taking a dig at Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supremo Imran Khan said that Imran Khan is a drama expert, and threatening remarks against a female judge exposed his integrity. Talking to the media in Islamabad, Mariyum said when the PTI chairman realized that the economy was improving, he tried to create sedition, corruption, chaos and political instability with the aim of economic stability and people's welfare in danger. The federal minister said that Imran Khan

laid economic tunnels in the last four years, adding that he destroyed the IMF program to bankrupt the country. "Foreign funding has been proven against Imran Khan and now he is trying to create chaos and unrest in the country by spreading his fabricated and baseless narrative," she added. Commenting on the flood situation in the country, she said 25,000 rupees cash is being provided to the flood-affected people under the Benazir Income Support Programme. "Cash assistance will provide immediate relief to the flood-affected people, enabling them to procure medicines and food items on their own," the information minister added. The Minister said the Prime Minister has also directed the Finance Division to release a fund of five billion rupees, established for relief measures in the flood-hit areas.

## Palestine grieved over damages caused by floods

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants extended its heartfelt condolences to the brotherly country of Pakistan for the victims of the floods that have swept the country, particularly the provinces of Sindh, Baluchistan, as well as Punjab. The floods have resulted in a number of deaths and injuries, causing damage to thousands of homes, bridges, as well as other properties. The Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Ministry of Palestine extended condolences to flood victims in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Pakistan has been afflicted by a surge of floods this year. Flash floods caused by abnormally heavy monsoon rains have killed 777 people across Pakistan over the last two months, officials said Monday, as rescuers backed by

troops raced against time to evacuate thousands of marooned people. Since June 14, rain and flooding have affected 1.8 million people, and 317,678 of them were still living in relief camps across the country, according to the National Disaster Management Authority. It said out of the 777 killed, about 300 were reported since Aug. 1. Meanwhile, Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) region has been facing massive power cuts after several flash floods damaged key road and power infrastructure in different areas of the country's mountainous north, residents and officials said on Sunday. In Gilgit-Baltistan, monsoon downpours have so far triggered more than a hundred flash floods, according to Kamaluddin Qamar, director-general of the GB Disaster Management Authority (GBDMA). Raging flood waters have killed nine people and damaged more than 20 power houses, leaving the region without electricity.

## Remarks against judge Imran Khan to face contempt proceedings

A larger bench of the IHC headed by Justice Mohsin Akhtar will take up the suo motu case today

COURT REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday took suo motu of former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan's statement against Additional Sessions Judge Zeba Chaudhry and decided to conduct contempt of court hearing. A larger bench of the IHC headed by Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani will take up the suo motu case against the former PM on Tuesday. Earlier, Imran Khan while addressing the rally held in favour of Dr Shahbaz Gill at F-9 Park said that his party was going to file cases against PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif, JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, IG Islamabad and female judge. The former prime minister lauded his workers, saying that people have come out in large numbers on 24 hours notice. Regarding the matter of Dr Shahbaz Gill, the PTI Chairman said that his party will go to the Supreme Court Comparing the current situation of the country with the era of Genghis Khan, the former prime minister said that

Continued on Page 06

## 'Terrorism case proves 'rule of power' prevails'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and ex-premier Imran Khan said that only 'free minds' can think and do big things in life. He was addressing a seminar in Islamabad on Monday - hours after he was granted bail by Islamabad High Court in a terrorism case. He cited examples of the past incursions in Afghanistan and said the people of the land always stood against the foreign powers. PTI chairman said after spending the early part of his life in the West, he had concluded that society could only progress when rule of law would be established. He said the country could not become self-reliant by securing aid. The absence of

Continued on Page 06

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## Briefs

## Five gangs busted

FAISALABAD: Police claimed on Monday to have busted five gangs of vehicle lifters and recovered 32 cars and 93 motorcycles from their possession. Addressing a press conference here at police lines, City Police Officer Umar Saeed Malik said that a special police team was constituted under the supervision of SSP Investigation Ajmal Khan to check the increasing incidents of vehicles lifting in Faisalabad. The team after hectic efforts traced out five vehicle lifter gangs identified as Abdus Shakoor alias Shakoori gang; Shakeel gang; Tahir Abbas gang; Asad gang and Kashif alias Kashi gang and arrested their gangsters. The outlaws used to steal or snatch vehicles in Faisalabad district and sell them in Peshawar, Dera Ismail Khan, Sukkur, Shikarpur, Karachi, Multan, Kabirwala and Lahore, etc. Regional Police Officer (RPO) Mueen Masood who was also present in the press conference, announced commendation certificates and cash prize of Rs 100,000 for the raiding police team.

## KWCCIM inks MoUs with different Chambers

KARACHI: Karachi Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Malir District) has signed memorandum of understanding with Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce, Rawalpindi Women Chamber of Commerce, Lahore Chamber of Commerce, and Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The founder of KWCCIM and former vice president of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Nazli Abid Nisar, said release on Monday. The aim was to promote trade and industry, support in organizing trade exhibitions and provide equal business opportunities to women entrepreneurs. A delegation of women entrepreneurs headed by Nazli Abid Nisar made a goodwill visit to the Women Chambers of Punjab and FPCCI Capital Office Islamabad, Regional Office Lahore, Women's Chamber Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Women Chamber Lahore, Women Chamber Multan, Women Chamber Bahawalpur, Women Chamber, and had meetings with officials and members of Women's Chamber Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The purpose of the visits was to struggle together to solve the current poor economic conditions and the problems faced by business women. Leader of the Women's Chamber Hina Mansab appreciated the work of Nazli Abid Nisar. - APP

## 8.9m people vaccinated in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD: Over 8.9 million (8,912,239) people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in the district. District Health Officer Dr Ataul Mun'im said on Monday that 4,773,235 citizens were injected first dose while 4,053,470 were administered the second dose of vaccine. He further said that 39,880 health workers were also given first dose while 45,654 received the second dose of vaccine. He said that sufficient stock of coronavirus vaccine was available in the district. As of now 20,745 first doses and 13,830 second doses were in the stock in Faisalabad. He said that 37 vaccination centers and 20 mobile vaccination camps were operational in Faisalabad where registered people were being vaccinated. In order to facilitate the people these centers had been established in various areas of the city including Allied Hospital, District Headquarters Hospital, Government General Hospital, Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology, Government General Hospital Samanabad, Children Hospital, Sports Complex Samanabad, Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Jaranwala, Samundri, Tandlianwala, Chak Jhumra, Sports Complex Chak Jhumra, Sports Complex Jaranwala, Government General Hospital Chak 224/RB, New Building RHC Khurriawala, New Building THQ Samundri. - APP

# Envoy invites Pak traders to explore avenues in Nepal

## Ambassador Tapas Adhikari visits Lahore Chamber; says huge business potential between the two countries

DNA

LAHORE: Ambassador of Nepal Tapas Adhikari visited the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) and interacted with the President Mian Nauman Kabir and members of the Chamber. During the interactions, the ambassador highlighted the need to improve bilateral economic relations between Nepal and Pakistan since both countries have great potentiality to cooperate. He further said that the bilateral relations between our countries have always been excellent. As neighboring country, both Nepal and Pakistan are the member of SAARC and have similar cultural and social backgrounds. The ambassador also shared the historical linkages between Kathmandu and Lahore that Mathabar Singh Thapa, first Prime Minister of Nepal had spent a year exile in Lahore in 19th century. It is also believed that Thapa was first person holding position of Prime Minister in South Asia region. Ambassador Tapas also shared the Government of Nepal economic policies to facilitate foreign direct investment and invited the Pakistani business persons to visit Nepal for trade, investment and tourism since Nepal has excellent hospitality industry and it is a hub of adventure tourism.



The President of the Chamber Mian Nauman Kabir and members appreciated the visit and information on business opportunities in Nepal. They assured

that they will make a program to visit Nepal to explore business opportunities and to interact with Nepali businesspersons. They wished to host Ne-

pali businesspersons in Lahore. They also wished to organise Pakistani trade fair in Nepal to share the information of Pakistani products.

## US Scholar presents overview of different religions

ISLAMABAD: Eminent American scholar Dr Umar Faruq Abd-Allah here on Monday presented a detailed overview of different concepts, humanity, spirituality, ethics and described the beliefs of the world's major religions including Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, African traditional religion, Sikhism, Judaism and Jainism. He was addressing an extension lecture on "Religious Nature of Human Beings" was delivered at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) the other day. The Higher Education Commission (HEC) Chairman Prof. Dr Mukhtar Ahmed was the chief guest, while Vice Chancellor of AIU Prof. Dr Zia-ul-Qayyum hosted the event. The lecture was organized by Seerat-ul-Nabi Chair, AIU. Vice chancellors, rectors, foreign delegates from various universities, Senior

Advisor of AIU's Center of Excellence Muhammad Rafiq Tahir, Head of Seerat-ul-Nabi Chair Prof. Sahibzada Sajid Ur Rehman, deans, faculty members, and others were also present. Dr Umar said, "Religion tells the rules and regulations of society." "Islam is the second largest religion in the world. Being Muslims we believe that Muhammad (PBUH) is the last prophet of Allah," he said. Dr Faruq also mentioned the books he wrote for the propagation of Islam. Dr Mukhtar said, "124,000 prophets came to convey the message of Allah, and Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) is the last prophet and now the responsibility of preaching and teaching Islam is on scholars like Dr Umar. They are doing it which is another great favor of Allah to the Muslim Ummah."

He said that such events were being organized regularly in AIU, under the leadership of Prof. Dr Zia. Three chairs have been established for research and academic discussions which will be beneficial for the Muslim Ummah and Pakistan. Dr Zia said that the promotion of Islamic education was a common responsibility of all of them, and everyone had to do their part with determination and firm belief. He added that in AIU, the faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies was already engaged in the task, and to strengthen their efforts, they established the Seerat-ul-Nabi Chair. The vice chancellor said that they had also established a centre for language and translation studies in the university. Muhammad Rafiq Tahir and Professor Sahibzada Sajidur Rahman also addressed the event. - APP

## CM directs emergency relief work in flood hit areas

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has declared emergency in flood hit areas of Dera Ismail Khan, Upper Chitral, Lower Chitral, and Upper Kohistan Districts. On the special directives of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan, provincial Relief and Rehabilitation Department has issued formal notifications to this end. Meanwhile, the chief minister while hinting at visiting the flood affected districts has said that he would soon visit the flood hit districts to look into the damages caused by flash floods and rehabilitation activities carried out by the administration adding that he would announce package for the rehabilitation of flood affected infrastructure in those districts. The chief minister directed the quarters concerned to expedite relief and rehabilitation activities and ensure provision of food items and other stuff of daily use to each and every flood affected household. He further said that he is monitoring the flood situation, and is in contact with concerned administrations.

## Int'l Housing Expo-2022 to be held in November



ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Housing and Works will organise the first International Housing Expo-2022, Pakistan in November in collaboration with other relevant ministries, agencies, organizations and authorities aiming to ensure safe and secure housing for the people. Secretary Housing and Works Iftekhar Ali Shallwani, on Monday chaired a meeting to review arrangements for the expo, which will be inaugurated by the prime minister.

Iftekhar Shallwani said the construction sector and allied industry were the biggest job providers. "Everyone has a fundamental right to have secure and safe housing, and the ministry intends to organize the event to achieve this purpose," he added. During the meeting, different themes came under consideration. It was decided to have minimum reliance on government resources, and seek the financial support for expo through sponsors and partners. Different stalls will be set up by the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA), Pakistan Housing Authority Foundation (PHAF) and country's major builders and developers. During the course of meeting, different committees headed by Joint Secretary Housing Shahzad Nawaz Cheema were constituted, which were assigned various tasks. - APP

## Pointed alignment strategy redefines Indian FP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: India's foreign policy had departed from Nehru's Non-Alignment policy towards a policy of Hinduism, which did not serve Indian interests as the Indian constitution was beyond partisan politics and was rooted in inclusivity, said Dr. Jagannath Panda. He was addressing a webinar titled 'Analyzing the Trajectory of India's External Relations' organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), here on Monday. He added that, India was now focusing on a Multi-Aligned foreign policy on equatorial and equidistant grounds in order to pursue a 'Pointed Alignment Strategy'. Dr Panda also underscored Indian Foreign Policy's focus on unilateral configuration, Indian thirst for maritime dom-

inance and continental outrage. He also specified that the Indian Foreign Policy had now attained more consciousness upon matters of connectivity and infrastructure diplomacy to strongly stay connected to both; friendly and non-friendly states, in order to effluetuate Indian national interests. Mr. Gopi Bhamidipati, another panelist, elucidated that the Indian foreign policy had been more focused on internationalism, non-interference and third world solidarity along with strategic autonomy. He also highlighted the decline of the US as a superpower and gravitating power shift towards Asia, which could result in a possible power gap and India due to its rising power (especially after I2U2) might fill the power vacuum. He added that under the Modi administration, New Delhi was veering towards Geo-eco-

nomics foreign policy rather than geopolitical and invigorating its relationship with West Asia. India had been bound to many nations, hence, being an emerging power it feared the conflicts among other states, as it could not give up its relation with any state at the expense of another state, he said. Dr Arshad Ali, Director India Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), noted that India desired an independent foreign policy on grounds of neutrality. New Delhi, in his opinion, pursued strategic autonomy along with Hindutva partisan policy. India fancied economic and military modernization, hence, despite all the disputes with China, India had maintained the economic relationships, and had not actually opposed One China Policy.

