

Samanad

Thursday, August 04, 2022

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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Rotary International President Jennider Jones to be welcomed

Detailed News On Page-03

Sri Lanka is facing a 'great danger'

A sister publication of **CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency**

Detailed News On Page-07



Nancy Pelosi offers support to Taiwan

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Briefs

Zelenskiy says economy ın coma

AGENCIES



export shipment from his country since Russia invaded, saying it was carrying a fraction of the crop Kyiv must sell to help salvage its shattered economy. Zelenskiy, speaking via an interpreter, said more time was needed to see whether other grain

shipments would follow. "Just recently, thanks to the UN in partnership with Turkey, we had a first ship with the delivery of grain, but it's still nothing. But we hope it's a tendency that will continue," he told the students.

Bilawal arrives in Cambodia

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Min-Bhutto

Wednesday left here for Cambodia to lead the country's delegation at the

29th ministerial meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASE-AN) Regional Forum (ARF), being held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from August 4-6. In his pre-departure statement, Bilawal said he looked forward to attending the meeting and holding bilateral interactions with the representatives of ASEAN countries.

PDM scared of Imran's popularity

STAFF REPORT



Pakistan Tehreek-e-In saf (PTI) Central Secretary Information Farrukh Habib took a jibe at the import

ed government for its decision to put the name of PTI Chairman Imran Khan in the ECL, saying that how a crook ed ruling junta could dare to take such a decision when 24 members of its cabinet were included in the ECL. He was reacting to the coalition government's decision that they could put Imran Khan's name in the ECL.

Inside..

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British Council, V&A marks 75th anniversary of Pakistan - Page 06

Indonesia maintains economic growth at above five percent Page 07

Govt to extend allpossible help to AJK flood victims

Reference against Khan mulled

Govt warns PTI against ECP protest

Rana Says the demonstrators will be allowed to hold their protest at the nearby F-9 park or the Parade Ground

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Wednesday vowed that the government will not grant PTI supporters permission to protest outside the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) as it falls in Islamabad's high-security "Red Zone" area. In a press conference alongside Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, he said that the demonstrators will be allowed to hold their protest at the nearby F-9 park or the Parade Ground. "But there will be no permission for protest in [the] Red Zone and anyone who tries to enter [the area] forcibly will be dealt as per law," he warned.

In a tweet, he also said that there was apprehension of "PTI miscreants attacking ECP", hence a ban had been imposed on protests in the Red Zone. Sanaullah's statement comes hours after senior PTI leader Asad Umar reminded supporters to protest outside the ECP offices in Islamabad, Lahore

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Imran announces not to enter Red Zone

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman supremo and former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday said PTI will hold protest today (Thursday) outside the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) but they will not enter the Red Zone. In an interview with a private TV channel, Imran while reacting to the ECP verdict said that the Election Commission

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Banning Imran, PTI beyond govt control

Fawad claims ECP altered funding case verdict on law minister's request

IRSHAD ALI



ISLAMABAD: Highlighting serious flaws and loopholes Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) prohibited funding ver-

dict, PTI Senior Vice President Fawad Chaudhry said that the banning Chairman Imran Khan and the party was none of their business. Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, he said that Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan

Continued on Page 02

Tarar asks Imran to clear position

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Ataullah Tarar on Wednesday asked Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan to clear his position after the verdict of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) which stamped his party for receiving funds from enemy countries like India and Israel. The 'Jewish and Indian' funded illegally to PTI for lobbying in their favour and interests, he said while addressing a press conference here, adding PTI was also a beneficiary of the donation

Continued on Page 02







ISLAMABAD: Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Neil Hawkins has extended deepest sympathies for the family of Lt. Gen Sarfraz Ali and other officers of Pakistan Army who died during a flood relief mission in Balochistan. In this Twitter message the high commissioner said 'Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends at this sad time'.

Pakistan concerned over China-US confrontation

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan expressed "deep concern" over the confrontation of arch-rivals China and the US after House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited the Taiwan Strait, which, according to the Foreign Office,

Continued on Page 02

Pakistan highly values Japanese investment

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday underlined the importance Pakistan attached to its long-standing ties with Japan and rea firmed the resolve to further strengthen this valuable partnership in all aspects. He stressed that bilateral cooperation must be further expanded in trade, investment, IT, renewable energy and other related fields. The prime minister was talking to Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Honda Taro who called on him. Highlighting the cordial and cooperative bilateral relations, the prime minister appreciated the support provided by the government of Japan for infrastructural and socio-economic development in Pakistan. Appreciating investments by the Japanese enterprises in Pakistan over

Continued on Page 02

Japan provides \$9m for sewerage services

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan has agreed to provide new grant assistance worth 1,236 million Japanese Yen (Equivalent to around 9.062 million USD / around 1.855 million PKR) for upgrading the mechanical system for sewerage and drainage services in Multan. On August 3, 2022, in the presence of

Continued on Page 02

US approves arms sales to KSA, UAE

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: The Biden administration on Tuesday approved and notified Congress of possible multibillion-dollar weapons sales to both Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The notice of the approval comes just weeks after President Joe Biden met with the leaders of each nation in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, as he sought to improve rela-

tions between the US and the Saudis. The approval was also notified on the same day that the United Nations announced a twomonth extension of the truce in Yemen, where the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthi rebel group had, until recent months, been engaged in a years-long bloody conflict that has killed thousands of civilians. According to a news release from the US State

Continued on Page 02

Implications of Election Commission's verdict for PTI

Pakistan is a unique country in the sense that here people do not follow the law, rather law follows people. It is up to the people as to how to manipulate law in their favour or against their opponents

Analysis

Ansar M Bhatti



A mixed reaction has been witnessed both from the government and the PTI ranks

stan's verdict in the prohibited funding case. Both sides are seen expressing jim jams over the verdict and claiming a victory. As a matter of fact, there is some pie for each party in that verdict. The PTI should seek solace in the fact that the decision does not pose any immediate threat to it as was expected. Experts say the Election Commission did not have the jurisdiction of either canceling the registration of the party or withdrawing the election symbol. So the PTI for sure should feel itself in the safe zone albeit till the time the matter lands in the apex court.

On the other hand, the ECP decision does provide sufficient material to the government alliance to make a strong case of 'Sadiq and Ameen' under Article 62 and 63, against Imran Khan, According to government parties, Imran Khan presented a false statement in the Election Commission therefore by doing so he in fact seriously breached Article 62 and 63. They claim, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was sent home by the apex court under the same Articles and as he had also presented a false affidavit. The experts however are of the view that there is a difference between Imran Khan's statement and Nawaz Sharif's affidavit, Imran Khan signed a simple statement of accounts given to him by the Chartered Accountants. So, if there is any anomaly in those accounts, the company that carried out the audit shall be held responsible, while in Nawaz Sharif case, he submitted his statement on an affidavit, which is a legal document and had legal implications. Nevertheless, the matter will now go to court and be decided there.

As regards the question whether the ECP decision will impact upon the popularity of the PTI, especially in the coming general elections, I think it does not hold any ground. Despite this decision the PTI will continue to be the leading political party, particularly in the Punjab and KP provinces, provided there is some adverse verdict from the apex court about chairman Imran Khan. The government and the allied parties are all set to take the matter to the Supreme Court and reference against the PTI and Imran Khan is being fine tuned. Pakistan is a unique country in the sense that here people do not follow the law.

rather law follows people. It is up to the people as to how to manipulate law in their favour or against their opponents. Law here simply behaves and feels pleasure in dancing to the tune of powers- that- be. It is up to these powers to use law in order to teach someone a lesson. We have seen it happening in the cases of former Prime Ministers Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif. Ostensibly, they were the persons more sinned against than sinning.

lar and Imran Khan in general happen to be the key stakeholders in the prevalent political system. PTI, in the given political scenarios, acts as a balancing force viz-a-viz PML N, PPP and rest of the ruling parties. Obviating PTI from the political scene would badly disturb the political balance in favour of these two parties especially. So, logically

Realistically speaking, PTI in particu-

there are hardly any chances of PTI to be dissolved as a political party, despite the fact the government alliance would try its best to seek its dissolution through a court order.

The allied parties during their August 3, 2022 session decided to put Imran Khan and other key figures on the Exit Control List (ECL), taking refuge in the ECP decision. There were no such orders or observations in the ECP decision however the government decided on its own to take this step. The purpose is obviously to bring the PTI leadership under pressure, but this trick may not work well and is likely to prove counterproductive. Another decision taken at the meeting pertains to filing of reference against the PTI chairman Imran Khan under Article 62 and 63. Here, the government seems to have a case albeit the PTI lawyers are confident no harm will come to their chairman in this particular case.

All said and done, under the emerging scenario, the fate of early elections seems to be hanging in balance. It appears as if the PTI would now focus on fighting this reference first. The case holds utmost importance for the PTI because the future of Imran Khan is linked to this case. As long as the ECP verdict remains there, the fate of the PTI chairman will be in limbo. The verdict had to be either stayed by the court or decided in favour of PTI. Only then the PTI can consider itself in the comfort zone. Experts believe the reference may be decided within 15 days once it lands in the court while there are some jurists who believe it is going to be a long drawn battle.

Imran Khan, on his part, needs to seriously look into the events that led him and his party to this pass. One thing he and his party need to understand precisely that they simply cannot exist in isolation. If they want to do politics and grab important positions, they have to learn how to work with the outer world, especially the super powers including America and China. One likes it or not, the USA is a reality and you have to co-exist with it. When you have a trusted and mutually beneficial partnership then for sure you can also push your partner to do more. Imran Khan is still the only hope of millions. Undoubtedly, he is the one who can lead this country towards self-reliance. But for that he is required to do some soul searching as to what went wrong during his four-year tenure. If he is able to rectify shortcomings of the past, he can surely pose formidable challenges to his opponents.

Thursday, August 04, 2022

Briefs

Govt warns...

From Page 01

and Peshawar tomorrow (August 4) against the commission's verdict in the prohibited funding case. On Monday, PTI chairman Imran Khan had also called on supporters to rally outside the electoral body's headquarters to demand Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja's resignation. In press conference, the interior minister said that peaceful protest was everyone's right in a democratic society. "We have allocated two spots for them. But if they indulge in violence, action will be taken." Referring to PTI's "Azadi March" in May, he alleged that the party had brought armed activists and ministers with them. "If this time they undertake any adventure, they will be dealt with force," he warned.

Sanaullah also said the ECP's verdict had proved that Imran was a "foreign agent" and PTI a "foreign-aided political party". "He took money to pollute Pakistan's politics and infused hatred in it," he said, vowing that the federal cabinet would take a decision against him tomorrow. "This foreign agent will be dealt with," the minister promised. In response to a question, he explained that there was "credible evidence" against Imran and his party on the basis of ECP's conclusions. "We are analysing the jurisdiction of the departments.

Imran...

From Page 01

of Pakistan (ECP) levelled foolish allegations against PTI. He said that the commission compiled two reports, one of them declaring PTI a foreign-funded party was included at the behest of 'someone'. "Affidavit was signed for declaring the ownership of the assets and another for confirming the party accounts. Shaukat Khanum has a budget of Rs18 billion. Am I an accountant to see the whole budget? I was given a briefing about the accounts which I will definitely confirm," he added. Taking a swipe at CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja, the PTI chairman said "ECP was involved in the conspiracy with the 'imported government' against PTI as the institution was deliberately delaying the funding reports of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan People's Party (PPP)."

Pakistan...

From Page 01

the past many years, the prime minister assured that the government would make all possible efforts to help further scale up such investments. He also stressed the importance of high-level exchanges between the two countries. The prime minister highlighted the dire situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and underscored the need for peaceful resolution of the dispute for durable peace, security and prosperity in South Asia. The Japanese parliamentary vice-minister for foreign affairs expressed sympathy and condolence over the human and mate rial losses caused by floods in Pakistan. Reaffirming Japan's commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations with Pakistan, he thanked the prime minister for his personal efforts in deepening Pakistan-Japan cooperation.

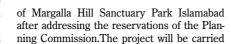
Tarar asks...

From Page 01

received from Romita Shetty, who was an American businesswoman of Indian origin. The PTI chief, he said was a champion of U-turns who promoted the culture of name-in politics and had always done the politics of chaos, allegations and lies. Tarar chided PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry on his remarks on ECP's verdict that the judgment was announced in a 'hurry'. He said PTI wanted to linger the case further after a lapse of eight year. PTI kept knocking the door of courts seeking stay in his party's foreign funding case as they knew about irregularities in party funds. - APP

CDA-DWP meeting approves various new Capital projects

ISLAMABAD: Dated 3rd August, 2022): 58th meeting of Capital Development Authority DWP was held at CDA Headquarters under the chairmanship of Chairman CDA. The meeting was attended by officers from relevant departments. Several projects were presented for approval in the meeting, which were approved after a detailed deliberation. According to the details, the Nilor Heights revised projecr was approved in the CDA-DWP meeting. One component of the Nilor Heights project is low-cost and the other is high-end. The high-end category will cost Rs. 7000 per square feet. The project is being completed through FWO which was approved by the Federal Cabinet. Similarly, the Islamabad bus service project for the entire city of Islamabad was also approved in the meeting. It will cost Rs 7240.62 million. This project will help in fulfilling future traveling needs in Islamabad. In this regard, 8 different routes were approved. Moreover, the meeting approved the creation



out in collaboration of IWMB for the care and protection & preservation of flora and fona. It will be managed by IWMB. The meeting also

approved PC-II to hire consultants for establishment of Capital Medical College in Capital Hospital Islamabad.



