



Islamabad POST

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Detailed News On Page-04

Turkiye leading contributor of NATO forces

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Blinken says Taliban violated Doha agreement

Detailed News On Page-08



ECP verdict

PTI received prohibited funds

The commission found that donations were taken from America, Australia, Canada and the UAE; further says PTI Chairman Imran Khan submitted a false Nomination Form I

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan, in a unanimous verdict on Tuesday, said it has found that the PTI received prohibited funding. The case was earlier referred to as the "foreign funding" case, but later the election commission accepted the PTI's plea to refer to it as the "prohibited funding" case. The commission found that donations were taken from America, Australia, Canada and the UAE. PTI received funds from 34 individuals and 351 businesses including companies, the ECP verdict states. Thirteen unknown accounts have also come to light, said the commission in the verdict, adding that hiding accounts is a "violation" of Article 17 of the Constitution. Article 17 (2) of the Constitution states: "...law shall provide that where the Federal Government declares that any political party has been formed or is operating in a manner prejudicial to the sovereignty or integrity of Pakistan, the Federal Government shall, within fifteen days of such declaration, refer the matter to the Supreme Court whose decision on such reference shall be final." Article 17 (3) states: "Every political party shall account for the source of its

Bilawal, Maryam slam PTI chief

KARACHI: A spokesman for PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Tuesday said that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has declared PTI chief as a 'certified thief'. According to a communiqué here on Tuesday, Spokesman Zulfikar Ali Badar said that PTI chief Imran Khan had reached his logical end and he had been pronounced as a thief. He demanded that PTI chief should be asked who run his kitchen as he did not do any job. He said that the PTI captain was managing his party matters by conceiving as a Shaukat Kha-

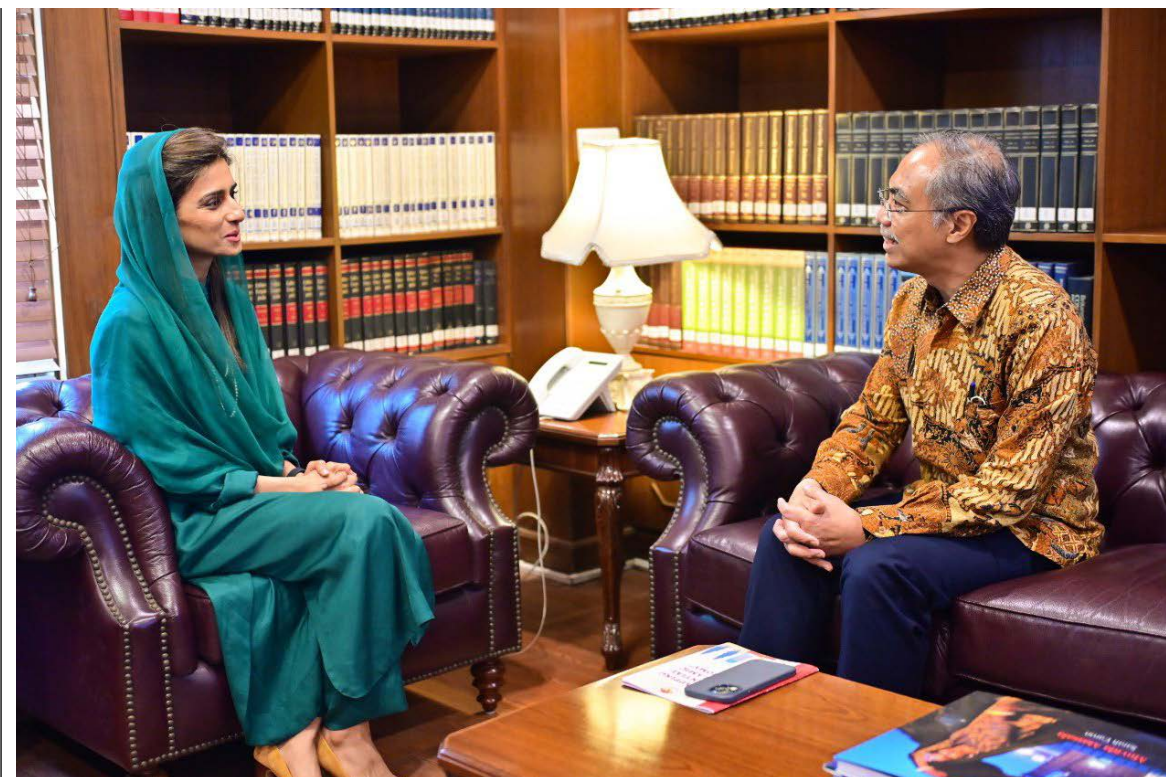
num. He alleged that Imran Khan was running PTI on aid same as Shaukat Khanum. Meanwhile, Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz on Tuesday said former prime minister Imran Khan was "launched" to impede the country's development and sabotage the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Maryam Nawaz, in posts on her Twitter handle, said Imran Khan, who used to "deliver lectures" of liberating the nation of slavery, had

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funds in accordance with the law." The funds were also in violation of Article 6 of the Political Parties Act. Moreover, the ECP found that PTI Chairman Imran Khan submitted a false Nomination Form I and that the affidavit provided regarding party accounts was false. The ECP has issued a show-cause notice to PTI to explain why their prohibited funds should not be confiscated.

Key takeaways
• PTI Pakistan knowingly and willfully received donations from Bristol Engineering services – a UAE-based company, an amount of \$49,965 into its accounts in Pakistan which are hit by prohibition in violation of Pakistani Laws.

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ISLAMABAD: Indonesian Ambassador Adam Tugio calls on Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hina Rabbani Khar. – DNA

IMF lauds increase in oil levy

The IMF Board meeting will be held at the end of August

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: Pakistan has completed the last precondition for the combined seventh and eighth reviews, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Tuesday, adding that a board meeting is tentatively scheduled for late August once adequate financing assurances are confirmed. Esther Perez Ruiz, the IMF's Resident Representative for Pakistan, confirmed the last prior action in a statement sent to the media. "Pakistan has fulfilled the preconditions for the seventh and eighth joint review by increasing the PDL (petroleum development levy) on July 31," said the statement. "The IMF Executive Board meeting will be held at the end of August if adequate funding is assured to Pakistan," the IMF statement said. According to sources, the IMF meeting is contingent on assurances of \$4.2 billion in funding from Pakistan's friendly countries. The statement came after two days after the government announced doubling the petroleum levy on petrol from Rs10 to Rs20 per litre and diesel from Rs5 to Rs10 per litre for the first half of August 2022. The price of petrol was brought down by Rs3.05 per litre. Following the changes in the prices, petrol is now available for Rs227.19 per litre. Previously, petrol was being sold in the country for Rs230.34 per litre. Meanwhile, there has been an increase of Rs8.95 in the price of high-speed diesel, after which the new price will stand at Rs244.95 per litre.

PTI maintains all accounts 'legal' after ECP verdict

Says the CEC and ECP members have 'weak' legal backgrounds

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The PTI on Tuesday rejected the ruling of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) that the party received prohibited funding. The ECP, in a unanimous verdict, said the commission found that 34 foreign donations were taken in fundraising. The donations were taken from America, Australia, Canada, and the UAE. In a press conference following the verdict, PTI Senior Vice President Fawad Chaudhry said overseas Pakistanis raised funds for the PTI and the ECP had acknowledged their narrative that it does not come under "foreign funding". In the next phase, the PTI will prove that the 16 accounts are legal, adding that these accounts are "subsidiary accounts,"

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PTI to file two petitions against ECP

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Lashing out at the ECP for going beyond its legal and constitutional ambit to give unilateral decision against PTI in the party's prohibited funding case, PTI Central Secretary General Asad Umar said that crying and yelling of cabal of thieves were justifiable because they had been strategizing and plotting for years to

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Khadija appointed Somali Minister

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Khadija Mohamed Al-makhzoumi has been appointed as the Minister of the Ministry of Environment and Climate. Ms. Khadija has served in Pakistan as Somalia ambassador. She recently contested the elections for MP and became the Member of Parliament. Her Pakistani friends have congratulated her on this important posting and wished her best of luck.

Govt should ban PTI

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The ruling alliance of 13 parties, the Pakistan Democratic Alliance (PDM) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has urged the government to initiate action immediately and impose a ban on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and disqualify Imran Khan for a lifetime following the ECP decision. The PDM head said in his tweet messages that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has proved Imran a global thief, money launderer, liar, dishonest and working against the interests of Pakistan. In another tweet, Maulana Fazlur Rehman said today's ECP decision has confirmed his stand since 2010 that Imran Khan is an agent of international forces including Jews.

Helicopter crash

Six Pakistan Army personnel martyred

ISPR says accident occurred due to bad weather

President, PM offer condolences

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has condoled the martyrdom of the high-ranking army officers with Chief of Army Staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa on the telephone today. He expressed his deep sorrow and grief over the martyrdom of the army officers and soldiers in the helicopter

STAFF REPORT



RAWALPINDI: The wreckage of the Pakistan Army helicopter that went missing in Balochistan last night was found near Musa

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Germany, Pakistan Regional Infrastructure Fund accord

(Phase-II) financing agreement involves worth EUR 17.5m

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: KfW and Pakistan signed the Financing Agreement for the second phase of Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF-II) at Pakistan's Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs (MEA) in Islamabad on 1 August 2022. KfW Development Bank (KfW) Country Director Mr. Sebastian Jacobi and MEA Secretary Mr. Haya Uddin signed the RIF-II grant agreement. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is financing the project through KfW. Total funding (grant) for the project is EUR 17.5 million over a period of six years. The project will scale up resilient resource management in cities (RRMiC) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP),

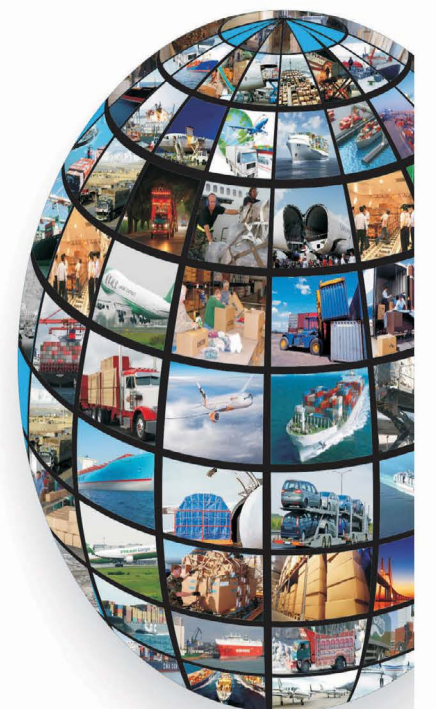


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Briefs

FESCO to ensure uninterrupted power supply

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad electric supply company (FESCO) will ensure uninterrupted power supply to Imambargahs, mourning processions and majalis during the holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram. This was stated by Chief Engineer Operations Nazir Muhammad Dub during his visit to the Muharram routes, Imambargahs including Sidhupura, Shahi Chowk and central Imambargah. He said that Fesco would halt all types of maintenance work on main electric lines on 9th and 10th Muharram for ensuring smooth power supply. He said that all connections and electric wires had been made in order, on Muharram routes across the region. The leaves of staff including officers of emergency squad had been cancelled and their presence was being ensured round the clock. Alternate transformer trolleys had been made available to handle any situation which may arise due to faults in transformers. Chief Engineer Ghulam Farooq and other FESCO officers accompanied him. - APP