## PPP to stand by flood-affectedees

D.I.KHAN: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Information Secretary and former Deputy Speaker in National Assembly Faisal Karim Khan Kundi has said that his party would not leave the flood affectees alone till the rehabilitation of last victim. He stated this during his visit to different flood affected areas of Paroa Tehsil including Naivela, Sohlan, Adil Supra, Paroa and others where he met with the victims and assured them of full support from

his party during this difficult time. On this occasion, PPP Deputy Parliamentary Leader in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Ahmed Karim Khan Kundi, Assistant Director of Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Mohammad Arif, Regional Manager of Utility Store Corporation (USC) Tahir Yar Khan, SE WAPDA CRRBC, former Tehsil Member Seelani Khan Baloch and Village Nazim Jameel Baloch also accompanied him. While talking to media, Faisal Karim Kundi said the flood

affected families would be given Rs 25,000 each under the BISP, after the assessment report from the Revenue Department, District Administration and National Disaster Management Authority. He said the Chashma Right Bank Canal (CRBC) which was broken at four places due to floods would be repaired on priority. Moreover, the flood affected people would be provided with food items including ghee, sugar and flour at government rates through USC at their door step. - APP

## Princess Sarah, Marri visit Benazir Nashunuma Centre

HYDERABAD: World Food Program's (WFP) Special Advisor on Mother and Child Nutrition and Jordanian Princess Sarah Zeid on Monday visited the Benazir Nashunuma Centre here on Monday. Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Shazia Atta Marri, Dr Khalida Mandhro and Sindh Minister Muhammad Ismail Raho warmly welcomed the visiting dignitary upon her arrival at the centre in Old Civil Hospital. Princess Sarah Zeid visited different sections of the centre and interacted with the mothers and children. The doctors, lady health workers and other staff members gave a detailed briefing to the princess, and other representatives of the WFP. Talking to media persons, Princess Sarah appreciated the efforts of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) for addressing stunting in children and providing assistance to mothers in getting nutritious food for themselves and their children. She lauded the performance of the staff, especially the lady health workers, saying that the programme was working well to ensure the supply of food to the mother and child. She said the WFP was working with BISP to provide nutritional support to the mothers



and their infants so that they could flourish with required food supplements. Minister Shazia Marri thanked WFP and other aid agencies for helping BISP. She said the federal government had decided to disburse an amount of Rs 37.5 billion among the rain affected families to compensate the damages caused due to rain in the country, adding that Rs. 25 thousands will be distrib-

uted among each affected family. Minister Shazia Marri thanked WFP and other aid agencies for helping BISP. She said the federal government had decided to disburse an amount of Rs 37.5 billion among the rain affected families to compensate the damages caused due to rain in the country, adding that Rs. 25 thousands will be distributed among each affected family.

Benazir Nashunuma Centres were set up in all four provinces, and in Sindh, one centre each in Badin and Dadu districts was functioning with the assistance of WFP, Shazia Marri said. She announced that such centres would be established in other districts to extend nutritional support to maximum number of mothers and newborn babies. Marri said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was committed to provide all possible assistance to the rain victims across the country, including Sindh and Balochistan, and in this regard, the amount of compensation would be increased further. In response to a question, she said that complaints had been received about the alleged deductions in the BISP's amounts received by the beneficiaries and vowed to take strict action against the responsible persons. She urged the media to play a role in identifying the persons involved in this dirty practice. Sindh Minister Ismail Raho, Special Assistants to CM Sayed Riaz Hussain Shah, Pir Noorullah Qureshi, MPA Taj Muhammad Mallah, and Senator Dr Khalida Sikandar Mandhro were present on the occasion. Later, Princess Sarah Zeid visited the BISP centre in Golarchi and interacted with the beneficiaries of the program. - APP

## KP govt declares emergency in 4 districts

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has declared emergency in flood hit areas of Dera Ismail Khan, Upper Chitral, Lower Chitral, and Upper Kohistan districts. On the special directives of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan, the secretary, Relief and Rehabilitation Department, has notified the declaration of emergency, said an official handout issued here on Monday. Meanwhile, the chief minister has hinted at visiting the flood affected districts and said that he would soon visit the flood hit districts to assess the damages caused, and review the rehabilitation activities carried out by the administration. He said that he would also announce a package for the rehabilitation of flood affected infrastructure in those districts. The chief minister directed the quarters concerned to expedite relief and rehabilitation activities and ensure provision of food items and other stuff of daily use to each and every affected household. He further said that he was monitoring the flood situation, and was in contact with the relevant administrations. Mahmood said that the relevant district administrations were directed for assessment reports to review the damages caused by floods, adding that necessary directives had also been issued to quarters concerned for rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure. He assured that the provincial government would do everything to provide relief to the affected people, adding that all available resources would be utilized for the purpose. - APP

## Health Deptt establishes 37 medical camps

PESHAWAR: The wake of current floods and torrential monsoon rains, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department on Monday established medical camps in flood-affected areas of the province and deployed paramedic teams to provide immediate assistance to the flood victims. The Health Department had also dispatched stock of necessary medicines to farflung areas of the province including Chitral to prevent the waterborne disease, said a handout issued here. According to the report issued by the Integrated Diseases Surveillance and Response Unit of the Health Department, a total of 37 medical camps have been set up this week in which thousands of flood affectees have been treated. The medical camps treated more than 4,000 diarrhea patients and examined at least 1,500 skin patients while medicines were provided free of charge. - APP

## 15 falcons confiscated

PESHAWAR: The DI Khan wildlife division have confiscated 15 falcons during search operation, and arrested an accused red-handed. According to wildlife department spokesman, the wildlife staff of bridge check-post last night, under the supervision of Muhammad Saqib, confiscated laggar falcons from accused Muhammad Kabir resident of Malakhel, Lakki Marwat. The birds were being transported from Punjab to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A case has been registered against the offender under the provisions of wildlife and biodiversity Act 2015. - APP

## Dr Aisha vows for reforms in economy

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha on Monday said that Pakistan's economy needed continuity in policy, structural reforms to make the economy sustainable and inclusive. Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha said this while addressing the launching ceremony of Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad's (ISSI) Special Report titled "Economic Security of Pakistan: Challenges and Way Forward" held at the Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP). - APP

## National Days and Armed Forces Days

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

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- Monal.....0334-5421812

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## Islamabad Metropolitan

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

## Water Tank

- Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# Film, drama necessary in improving global image

### Minister also briefed the delegation about his discussions with the Chinese Ambassador regarding cooperation and co-production between Pakistan and China in film making

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Monday that film and drama could play an important role in improving Pakistan's global image. Talking to a delegation of Pakistan Film Producers Association led by its Chairman Sheikh Amdad Rashid which met her here, she said improving the story, quality and technology of films was part of national film policy announced by the government. The government was taking practical steps to rehabilitate

cinemas, build new cinemas and give incentives to artists, she remarked. Quality films are very much needed at this time, the film industry will be aligned with technology and modern requirements, she maintained. In this regard, the government would provide all possible support to the filmmakers in the import of equipment for the film industry, including tax relief, she assured the delegation. "Discussions are going on with FBR for the elimination of withholding tax imposed on the film industry, the plan of action will be decided soon," she said.



Marriyum said that discussions were ongoing with the relevant authorities to give tax concessions to new cinemas, production houses and all stakeholders of the film industry will be con-

sulted on tax exemptions and other issues very soon. The government restored the film and culture policy, as soon as it assumed responsibility, and it gave film the status of an industry. She said that efforts will be intensified to start joint production of Pakistani and Chinese filmmakers. The minister also briefed the delegation about his discussions with the Chinese Ambassador regarding cooperation and co-production between Pakistan and China in film making. Chairman Film Producers Association Shaikh Amdad Rashid said that the Government's ini-

atives would help revive the cinema and film industry and his association would work with the government to give the Pakistan film industry its true identity. The delegation of Pakistan Film Producers Association apprised the Federal Minister of Information about the problems faced by the film industry. Federal Minister of Information assured to take all possible steps for the demands, problems and solutions of Pakistan Film Producers Association. The delegation appreciated the steps taken by Federal Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb for the revival of the film industry.

## Tea imports increase by 10.20 percent in July

ISLAMABAD: The tea imports witnessed an increase of 10.20 percent during the first month of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding month of last year. The tea imports during July 2022 were recorded at \$45.321 million against the imports of \$41.127 million during July 2021, according to data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). In terms of quantity, the tea imports however decreased by 2.64 percent during the period under review as these went down from 18,625 metric tons last July to 18,133 metric tons during the same month of current fiscal year, the data revealed. On month-on-month basis, the food imports into the country witnessed nominal increase of 0.08 percent when compared to the imports of \$45.286 million in June 2022. In terms of quantity, the tea imports increased by 6.11 percent when compared to the imports of 17,089 metric tons. The overall food imports increased by 17.87 percent from \$565.150 million last July to \$763.135 during July 2022. It is pertinent to mention here that the country's overall merchandise imports declined by 12.81 percent to US\$4,861 million in July 2022 compared to imports of US\$5,575 million in July 2021. Exports also declined by 5.17 percent in July 2022 to US\$2,219 million as compared to exports of US\$2,340 million in July 2021. Based on the figures, the merchandise trade deficit declined by 18.33 percent by going down from the deficit of US\$3,235 million last July to US\$2,642 million in July 2022, according to PBS data. - APP

# KSRelief dispatches 100 truckload relief goods



**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) has dispatched 100 more emergency relief trucks carrying 950 tons of essential food items to the flood-hit areas of Pakistan to meet the needs of affected people. According to a Saudi Embassy news release on Monday, some 10,000 food packag-

es would help over 70,000 flood-affected people living in 17 districts in all the provinces of Pakistan. Each food package contained 95 kilograms essential food items, including 80kg flour, cooking oil of 5 liters, 5kg sugar, and 5kg of Daal Chana, which is sufficient for the family for the whole month, the news release said. The food bags would be distributed in collaboration with the

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and local government. Speaking on the occasion, Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki said both the countries enjoyed close relations. The kingdom, he said, had always stood by Pakistan in every difficult time, especially in disasters. NDMA Chairman Lieutenant General Akhtar Nawaz thanked the Saudi ambassador, KSRelief director

and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their generous and timely support for the flood victims. KSRelief has already distributed 5,000 food packages among the flood-affected people in Balochistan. This project comes under the umbrella of humanitarian projects by the KSA, represented by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center to assist affected families living in Pakistan.

# IESCO issues power suspension notice

*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 surrounding power will be cut off*

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule: On 23rd August, From 08:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, NDC. I & II, I-10/3, PHA-II, I-11/3, Metro, Islamic University, Bahria University, Dr. Aq Khan, I-10/2, NUST University, New Exchange, U Phone, PTCL, SES, Fazal Ghee, TB Hospital, Dhok Najo, Raja Sultan, Eid Gah, Bagh Sardaran, Mohammadi Chowk, Khayaban Sir Syed, Ali Market Feeders, From 07:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Muslim Town, Service Road, Khiklian, Sanghui, Chautala, Shukrila, Jermot, Smoot, Kangar, Islamabad, Union Council Road, Masrial Road, Ameer Hamza, Radio Pak, Milatabad, Peshawar Road, Range Road, Peer Suhawah, Charah, Mushtaq Shaheed, Jalala., Nawababad, PMC Colony, Darya Sharif, Musa, Shah Dir, Hazro, Nar Topa, Visa, Amanpur, Swan Garden-II, Islamabad Feed Mill, Jhata Hatial, Lab-I & II, Reliance Weaving Mill, Bhal, Jar Jar Camp, Bisali, Pind Jatla, New Kallam, HPTIII, Industrial 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.