RCCI inks MOU with WCCI Malir

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and Karachi Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry Malir inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide women a platform to improve their networking and excel in the field of entrepreneurship. The MOU signing ceremony was held

President RCCI assured all kinds of

by President RCCI Ch Nadeem A Rauf along with Group Leader Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Asim Mahmood Malik and Vice President Tallat Awan and representatives and members of WCCI Malir, Ms. Nazli Abid Nisar, Founder & President Karachi Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry Malir signed and exchanged MOU documents with RCCI President Nadeem Rauf.

support and cooperation to facilitate and empower women members. He said RCCI, being a proactive business facilitation entity, always took the lead for women entrepreneurs to get into the mainstream of the economy. Under the agreement both organizations will provide all kinds of support and cooperation to facilitate and empower women members a platform to connect in Business-to-Business (B2B) and Business-to-Consumer (B2C) meetings.



Commissioner Multan reviews Muharram security arrangements

SAQIB MUSHTAQ LODHRAN: commissioner Multan Di-

vision Engineer Aamir Khattak along with Regional Police Officer Multan Raja Rafat Mukhtiar visited Lodhran district to review the arrangements for Muharram. Commissioner Multan Division along with Regional Police Officer Multan made a detailed inspection of the routes of main processions of Tehsil Lodhran including Darbar Baba Rafiq Shah Bukhari, Main Bazaar, Railway Chowk, Railway Road. He also inspected the point of the procession ending at Darbar Rafiq Shah. On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Yasir, District Police Officer Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani, Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Azuba Azim, Additional Deputy Commissioner General Ahmed Faraz Awan along with DSPs and officers of other district departments were also with him. Earlier, Commissioner Muland Regional Police Officer Multan Raja Rafat Mukhtiar also held a special meeting with the members of District Peace Committee, organizers of Majlis and tazia licensees in the committee room of District Police Officer's office. Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak said that all the relevant departments should play their active role to establish peace and order during Muharram.

He further said that the atmosphere of peace, brotherhood and religious harmony should be promoted during the days of Ashura. He further said that Islam teaches us peace, brotherhood, forgiveness and religious harmony. He said that in Lodhran district, scholars of all schools of thought and Masalik have an ideal unity among themselves and it is our responsibility to keep this cooperation more stable. Regional Police Officer Raja Rifat Mukhtiar while addressing the members of the peace committee and organizers of the meet-

used to maintain peace and order. He further said that the scholars should play their key role for the establishment of peace during the days of Ashura. He said that scholars should promote peace, love, brotherhood and tolerance in the society. He instructed the organizers of the processions to strictly observe the routes and working hours of the processions. He said that a district control room has been established for the monitoring of Muharram 2022.

He said that proper provision of night vision cameras and lighting has been ensured in the sensitive meetings and processions held at night hours. will be made. In the meeting, prominent religious scholar Maulana Muhammad Mian, Muhammad Akram Kanju and other members of the District Peace Committee assured their full cooperation from the district administration for the establishment of peace and order during Muharram.

Minister for dashboards to monitor activities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives on Tuesday directed Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) and Ministry of Information and Technology to develop a dashboard in order to monitor the daily activities of the economy in the country and to promote the innovative projects of national importance under the Innovation Support Fund (ISF) to be launched soon.

The Minister made these directions while chairing a meeting for the development of the National Integrated Dashboard and ISF at the Ministry. The meeting was attended by the Secretary Planning Commission, Additional Secretary, Members and representatives from various ministries. There is no integrated dashboard where economic management could be monitored particularly of key ministries like Finance, said the Minister, while directing the concerned ministries and PBS to develop a dashboard so on a daily basis the economic situation of the country could be monitored which will

help the policymakers to make a policy.

The Minister said that data is the key in the current era and there should be a dashboard at two levels, one for top leadership and second for the secretary's level so every ministry could monitor the economic indicators. There is a bulk of data hidden in the government's department but we should have a system to utilize it, said the Minister while stressing the official for a System Analyst to work on dashboard and conduct need assessment in public sectors Similarly, the Minister said that there should be data policy as well. The Secretary Ministry of IT informed that it is already working on the policy and it will take a few months to finalize it. The Minister directed the IT ministry to give a briefing next week.

Imran loses moral ground

PESHAWAR: Adviser to the Prime Minister for Political and Public Affairs, Engr Amir Muqam on Wednesday said that former Prime Minister Imran Khan had lost moral ground to continue politics after the verdict of Election Commission. He said ECP verdict declared that Pakistan Tahrik-e-Insaf had received huge foreign funding from prohibited sources including rival countries, which was a clear violation of the country's constitution.

Talking to flood victims of D.I. Khan and southern districts of Khyber Pakthunkhwa, Engineer Amir Muqam said that Imran Khan had been proved as certified liar after ECP's verdict and there was no justification for him to remain PTI Chairman any more. He said Imran Khan, after taking funding from US and others countries, was preparing an anti-US narrative in a bid to deceive masses. He further said that people of Pakistan knew that who was certified liar and who used illegal foreign funds for political gains after ECP's judgment. Muqam claimed that it was now crystal clear that Imran had was doing politics in Pakistan through illegal foreign funding in a bid to destabilize the country and halt progress on China Pakistan Economic Corridor. He said Imran Khan had received billions of rupees from abroad for mudslinging institutions and its leadership, adding that the ECP verdict had proved that Imran was not 'Sadiq and Ameen' after his affidavit was found fake. He said poor economic and financial policies of Imran government had plunged the country into price hike and load shedding. He said PMLN had joined coalition government to save the country from bankruptcy.

Muqam said Imran Khan was now hiding face from people after ECP verdict and his disqualification under articles 62 and 63 was now imminent. - APP

Japan...

From Page 01

Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, H.E. Mr. HONDA Taro, on a visit to Pakistan, a signing ceremony for the assistance was held at the Ministry of Economic Affairs in Islamabad. H.E. Mr. WADA Mitsuhiro, Ambassador of Japan, Mr. KINOSHITA Yasumitsu, Chief Representative of JICA, H.E. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Minister for Economic Affairs, Mr. Mian Asad Hayaud Din, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, and other officials from both countries attended this ceremony.

US approves...

From Page 01

Department, the agency approved a possible sale of PATRIOT MIM-104E Guidance Enhanced Missile-Tactical Ballistic Missiles (GEM-T) and related equipment to Saudi Araba for an

estimated \$3.05 billion. "This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a partner country that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Gulf region,' State Department said of the sale. Shortly after taking office, Biden announced the US would end its support for Saudi's offensive operations in Yemen, "including relevant arms sales." However, the administration has continued to sell arms to the kingdom for what it says are defensive purposes.

Pakistan...

From Page 01

has serious implications for regional peace and stability. In a statement, Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said Pakistan reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the "One-China" policy and supports China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The statement comes after China furiously condemned the highest-level US visit to Taiwan in 25 years as Pelosi hailed the self-ruled island as "one of the freest societies in the world" and pledged American solidarity.

Banning...

From Page 01

Raja pronounced a reserved verdict in PTI prohibited funding case after meeting with the PDM leaders before the verdict. He said that the unconstitutional and illegal decision was announced on the request of Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, adding that the ECP gave the decision in a haste. which completely acted as a tool of PDM. Fawad stated that a different verdict was published on the website, adding that the decision was not the same before, as the decision contained the signature of election commission members from Sindh against whom a reference has also been filed.

Resolving economic challenges requires proactive approach

From the platform of PAJCCI, we will continue to provide technical input to both govts in areas of policy making

PESHAWAR: Chairman Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) Zubair Motiwala on Wednesday said in order to achieve the trade potential and produce tangible results, they needed to use proactive and pragmatic approach towards ongoing economic challenges especially in the context of PAK-AFG trade quantum and relationship. He was speaking at the focus group discussion arranged by the Center for Research & Security Studies in collaboration with PAJCCI.

The chairman further said, "Governments have their own priorities and it takes time for them to take initiatives; private entities must be agile in connecting with their neighborly trade partners especially in Afghanistan." Motiwala said presently Pakistan needed coal for meeting energy needs and private importers took initiative to bring

coal from Afghanistan; serving the needs of both the countries. Pakistani commodities and consum-

ables had 95% share in Afghan imports which were down to 65%, lost 35% share to China, Iran and India due to lack of coordination and slow approach towards sustainable trade policy viz-a-viz Afghanistan and the Central Asian Republics (CARs), he added. Motiwala established that there was a serious need to revise Pakistan's approach towards trade with Afghanistan and CARs focusing strongly on bilateral trade which was efficient and cost effective for both countries.

Leaving space for other regional countries had negatively impacted the trade volume and balance, he said, adding, "We share 2800 KM border with Afghanistan; both have necessary infrastructure at operational border crossings however

this is being rendered unproductive due to lack of coordination at governmental level whereas private entities are also lagging behind." He strongly urged private organi-

zations to take lead and increase bilateral trade within existing framework while providing input to resolve operational and policy matters to respective governments. "From the platform of PAJCCI, we

will continue to provide technical input to both governments in areas of policy making, removing trade barriers and pursuing matters of TAD. SRO on cross stuffing, adding items to PKR trading category, matters of sales tax and duty draw back claims in case of land routes, cash counters at borders, APTTA revision, capacity building of Afghan human resources."

Co-Chairman PAJCCI and head of Afghan delegation Khan Jan Alokozai thanked all PAJCCI executive members, especially Zubair Motiwala for his continued efforts in resolving issues and support to increase trade with Afghanistan.

He also appreciated government of Pakistan and its entities for their efforts in trade facilitation especially Pakistan Customs at Torkham in reducing congestion and priority clearance of perishable items.

He said that efforts must be made to implement barter trade mechanism by both governments, joint border and national committee formation for proactive coordination in regards to any policy changes and new initiatives. The meeting was attended by PAJCCI executive members, Afghan delegation, DG Transit Trade, TDAP, representative of KPT and bonded carrier companies along with other custom officials and CRSS team. - APP

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WARM WELCOME TO R.I. PRESIDENT

DISTRICT 3272 PAKISTAN

Host Club: Rotary Club of Islamabad (Metropolitan)

#PeopleofAction #RotaryPakistan

It is an honour for the Rotary District 3272 Pakistan that

WELCOME ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT JENNIFER JONES

TO ROTARY DISTRICT 3272 PAKISTAN



Jennifer Jones Rotary International President

OBJECT OF ROTARY

Rotary is all about learning and taking action. This Handbook contains basic information about Rotary and will be helpful

for new and prospective Rotarians. Readers are urged to

frequently and regularly visit myrotary.org for further and

The development of

acquaintance as an

opportunity for service;

 $\left(\begin{smallmatrix} 02 \end{smallmatrix}
ight)$ High ethical standards in business and professions; the

opportunity to serve society;

04/ The advancement of international

understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business

and professional persons united in the

recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations;

The application of the ideal of

service in each Rotarian's

personal, business, and

and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an

Jennifer is the Founder and President of Media Street Productions Inc., a 25-year-old, award-winning media company in Windsor, Ontario. She is a proud member of the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland.

Her talents have strengthened Rotary reach and impact, through many roles including as Trustee of the Rotary Foundation, RI Vice President, and co-chair of the End Polio Now: Make History Today campaign, raising funds alongside Bill and Melinda Gates and their Foundation.

lennifer is a leader in cultivating "experiential fundraising" opportunities such as Rotary's Polio Golf Day with Jack Nicklaus in Jupiter, Florida, USA, which raised over \$5.25 million for polio eradication in one day, and the innovative, virtual COVID-19 #RotaryResponds event that raised money for COVID-19 relief projects and showcased Rotary's response across the globe.

Working alongside political figures, celebrities and global leaders, she uses her voice to raise awareness and hundreds of millions of dollars to eradicate disease, support peace and provide clean water and sanitation in developing areas of the world. Her skill as an expert storyteller inspires hope and promise and motivates people to take action.

She has received many honors and recognitions including Rotary's Service above Self Award and the Citation for Meritorious Service, the YMCA Peace Medallion, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, and Wayne State University's Peacemaker of the Year Award – a first for a Canadian.