Imran Khan is a certified liar: Murtaza Abbasi

ABBOTTABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi Tuesday said that the Election Commission of Pakistan's decision has proved that Imran Khan and his party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf is biggest thief and fraud. He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of his constituency at his residence. Murtaza Abbasi said that according to the verdict, not only Imran Khan has been proved to be an agent of external powers, but it has also been proven that he has lied after taking the oath. The minister stated that the purpose of Imran Khan's politics is to create instability in the country, and the identity of the one who gave himself the titles of "Sadiq and Amin" has been revealed by the Election Commission as a fraud. He said that Pakistan Muslim League-N has sacrificed its political reputation to save the country and the state. If the PML-N and the allied parties had not taken over the charge of the country in their hands, today Pakistan would have gone bankrupt, he said. Federal Minister said that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif is working hard day and night to save Pakistan from default and clearing the filth of the PTI-led government and bringing back the country on the track of development and prosperity. - APP

Pak economy mostly depends on agriculture

FAISALABAD: Additional Director General (ADG) Agriculture (Farm & Training) Punjab Dr Ishtiaq Hussain said that Pakistan's economy was mostly dependent on agriculture whereas livestock was contributing 55 per cent share in it. Addressing a meeting at Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI) here on Tuesday, he said that there was dire need to increase meat and milk production in the country in order to cater our domestic food requirements. In this connection, the agriculture scientists were duty bound to introduce new varieties of fodder crops so that malnutrition problems in livestock could be overcome, he added. He said that green fodder was basic need of cattle farm. Therefore, the scientists should accelerate their research efforts to develop new fodder varieties which could give maximum production even during harsh weather. Dr Ishtiaq said that staff of agriculture department in collaboration with livestock department should visit cattle farms and convince the farmers to use latest technologies to increase production of crops and animals. The meeting also approved AARI projects 2022-23 for production of various fodder crops including Bar-seem, Jai, Losarn, Rai and Baharia maize. - APP

Speakers call for enhanced Pak-ASEAN engagement

Pakistan-ASEAN must work on urgent basis to finalize Pakistan-ASEAN free trade: Zahid Latif Khan

STAFF REPORT/DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-ASEAN must work on urgent basis to finalize Pakistan-ASEAN free trade, it was suggested by Mr Zahid Latif Khan Chairman, Asian Institute of Eco-civilization Research and Development (AIEDR), while addressing the participants of special meeting on "Pakistan-ASEAN Economic Linkages" organized by AIEDR and attended by the Ambassadors of Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, and Philippines. Further he highlighted that Pakistan is land of opportunities with diverse economic fields, geography, and potential to become the hub of connectivity and ASEAN must explore avenues to benefit from these opportunities. While addressing the gathering Adam Mularman Tugio, Ambassador of Indonesia proposed that there should be a focal desk at Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) to promote economic and trade linkages between Pakistan-ASEAN. President of RCCI Mr. Nadeem Rauf agreed to suggestion and assured the participants that RCCI and AIEDR will jointly work to establish the Desk. H.E. Nguyen Tien Phong ambassador of Vietnam stressed for need of stability, continuity, and consistency in policies for improving economic and trade linkages. H.E. Ms. Maria Agnes M. Cervantes ambassador of Vietnam urged to enhance the linkages through



improved exchanges. H. E. Abdul Mubdi' Osman, Brunei Darussalam, shared that Brunei offered good opportunities to invest and trade, especially in the field of LNG. Deddy Faisal Ahmad Salleh told that Malaysia is working to

enhance connectivity with Pakistan and trying to operationalize direct flights. During the open discussion, Mr. Bilal proposed that Pakistan-ASEAN should work to establish a special economic zone in Pakistan. It will be excellent opportunity

to deepen the linkages and create new economic opportunities. Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, CEO of AIEDR concluded the meeting by saying that, Pakistan and ASEAN should work to boost the relationship on the basis of win-win Cooperation.

CDA working for the healthy environment

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The administration of the Capital Development Authority is taking various steps to provide a healthy environment to the citizens of Islamabad. In this regard, on the special instructions of the CDA administration, the upgradation work of Uncle Sargam Park located in Sector F-11-2 of Islamabad has been completed by the concerned departments. According to the details, this Park was built to suit the famous character Uncle Sargam. Statues of characters from the Uncle Sargam series were also installed. However, the park was in a dilapidated condition and the statues installed were also damaged. On the special instructions of the Chairman Capital Development Authority, the work of providing other facilities

including renovation of this park was started which has now been completed. In this context, the statues of the famous characters of Uncle Sargam series have been up-graded and reinstalled so that the children visiting the park can enjoy themselves. The provision of other facilities including swings, walkways, jogging track for children to play in Uncle Sargam Park located in Sector F-11-2 of Islamabad has also been ensured. Similarly, seasonal flowers of different colors have been planted in the park to keep

the environment green and fresh so that the citizens who come to the park can enjoy the atmosphere to the fullest. Apart from this, benches for sitting in the park, proper lighting arrangements, security arrangements and other necessary arrangements have also been made. On this occasion, the administration of the Capital Development Authority says that providing a healthy environment to the citizens of Islamabad, especially children, is among the top priorities of the institution.

KP Cabinet increases compensation amount for calamity hit victims

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cabinet on Tuesday approved compensation amount under different heads for calamity stricken victims and also agreed major crackdown against encroachment in flood affected districts. The cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Mahmood Khan increased compensation amount for deceased of natural calamity from Rs 300,000 to 800,000 and financial support for damaged houses from Rs 100,000 to 400,000. Minister for Labour Shaukat Yousafzai in a media briefing after the cabinet meeting said that the cabinet also directed the district administrations to immediately launch crackdown against encroachment especially on nullahs, canals, river banks and other water channels. The cabinet appreciated performance of the district admin-

istration and government agencies including Rescue 1122 for the immediate relief operations during the flood. The Chief Minister directed to open Rescue 1122 centers in the districts having mineral mines so that immediate relief activities could be started in case of accidents and to save lives of the miners. The Cabinet decided to continue the subsidy on flour and directed to continue supplying flour at subsidized rates throughout the year, adding that the government was spending 35 billion rupees for the purpose. The cabinet was informed that there was no shortage of flour in the province and more than 200,000 bags of 10 kg and 20 kg were being provided on a daily basis in the province at discounted rates. - APP

Ahsan Iqbal, Asad Umar assure participation of their parties in ICCI's APC



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning & Secretary General of PML(N) and Asad Umar Secretary General PTI have assured the participation of their parties in the "All Parties Conference on Revival of Economy" being organized by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce &

Industry (ICCI) on August 6, 2022. The assurances were given to Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry when he presented them letters of invitation in person. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President ICCI, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi former President ICCI and others were also present at the occasion. Both political leaders appreciated the

initiative of ICCI for APC and termed it a positive move to bring all stakeholders at one platform to find a way forward for the economic stability of Pakistan. Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry briefed them about the key objectives of APC and hoped that all political parties would take active participation in this important event.

Abbasi to approach apex court

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Leader Hanif Abbasi on Tuesday said he would file a reference in the apex court after consultation with his lawyers on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) prohibited funding case to probe the matter in detail. "Today's verdict of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has proved that Imran Khan is a certified liar," he said while addressing a press conference here. Abbasi said as per verdict of the commission the PTI had received amount of billions of rupees from foreign based companies. Despite the fact that some 16 unnamed accounts were not disclosed by the PTI and Imran still reluctant to accept that his party had received funds from abroad, he said. According to the electoral watchdog's verdict the PTI received funds from 34 foreign nationals and business tycoon like Arif Naqvi. "Pakistan will not have been in such a state if Nawaz Sharif's government had not been toppled," he remarked. Abbasi said today was the most important day in the political history of Pakistan, as such a politician of Pakistan was going to be disqualified who not only made false claims to the people but also created a storm of abuse on social media against the state institutions. He said PTI's social media team had created false campaigns against institutions and other political parties. "Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf is making fabricated stories against other political parties and government should take action on what is happening on social media," he added. He said Imran Khan had showed people the dreams of 'Rayisat-e-Madina' but election commission had proved his dishonesty after he had submitted a fake affidavit before the commission. Abbasi said the PML-N took difficult decisions to put the country on path of progress, adding that Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif was making all out efforts to steer the country out of economic crisis. - APP

NHMP SIs demand to promote them as inspectors

DNA

LAHORE: 350 sub-inspectors of the Motorway Police (NHMP) batch of 2002 who were promoted as inspectors in 2008 have not been promoted to the post of DSP after 15 years even though the Supreme Court of Pakistan issued instructions in November 2019. It was said that officers should be promoted according to seniority by making rolls in six months. But today, despite the passage of three years, the orders of the Supreme Court of Pakistan could not be implemented and the said officers have suffered severe mental anguish due to their promotion, even though 100 of them have completed the advanced course. In Writ Petition No. 89/11, the Supreme Court had ordered that the deportees will not be integrated into any department including NHMP. And in compliance with this order, a large number of officers who came on deputation from other institutions were de-inducted and returned to their original departments. Moreover, in another writ petition filed by the batch in mid-2002, the Supreme Court also ordered that these officers be promoted to the next rank, but unfortunately, the department concealed the facts. And misled the Supreme Court that no rules have been made yet to promote the 2002 batch on which the Supreme Court had given six months to make the rules but those rules have not been made till date. Surprisingly, over the last two and a half years, various ranks in the NHMP have been promoted under the 1993 ATP Rules. But the 2002 batch is ignored by the department head saying that the rolls have not been made yet. While 79 deputationers are being re-inducted into the department and are also being made senior from the 2002 batch, which will darken the service career of the 2002 batch. The question is that every other rank can be promoted under the PTA Rules of 1993, then why separate rules are required for them. Direct inspectors who were recruited in 2002 have also been promoted to the rank of SP at that time. In fact, the SPS who were recruited as inspectors in 2002 are the obstacles to the promotion of the 2008 batch, who are themselves doing duty in the IG office or any important position, they do not want the 2002 batch to be equal to them. Out of fear, Beach 2002 is strongly opposed in front of the IG, and the same cry is raised that the ATP rules have not been made yet and therefore cannot be promoted. On the appointment of each new IG, the inspectors kept hoping that the new IG would think well of us and find a way for our promotion, but every time they were disappointed.