## Omar exposes Sinha's blatant lie

ISLAMABAD: In Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah has criticized Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for his blatant lie about Mirwaiz Umar Farooq's house arrest. He said that there was an obvious difference in the statement of the Lt. governor and that of the police. According to Kashmir Media Service, Omar's remarks came after journalists were not allowed to meet Mirwaiz at his Nigeen residence in Srinagar, a day after Sinha had said the Hurriyat leader was not under house arrest. "The Lt. governor says one thing and the police do something entirely different," Omar wrote on Twitter, reacting to the reports of journalists prevented from meeting or interviewing Mirwaiz. Sinha, while speaking to the BBC, had said Mirwaiz was not under house arrest and was a free man. "I will correct it," he had said when asked about the reasons for the house arrest of Mirwaiz. - APP

# Ulema united to protect democratic norms, says Fazl

*The JUIF chief said that a state was ruled with the support of its people; however, the mode of governance should be devised in the light of teachings of the Holy Quran and the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)*

PESHAWAR: Central Ameer of Jamiat Ulema Islam (JUIF) Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Monday said the Ulema from all schools of thought were united for the cause of protecting the overall political and democratic norms. Addressing the concluding session of Central Majlis e Umoomi of his party here, Fazl accused PTI chief Imran Khan for spreading anarchy and said the Ulema could not overlook the teachings of the Holy Quran. Fazl claimed that his party had practically fought against 'fitnas' rather than mere verbal condemnation. The JUIF chief said that a state was ruled with the support of its people; however, the mode of governance should be devised in the light of teachings of the Holy Quran and the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Pakistan was an Islamic state, he said and urged the bureaucracy to take Sharia's affairs seriously. Regarding legislations, he said the basic target of the present coalition government was making electoral and NAB reforms. He said an unnecessary hype was created in the name of right of votes to overseas Pakistanis, as there was no appropriate procedure for it. There was 90 percent chance of rigging in it. "Our proposal was granting appropriate representation to overseas Pakistanis," he said. The NAB was a gift of former president Pervez Musharraf, and in its (NAB)'s eyes every Pakistani was apparently a convict, he added. He said that NAB was working against corruption since its establishment but no concrete result was produced and only politicians were maligned in corruption related cases. Fazl asked his party workers to participate in flood relief operations and provide assistance to the affectedes. He said the recent incident of Salman Rushdie's stabbing in the US was due to a reaction of his blasphemous work, which his party had condemned in 1988. - APP



ISLAMABAD: PM Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on issues pertaining to electricity bills. - DNA

# Pak Army continuously assisting civil admin in flood-hit areas

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Army troops were continuously assisting civil administration in flood-hit areas of Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab. The Army troops were busy in rescue and relief activities, shifting people to safer places, the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release said here on Monday. Army medical doctors and paramedic teams were treating flood victims whereas the troops were also distributing rations and cooked meals to help people in distress. In Sindh, the Army troops reached flood-affected area of Saim Nullah, Khairpur district to safeguard flood-affected people. Over two hundred houses got badly affected due to heavy flood in Saim Nullah, Khairpur district in Sindh, it said.

Army troops from Pano Aqil Garrison took part in relief operation and shifted flood affected people to the safe locations and provided them medical aid. In Balochistan, Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps (FC) troops continued to assist civil administration in flood rescue and relief operations in Balochistan in Quetta, Pishin, Qila Saif Ullah, Ziarat, Zhob, Loralai and Noshki. The teams of Pakistan Army, FC, Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and civil administration were shifting people to safer places where they were being served with cooked food and other amenities. Relief camps have been established in Naseerabad, Duki and Lasbella areas. Army and FC free medical camps were also established in affected areas affording free treatment and medicines. "All out efforts are being made to restore communication infrastructure at earliest. Beside free inter and intra district links, Road Zhob-D I Khan has also been restored," it said. In Punjab, Army troops were carrying out relief activities and providing medical care to affected population in Vehari, Rajan Pur and Dera Ghazi Khan, the Inter Services Public Relations press release said. - APP

## Week-long anti-polio campaign kicks off

RAWALPINDI: A week-long anti-polio campaign kicked off in the district on Monday to cover more than 948,000 children below five. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Health Authority Dr Ansar Ishaq informed that around 4,465 polio teams, including 856 area inmates and 242 medical officers, were administering the vaccine while visiting door to door. In addition, the immunization was also being carried out at 321 fixed centres. The CEO further informed that children from outside districts were also being vaccinated at 182 transit points so that no child could be missed from immunization. Dr Ansar said that standard operating procedures (SOPs) regarding COVID-19 were being followed to ensure the safety of polio teams during the drive. In charge of the anti-polio drive, Ch Hussain told APP that over 240,000 children had administered the polio vaccine on the first day while the set target of the campaign would be achieved by August 28. - APP

# Pak- Iran trade exhibition from August 24-26

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as two friendly and neighboring countries, have made the promotion of economic relations by facilitating the access of businessmen and economic activists to each other's market; as one of their important priorities, and to achieve the aforementioned goal, to take measures step by step. While the world is facing

economic problems such as the increase in global energy prices and interference in the supply and transit system of goods. Such situation further highlights the need of solidarity among the countries particularly of the neighboring countries due to easy and economical access to each other's goods and services markets. Therefore with the aim of interacting and to get familiar with the economic activists, companies and businessmen of the two countries with each other's capacities and capabilities, the first

specialized exhibition of Iranian goods will be held in Islamabad from August 24 to 26 at Pak-China friendship Center, Islamabad. This exhibition will be held by focusing on the needs of the markets of the two countries and with the presence of large Iranian companies and emphasizing on the introduction of high-quality products



- in the following fields:
- 1- LPG, petrochemical industries, and engine oil
  - 2- Polymer industries and plastic products
  - 3- New technologies in the field of telecommunications and smart technologies and simulation systems and nanotechnology.
  - 4- Pharmaceutical industries and medical and hospital instruments, chemicals and agricultural fertilizers
  - 5- Dairy industries
  - 6- Food and dried fruit industries
  - 7- Electric cars, electronic

tools and Cars' batteries, micro capacitors and filters

- 8- Mining and construction machines and industrial furnaces
- 9- Carpets and rugs and flooring

The exhibition to provide great opportunity to the traders and those active in the economic field and all the interested people, knowledge-based, IT and food industries-are hereby invited to participate in the exhibition so an effective step could taken towards a profitable and reliable business.

## Briefs

## Nationwide anti-polio campaign starts

ISLAMABAD: A week-long national anti-polio campaign started across the country on Monday (today) to vaccinate millions of children under the age of five years. To a private news channel, National Coordinator of the Polio Eradication Programme Dr Shehzad Baig said that no child under the age of five years would not be left without administering the polio vaccine during the campaign. A comprehensive awareness campaign through media had already been started throughout the country and strict action will be taken against the officers who show negligence during the drive, he said. In Punjab, twenty-two million children under five years of age will be administered anti-polio vaccines during the campaign. According to Health Department Sindh, nine million children will receive anti-polio drops in the province during the week-long campaign. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, about seven point two million children will be administered anti-polio drops. More than twenty-five thousand polio teams will participate in this campaign. - APP

## PR planning to upgrade five Railway Stations

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways was planning to upgrade five major Railway stations across the country on modern lines to help not only facilitate the passengers but also help the department to generate more revenue. "The purpose to upgrade the railway stations is to make them commercial hubs for business activities and facilitate the passengers," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. He said that all the five major railway stations including Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Peshawar and Quetta. He said the decision was taken on the direction of Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique. The official said the government was taking several steps to improve the performance of Pakistan Railways and would provide maximum facilities to the masses. To a question, he said the Railway infrastructure in Balochistan was being maintained as per available resources in order to provide safe and secure travel to the passengers. The official said that railway track in Balochistan was consisted of Sibi-Quetta-Chaman, Spezand-Taftan and Sibi-Hurnai and some portion of Jacobabad-Sibi Section. He said that improvement of passengers' amenities has been carried out by providing washrooms, drinking water and renovation of waiting rooms at various station buildings. Regarding the Sama Satta-Amruka section, he said that the contract for the rehabilitation of the track had been awarded to the Frontier Works Organization (FWO) which was signed in March 2021. He said that the total cost of the contract for the rehabilitation of the track between Sama Satta-Bahawalnagar was Rs7,735 million. - APP

## IRSA releases 454,699 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 454,699 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 480,429 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1,550 feet, which was 102 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded 257,800 cusecs and outflow 257,800 cusecs. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1177.15 feet, which was 127.15 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 35,730 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded 2,64,463 - 535, 318 and 417,925 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 98,800 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 63,499 cusecs was released from River Chenab at Marala. - APP

## Commissioner ICT assures help for industrial project

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry led by its President Muhammad Shakeel Munir called on Capt. (Retd) Muhammad Usman in his office and congratulated him on his appointment as Chief Commissioner Islamabad. Jamshaid Akhter Sheikh Senior Vice President, Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI, Khalid Iqbal Malik Chairman Founder Group, Tariq Sadiq, Zafar Bakhtawari, Fasiullah Khan, Akhtar Hussain, Omais Khattak, Usman Khalid, Zia A Zikria, Mian Waqas Masud, Khalid Chaudhry, Raja Abdul Majeed and others were in the delegation. Addressing the delegation, Capt. (Retd) Muhammad Usman, Chief Commissioner, Islamabad said that the business community was playing an important role in the economic development of the country and assured that he would play role to resolve their key issues. He lauded the efforts of ICCI for the establishment of a new industrial estate in the region and assured that he would provide all possible help to ICCI for the materialization of this important project.



He further said that he was interested in promoting Pakistan's national game hockey by developing an AstroTurf ground in the Capital and said that the business community should support him in such efforts. He assured that all highlighted issues of the business community would be given due consideration for redress. Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry highlighted the key issues of the business community that needed close attention of the ICT Administration. He said that ICCI was making ef-

forts since long for the establishment of a new industrial estate in this region to boost industrialization and stressed that ICT Administration and CDA should fully support ICCI in realization of this important project. He also briefed him about the CDA related issues including lease renewal issue of industries, parking issue in markets, expediting work on IJP road and hoped that he would take necessary measures to address them. He assured that the business community would fully support the Chief Commissioner ICT in efforts promoting hockey support in the federal capital as it was our

national game. He said that for this purpose, a ground in Islamabad should be allocated to ICCI to promote sports activities. Jamshaid Akhter Sheikh Senior Vice President, Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI, Khalid Iqbal Malik Chairman Founder Group, Tariq Sadiq, Zafar Bakhtawari and others also spoke at the occasion and congratulated Capt. (Retd) Muhammad Usman on his appointment as Chief Commissioner Islamabad. They also highlighted the key issues of the business community that needed the attention of ICT Administration and CDA for redress.

## KSRelief dispatches more relief goods for Pakistan

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) has dispatched 100 more emergency relief trucks carrying 950 tons of essential food items to the flood-hit areas of Pakistan to meet the needs of affected people. According to a Saudi Embassy news release on Monday, some 10,000 food packages would help over 70,000 flood-affected people living in 17 districts in all the provinces of Pakistan. Each

food package contained 95 kilograms essential food items, including 80kg flour, cooking oil of 5 liters, 5kg sugar, and 5kg of Daal Chana, which is sufficient for the family for the whole month, the news release said.

The food bags would be distributed in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and local government. Speaking on the occasion, Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki said both the countries enjoyed close relations. The kingdom, he said, had always stood by Pakistan in every

difficult time, especially in disasters. NDMA Chairman Lieutenant General Akhtar Nawaz thanked the Saudi ambassador, KSRIEF director and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their generous and timely support for the flood victims. KSRelief has already distributed 5,000 food packages among the flood-affected people in Balochistan. This project comes under the umbrella of humanitarian projects by the KSA, represented by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center to assist affected families living in Pakistan.

## Bidding for motorboat engines kicks off

ISLAMABAD: Gwadar fishermen are going to be recipients of free of cost 2,000 motorboat engines as formal process of bidding kicked off in the supervision of Gwadar Port Authority (GPA). GPA has floated tenders seeking participation of relevant firms to ensure provision of quality motorboat engines to poor fishermen under salient package announced by the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahbaz Sharif in the last week of June.

Gwadar Pro quoting GPA official stated on Monday that these motorboat engines are for small boats and the last date for submission of all documents is set on September 5. On a query he said that an important condition has been laid down for all firms that at least for two years, they will be legally obligated to provide free repair service to faulty engines. The bidding procedure is in line with PEPRA GPA Chairman Naseer Kashani said that the entire process of purchasing 2,000 motorboat engines for fishermen will be made administratively and financially transparent to make sure high standard of public service delivery in a befitting manner. - DNA

## Diabetes' centre conducts free screening camp

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Diabetes' Centre Islamabad, Pakistan's first and largest Hospital battling Diabetes conducted a free screening camp at the Election Commission of Pakistan here today. It's an inherent part of The Diabetes' Centre (TDC) mission statement to educate and raise awareness among general public about the fatal trickle down affect of Diabetes on major organs such as heart, kidneys, eyes and limbs. Today's camp at ECP was aligned in line with this spirit wherein employees were screened and have had a free medical check from top notch Diabetologist of TDC Director Asif Ali Yasin and Assistant Director Hamad Badal of ECP extending their cooperation in conducting today's camp. ECP's management later lauded TDC's efforts in raising Diabetes awareness and educating general masses.

## Sarmad Khoosat re-releases Sitcom 'Shashlik'

ISLAMABAD: Sarmad Sultan khoosat famed as Cheeku of Shashlik recently surprised his fans with the announcement of re-releasing one of the classic comedies of old time. Starring Nadia Afgan as Mishi, Sarmad Khoosat as Cheeku, Fatima Ahmed Khan as Kumno, Mandana Zaidi as Munn, Wajeeha Tahir as Chinni and Nasreen Qureshi as Phuppo, Shashlik rose to fame due to its unique comedy style which was a combination of music, laughter and dance. Aired on PTV in late 1990s and early 2000 era, 'Shashlik' made its audience connect for more than 3 years. Even today the sitcom is among few of super hit comedy shows which are considered as the epitome of actual humor loaded with satire, parodies and on-spot music, worthy to be watched again and again. In order to reminisce the golden childhood era of many, actor, writer and director Sarmad Khoosat decided to release the comedy show again via social media platforms. "On popular demand, we are re-releasing 2002's hit comedy series, Shashlik; the iconic Y2K sitcom that weaved song and dance sequences into its storyline and became a genre-breaking sensation of its time. The first 5 episodes are out now on our YouTube channel and Facebook page. New episodes will be released in sets of 5 every Saturday at 8:00 pm", stated Zindagi Tamasha's director via official Facebook page of Khoosat Films.