Adnan Saboor Rohaila District Governor

Rotary International President has chosen to visit Pakistan at an event which shows how Rotary International is focused on eradication of Polio and acknowledges the efforts of Rotarians of our area which administratively comprises of the geographic areas of Punjab, Islamabad, KPK as well as Former FATA. In his honour the Rotarians of Pakistan and district 3272 are getting together in Islamabad to meet their International Leader at an Intercity Meeting today in Serena Hotel Islamabad where people from different walks of life shall be participating. This supplement is not only a welcoming gesture to our visiting guest but also an awareness project to reach to the people and masses and share with them what is Rotary International and what is it doing? This supplement contains useful information about projects, history, statistics and much more. For any further Information please visit our website www.rotary.org.

THE FOUR-WAY TEST

of it things we think, say or do

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Will it build GOODWILL **8 BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**

Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

AVENUES OF SERVICE

We channel our commitment to service at home and abroad through five Avenues of Service, which are the foundation of club activity.

Club Service focuses on making clubs strong.

- Vocational Service calls on every Rotarian to work with integrity and contribute their expertise to the problems and needs of society.
- Community Service encourages every Rotarian to find ways to improve the quality of life for people in their communities and to serve the public interest.
- International Service exemplifies our global reach in promoting peace and understanding.
- Youth Service recognizes the importance of empowering youth and young professionals throughleadership development programs

WHAT IS ROTARY?

Rotary is a global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who come together to make positive, lasting change in communities at home and abroad.

For more than 117 years, Rotary members have used their passion, energy, and intelligence to take action on sustainable projects. From literacy and peace to water and health, we are always working to better our world, and we stay committed to the end

Our motto: Service Above Self

For more than 117 years, our guiding principles have been the foundation of our values: service, fellowship, diversity, integrity, and leadership.

Where we are*

355,815 North America and the Caribbean

308,555 Europe

202,191

South and Southeast Asia (including Pakistan)

147,714

North Asia (including Japan and Korea)

Australia, Philippines, and Pacific Realm

94,516

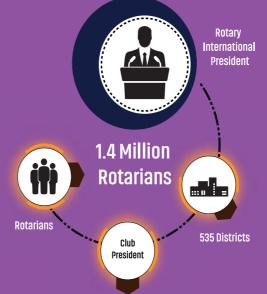
Central and South America

61,048 38,074

Africa and Southwest Asia

*Numbers represent Rotary club members

OUR STRUCTURE



35,000 + Clubs

WHAT WE DO

ROTARY'S AREAS OF FOCUS















Rotary Community Corps A Rotary Community Corps is a group of people who share our commitment to changing the world

through service projects. **Rotary Youth Leadership**

Awards

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive leadership experience organized by Rotary clubs and districts where you develop your skills as a leader while having fun and making connections.

Rotary Youth Exchange

Students learn a new language, discover another culture, and truly become global citizens. Exchanges for students 15 to 19 years old are sponsored by Rotary clubs in more than 100 countries.

Rotary New Generation Service Exchange

New Generations Service Exchange is a short-term, customizable program for university students and young professionals up to age 30.

GRANTS

S70 millions in grants given each year

projects supported each year by grants

in grants given for growing local economies last year

in grants given to water and sanitation projects last year

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Rotary clubs offer scholarships for secondary, undergraduate, or graduate
- The Rotary Foundation offers scholarships for college graduates and professionals to study peace and conflict resolution or water and sanitation.
- Rotary peace fellowships are available to candidates who want to participate in a master's degree or certificate program at one of our six partner universities.
- Foundation water scholarships are available to candidates who have already been admitted to one of IHE Delft Institute for Water Education-eligible: 18-month Master of science degree programs.

OUR PROGRAMS

Peace Fellowships

Each year, Rotary selects up to 100 professionals from around the world to receive fellowships to study at one of our peace centers.

Our fellowships

Each year, the Rotary Foundation awards up to 50 fellowships for master's degrees and 50 for certificate studies at premier universities around the world.

- **Master's degree programs:** Last 15 to 24 months and require a practical internship of two to three months during the academic break.
- Professional development certificate program: For experienced professionals and lasts three months with two to three weeks of field

Briefs

Unchecked sale of nicotine pouches

ISLAMABAD: Health activists expressed their concern over unchecked sale of nicotine pouches, a deceptive and dangerous product, launched by the big tobacco industry to make profits at the expense of public health. In a joint press release shared by Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), the health experts and the child rights organization urged the government to ban nicotine pouches as they were becoming increasingly popular among Pakistani youth due to elaborate social me dia campaigns.

Malik Imran Ahmed, Country Head of Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, mentioned the commonly available nicotine pouch brand, manufactured by the largest tobacco company in the world, which was launched in Pakistan in December 2019. Imran mentioned that during last three years there had been no policy or legislation to control and monitor sales, promotion and advertisement of nicotine pouches. As a result, tobacco industry had launched deceptive campaigns and profited from them. The advertisement tactics include misleading customers into believing it to be energizer or focus-enhancing product. The company was observed targeting specifically youth icons such as famous musicians, actors and models for paid social media content and even launched their own music show. According to Imran, these are all indicative of the target audience the brand is trying to reach i.e. youth and children. - APP

14 more tested positive with virus in RWP

RAWALPINDI: Fourteen more people tested positive for fatal coronavirus during the last 24 hours, raising the district's tally of confirmed cases to 47,241.

As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here Wednesday, the total infected cases included 43,662 from Rawalpindi and 3,579 from other districts. Among the new cases, five arrived from Potohar town, four from Rawalpindi Cantonment, two from Gujjar Khan and Rawal town and one from Taxila.

"Presently, 103 confirmed patients are quarantined at homes, and no one at the health facilities", the report added. The report further said that 6,990,540 people, including 44,797 health work ers, had jabbed themselves against the lethal coronavirus (COVID-19) across the district since the vaccination administering drive launched on March 10, 2021.

District Health Authority updated that during the last 24 hours, 1,502 samples were collected, out of which 1,488 were declared negative, while the positivity rate was recorded at 0.93 per cent. - APP

Engro, Excelerate Energy sign MoU

ISLAMABAD: Engro Eximp FZE, a subsidiary of Engro Corporation announced on Wednesday that it had signed a MOU with Excelerate Energy, Inc. (NYSE: EE) (Excelerate) for development of a private sector gas marketing business in Pakistan. Under this MOU, both partners will jointly evaluate the possibility of establishing a regasified LNG (RLNG) marketing business with maximum participation from the country's private sector, said a news release. "The initiative has the potential to increase private company participation in Pakistan's LNG sector and enhance Pakistan's energy security by opening up new RLNG supply avenues for businesses and consumers. This endeavor comes at a point when the need for energy security has become a critical issue globally, and particularly for Pakistan, against the backdrop of current geopolitical dynamics,' the Engro Eximp noted.

President and CEO Engro Corporation Ghias Khan said he was delighted that Engro's collaboration with Excelerate Energy had been strengthened through this agreement, which would eventually help Pakistan meet its energy needs. - APP

COMSTECH, PNAC cerebrate Accreditation Day

Experts emphasize role of accreditation for development

Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, welcomed the participants and shed light on importance of accreditation for OIC member states

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH and Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) jointly celebrated the accreditation day by organizing a seminar on "Accreditation for Quality Assurance and Socio-economic Development in OIC Countries" on Wednesday.

Secretary for Ministry of Science and Technology, Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon participated as the chief guest in the event. He said that this is an honor and privilege to address such an august gathering of scientists, policy makers and diplomats. He said today's event emphasizes the importance of accreditation and its role for socio-economic development. Mr. Memon said that sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction can be achieved by augmenting the international trade which can only be possible through robust accreditation, certification, quality and testing infrastructure recognized by the relevant international forums. He appreciated COMSTECH and PNAC joint initiative to strengthen accreditation bodies to enhance the conformity and assessment quality in Pakistan and least developed African countries.

The Assistant Secretary General of Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Ambassador Askar



Mussinov said in his message that I am really delighted to have an opportunity of speaking at this event jointly organized by COMSTECH and PNAC. The OIC is at the same page in celebration of the accreditation day. He said that it is of immense importance to ensure the quality measurement for socio-economic development of any country. He said that accreditation and conformity assessment play major role in achieving technical competence, integrity and impartiality of organizations along with making them to conform with international standards. He said that International standards organizations also open ways to secure markets to

provide sale able products. He said that accreditation organizations help in reducing the human impact on the environment. Mr. Mussinov commended COMSTECH for its numerous capacity building initiatives for the least developed member states to help them to acquire knowledge and skills.

Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, welcomed the participants and shed light on the importance of accreditation for OIC member states. Prof. Choudhary said that accreditation is an extremely important approach towards standardization of the processes and prod-

ISLAMABAD: PTCL, largest

telecom services provider in

Pakistan has launched Smart

Solutions powered by Hua-

wei. The initiative will enable

enterprises with smart ICT

services that are completely

secure and reliable through

one-window operations, said

a press release issued here

on Wednesday. This is a first-

of-its-kind intelligent NaaS

- Network as a Service plat-

form to provide innovative

Smart Solutions to provide

next generation AI and soft-

ware defined ICT services to

help multi verticals of health-

care, Ed-tech, banking, com-

mercial sector to digitalize,

bring efficiency and produc-

tivity in their day-to-day busi-

nesses. Backed by PTCL's

the PNAC initiatives and achievements.

ucts, analytical and diagnostic methods, scientific research or even business. He said that accreditation is now globally accepted as the gold standard of best practices in all forms of human endeavors. He briefed the audience about the large portfolio of S&T capacity building programs of COMSTECH in its 57 member states, as well as its role in Pakistan's science diplomacy initiative. The Director General PNAC, Ms. Ismat Gul Khattak gave a comprehensive talk on the importance of accreditation in achieving sustainable economic growth. She talked about

PTCL IFC boosts private launches smart solutions

program in Pakistan in fiscal year 2022 to support critical imports and foster a resilient post-pandemic recovery. That work came alongside other milestone engagements to boost financial inclusion, bolster key sectors, like agriculture and retail, structure groundbreaking public-private partnership projects, and promote gender diversity. IFC invested and mobilized about \$680 million in Pakistan in short- and long-term financing between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022. That included a record \$485 million in commitments through IFC's Global Trade Finance Program to enable the import of essential goods and services, more than double the amount of the previous fiscal year. IFC also invested the equivalent of \$25 million in Pakistani rupees for an equity stake in leading fashion retailer Khaadi Retail to create jobs, promote gender equality, and support the crucial textiles sector. Alongside the investments, IFC launched advisory and upstream projects designed to unlock the private sector's potential and attract funding in key sectors, including two landmark public-private partnership (PPP) projects. IFC signed an agreement with Sindh province to structure a PPP to provide clean drinking water to nearly 1 million people in Karachi, and another with authorities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to arrange a PPP to construct a state-of-the-art hospital with up to 500 beds In addition, IFC helped roll out a pioneering electronic ware-

house receipt financing system to boost the flow of credit to the key agriculture sector - particularly to maize farmers - and launched the country's Asaan Karobaar program with the government to streamline regulations and enable smaller businesses to grow. IFC also joined forces with the Pakistan Business Council (PBC) to celebrate private sector employers committed to empowering women at work through gender diversity awards. The awards recognized firms that had not only implemented strong gender diversity policies, but had also publicly disclosed them, encouraging others to do the same. Daraz, Pakistan's biggest online marketplace, received the highest score using a scorecard of five key gender principles developed by IFC and PBC. "Accelerating private sector development is essential to foster a resilient, inclusive and green recovery, create more job opportunities, and help reduce poverty," said Zeeshan Sheikh, IFC's Country Manager for Pakistan and Afghanistan. - DNA

Swati elected **'Select** Committee Chairman'

ISLAMABAD: The members of Senate Select Committee on Wednesday elected Azam Khan Swati as chairman whose name was proposed by Faisal Saleem and endorsed by Fawzia Arshad. The meeting was held to discuss and formulate a report on the Islamabad Capital Territory Trust (Amendment) Bill, 2020, moved by Senator Mushtaq Ahmad.

Swati, on being elected as chairman, thanked the members and called for their support to finalize work on the amendment bill. The insight from the committee members would be highly appreciated and welcomed, he added.

He pledged that he would fulfill the confidence placed in him and called for working together to carry out the responsibility entrusted to them. The members of the committee congratulated him and assured of their full backing and cooperation.

The Islamabad Capital Territory Trust (Amendment) Bill 2020, was sent to the Senate Standing Committee on Interior for consideration but the Mover was not satisfied with the report on the bill, therefore, a select committee was formed under the rules. The select committee is bound to compile a report on the bill within 60 days. Senators Azam Khan Swati, Shahadat Awan, Rana Maqbool Ahmed, Jam Mehtab Hussain, Fawzia Arshad, Faisal Saleem, Sardar Muhammad Shafique Tareen, Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, Nawabzada Umar and Mushtaq Ahmed attended the meeting. - **APP**

IRSA releases 313,200 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday 313,200 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 403,600 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1534.00 feet, which was 148.00 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 228,000 cusecs and outflow as 172,700 cusecs.