Consultative session on investment policy held

LAHORE: Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) and Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) jointly organized a consultative session regarding Pakistan's Investment Policy-2022, here at LCCI on Tuesday. Provincial Industries and Commerce Department Secretary Dr. Ahmed Javed Qazi conducted the session attended by PBIT Chairman Fazeel Asif Jah, CEO PBIT Jalal Hasan, LCCI Vice President Haris Atiq, former President Muhammad Ali Mian, Director BOI Zulfiqar Ali, a large number of industrialists, and government representatives from various departments. - APP

Commissioner seals Dawoo Bus Terminal

PESHAWAR: The Commissioner Peshawar Division, Riaz Khan Mehsud on Tuesday sealed Dawoo Bus Terminal for running old and substandard passenger buses. He also constituted a committee to control traffic flow on Charsadda Road and also sought recommendations about shifting of Charsadda Bus Stand to New General Bus Terminal. He issued these directives while chairing a meeting as a Chairman Regional Transport Authority (RTA) that was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. Ehteshamul Haq, Secretary RTA Akbar Iftikhar, Assistant Commissioner Obaid Dogar and all the concerned officials. The new committee consisting of Secretary RTA, Assistant Commissioner City and Deputy Director Terminal has been established to monitor the provision of facilities to commuters in public and private bus stands. In addition to above, Commissioner Peshawar also issued instructions to the Secretary RTA to fix the fares again according to the reduction in the prices of petroleum products. - APP

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

- JULY**
- July 01 / Japan Self Defence Day
 - July 01 / Singapore Armed Forces Day
 - July 01 / Canada National Day
 - July 01 / Somalia Independence Day
 - July 04 / USA Independence Day
 - July 05 / Algeria Independence Day
 - July 09 / Argentine Independence Day
 - July 09 / Mongolia Revolution Day
 - July 14 / France National Day
 - July 15 / Brunei Sultan's Birthday
 - July 21 / Belgium National Day
 - July 20 / TRNC Independence Day
 - July 23 / Egypt National Day
 - July 26 / Cuba National Day
 - July 26 / Liberia National Day
 - July 30 / Morocco National Day



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

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 Railway Exchange 9270831-5
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 MH.....5611116
 Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11
 DHQ.....5556311-4
 RGH.....9290301-7
 Holy Family.....9290322-7
 PIMS.....9261170-79
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Departments

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Legal action to be pursued on ECP's decision: Marri

Shazia Marri regretted that still PTI leaders are defending their crimes following the ECP's judgment which is shameful

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri has said that the legal action would be pursued followed by the judgment of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) proving financial crimes committed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. Addressing a news conference here on Tuesday along with Pakistan People's Party leader, Faisal Karim Kundi, the federal minister said that the founding member of PTI, Akbar S. Babar who had filed prohibited funding case against his own party pursued this case with great commitment and in an inspirational way. Shazia Marri regretted that still PTI leaders are defending their crimes following the ECP's judgment which is shameful. She said that Imran Khan assuming that this decision would be against him started blaming other political parties of receiving foreign funding. "PTI must come forward with proofs if Pakistan People's Party or Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz has received foreign funding". Shazia Marri said that ECP's judgment has proved that Imran Khan has been running his party affairs through prohibited



funding. On what agenda he was working within Pakistan through this funding, she questioned. It is clearly stated in the political orders of the parties that from which sources the political parties cannot

get funding, she said. ECP's decision has proved that Imran Khan is a liar and not 'Sadiq' and 'Ameen' anymore. He submitted false affidavits before the ECP and delayed the decision for the last eight years through writ petitions. Imran Khan received over two million US dollars from Arif Naqvi and big amounts from 34 Indian Industrialists for running his political party's affairs. He also received thousands of dollars from US based business woman of Indian origin. Over 350 foreign companies provided funding to Imran Khan for running his political party, she added. "Now the legal process will be followed in light of this decision," she said. Shazia Marri said the ECP judgment has shown that Imran Khan has committed a serious crime of receiving prohibited funding and now he has to be answerable before the masses that on what agenda he was working. Imran Khan, who used to call others as thieves, robber and imported, himself is declared as a liar by ECP. How a person who was running a political party on foreign funding can realize the sufferings of a common man, she asked. The way he led the country towards bankruptcy during the period of four years reflect that he has nothing to do with this country and its people, she said.

President IIU felicitates Dr. Mukhtar

ISLAMABAD: President, International Islamic University, (IIU) Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotabi felicitated Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed on assuming the charge. During the meeting held here on Tuesday, both discussed the issues of mutual interest including initiatives for promotion of quality education and role of universities in society building. The meeting was also attended by Dr. N.B. Jumani, Vice President, Administration and Finance, IIU. Dr. Hathal Homoud briefed Dr. Mukhtar on IIU's vision, future plans and strategy for academic excellence. IIU President vowed that he will be in the leading ranks for cooperation with the HEC chief as per his aspirations for improvements in the education sector. He said that IIU will be keen to enhance its bilateral ties with the universities across the world. Dr. Hathal apprised him that university after the transitional period, now all set for a new journey of success as it has completed its new strategic plan that he also presented to the Chairman HEC. The IIU President also briefed him about the university's vision of digitization and successful launch of its Open and Distance Learning system. He said that he has been a member of its highest statutory body and that the university has potential to excel as one of the best educational institutions in the world. He desired that the league of Islamic Universities must hold gatherings to form a consortium in the light of the OIC vision and IIU must lead as a hub of this consortium. - APP

Emergency plan enforced to control dengue

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Noor Ul Amin Mengal Tuesday enforced an anti-dengue emergency plan across the division to control the spread of the fatal virus, keeping in view the recent rains. According to Commissioner's office spokesman, all Deputy and Assistant Commissioners of the division, including health departments, have been directed to upgrade the quality of surveillance for tracing the larvae. He said that the Commis-

sioner had directed the officials concerned to seal the commercial buildings and shops immediately after discovering dengue larvae. Mengal directed the Price Control Magistrates and Secretaries Union Councils to register FIRs against those violating anti-dengue SOPs. The Commissioner ordered screening of tyre shops, junkyards and ponds as they were vulnerable sites for mosquito breeding. He directed the officials to

expedite anti-dengue activities by launching a special door-to-door campaign and warned that no negligence would be tolerated. Meanwhile, with the arrival of two more patients during the last 24 hours, the district's total tally of confirmed dengue cases had reached 29. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, said that, among the new cases, one of each patient had arrived from Chaklala Cantonment and the Potohar town urban areas. During the last 24 hours, he added that as many as 56 dengue fever suspects were brought to the district's health facilities, out of which two were tested positive, four probable and three non-dengue. He added that the district administration departments had registered 660 FIRs, sealed 272, issued challans to 830, notices to 3,930, and a fine of Rs 1,835,500 was imposed on violations of SOPs in various areas of the district from January 1 to date. - APP

Nine more corona cases reported in 24 hours

RAWALPINDI: Nine more corona cases had been reported during the last 24 hours, raising the district's tally of confirmed cases to 47,227. According to the data issued by the District Health Authority on Tuesday, the total infected cases included 43,648 from Rawalpindi and 3,579 from other districts. Among the new cases, three arrived from Potohar town and Islamabad, two from Rawal town, and one from the Rawalpindi Cantonment area. "Presently, 95 confirmed patients are quarantined at homes and no one at any health facility," the report added. The report further said that 6,989,809 people, including 44,797 health workers, had jabbed themselves against the lethal coronavirus (COVID-19) across the district since the vaccination administering drive launched on March 10, 2021. The District Health Authority updated that during the last 24 hours, 1,517 samples were collected, out of which 1,508 were declared negative, while the positivity rate was recorded at 0.59 per cent. - APP

Musadik terms Imran as agent of inimical forces

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum Division Musadik Masood Malik on Tuesday said former prime minister Imran Khan who availed prohibited funding from foreign companies was the agent [spy] of inimical forces in the country. Addressing a press conference, he said it was a significant development and every political party should be taken on board to understand the politics in the country and unearth the reality behind the decade long politics of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). The minister raised the three-core agenda items pertaining to the long chanted narrative of agent and plunderer of national wealth by the PTI, the issue of dishonest and untrustworthy political leadership and misappropriations by PTI chief Imran Khan. He added that the PTI leadership accused the Pakistan Democratic Alliance member parties particularly Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leadership as thieves and spies of enemy states, looters, dishonest and untrustworthy. Malik observed Imran Khan was the "agent" who took money from Versha Luthra, Romita Shetty, Lisa S Balita, Charles Henz, Laresa and others. "Where are they from? Do they live in Sahiwal or any other city of Punjab or Peshawar?" he queried the PTI leadership. He lambasted the former prime minister by waving a piece of paper (cypher) before the nation which he neither made public nor shared with anybody. Musadik said, "On the floor of the House, it was said that Article 5 is to be imposed on the opposition parties as they have no right to vote. This man (Imran) who is taking funds from Romita Shetty is terming us agents and tried to impose Article 5 on us." He questioned that who was Charan Jeet Sindh and which district of Punjab he belonged to? You have been using his money to run your political party. No one has any answer to these questions. There is only sloganeering. I will like to ask you [Imran Khan] now who is agent." The minister also pointed out that it should be clarified that who was imported in the country. Imran Khan received funding from 350 foreign companies, adding, "The law of Pakistan says no one can take money from foreign companies, country, political party for his party. - APP

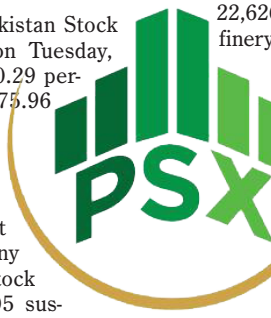


ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi administering the oath of office to Sardar Ayaz Sadiq as Federal Minister. - DNA

PSX gains 115 points to close at 40,191 points

ISLAMABAD: The KSE 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 115.65 points, a positive change of 0.29 per cent, closing at 40,191.61 points against 40,075.96 points on the last working day. A total of 217,504,902 shares were traded during the day compared to the trade of 110,422,594 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.6.326 billion against Rs.3.718 billion on last trading day. As many as 327 companies transacted shares in the stock market, 191 of them recorded gain and 105 sus-

tained losses, whereas the share price of 31 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were TPL Properties with a volume of 35,087,913 shares and price per share of Rs18.98, Agritech Limited with volume of 22,626,500 and price per share of Rs.8.13 and Pak Refinery with volume of 13,181,522 and price per share of Rs16.07. Allawasaya Tex witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.235.17 per share, closing at Rs.3,373.49 whereas the runner up was Colgate Palm, the share prices of which climbed up by Rs.161.20 to Rs.2,310.66. Nestle Pakistan witnessed maximum decrease of Rs295.50 per share closing at Rs.5,994.50 followed by Sapphire Tex, the share price of which declined by Rs80 to close at Rs.993. - APP



Khursheed praises ECP verdict in foreign funding case

Khursheed Shah said the Pakistan Peoples Party always supported to check irregularities in the foreign funding of the political parties. However, it did not want any unilateral action against "a certain political party and has no objection if the PPP's accounts are scrutinized"

DNA
 ISLAMABAD: Minister for Water Resources Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah on Tuesday praised the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for announcing a balanced verdict in the prohibited foreign funding case despite pressure from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). It was an extraordinary decision given in the difficult circumstances, he said here addressing a news conference along with Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira. Khursheed Shah alleged that Imran Khan always tried to pressurize the institutions to get favourable decisions. But the ECP deserved appreciation which gave the judgment against the PTI regardless of all the pressure exerted by him, he added. He said the PTI chief told lies to the nation, but his all "lame excuses" were exposed by the ECP after eight years

proving that his party had received 'prohibited funds' from foreign nationals and companies. It was an irony that Imran Khan himself had nominated the incumbent chief election commissioner (CEC), which was seconded by the then opposition, but he was levelling allegations against him, he added. Khursheed Shah said the Pakistan Peoples Party always

supported to check irregularities in the foreign funding of the political parties. However, it did not want any unilateral action against "a certain political party and has no objection if the PPP's accounts are scrutinized." Qamar Zaman Kaira, commenting on the verdict, said the PTI was reluctant to have a decision on its prohibited funding case as it knew the irregularities and today the ECP confirmed that the party had received funds from various countries, including Israel, India, the United States and Canada. He said the ECP decision confirmed that Imran Khan was not 'Sadiq and Ameen' for submitting a misdeclaration, and he should resign from party's chairmanship. The government would implement the verdict, he added. Kaira clarified that there was no law that permitted any political party to receive funds or donations from foreign based companies. "If anyone has to do politics in Pakistan, he / she can receive funds from Pakistani citizens only," he added.



