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Arshad Nadeem bags gold medal at Islamic Solidarity Games

Detailed News On Page-06

Trump does not oppose bid to unseal warrant

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Sanjrani for strengthening ties with Brazil

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Briefs

Killing of Palestinians 'disturbing'

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: The United Nations has termed killing of innocent Palestinians as deeply disturbing and unconscionable. In a statement, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet expressed alarm at the large numbers of Palestinians, particularly children, who have been killed and injured by Israeli forces in occupied Palestinian territory. She said Israeli forces have, so far, martyred forty Palestinian children in occupied territories including nineteen children in last week alone.

Gill sent to Adiala jail

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An Islamabad court on Friday rejected a police request to extend the physical remand of senior PTI leader Shahbaz Gill, who was earlier presented in court after the completion of his two-day remand in a sedition case. The court, however, granted a judicial remand while announcing the verdict it had reserved earlier during the early morning hearing. Gill was earlier presented in court after the completion of two-day remand in a sedition case. During the hearing, the police requested for an extension in Gill's remand.

ICC rankings: Babar retains top spot

DNA

ABU DHABI: Pakistan captain Babar Azam has managed to hang on to his mantle as the No.1 ranked T20I batter despite the Indian cricketers made giant strides on the latest ICC Men's Player Rankings. India triumphed in a 4-1 series trounced in the recently-completed T20I series against the West Indies and a bevy of their best performers cut into Babar's lead at the top of the batter rankings. The ICC released the latest set of rankings on Wednesday and Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant were among the biggest movers as the race for the top ranking spots up ahead of the ICC T20 World Cup.

Pak-UK ties deep-rooted, says COAS

Army Chief was addressing the sovereign's parade for (CC213) of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

NEWS DESK/DNA

SANDHURST: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Friday said no one was born with professional knowledge, it had to be acquired through constant pursuit as without it, one could not achieve professional competence, which in turn was the hallmark of successful military leadership. The Army Chief was addressing at the sovereign's parade for commissioning course 213 (CC213) of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) as the first ever Pakistani chief guest to be the representative of the Queen during the sovereign's parade at the Military Academy Sandhurst. The Army Chief said, "As a leader today,

PM hails Gen Bajwa's address

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Friday that Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa's address at the UK's Royal Military Academy was an "honour for Pakistan." "COAS Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa's address at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst UK as a chief guest is not just a matter of honour for the armed forces but also for Pakistan," the prime minister

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Pakistan, Turkiye ink Preferential Trade Agreement

PM Sharif termed the agreement 'a great moment and a milestone'



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan and Turkiye on Friday inked the Preferential Trade Agreement aimed at boosting trade in goods between the two countries. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif witnessed the inking of the PTA at a ceremony held here at the PM Office, as the visiting Turkish Trade Minister Dr Mehmet Mus and Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar signed the accord. Commonly known as Trade in Goods Pact, the PTA includes comprehensive provisions on bilateral safeguards, balance of payment exceptions, dispute settlement, and periodic review of the agreement. Prime Minister Sharif in his remarks termed the agreement "a great moment and a mile-

stone" in the brotherly and historic relations between Pakistan and Turkiye. He recalled that following his official visit to Turkiye in May, the untiring efforts of the ministries of both sides resulted in the signing of the agreement. He said immense business opportunities existed between the two countries and expressed confidence that the accord would further explore the trade avenues in diverse sectors. The prime minister said Pakistan would continue to work with Turkiye on strengthening bilateral ties. Trade Minister Dr Mehmet Mus said the occasion marked a significant milestone which would contribute in a long way to further strengthening and expansion of trade ties. He said meeting expectations of all stakeholders was not easy, however added that

Continued on Page 06

European drought dries up rivers, shrivels crops

MONITORING DESK

PARIS: Once, a river ran through it. Now, white dust and thousands of dead fish cover the wide trench that winds amid rows of trees in France's Burgundy region in what was the Tille River in the village of Lux. From dry and cracked reservoirs in Spain to falling water levels on major arteries like the Danube, the Rhine and the Po, an unprecedented drought is afflicting nearly half of the European continent. It is damaging farm economies, forcing water restrictions, causing wildfires and threatening aquatic species. There has been no significant rainfall for almost two months in Western, Central and Southern Europe. And the dry period is expected to continue in what experts say could be the worst drought in 500 years. Climate change is exacerbating conditions as hotter temperatures speed up evaporation, thirsty plants take in more moisture and reduced snowfall in the winter limits supplies of fresh water available for irrigation in the summer. Europe isn't alone in the crisis, with drought conditions also reported in East Africa, the western United States and northern Mexico. As he walked in the 15-meter-wide

(50-foot-wide) riverbed in Lux, Jean-Philippe Couasne, chief technician at the local Federation for Fishing and Protection of the Aquatic Environment, listed the species of fish that had died in the Tille. "It's heartbreaking," he said. "On average, about 8,000 liters (about 2,100 gallons) per second are flowing. ... And now, zero liters." In some areas upstream, some of the trout and other freshwater species are able take shelter in pools via fish ladders. But such systems aren't available everywhere. Without rain, the river "will continue to empty. And yes, all fish will die. ... They are trapped upstream and downstream, there's no water coming in, so the oxygen level will keep decreasing as the (water) volume will go down," Couasne said. "These are species that will gradually disappear." Jean-Pierre Sonvico, the regional head of the federation, said diverting the fish to other rivers won't help because those waterways also are affected, which will lead to overcrowding and more deaths. "Yes, it's dramatic because what can we do? Nothing," he said. "We're waiting, hoping for storms with rain, but storms are very local so we can't count on it."



ISLAMABAD: Italian Ambassador Andreas Ferrarese calls on Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. - DNA

FM Bilawal wants even stronger ties with Italy

Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese calls on him

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has stressed the need to enhance cooperation with Italy. He expressed these views during his meeting with the Italian ambassador Andreas Ferrarese who called on him on Friday. The Foreign Minister further said people to people contacts should also be strengthened between the two countries. He praised the role of the Ambassador in promoting the bilateral relations.

Report on missing persons to be placed before Cabinet

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Friday reiterated his commitment that the Committee on Missing Persons would submit its recommendations to the Federal Cabinet as early as possible. The minister was chairing the fourth meeting of the committee. Federal Minister for Communications Asad Mahmood, Federal Minister for Science and Technology Agha Hassan Baloch, Senator Tahir Bizenjo, SCBA President Ahsan Bhoon, representatives of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Home Department, senior officers of the ministries of Law and Interior attended the meeting. - APP

Pak receives letter of intent from IMF

Executive Board nod required for loan disbursement

IRSHAD ALI

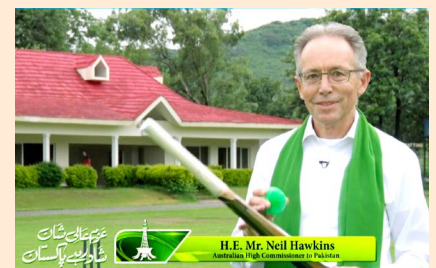
ISLAMABAD: Days after Pakistan reached a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Islamabad received the letter of intent (LOI) - a document declaring the preliminary commitment of one party to do business with another - from the global lender. The receipt of LOI shows that Pakistan's deal with IMF to release two tranches worth \$1.17 billion under a stalled loan facility is trudging closer to the finish line. The letter is now to be jointly signed by the Finance Minister Miftah Ismail and Acting State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) governor Murtaza Syed. The IMF and Pakistan reached a staff-level agreement in the second week of July after months of deeply un-

popular belt-tightening by the government, which took power in April and has effectively eliminated fuel and power subsidies. The staff-level agreement would be reviewed by the Fund's board at a meeting due on August 29. The board would also consider adding \$1 billion to a \$6 billion programme agreed on in 2019. The new government had slashed a raft of subsidies to meet the demands of global financial institutions but risks the wrath of an electorate already struggling under the weight of double-digit inflation. An original \$6 billion bailout package was signed by former prime minister Imran Khan in 2019, but repeatedly stalled when his government reneged on subsidy agreements and failed to significantly improve tax collection.