The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1157.45 feet, which was 117.45 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 45,100 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 204,700. 381,200 and 269,600 cusecs respectively. - APP

Indian aggression in IIOJ&K unacceptable

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Indian aggression in the IIO-J&K had crossed all limits under the hardliner Modi regime and was unacceptable under all circumstance, said Ambassador Najm us Saqib. He was addressing a discussion titled "IIOJ&K: A Valley with No Rights" organised by the Institute of Regional Studies here. The event featured members from the academia and former bureaucrats. Ambassador Najm us Sagib said that though India had gone to way too far in its quest to exercise its power, it did not mean that the occupied valley was under the Indian jurisdiction. He said that Pakistan's support for the Kashmir cause had intensified, especially following the systematic assault on the rights of Kashmiris in the lieu of India's 5th August misadventure. Dr Waleed Rasool, faculty at IIUI said that that most concerning aspect of Indian aggression was its attempts to alter the demography of the troubled valley. He added that India had a history of in a systemic and linear module of demographic shift in order to illegally annex states in Indian union. Kashmir, he said was a legitimate movement. He said that the Kashmiris had displayed impeccable resilience in the face of atrocities unleashed by the Indian forces. however, they were now seemingly on the brink of collapsing and so it was imperative



to Pakistan to take measures, both soft and hard, and progress towards the resolution of this seven decades old outstanding issue. Ms Arooj Raza emphasised the power of narrative building and said that India worked on its news and entertainment media to generate narratives that legitimized all its illegal activities in Kashmir. She was of the opinion that Pakistan was not ustilising its media optimally to bring the

state of the art infrastructure coupled with decades of intruth out to the world. The dilemma, she dustry best practices experisaid, was that raising voice for Kashmir ence, these smart solutions led to blocking of content and social media offers one stop shop, pay as accounts which meant silencing of voices. Ms Raza said that it was the collective reyou grow & cost-effective next generation services to sponsibility of every Pakistani working in help business grow and effecthe academia, media, public and private tively play their part in nationinstitutions to generate discourses and al growth of Pakistan. - APP well-grounded narratives on Kashmir.

Girls top positions, matter of pride for country



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Education and Professional Training, Rana Tanveer Hussain Wednesday said that the girls bagging top positions in the SSC-II result announced today is a matter of pride for the whole country.

Addressing the matriculation result ceremony organized by the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Educaing to know that the girls took top positions in the science and arts groups in SSC-II exams as compared to the boys". Rana Tanveer said that all the institutions that took the top positions belong to the Pakistan Army which reflects the quality and standard of education being practiced in those institutions. The minister stated that the present government was focusing on enhancing the quality and standard of education in the country by taking various measures.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman FBISE, Qaiser Alam said that the FBISE has initiated a series of reforms to transform the examinations system which is pre-requisite to raise the standard of education in the country.

He said that digital monitoring system, e-marking and digital mapping of examination centers and educational institutions were among the few initiatives which were taken by FBISE to improve examination procedure and education standard. He said that after the period of 14 years, the curriculum of 2006 has been implemented in the year 2022 which is also a milestone to achieve good standard of education. The FBISE has conducted exams on the basis of SOL, he added. According to the result announced by FBISE, the girls bagged top three positions in both the science and arts group. - APP

Transformation to clean energy to achieve miracles in Pakistan

It is estimated that China's other plans for clean energy expansion, the new wind and solar power may be enough to enable China to peak its fossil fuel consumption and CO2 emissions before 2025

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Complete transformation of the energy sector shifting from fossil fuel to clean energy, mainly solar, will achieve miracles in the country, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday quoting an article by Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan, Director Center for South Asia & International Studies (CSAIS). It says, the rapidly changing nature of socio-economic conflicting partnerships, realities of geopolitics and complex & compelling geostrategic scenarios has forced all the countries to take concrete policy measures to mitigate spillover repercussions of energy

security and Pakistan is not any exception. Moreover, the increasing threat of non-state actor of climate change has produced devastating ripples in the world due to which even the basic human survival and pace of productive channels are under tremendous pressure. In this connection, ongoing heat-waves and wild spread fires in the European Union and the US, reducing agro-production in South East Asia, abnormal rise in global warming in Africa and last but not the least,

record high green gas emis-

sions in Latin America have

encouraged countries, com-

munities and organizations

to shift from fossil fuels to

clean and green energies.

Therefore, the government of Pakistan must seek assistance to overcome the energy deficit from China, as the country is one of the biggest promoters and investors of clean energy, especially solar and wind in the world. Four of the world's five biggest renewable energy contracts were signed by Chinese private companies in 2016. The country built nearly 31 gigawatts (GW) of new solar power capacity from January to June, up 137 percent from a year earlier, with fullyear installations on course to hit a record high.

made solar power more affordable. China has been instrumental in bringing down costs worldwide for cooperation with China.

The International Energy Agency said that China's holistic and comprehensive policies and innovation have

solar photovoltaics (PV), with multiple benefits for clean energy transitions. Thus, the government of Pakistan and its private sector should take this golden opportunity to further strengthen the solar energy Moreover, China plans to build mega wind and solar power projects to achieve the target of lesser carbonization and carbon neutrality. Critical analysis reveals that China is set to add at least 570 gigawatts (GW) of wind and solar power in the 14th five year plan (FYP) period from 2021 to 2025.

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For further information please contact the following.

Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman Mobile: 0300 8553342

Long Covid: an unknown enemy

OW do you tackle a problem when you don't know what it is? Covid-19 was an unknown enemy, but was quickly identified. Long Covid, its equally unwelcome offspring, is a lesser threat, but is proving harder to pin down. Doctors are clear that it is widespread – yet are not sure how common it is, or how to respond.

This is in part because it is an umbrella term for a wide range of symptoms; the World Health Organization says that up to 200 have been recorded, with shortness of breath, brain fog and fatigue the most common, while others range from loss of smell and tinnitus to stomach aches and depression. It may be that five or six separate syndromes are involved. Most of the symptoms have numerous potential non-Covid causes, making it still harder to isolate which are related to the infection.

What is clear is that it is common. There are an estimated 2 million sufferers in the UK with continuing or returning symptoms more than 12 weeks after falling ill. With almost 3.5 million people in the UK reported to have Covid in mid-July, that number will grow. In the US, official data has shown that one in five adults who have had Covid still suffer symptoms after 12 weeks.

Scientists are delving into possible explanations for ongoing problems such as pockets of the virus remaining in the gut, or the virus triggering an autoimmune disease - and doctors are trialling different treatments. Yet the Royal College of Nursing has warned that services in Britain are woefully inadequate. Though long Covid clinics have now been set up by the NHS, demand far outstrips supply, and the treatments offered vary widely. Thousands of sufferers are travelling abroad to try unproven treatments, at huge expense, from sheer desperation.

In many regards, long Covid has echoes of existing autoimmune diseases and (usually post-viral) conditions such as ME/CFS, which are complex, poorly understood, hard to diagnose and tough to treat. The biggest difference may be that Covid's seriousness and its spread have ensured greater attention and resources this time; patients with ME/CFS and some autoimmune illnesses who have long complained about the lack of interest and investment in research hope that it may lead to breakthroughs that could help them.

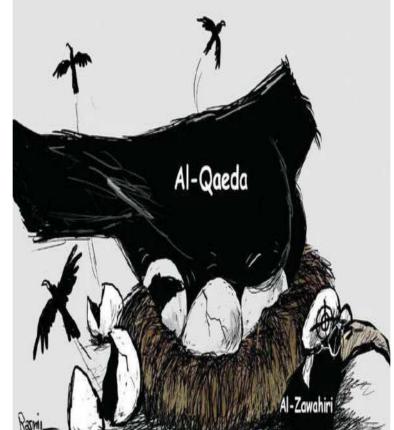
The Long Covid Support group says that delays to or denial of personal independence payments are affecting the recovery of patients as well as their state of mind. An appropriate response to long Covid must mean supporting people as well as trying to cure them, through measures such as flexible working and financial help.

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Pelosi's unwise Taiwan visit

UCCESSFUL foreign policy combines high principle with smart, timely execution. Tuesday's visit to show solidarity with Taiwan by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) demonstrated the former – but not the latter. The foreseeable reaction from China, which considers Taiwan a wayward province, is underway – including the announcement of provocative naval live-fire exercises in the island's territorial waters after Ms. Pelosi's visit ends. President Biden must limit the short-term damage and counter a likely increase in long-term Chinese pressure on Taiwan.

Of course we share Ms. Pelosi's strong support for democratic Taiwan, her condemnation of the Chinese communist dictatorship and her belief, as she put it in an op-ed for The Post, that "it is essential that America and our allies make clear that we never give in to autocrats." What we do not comprehend is her insistence on demonstrating her support in this way, at this time, despite warnings - from a president of her own party - that the geopolitical situation is already unsettled enough. However much the 82-year-old Ms. Pelosi might want a capstone event for her time as speaker - before a likely GOP victory in November ends it - going to Taiwan now, as President Xi Jinping of China is orchestrating his third term, was unwise. Admittedly, Mr. Biden himself mishandled the situation by blurting out the fact "the military" was against Ms. Pelosi's visit. This blunder made it harder for Ms. Pelosi to change plans without losing face and, more important, harder for Mr. Xi not to ramp up his response once she decided to go. Far better for the president to have told Ms. Pelosi, privately, personally and unequivocally, not to do it.

The top global priority for the United States now is Russia's war in Ukraine and its accompanying fallout in global food and energy markets. The Biden administration can ill afford any distractions, much less a repeat of the 1995-1996 Taiwan Strait Crisis, which many Americans have forgotten, but which lasted eight months and two days. It began with Chinese missile firings off Taiwan in retaliation for a symbolic gesture – a visit by Taiwan's president to Cornell University - and did not ease until after the Clinton administration mounted an enormous deterrent naval deployment.

China ultimately backed off. The Biden administration is now in the position of having to hope it can similarly maintain both peace and Taiwan's territorial integrity against a China that is vastly stronger than it was a quarter-century ago and led not by the cautious Jiang Zemin but by the aggressive Mr. Xi. U.S. officials, and Ms. Pelosi, have communicated that her trip implies no change to the United States' one-China policy. In a deterrent mode, the president has deployed a carrier group east of Taiwan.

The United States must never sacrifice its principles or cave to Chinese threats. All the more reason to prepare carefully where and when to confront China. No thanks to Ms. Pelosi, the Biden administration finds itself forced to react and improvise instead.

Could Al-Zawahiri's killing end Taliban's isolation?

Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg

The humanitarian situation has also suffered under the Taliban. With mounting unemployment rates, 93 percent of all households are facing a high level of food insecurity, with an especially devastating impact on female-headed households, aged persons, people with disabilities and children. Access to basic services including healthcare is also diminishing. According to the WHO...

HE killing of Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri on Sunday underscored a major dilemma facing the international community in its dealings with the Taliban: Whether to provide humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people while they are governed by an extremist group insistent on flouting international law. According to US announcements, Al-Zawahiri was in the center of Kabul when he was killed, not far from Taliban offices and security centers. Since seizing power last August, the Taliban have been repeatedly urged to sever ties with Al-Zawahiri and his terrorist group, which is still active in recruiting fighters and strengthening its presence worldwide. While the Taliban appeared to be forthcoming on fighting Daesh, they made no commitments on expelling Al-Qaeda. The fact that Al-Zawahiri was living in downtown Kabul puts added pressure on the Taliban to dismantle the organization following the elimination of its leader and cooperate with other countries that may have outstanding warrants for some of the group's members who are believed to be sheltering in Afghanistan. The Taliban are seeking international recognition and the removal of sanctions

against their group and officials, but those rewards may not be forthcoming as long as they flout international law and provide shelter for known terrorists.

In addition to maintaining links with Al-Qaeda, the Taliban have reneged on their repeated commitments to safeguard women's rights and have done little to protect minorities or establish an inclusive government.

In June, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights said after a visit to Afghanistan that the ban on secondary schooling for girls directly affects 1.1 million girls, "depriving them of a future." Since March, several other decrees have also been passed that impact women's and girls' rights, further limiting their freedom of movement and access to humanitarian and health services and employment, including in all-female nongovernmental organizations, according to the UN, which described the situation as the "institutionalized, systematic oppression of women.

Despite the Taliban's repeated public commitments to respect human rights, more restrictions have been imposed on freedom of opinion and expression, the right to peaceful assembly and the right to participate in public affairs. The UN has also reported the Taliban's dissolution of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, the key national mechanism providing support for Afghans facing violations of their human rights.

While some international observers have noted an improvement in the overall security situation in Afghanistan since the Taliban came to power, civil society actors, including human rights defenders and women's rights and minority activists, have been subjected to killings, enforced disappearances, incommunicado detention, attacks, harassment, threats and arrests. While some have been released, others remain deprived of their liberty, separated from their loved ones and deprived of their right to speak out, according to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The humanitarian situation has also suffered under the Taliban. With mounting unemployment rates, 93 percent of all households are facing a high level of food insecurity, with an especially devastating impact on female-headed households, aged persons, people with disabilities and children. Access to basic services including healthcare is also diminishing. According to the World Health Organization, more than 18 million people are in need of health services, including more than 3 million children aged under five.