Since the episodes were aired again, fans who loved seeing the throwbacks of their favorite show flooded the comment box with admiration. "Childhood memories, loved this show to the core of my heart," shared a fan with a lovely statement. "Reviving the childhood good old days, thanks for uploading the episodes Sarmad," thanked another fan. "OMG, I was so craved to see it again and tried my best to get the episodes but no success... Thanks a lot for bringing it back," commended a fan while sharing the happiness to find the sitcom back again. - APP

## UBG holds core committee meeting

The visit of his schedule would be soon finalised with the consent of the senior members of UBG

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 5th Meeting of the core Committee of United Business Group (UBG) was held at Karachi which was presided over by S M Muneer Patron Inchief Of UBG. The meeting was attended by leaders and large number of members across Pakistan. The prominent included Shazad Ali Malik Chairman, President Zubair Tufail, General Secretary Zafer Bakhtawari, Riaz Uddin Sheikh Chairman UBG Sialkot, Khalid Tabab Chairman Sindh Region, Ghazanfer Bilour Chairman KPK Region, Ms Samina Fazil Chairperson Women Committee, Hanif Gohar, Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Abdul Haseeb Khan, Mazher ALI Nasir, ZAHID Hussain, Salman ASLAM, Nasiruddin Sheikh, Naheed Masood, Haji Afzal, Syed Pir Nazim Shah, ALI Hassam Asghar, Maryam Chaudhary, Farzana Burni, Saeeda Bano, Arshad Farooq, Gulzar Feroz, Farqan Abdul Qadir, Aslam Pakhali, Humayun Laiq, Rizwana, Rizwan Jaffarani, Hafiz Bilal, Ikram Rajput, Muslim Mohammadi, Noor Ahmed Khan, Shakeel Dingra, Farhan, Obaid Qadri, Momin ALI Malik, Malik Khuda Bux, Nadeem Kashtiwala, Shaheen Sarwana, Shahab Ahmed, Nadeem Mahboob Magoon, Zubair Chayya. The members of UBG congratulated Shahzad ALI Malik on being nominated as Chairman of UBG who expressed his determination that he would not spare any effort to come upto expectations of the UBG members who have expressed their great confidence on him. According to central spokesperson UBG Gulzarferoz Malik further said that he would personally visit all trade bodies across Pakistan twice - first immediately after the election of the trade bodies and follow up visit in the month of end November or early December. The visit of his schedule would be soon finalised with the consent of the senior members of UBG, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Canadian high commissioner, Wendy Gilmour, German Ambassador-Designate, Alfred Grannas, Special Assistant for Information K-P Barrister Saif and other posing for a group photo during 1st Annual Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Women Conference. - DNA

## Pakistan earns US \$809m by exporting transport services

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan earned US \$809.740 million by providing different transport services in various countries during the twelve months of fiscal year (2021-22) as compared to the corresponding period last year. This shows growth of 48.84 percent as compared to US \$544.040 million earned through provision of services during the corresponding period of last fiscal year

(2020-21), Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. During the period under review, the exports of sea transport services witnessed an increase of 53.57 percent, by going up from US \$ 81.760 million last year to US \$ 125.560 million during the period under review. Among the sea transport services, the exports of freight services surge by 137.28 percent from US \$34.170 million

last year to US \$81.080 million whereas the exports of other sea transport services however decreased by 6.53 percent from US \$47.590 million to US \$44.480 million during the period under review, the PBS data revealed. The exports of air transport services increased by 51.79 percent by going up from US \$ 435.480 million last year to US \$661.010 million during July-June (2021-22). - APP

## Graduation ceremony at Pak-Turk Maarif Schools &amp; Colleges

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pak-Turk Maarif International Schools and Colleges, Chak Shahzad Boys Campus Islamabad has organized an incredible event of "Graduation Ceremony" of its student who has successfully completed the academic career till intermediate (HSSC & A-Levels). The event has been hosted by the Campus Director Mr. Fazl Piskil and the Principal of Chak Shahzad Campus Mr. Jawad Hasan. The Graduation Ceremony has begun with the recitation of Holy Quran and the welcome speech by the Turkish Maarif Foundation, Country Representative Mr. Harun Kucukaladagli, by thanking the honorable guests from Türkiye and Pakistan for joining in this historic event. The event has been delighted with the presence of Prof. Dr. Mehmet Paçac as Türkiye's New Ambassador to Pakistan, TMF Member Board of Trustees-Ms. TugbalskErcan, Mr. Prof. Dr. Shamsul Qamar Incharge Academics COMSAT University, and Mr. Muhammad Rafique Tahir (Senior Advisor- SSP) Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad.

Mr. Harun Kucukaladagli has praised wishes to the graduating student for their success in intermediate exam and for their future endeavors. He has also highlighted the importance of education for both nations and the great contribution of Pak-Turk Maarif International Schools & Colleges in the field of education and literacy development. He also elaborates that Pak-Turk Maarif International Schools and Colleges is operating under the umbrella of the Turkish Maarif Foundation, which is a Turkish State-Owned, Non-Profit Educational Entity, recently confirmed its legal status in Pakistan as Turkish State Organization, through an intergovernmental agreement signed between both governments on January 13, 2021. He also conveyed to audience that TMF is facilitating to more than 50,000 students enrolled in 429 schools located in 49 countries worldwide. In Pakistan as Pak-Turk Maarif International Schools and Colleges, TMF is providing state-of-the-art educational facilities



to more than 13000 students in 27 campuses situated in 10 different cities across Pakistan.

Mr. Harun has provided a brief to the event audience that this year 145 number of students has been graduating successfully from this campus. This year 40 number of students has been awarded with the scholarship and placed in the renowned international universities for their higher studies. He has highlighted that for two brotherly countries, Türkiye and Pakistan, Education holds a critical importance not only for their future through the new generation but also for bringing them closer. Our strategy and approach in academic development, targets highest possible quality and standard in our programs. To embed the philosophy of "Two Nations, One Future", Pak-Turk Maarif International Schools and Colleges provide inspirational, value integrated and progressive learning environment

to students who are also encouraged to participate in National & International Competitions and celebrate the accomplishment of the teachers for their efforts. In the last, He emphasized developing creative and critical thinking abilities among the students with the help of state-of-art technology for a brighter and better future for both nations. Ms. TugbalskErcan has also addressed the graduation ceremony event and praised the efforts of the students, teachers and the management of TMF for organizing this mesmerizing event. She has congratulated the successful students and their parent for their achievement and also the teachers who has devoted their effort to polish the skills of student through education and personality development. She also expressed that only with the educational development the future of both nations is in safe hands.

## PAF relief operation in full swing

ISLAMABAD: The relief and rescue operation by Pakistan Air Force (PAF) was in full swing in flood affected areas of Balochistan, Sindh and South Punjab. During the last 24 hours, PAF rescue teams have distributed 1,000 cooked food packets, 25 tons and 2,090 pounds of ration amongst the local populace in areas which have been badly hit by torrential rains spell and flash floods, a PAF news release said. Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu has directed the respective branches of PAF to employ maximum efforts towards relief and rescue operations. On the special instructions of the Air Chief, field medical camps of PAF were working day and night to provide all-out medical support to the flood affectees. - APP

## Covid is changing, so are vaccines

**C**OVID may be finally losing its sting after infecting 590 million people and claiming 6.4 million lives since January 2020. We may be at the tail-end of the global health crisis that stopped us in our tracks two years ago, and sent countries into lockdowns. For many, dealing with Covid seemed like an eternity, after the disease stole their loved ones, leaving them to grieve in silence after death struck its heavy hand through a deadly pathogen whose origins remain unclear, though the first case has been linked to a wet market in Wuhan. However, science came to the rescue, and researchers produced an array of vaccines at record-breaking speed - including the game-changing mRNA that was deployed to counter the spread of the deadly coronavirus. Since the winter of 2020, vaccines have brought cases and fatalities down to manageable levels and people are getting on and moving ahead with their lives. The 'crisis phase' has paved the way to a 'breakout era' from the coronavirus that disrupted and shattered the lives we once knew and often took for granted. Covid cases reached their peak led by the rampaging Omicron variant on January 19 this year with 4.07 million people falling sick. On Sunday, however, the figure has fallen to a benign 454,922. There's less strain on the health system that has risen to the task and has saved lives through treatment while rapidly putting vaccines into the arms of millions around the world. Healthcare professionals are better trained and equipped to deal with the coronavirus and its variants. In the UAE, cases have fallen below the 800 mark, with no deaths being reported on Monday. People are preparing for a post-Covid world and new beginnings. Many have gone on vacation after two years of living in fear as the disease stalked humanity and brought life to a standstill. First, there was fear, then fatigue. Today there's an air of familiarity when dealing with the disease which might not go away but could become less infectious and mild in the long term. Vaccine manufacturers understand this and are tweaking jabs to target specific variants like Omicron. But the good news is that Omicron and its sub-lineages are less fatal. Moderna's new vaccine targeting this variant has already been approved by the EU. In India, an intranasal vaccine has passed safety tests and could win approvals from health regulators soon. Such a vaccine could prove beneficial for people in low-income countries and can be administered easily as a booster. Researchers, meanwhile, are working on pan-coronavirus vaccines that target future variants. Science is helping us win the fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

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## Justice for Bilkis Bano

**A**S 11 rapists walk out of a jail in Godhra, India, with garlands around their necks and mouths stuffed with sweets, it is not just Bilkis Bano, a victim of the 2002 Gujarat riots, who has lost the battle for justice. Having lost as many as 14 dear ones, including a three-year-old daughter already, and forced to live through the horrors for years on end, she did not have much to lose, to begin with. But while her husband makes plans to relocate to some obscure location, fearing for their lives and safety, the 1.38 billion people believing themselves to be equal citizens of the Republic of India are the ones that have actually drawn the short straw. To be more exact, from now onwards, over 213 million Muslim living under the tri-colour flag better be braced for becoming a victim of partisan politics on any day of their star-crossed lives. The horrors of Bilkis's ordeal should have trembled her nation into ensuring no other daughter of the soil faces such unheard brutality. However, far from celebrating her perseverance as she moved police station to police station, starting from a measly lower court and not stopping before she was heard by the Supreme Court, her state twisted some arms and greased some palms to facilitate the remission of her wrong-doers. Ah! Politics, how many faces do you have? The hollowness of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to the well-being of women in his country, most recently in his Independence Day address, has well been exposed as his party spearheaded the decision in his home state, Gujarat. Either gang rape is no longer a heinous crime in India or Muslim women do not come under the gambit of the prime ministerial crusade. Doling out remission to convicted criminals defies logic and benefits neither society nor the victims. Such critical matters should not be dealt with in accordance with petty political gains. But then again, what would a common Muslim woman on the street mean to a group obsessed with cleansing their country of her entire faith?

## Why the Shanghai Cooperation Organization matters

Ishtiaq Ahmed



That Saudi Arabia and Qatar are set to become dialogue partners of the SCO is, therefore, an encouraging development. Bahrain will enter the club in over a year. It would be great if the UAE also joined the accession process

**E**STABLISHED in 2001 as a successor to the Shanghai Five, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is the largest regional grouping in Eurasia, covering around 40 percent of the world's population and 30 percent of global economic output. Owing to its impressive profile of security and economic cooperation, the SCO has gained enormous traction across Asia. No surprise that a number of countries from the Middle East and Southeast Asia are lining up to join as dialogue partners, observers and members. The SCO currently comprises eight member states (China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), four observer states (Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia) and six dialogue partners (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Turkey). In the annual summit of the SCO's heads of state in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on Sept. 15-16, Iran will gain full membership of the organization, while Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Egypt will become dialogue partners. Moreover, Belarus will begin the process of acquiring

membership; Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia and Nepal will become observers; and Bahrain and the Maldives will start the process of joining as dialogue partners. The UAE reportedly wants to join the SCO as a member, bypassing other accession conditions. Syria, Iraq, Israel, Bangladesh and Vietnam also hope to join as dialogue partners or observers. Since its inception, the SCO has forged close ties with several international institutions and regional organizations, including the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Asian Development Bank, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and the Collective Security Treaty Organization. A memorandum of understanding between the SCO Secretariat and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States was also concluded during last year's SCO summit in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The SCO was initially branded by the US as a hostile bloc, led by China and Russia to challenge its post-cold war global supremacy. Quite the contrary, its evolution conforms to the familiar pattern of "new regionalism" in the developing world, which has produced viable regional organizations, such as the Gulf Cooperation Council and ASEAN. All are intergovernmental organizations with similar structures, defying the supranational mode of integration in the EU. The SCO also shares significant similarities with the GCC and ASEAN in terms of its origin and evolution. It was created to combat the three evils of terrorism, extremism and separatism. The GCC and ASEAN also came into being to address the security threat from Iran and communism, respectively. While regional security remains a common concern for both organizations, their real success lies in economic integration: GCC's common market versus ASEAN's economic community. However, the SCO's comparative distinction arises from its rapid progress in forging close security and economic collaboration. The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure is its key institution to counter the three evils. Security cooperation is reinforced by military exercises, dubbed as peace missions, and counterterrorism drills held periodically in the member states. It has produced tangible outcomes in combating terrorism, in particular. The SCO's economic value arises from the fact that it is led by China, the global economic powerhouse, and includes Russia and India as major international players, as well as the states of Central Asia and the Caucasus, which have largely untapped resources of oil and natural gas. Although the SCO has yet to establish a free trade zone, it has made significant gains in expanding intraregional trade and investment, and regional share in global trade. China dominates SCO's trade and investment activities. Recent reports estimate that its trade with other member states expanded 20 times from 2001 to 2020, reaching \$245 billion in 2020, up from \$12 billion in 2001. Until last year, China had invested \$85 billion and contracted additional