Australia wishes Pak on 75th anniversary

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins congratulated Pakistan on the 75th anniversary of its formation. In a special message, he said: "Happy Birthday Pakistan. Just 75 years young and much to be proud of and much to celebrate: Your ethnic diversity, rich cultural heritage, fabulous food and spectacular scenery. But the most striking element for me is the warm and welcoming people - always ready with a smile and a 'salaam aleikum.' Australia was one of the first



countries to recognise Pakistan in 1947, though our people to people ties go back to

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AUGUST 2022

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First Lady for equal rights for differently abled

DNA

LAHORE: First Lady Begum Samina Arif Alvi has emphasized on giving equal rights to differently abled persons in the society and eliminating their sense of deprivation. She said this during her visit to Pakistan Society for Rehabilitation of Disabled (PSRD) on Friday in Lahore. Samina Alvi also visited different sections of the PSRD which included its school, vocational training centre. She appreciated the work and facilities of PSRD and said it was very pleasing to visit the center. First Lady said it was a very good approach to make various facilities

available for differently abled persons under one roof. She said that she and President Dr Arif Alvi wanted to make system inclusive where differently abled persons get facilities like other persons of the society. She further stressed upon the need to empower differently abled persons and to ensure maximum facilities for them. She said there should be ramps at public places to ease the mobility of differently abled persons as their movement was very essential for their development. Efforts were also being made at government level to facilitate differently abled persons in maximum way, she added. She further said that education and vocational training were im-

portant for making differently abled persons useful citizens. Samina Alvi said that passion and commitment were required to facilitate and serve this segment of society in best possible way. She said, "The Allah Almighty has blessed differently abled persons with a lot of skills and people should understand that they are not less than anybody else in the society." IT training was also very important for differently abled persons as through this they could start their earning by sitting in their homes. She announced to give Rs 1 million to PSRD on her behalf. PSRD President Syed Shamsi and Chairperson Nighat Saeed also spoke on the occasion.



LAHORE: First Lady Begum Samina Arif Alvi giving the key of a rickshaw to a differently-abled person, at Governor's House, Lahore. – DNA

SECP registers 1,691 new companies in July 2022

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 1,691 new companies in the first month of Fiscal Year 2022. After July's incorporations, the total number of registered companies with SECP now stands at 173,897. Total capitalization (paid-up-capital) with regard to newly incorporated companies for July 2022 stood at Rs2.5 billion. Foreign investment has been reported in 44 new companies, from Afghan-

istan, China, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Germany, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, the UK and the US. About 59 percent companies were registered as private limited companies, while 38 percent were registered as single member companies. Three percent were registered as public unlisted companies, not for profit associations, foreign companies and limited liability partnership (LLP). About 99.8 percent of companies were regis-

tered online, while 144 foreign users were registered from overseas. The real estate development and construction sector took the lead with incorporation of 312, information technology with 245, trading with 208, services with 170, e-commerce with 66, education with 65, tourism with 60, food & beverages with 57, textile with 48, engineering with 43, marketing & advertisement with 41, corporate agricultural farming with 38, power generation with 37, auto & allied with 31, pharmaceutical with 30, healthcare,

and mining & quarrying with 26 each, chemical with 25, transport with 20, logging with 16, broadcasting & telecasting, and paper & board with 13 each, cables & electric goods, and fuel & energy with 12 each and 77 companies were registered in other sectors. As a result of integration of SECP with FBR and various provincial departments, 1,625 companies were registered with FBR for generation of NTN, 45 companies with EOBI, 47 companies with PESSI/SESSI and 36 companies with excise and taxation department.

Khawaja for national pledge to further strengthen country

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Friday called that nation to pledge for further strengthening the country on its upcoming diamond jubilee 75th Independence Day celebrations would be marked across the country with national zeal and spirit. He was addressing the 'Pakistan Youth Convention' along with Federal Minister for Education Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Youth Affairs Shaza Fatima Khawaja. Khawaja said Pakistan's population youth bulge was around 65% of its total population which was an asset. "It is actually our future. We have spent our lives and seen Pakistan progressing

for 75 years and pray for its further stability and progress. Our youth is leading different sectors like politics, military, bureaucracy, media, business etc." The minister said that the policy makers, leaders and stakeholders should set the target to give a Pakistan free from hatred and division which had love, tolerance and harmony. "When the societies are fed with hatred, discrimination they just wither away. The generations that of me or my parents, the historians will judge that what we have done for this country and what has not been done," he said. Khawaja mentioned that the sense of hopelessness was permeating into our population particularly among the youth that had to be changed into opportunity

and end this dejection. "Information Minister Marriyum told me that a great celebration would have to be held for celebrating 75 years of independence but I agreed to her with a caveat," he remarked. He continued saying that the biggest element in this diamond jubilee celebrations should be of accountability, adding, "This motherland—the blessing of God what we have done to it." He said the Pakistanis of 1947 had a passion, love for motherland and an enthusiasm for a bright future. "You all should ask this question that is that spirit and commitment still prevailing after 75 years?" he added. He further queried that were we pursuing our personal agendas or national agenda? Is the center of

every focus and effort is our own self or our nation and state? "This is due from us that we ask these questions to ourselves before celebrating our 75 years of independence," the minister said while sharing the caveat he set for the diamond jubilee celebrations. During the 75th years of journey, he said the nation had lost half of the country, adding, "We also lost the culture of our norms and traditions of harmony. Our new generation—the youth is deprived of that pure and sacred norms of our ancestors inherited to us." He urged the participants of the convention to vow that they all were going to create a society where the youth would live with hope and had expectations from the state.

5,000 to perform security duties on Aug 13, 14

LAHORE: Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Ghulam Mahmood Dogar on Friday said more than 5,000 policemen, including divisional SPs, SDPO, SHOs, additional contingents of Dolphin Squads, Police Response Unit, Elite Force and Anti Riot Force would perform duty on night of August 13th and on the Independence Day. As many as six SPs, 34 DSPs, 83 SHOs, more than 400 upper subordinates with lady police officers would perform duties to provide protection to all rallies and flag hoisting ceremonies on the Independence Day. Ghulam Mahmood Dogar said police would establish special check posts at different points of the city to check citizens and vehicles. On night of August 13 and on the Independence Day, no one would be allowed to involve in any kind of anti social activities or hoolliganism, including aerial firing, one wheelie and use of fireworks to ensure law and order in the metropolis, he maintained. – APP

First-ever youth employment policy on cards: SAPM

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Youth Affairs Shiza Fatima on Friday announced that the government would launch the first-ever national youth employment policy to address the biggest challenge of unemployment in the country. "Unemployment is the biggest challenge facing by the country for which a comprehensive policy has been formulated and will be launched soon," she said while addressing the Pakistan Youth Convention.