NDMA dispatches 1,000 KS Relief ration bags

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Tuesday dispatched 1,000 King Salman Relief Fund ration bags for Balochistan flood affected. The NDMA Spokesperson in a media release said that King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KS Relief) provided a thousand ration bags for the flood victims of Balochistan. The ration bags were handed over Deputy Commissioners of Jafarabad, Naseerabad, Sahbatpur, Sibi and Kutch. The ration consists of flour, pulses, sugar and ghee. It may be noted that its first shipment was sent to Balochistan on July 15, which included 3,000 ration packs. - APP

SBP management visits OICCI

ISLAMABAD: The Overseas Investment Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) members met with Dr. Murtaza Syed, Acting Governor, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Dr. Inayat Hussain, Deputy Governor, SBP and Sima Kamil, Deputy Governor, SBP for a discussion on urgent fiscal and monetary policy measures to help stabilize economy. Ghias Khan, President OICCI and Abdul Aleem, Secretary General, OICCI led the discussions and raised member concerns related to the pre-approval procedure of LCs for import of machinery and spare parts, timely remittance payments, approval exemptions of shipping values being too low, and other operational issues. It was stressed upon the SBP leadership to set timelines so that industry supply chain is not compromised. The SBP team gave a comprehensive overview of the current economic situation and the planned strategy to tackle issues in 2023, says a press release issued here on Tuesday. Pakistan is primarily a consumer-driven economy with consumption driving up to 95% of the GDP. The SBP team was confident that Pakistan's problems were temporary and urged the OICCI members to work on improving exports to help balance the exchange rate fluctuations and currency depreciation. - APP

Briefs

**Punjab
govt to hold
festivals
on oldest
civilisations**

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council Director General Saman Rai on Tuesday said that the Punjab government had planned to organise festivals in 2022-23 on world's oldest civilisations to promote tourism in the country and apprise the world that the same were still alive in Pakistan. Presiding over a meeting here at Rawalpindi Arts Council (RAC) to review the arrangements for holding the festivals, she said that the oldest civilisations, including Gandhara, Harappa, Rohi and Sindh were preserved in Pakistan in their original shape. The provincial government would organise fairs on Gandhara, Harappa, Sindh and Rohi in Taxila, Sahiwal, Faisalabad and Bahawalpur respectively, Saman said. RAC Director Waqar Ahmed said that every nation had a cultural personality; some aspects of the personality were similar to other civilisations. Still, some individual characteristics distinguished the culture of a nation from other civilisations, he added. - APP

**Police arrest
five drug
peddlers**

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police on the directives of City Police Officer, Rawalpindi conducted raids in the jurisdiction of Ratta Amral, Airport and Banni Police Stations and arrested four alleged drug pushers and a bootlegger, besides recovering 2000 grams charras and 15 liters liquor from their possession. A police spokesman informed that during the course of action, Ratta Amral Police held Arshad and Rehmat for having 1600 grams charras. Airport police rounded up Nafees and Farooq on recovery of 400 grams charras while Bani police netted Rasheed and seized 15 liters liquor. Police have registered separate cases against the accused while further investigations are in progress. Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations Rawalpindi Waseem Riaz Khan directed the police officers to accelerate operations against drug peddlers and bootleggers. - APP

**4 arrested for
possessing
illegal
weapons**

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district police on the directives of City Police Officer, Rawalpindi conducted raids in different areas and netted four accused for possessing illegal weapons. According to a police spokesman, Airport, Saddar Wah and Chonra police held Muhammad Yousaf, Sabir, Abu Bakar and Rasheed on recovery of three 30 bore pistols, a 9mm pistol, a Kalashnikov and ammunition. Separate cases have been arrested against all the accused while further investigations are 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

**Indigenous
People Day
to be marked
on Aug 9**

ISLAMABAD: International Day of the World's Indigenous People will be marked on August 9 (Tuesday) across the globe to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population. This event also recognizes the achievements and contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues such as environmental protection. Indigenous cultures across the planet are recognized on International Day of the World's Indigenous People. People from different nations are encouraged to participate in observing the day to spread the UN's message on indigenous peoples. Activities may include educational forums and classroom activities to gain an appreciation and a better understanding of indigenous peoples. - APP

Webinar on Governance in China

**Nong Rong says China stands by
Pakistan in these difficult times
Mushahid Hussain terms Pelosi visit to Taiwan as 'unnecessary
provocation', Aizaz Chaudhry lauds Chinese development model**

DNA

Islamabad (August 2): Pakistan-China Institute and Academy of Contemporary China & World Studies organized a dialogue on 'Global Development & Governance' themed on 'Governance Experience Exchange Between Pakistan and China' with Speakers from Pakistan and China. Opening remarks were given by Nong Rong, Ambassador of China to Pakistan; Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of the Defense Committee & Pakistan-China Institute, and Gao Anming, Vice President and Editor-in-Chief of China International Communications Group (CICG). The dialogue was moderated by Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director Pakistan-China Institute, and Lin Kun, Vice President of the Academy of Contemporary China and World Studies.

Nong Rong, Ambassador of China to Pakistan, who had his first public engagement following his return to Pakistan, stated in his opening remarks that China is eager to support Pakistan in pursuing its development model appropriate for the circumstances on the ground because the two countries are all-weather friends. Through CPEC, China is also eager to expand its exchanges in the area of governance, such as lowering poverty levels and raising peoples' standards of living. He also praised the Communist Party of China (CPC), whose initiatives have profoundly changed China. He said that the upcoming 20th Congress of CPC would make plans for the future and set new objectives that would be accomplished by working together to benefit all peoples. China and Pakistan are strategic allies that have consistently stood by one another through tough times.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of the Defense Committee of the Senate of Pakistan and Chairman of Pakistan-China Institute, at the outset, extended congratulations to China on the 95th Anniversary of founding of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) which was specially celebrated at the GHQ as a gesture of goodwill, and Senator Mushahid Hussain lauded the close cooperation between the Pakistan Army and PLA, including the comments by Pakistan COAS, General Bajwa, that both armies are 'brother in arms'.



Referring to US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Asia and tentative plans for a journey to Taiwan, Senator Mushahid said this would be an unnecessary and unwarranted provocation, adding such a high-level visit by an American official violate the One-China Policy agreed to by the United States and the People's Republic of China in the Shanghai Communiqué. He said such provocations had the potential to destabilize Asia and generate a new type of confrontation, something Asia cannot afford in these challenging times. Pakistan, he said, is firmly committed to the One-China Policy and to preserving, promoting and protecting the strategic partnership with China. He also discussed President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative, which he termed the twenty-first century's most important development and diplomatic initiative. He said that CPEC, the BRI's flagship undertaking, is progressing admirably since it has modernized the nation's infrastructure and raised the socioeconomic

standing of its citizens. Lastly, he quoted two studies by the Harvard University. The first study, titled 'Understanding CCP Resilience: Surveying Chinese Public Opinion Through Time', was published by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation of Harvard University in July 2020. The study found that there was very high satisfaction with the central government in China. The second study by Graham Allison of Harvard University was titled 'The Great Tech Rivalry: China vs. the U.S.' The study shows that China has displaced the U.S. as the world's top high-tech manufacturer, producing 250 million computers, 25 million automobiles, and 1.5 billion smartphones in 2020. Moreover, it says that beyond becoming a manufacturing powerhouse, China has become a serious competitor in the foundational technologies of the 21st century: artificial intelligence (AI), 5G, quantum information science (QIS), semiconductors, biotechnology, robotics and green energy.

Gao Anming, Vice President and Editor-in-Chief of China International Communications Group (CICG), stressed deepening high-quality cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative and actively promoting the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Global development is inseparable from connectivity and open cooperation. The joint construction of the "Belt and Road" pursues development, advocates win-win results, and conveys hope. As a landmark project in the joint construction of the "Belt and Road," the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a practical example of win-win cooperation between the two countries. Since the start of construction in 2015, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has brought a total of US\$25.4 billion in direct investment to Pakistan with 22 priority projects completed, which resulted in the creation of more than 70,000 jobs effectively improving people's livelihood and well-being.

**HEC chairman asked to
align higher education
sector with modern trends**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal has asked the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to align the higher education sector with modern trends and requirements while curriculum of the varsities should be aligned with the job market. The minister made these remarks while meeting with the newly-appointed Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed at the Ministry. On July 30 Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif appointed Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed as the HEC chairman, according to a press release issued here on Tuesday. The minister while congratulating him said that Dr. Mukhtar had an extensive experience in the education sector which would reflect in the policies of HEC.

"Priority sectors and best universities should be selected for scholarships abroad," said the minister, adding that despite the economic crisis, ample funds had been provided for HEC. The minister further added that a competitive process should be set up through the academic and performance audit system of universities. Candidates should be selected to benefit from the Pakistan-America Knowledge Corridor Project, he remarked. Professor Iqbal said that steps should be taken to ensure the establishment of Dr. A.Q. Khan Metallurgy Institute. Dr. Ahmed, a renowned educationist, had earlier held the post of HEC Chairman from 2014 to 2018. Executive Director HEC from 2013 to 2014 and as Member (Operations and Planning) HEC from 2005 to 2011. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Renowned Islamic scholar Maulana Tariq Jameel meets former Prime Minister Imran Khan at his residence. - DNA

**Pakistan to
mark Youm-
e-Istehsal
on August 5**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will observe Youm-e-Istehsal on August 5 (Thursday) to mark the third year of Indian military siege of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and denounce illegal, immoral and unconstitutional step to strip IIOJK of its special status. According to Kashmir Media Service, the government has planned a series of activities including seminars and conferences to mark the Youm-e-Istehsal and express solidarity with the oppressed Kashmiri people while rallies in their support would be staged across the country with vibrant participation of people from all walks of life. The whole nation will give a message to their Kashmiri brethren that the people of Pakistan would always stand with them in their just struggle for right to independence and against the atrocities committed by the Indian forces. Kashmiri people on both sides of the Line of Control and all over the world will also observe Youm-e-Istehsal to condemn unconstitutional steps taken by India on August 5, 2019. The activists of all the political parties of the country will record protest over Indian state terrorism meted out against innocent and unarmed people of IIOJK through rallies and other activities. The civil society organizations will also arrange seminars and other programmes to highlight gross human rights violations against the Kashmiri people. - APP

**Work on Gwadar's
desalination plant
commenced**

ISLAMABAD: As a major step towards solving the drinking water problem in Gwadar, construction of a 1.2 gallon per day (MGD) desalination plant in Gwadar Free Zone has commenced, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday quoting China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC). "Construction of 1.2 MGD desalination plant in Gwadar Free Zone commenced with full vigor; upon completion, it will assuage Gwadar's water scarcity remarkably," according to COPHC. The project aims to purify sea water and make it safe for people in Gwadar city. After the installation of the plant, drinking water will be supplied to the Old City area in accordance to the requirements of Gwadar Port Authority. The estimated cost of the project is US\$ 12.7 million, which is being financed via a Chinese Government Grant in March 2022, during a ceremony at China Business Centre. The contract for the project was granted to China Harbor Engineering Company (CHEC). The project has been dubbed a "lifeline for the people of Gwadar". According to the agreement, the civil work will be completed within 12 months of its inception. - DNA