Last month's massive earthquake in eastern Afghanistan brought into focus the country's need for engagement with the rest of the world to deal with the immediate effects of this disaster and to help the country address its longer-term humanitarian and developmental needs, including the provision of basic services such as health and education. Since the Taliban took over Kabul last August, the group has not been able to establish a working

relationship with the rest of the world, let alone get political recognition. Those failures were amplified in the inadequate response to the earthquake.

The failures have been mostly self-inflicted because of the Taliban's backtracking on their commitments to respect international norms and failure to form an inclusive government and engage with Afghans outside its inner circle.

The earthquake and its aftershocks resulted in the deaths of more than 1,000 people and injuries to thousands more. Hundreds of children were among the victims. Tens of thousands were made homeless throughout the affected area, adding to the millions of Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons.

Regrettably, the Taliban have subordinated the needs of the Afghan people to their own narrow views about governance, ignoring pleas from the international community and from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which has urged the group to moderate its views and last December dedicated a meeting of its foreign ministers to the Afghanistan situation. In June, the OIC dispatched a delegation of religious scholars to Kabul, headed by Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, secretary-general of the International Islamic Jurisprudence Academy. The delegation met with the Taliban and with Afghan scholars.

Despite the deteriorating humanitarian and economic situation in Afghanistan, the scholars' meeting was a good sign. While the Taliban have yet to change course, further religious leaders' engagement could provide a breakthrough if the group has the political will to change its misplaced priorities, which are out of the mainstream in Muslim countries.

The limited progress made by US and Taliban representatives last week when discussing frozen financial reserves was also promising. According to press reports, they exchanged proposals for the release of billions of dollars from Afghan central bank reserves held abroad into a trust fund. Significant differences remain but if they are bridged in the near future significant funds could be freed up to help the Afghan people. Equally important, it could facilitate the work of the central bank, shore up the exchange rate and make it easier to send money in and out of the country. Also promising was the meeting this week in Riyadh be-

tween the GCC Aid Coordination Committee and international partners. They agreed on a set of mechanisms to help the Afghan people without conferring political recognition, directly or implicitly, to the status quo authorities absent a significant change in their policies.

Given these faint signs of optimism in dealing with Afghanistan, the removal of Al-Zawahiri may make the Taliban more flexible on cutting their ties with Al-Qaeda, which is a key demand of the international community before it considers conferring political recognition.

deem himself for the failed insurrection he's being held accountable for but solely based on self-preservation. Attorney General Merrick Garland recently announced

announce his candidacy as soon as possible, while, for strategic reasons, GOP leaders, including some of Trump's closest advisers, oppose an announcement before a pivotal Midterm

Retaking the majority in the however,

for his benefit. The idea that Trump has

Why Trump could run as an independent in 2024

Thomas O. Falk

Donald Trump could still command as many as 50 million voters out of his 74.2 million voters in November 2024 – as an Independent candidate. His followers have repeatedly shown...

Republican politics and con-

servative goals has always

No, Trump was never "mar-

ried" to the GOP, and loyalty

towards the party has never

existed. His spiel in 2015,

repeatedly threatening an

independent run or his co-

quet to walk away from the

party post the election loss

in 2021, are exhibits A and

B. In fact, one can argue

that the Republican Nation-

al Committee (RNC) has

been paying for Trump's

"loyalty" dearly. According

to reports, the RNC has

been paying Trump's legal

fees while promoting Trump

and his business on their so-

The more DeSantis' momen-

tum grows, the more the an-

imosity between Trump and

the latter will exacerbate.

There's undoubtedly a sce-

nario where Trump breaks

away from the GOP as a

result of DeSantis' popu-

larity and declares an inde-

pendent run - even in the

middle of the primary cam-

paign - if he is convinced

Republicans and the RNC

are no longer favouring his

return to the Oval Office.

Granted, it is a strategy

The closest was Ross Per-

that has never worked.

cial media platforms.

been preposterous.

VERALL carnage been seeking to salvage and an insurrection Donald Trump will run for the presidency again - but not necessarily for the Republican Party. It remains the worst kept secret in politics. Donald Trump will run again for the presidency in 2024. Not to "make America great again" or to rethat the Department of Justice is probing Trump as part of its January 6 investigation. Combine these long overdue developments with the various other legal issues the former president faces, and one understands why the immunity the office provides and the option to appoint his very own Attorney General again must sound highly appealing.

Indeed, Trump seeks to

House of Representatives is highly likely, and the GOP seeks voters to focus on President Joe Biden and his suboptimal presidential track record to guarantee a win. An early Trump announcement, would shift the emphasis away from being a referendum on Biden to one on Trump. Will Trump care? Probably not. The longer he takes, the more other hopefuls can establish a profile. Bearing this disregard for Republican goals in mind. party members have long accused each other of disloyalty to party goals or creeds. But accusations of partisan heresy have inten-

sified significantly in the US over the past two decades. A term that has risen to particular prominence is RINO, an acronym for "Republican in Name Only". Donald Trump has accused even the most traditional Republicans, such as Liz Cheney, of being such. The irony in this approach is apparent and vet, to this day, implausible to many Trump voters: he has arguable never been a genuine Republican but an opportunist using the party

notwithstanding,

election in November.

ot, who ran in 1992 and received 19 per cent of the vote. It did not suffice, but it arguably cost the Republican incumbent, George H W Bush, his second term in office. But there are two significant distinctions between Ross Perot's bid and the current situation: Perot's attempt was before the age of Trump, who had once before beaten all the odds when he became president in 2016. Moreover, even Perot captured a considerable swath of the electorate. An electorate that had many millions fewer independents than exist nowadays. Donald Trump could still command as many as 50 million voters out of his 74.2 million voters in November 2024 - as an Independent candidate.

His followers have repeatedly shown that Trump not only "is the party" but is above the latter. Changing his affiliation thus will hardly impact his popularity, especially not if America continues on the current downward trajectory.

In a three-person race, 50 million votes would be an impressive number, perhaps a sufficient one. - Courtesy: TRT World

Only Islamic banking is not Islamic finance

Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi

Waqf is a major component of Islamic financial system which traditionally created a parallel economy in Muslim societies

SLAMIC Banking and Finance Summer School and Product Expo is a comprehensive and well-structured annual program organized by The Centre for Excellence in Islamic Finance (CEIF)IMSciences Peshawar at NathiaGali, Abbottabad. I was at the liberty by the organizers to speak on any topic determining the role of academia in the promotion and expansion of Islamic finance in the Country. When I looked disinterestedly at this aspect I found overwhelming tilt of academicians towards the banking sector which actually is a modern commercial component of the Islamic financial structure. Islamic financial structure remained part and parcel of historic Islamic economic system which ensured exemplary sustainable prosperity of super continental Islamic state for more than 900 years where once people were unable to find any deserving for zakat, which is one of the pillars of Islam in the form of obligatory charity with the literal meaning of the word being 'to cleanse', Muslims believe that paying zakat purifies, increases and blesses the remainder of their wealth. Incidentally three days program of the event also depicted the same inclination of all speakers except three.

I started my talk by presenting a real case of house financing by one of our colleagues through an Islamic bank almost five years ago. He met me after a year of availing house finance and complained that his instalment has increased, due to increase in the KIBOR, which was actually planned as diminished. In the third year his instalment increased by more than 31% of first instalment he paid two years ago. Despite all Islamic jurisprudential justifications of benchmarking the end user is suffering in terms of financial loss. We haven't yet secured even 20% of the share in banking

despite the fact that more than 95% population considers interest (riba)as prohibited according to the study titled "Knowledge, Attitude and Practices of Islamic Banking in Pakistan" generally known as KAP Study by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). It should be a deep concern for all those who are connected with Islamic banking sector that where we failed to fulfil expectations of masses to join Islamic banking. Banks are indeed based on profit-making to ensure appropriate returns for investment account holders (IAHs) which is probably the main indicator of their performance. But role of academia is entirely different; it is to develop required human resource, to groom new products and processes, to explore exciting opportunities, to identify potential segments and to provide novel directions

In academia our all energies, intellect, efforts and resources are dedicated to the banking sector. Training programs, conferences, seminars, and roundtable discussions all are predominantly devoted to Islamic banking industry. Therefore flow of funds and relevant opportunities are also surrounding banking organizations. Same is true for those religious scholars who are linked with the sector because of job opportunities and attractive career. We as academicians miserably failed to promote and develop other key constituents of Islamic financial system. We also failed to explore some important permissible financial solutions from the mainstream financial system, which I discussed in my article published earlier this year.

According to a report published in 2015 there were 3.5 million students enrolled with 35,337 madrassas in Pakistan. On the other hand, in 2017-18, there were 186 universities, with 56.9 thousand teachers, in the country, with a total enrolment of 1.6 million. This suggests significance of madrassas and waqf properties in Pakistan. Surprisingly per annum expense per student in a madrassa has been estimatedRs. 5714 rupees in 2004 and if we multiply this amount with four with the reference of the exchange rate of USD it becomes 22856 rupees nowadays means less than Rs. 2000 per month even today in such a high inflation including boarding & lodging. Irrespective of discussions about indoctrination in some of the madrassas, just imagine the scale and value of service which these madrassas are extending to the society by imparting education to millions of children of our nation. It was the responsibility of modern-day universities and academicians to bridge the gap

between madrassas and the mainstream education system. Universities should have developed projects, internships, or FYPs, as a part of requirement to complete degree programs to spend a few weeks in madrassas to impart contemporary education to the students enrolled in madrassas. Besides other core expertise in religious responsibilities I personally noticed excellence in madrassas in calligraphy, poetry and prose writing. If universities had proposed internship programs or can start even now they can significantly contribute to neutralise indoctrination and assimilate students of madrassas to the mainstream in the society. Zakat and ushrbudgets and heads indicate significant impor-

tance of this component of Islamic finance. Last year budgets of three provinces (KPK, Punjab and Sindh) collectively remained around 8318 million rupees, which is a significant amount collected through official channels. According to a report published in 2013 the amount of privately distributed zakat not channelled through any government institution is three times higher than the officially collected amount, it means approximately 3200 million rupees disbursed this year as zakat making it a huge contribution for social uplift of disadvantaged population. The budget documents of these provinces suggest that receipts from zakat and ushr are distributed in four main areas including guzara allowances (social welfare), healthcare, educational stipends (deenimadaris and technical education) and marriage assistance. We never thought of any impact analysis of this extensive disbursement or alternative effective and efficient model. There is a significant need to authenticate existing practices of zakat and ushr collections and distributions because mostly people avoid giving zakat through official channels. Academicians have to make it a priority to study this important segment of Islamic finance to enhance confidence of masses on the system. We also need to facilitate the government to announce any scheme such as tax benefits to give zakat and ushr through official channels for greater transparency and social impact. We should extend our endeavours beyond Islamic banking to explore more avenues to strengthen Islamic finance to evolve Islamic economic infrastructure for the stability and sustainability of our society.

- The writer is Associate Professor Management Sciences, Head, Center of Islamic Finance, COMSATS University (CUI) Lahore Campus. Email: drabdussattar@cuilahore.edu.pk

National Days and Armed **Forces Days**

AUGUST

Aug 01/ CHINA Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/ SWITZERLAND National Day

Aug 01/ LEBANON Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/ SYRIA

Armed Forces Day Aug 4/ BUKINO FASO

National Day

Aug 09/ SINGAPORE

National Day Aug 15/ DPR KOREA

Independence Day Aug 15/ INDIA

Independence Day Aug 15/ POLAND

Armed Forces Day Aug 17/ INDONESIA

Aug 24/ UKRAINE Independence Day

Independence Day

Aug 25/ URUGUAY

Independence Day Aug 30/ TURKEY

Armed Forces Day

Aug 31/ KYRGYZ Independence Day

Aug 31/ MALAYSIA National Day

Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Rescue (Police)13
Bomb Disposal15
Fire Services Rawalpindi
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance112
& Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police926604
Motorway Police9270601-20
Women Police Stations
Islamabad9222596
Rawalpindi9270601-20



Edhi Ambulance.....115 PIAFlightInfo.....114 PIA Cargo......9280979

Railway Inquiry.....117 Railway Exchange9270831-5 WASA Rawalpindi..5555489



Hospitals

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	.9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	.9261170-79
Polyclinic	.9218300-09
Shifa Internation	nal.4603666

Departments

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation......9209224 Potohar Town......9209224 RawalTown......5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

'Govt committed to provide maximum relief to masses'

The PML-N and allies took the charge of government only to save the country, which was at the verge of default with record inflation and unemployment, he added

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Finance and Revenue Rana Muhammad Ishaq Khan on Wednesday assured the National Assembly that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) led government was committed to provide maximum relief to the masses as per the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

in the House, he said the government was aware of the difficulties being faced by the people, particularly the lower middle class, and it would evolve a comprehensive roadmap to minimize their miseries. He said the government had increased the salaries of employees by 15 percent in the budget whilst low income groups were also being provided assistance through the Benazir Income Support Programme. Rana Ishaq said the last Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

ruined the econo-

RR grade17-22 officers

to donate one day salary

for flood affectees: Saad

the dollar due to the prudent policies of present (PTI) regime had

tion government was committed to put the country again on the path of prosperity and development. The PML-N and allies took the charge of government only to save the country, which was at the verge of default with record inflation and unemployment, he added. During last two days, the parliamentary secretary said, the rupee had witnessed appreciation against

demned the arrest of Paki-

stan Muslim League Nawaz

(PML-N) leader Nazeer

Chohan and said he was ar-

rested like a terrorist. "This

is highly condemnable and

such governance is unac-

ceptable. The courts should

provide speedy justice to

Commenting on the pro-

hibited foreign funding

case verdict of the Election

Commission of Pakistan,

he said Imran Khan was an-

swerable to all for receiving

funds from Indian, Emirati

and other foreign nationals

The important point, he

said, was that why these people were donating mon-

ey to PTI and for what rea-

son. He asked if that money

was legal then why these

bank accounts were being

hidden by the Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman.