Highlighting the vision of prime minister for youth empowerment, she said 100,000 skill scholarships were being awarded to the youth to boost skilled workforce, which would eventually uplift the industry by bridging the demand-supply gap of human resource. 100,000 laptops were also being distributed among universities and college students with allocation of 50 per cent quota for women and special persons, she said, adding empowering the youngsters, especially

women was the government's foremost priority. The SAPM said the national Olympic would be organized to promote games in the country and bring out new talent for representing Pakistan at international level. She said all-out resources were being used to empower the youth who could play a crucial role in the socio-economic development of Pakistan. Soft loans were being distributed among the youth to promote the entrepreneurial culture in the country, she added.

ANF recovers 530 grams heroin; arrests one

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in two operations conducted on Friday managed to recover 530 grams heroin and Ice absorbed clothes. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, in a raid conducted at an office of a private company, ANF recovered 530 grams heroin concealed in 'Peshawari chappal', booked for United Kingdom. The parcel was booked by a female named Shaheen Akhtar, resident of Nowshera. In another raid, conducted at Islamabad International Airport, ANF foiled a bid to smuggle Ice to Dubai.

The Ice drug 'absorbed' in clothes was recovered from the possession of a passenger named Muhammad Yousaf, resident of Swabi, going to Dubai. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is under process.

PMD forecasts rain shower in isolated places of country

ISLAMABAD: Rain-wind/thundershower is expected in most parts of Sindh, Balochistan, while at isolated places in south Punjab, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan on Saturday. According to Pakistan Metrological Department (PMD) an isolated heavy falls are also likely in Sindh and Balochistan during the period. PMD warned, that heavy rains may generate urban flooding in Karachi, Thatta, Badin, Hyderabad, Dadu, Jamshoro, Sukkur, Larkana, Shaheed Benazirabad and Mirpurkhas during the forecast period. Flash flooding is expected in Qilla Saifullah, Loralai, Barkhan, Kohlu, Musa Khel, Sherani, Sibbi, Bolan, Kalat, Khuzdar, Lasbella, Awaran, Turbat, Panjgur, Pasi, Jiwani and hill torrents of Dera Ghazi Khan during the forecast period. Rain-wind/thundershower is expected in most districts of the Sindh province. Heavy falls are likely in Tharparkar, Umerkot, Mirpur Khas, Shaheed Benazirabad, Badin, Sajawal, Thatta, Dadu, Hyderabad and Karachi. Partly cloudy weather with rain-wind/thundershower is expected in most districts of the Balochistan. However, heavy falls are likely at scattered places in Barkhan, Sibbi, Jhal Magsi, Naseerabad, Kohlu, Loralai, Khuzdar, Kalat, Lasbella, Awaran, Panjgur, Kech and Makran during the period. Hot and humid weather is expected in Islamabad during day time, while few chances of rain-wind/thundershower during night. While, hot and humid weather is expected in most districts of the Punjab province. However, rain-wind/thundershower is expected in Bhakkar, Layyah, Bahawalpur, Dera Ghazi Khan, Multan and Rahim Yar Khan. Heavy falls are likely in D.G.Khan and surroundings during the period. – APP

Over 8.85 million people vaccinated in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD: Over 8.85 million (8,857,706) people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in the district. District Health Officer Dr Ataul Mun'im said on Friday that 4,753,447 citizens were injected the first dose, while 4,019,034 were administered the second dose of vaccine.

He said that 39,877 health workers were also given the first dose, while 45,348 received the second dose of vaccine. He said that sufficient stock of coronavirus vaccine was available in the district. As of now 60,541 first doses and 40,360 second doses are in the stock in Faisalabad. He said that 37 vac-

ination centers and 20 mobile vaccination camps are operational in Faisalabad where registered people are being vaccinated. He said that timing of these vaccination centres was 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. except for Sports Complex Samanabad centre, which would remain open round-the-clock. – APP

Rickshaw campaign: Human Trafficking in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO) has launched a rickshaw campaign in Rawalpindi to spread the message about curbing the issue of human trafficking and to raise awareness about the Prevention of Trafficking in Person Law 2018. The designed banners were placed at the back of the rickshaws so messages can be reached to the maximum number of people. The Rickshaw Campaign in Rawalpindi kicked off with briefing sessions with rickshaw drivers, where they were given information about the issue of human trafficking and potential victims to the menace. They were also oriented in being aware around their surroundings of noticing any unusual or suspicious activity or any passenger taking a ride with them who may appear to be suspicious or forcefully taking someone along with them to an unusual destination. Since rickshaws are easily accessible even to the remotest of the areas and also the doors provide privacy to the passengers therefore majority of the times such activities go unnoticed. Furthermore, the banner highlighted the helpline "0333-1110566" launched by SSDO to serve as a main point of contact for the victims of human trafficking and bonded labor. This is a step further into combating the issue at country level, as well as a source of information for all stakeholders, including the general public. The helpline is to provide a platform to the potential victims especially the communities with high ratio of trafficking in person that contains both human trafficking for sex and bonded labor, i.e., brick kiln and agri-farms in Pakistan. The campaign was also linked with the International Youth Day and involved participation from the youth in the shape of university students who volunteered to take part in the activity and promote the awareness campaign. This will further strengthen the essence of the campaign in spreading message among the young people who are most vulnerable to the crime of human trafficking as they are lured into this menace with offers of a great career earning them money for a better future. On this occasion the ED of SSDO, Syed Kausar Abbas said, "With this Rickshaw Campaign, our aim is to spread awareness among the masses at a larger scale. – DNA



LAHORE: Mall road decorated with huge posters of diamond jubilee on 75th Independent Days of Pakistan. – APP

National Days and Armed Forces Days

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

Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

- Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



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- WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489
- CAA.....9281092



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



Departments

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- Met Office.....9250360-6
- RDA.....5555864
- TMA.....5770886
- Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank

- Islamabad.....0321-5744480

RCCI organizes training session on exhibition

The purpose of the session was to give an awareness about executing exhibitions, utilization of human resources, financing, risk management and other stages of event management were discussed

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) in collaboration with Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) organised a one-day training programme on "Exhibition and Event Management Skills for SME's" at chamber house. The session was organized to extend non-financial advisory services to small and medium businesses. The training programme was aimed at providing information about general orientation, scope and nature of event management, developing the concept, physical and human resources, project logistics and marketing an event. The workshop also provides information of financial and risk management, staging the event and general sales leads. The session was attended by President RCCI Ch. Nadeem A Rauf, Senior Vice President Asim Malik, Vice President Taltat Mehmood Awan, Executive members, Regional Manager SMEDA M Asghar, among others, business owners and RCCI members and staff, emerging and existing entrepreneurs, and all those desirous of improving their knowledge on the subject. In his welcome address, RCCI president



Nadeem Rauf appreciated the role of SMEDA in bringing awareness and providing guidance for business community. He pointed out that event management is one of the main driving key to run exhibitions and urged to equip with latest trends and tools for marketing the events. The purpose of the session was to give an awareness about executing exhibitions, utilization of human resources, financing, risk management and other stages of event management were discussed.