**Pakistan needs to
improve quality
of its universities**

ISLAMABAD: Minister of Federal Education and Professional Training, Rana Tanveer Hussain Tuesday said that Pakistan needs to improve the quality of its universities. "Quality of education should be the first priority", the minister said during a meeting with the newly appointed Chairman of HEC, Mukhtar Ahmed. The minister emphasized on upgrading the existing universities in such a way that they can compete with the best universities in the world. He said that the existing universities need to be strengthened so that they can achieve higher global rankings. He emphasized the need to improve the governance of all public universities of Pakistan with special attention to financial discipline. Along with overall governance, financial accountability and discipline should be among the top priorities, he said. The minister also called for making the public universities financially self-reliant. He also stated that the public universities should also develop the capacity to impart vocational skills to the students. - APP

**CPO reviews
security
arrangements
for Muharram**

RAWALPINDI: City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Shahzad Nadeem Bukhari on Tuesday reviewed security arrangements for the routes of various processions in Westridge regarding Muharram-ul-Haram. Superintendent of Police (SP) Potohar and other officers were also present on the occasion, said the Rawalpindi Police spokesman. CPO Syed Shahzad Nadeem Bukhari reviewed the routes in Westridge area and gave instructions regarding the security arrangements to the Police officials concerned. "Foolproof security arrangements will be ensured for Muharram processions. Safety of life and property of citizens is the top priority for which all possible steps are being taken," CPO added. - APP

**Bike lifter
gang busted;
3 arrested**

RAWALPINDI: In an operation against criminal elements, Rawalpindi Police have busted a bike-lifter gang and arrested its three members besides recovering nine stolen motorcycles and Rs 50,000 cash from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Dhamial police arrested Abid, Shehriyar and Muzamil who were wanted in various bike lifting cases. He informed that the police team constituted under the supervision of SHO Dhamial Police Station on the directives of SP Saddar Ahmed Zaneer conducted raid and managed to net the gang members. As per the preliminary police record, the criminals were also involved in other crimes, he added. - APP

**CPO visits
routes of
Muharram
processions**

RAWALPINDI: City Police Officer (CPO), Rawalpindi Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari on Tuesday visited various routes of 7th and 10th Muharram-ul-Haram processions to check the security arrangements. According to the spokesman, the CPO visited different areas including Sadiqabad, Raja Bazaar, Liaquat Road, Iqbal Road, Committee Chowk and Westridge and reviewed all the security arrangements finalized for 7th and 10th Muharram processions. - APP

ECP verdict 'blatantly' exposes Imran Khan: Asif

Khawaja Asif said the PTI leadership praised the courts for favourable decrees and otherwise criticised them if their verdicts were against them

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Tuesday said the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) verdict "blatantly" exposed benefiting of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan from the prohibited foreign funding. Addressing a joint press conference flanked by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, he said it was a landmark judgment, which was announced by the ECP after eight-year long proceedings and would prove to be a milestone in the country's political history. "It had been our demand for many years that there must be one law for all and thank the Almighty the PTI leaders have also realized it now as they have got their throats dried while making this demand," he added. The minister said the PTI during its government had unleashed a one-sided trial of its opponents. He alleged, "The foreign agent [Imran Khan], who himself received funding from the US nationals, Britishers, Canadians, Indians, Israelis and others, has been calling his rivals as agents of foreign powers". The decision would



have its implications in future, he said. The National Assembly members had been disqualified for not declaring mere Rs 40,000, and PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif for not declaring Rs10,000, he added. Khawaja Asif said the PTI leadership praised the

courts for favourable decrees and otherwise criticised them if their verdicts were against them. He said Sikander Sultan Raja was proposed for the post of chief election commissioner. Former defence minister Pervez Khattak had given him a chit in

the parliament bearing his name, he claimed. "I was an eye-witness to Sikander Sultan Raja's nomination for CEC. After Khat-tak's message, we approved his name after consultation within the party." Imran Khan's claim that he had nothing to do with Raja's nomination was totally wrong, he added. Khawaja Asif alleged that Imran Khan had damaged the very foundations of the country under a design. "Nawaz Sharif was disqualified for not taking Rs10,000 from his son and Imran Khan had received millions of dollars from abroad," he added. The authorities would now start his ac-

countability after the ECP verdict, the minister said. Khawaja Asif condoled the martyrdom of Corps Commander Quetta Lieutenant General Sarfaraz Ali along with five other officials on board an army helicopter that had crashed during flood relief operations on Monday. He said Lt General Sarfaraz was a brilliant officer with an illustrious career and it was a great loss for the nation. "We and our party share sympathies with the families of martyrs. We are indebted to them for their sacrifices, and remembering their sacrifice is a great tribute to them." - APP

Briefs

PTI received...

FROM PAGE 01

PTI Pakistan knowingly and willfully received donations from E-Planet Trustees a Cayman island Pvt registered company...

PTI knowingly and willfully received donations through PTI USA LLC-6160 and PTI USA LLC-5975 \$2,525,500...

PTI knowingly and willfully received donations through PTI Canada Corporation and PTI UK Public Ltd company...

PTI knowingly and willfully received donations through Dunpec Pty Ltd, an Australia-based company...

PTI through fund-raising campaigns carried out by PTI USA LLC-6160 and PTI USA LLC-5975 was the recipient of donations from 34 foreign Nationals and 351 foreign-based companies...

PTI has also been found to be a beneficiary of donations by Ms Romita Shetty, a US-based businesswoman of Indian origin...

PTI through its submission before the commission has accepted ownership of only eight accounts while it declared 13 accounts under the category of unknown accounts...

Chairman of PTI for the financial year 2008-09 to 2012-13 (five years) has submitted Form-I which were found to be grossly inaccurate on the basis of the financial statements obtained by this Commission from SBP and other material available on record...

Therefore, in view of the material available on the record and above discussion, the matter falls within the ambit of Article 6 (3) of PPO, 2002. Hence the Commission directs that a notice may be issued to the Respondent party in terms of Rule-6 of PPR 2002, as to why the aforementioned prohibited funds may not be confiscated...

British Council, V&A mark 75th anniversary of Pakistan

It's a great honour to be commissioned to reflect on the 75 years of Pakistan's independence

DNA

LONDON: The British Council and Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) have launched What is Seen and What is Not by interdisciplinary artist Osman Yousefzada...

working on non-traditional materials, which he compliments with painting, producing a body of work reflecting on shrines and ritualised spaces of transcendence. Osman Yousefzadasaid: "It's a great honour to be commissioned to reflect on the 75 years of Pakistan's independence..."

nels of discourse between contemporary societies in Pakistan and the UK. As we mark the 75th anniversary of Pakistan, this work both acknowledges the important shared histories of our nations and creates space for new perspectives."

sculpture galleries, a wooden structure evoking makeshift shrines found around South Asia, will showcase domestic-sized wrapped objects cast in glass, clay and wrapped in richly woven textile. Appearing to contain domestic items such as a pot or vessel, the objects evoke themes of migration and reflect upon how displaced people travel with treasured possessions...

England set for historic cricket tour of Pakistan

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: A 17-year drought will be broken in September this year as England will tour Pakistan to play seven Twenty20s, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced on Tuesday. The National Stadium Karachi will host the matches on 20, 22, 23, and 25 September...

announced in due course. Apart from five Tests, eight ODIs and 15 T20Is in the 2022-23 season, Pakistan will also stage 187 men's domestic matches in six senior competitions, 33 HBL Pakistan Super League 2023 fixtures and 19 Pakistan Junior League 2022 games.

Zakir said that he is confident that the cricket fans, like they did in the series against Australia, will turn up in big numbers to support both the sides and also make our Diamond Jubilee celebration year an unforgettable one."

Ronaldo & Maguire most abused players on Twitter

WEB DESK



LONDON: Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo and Harry Maguire have received the most Twitter abuse of any Premier League players, a new report has found. Ofcom analysis of 2.3 million tweets in the first half of last season found nearly 60,000 abusive posts...

England recalls Robinson for South Africa Tests

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: Pace bowler Ollie Robinson has been recalled to the England squad for the first two Tests against South Africa. The 28-year-old has not played a Test since the final match of the Ashes series in January. Robinson comes in for fellow seamer Jamie Overton...

the squad that pulled off a remarkable win against India at Edgbaston in July is the omission of wicketkeeper Sam Billings, with Ben Foakes fit to return behind the stumps. Sussex's Robinson enjoyed a fine debut year in Test cricket, taking 39 wickets in nine matches at an average of 21.28...

various fitness issues blighted his start to the home summer. Robinson had an injection in his back in June and returned to action after more than two months out last week, taking nine wickets for Sussex in their defeat by Nottinghamshire. He is set to continue his comeback for England Lions against South Africa in a four-day match at Canterbury next week...

Commonwealth Games Birmingham-2022

Four more Pakistan athletes out of medal race

BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan's hopes to win the first medal in the ongoing Commonwealth Games suffered a big blow as four more athletes saw an early exit in their respective events in Birmingham on Tuesday. Sprinters Shajar Abbas and Aneela Gulzar failed to move to next rounds as they finished fourth and last in their respective heats of first round of 100m race of men and women events...

in the heats by covering the prescribed distance in 24.65 seconds.

Ilyas 'happy' to enter quarter-finals

KARACHI: The most surprising performance for Pakistan came from young boxer Ilyas Hussain as he booked his place at the 2022 Commonwealth Games' featherweight quarter-finals with a win against Trinidad and Tobago's Anthony Shawn Joseph in Birmingham. Ilyas defeated Joseph 3-2. The 22-year-old was also the first athlete to register a win for Pakistan at the Games when the athletes in boxing, swimming, cricket, hockey, badminton, gymnastics and all in squash, barring Nasir Iqbal failed to even overcome their first opponents in their respective competitions...

our country. I don't want anything for myself really. I just want to win for Pakistan," the boxer from Quetta reflected. He belongs to the Hazara community of Quetta, which has been persecuted for their faith and ethnicity for decades and has produced talented boxers and karateka for Pakistan. Ilyas said that he lives in Hazara town and began to box in 2016 at a local club with coach Najeeb Faizi. Faizi supported him and mentored him, while it is his father who

erweight category. But being in Birmingham and seeing the international standards makes the young man feel a lot is missing at home when it comes to facilities and opportunities. "The boxers over here are so good and so fit," Ilyas said with an innocence of a kid. "I have never seen facilities like this before. I can say that these boxers have so much more to train with. We don't even get 40 per cent of what these boxers in other countries have in training, facilities and diet."

Arshad Nadeem qualifies for final

BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan's Olympian Javelin Thrower Arshad Nadeem has directly qualified for the final in Commonwealth Games 2022. According to the sources, Commonwealth Games' management has waived qualification round due to less entries in the Javelin Throw event. The participants have been told to prepare for final event directly on August 7. The start list of the event will be finalized soon. India's Neeraj Chopra, who won Silver in World Athletics Championship last month, was ruled out of Commonwealth Games 2022 due to injury. Pakistan's Arshad finished fifth in that event. So far, Pakistan's contingent has failed to bag a single medal in the ongoing Commonwealth Games. -DNA

Pakistan supports countering terrorism

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD, Following the counter-terrorism operation by the United States in Afghanistan, Pakistan on Tuesday said that it stood by countering terrorism in accordance with international law and relevant UN resolutions. "We have seen the official statements by the United States and media reports regarding a counter-terrorism operation carried out by the U.S. in Afghanistan," the spokesman said in a statement and reiterated that Pakistan condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The spokesman's statement came after President Joe Biden on Monday disclosed that a US drone strike in Afghanistan over the weekend had killed top al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri. "Pakistan's role and sacrifices in the fight against terrorism are well-known," the spokesman added.