He said there was no pro-

gress on ML-1 rather the

entire China Pakistan Eco-

nomic Corridor (CPEC) was

rolled back and friendly ties

with China were spoiled by

the Imran Khan government.

Accusing Imran Khan for add-

ing into debt burden he said

that the coalition government

had to step in only to mitigate

the damages done during the

previous regime. - APP

Chohan," he added.

for his party.

government. He said the government earmarked

(USC) to provide subside edible items to the poor people at subsidized rates. Regarding the food prices, Rana Ishaq said the price control mechanism was a provincial subject, however, the federal government was trying its level best to check the rates of edible items.

About the recent devastation caused by the floods in the country, he said the government was distributing Rs 1 million each to flood affected families who had lost a member and Rs 500,000 for an each destroyed house. He said the federal and provincial governments were undertaking joint efforts for the relief and rehabilitation of flood affected people on the direction of prime minister. He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had constituted a committee to assess the damages caused by the monsoon rains and floods in different parts of the country.

Funeral prayers of Quetta helicopter crash martyrs offered: ISPR RAWALPINDI: The funeral prayers of Pakistan Army sol-

diers martyred in a helicopter crash during the flood relief operations in Balochistan were offered in their native towns, and participated by the senior military officials, civilians and their relatives. According to Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Wednesday, the Namaz-e-Janaza of Major Talha Shaheed was offered in Rawalpindi. Chief of General Staff Lieutenant General Azhar Abbas, Commander Rawalpindi Corps Lieutenant General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, senior serving and retired military officials, relatives of the Shaheed and people from all walks of life attended the prayer.

Major Talha was buried with full military honour as a Pakistan Army contingent presented guard of honour. Lt Gen Mirza presented the National Flag to his father and also laid a wreath on his grave. The funeral prayer of Naik Mudassar Fayyaz was offered in Shakargarh, Narowal. The General Officer Commanding Sialkot Garrison, senior military and civil officials including district police officer and deputy commissioner attended the funeral. A Pakistan Army contingent presented guard of honour to the Shaheed, while the National Flag was presented to his family and a wreath were laid on his grave. The Namaz-e-Janaza of Shaheed Major Saeed was held in Larkana. The Commander Logistics Pannu Aqil Garrison, serving senior officers, soldiers, relatives, and a large number of people attended the prayer. The National Flag was also presented to his father. - DNA

NA passes National Accountability (Second Amend) Bill

mously passed The National Accountability (Second Amendment) Bill, 2022 aiming to exclude private transactions from the scope of National Accountability and fixing the scope of NAB against mega scandals. The Bill was moved by Minister of State for Law and Justice Shahadat Awan, Zahra Wadood Fatemi sought withdrawal of her three proposed amendments in the Bill. The purpose of the amendment is to exclude private transactions from the scope of the National Accountability. Through the insertion of proposed amendments, the pecuniary jurisdiction of the NAB has been fixed

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly on Wednesday unanito take only action against mega scandals. - APP

'India's unilateral action of Aug. 5 unconstitutional'

camps were established at

railway stations to assist

the flood affected people.

He urged masses to donate

food items, cloths and what-

ever they could to the relief

camps to help the people in

"Our centers are actively

working and no cash do-

nation is being received

rather in kind assistance is

accepted which will be sent

to flood victims through dis-

trict administrations," the

minister said requesting all

NGOs to supply relief goods

crisis due to floods.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Min-

ister for Railways and Avi-

ation Khawaja Muhammad

Saad Rafique on Wednesday

said the Pakistan Railways

(PR) officers from grade

17 to 22 had decided to do-

nate their one day salary for

flood affectees. Addressing

a media conference here,

the Federal Minister an-

nounced that the PR had

established special relief

camps to ensure free sup-

ply of logistics to the mon-

soon rains affected areas.

Rafique said the relief

ISLAMABAD, National Assembly (NA) Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Wednesday said the Indian government's unilateral action of August 5, in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) was unconstitutional and against the United Nations (UN) resolutions. Talking to APP regarding 'Youm e Ishtehsal' to be marked on August 5, he said the international community should break the silence for the rights of Kashmiris and play its role in resolving the Kashmir conflict according to the UN resolutions.

The NA Speaker said the unilateral move of the Indian government to end the special status of Kashmir on August 5, 2019 was unconstitutional and against the UN resolutions. Contrary to UN resolutions, Kashmir was an unfinished agenda of the subcontinent's division, he added.

The UN and international community should play their role to resolve the Kashmir issue, he said adding the Indian forces were treating innocent people of the occupied Kashmir inhumanly and the way India had exploited the Kashmiris due rights by depriving them of their right to self-determination was beyond the condemnation. He said more than 900,000 Indian troops were inflicting atrocities on Kashmiris and they were being kidnapped so that a large number of them were going missing. He said the government of Pakistan had always supported the Kashmiri brothers and sisters and would continue their support till the day they received freedom from the Indian clutches. He asked the Indian government to consider the human rights of Kashmiris and their personal freedom, feelings and emotions and withdraw its unconstitutional move of August 5, 2019, designed to change the geographical status of Kashmir. - DNA

UN urged to make India accountable

to affected areas through

The minister also extended

his condolences on the heli-

copter crash. He termed the

incident a national tragedy

and said that the entire coun-

try was aggrieved on the

tragic loss. "Pakistan Army

officers and soldiers played

their role in every crisis.

They put their lives at risk

in facilitating the masses in

disasters and have also sac-

rificed for the defence of

The minister also con-

the country," he said.

Pakistan Railways.

ISLAMABAD: Senior leader of All-Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Muhammad Yusuf Nagash on Wednesday termed August 5, 2019 as a day of attacking identity of Kashmir and Kashmiris, urging United Nations to make Indian accountable for this illegal and immoral action. In a statement received here from Srinagar, the APHC leader said the unilateral measures of August 5, 2019 were absolute violation of the UNSC resolutions, which clearly recognize Kashmir as disputed territory. India has become a ruthless bully in the region, hence a security threat not only for India's minorities but also its neighbouring countries, he said adding that its expansionist ambitions were endangering peace and security of South Asia region. He was of the view that the country that did not respect UNSC resolutions should be dealt with iron hands instead of relying on verbal condemnation. - APP

Naeem Ghouri assumes charge of member finance OGRA

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Mohammad Naeem Ghour joined OGRA as Member Finance, who is a fellow member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan having bundles of national and multinational professional experience (30 years) in the fields of Finance, Procurement, Administration, IT and remained involved in developing business strategies and mergers & acquisitions in the Oil and Gas industry. Mr. Ghouri started his carrier with A.F. Ferguson & Co Chartered Accountants (Member firm of Pricewaterhouse Coopers) in 1985. He also worked at senior management positions with British Gas Exploration & Production company, Pakistan Oilfields Limited and OMV (an Austrian Oil and Gas Company). During his tenure of 18 years with OMV he remained posted in Pakistan, Romania and Kurdistan Region of Iraq as Head of Finance/Deputy Country Head before joining OGRA. Mr. Ghouri has attended numerous national and international training programs on leadership, strategy, International Financial Reporting Standards, and taxation. In addition, he also attended Programs on Oil and Gas Financial Management Program at University of Texas Dallas, USA, Leadership program (Power to Manage) at IMD University,



Switzerland, and Leadership Program (Power to Lead) at Ashridge Business School, UK. Mr. Ghouri has assumed his duties as Member (Finance) which is seen as a great addition in the top management of Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority. - DNA

Pak could follow China for climate change: Official

her work designing a bamboo women's center in northern Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Bamboo is an effective carbon sink being promoted by China as a unique solution to climate change. Adopting and implementing Chinese strategies in Pakistan are easier than following western and European solutions, says a senior official from Pakistan's Ministry of Climate Change. While talking to China Economic Net he said, "China has successfully worked on its forestation and took very good initiatives in bamboo production. China

is competing with the west now. This is one area under climate change where we can get Chinese assistance.

"In the past there is no major collaboration between Pakistan and China in the field of climate change. But now there is a need and also great potential between the two countries to work together in this area," he added.

China has made a breakthrough in the development and scientific cultivation of bamboo. At present. China ranks first in bamboo research worldwide because of numerous research units and

In recent years, significant advances have been achieved in

bamboo cultivation and development, carbon fixation and storage, and ecological and environmental functions in China. Therefore, achieving progress and development of bamboo industry in Pakistan with Chinese experience can be a beneficial step towards forestation and climate change. The concept has already been introduced in Pakistan.

Bamboo is cultivated in several parts of Pakistan, and the country boasts around 15 bamboo species.

Bamboo housing has also been used throughout the country to build post-disaster housing following earthquakes and floods.

In 2020, Pakistani architect Yasmeen Lari won the Jane Drew prize for her work designing a bamboo women's center in northern Pakistan.

On 1 July 2021, Pakistan formally acceded to International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (IN-BAR). It is INBAR's 48th Member State, and 16th in the Asia-Pacific region. In recent years, INBAR has collaborated with Pakistan on a number of occasions

According to Professor Lu, IN-BAR Deputy Director General, "bamboo can be a critical part of Pakistan's ongoing efforts to reforest degraded land as part of its new Plant for Pakistan initiative to plant 10 billion trees, and may provide a sustainable material for infrastructure and green job creation."

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UBG holds meeting to finalize candidates

ISLAMABAD: The United Business Group (UBG) in Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry has called on a meeting of all office bearers tomorrow (Thursday) for further deliberations to pick potential candidates for the upcoming election of federation.

The meeting where Shahzad Ali Malik would chair may consider and discuss at length the proposed names of candidates finalizing candidatures who could swing comfortably in federation election, said a press release.

A high level 20-member reconstituted core committee was tasked on last Saturday to recommend potential candidates absolutely on merit with consensus after taking into confidence national, provincial, regional and local leadership.The UBG will field candidates contesting elections for the slots of President, Senior Vice President and Vice President including against women seats.

The final names would be announced shortly and the highly educated young industrialists and traders enjoying the integrity coupled with a spirit of serving the business community would be awarded tickets.Under rotation policy, federation president would belong to federal territory.

The UBG hoped to sweep the elections as majority of corporate sector, industrialists and traders have reposed full confidence in UBG for pursuing business friendly policies and believing in supremacy of democracv.rule of law besides taking all important decisions with consensus in the larger interest of the business community. – APP

Protecting supremacy of Parliament is responsibility of law makers

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaia Muhammad Asif on Tuesday said that Parliament is supreme institution and protecting the supremacy of the house is legislator's constitutional responsibility. Participating in debate in the National Assembly, he said that if the head of any institution was summoned in any of Parliamentary committees, he must appear.

He said that strengthening this institution is the responsibility of all, including the government and the opposition member of Parliament. Khawaja Asif said that we have to make the committees of this house effective, as these committees were actually an extension of this house. He said that everyone should be accountable to the committees while recognizing the supremacy of the Parliament. He said that if any institution head can appear in the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) meeting, so why can't the NAB. He said that PAC chairman

has raised an important issue and this institution should stand behind the committee. He said that the PAC was the most influential committee in the House. "If someone challenges chairman PAC in terms of his work, jurisdiction, we should bring him to the House who considers themselves as holy cows", he added. He proposed that a special parliamentary committee should be formed to investigate this matter. He said that in 75 years,

Parliament was the most targeted, sometimes it was the target of dictatorship and sometimes it was the target of 58-B. He said that accountability

was carried out in all other provinces, why was it closed in KP and the institution was locked. He said that previous day the claimant to run the country under the constitution was exposed by the constitutional institution for submitting a false affidavit. He said that PTI chief Imran Khan kept receiving money from Israel and America He said that the United Kingdom's National Crime Agency confiscated and sent Rs 50 billion of Bahria Town directly to the government, which was adjusted, against their liabilities. Property Tycoon gave land for Al-Qadir University as bribe. "We were jailed due to our affiliation with political party", he added. - APP

In 2020, Pakistani architect Yasmeen Lari won Jane Drew prize for

strong technical force.