CII chairman lauds Ulema, security agencies

ISLAMABAD: Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) Chairman Dr Qibla Ayaz on Friday lauded the leading role of Ulema of all schools of thought and national security agencies to keep law and order during the first ten days of Muharram-ul-Haram across the country. He, in a statement appreciating the determination expressed by the national security institutions, administration and Ulema before the advent of the holy month, said they rightly deserved a token of appreciation for ensuring peace and tranquility particularly on the Ashura. Dr Qibla said Ulema and Mashaykh had expressed the determination in a meeting held in the CII before the arrival of Muharram-ul-Haram that during the holy days in particular and rest of the days in general, the religious scholars would emphasize on peace, religious harmony and national unity in the mosques and Imam Bargahs. They would not provide a stage to those who could make hate speeches and spread communalism at all respective forums, he added. - APP

AIOU's Academic Council approves programs, courses

ISLAMABAD: Academic Council and Academic Planning and Development/Research and Educational Technology Committee (APD/RET) of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) Friday unanimously approved the new programs/courses of BS, MS/MPhil, and PhD. The decision was taken during a joint meeting of the council. Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr.

Zia Ul-Qayyum chaired the meeting which was participated by Heads of department, principal officers, and external members. The meeting also approved the introduction of different English medium courses for international students to increase the number of international students. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum directed the Faculty Deans to keep

in mind the policy of the Higher Education Commission in designing the courses and preparing the teaching materials. He also directed that job-oriented courses should be introduced through which our students can get jobs across the globe, which will make the name of the university bright all over the world. He added that we are planning joint degree programs

Eight criminals held; cash and weapons recovered

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad capital territory police have arrested eight criminals including two members of a robber gang and recovered cash and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a Police Public Relation Officer said. He said that Islamabad capital police had categorically started a crackdown against criminal elements in order to save the precious life and property of citizens. According to the details, during the snap checking Eagle squad police team in the jurisdiction of Khanna police station signaled a bike riding by two suspicious suspects to stop. After seeing the police team, suspects started indiscriminate firing on police team. Police arrested two accused identified as Muhammad Iqbal and Asif. Police team recovered two 30 bore pistols with ammunition, motorbike used in crime, dacoit tools and cash from their possession. Case has been registered against them. Similarly, Shalimar police arrested two accused namely Muhammad Adil and Adnan and recovered from their possession. Likewise, Karachi company police team arrested a drug peddler namely Asif and recovered 1055 gram hashish and 55 gram heroin from him. Moreover, Koral police arrested accused Waqas and recovered one 30 bore pistol along with ammunition from him. Sabzi Mandi police arrested two accused Abdul Qadir and Imran and recovered two pistols with ammunition from their possession. Cases have been registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway. DIG (Operations) Sohail Zafar Chatha directed all zonal officers to intensify the crackdown against the criminal elements. "Safety and security of the citizens is our foremost priority and no laxity will be tolerated in this regard" he added. - APP

Police arrest 7 for possessing illegal weapons

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district police on the directives of City Police Officer, Rawalpindi conducted raids in different areas and netted seven accused for possessing illegal weapons and drugs. According to a police spokesman, Rawat, Kalar Syedan and Patriata police held four accused namely Rizwan, Nasir, Bilal and Azmat for possessing illegal weapons and recovered four 30 bore pistols and ammunition from their possession. In other raids, Sadiqabad and R.A.Bazar police netted Adil Ishtiaq, Hassan Shehzad and Naem for having 550 grams charras. Separate cases had been registered against all the accused while further investigations were under process, he added. Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations Rawalpindi Waseem Riaz Khan said that strict action in accordance with the law was being taken against lawbreakers. - APP

10,000 square feet human flag created at F-9 Park

ISLAMABAD: A 10,000 square feet human flag was created at the Fatima Jinnah Park (F-9 Park) on Friday with the help of more than 5,000 students who gathered at the site early in the morning to take part in the festivities of the diamond jubilee of Pakistan. Talking to APP, the jubilant students, who used green and white cards in the formation of a large human flag, described the initiative as a "display of unity", expressing the resolve to break the world's record on the independence day of next year. "We have decided to start preparations after the Independence Day for breaking the world record set by the students from Lahore a couple of years ago," said Akash Haider, a student from a private school which had sent many of its

kids for participating in the event. He said they would also reach out to the students of other schools to materialize their plan for creating the largest human national flag. Rimsha, another student from a public sector school, said they gathered to express solidarity with the country ahead of the Independence Day falling on Sunday. "We take part in creating the human flag to show our patriotism by action," she added. The initiative to create the human flag was carried out under the supervision of Director Sports, Culture and Tourism Amir Shehzad. Various competitions including, painting, tableau, sketching, speeches, and quiz competition were also organized on the occasion. According to Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad focal person Dr Abdullah Tabassum, the event was aimed at enlightening the coming generation about the sacrifices rendered by our forefather for creation of Pakistan. "It will also help them realize that it is a 'great blessing' to live in a free country," he added. It was reported in 2014 that Pakistan broke the Guinness World Record for the largest human national flag made by 29,040 students at the National Hockey Stadium in Lahore. - APP

Saleem Baig reappointed as PEMRA chief

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President of Pakistan Dr Arif Alvi on Friday reappointed Muhammad Saleem Baig as Chairman Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA). He has been appointed Chairman PEMRA under MP-1 till he attains the age of 65, i e September 30, 2025, said a notification issued by the Cabinet Secretariat, Establishment Division.

Pakistani, Afghan centers sign MOU

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) represented by its Director, Ms Amina Khan and Avicenna University, Kabul represented by its Head of Board of Founders Dr Zakir Hussain Ershad signed an MOU. Dr Mohammad Zaher Halimi, Vice Chancellor of Avicenna University was also present on the occasion. Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG ISSI briefed him on the working of the Institute and extended his commendation to both sides and hoped that this association would produce quality research and dialogue for mutual benefit. - DNA

MUSLIM LEAGUE
THE CREATOR OF PAKISTAN

قیام پاکستان کی جمہوری جدوجہد 1906 تا 1937

FORMATION OF ALL INDIA MUSLIM LEAGUE 1906

1909 MINTO MORLEY REFORMS

QUAID-I-AZAM MUHAMMAD ALI JINNAH JOINED AIML IN 1913

1916 LUCKNOW PACT PASSED UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE QUAID-I-AZAM

KHILAFAT MOVEMENT WAS BETWEEN 1919 TO 1922

DELHI PROPOSALS 1927

NEHRU REPORT 1928

MUSLIM OPPOSITION TO NEHRU SCHEME.

Mr. Jinnah on Fate of the Report.