development projects worth \$280 billion in other member states. The total trade volume of SCO member states also increased from \$668.09 billion in 2001 to \$6.06 trillion in 2020; and the share in global trade rose from 5.4 percent in 2001 to 17.5 percent in 2020. China and Russia do have competitive interests in the SCO, including trade and development versus energy and security, respectively. But their overarching goal is to create the Greater Eurasian Partnership by synergizing SCO's developmental activities with multilateral integration projects in Eurasia, including China's Silk Road Economic Belt and Russia's Eurasian Economic Union. This strategic mission of the SCO makes it the best option for the GCC as it seeks to diversify geo-economic linkages in Asia without jeopardizing geopolitical partnership with the US. These two paths are not at cross-purposes, as one ensures economic prosperity and the other provides security guarantee. There are other reasons, too. So far, the Gulf nations have sought bilateral free trade agreements with China, India and Pakistan, but with limited success. Their relations with the states of Central Asia and the Caucasus, despite the commonality of hydrocarbon riches, are still minimal. With ASEAN as well, successive rounds of ministerial meetings have failed to deepen trade and economic relations. That Saudi Arabia and Qatar are set to become dialogue partners of the SCO is, therefore, an encouraging development. Bahrain will enter the club in over a year. It would be great if the UAE also joined the accession process. Together with Egypt, Turkey and other Middle Eastern aspirants of SCO partnership, the oil-rich Gulf nations have the wherewithal to act as a catalyst in Eurasian regionalism, along with China, Russia and resourceful Central Asian and Caucasus members. Saudi Arabia can use its formidable economic clout to shape SCO's progressive agenda in its own way. That is why they do not need to worry about Iran, as it gets ready to join such a large regional organization as a full member for the first time since 1979. After all, arch-rivals India and Pakistan have been members of the SCO since 2017, without causing any trouble in its institutional efficacy. The GCC members are, no doubt, late entrants in this pivotal regional body. But better late than never. In fact, as China's largest trading partner and recipient of the bulk of Chinese investments under the Belt and Road Initiative, Saudi Arabia can use its formidable economic clout to shape SCO's progressive agenda in its own way. In this regard, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who has been invited to participate in the Samarkand summit, can play a pivotal part by sharing the Kingdom's exceptional expertise in renewable energy with the SCO. This is one arena it has achieved the least.

## The miraculous transformation of a Pakistani youth

Chen Zhihang

How time flies. When Wang left Pakistan due to personal reasons in 2019, Shahid became the chef naturally, and his dishes, which combine the characteristics of Pakistani and Chinese food, are universally loved by his colleagues and the guests. Thanks to the excellent performance...

**T**HE influence of CPEC is dramatic, either economically or socially. As a member of this grand initiative, I benefit a lot and I don't have to worry about my future anymore. Shahid Karim comes from Gojal, a small town that is half an hour's drive from Hunza and 3.5 hours from Khunjerab, the border with China. Ineloquent and physically strong is the first impression he made to every new friend. Tales about Pak-China friendship have been familiar to him since his childhood. The story of the Karakoram Highway, for instance, is still being told today. It took 13 years for the constructors to complete the "road of friendship" and connect China's Xinjiang and the north of Pakistan for the first time in human history. Today, in the border town of Gilgit, the gravestones of 88 Chinese engineers mark the enduring friendship between the two countries. Like most people around him, Shahid left home for work at a pretty young age. After crossing over the rugged Karakoram Highway, cities with fascinated lights came into his eyes. He was so excited that he couldn't wait to embrace what was to come. After Islamabad, Faisalabad, Multan and Sukkur, the bus finally arrived at its desired destination - Karachi, Pakistan's largest city. In contrast to his initial excitement, he was soon in distress. Lacking education and skills, he was forced to work as a Coolie/labor in a fabric factory on the outskirts of the city. Five hundred rupees a day, a dormitory of five, no air conditioning - these are the details he still vividly recalls. Before long, he moved to a fishery. And so he stayed for 10 years. During this period, a tragedy took place in his hometown. A flash flood destroyed his village in 2010, all of his land was buried by a barrier lake formed after that. But there's always hope in the midst of sadness—his family were all safe and sound. In 2013, he set up a chicken shop with a friend, using 66,000 rupees he had saved from years of working. Business was good until his partner took the money and ran away one night, never to be heard from again. Life setbacks, natural disaster, the betrayal of friend..... he never stood up after such failures and once lost his hope for the future. After the bankruptcy, he was introduced to an office of a Chinese company in Islamabad, where he worked as an assistant to Mr. Wang, a Chinese chef. Unlike other helpers, he always stood at the stove in his spare time to observe how to cook dishes. Eventually, his hard-working, studious character won over the Chinese chef. So Wang decided to teach him how to make Chinese food. From chopping to stir-frying, he taught him patiently step-by-step. How time flies. When Wang left Pakistan due to personal reasons in 2019, Shahid became the chef naturally, and his dishes, which combine the characteristics of Pakistani and Chinese food, are universally loved by his colleagues and the guests. Thanks to the excellent performance, his salary has increased more than fivefold from 15,000 rupees when he first joined the company. In 2021, he used the savings to rebuild a two-story house in his hometown and supported his wife to pursue a master's degree at Allama Iqbal Open University. Speaking of his future plans, he confidently said, "I have gained more than salary during my years in the Chinese company. More importantly, I learned a lot about cooking, reception etiquette and truly hold my destiny in my hands. What makes me most proud of is that no matter where I go in the future, I don't have to worry about my job. There is an old saying in China: It is better to teach a man how to fish than to give him fish. Now I understood the true meaning of this sentence. I would like to thank the Chinese company for providing me with the opportunity, and thank my Chinese colleagues for their help and support. Long live Pak-China friendship!"

— The author, from China, is studying in Pakistan.

## The concept of protocol in Pakistan – Negative consequences

Ch. Muhammad Latif

Unfortunately, Pakistan being a part of British colony inherited the ruling system devised for a colony and not for an independent and democratic country. But as dominant part of our elite was the creation of colonial rule, they had psyche of liking for colonial rule showing status-mindedness

**T**HE concept of protocol in Pakistan is a legacy of colonial British rule, who had devised a system of divide and rule for their colonies. They created tiers of jagirdar, zaildar, numberdar and chaukidar. In states there were Mahrajars, Ameer, Nawabs, Sardars, and Chiefs of tribes. Theoretically there were two systems of governance in the world, in addition to a separate colonial rule. One system is followed by the British and their previous colonies. The other system is practiced by the United States, China, Russia, South Korea etc. The British system cherished status-minded system with special prestigious epithets and designations like Prime Minister, Ministers, Chiefs, Generals, Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and Ambassadors etc. The second system is business-oriented with designations as secretary of the state, Managers, Executives, with least protocol except security objectives.

The British rulers had conspicuously different designations for their colonies, emphasizing status-mindedness. It is surprising that they had even a list of "KursiNasheen" in their entire Indian Sub-continent enrolled as such by respective Deputy Commissioners. A kursi could only be offered in Government offices or in meeting with gentlemen, to persons registered as "KursiNasheen" by the relevant Deputy Commissioner. The situation of the civil administration in the USA stands explained by one Mr. Ahmed Raza Qureshi from Texas, USA, living there since 2001 as under: "They do not follow much formal protocol. Very casual I have never seen any flag car, never seen any traffic stop due to any VIP. Never seen any number plate which says it is an official. Government servants in Pakistan enjoy more perks than US officials". So far as the administration in United Kingdom is concerned one Mr. Abdul Hafeez Suharwardy from Birmingham, living there since 1980, younger brother of the first and last local Chief Secretary of AJK Abdul Haq Suharwardy, has described as follows: "Here no DC/AC/Mall officer, Tehsildar, Patwari etc. City is run by Council. Council members are elected every five years. Council is headed by Mayor who is also elected. Only Mayor's car has flag and can have use of it in official duty". Unfortunately, Pakistan being a part of British colony inherited the ruling system devised for a colony and not for an independent and democratic country. But as the dominant part of our elite was the creation of colonial rule, they had the psyche of liking for the colonial rule showing status-mindedness. As in recent past when in Murree, there was a catastrophic mishap. The then Chief Minister Punjab announced that there should be a Deputy Commissioner for Murree whereas it was the hopeless failure of Deputy Commissioner of Rawalpindi who could have reached the scene within an hour and with ample resources but it was the duty of PWD. In Pakistan in the first phase the institution of Deputy Commissioner was occupied by the officers of CSP class, vested with special status and too much influence in government administration. So one Prime Minister abolished the CSP class and rendered it as a District Management Group. We can compare the merit, status and perks of Assistant Commissioner B-17 and a Civil Medical Officer B-17.

In fact, respect and honor does not depend upon protocol. It needs other merits of high caliber and qualities of character. How personalities become popular, there are few examples. In 1965 war, the Pakistanis were so emotionally united that they would shower crates of fruits to passing by Army vehicles. As Iftikhar Abad war front was very vital so there were "langars" in Gujrat arranged by Chaudhry Zahoor Ellahi, Nawabzada family of Gujrat and Khan Mulk of village Ajnala. Raja Muhammad Afzal of Jhelum donated everything to war fund. Once I had the opportunity to accompany Ch. Zahoor Ellahi from 41-C Gulberg Lahore to district courts. The then government had registered fake and frivolous cases against Ch. Zahoor Ellahi and one similar case was fixed in the court of Ch. Muhammad Zara Magistrate. Ch. Zahoor Ellahi stayed in district court and sent me to the said Magistrate to tell him he should not extend any courtesy or protocol to him as he would face difficulties. The then Governor Ameer Muhammad Khan was famous for his charity and generosity. In his area all disabled and insane persons were served free meals in all hotels in his area and their bills were paid by the Nawab House. After his release from Kohlaw jail, Balochistan, Ch. Zahoor Ellahi became Federal Minister. I went to congratulate him at his residence at Peshawar road Rawalpindi. It was breakfast time and I was invited to upstairs to join breakfast where two delegations of overseas Sikh leaders and Chiefs from Balochistan, who were there to congratulate Minister on his release and elevation as Federal Minister. He donated his house in Rawalpindi to homeless VIP and shifted himself to Islamabad. In this background, on the occasion of death of Ch. Zahoor Ellahi, the BBC, in its Urdu service broadcast his biography and declared that the most generous and champion of charity in Pakistan has died. So the political and non-political personalities should realize that greatness does not lie in protocol which cast heavily to the nation, rather it is achieved by qualities of character.

— The writer of the article is former Additional Chief Secretary of AJK

## Briefs

## Imran to face contempt proceedings

FROM PAGE 01  
Nawaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz, Asif Ali Zardari, Fazlur Rehman and Khawaja Asif made stronger statements as compared to Shahbaz Gill. Imran claimed that he can be mentally broken then anyone can, adding that a private channel was shut down to throttle freedom of speech, adding that by shutting down the private channel, fear has been spread among other channels.

"If we bow our heads to the idol of fear, we will be left with the sole option of slavery," the PTI chairman said. Imran further said that in his 26-year political career, he is seeing such an enlightened nation for the first time. The former prime minister said that the sleeping nation has woken up for the first time.

The former prime minister said, "Although we got independence from Britain, today thieves have been imposed on us through foreign conspiracy." Imran further said that on May 25, police and rangers fired tear-gas shells during a peaceful protest. Challenging the coalition government, Imran Khan said that whatever the government does, it will not stop the masses, because people want freedom. The former premier claimed that tactics have been used to intimidate social media activists.

## ‘Terrorism case proves rule of...’

FROM PAGE 01  
rule of law in the country was a big factor behind reluctance of overseas Pakistanis and foreigners in investing in Pakistan, he added and cited examples of encroachments on properties of expats. He said the overseas Pakistanis had so much money which was more than the total debt of the country.

Ex-PM said the real potential of people would never unleash unless they were provided basic facilities. He cited the example of PTI leader Shahbaz Gill and defined how he was 'kidnapped' and tortured after stripped naked. Imran Khan said he did not understand what Gill had actually said and defended Gill's statement by saying the court in Asghar Khan had said the same. He added that people who tortured Gill did not fear consequences. PTI chairman said that the police refuted that it was behind the torture, asking who were the people who did it. Whoever they were, they considered themselves above the country's law; he added.

## England schedule for Pakistan tour confirmed

England, who is returning to Pakistan after 17 years, will play first Test in Rawalpindi from December 1 to 5. Multan will host second Test from December 9-13

LAHORE: England's schedule for three Test matches in Pakistan in December has been confirmed. Captain Ben Stokes' side will play Tests in Rawalpindi, Multan and Karachi in the second part of England's first tour of the country since 2005.