Bilawal...

FROM PAGE 01

himself proved to be a "slave of foreign powers" (after the ECP verdict in his party's prohibited foreign funding case). The whole nation felt ashamed after hearing the decision of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), which proved "the self-proclaimed righteous person a money launderer and liar".

PTI...

FROM PAGE 01

Chaudhry said. "No party has the right to hide its funding from the people," the PTI leader. He demanded of the election body to announce its verdict in the funding case against PPP and PML-N after the PTI. In a tweet later, the PTI leader said that since the Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja and ECP members have "weak" legal backgrounds, they failed to "differentiate between an affidavit and certificate".

PTI to file...

FROM PAGE 01

disqualify Imran Khan but they got nothing except facing collective humiliation and embarrassment. Speaking at a press conference along with PTI Secretary Information Farrukh Habib, PTI senior leaders including Senator Azam Swati, Ghulam Sarwar Khan and Sardar Azhar Tariq, he said that the ECP in cahoots with the PDM tried its level best to block the doors of funding being collected from overseas Pakistanis to leave the political ground open for a selected few corrupt families.

Germany...

FROM PAGE 01

which KfW has already successfully piloted in Mansehra. RIF-II will finance drinking water supply measures and develop water / solid waste management infrastructure in Dera Ismail Khan and Banu districts.

President...

FROM PAGE 01

crash while on a mission to provide relief to flood victims of Balochistan. The President offered his deep condolences to the Army Chief on the martyrdom of Corps Commander 12 Corps Lieutenant General Sarfraz Ali, Director General Pakistan Coast Guard Major General Amjad Hanif, 12 Corps Brigadier Muhammad Khalid, Pilot Major Saeed Ahmed, Assistant Pilot Major Muhammad Talha Mannan and Naik Mussar Fayyaz during the relief and rescue operations in aid of flood victims.

Six Pakistan...

FROM PAGE 01

Goth in the Lasbela district, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Tuesday. "All 6 officers and soldiers including Lt Gen Sarfraz Ali embraced shahadat," the media affairs wing of the armed forces tweeted. It added that the accident occurred due to bad weather, as per initial investigations.

Briefs

Paraguay declares 3 days of mourning

DNA

BOGOTA: The surprising death of Paraguayan Senator Zulma Gomez, 61, has shaken the political scene in the country. On Monday, the nation's Congress declared three days of mourning hours after authorities found Gomez's lifeless body in Lake Acaray to the east of the country. On Sunday, the lawmaker's husband, Hector Damian Leguizamón, reported that Gomez went missing near the lake after taking part in a political event with young people hours earlier. Police found a pair of sneakers and a mattress near a pier. The body of the representative of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party was found about 20 meters (66 feet) from a dock located on her property. According to local media, the senator used to walk by the lake and sometimes slept on a mattress on the shore. "She swallowed a lot of water. She tried to breathe. She has signs of agony, and there is no doubt about anything," said forensic doctor Pablo Lemir in a statement to the media. The possible cause of death is pulmonary edema due to mechanical asphyxia from drowning, Lemir said. "The context and the orientation (of the wounds) make us think that we are talking about someone who slipped on a solid, somewhat sharp surface and ended up with a blow to the head," he added. The prosecutor's office created a working team to continue with the investigation. Several political leaders have mourned the political leader's death.

NATO chief, Ukraine's president discuss military aid

DNA

BRUSSELS: NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Tuesday discussed military assistance and grain shipments. Stoltenberg said on Twitter that he had a "good call" with Zelenskyy to discuss "priorities for military support." He added it is "vital that NATO and allies provide even more assistance to Ukraine even faster." The leaders also talked about the first Ukrainian grain shipment and the need to "fully implement the deal sponsored by the UN and our ally Türkiye." Zelenskyy's office said he informed Stoltenberg of "the need for Ukraine to quickly receive more heavy weapons from NATO member states in order to successfully repulse Russian attacks and proceed to a further counter-offensive." The US on Monday announced sending another \$550 million in military aid to Ukraine, bringing the total support to over \$8 billion since Russia's war on Ukraine began on Feb. 24.

Australian senator calls Queen 'colonizer'

DNA

SYDNEY: Indigenous Australian senator Lidia Thorpe called Britain's Queen Elizabeth II a "colonizer" Monday. Thorpe, from the Australian Greens party, made the remark during her swearing-in ceremony in parliament in the capital Canberra, local news outlets reported. Entering parliament with a raised fist, she said: "I, sovereign Lidia Thorpe, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful, and I bear true allegiance to the colonizing Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth." According to local media, however, Senate President Sue Lines cut Thorpe off and asked her to recite the oath again, this time "as printed on the card." She eventually did what she was asked to do but posted a picture of the incident on her Twitter account. "Sovereignty never ceded," Thorpe said. Australia, a sovereign and independent country since 1901, continues to recognize Britain's monarch as head of state and remains a part of the British Commonwealth.

Azerbaijani, Uzbek, Türkiye FMs ink Tashkent declaration

"The Tashkent Declaration, signed within the first trilateral meeting between the Foreign, Economy, and Transport Ministers of Azerbaijan, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan, is a significant contribution to the further deepening and enhancement of partnership and friendly ties between our countries," the minister wrote

NEWS DESK

Azerbaijan, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan have signed the Tashkent Declaration, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye Mevlüt Cavuşoglu said on Twitter. The declaration on the results of trilateral Uzbekistan-Azerbaijan-Türkiye Dialogue was signed by Turkish and Azerbaijani Foreign Ministers Mevlüt Cavuşoglu and Jeyhun Bayramov as well as Acting Uzbek Foreign Minister Vladimir Norov. "Signed the Tashkent Declaration which will increase the welfare of the Turkic world and strengthen our relations. We will make this mechanism permanent and realize concrete projects," Cavuşoglu noted. Speaking at the conference, the Uzbek official stated that the Declaration defines the major priorities for the near future. According to him, the meeting has confirmed the importance of working together and focusing on achieving practical



results to ensure the sustainable development of the three countries. "As an outcome, we have signed an important document - the Tashkent Declaration, which defines the main priorities for the near future. Our subsequent meetings in this format shall be more fruitful and contribute to the even

greater rapprochement between our friendly countries," Norov stated. In turn, Azerbaijani economy minister has tweeted that the first meeting of the ministers facilitated fruitful discussions on strengthening cooperation between the three friendly and brotherly countries, promoting joint investment projects,

and utilizing transport and logistics opportunities. "The Tashkent Declaration, signed within the first trilateral meeting between the Foreign, Economy, and Transport Ministers of Azerbaijan, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan, is a significant contribution to the further deepening and enhancement of partnership and friendly

ties between our countries," the minister wrote. Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, and Türkiye have underlined the importance of the opening of the Zangazur corridor. This is stated in the Tashkent Declaration on the Outcomes of the First Trilateral Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Trade/Economy and Transport of

the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, and the Republic of Türkiye. According to the document, the sides emphasized the importance of contributing to Azerbaijan's post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and reintegration efforts by investing in the Karabakh and Eastern Zangazur regions of Azerbaijan. In turn, Azerbaijan expressed high appreciation for the participation of the companies of Türkiye and Uzbekistan in infrastructure projects for the restoration and reconstruction of the liberated territories of Azerbaijan. Furthermore, the parties underlined the importance of the opening of the Zangazur corridor connecting the Eastern Zangazur and the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan for the expansion of international transport links. Norov noted Uzbekistan's interest in seeing the Zangazur corridor restored, which could provide the shortest land route from Asia to Europe.

Israel Army closes areas near Gaza

DNA

GHAZA: Israel's army closed areas near the Gaza border to civilians Tuesday, citing a risk of reprisals, following the overnight arrest of two senior Palestinian Islamic Jihad members, the military and Palestinian sources said. A 17-year-old Palestinian was shot dead by Israeli forces during a late Monday raid in the flashpoint West Bank district of Jenin. The army said it had operated alongside police, who arrested "two wanted terror suspects." A Palestinian security source, who requested anonymity, told AFP that one of those arrested was Bassem al-Saadi, a senior figure in Islamic Jihad's political wing in the West Bank. The source identified the second person detained as Saadi's son-in-law, a Jenin-based fundraiser for militant group. The army said: "Following a situational assessment after terrorist activities were identified with the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist organization, it was decided to block off areas and routes adjacent to the Gaza Strip security fence. "The area has been closed to civilians due to a direct threat and in order to prevent a possible attack on civilians."

Eight regions of Kazakhstan put on storm alert

DNA

NUR-SULTAN: Heatwaves and thunderstorms are to batter eight regions of the country August 3, Kazinform cites the National Met Office Kazhydromet. The east of West Kazakhstan region is to expect thunderstorms and hail at daytime on August 3. Northeasterly wind is to gust up to 15-20mps. 37 degrees Celsius heat wave is predicted in the east of Atyrau region. The city of Atyrau is to expect temperatures to rise to 35 degrees Celsius. Ulytau region is to brace for thunderstorms in the south at night as well as in most parts at daytime. Zhezkazgan city is to expect thunderstorms at daytime. The east and center of Karaganda region are to see heavy rains at daytime. Thunderstorms are to batter the south at night and the greater part of the region at daytime. Northeasterly wind is to gust up to 15-20mps in the north at daytime. Karaganda city is to brace for thunderstorms. Kyzylorda region is to brace for thunderstorms and squalls in the north and center in the morning and afternoon. Northerly, northwesterly wind is to reach 15-20mps in the center at daytime. Kyzylorda city is to expect thunderstorms in the morning and afternoon. Thunderstorms and hail are to batter the northwest, north, and northeast of East Kazakhstan region in the morning and afternoon. Northerly, northeasterly wind is to gust up to 15-20mps.

Khurram meets Austria's ambassador

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Austria to Pakistan Nicolaus Keller, Ms. Esra Dere-deputy head of mission Turkish Embassy, Mr. Fatih Cevik Assistant General Manager Limak Turkey, Mr. Ergun Koray and Mr. Sajid ur Rehman Assistant Manager Business Development ANDRITZ Hydro held a meeting with Federal Minister for Power Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan on Tuesday. According to the press release, the Minister welcomed them and said that Pakistan is always looking forward to foreign companies for investment in Pakistan and reiterated the government's resolve to facilitate the investment. Türkiye's leading Dam construction Company Limak has been operating in Pakistan for many years and has already completed 28 dams all over the world. ANDRITZ hydro is responsible for hydro mechanical work at Dam sites. During the visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Türkiye, different investment ventures were discussed with Turkish companies, it further said. The meeting was continuation of the government efforts to explore avenues for cooperation and investment in hydro power sector of Pakistan. - APP

Event held in honor of community volunteers



DNA

MANCHESTER: Organized by Manchester City Council Community Learning Department UK, to recognize and encourage the passion, work and dedication of Community Learning Volunteers who volunteer their services and skills in various established Community Learning Centers across Manchester. A simple but dignified ceremony to pay

homage was held here in the spacious auditorium of the People's History Museum, Manchester, presided over by District Program Leader Naomi Bath and assisted by Nawala Treece. It should be remembered that immigrants coming to Britain from different countries across England, whose mother tongue is other than English and who are unable to speak English in the society, are given free educational courses in these insti-

tutions for their educational and linguistic training. On this occasion, in his address to the participants of the ceremony, the speakers praised the work of the volunteers and admitted that they are performing a difficult but important national duty. There has been a significant change in the lives of many people. Acknowledging the passion of the volunteers, he also said that you may never have realized or thought about

the fact that talking politely with your learners, Listening with empathy, giving them attention with a smile on their face is changing their days and giving them the confidence to go out of the classroom, conversation club and speak English. He also said that we received good, encouraging feedback from the classroom tutors and conversation club organizers about the learners and volunteers, which is a good title that the organizations are getting better results from the objectives for which they are working and in this context the volunteers will also get some better learning opportunities, he expressed hope. The speakers expressed their happiness on this matter and said that many people have learned the necessary sciences and skills including English and mathematics by using these learning centers and now they are living a happy, economically prosperous family life in the new society.