Business / World



Briefs

SCO adheres to One-China principle: Zhang Ming

BEIJING: Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Zhang Ming on Wednesday made comments on the visit to China's Taiwan region by Nancy Pelosi, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Pelosi visited China's Taiwan region in disregard of China's strong opposition and serious representations, and the Chinese government has expressed its firm opposition to and stern condemnation of the visit, Zhang said in response to a question from the media.

The one-China principle is the universal consensus of the international community and the basic norms governing international relations, he said.

"The SCO adheres to the one-China principle, firmly opposes interference in the internal affairs of its member states by any external force, supports all member states in safeguarding national unity and defending their own sovereignty and territorial integrity, and will continue to promote further cooperation among member states in this regard to ensure peace, security and stability in the region," Zhang said. – APP

West urges talks between government, Tigray rebels

ADDIS ABABA: The European Union and the US have called for talks between the Ethiopian government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) to end a 21-month-long armed conflict. In March, the Ethiopian government declared a humanitarian truce after the federal forces pushed the rebels back from Amhara and Afar regions, but the Tigray region of roughly six million people remains in TPLF's control ever since.

Millions have been displaced due to the war that started in November 2020 when the TPLF forces attacked army bases across the Tigray region, including the regional capital Mekelle. Last week, the Ethiopian government announced that it was ready to sit in talks with the rebels without any precondition but the TPLF put a slew of demands, including the resumption of basic services in Tigray, before talks.

The EU and US special envoys for the Horn of Africa, Annette Weber and Mike Hammer, traveled on their first joint mission to Mekelle, Tigray, to encourage the launch of talks between the government and TPLF under the African Union's auspices, a press release issued by the US Embassy in Addis Ababa later on Tuesday said.

According to the release, the political dialogue was necessary to resolve the conflict in northern Ethiopia and achieve a durable peace. "The envoys agree that a swift restoration of electricity, telecom, banking, and other basic services in Tigray is essential for the people of Tigray, as recognized in earlier discussions with the Ethiopian government," the release said. – APP

4 soldiers killed in IS attacks in E. Iraq

BAGHDAD: Four soldiers were killed and one wounded in an attack by the extremist Islamic State (IS) militants in the province of Diyala in eastern Iraq, a provincial police source said on Wednesday. The attack occurred late on Tuesday night when IS militants attacked an army convoy outside the village of Kashkool near the town of Qara-Tappa, some 175 km northeast of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, Alaa al-Saadi from the provincial police command told Xinhua.

The attack started with a roadside bomb to stop the convoy and followed by gunfire from machine guns al-Saadi said. Over the past months, Iraqi security forces have carried out deadly attacks against IS militants to crackdown on their intensified activities. The security situation in Iraq has improved after Iraqi forces defeated the IS in 2017. Yet IS remnants have since melted into urban centers, deserts, and rugged areas, carrying out frequent guerilla attacks against security forces and civilians. - APP

Indonesia maintains economic growth at above five percent

"Figure in the second quarter is expected to be slightly more than five percent. If we can maintain it until third quarter, then the growth target of 5-5.2 percent by the end of year can be achieved," the minister noted at Mid-Year Economic Outlook 2022 event here on Tuesday

ΔΝΤΑΒΑ

JAKARTA: The government will continue to maintain the economy to grow above five percent until the third quarter of 2022 amid global turmoil and uncertainty, Coordinating Minister for the Economy Airlangga Hartarto stated. Minister Hartarto said that if the economy is able to grow above five percent by the third quarter, then the annual growth target of 5-5.2 percent for this year will be achieved.

"The figure in the second quarter is expected to be slightly more than five percent. If we can maintain it until the third quarter, then the growth target of 5-5.2 percent by the end of the year

can be achieved," the minister noted at the Mid-Year Economic Outlook 2022 event here on Tuesday. Minister Hartarto said this optimism was in line with the economic growth that was still driven by demand, including consumption, investment, and exports, which grew positively. Meanwhile, from the supply side, almost all sectors also grew positively in response to the surge in demand.

In detail, in the first quarter of 2022, GDP from household consumption grew more than 4.34 percent, while consumption of Non-Profit Institutions serving Households (LNPRT) also increased 5.98 percent. Gross fixed capital formation (PMTB) grew 4.09 percent: exports of goods and

services, 16.22 percent; and imports of goods and services also rose 15.03 percent, while government consumption contracted 7.74 percent. "Government consumption in the first quarter was relatively negative, but this can be compensated for in the third and fourth quarters,' according to the minister. Meanwhile, GDP growth from the business sector will also encourage the achievement of Indonesia's economic growth this year, given that the 2022

quite positive. For transportation and warehousing, the growth had reached 15.79 percent; other services, 8.24 percent; information and communication, 7.14 percent; electricity and

first-quarter realization is

gas procurement, 7.04 percent; and accommodation and food as well as beverage provision, 6.56 percent.

Furthermore, corporate services grew 0.89 percent; manufacturing industry, 5.07 percent; construction, 4.83 percent; health services and social activities, 4.38 percent; mining and quarrying, 3.82 percent; real estate, 3.78 percent; while financial services and insurance, minus 2.59 percent. For water supply, waste management, and recycling, the growth had reached 1.29 percent; agriculture, forestry, and fisheries grew 1.16 percent: while education services fell 1.7 percent. Meanwhile, government adgrew 0.7 percent, while wholesale and retail trade, car and motorcycle repairs also grew 5.71 percent. The realization of Indone-

sia's leading indicators also shows good prospects, for instance, the Consumer Confidence Index (IKK) that had reached the level of 128.2, retail sales of 15.42 percent, core inflation of 2.86 percent, and the consumer price index (CPI) of 4.94 percent.

Furthermore, the Purchas-

Furthermore, the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) of the manufacturing sector was at 51.3; manufacturing industry utilization was at 69.2; imports of capital goods, 20.9 percent; imports of raw materials, 24.6 percent; investment, 5.59 percent; and capital work

7.68 percent. Meanwhile, he noted that in

terms of the external sector resilience, Indonesia is also still solid, as was apparent from the trade balance that reached US\$24.98 billion during the first quarter of 2022 and the current account to GDP averaging 0.07 percent of the GDP. Moreover, foreign exchange reserves also reached US\$136.4 billion that was deemed sufficient to meet six months of imports and

reserves also reached US\$136.4 billion that was deemed sufficient to meet six months of imports and a foreign debt ratio of 32.3 percent to the GDP in May 2022. "We are still optimistic that economic growth will reach 5.2 percent in 2022, and in 2023, we hope this figure would increase to 5.3-5.9 percent," Minister Hartarto stated.

America, Indonesia hold joint military drills

AGENCIES

JAKARTA: More than 5,000 soldiers from Indonesia, the United States and other countries have begun joint combat exercises on the Indonesian island of Sumatra, signalling stronger ties amid growing maritime activity by China in the Indo-Pacific region. The annual military training, known as Garuda Shield, has been taking place since 2009. But this year sees the participation of several other countries, including Australia and Japan, making it the largest ever.

The joint exercises, which began on Wednesday, are designed to strengthen interoperability, capability, trust and cooperation in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific, the US embassy in Jakarta said in a statement. "It's a symbol of the US-Indonesia bond and the growing relationship between land forces in this consequential region," Charles Flynn, commanding general of US Army Pacific, said in the statement. "Because land forces are the glue that binds the region's security architecture together."

Flynn and Indonesia's military chief General Andika Perkasa opened the joint drills with a ceremony on Wednesday morning in Baturaja, a coastal town in South Sumatra province.

The exercises, encompassing army, navy, air force and marine drills, will last until August 14. Al Jazeera's Jessica Washington, reporting from Baturaja, said this year's exercises mark an important shift from previous drills.

Premier League clubs to stop taking knee before every match

LONDON: English Premier League football players said Wednesday they will no longer take the knee before every match in the upcoming season, confining the anti-racism gesture to selected rames "We have decided to select significant moments to take the knee during the season to highlight our unity against all forms of racism, and in so doing we continue to show solidarity for a common cause," club captains said in a Premier

League statement. The league said it supported the captains' decision, and would elevate anti-racism messaging as part of its "No Room for Racism" campaign - words that already feature on players' sleeves. Premier League players began taking the knee at the start of every game in June 2020, when the season resumed following a Covid shutdown, a month after the killing in the United States of George Floyd. Ex-NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick started kneeling to protest against racial injustice in 2016, and the gesture has become a familiar sight across a range of sports since Floyd's murder by a US police officer. – **APP**

Dutch govt announces water

Foreign Desk

shortage

WARSAW: The Dutch government on Wednesday announced a national water shortage caused by the hot, dry summer that is parching much of Europe and formed a national team to increase measures to manage supplies while asking the public to also contribute to conservation efforts. "The water shortage is already having a negative effect on shipping and agriculture in particular," said Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management Mark Harbers. He urged people "to think carefully about whether they should wash their car

or completely fill their inflatable swimming pool. The Netherlands is a water country, but our water is precious here too," Very little rain has fallen in the Netherlands over the summer, and dry conditions further north and east in Europe mean less water is streaming into the country in rivers. The government said that drinking water supplies are not threatened and said new measures are not yet necessary but could be "in coming weeks."

Sri Lanka facing 'great danger', says President

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka will restart bailout talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in August, its new president says, calling on the legislators to form an all-party government to resolve the country's worst economic crisis in 70 years. President Ranil Wickremesinghe made the remarks during his speech to open a new session of the parliament on Wednesday. Wickremesinghe has been leading talks with the IMF to secure a four-year bailout programme that could provide up to \$3bn. He told parliament the negotiations were progressing but did not provide a timeline for when a deal would be finalised. The 73-year-old, who was propelled to power last month after his predecessor Gotabaya Rajapaksa was forced to flee the country and resign after months of protests, said the financial meltdown had turned into a serious political crisis. "Today we are facing an unprecedented situation that our country had never faced in recent history,' he said. "We are in great danger." Wickremesinghe said constitutional amendments were required to curtail presidential powers - indicating he would meet a key demand of protesters who forced out Rajapaksa. - Agencies



ANKARA: Federal minister for poverty alleviation, Shazia Marri welcomed by deputy minister Ridvan Duran on her visit to Turkiye. Pakistan's ambassador to Turkiye Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi was also present at the occasion. – DNA

Pakistan embassy in Minsk arranges Golf classes

The parties have signed 77 MOUs in the field of commerce and trade. In 2015, Pakistan-Belarus Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Co-op was created



DNA

MINSK: The Embassy of Pakistan in Belarus, in collaboration with Minsk Golf Club, arranged a second session of free golf coaching classes. Pakistan's top PGA certified Coach Khalid Mahmood conducted the classes from 25-31 July at the Minsk Golf Club Academy.

The Ambassador of Pakistan to Belarus, Sajjad Haider Khan, tweeted that both beginners as well as amateur golfers benefitted from these master classes held over a period of seven days.

Moreover, the Ambassador appreciated Golf Coach Khalid Mahmood for his time, dedication, and devotion to projecting Pakistan. Previously, in 2021, from 9-13 July, Coach Khalid Mahmood conducted the first session of golf classes. The session held over a period of five days, benefitted around 75 golfers both from Belarus and the Diplomatic corps.

Diplomatic corps.

Pakistan and Belarus established their diplomatic relations in February 1994. Belarus opened its embassy in Pakistan in July 2014. While Pakistan opened its embassy in Belarus in August 2015

diplomatic relations, the two countries made their bilateral relations grow to exceptional levels. Moreover, the previous leaders from both countries paid visits to each other's capitals. The parties have signed 77 Agreements/ MOUs in the field of commerce and trade. In 2015, the Pakistan-Belarus Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation was created. During the year 2019, the bilateral trade turnover between Pakistan and Belarus remaine at USD 50.2 million, with a trade surplus of USD 20 million

After establishing normal

for Belarus. Furthermore, both sides have an elaborate mechanism of Inter-Parliamentary and InterRegional Cooperation. It is also considered that Islamabad and Minsk are twin cities. In July 2021, the 5th round of Pakistan-Belarus Bilateral Political Consultations held at Minsk. The two delegations agreed on the importance high-level exchanges. Moreover, they have held discussions on enhancing collaboration in agriculture, economics, industry, information technology, education, tourism, culture, and

stan's PGA certified Coac

French parliament backs accession of NATO Nordic bid

News Desk

PARIS: The French parliament has voted to ratify the accession of Sweden and Finland to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), following the two Nordic countries' bid to join the Western military alliance amid the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. France's National Assembly voted by 209 in favor and 46 against the move on Wednesday, joining "twenty allies" who "have already ratified the protocols," French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna said. Meanwhile, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer

has announced that the US Senate will hold votes on approving both Finland and Sweden's accession to NATO. According to Schumer, the debate will begin at 1:30pm ET (1730 GMT)on Wednesday. In early July, NATO's an accession allies signed protocol for Finland and lowing them Sweden, alto join the nuclear-armed alliance. The accession needs to be ratified by the all the 30 NATO parliaments member states before

member states before Finland and Sweden can enjoy the full protection of Article 5 of the NATO charter in the event of an attack. The signing was the most significant expansion of the alliance since the 1990s and it followed a deal with Turkey at a NATO summit in Madrid, where Ankara lifted its veto on the Nordic membership bids. Turkey had cast a veto against Helsinki and Stockholm's NATO accession drive, accusing them of backing anti-Ankara Kurdish militants.