England and Wales Cricket Board interim chief executive Clare Connor said it would be "an historic occasion". The tour's first leg will see England's men play seven Twenty20s in Pakistan from 20 September to 2 October. "The opportunity to play Test cricket in front of passionate cricket lovers in Pakistan after such a long time is something to be cherished," added Connor. "We have been working closely with the PCB (Pakistan Cricket Board) over recent months and I am grateful to them for everything they have done, and continue to do, to make our Test and T20 tours a mouth-watering prospect for all involved."

England's men's and women's teams were withdrawn from playing white-ball games in Pakistan last year. "We are pleased that Pakistan and England Test rivalry, which has historically produced close and tight matches, will return to our backyards in December," said PCB director of international cricket Zakir Khan.

"Both the sides have evolved since they last played in Pakistan in 2005 and recently been playing entertaining cricket. I am confident this series will live up to the expectations of the global cricket fans who want to watch and enjoy competitive and thrilling matches."

No international cricket was played in Pakistan for six years following an attack on the Sri Lanka team by gunmen in 2009, with Pakistan holding the majority of their home matches in the United Arab Emirates.

Touring teams began to return in 2015 and Pakistan hosted their first home men's Test for 12 years when Sri Lanka travelled in 2019. Pakistan toured England in both 2020 and 2021, amid the coronavirus pandemic. In 2020

in particular, Pakistan agreed to strict bio-secure conditions in order to play in the UK.

England, who is returning to Pakistan after 17 years, will play first Test in Rawalpindi from December 1 to 5.

Multan will host second Test from December 9-13 whereas Karachi to host last Test from December 17-21. Multan last hosted West Indies for a Test match back in 2006. The city also hosted England in a Test match back in 2005.

The English side will first come to Karachi and Lahore to play seven T20Is. Karachi will host four from September 20-25 whereas Lahore set to host remaining three T20I matches from September 28 to October 2.

## Schedule of Tests:

1-5 December – 1st Test, Rawalpindi  
9-13 December – 2nd Test, Multan  
17-21 December – 3rd Test, Karachi

## Schedule of T20Is:

20 September – 1st T20I, Karachi  
22 September – 2nd T20I, Karachi  
23 September – 3rd T20I, Karachi  
25 September – 4th T20I, Karachi  
28 September – 5th T20I, Lahore  
30 September – 6th T20I, Lahore  
2 October – 7th T20I, Lahore

## Caroline Garcia and Borna Coric claim historic wins

NEW YORK: France's Caroline Garcia and Croatia's Borna Coric both created history as they claimed victories in the Western and Southern Open in Cincinnati. Garcia, 28, became the first woman to win the men's final, and Coric, 28, became the first man to win the women's final.

est-ranked player in the world.

France's Caroline Garcia and Croatia's Borna Coric both created history as they claimed victories in the Western and Southern Open in Cincinnati. Garcia, 28, became the first woman to win the men's final, and Coric, 28, became the first man to win the women's final.

burg in 1996. Coric has been as high as 12th in the ATP rankings but was absent for a year with a shoulder injury and only returned to the circuit in March. He beat British number one Cameron Norrie in Saturday's semi-final after earlier dispatching Rafael and Felix Auger-Aliassime. Garcia's win saw her claim the record was then-world number 143 Roberto Carretero of Spain, who won in Ham-

es in getting through Maria Sakka-ri, Aryna Sabalenka Pegula, before another superb performance against Czech two-time Wimbledon champion qualifier had won a WTA 1000 title since the tier was created in 2009. Garcia, who leads in aces and is second in break points saved, played to her strengths to triumph in one minutes. She served 11 aces and saved all eight break points she faced for her third after earlier successes on clay in Warsaw and on grass in Bad Homburg. Garcia's record total this year is bettered only by Iga Swiatek (50), Simona Halep (39) and Ons Jabeur

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## Fury v Usyk unification fight 'will be made'

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: A "historic" heavyweight unification fight between Tyson Fury and Oleksandr Usyk "will be made", says the Briton's promoter Frank Warren. Ukrainian Usyk retained his WBA, WBO and IBF titles with a split-decision win over Anthony Joshua on Saturday. This month WBC champion Fury said he would stay retired. After Usyk's win he said he "would annihilate them - get your cheque book out". "He and Usyk would be a really good fight," Warren told BBC Radio 5 Live. "It's a fight that I think will be made because both teams would like to see that happen." Britain's Lennox Lewis was the last undisputed heavyweight champion after beating Evander Holyfield in 1999. Since 2007 the undisputed heavyweight championship has included the WBO title, and there has never been a fight where all four belts were on the line. Fury remains unbeaten after 33 fights. After extending his unbeaten record to 20-0, Usyk said: "If I'm not fighting Tyson Fury, I'm not fighting at all." Warren said: "Usyk said after the fight that it's the only fight he's interested in, and it's certainly the same case with Tyson. 'It's just a matter of where it will generate the most income because it's a unique fight, a historic fight."

## PM to pay two-day visit to Qatar

FROM PAGE 01

Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. This would be the Prime Minister's first visit to Qatar after assuming the office. The Prime Minister will be accompanied by a high level delegation including key members of the cabinet.

During the visit, Shehbaz Sharif will hold in-depth consultations with the Qatari leadership. The two sides will review the entire spectrum of bilateral relations with a particular focus on advancing energy related cooperation, deepening trade and investment ties and exploring greater employment opportunities for Pakistanis in Qatar. They will also exchange views on a range of regional and international issues of mutual interest. The Prime Minister will also engage with leading Qatari and Pakistani business leaders, investors and entrepreneurs.

He will visit Stadium 974 in Doha, where he would be briefed on the extensive preparations undertaken by Qatari government to host FIFA World Cup.

## 21 people killed in Somalian...

FROM PAGE 01

Somalia's prime minister pledged that the government will be held accountable over the deadly Mogadishu hotel siege by Al-Shabaab jihadists, whom he branded "children of hell". Hamza Abdi Barre also called on Somalis to unite against the Al-Qaeda-linked group, which has been waging a bloody insurgency in the impoverished Horn of Africa nation for more than 15 years.

"There will be accountability in the government... anyone who neglected the responsibility he was entrusted with will be held accountable," Barre told reporters late Sunday. He was speaking after visiting a hospital treating victims of the bomb and gun attack on the Hayat Hotel that the health ministry says claimed the lives of 21 people and wounded 117. Mohamed said the specialized security forces focused entirely on rescuing the people at the scene during the operations, noting that 106 people including women and children were rescued.

## Pak strongly condemns terrorist attack

FROM PAGE 01

people and government of Somalia and firmly stand with their efforts in fighting the menace of terrorism and ensuring the protection of their citizens.

## Senate Body on Interior deferred three bills

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Interior in its meeting held here Monday deferred three bills, including Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2022, Anti Rape (Amendment) Bill, 2022 and Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2022 for further deliberation. The meeting chaired by Senator Mohsin Aziz commenced with deliberations on the Bill titled "Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2022". State Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Shahadat Awan apprised the committee that the Bill is regarding forced disappearances and in the Bill it is stated that "If a complainant filed a petition against forced disappearance and if the petition found fake after some time then the petitioner will be awarded imprisonment for a term extending to five years. He added that this clause will hinder public to file petition against forced disappearances and there is vital need to revisit the few parts of the Bill. The Committee advised the Interior Ministry to remove ambiguity in the Bill and deferred the consideration of the Bill till the next meeting. Moreover, the Senate body discussed the Bill titled "Anti Rape (Amendment) Bill, 2022" introduced by Senator Mohsin Aziz. - APP

## Azerbaijan, Serbia possess great potential for co-op

BAKU: Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov has said that Azerbaijan and Serbia possess great potential to cooperate in transport and energy sectors, Azernews reports, citing the ministry. Khalafov made the remarks at an event dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and Serbia on August 22 in Baku. Addressing the event, Khalafov conveyed his sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and Serbia. The deputy minister emphasized the strategic cooperation that has grown over the last 25 years, noting that Serbia is one of the 12 European countries with which Azerbaijan has signed a contract on the development of strategic partnership relations.

While underlining the growing rela-

tions between the two countries in various spheres, including political, economic, humanitarian, trade, and infrastructure, Khalafov stated that there is huge potential for cooperation between Azerbaijan and Serbia in other fields, such as transport and energy. Speaking about Azerbaijan's peace and reconstruction efforts following the 44-day war that has brought up new regional realities, he stressed that cooperation with companies from friendly countries is especially encouraged in the restoration and reconstruction of the liberated territories. In response, Serbian ambassador to Azerbaijan Dragan Vladisavljevic stated that, while diplomatic relations between the two nations were established on August 21, 1997, the connection had a far longer history. In addition to bilateral collaboration, Vladisavljevic acknowledged

the presence of good cooperation on multilateral platforms between the two countries and stressed Azerbaijan and Serbia's cooperation in staging the Non-Aligned Movement's 60th-anniversary celebration in Belgrade in 2021. The ambassador extended his congratulations to the event participants and wished for the continued growth of friendship and partnership relations between the two nations. The event was attended by senior officials of the Foreign Ministry, members of the parliament, employees of the Serbian embassy in Azerbaijan, representatives of companies operating in the country, and other guests. At the conclusion of the program, attendees watched an exhibition commemorating the 25th anniversary of the diplomatic ties between Azerbaijan and Serbia. - DNA

## Move from Real Madrid 'not about money': Casemiro

LONDON: Casemiro said his impending move to Manchester United is not motivated by money as he bid an emotional farewell to Real Madrid on Monday. The Brazil midfielder, 30, said he is joining "the biggest team in the world" after a nine-year spell with Real. United have agreed to pay up to £70m to sign Casemiro on a four-year deal which would make him one of the top earners at the three-time European champions. "If it was about money I would have left four or five years ago," he said. "Those people who think that are wrong, they don't know me at all. 'The club has always treated me very well. It's my decision, my path.' After joining from Sao Paulo in 2013, Casemiro helped Real win the Champions League five times, plus La Liga three times and the Cope del Rey once. He started last season's Champions League final, as Real beat Liverpool to become European champions for the 14th time, and he made his 336th appearance for the Spanish giants as a substitute in last week's opening-day win at Almeria. "I spoke to my agent after the Champions League final as I had the feeling that I was coming to the end of my cycle here," said Casemiro. "It was the hardest decision of my life but I'm excited about what's ahead of me. I want to face new challenges, know a different league, a different country and a different culture. 'I'm going to the biggest team in the world, that can compete with the greatness of Real Madrid, although now it doesn't.' - DNA

## United Arab Emirates to send ambassador to Iran

The ministry said the move was in line with efforts to bolster bilateral ties with Iran "to achieve the common interests of the two countries and the wider region"

## AGENCIES

TEHRAN: More than six years after downgrading its diplomatic ties with Iran, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Sunday announced that its ambassador will resume his duties in Tehran "in the coming days." In a statement, the UAE Foreign Ministry said Ambassador Saif Mohammad Al Zaabi will be heading to Tehran in the coming days to assume the new diplomatic assignment.

The ministry said the move was in line with efforts to bolster bilateral ties with Iran "to achieve the common interests of the two countries and the wider region." The announcement comes exactly a week after Badr Abdullah Al-Manikh took over as the new ambassador of Kuwait to Iran. The new Kuwaiti envoy submitted his credentials to Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in Tehran on August 14. The two Arab countries downgraded their relations

with Iran and recalled their ambassadors following the storming of Saudi diplomatic missions in Iran in January 2016 in the wake of the execution of the prominent Shia cleric Nimr Al-Nimr in Saudi Arabia. In a statement at the time, the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry termed it a "flagrant breach of international conventions and violation of Iran's international commitment over security and safety of diplomatic missions on its land." The UAE Foreign Ministry, in

a separate statement, said the "exceptional step" was taken "in light of the continuous Iranian intervention in internal Gulf and Arab affairs and that has reached unprecedented levels in the recent period." The talks to restore full diplomatic ties with both UAE and Kuwait gained momentum last year after the new government led by Ebrahim Raisi was elected in Iran. In December 2021, four months after the new Iranian Cabinet was formed, UAE's national security

adviser Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan visited Tehran and held talks with top Iranian officials, including Raisi. During their meeting, Raisi told the visiting official that his government's priority was "improving ties with regional countries" while emphasizing bolstering the security of the Persian Gulf region. Anwar Gargash, diplomatic adviser to the UAE president, in a tweet at the time said Sheikh Tahnoon's visit to Tehran was part of "UAE's efforts to strength-

en bridges of communication and cooperation in the region which would serve the national interest." In May, Raisi also called for restoring Iran's relations with Kuwait to their "full capacities" in a phone call with Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Last month, Iran's top diplomat in a television interview announced that the two neighboring countries would be introducing their ambassadors to Tehran soon, culminating months of efforts from both sides.

## Briefs

## UK lawyers vote to strike over pay disputes

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Lawyers across the UK on Monday voted in favor of striking over pay raises and employment disputes with the government. The Criminal Bar Association made the announcement after its members voted overwhelmingly in favor of industrial action. Nearly 80% of barristers within the group supported the motion to launch an all-out strike next month after their demand for a 25% pay raise was not met by the government.