14 POINTS OF QUAID-I-AZAM MUHAMMAD ALI JINNAH 1929

THREE ROUND TABLES CONFERENCES 1930 TO 1931

SESSION OF ALL INDIA MUSLIM LEAGUE IN 1930 AT ALLAHABAD

THE ACT OF 1935

1937 ELECTIONS

جاری ہے۔۔۔

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Government of Pakistan

حکومت پاکستان

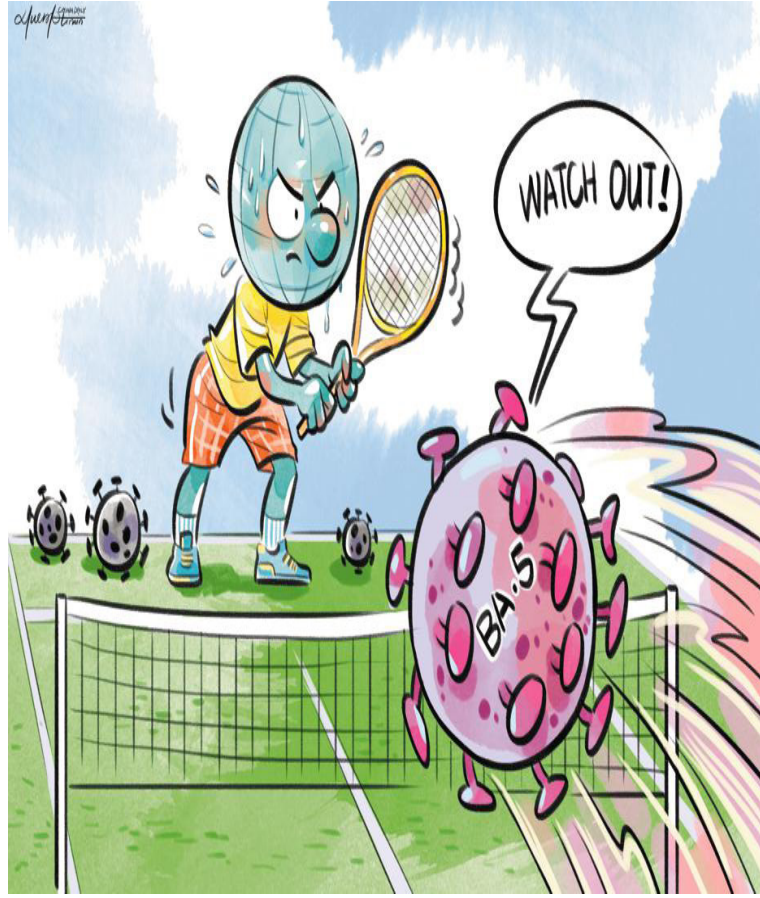
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Diplomacy in Africa

THE only way was up. When Donald Trump wasn't denigrating "shithole countries", his administration showed little interest in Africa. In the second visit to the continent by the secretary of state, Antony Blinken, which wrapped up in Rwanda on Thursday, he sought to continue rebuilding US relationships, moving past not only Mr Trump's contempt but also the earlier tendency to lecture other governments on their real needs and best options. No one should dictate African choices, Blinken insisted. Washington would not treat democracy as "an area where Africa has problems and the United States has solutions", but would recognise common challenges to be tackled as equals. Such humility is welcome and necessary. The question is what such rhetoric means in practice. And while Mr Blinken said that the commitment to a stronger partnership was "not about trying to outdo anyone else", it is plainly rooted in Washington's concerns about China's growing clout and, more recently, Russia's attempt to woo and reinforce support, with last month's four-nation tour by its foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov. Many African countries are refusing to take a side in the Ukraine war.

There is no lack of scepticism on the continent about Russian and, especially, Chinese involvement. But that does not equate to sharing US perceptions or priorities. Most Africans still view China's role favourably. It has rapidly built a good deal of useful infrastructure. US aid, though substantial and at times very effective, has hardly proved beyond reproach. When Covid-19 hit, the west hoarded vaccines and left Africa hanging. As Mr Blinken observed, polls show that Africans want democracy. America's soft power reserves are dwindling yet persistent. In a speech at Pretoria University, the secretary of state sought to reach past the political elites courted by China and towards their peoples, over half of whom will be 25 or younger within a couple of years. They may not remember Soviet and Chinese support for liberation movements, and US support for rightwing authoritarianism, as their elders do. But they, too, can see the inconsistencies. US concern for democratic standards has not precluded support for Paul Kagame, though Mr Blinken said that he raised human rights concerns in his meeting with the Rwandan president. Washington does not place the same stress on democracy when visiting the UAE or Saudi Arabia as it does in addressing Africa. Mr Blinken's pitch this time was both canny and appropriate. But Africans across the continent and at all levels of society will be looking to the US for deeds as well as words.

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Triumph in Commonwealth

PAKISTAN has managed to secure a decent 18th position in the recently-concluded Commonwealth Games 2022 after bagging a total of eight medals, including two precious golds. Unfortunately, we are still long way from the top of the table where the Kiwis sit comfortably with 178 medals to their name, including 67 golds. Our sporting rivals, India, managed to fare much better by securing fourth place with 61 medals and 22 golds – all credit goes to them and their developments in their sports industry.

For Pakistan, however, the stars of the show were javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem with his record-breaking throw of 90.18 meters – creating history by becoming the first ever South Asian to cross the 90-meter barrier – and weightlifter Nooh Dastagir Butt who managed to lift a record 405kg to win the gold. The people of Pakistan are extremely proud of all the Commonwealth champions and it was pleasing to see Pakistan's flag be hoisted high on multiple occasions. These star athletes and competitors have yet again indicated that our country is not short on talent, skill and perseverance. But, like previous years, their woes remain the same. Many have had to overcome odds just to participate; many are raw talent without proper training or resources; and many have had to travel through personal expenses.

Sports federations and government institutions in Pakistan have failed to support, manage and sustain these world-class athletes who have been constantly performing at the top-most level for the country. They must be taught, trained and transformed into professional athletes. But mismanagement prevails as the Pakistan Boxing Federation recently reported the disappearance of two national Boxers from Birmingham a few days after the conclusion of the games. An investigation may be underway but it doesn't take much to ascertain the possibilities of why this came about. Whatever the case, officials must have been more vigilant considering that many athletes haven't ever had international exposure before.

CPEC: The metamorphosis of a Northern Middle-age

Kiran Naz

One day, Mr. Li, the in-charge of the office, suddenly called him into his office and said that he found him very responsible and intelligent in his work. Most importantly, he found him very talented at learning Chinese culture and language. So Li decided to send him to a professional school for studying Chinese language and the company would bear his tuition

AM no more what I was. My Chinese colleagues helped complete my metamorphosis, he said with deep appreciation. Oshikhandass, a small beautiful mountain village, is situated near Gilgit in northern Pakistan. Because of the remote location, many people are engaging in agriculture and handicraft industry and living a relatively traditional and simple life. As there are not many local employment opportunities, most of the young and middle-aged in the village choose to work in big cities to support their families. Manzoor Alam, 35, is one of many middle-aged men who have traveled from the north to

the big cities to pursue their dreams. He can still recall that when he first came to Karachi alone in 2004 he could hardly find any better job rather than a driver due to lack of adequate education and skills. He earned 16,000 rupees per month at that time, which could barely cover his basic living expenses. Since then, he had changed jobs several times, but none of them were very satisfactory. He could only engage in livelihoods such as driver, purchasing officer, salesman and other positions that do not require much skills. In 2010, he decided to quit his job and started his own business by opening a pharmacy and a grocery store in a small town near his village. The business was good in the beginning and he had pretty good surplus after deducting the costs and employee salaries. However, the good times did not last long. Since 2014, the business has become more and more miserable, and he even couldn't support the rent and staff salaries. Just when he was at his wit's end, he was forced to leave his hometown again in 2015 on the recommendation of a friend who later introduced him to an interview at the Islamabad office of a Chinese company. According to its profile, the company entered Pakistan in 2013 and has participated in a series of CPEC or non-CPEC projects, especially Chinese-aided projects. It's been seven years but Manzoor can still remember the warm reception he received from his two Chinese colleagues when he first entered the office. At that moment, he felt, for the first time, the corporate culture of the Chinese company and the warmest friendship between the Chinese and Pakistani people. The company offered him a monthly salary of Rs 25,000 as a driver, his most familiar position. To be honest, he could have made it elsewhere, but something mysterious in his mind made him decide to stay. One day, Mr. Li, the in-charge of the office, suddenly called him into his office and said that he found him very responsible and intelligent in his work. Most importantly, he found him very talented at learning Chinese culture and language. So Li decided to send him to a professional school for studying Chinese language and the company would