Citing security concerns, Finland and Sweden applied to join NATO after Russia launched a special military operation in Ukraine on February 24. Finland officially announced its intention to become a member of NATO on May 15, despite stern warnings from Russia. Sweden also followed suit shortly after the country's ruling party dropped its long-standing opposition to NATO membership. Moscow has long expressed grievances to the US about NATO's eastward expansion, and says Washington has repeatedly ignored the Kremlin's concerns about the security of its borders in the West. Putin has already warned that Moscow will respond if the US-led alliance bolsters military infrastructure in the two Nordic states.

Emma Raducanu reaches Citi Open second round

Wimbledon runner-up Nick Kyrgios was also in action for the first time since losing on his Grand Slam final debut, the Australian beating American Marcos Giron 6-3 6-2. At the Silicon Valley Classic in California, Japan's four-time major winner Naomi Osaka returned for the first time since May with a 6-4 3-6 6-1 win over China's Zheng Qinwen to set up a meeting with American 18-year-old Coco Gauff, who beat Ukraine's Anhelina Kalinina 6-1 6-0

SPORTS DESK

WASHINGTON: British number one Emma Raducanu's preparations to defend her US Open title got under way with a first-round win over Louisa Chirico in Washington. The 19-year-old came through 6-4 6-2 in 87 minutes to earn her first victory of the North American hard court season. "It definitely feels really good to get a win here in DC," said Raducanu. "After not playing for quite a bit after Wimbledon or many matches at all this year, I think it's a really nice feeling just to get on the board." World number 10 will face Colombia's Camila Osorio in the Washington Open second round as she continues to build up to the year's

final Grand Slam, which begins on 29 August. Meanwhile, Britain's Dan Evans secured his place in the third round with a 6-1 6-2 victory over compatriot Kyle Edmund, and will now face America's Taylor Fritz or Australian Alexei Popyrin. "My focus was very good," said 32-year-old Evans. "It's always nice to start a new swing off with a win and it's nice to be through to the third round." Meanwhile, Britain's Jack Draper suffered a 6-4 6-2 defeat by Russian top seed Andrey Rublev. Wimbledon runner-up Nick Kyrgios was also in action for the first time since losing on his Grand Slam final debut, the Australian beating American Marcos Giron 6-3 6-2. At the Silicon Valley Classic in California, Japan's four-time major winner Naomi Osaka returned for the first time since May with a 6-4 3-6 6-1 win over China's Zheng

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, Qinwen to set up
1 a meeting with
2 American 18-yearold Coco Gauff,
3 who beat Ukraine's
4 Anhelina Kalinina 6-1
6-0. "What's always impressed me about Coco is
her mentality," said Osaka, 24. "She's improving
a every year, so I think there's
a lot that she's learning and
it's only a matter of time be-

fore she wins a Slam.'



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Briefs

'India crossing all **boundaries** of violation in Kashmir'

FAISALABAD: General Secretary Pakistan Ulema Council Allama Tahirul Hassan Markazi said that India was crossing all boundaries of violation of human rights in Kashmir, he said that India had deployed terrorists in Indian illegally occupied Jammu & Kashmir to brutally crushing the freedom movement. He added that Kashmir was an integral part of Pakistan and Pakistani nati on would continue its support for Kashmir brethren at all fronts. Although India waged war in occupied Kashmir for the last 7 decades, yet this war could not crush the voice of Kashmiri people and they would soon get their legal and fundamental right, he added. - APP

Exports to China likely to touch \$4 billion mark

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistan's exports to China have registered 11% increase in the first half of this year and with this momentum it is likely to reach \$4 billion by the end of this year. Pakistan's export to China crossed \$1.918 billion in the first half of this year, up 10.97 percent from \$1.728 billion in the same period of the previous year, which continue to increase on yearly basis, shows the official data from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC). – APP

Govt to extend all-possible help to AJK flood victims

The Ministry of Kashmir Affairs would provide all possible cooperation to AJK government in this regard, Kaira said

MUZAFFARABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira on Wednesday said the federal government was ready to extend all possible cooperation to the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) government to help the flood victims. "Quick and easy payment of relief funds to the victims will be ensured and all-out efforts will be made to protect the people," he said during a oneday visit to Muzaffarabad after a briefing given by State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) about damages and measures taken for mitigating floods due to monsoon rains. Kaira said climate change had become a potent challenge to the world including Pakistan and the government was ready for all kind of cooperation to prevent losses caused by floods.

The Ministry of Kashmir Affairs would provide all possible cooperation to AJK government in this regard, he said, adding that the ministry had also been working to allocate to separate budget for relief assistance to flood affectees. Kaira said the AJK government should inform the center of its needs to combat climate change as the prime min-



ister had given special directives to ensure immediate response in this regard. "All-out efforts will be made to protect the Kashmiri brethren. There is a need to de-

vise an early warning system to predict natural disasters so that timely measures can be taken." On the occasion, Kaira also distributed relief cheques among flood victims. He also prayed for the military officers and soldiers who embraced martyrdom during relief operations.

The avisor also directed to complete the tender process for the construction of houses for Kashmiri refugees soon. "Settling Kashmiri refugees is the top priority of government and concrete steps are being taken to increase their living allowance. An all-party conference of AJK was called to formulate a plan of action on Kashmir issue," he said. He also praised the refugee brothers who gave a warm welcome to him even in these difficult conditions caused by floods. He said the every Pakistani wanted to see Kashmir liberated from the occupied forces, and the whole nation was with them in their struggle for freedom. "Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has high-

lighted Kashmir issue at all international forums, while Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has also been speaking extensively about it at every platform in the US, Europe, Asia, and elsewhere in the world," he added. - APP

IHC to take up PTI's plea on Aug 4

ISLAMABAD: The Islam-

abad High Court (IHC) on

Wednesday fixed the PTI's

DNA

petition against acceptance of the resignations of 11 MNAs by the speaker national assembly for hearing after the removal of the objections of registrar office. Acting Chief Justice Aamer Farooq would take up the case for hearing tomorrow [August 4]. The PTI had attached the authority letter and also made its 123 MNAs as respondents in the case following the instructions of the registrar office. The petitioner Asad Umar had challenged the phase-wise acceptance of resignations of PTI's 11 MNAs by the speaker national assembly. The plea said that PTI's all 123 members should be de-notified as they had given resigns from the assembly. It further said the speaker NA had no powers to keep pending the resignations of other members. The registrar office had raised objections against the petition and instructed the petitioner

'Khan stands exposed before public'

to remove the same.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Wednesday said, "After the decision of the Election Commission of Pakistan, Imran Khan has proved to be the biggest thief in the history of the country." "Imran Khan's narrative against corruption has turned out to be false. The foundation of PTI was laid on corruption," Bilawal maintained in a statement. "Imran Khan, who adopted mean tactics to prevent the election commission from investigations, has been exposed in front of the nation today," he said.

Army Chief meets families of martyred

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Wednesday visited the families of army officers who were martyred in the helicopter crash in Baluchistan, and offered Fateha for their departed souls.

COAS called on the family members of late Lieutenant General Sarfraz Ali, Commander 12 Corps, Balochistan, Brigadier Khalid and Colonel Laeq Baig Mirza.

of Quetta Cantonment.

Army officers Lieutenant General Sarfaraz Ali and **DNA**

Brigadier Khalid embraced martyrdom in a helicopter crash on Sunday night while the officers were on flood relief operation whereas Lieutenant Colonel Laeq Baig was martyred by the militants in Ziarat a couple of weeks ago. COAS, during his visit expressed his heartfelt condolence with the bereaved families. Earlier, COAS offered the funeral prayer of late Lieutenant General Sarfraz Ali, Commander 12 Corps and Brigadier Khalid held at Shola Ground

Pakistan, Norway mull IT cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Norway to Pakistan Mr. Per Albert Ilsaas called on Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque at his office on Wednesday. They exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and related to IT and Telecom. The Federal Minister for IT said

both the countries enjoyed admirable bilateral relations. Syed Amin Ul Haque apprised the Ambassador of Norway about the IT & Telecom policies and priorities of the present government for sustainable and inclusive growth in IT & Telecom sector. He extended full support and cooperation of the IT & Telecom Ministry to enhancing the relations between the two countries, saying that Norwegian companies can ben-



efit from Pakistani IT expertise and geographic location in the IT sector. Mr. Per Albert Ilsaas said that Pakistan and Norway were enjoying excellent relations, which needed to be further promoted, especially on IT

& Telecom fronts. The meeting was attended by Additional Secretary (Incharge) MOITT, Mohsin Mushtaq Chandna, Member Telecom, Member International Coordination and Director General IC.

Nancy Pelosi offers praise, support for Taiwan

China steps up military activity around Taiwan; summons US ambassador in Beijing

News Desk

TAIPEI: US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi left Taiwan on Wednesday after pledging solidarity and hailing its democracy, leaving a trail of Chinese anger over her brief visit to the self-ruled island that Beijing claims as its own. China demonstrated its outrage over the highest-level U.S. visit to the island in 25 years with a burst of military activity in surrounding waters, summoning the U.S. ambassador in Beijing and

halting several agricultural imports from Taiwan. of China's Some planned military exercises were to take place within Taiwan's 12 nautical mile sea and air territory, according to Taiwan's defence ministry, an unprecedented move a senior defence official described to reporters as "amounting to a sea and air blockade of Taiwan".

Taiwan scrambled jets on Wednesday to warn away Chinese aircraft in its air

defence zone, the island's defence er who had been detained by China ministry said, adding that 22 of them crossed the median line separating the island from China. Pelosi arrived with a congressional delegation on her unannounced but closely watched visit late on Tuesday, defying China's repeated warnings, in a trip that she said demonstrated unwavering U.S. commitment to Taiwan's democracy. "Our delegation came to Taiwan to make unequivocally clear that we

Pelosi told Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen, who Beijing suspects of pushing for formal independence - a red line for China. "Now, more than ever, America's solidarity with Taiwan is crucial, and that's the message we are bringing here today," Pelosi said during her roughly 19-hour visit. A long-time

will not abandon Taiwan,"

China critic, especially on human rights, Pelosi met with a former Tiananmen activist, a Hong Kong bookselland a Taiwanese activist recently released by China.

The last U.S. House speaker to go to Taiwan was Newt Gingrich in 1997. But Pelosi's visit comes amid sharply deteriorating Sino-U.S. relations, and during the past quarter century China has emerged as a far more powerful economic, military and geopolitical force. China considers Taiwan part of its territory and has never renounced using force to bring it under its control. The United States warned China against using the visit as a pretext for military action against Taiwan.

partment announced a suspension of imports of citrus fruits and certain fish - chilled white striped hairtail and frozen horse mackerel - from Taiwan, while its commerce ministry banned export of natural sand to Taiwan. While there was little sign of protest

In retaliation, China's customs de-

against U.S. targets or consumer goods, there was a significant police presence outside the U.S. consulate in Shanghai and what appeared to be more security than usual outside the embassy in Beijing. Fury on the mainland over Pelosi's defiance of Beijing was evident all over Chinese social media, with one blogger railing: "this old she-devil, she actually dares to come!" Pelosi is 82.

Saudi Arabia welcomes extension of Yemen truce

ISTANBUL: Saudi Arabia on Wednesday welcomed the extension of a UN-brokered truce in war-torn Yemen for additional two months. In a statement carried by the state news agency SPA, the Saudi Foreign Ministry said it welcomes the extension of truce in Yemen for two more months.

"The Kingdom reaffirms its support of all UN-led efforts to reach a permanent political solution to the crisis in Yemen and to end the suffering of the Yemeni people," the statement said. The ministry underlined the importance of the Houthi commitment to the truce and "opening crossings in Taiz (in central Yemen) to ease the humanitarian suffering" there. On Tuesday, UN envoy for Yemen, Hans Grundberg announced the extension of truce in Yemen for additional two months through Oct. 2. The extension includes a commitment by the Yemeni government and Houthi rebels to intensify negotiations to reach an expanded agreement as soon as possible. "I count on the continued cooperation of the parties to meet their commitments and implement all elements of the truce and to negotiate in good faith to reach an expanded truce agreement, and to put Yemen on a path to sustainable peace. The Yemeni people deserve no less," Grundberg said in a statement. Under the truce, which was first reached on April 2, all military operations were halted. The agreement also allowed the operation of commercial flights from rebel-held Sana'a Airport in the Yemeni capital. Yemen has been engulfed by violence and instability since September 2014, when Iranian-aligned Houthi rebels captured much of the country, including the capital Sanaa. A military coalition led by Saudi Arabia entered the war in early 2015 to restore the Yemeni government to power. - Agencies



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