"The effect of the strike will be that the courts continue to sit empty with trials and cases not being heard. It is a last-resort action. Barristers have had to endure collapses in their income and cuts and underfunding so that their income has decreased over 28% since around 2006," Kirsty Brimelow, the group's vice chair, told the BBC Breakfast show. "The remedy is for an injection of money into the backlog of cases, which currently stands at 60,000 cases, that barristers are working on that will cost the government only £1.1 million (\$1.09 million) per month. Currently, it's costing much more for the courts to sit empty," Brimelow added. The barrister strike is set to begin on Sept. 5 and will result in a majority of trials in more than 70 crown courts across England and Wales being delayed, with others expected to close altogether.

## Tunisian president rejects US officials' criticisms

FOREIGN DESK

TUNIS: Recent critical statements by US officials on the situation in Tunisia are in no way acceptable, the nation's president said on Sunday while welcoming a US delegation to his official residence. Kais Saied made the remarks while receiving a US congressional delegation at the Carthage Palace in the capital Tunis in the presence of the US charge d'affaires in Tunisia – the top US diplomat in the North African country – a presidential statement said. Citing two centuries of Tunisian-US ties, Saied said recent declarations by US officials are not acceptable as Tunisia is an independent and sovereign state, and that the Tunisian people expressed their will in a July 25 referendum approving a new Constitution. Four days after the vote, Tunisia's Foreign Ministry said it summoned the US charge d'affaires to voice rejection of US statements degrading the referendum.



TASHKENT: Nilofar Bakhtiar Chairperson NCSW in a group photo with Tanzila Narbayeva Chairperson of the Senate of Uzbekistan and Saida Mirziyoyeva daughter of the President of Uzbekistan along with the heads of the delegations of SCO Women's Forum. – DNA

## Pak Embassy in Jakarta hosts seminar on tourism promotion

DNA

JAKARTA: The Embassy of Pakistan, Jakarta held a seminar on Tourism promotion in Pakistan at the Chancery today. The event was held in a hybrid format. Over sixty representatives of Indonesian travel agencies, the hospitality industry, and the media attended the event physically while the representative of TDAP, PTDC, and Pakistan Association of Tour Operation (PATO) attended virtually. From the Indonesian side, the speakers included Mr. Andik Susanto Billi, popularly known as Billi the Back packer, Mr. Havilah, and Ms. Innoy, a travel vlogger who had earlier visited Pakistan. Mr. Billi and other Indonesian speakers shared their experiences in Pakistan and highlighted the friendliness and hospitality of Pakistani people, Pakistani cuisine as well as natural beauty of Pakistan. While expressing their keen interest in exploring Pakistan, the Indonesian speakers agreed on the need to enhance mutual collaboration in the field of tourism. They appreciated the holding of the seminar by the Embassy and acknowledged that events like this would bring more aware-



ness amongst Indonesians about Pakistan's untapped tourism potential. From the Pakistan side, Ms. Bakhtawar, (TDAP), Ms. Saadia, PTDC, and Malik Azmat Awan, Vice President, PATO delivered their presentations. The Pakistani speakers gave detailed presentations on Pakistan covering the thriving tourism potential of the country. They informed the audience about the immense potential that Pakistan holds in almost all fields related to tourism including, adventure tourism, halal tourism, religious tourism, mountaineering etc. They also mentioned the various initiatives of the government of Pakistan to promote tourism. In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Muhammad Hassan highlighted the critical role of the tourism sector in the economy and appreciated the efforts of TDAP, PTDC, and PATO in tourism promotion. He talked about the unique aspects of Pakistan's tourism sector and various destinations. The Ambassador stated the Embassy was ready to extend all assistance to interested Indonesian tourists for their visit to Pakistan. The Embassy also distributed the guide book on the tourism potential of Pakistan among the participants. The participants were served traditional Pakistani and Indonesian cuisine at the end.

## 13 killed from lightning strikes in Yemen

MONITORING DESK

ADEN: A total of 13 people were killed and 21 others injured in a single day in Yemen from lightning strikes, local media reported Sunday. The Houthi-run Saba news agency reported that seven people died and eight others were injured as a result of lightning strikes in various parts of Hajjah province. The September Net website reported that six Yemeni women lost their lives and 13 others were injured when lightning struck during a funeral service in Amran province. On Aug. 12, the UN announced that 77 people were killed due to heavy rains and floods in Yemen.

## Finland's PM tests negative for drugs

WEB DESK

HELSINKI: Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin has tested negative for illegal drugs, according to a statement released by the Finnish government. Marin, 36, said she took a drugs test last Friday for her own legal protection, following pressure from the leader of a right-wing political opponent, after two videos emerged of her partying with friends earlier in August. Political opponents, and some Finnish media outlets, had thought one of the videos contained a reference to cocaine, although it turned out not to be the case. Marin will pay the cost of the test herself.

## 721,000 tons of grain exported from Ukraine

WEB DESK

ANKARA: Since the first ship left Ukraine under the Istanbul grain export deal, more than 721,000 tons of Ukrainian grain have been delivered to world markets, Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said on Monday. "As of this morning, the amount of grain leaving the Ukrainian ports was 721,449 tons. This continues. Hopefully, the amount will increase in the coming days," Akar told military commanders during a video conference in the capital Ankara. Akar added the efforts continue to ensure that shipments reach their final destinations as quickly and safely as possible. Türkiye, the UN, Russia, and Ukraine signed an agreement in Istanbul on July 22 to resume grain exports from the Ukrainian Black Sea ports of Yuzhny, Chornomorsk and Odesa, which were halted due to the Russia-Ukraine war, now in its sixth month. A Joint Coordination Center (JCC) with officials from the three countries and the UN has been set up in Istanbul to oversee the shipments. On Saturday Akar and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres held a meeting with the officials at the JCC in Istanbul on the grain shipment process. Akar said Türkiye resolutely continues its fight against terrorism to protect its borders and citizens. As of Jan. 1, he said, anti-terror operations have continued "intensively," adding: "During this period, a total of 2,517 terrorists were neutralized in northern Iraq and in northern Syria." The minister said that a total of 333 terrorists were "neutralized" during the Operation Claw-Lock.

## China cements influence in Iraq through oil deals

NEWS DESK

BAGHDAD: China has gained a major foothold in oil-rich Iraq, shaking up Western domination in fields from energy to construction, even as some warn that infrastructure projects could leave Baghdad in debt. After decades of conflict, Iraq is "badly in need of foreign investment, and specifically investment in energy sector infrastructure", said John Calabrese of the Middle East Institute in Washington. China, with its soaring energy needs, has stepped in to fill that gap, and is expanding its presence in Iraq under a 2019 "oil for construction" deal. Beijing has become one of the largest importers of Iraqi crude, and in 2021 accounted for 44 percent of Iraq's oil exports, according to prime ministerial adviser Muzhar Saleh. And state firm PetroChina has partnered with France's TotalEnergies and Malaysia's Petronas to exploit the Halfaya oilfield in southern Iraq. "China is just getting started," ambassador Cui Wei told journalists in a recent videoconference. But Beijing is interested in more than just Iraq's trade potential, Calabrese said. Beyond the "obvious commercial incentives" are China's ambitions to "deeply entrench itself in a country and a region that

the West, and especially the United States, has dominated," he said. Iraq is among the many partners in China's vast "Belt and Road" infrastructure initiative, which Western leaders say risks saddling poorer countries with debt. Baghdad is an "important cooperation partner" in the project, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman told AFP, adding that Beijing had "actively participated in the reconstruction of Iraq's economy". Between 2013 and this year, Iraq was "the third most important" Belt and Road Initiative partner "for energy engagement", according to a paper by Christoph Nedopil of the Green Finance and Development Center at Fudan University, Shanghai. Under the 2019 "oil for construction" deal, building projects in Iraq are funded by the sale of 100,000 barrels per day of Iraqi oil to China. One aspect of the agreement, inked while former Iraqi premier Adel Abdel Mahdi visited Beijing, was a deal to build Iraqi schools. Two Chinese partners were tapped to carry out the construction – PowerChina and Sinotech – with 8,000 education facilities to eventually be built. Work has also begun on an airport in the southern city of Nasiriyah, built by the China State Construction Engineering Corp.

## Iran's response to nuclear deal proposal is 'reasonable'

NEWS DESK

OVIEDO: European Union's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said on Monday that Iran's response to the proposal to revive the 2015 nuclear deal was "reasonable." Earlier this month, the EU submitted the "final text" for the deal aimed at unfreezing sanctions on Iran funds and oil exports in exchange for the country scaling back its nuclear ambitions. "This is the current situation: I made a proposal that I believe was as balanced as possible. It was communicated to all parties, including the US and Iran. There was a response from Iran, which I considered reasonable. It was shared with the US. The US still hasn't formally replied, but we're awaiting that response. And we hope the US response will help us finish up the negotiation," he said. The American response has arrived late, as there was supposed to be a meeting in Vienna last week to discuss the Iran deal. "The world would be a lot safer if we could make this deal work again," said Borrell. "This deal worked well until President Trump unilaterally decided to abandon it. Iran was fulfilling the agreement." On Monday, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanani accused the US of "procrastination" in terms of responding to its comments on the deal.

## Pakistan's export to China up nearly 12%

DNA

BEIJING, Aug. 22 () - Pakistan's export to China crossed \$2.190 billion in the first seven months this year, up 11.14 percent year-on-year, shows the official data from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC). Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor at the Pakistani Embassy in China, told China Economic Net that Pakistan's exports to China increased even when trade decreased with other countries in the month of July, showing the commitment of the government to enhance bilateral trade. "It is very promising that Pakistan's exports to China are growing. The Government of Pakistan is keen to harness the real potential of exports through value addition, digital marketing, export-oriented investments, and encouraging enterprises from both countries to make Pakistan an integral part of China's supply chain", Qadir added. According to data from GACC, in the month of July, Pakistan's exports to China increased nearly 13 percent year-on-year to \$272.92 million, whereas in the same month last year, it was \$242.30 million. Overall, from January-July 2022, China's imports from and exports to Pakistan counted \$16.73 billion, up 13.51% year-on-year, while in the same period in 2021, it was \$12.76 billion irrespective of monsoon, flood, and COVID-19 which impacted Pakistan's exports to other countries in FY2022. According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Pakistan's exports declined by around 3 percent y-o-y in July and the major reasons are monsoon, flood and COVID-19, with the major decline noted in cotton yarn, copper, and Chromium. Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) further stated that Pakistan's imports declined by around 10 percent y-o-y in July. Major decline was noted in machinery (-\$178 million), Fertilizers (-\$79 million), Iron & Steel (-\$77 million), electrical equipment (-\$76 million), SKD/CKD kits for cars (-\$75 million), Coal (-\$56.5 million), vessels (-\$39 million), rape seeds (-\$56 million), fruits and vegetables (-28 million) and COVID-19 Vaccines (-\$167 million). The total volume of trade between China and Pakistan increased by nearly 8 percent in the month of July to \$2.35 billion as compared to 2021 in the same month which was \$2.18 billion. The exports of major products to China increased in rice, sesame seeds, pine nuts, seafood, and other agricultural, which has promoted Pakistan's economic recovery.

## SCO holds Security Council Secretaries meeting

Secretary Eng. Aamir Hasan delivered Pakistan's country statement, touching upon issues facing the SCO region including challenges to international system, Covid-19 Pandemic, regional connectivity, situation in Afghanistan, International System and Security, Counter Terrorism, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Cyber Security among others

DNA

BEIJING: As part of the preparations for the meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Heads of State Council, the security council secretaries of the SCO held a friendly and constructive meeting to discuss the situation in the area of ensuring security and stability within the organization. The 17th Meeting of Security Council Secretaries of the SCO was held in Tashkent under the Presidency of Uzbekistan, according to SCO Secretariat here on Monday. The following officials took part and spoke at the event: Deputy National Security Advisor of the Republic of India Vikram Misri; Aide to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan – Secretary of the Security Council Gizat Nurdauletov; Deputy Director of the Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission of the CCP Central Committee; Minister of Public Security of the People's Republic of China Wang Xiaohong; Secretary of the Security Council of the Kyrgyz Republic Marat Imankulov; National Security Division Secretary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Aamir Hasan; Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Feder-

ation Nikolai Patrushev; Secretary of the Security Council of the Republic of Tajikistan Nasrullo Mahmudzoda; Secretary of the National Security Council under the President of Uzbekistan Viktor Makhmudov; SCO Secretary-General Zhang Ming; Director of the SCO RATS Executive Committee Ruslan Mirzayev; State Secretary of the Security Council of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Volfovich and Secretary of the National Security Council of Mongolia Jadambyn Enkhbayar. During the meeting, a protocol of the 17th meeting of the Secretaries of the Security Councils of the SCO members was negotiated at the experts level and later signed by the leaders of the delegation where Eng. Aamir Hasan signed the document from Pakistan side, a news release said. At the concluding meeting of the Secretaries of the Security Councils of the SCO member states on August 20, Secretary Eng. Aamir Hasan delivered Pakistan's country statement, touching upon issues facing the SCO region including challenges to international system, Covid-19 Pandemic, regional connectivity, situation in Afghanistan, International System and Security, Counter Terrorism, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Cyber Security among others. The Secretary

NSD also held bilateral meetings with the Secretaries of the Security Councils of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and discussed matters of mutual interest. It may be mentioned that since joining the SCO, Pakistan has remained an active and constructive member of the organization. The meeting participants exchanged opinions on the further development of cooperation between the SCO member states in counteracting terrorism, separatism and extremism, illegal drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, as well as the issue of international information security. The security council secretaries confirmed their readiness to continue ensuring regional security and stability together, as well as mutual respect, equality, trust and joint efforts to counteract global threats and challenges. The meeting participants noted with satisfaction that the positive nature of relations between the SCO member states based on the SCO Charter and the Treaty on Long-Term Good Neighbourliness, Friendship and Cooperation facilitates peace and stability, and joint search for solutions to common relevant issues related to security in the SCO space. They emphasized the important role of RATS in facilitating the coordination of work of competent agencies of the SCO member states in counteracting terrorism, separatism and extremism in order to ensure regional security; they also expressed support for the measures to improve interaction in these areas. The parties praised the Uzbek Presidency in the SCO in providing for security and stability in the SCO space and declared their support of its efforts to prepare the meeting of the SCO Heads of State Council scheduled to take place on 15-16 September 2022 in Samarkand.