bear his tuition. Manzoor was so encouraged that he readily accepted Li's offer. So he spent three months at a Chinese language training school in blue area, and another six months at Chinese department NUML. Since then, he has mastered basic everyday Chinese and performed better in his work. His colleagues were all surprised by his changes and promotions. Two years after his joining, he was promoted to house manager, responsible for daily management and reception of delegations. And his income was more than thrice as much as when he joined the company. With the help of the company and his Chinese colleagues, Manzoor has greatly improved his various abilities and his dedication to the work has brought him unanimous praise. In 2021, he was awarded the Excellent Employee. According to him, his life changed dramatically after joining the Chinese company. In 2017, he used his savings of the past few years to build a small but warm house in his village, which enable the family to no longer suffer snow and cold in winter. With the improvement of his financial status, he fathered a third child and all of them are now enjoying better education. He attaches great importance to education and hopes that one day his kids will be able to leave the mountains and avoid the similar fate as his. With his help, a total of 15 relatives and friends got jobs in different Chinese companies, and many of them were lifted out of poverty. Since 2018, in particular, he has quietly funded two poor students in Islamabad and two families in need in his village by providing them tuition and food. "I am no more what I was. My Chinese colleagues helped complete my metamorphosis." Chinese companies have been working to help Pakistan improve its infrastructure, actively participate in the fields of agriculture, industrial cooperation and social livelihood, which has greatly improved the employment, local people's livelihood and brought various opportunities to the social and economic development of Pakistan, he said with deep appreciation.

– The author is a freelance contributor.

Israel: normalising terror, one dawn at a time

Belén Fernández

The Western corporate media have also done their fair share to ensure the propagation of a pro-Israel narrative in lieu of fact – and rarely is...

ISRAEL'S latest military assault on the Gaza Strip – code-named Operation Breaking Dawn – spanned three days in early August and killed at least 44 Palestinians, including 16 children. According to the Israeli government, the attack was a "preemptive" operation against the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group – which is as creative an excuse as any for spontaneously bombing people for no apparent reason. A total of zero Israelis were killed over the course of Israel's sanguinary dawn-breaking in Gaza, an acute discrepancy in casualties that is par for the course in the Zionist state's dealings with the besieged Palestinian coastal enclave. While lethal and nonlethal forms of Israeli military torment have continued to be fixtures of daily existence in Gaza even after Israel's so-called "withdrawal" from the territory in 2005, Breaking Dawn was the bloodiest episode since the 11-day Israeli attack in May 2021 – nobly dubbed Operation Guardian of the Walls – which killed more than 260 Palestinians, including 67 children. A bit further back on the timeline, you'll find Operation Protective Edge – when the Israeli military slaughtered no fewer than 2,251 people in Gaza, among them 551 children. For its part, Operation Cast Lead, a 22-day affair that began in December of 2008, eliminated some 1,400 Palestinians, 300 of them children and the vast majority of them civilians. Three Israeli civilians were killed during Cast Lead. Rewind a bit further to the romantic charm of Operation Summer Rains, which commenced in June 2006 and gave way to the similarly poetic Operation Autumn Clouds. In their book Gaza in Crisis, US scholar Noam Chomsky and Israeli scholar Ilan Pappé posit that Summer Rains constituted the "most brutal attack on Gaza since 1967" – with the "systematic slaughter" gradually assuming the air of "inertia killing, when the continued employment of massive power is done as daily routine and not as the implementation of a policy". And indeed, this has pretty much been the name of Israel's game since it violently founded itself on Palestinian land in 1948 – an action that entailed massacring more than 10,000 Palestinians, expelling three-quarters of a million more, and destroying some 500 Palestinian villages. Since then, politically-motivated violent action and

the threat thereof have remained the order of the day – or of the breaking dawn, if you will. Thanks to a US-backed Israeli monopoly on the regional discourse and an all-out assault on logic, however, Israel's Palestinian victims are instead the ones vilified as "terrorists". In response to this month's bloodbath in Gaza, US President Joe Biden reaffirmed his "support for Israel's security... including its right to defend itself against attack" – which is neither a surprising pronouncement from the man who recently enthusiastically self-defined as a "Zionist" nor a departure from the tired rhetoric of the US establishment, which holds that Israel is permanently and indubitably acting in self-defence. Never mind that the whole "self-defence" line doesn't really fly when you're "defending" yourself against the people whose land you brutally appropriated and whom you continue to periodically slay in large numbers. It's like saying Mount Vesuvius was defending itself against the people of Pompeii – or that the fish in the proverbial barrel were threatening the security of the person shooting them. Sure enough, both CNN and Reuters went with "clashes" in their write ups of the truce that went into effect on the night of August 7 – as though this were a remotely suitable descriptor for a situation in which 44 people had died on one side and none had died on the other. Was five-year-old Alaa Qadoud "clashing" when she was obliterated by Israeli airstrikes? Were the other 15 dead children also "clashing"? The Washington Post saw Operation Breaking Dawn as an example of "intense cross-border violence" – a similar line was taken by the Associated Press – while the New York Times' coverage included nefariously ambiguous reports like: "Israel and militants trade fire as death toll reaches 24". And yet the most obvious take-away from Israel's manoeuvres in the Gaza Strip is the one that cannot be said: that Israel is engaging in straight-up terrorism – at least according to, you know, the Cambridge Dictionary definition. In the end, terrorism is terrorism, whether it occurs under the name Operation Summer Rains or Whipping Wind or Scampering Goat. And as Israel continues to routinise "systematic slaughter" and normalise terror, it should also be normal to call the country out.

– Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Pressing the reset button on Saudi-US relations

Dr. Turki Faisal Al-Rasheed

Saudi-US relations also affirm the importance of food and energy security and climate cooperation. They underscore the importance of strategic economic cooperation and investment, particularly in light of the current crisis in Ukraine and its consequences, and reaffirm the countries' commitment to a stable global energy market

THE relationship between Saudi Arabia and the US has been shaken by ongoing crises, such as the rising crude oil prices; the Russian-Ukrainian war, which has exacerbated the food security concerns of many countries; and upheaval in Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Iran and other countries. These issues have prompted the US administration to strengthen its ties with Saudi Arabia following a visit by President Joe Biden to the Kingdom to address economic, social and environmental issues to foster sustainable development. Diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and the US date back to 1933 and it has been almost 80 years since the founder of Saudi Arabia, King Abdulaziz, met with President Franklin D. Roosevelt to lay the foundations for a post-Second World War Middle East.