Türkiye leading contributor of forces to NATO, says defense minister

ANKARA: Türkiye is the leading country in terms of contribution of forces to NATO, the country's defense minister said. "Türkiye is the first in the contribution of forces to NATO, it is fifth in contribution to the operations and eighth in terms of contribution to the minimum budget (of the alliance)," Defense Minister Hulusi Akar on Monday told Anadolu Agency's Editors Desk. Türkiye has contributed to NATO missions and will continue to do so, Akar affirmed. He further noted that Türkiye's contributions to regional and global peace are recognized by all and the fulfillment of its missions at NATO is "greatly appreciated and praised." Türkiye joined the military alliance of 29 North American and European countries in 1952 and boasts of having the second-largest army among member states after the US. Ankara attaches utmost importance to NATO's role in maintaining security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area. Akar also commented on Sweden and Finland's NATO bid, saying: "Türkiye is in no way opposed to NATO's open door policy. We fully support its open door policy." The defense chief said his country has fulfilled all its responsibilities with no letup for 70 years. "NATO should expand, but while NATO is expanding, this enlargement must be made according to NATO criteria, NATO principles, NATO elements, without prejudice to the sensitivities and security of each of the NATO member countries, respecting their security," he added. Türkiye, a longstanding member of the alliance, voiced objections to Sweden and Finland's membership bids, criticizing the countries for tolerating and even supporting terror groups such as the PKK and its offshoots. Ahead of a NATO summit in Madrid last month, Türkiye, Sweden, and Finland signed the accord, which allows the two Nordic countries to become NATO members but conditions them to take steps over Türkiye's terrorism concerns and lift an arms embargo on Ankara. - DNA

US Fed interest rates produces havocs in Pak macro economy

ISLAMABAD: Consecutive increases in the US Fed interest rates have produced havocs in the macro-economy of Pakistan. It badly needs economic stimulation, support and inflows of FDIs to consolidate its draining foreign reserves, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. The report contributed by Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan, Director of the CSAIS Islamabad, and regional expert on China, CPEC & BRI says, "Federal Reserve had raised interest rates by 75 basis points, bringing the target range to 2.25% to 2.5%. This marks the fourth rate hike of this year. It had also increased in June and July, representing the most stringent consecutive action since the Fed began using the funds rate as a principal tool of monetary policy in the early 1990s. Because of the role the United States and the dollar play in the global financial system, its monetary tightening has squeezed the entire world and consequently it has also affected Pakistan's stock exchange as well as global and regional stock exchanges, money markets, consumer products etc. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Austria to Pakistan Nicolaus Keller, Esra Dere-deputy head of mission Turkish embassy along with delegation held a meeting with Federal minister for power Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan. - DNA

Quality of development projects of Punjab and KP?

MUMTAZ AHMED BHATTI



ARE the development projects of C&W, Irrigation, PHED and LG&CD as per the set standards or not? Are the development projects constructed by these departments completed or under construction as per PC 1? Are quality control tests being performed as per requirement? Are site engineers present by contractors on development projects? Site laboratories have been set up by contractors on development projects as per the contract? Is Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) being provided to labor working on development projects? Are the responsibility of construction development projects with standard materials only XEN and SDOs or are Secretaries, Chief Engineers and SEs also responsible? Influential Chief Engineers, Superintendent Engineers, Executive Engineers and SDOs get transferred to the stations they like. If ever influential engineers are transferred against their will, they get transferred back to the same station with-

in a few days. Development projects under construction by C&W, Irrigation, PHED and LG&CD in Punjab were monitored by DG Monitoring and Evaluation Teams. According to their monitoring reports, only five percent of such projects are constructed as per the set standards. 95% of the projects were declared unsatisfactory. Concerned and serious observations are given. It is important to examine the reports given by DG&E regarding development projects to see how true and how false the reports are. During the reign of Shehbaz Sharif, Khadim e Aala Rural Roads Program in Punjab was started in KPRRP 2015. The objective behind launching the KPRRP project was to rehabilitate/reconstruct rural roads throughout Punjab province which were in a dilapidated condition for the last several decades. Phase I, II and III of KPRRP was completed and phase IV was in progress. Rigorous mechanism of monitoring, project management, quality control, and resident supervision was adopted throughout the implementation of the project. After completion of the KPRRP Phase-III, the Chief Minister, Punjab was desired to carry out Independent Third Party Evaluation / Inspection of quality of roads con-

structed under KPRRP Phase-III. In pursuance of CM direction, P&D Department vide notification dated 26-01-2017 was constituted 3 Inspection / Evaluation Teams comprising of foreign consultants, representatives from UET, Lahore, UET, Taxila and Directorate General M&E for validation of five (5) roads in each division of Punjab. As per selection of 46 No. of Roads by the office of Chief Minister Punjab Inspection / Evaluation Teams visited these roads in coordination with C&W Department, Government of the Punjab. Inspection Teams visited the sites of selected KPRRP Phase-III roads from 14-03-2017 to 27-03-2017 and performed the requisite testing as per TORs. At road site, testing was conducted in presence of representatives of all stakeholders. Around 320 samples of Subgrade, Sub Base, Base Course and Asphalt Wearing Course were collected. All the collected samples were sealed in the presence of Foreign Consultants and brought into the Labs of UET, Lahore (Transportation Engineering Department) and UET, Taxila (Civil Engineering Department) for testing. Inspection / Evaluation Teams also checked width of carriage way, earthen shoulders, thicknesses of all road layers and riding quality. As per FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS

of the inspection team. Total 895 tests were performed as per TORs. 460 out of 895 were field Tests regarding metalled width, formation width and thickness of the layers (Shoulder, Subgrade, Sub Base, Base course and Asphalt Wearing Course) were performed on all roads and it was observed that 455 test results were found within the prescribed limits and 5 No. of tests were not found within prescribed limits. Bitumen content was not accurate in many roads. The inspection team said while expressing concern over the performance of resident supervision. It has become evident that the resident supervision has not been effective and has not performed up to the mark which resulted certain quality issues, the role of which can be tightened. The contractor who has not performed. What is the current status of development projects in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in terms of quality? Are all necessary steps being taken to maintain the quality of development projects being constructed under C&W, PHED, Irrigation and Local Government? A detailed investigative report on the development projects of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will be published very soon.

Briefs

First grain shipment heads for Bosphorus

DNA

KYIV: The first shipment of Ukrainian grain since Russia's blockade of the country's ports is set to pass through the Bosphorus on its way to Lebanon. After traveling through the narrow strait — which separates the Black Sea from the Mediterranean, and Europe from Asia — the ship will continue to Lebanon after inspection in Istanbul. Some 26,000 metric tons of Ukrainian corn left the port of Odessa on Monday morning — the first cargo to be shipped since a deal was struck between Ukraine and Russia. The vessel — the Sierra Leone-flagged cargo ship Razoni — then had to navigate a special sea corridor near the Ukrainian coast thought to contain mines. Other convoys are expected to follow, respecting the maritime corridor and other formalities in line with the deal. Since the war began, Ukrainian goods had become inaccessible because of Russian control of the Black Sea. Along with the United Nations and Turkey, Kyiv and Moscow signed the deal to export grain from three Ukrainian Black Sea ports on July 22. Both countries are major suppliers of foodstuffs around the world.

US targets China, UAE firms in new Iran oil sanctions

DNA

WASHINGTON: The United States on Monday imposed sanctions on Chinese and other firms it said helped to sell tens of millions of dollars' worth of Iranian oil and petrochemical products to East Asia as it seeks to raise pressure on Tehran to curb its nuclear programme. The U.S. Treasury and the U.S. State Departments imposed sanctions on a total of six companies, four based in Hong Kong, one in Singapore, and one in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in actions that were announced in separate statements. The Treasury accused Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industry Commercial Co. (PG-PICC), one of Iran's largest petrochemical brokers, of using the firms to facilitate the sale of Iranian petroleum and petrochemical products to East Asia. The Treasury targeted UAE-based Blue Cactus Heavy Equipment and Machinery Spare Parts Trading L.L.C., which it said helped sell millions of dollars of Iranian-origin petroleum products to Hong Kong-based Triliance Petrochemical Co. Ltd., which has previously been sanctioned by the United States.

Blinken says Taliban 'grossly' violated Doha agreement

DNA

WASHINGTON: The Taliban "grossly" violated the Doha Agreement by hosting and sheltering al Qaeda's top leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Monday. The United States killed leader Zawahiri in a strike in Afghanistan over the weekend, President Joe Biden said on Monday, the biggest blow to the militant group since its founder Osama bin Laden was killed in 2011. "In the face of the Taliban's unwillingness or inability to abide by their commitments, we will continue to support the Afghan people with robust humanitarian assistance and to advocate for the protection of their human rights, especially of women and girls," Blinken said in a statement. The Taliban admitted earlier Tuesday that the US had carried out a drone strike, but gave no details of casualties — and did not name Zawahiri, who was considered a key plotter of the 9/11 attacks on the United States.

Pelosi in Taiwan; Chinese warplanes take to skies

Chinese warplanes buzzed the line dividing the Taiwan Strait on Tuesday before her arrival, as China's leadership warned against the visit by Pelosi

NEWS DESK

TAIPEI: U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi arrived in Chinese-claimed Taiwan aboard a U.S. military aircraft late on Tuesday, the first such visit in 25 years and one that risks pushing relations between Washington and Beijing to a new low. Pelosi and her delegation disembarked from a U.S. Air Force transport plane at Songshan Airport in downtown Taipei and were greeted by Taiwan's foreign minister, Joseph Wu and Sandra Oudkirk, the top U.S. representative in Taiwan. "Our congressional delegation's visit to Taiwan honors America's unwavering commitment to supporting Taiwan's vibrant democracy," Pelosi said in a statement shortly after landing. "America's solidarity with the 23 million people of Taiwan is more important today than ever, as the world faces a choice between autocracy and democracy." Pelosi was on a tour of Asia that includes announced visits to Singapore, Malaysia,