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## Briefs

**Masses will react if hurdles created, warns Qureshi**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former Foreign Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Monday warned ruling coalition that public will react if hurdles created in Imran Khan's way. Qureshi, while talking to media persons, asked government to hold early general elections instead of creating political unrest. Meanwhile Asad Umar said that terrorism case against PTI Chairman is wrong and claimed that government wants to sideline the PTI in a non-political manner. On the other hand, Fawad Chaudhry said that government filed the case after rulers got cold feet due to Imran Khan's impressive power show on Sunday. The PTI leader, while demanding government to takeback FIR registered against Imran Khan, asked why no action was initiated on threatening statements of PML-N leaders.

**Moscow says Ukraine behind death of Kremlin ideologue's daughter**

AGENCIES

MOSCOW: Russia's FSB security services said Monday that Ukraine was behind a car bombing in the outskirts of Moscow that killed the daughter of hard-line Russian ideologue Alexander Dugin. Dugin - an outspoken ultranationalist intellectual and a vocal supporter of the Kremlin's offensive in Ukraine - is thought to have been the likely target of the attack. "The crime was prepared and committed by Ukrainian special services," the FSB said in a statement carried by Russian news agencies. It added that the perpetrator - a female Ukrainian citizen born in 1979 - on Sunday had fled to EU member Estonia. The FSB in its statement identified the woman as Natalia Vovk. Daria Dugina was killed Saturday when a bomb placed in a Toyota Land Cruiser went off as she drove on a highway some 40 kilometres (25 miles) outside Moscow. Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday expressed his "sincere condolences and words of support" following Dugina's death. "A vile, cruel crime ended the life of Daria Dugina, a bright, talented person with a real Russian heart - kind, loving, sympathetic and open," Putin said in a message to Dugina's family released by the Kremlin. He added that she "proved with her deeds what it means to be a patriot of Russia".

**Fauci to step down as Biden's chief medical adviser**

AGENCIES

NEW YORK: Dr. Anthony Fauci said on Monday he would step down from his positions as director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and as chief medical adviser to U.S. President Joe Biden in December. Fauci, 81, will also step down as chief of the NIAID Laboratory of Immunoregulation. "While I am moving on from my current positions, I am not retiring," Fauci said. "After more than 50 years of government service, I plan to pursue the next phase of my career while I still have so much energy and passion for my field."

# Pak an attractive destination for foreign investment: PM

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ms. Ulla-Majja Rantapuska, Investment Manager, Finnfund, Finland, accompanied by Mr. Wille Eerola, Honorary Consul General of Pakistan for Finland called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad, today. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reiterated the importance of longstanding relations between Pakistan and Finland based on mutual cooperation in diverse fields. Mentioning the business friendly policies adopted by the current government, the Prime Minister added that Pakistan has great opportunities for investment in IT, energy, agriculture, industries and e-commerce sector. Ms. Ulla-Majja Rantapuska informed the PM about the interest Finnfund has in investing in the areas of renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, financial institutions and digital infrastructure solutions in Pakistan. She also mentioned that Finnfund has already invested 3 million US dollar equity of 17.59% shareholding in TPL Insurance Limited, Pakistan. "TPL is a first direct insurance company", she added. The Prime Minister appreciated the proposals of Finnfund and assured that the government will facilitate the Finnfund in the said ventures.



# Heavy rains may generate urban flooding: PMD

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) Monday warned of heavy rains generating urban flooding in Karachi, Hyderabad, Thatta, Badin, Mirpurkhas, Shaheed Benazirabad, Dadu and Sukkur on August 23 and 24. Flash flooding is expected in Qilla Saifullah, Loralai, Barkhan, Kohlu, Mosa Khel, Sherani, Sibbi, Bolan, Kalat, Khuzdar, Lasbela and hill torrents of Dera Ghazi Khan on August 24. Travelers and tourists are advised to remain cautious during the forecast period. According to the synoptic situation, monsoon currents were penetrating in upper parts of the country and likely to intensify in central and southern parts from Tuesday. A westerly wave was also affecting western and upper parts of the country. Rain-wind/thundershower is expected in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, East Balochistan, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. Scattered heavy falls are also likely in northeast Balochistan,

Sindh and south Punjab during the period. During the last 24 hours, rain-wind/thundershower with isolated heavy falls occurred in Sindh, South Punjab, North-east Balochistan, Upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir. The rainfall recorded was Sindh: Larkana 118 mm, Khairpur 117, Mohenjo Daro 64, Sukkur 36, Rohri 42, Jacobabad 43, Padidan 24, Shaheed Benazirabad 19, Dadu 03, Skrand 02, Balochistan: Kalat 30, Quetta (Samungli 11, City 08), Sibi 09, Chhor, Barkhan 02, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Kalam 07, Darosh, Mir Khani 03, Dir (Upper), Cherat 02, Parachinar, Saidu Sharif 01, Punjab: D.G Khan (City 18), Kot Addu 17, Bahawalpur (Airport 16, City 07), Lahore (Airport) 04, Multan (Airport) 01, Gilgit-Baltistan: Bagrote 06, Gupis 08, Babusar 05, Hunza, Gilgit 03, Kashmir: Muzaffarabad City 02mm. The highest maximum temperatures recorded were Sarogdha, Joharabad, Turbat and Nurpur Thal 39 C. - APP

# SBP maintains policy rate at 15%

Since last meeting, the MPC noted three key domestic developments

KARACHI: State Bank of Pakistan on Monday maintained its policy rate at 15 percent. To cool the overheating economy and contain the current account deficit, the policy rate has been raised by a cumulative 800 basis points since last September. Monetary Policy Committee took this decision in its meeting here at SBP's Main Building, said SBP statement. It said that some temporary administrative steps have recently been taken to curtail imports and strong fiscal consolidation was planned for the fiscal year 2022-23. These actions are expected to work their way through the system over the coming months. With recent inflation developments in line with expectations, domestic demand beginning to moderate and the external position showing some improvement, the MPC felt that it was prudent to take a pause at this stage. Looking ahead, the MPC intends to remain data-dependent, paying close attention to month-on-month inflation, inflation expectations, developments on the fiscal and external fronts as well as global commodity prices and interest rate decisions by major central banks. Since last meeting, the MPC noted three key domestic developments. First, headline inflation rose further to 24.9 percent in July, with core inflation also ticking up. This was expected given the necessary reversal of the energy subsidy package - effects of which will continue to manifest in inflation out-turns throughout the rest of the fiscal year - as well as momentum in the prices of essential food items and exchange rate weakness last month. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini called Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistani Sajid Hussain Turi, in Islamabad. - DNA

# Youth should be taught Islamic values: Amb. Tugio

ISLAMABAD: Indonesian Ambassador Adam Mulawarman Tugio has urged the Islamic world to bring up the youth in accordance with Islamic values, contemporary changes, and to equip them with modern technology. He was addressing a roundtable discussion on 'opportunities for educational institutions to be the driving force behind madrasa reforms in Indonesia and Pakistan', held here at the Faisal Masjid campus of International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI). The discussion was jointly organized by Iqbal International Institute for Research and Dialogue and the Embassy of Indonesia. The ambassador said that this dialogue between the scholars of the various schools of thought from the both countries would open new avenues of collaboration and mutual exposure. He hailed IIUI for its services to the Muslim world, adding that the university was a great source of attraction for a huge population of Indonesian students. He also emphasized on the importance of the revival of the Islamic Economic System, calling upon the universities to establish

think tanks and launch joint efforts to revive the Islamic legacy that he termed as a need of the hour. IIUI Rector Dr Masoom Yasinzai appreciated the approach of the Indonesian government saying that it had been owning the madrasa at the state level. He suggested that Islamic countries, in their religious seminars, must add the element of critical thinking. He opined that scholars equipped with modern approach and Islamic values could help transform Muslim societies. He also emphasized on the importance of the research on the Islamization of the economy. He added that universities of

Islamic world must focus on how to practically implement it. The discussion witnessed presentations of the various scholars of Indonesia, while in the interactive session both sides discussed commonalities, salient attributes and ways of joint outreach to strengthen the madrasa reforms in both countries. Vice Chairman of Nahdatul Ulama Indonesia Maria Ulfah Anshor gave a presentation on the advancement of madrasa reforms in Indonesia and its contributions in society. Dr Rohimi Zamzam, Secretary of Aisyiyah Central Leadership, Dr Maskuri, Chairman for Madrasa Development Institute of Central Ex-

ecutive Board Indonesia and Akhmad Kholily Kholil, member foundation board of Nahdatul Ulama Indonesia also spoke on the dynamics of madrasa and its role in the society. Dr Husn ul Amin, Executive Director, in his welcome address stated the objectives of the activity. He opined that Muslims were facing various challenges such as hate speech, Islamophobia, radicalism and stereotypes. He said the Muslims faced such challenges due to socioeconomic and political reasons. People's ignorance of Islamic teachings also contributed to the issue. He suggested that universities must come forward with a well devised curriculum and strategy to deal with those challenges. The participants included Prof. Dr Khalid Masud, Ex-Director General of Islamic Research Institute of IIUI and Member of Council of Islamic Ideology, Pakistan, Barister Zafarullah Khan, Dr Ammar Khan Nasir, Director Shariah Academy Gujranwala, Prof. Dr Najiba Arif, Dean of FLL, IIUI, Prof. Dr Ijaz Shafi Gilani, former Dean at IIUI, Ali Salman, Executive Director of Policy Research Institute of Market Economy (PRIME). - APP

# Indian police book former BJP lawmaker for lynching of 5 Muslims

NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI: A former member of India's legislative assembly (MLA) belonging to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was booked by police for "allegedly promoting hatred and enmity", Indian media outlet The Print reported on Sunday. The report said that former BJP MLA Gyan Dev Ahuja was caught on tape saying that his supporters had "lynched five people" so far for cow smuggling after which he was booked by the Alwar police, a city in the northern Indian state of Rajasthan. The report quoted Shiv Shankar, the station house officer of Govindgarh police station, as saying that the case was registered on a video that had cropped up after Ahuja visited the family of a man allegedly lynched by Muslims on Friday. Shankar said that the first information report was registered under Section 153-A of the Indian Penal Code for promoting hatred and enmity on the grounds of religion. The report added that in the video, the former BJP MLA could be heard referring to the 2017 Pehlu Khan lynching case and saying: "We have so far lynched five people, be it in Lawndi or Behror ... I have given free hand to workers to kill. We will get them acquitted and secure bail." Khan died after he was attacked by hundreds of Hindu vigilantes while transporting cows in India in April 2017. The report quoted BJP's Alwar (South) chief Sanjay Singh Naruka as saying that the party "does not have this thinking" and Ahuja's views were his alone. It added that when approached for a comment, Ahuja maintained that "anyone involved in cow smuggling and slaughter won't be spared". He added that his workers had beat up five Muslims from the Mev community who were allegedly smuggling cows.

# Pakistan not facing any risk of default: Aisha Pasha

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Finance Dr Aisha Ghaus Pasha has categorically stated that Pakistan is not facing any risk of default. Addressing the launching ceremony of the special report titled "Economic Security of Pakistan: Challenges and Way Forward" in Islamabad on Monday, she said Pakistan has ensured external financing needs for the next year. However, the challenges on the economic front are significant. She said due to prudent economic measures taken by the government the rupee has gained strength and imports have been significantly reduced. Highlighting the importance of sustainability in the current economic success of the government, she emphasized structurally reforming the economy to get out of this boom-bust cycle.

# PKR loses Rs2.01 in interbank market

KARACHI: The rupee began the week under pressure on Monday, losing Rs2.01 against the US dollar in the interbank market. According to the State Bank of Pakistan, the local currency closed at Rs216.66 per dollar versus Friday's closing rate of Rs214.65. FAP Chairman Malik Bostan said today's fall in the value of the rupee came on the back of the recent decision to lift the ban on imports of luxury items coupled with pressure from exporters urging the government to keep the dollar rate around Rs216. "Commercial banks are also buying dollars at high rates, which is causing the greenback's value to rise. - DNA