The oil-for-security myth is a thing of the past. We need to focus on sustainability and deliver peace and prosperity for Saudi Arabia and the US, for our peoples and for the wider world. As Saudi Arabia develops, Saudi-US relations can provide a partnership around food security, energy, stability and regional growth to deliver this peace and prosperity. We must redefine the contours of the next eight decades of this critical alliance. The Jeddah Communiqué on Saudi-US relations emphasized the pivotal role the historic partnership has played in promoting regional stability and prosperity. The Saudi-US partnership has been a cornerstone of regional security for decades and it has affirmed that the two countries share a vision of a more secure, stable and prosperous region, interconnected with the wider world. Saudi-US relations also affirm the importance of food and energy security and climate cooperation. They underscore the importance of strategic economic cooperation and investment, particularly in light of the current crisis in Ukraine and its consequences, and reaffirm the countries' commitment to a stable global energy market. The US has welcomed Saudi Arabia's commitment to supporting global oil market balancing for sustained economic growth. Less positively, for many years, Saudi Arabia was singled out by the US as bearing much of the blame for climate change. Nor should we forget the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act or the No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act. The American administration has realized that the road to power must lead back to the Middle East. In my book "Ma Katb," published in 2010 during the US occupation of Iraq, I wrote that the US would flee in defeat from Iraq and go through years of economic recession. Within a short period, it would understand the consequences of occupying Iraq and it would seek to regain its self-control. In politics, as well as in nature, there is no vacuum and other powerful countries would seek to fill the vacuum. Now, the American administration has realized that the road to power must lead back to the Middle East.

Saudi Arabia plays a pivotal role in the game of power. The US' gradual withdrawal from the region has led to China becoming the largest trading partner of the Gulf countries, while Russia has become an important player in Syria and Libya. Currently, Iran has extensive influence in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and northern Yemen. Today, Saudi Arabia in particular and the Gulf in general are more independent, with Arab states willing and able to act without regard for a superpower patron. Furthermore, the Middle East is internally characterized by several regional powers, with Arab power shifting from the traditional heartlands of the Levant and Egypt to the Gulf, with non-Arab states such as Turkey, Israel and Iran also having increasing involvement. The Arab world believes that the US simply does not have the resources or the political capabilities to play the role of a dominant power in the Middle East. Arab regional powers no longer believe that the US can or will act militarily to defend them. This is reminiscent of the University of Arizona's special panel discussion, "Pressing the Reset Button for US-Saudi Arabia Relations: Establishing Cooperation Beyond Oil and the Military into Agriculture, Food, Education and Society." This session was held on Nov. 9, 2016 – the day Donald Trump was announced as the winner of that year's US presidential election. The panel discussion emphasized the importance of resetting Saudi-US relations beyond oil and military purchases by focusing on sustainability for the common good. Further collaboration between the US and Saudi Arabia in particular, and the Arab world in general, is vital to achieving the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals. It bears repeating that the oil-for-security myth is a thing of the past. The way forward after pressing the reset button on Saudi-US relations is to focus on food security, energy security and environmental, economic and social issues, for the common good. Saudi-US relations have survived many serious difficulties and the two countries' relationship is crucial for global stability. It is a relationship that should not be taken for granted: It must be constantly nurtured or otherwise it will drift away.

Briefs

Pakistan, China to boost economic relations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China and Pakistan on Friday agreed to enhance the business and economic relations for joint ventures, business to business talk for increasing industrial cooperation. On the backdrop of the successful meeting of the Minister, Chaudhry Salik Hussain and Secretary, Asad Rehman Gillani, Board of Investment with Ambassador of China, Mr. Nong Rong, during which the resolve was made to create conducive atmosphere for B2B, Joint Ventures and Match-making, especially in the ambit of the recently signed Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation. The Board of Investment led by the Additional Secretary/EDG-II, Khashih ur Rehman and Project Director, CPEC-IC, Asim Ayub, called on the Consul General, Li Bijian in Karachi. The Consul General, Li Bijian appreciated BOI for meeting the Chinese and Pakistani associations in Karachi, and bridging the gap between the private sector of both countries. He praised the BOI's efforts of taking calculated steps for attracting high quality FDI through concrete efforts. An example of which is the BOI's initiative along with All Pakistan Chinese Enterprise Association and the Chinese Embassy for establishing the Pakistan Business and Investment Forum, the same forum was appreciated by President Xi Jinping during Pak-China joint statement.

Sanaullah bars police from raiding Bani Gala

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Friday stopped the Inspector General Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr Akbar Nasir Khan from raiding Bani Gala to arrest the driver of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shehbaz Gill. According to the sources, the IGP from Saudi Arabia over the phone and got the details related to the Shahbaz Gill case. The Interior Minister stopped the IG Islamabad from conducting a raid to arrest the driver of Shahbaz Gill and also expressed his displeasure over the arrest of the driver's wife and daughter. He ordered IG in case of non-cooperation, to inform him first and his permission should be taken before conducting any raid on Bani Gala Red. Interior Minister said the driver of Shahbaz Gill should be arrested in any case to recover the laptop and mobile phone.

Flash floods sweep away bridge near KK Highway

DNA

DASU: A temporary Compact 200 bridge on Friday was swept away because of a massive flash flood at Uchaar Nullah stream near the Karakoram Highway. The incident took place in Upper Kohistan's Dasu area, leaving Gilgit-Baltistan disconnected from the rest of the country. Torrential rainfall in the area triggered flash floods, sweeping away the bridge - located close to the residential camps of the 4,500-megawatt Dasu Hydropower Project. Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman also tweeted about the devastation in the wake of the flood asking all district commissioners to "remain vigilant". "Massive flash flood at Nullah (RD 303) in Dasu district, KP. Compact bridge has been washed off with the flood surge," Senator Rehman tweeted, informing followers that the Karakoram Highway has been blocked from both sides. "No buses are allowed for now on Babusar road," she tweeted, adding that the bridge was not resilient.

President says does not want any controversy

Says that the political parties and stakeholders needed to sit together and chalk out an agreed way forward

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that as President all institutions of the country are respected and dear to him and he does not believe in generating any controversy. While talking to the eminent media persons at Governor's House, Lahore, he said that the purpose of his media interaction with eminent media persons was to get a qualified input from them on the prevailing political and economic situation and discuss possible ways and means to bring down the political temperature in the country. He said that he was given the responsibility by the people of Pakistan as President of Pakistan which rested upon him some important constitutional responsibilities. As a President of the country, all institutions of the country are respectable and dear to him and he does not believe in generating any controversy, however, there are many avenues where improvement can be made through a consultative process, he added. He said that there was a need to initiate a consultative process to bring all important stakeholders on the table to listen to each other. However, the constitutional role of the President does not allow him officially to reach out to the stakeholders. He further said that it was the primary responsibility



of the Executive and the opposition in the Assembly and outside the Assembly and the relevant institutions to deliberate upon defusing the polarization. While agreeing with the views of an eminent journalist, he said that the political parties and stakeholders needed to sit together and chalk out an agreed way forward, especially with regard to holding free and fair elections and developing a charter of economy that could help ease out the current political polarization and economic situation. The President further said that he believed

that corruption was a major factor in the backwardness of any country. He said one of the best ways to counter corruption was to make all financial transactions through formal Banking channels especially by the political parties while receiving and managing donations. Replying to another question, he said stakeholders within Pakistan should only be involved in resolving the issues confronting the country without any involvement of any foreign persons or country. While replying to a question he said that social media is now here to stay but unfor-

tunately, we are not used to it and that it is difficult to control. Therefore, we need to focus on social media and on what is happening on it. He said that 90% of the social media is good and provides lots of information while we should learn to deal with the remaining 10% by filtering out fake news and hearsay. He further said he had a very cordial relationship with the existing government and he accorded timely approval to all the summaries except four summaries which were delayed while remaining within the ambit of the constitution.