South Korea and Japan. Her stop in Taiwan had not been announced but had been widely anticipated. Chinese warplanes buzzed the line dividing the Taiwan Strait on Tuesday before her arrival, as China's leadership warned against the visit by Pelosi, who is second in the line of succession to the U.S. presidency and a long-time critic of Beijing. In the latest rhetorical salvo, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Tuesday that U.S. politicians who "play with fire" on the Taiwan issue will "come to no good end". The United States said on Monday it would not be intimidated by what it called Chinese "sabre-rattling". Most of Pelosi's planned meetings, including with President Tsai Ing-wen, were scheduled for Wednesday, a person familiar with her itinerary said. Four sources said she was scheduled on Wednesday afternoon to meet a group of activists who are outspoken about China's human rights record. Pelosi, 82, is a close ally of U.S. President Joe Biden, both being members of the Democratic Party, and has been a key figure in guiding his legislative

agenda through the U.S. Congress. Taiwan's foreign ministry said it had no comment on reports of Pelosi's travel plans, while her office had also kept silent. On Tuesday night, Taiwan's tallest building, Taipei 101, lit up with messages including: "Welcome to Taiwan", "Speaker Pelosi", "Taiwan (heart) USA". With tensions already high, several Chinese warplanes flew close to the median line dividing the Taiwan Strait on Tuesday morning before leaving later in the day, a source told Reuters. Several Chinese warships have also sailed near the unofficial dividing line since Monday and remained there, the source said. The Chinese aircraft repeatedly conducted tactical moves of briefly "touching" the median line and circling back to the other side of the strait while Taiwanese aircraft were on standby nearby, the person said. Neither side's aircraft normally cross the median line. Four U.S. warships, including the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, were positioned in waters east of Taiwan on what the U.S. Navy called routine deploy-

ments. The carrier had transited the South China Sea and was now in the Philippines Sea, east of Taiwan and the Philippines and south of Japan, a U.S. Navy official told Reuters. It was operating with the guided missile cruiser USS Antietam and destroyer USS Higgins, with the amphibious assault ship USS Tripoli also in the area. Since last week, China's People's Liberation Army has conducted various exercises, including live-fire drills, in the South China Sea, Yellow Sea and Bohai Sea, in a show of Chinese military might. China views visits by U.S. officials to Taiwan as sending an encouraging signal to the pro-independence camp on the democratic, self-governed island. Beijing considers Taiwan to be part of its territory and has never renounced using force to bring the island under its control. Taiwan rejects China's sovereignty claims and says only its people can decide the island's future. The United States has no official diplomatic relations with Taiwan but is bound by American law to provide the island with the means to defend itself.

Met office predicts another spell of rains

STAFF REPORT

KARACHI: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Tuesday predicted more rains for Sindh, including Karachi, between August 5 (Friday) and August 9 (Tuesday). Monsoon currents of moderate intensity are likely to enter eastern Sindh from the night of August 4, it said in a statement. Under the influence of this weather system, it said, rain and thunderstorms with moderate and heavy falls were expected in Tharparkar, Umerkot, Mirpurkhas, Badin, Tando Muhammad Khan, Tando Allayar, Hyderabad, Matiari, Thatta, Sujawal, Sanghar, Shaheed Benazirabad, Khairpur, Sukkur, Larkana, Gotki, Kashmore, Shikarpur, Jacobabad, Dadu, Jamshoro and Kambar Shahdadkot districts during August 5 and August 9. Meanwhile, rains in Karachi were predicted from August 6 to August 9. During this period, the temperature in the metropolis will stay between 26 and 32 degrees Celsius while humidity will stay under 80 per cent. Westerly and south-westerly winds were also expected to blow in the city.

Punjab's 18-member cabinet line-up gets Imran Khan's nod

DNA

LAHORE: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan on Tuesday approved the 18-member cabinet of Punjab, former chief minister Usman Buzdar has been nominated as the parliamentary leader of PTI in the provincial assembly. According to sources, only PTI members of the assembly were included in the 18-member cabinet of Punjab. In the first phase, not even one member of the PML-Q was included in the cabinet. PTI MPs including Yasmin Rashid, Mian Aslam Iqbal, Raja Yasir Humayun, Ali Afzal Sahi, Hashim Dogar and Fayaz-ul-Hassan Chohan has been added to the cabinet. The sources further said that PML-Q had two ministries in the Usman Buzdar cabinet but none in the new cabinet that sent a wave of concern among the 10 PML-Q MPs. Ch Shujaat Hussain's camp again contacted PML-Q MPs and said if they have seen the results of supporting Imran Khan. A message was sent from the Ch Shujaat camp to the members saying that Imran Khan is not trustworthy and asked it was still time to take Imran Khan's side.

Indian school faces criminal probe over Islamic prayers

MONITORING DESK

NEW DELHI: A private school in India is being investigated by police under a controversial religious conversion law for holding multifarious prayers that included the Islamic declaration of faith, an officer said on Tuesday. Video on social media showed students at the Florets International School in Kanpur reciting prayers that included texts from four major faiths — Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, and Sikhism. Several right-wing Hindu outfits and Hindu parents held street protests in the city at the weekend. Religious conversion has long been a flashpoint in India, which is majority Hindu but also has the world's second-largest Muslim population. Communal tensions have sometimes run high and in recent years Hindu extremist groups, as well as local governments run by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), have sharpened their attack against proselytisation. The school is in BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh state, which last year passed a law criminalising all religious conversions without prior state approval — legislation that critics said was targeted against Muslims. Police on Tuesday said the school's manager was being investigated under the law for offending religious beliefs following allegations by Hindu parents that the school was "preparing" the students to convert to Islam. "We acted upon a complaint received from the Hindu parents objecting against the Islamic prayers," Kanpur assistant commissioner of police Nishank Sharma told AFP. Sharma said an investigation has been opened but no arrests made yet. The practice of reciting religious texts has been stopped at the school following the complaint, the officer added. The school has rejected the conversion allegation and insisted that the multi-faith prayers had been recited for over a decade at the institution, and aimed at inculcating a sense of religious harmony among the students. "We have been following the tradition since 2003 but no one objected. We stopped the prayers after some parents complained on Friday," school principal Ankita Yadav, told reporters.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate Mirza Muhammad Afridi giving away shield to Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki, Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan during "Pegham-e-Hajj Conference" at a local hotel. — APP

Kentucky floods kill at least 37

DNA

KENTUCKY: Floods unleashed by torrential rains in eastern Kentucky have killed at least 37 people, including four children, Governor Andy Beshear said on Monday while warning that more dangerous weather is approaching the region. Beshear on Monday morning confirmed 30 deaths, followed by five more in an afternoon briefing, when he said there would be yet more to come. Hours later he confirmed on Twitter there had been two more deaths. Authorities continued to work to rescue residents and provide food and shelter for thousands who had been displaced. Efforts have been hampered by weather conditions, officials say. Many residents had been unprepared for heavy downfall overnight, leading to more deaths, Beshear said. For people remaining in Eastern Kentucky, he advised seeking higher ground ahead of evening storms. "It is a continuing natural disaster. We are still searching for people," Beshear said in a CNN interview. "A large amount of grief throughout Kentucky." The National Weather Service forecasted several rounds of continuing showers and storms through Tuesday. Beshear, who declared a state emergency last week, said over the weekend that authorities would likely "be finding bodies for weeks" as teams fanned out to more remote areas. Days of heavy rainfall — described by Beshear as some of the worst in the state's history — caused some homes in the hardest-hit areas to be swept away. Video clips posted online showed rescue teams guiding motor boats through residential and commercial areas searching for victims.

Russia backs China over 'provocative' Pelosi visit

MOSCOW: Russia backed China on Tuesday over an expected visit to Taiwan by U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, warning Washington that such a provocative trip would put the United States on a collision course with Beijing. Chinese leader Xi Jinping warned U.S. President Joe Biden against playing with fire over Taiwan in a call last week but three sources told Reuters on Tuesday that Pelosi was still set to visit the island. "We cannot say for sure right now whether she will or will not get there, but everything about this tour and the possible visit to Taiwan is purely provocative," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

Maria Zakharova, Russia's foreign ministry spokeswoman, said the expected visit was a provocative attempt by Washington to pile pressure on China — with whom Russia has forged a strong partnership in recent years. "The USA is a state provocateur," she said. "Russia confirms the principle of 'one China' and opposes the independence of the island in any form." China views visits by U.S. officials to Taiwan as sending an encouraging signal to the pro-independence camp in the island. Washington does not have official diplomatic ties with Taiwan but is bound by U.S. law to provide the island with the means to defend itself. — DNA

Efforts on to further boost Pak-UAE co-op

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Miftah Ismail here on Tuesday highlighted that the incumbent government was focusing on various new avenues of mutual interest to extend the existing bilateral relations between Pakistan and United Arab Emirates (UAE) to a new level. The minister was talking to Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salim Al-Zababi who called on him here at Finance Division, according to press statement issued by finance ministry. He said that Pakistan and UAE shared long-standing bilateral ties in various areas including energy, refinery, petroleum and trade. The minister apprised the ambassador about the potential investment areas where UAE could invest and also assured him of greater facilitation and support. The minister shared welcoming sentiments for pursuing new investments in Pakistan



and assured the UAE's Ambassador of full support and cooperation by the present government. The ambassador showed a keen interest in enhancing and strengthening the bilateral relation between the two countries especially on economic fronts. Separately, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail here on Tuesday said that reviews were being carried out for resolving issues related to imposition of tax on electricity bills, property and sales tax.

He was talking to a delegation of Mardan Chambers of Small Traders and Small Industry (CSTSI), headed by its President, Muhammad Fayyaz Khan and President Markazi Tanzeem-e-Tajraan Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sharafat Ali Mubarak, said a press statement issued by finance ministry. Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Industry, Rana Ihsan Afzal and other senior officers also attended the meeting, it added. — DNA

Taliban slams US drone strike in Afghanistan

Says 'such actions' against the interest of US, Afghanistan and region

WEB DESK



KABUL: Following the US drone strike in Kabul — which killed al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri — Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said that such actions were against the interests of the US, Afghanistan and the region. In a statement, Mujahid said that the "IEA [Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan] strongly condemns this attack on any cause and calls it a clear violation of international principles and the Doha Agreement." He maintained that "such actions" were

a repetition of the "failed experiences of the past 20 years" and were against the interests of the US, Afghanistan and the region. "Repeating such actions will damage the existing opportunities," it added. According to the statement, an airstrike was carried out on a "residential house in the Shirpur area of Kabul city" and "the nature of the incident was not revealed" at the outset. The spokesperson stated that security and intelligence agencies of the IEA investigated the incident and in their preliminary investigations found that the attack was carried out by drones from the US. The US conducted a "successful" coun-

terterrorism operation against a "significant" al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in Afghanistan over the weekend, a senior administration official said. Two intelligence sources told Fox News Zawahiri was killed in the CIA drone strike. US officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said Zawahiri was killed when he came out on the balcony of his safe house in Kabul on Sunday morning and was hit by "hellfire" missiles from a US drone. "Now justice has been delivered, and this terrorist leader is no more," US President Joe Biden said in remarks from the White House on Monday.

Pakistani rupee holds its ground against US dollar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani rupee unexpectedly held its ground for second day running against the US dollar as it appreciated by nearly one rupee on Tuesday. According to the forex dealers, the value of the US dollar was depreciated by 84 paisas bringing its exchange rate down to Rs238 from Rs238.84 in the early interbank trading. During the last two days, the greenback has depreciated by Rs1.37 — down from Rs239.37 to Rs238. On Monday, the US dollar also depreciated by 53 paisas when it ended the day at Rs238.84 down from Rs239.37/ Finance Minister Miftah Ismail during his press conference earlier sounded hopeful believing that pressure on the rupee would be dissipated within two weeks and things would become easy. He said rupee value was improving after a reduction in our import bill which was a welcoming sign. While conceding that dollar had gone out of control post the July 17 by-polls in Punjab, Ismail said he still believed the value of rupee was far greater than where it was currently standing. "Fundamentals are in my favour, but speculation and sentiments also play a role," he said.