British HC plant 75 trees to mark 75 years of UK-Pak ties



DNA

ISLAMABAD: On Friday to commemorate 75 years of UK - Pakistan relations, British High Commission staff joined by Chevening alumni and personnel from the Islamabad Capital Development Authority, planted 75 trees native to Pakistan, in the Shakarparian National Park. This activity compliments a vast year-long tree planting programme carried out in the UK by the British Pakistan Foundation and Pakistan High Commission. Named 'The Legacy Project', this was launched to celebrate the achievements of British Pakistanis over the last 75 years. A

total of 7,500 trees are set to be planted. The UK - Pakistan relationship has gone from strength to strength this year, with major events such as the independence anniversary and the Birmingham Commonwealth Games revitalising deep people-to-people ties. On the occasion the Acting British High Commissioner Andrew Dalgleish said: "Right now the UK and Pakistan are collaborating to tackle some of the world's most pressing challenges from driving forward action on climate change to improving gender equality. I know that we will continue to do so over the next seventy-five years. Happy Birthday, happy Independence Day, Azm-e-aali Shaan, Shaad rahe Pakistan!"

Minar-e-Pakistan replica unveiled in Beijing

BEIJING: Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin Ul Haque unveiled the replica of Minar-e-Pakistan (monument of Pakistan) here at Chaoyang Park to further promote the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan. Addressing a gathering, the Ambassador said this is a very special national monument of Pakistan, according to China Economic Net (CEN). "It reminds us of a very important day in the history of Pakistan, that is 23rd March 1940 when the Muslims of the subcontinent demanded through a resolution a separate homeland", he added. This monument is a symbol of the independence, freedom, and hope for the 220 million people of Pakistan. The Ambassador hopes that this replica would be cherished by the people of China and it would also serve as a symbol of friendship between China and Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion, Chen Wei, Counsellor, Asia Department, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners and enjoy deep-rooted friendship. "This monument will further enhance awareness about Pakistan among the Chinese people", he added. This replica of Minar-e-Pakistan was installed at Chaoyang Park to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Pakistan and China in 2021. - DNA

Interior ministry cancels NOC of ARY News

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Interior has cancelled the no-objection certificate (NOC) of ARY Communications Private Ltd, citing "adverse reports from agencies" as the reason behind the decision, it emerged on Friday. The notification issued by the ministry, dated August 11, to the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra) reads: "The NOC issued in favour of M/S ARY Communications Private (Ltd), is cancelled with immediate effect and until further orders on the basis of adverse reports from agencies." Reporting on the development, ARY News' English website called the cancellation by "the coalition government led by PML-N" an "economic murder of more than 4,000 media workers associated with the news channel". The report also called it a "a new move against the journalist fraternity", saying this was done without any notice. "The channel's administration condemned the suspension of its transmissions, saying the network is being victimised by the federal government," it added.

Funds released for NW families

PESHAWAR: PDMA releases Rs364m for disbursement among registered families in North Waziristan, Khyber districts, a statement said on Friday. The PDMA of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has released three hundred and sixty-four million rupees for disbursement among the registered families in North Waziristan and Khyber districts. According to a spokesman of PDMA, the funds will be distributed among the registered families as financial assistance to help them to overcome financial difficulties due to war on terrorism in area. - DNA

Salman Rushdie attacked on stage in New York

NEW YORK: Salman Rushdie, the controversial British author of Indian origin, whose book "The Satanic Verses" outraged the Muslim world for its blasphemous content and led to death threats from Iran in the 1980s, was reportedly stabbed Friday before giving a speech in Chautauqua, a town in western New York, according to media reports. An Associated Press (of America) reporter witnessed a man storm the stage at the Chautauqua Institution and begin punching or stabbing Rushdie, 75, as he was being introduced. The author was taken or fell to the floor, and the man was restrained. A bloodied Rushdie was quickly surrounded by a small group of people who held up his legs, presumably to send more blood to his chest, according to the American news agency. In a press release, the New York State Police confirmed that a man rushed the stage and stabbed Rushdie in the neck. "Rushdie suffered an apparent stab wound to the neck, and was transported by helicopter to an area hospital," the press release said. "His condition is not yet known. The interviewer suffered a minor head injury. A State Trooper assigned to the event immediately took the suspect into custody. The Chautauqua County Sheriff's Office assisted at the scene." "The Satanic Verses" has been banned in many countries since 1988. A year later, Iran's late supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued a fatwa, or edict, calling for Rushdie's death. Iran has also offered over \$3 million in reward for anyone who kills Rushdie. Iran's government has long since distanced itself from Khomeini's fatwa, but anti-Rushdie sentiment lingered. - APP

Firefighters contain French blazes but caution reigns

NEWS DESK

HOSTENS: A huge fire that has devastated swathes of southwestern France appeared contained on Friday as French and foreign firefighters worked flat out, but blistering temperatures made victory uncertain, local authorities said. The 40-kilometre (25-mile) active fire front in the Gironde and Landes departments around Bordeaux "has not developed, but the weather conditions are pushing us towards extreme vigilance", deputy prefect Roman Leustic told reporters. Temperatures stood at 39 degrees Celsius (102 Fahrenheit) in the fire zone, just like the day before. No new evacuations had been ordered on top of the 10,000 people already asked to leave, Leustic added. But "temperatures continue to rise and the water table keeps falling", he said. EU members including Germany, Poland, Austria and Romania have pledged reinforcements totaling 361 firefighters to join the roughly 1,100 French ones on the ground, along with several water-bombing planes from the European Union fleet. Many of the newcomers went into action on Friday. "It doesn't matter which country we're in, we're firefighters, we are able to help people around the world," said Cristian Buhaianu, who commands a 77-strong

firefighting contingent from Romania. At the Merignac air base, near the southwestern city of Bordeaux, where Canadian planes and other firefighting aircraft are stationed, a Greek pilot said scenes of devastation like the ones seen in France were commonplace in his home country. "We see this every year in Greece, and right now we see this in France," the pilot, 36-year-old Anastasis Sarioglou told AFP. "We have the feeling of helping you guys and it's nice." In the hard-hit area around the village of Hostens, the thick smoke seen on Thursday gave way to blue skies and occasional clouds. France has been buffeted this summer by a historic drought that has forced water use restrictions nationwide, as well as a series of heatwaves that experts say are being driven by climate change. The blaze near Bordeaux erupted in July - the driest month seen in France since 1961 - destroying 14,000 hectares and forcing thousands of people to evacuate before it was contained. But it continued to smoulder in the tinder-dry pine forests and peat-rich soil. Officials suspect arson may have played a role in the latest flare-up, which has burned 7,400 hectares (18,000 acres) since Tuesday. Fires in 2022 have ravaged an area three times the annual average over the past 10 years, with blazes also active in the Alpine Jura, Isere and Ardeche regions this week.

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