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An emotional send-off to DHM Yves Manville

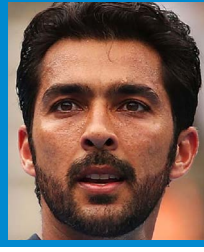
Detailed News On Page-08

Pak committed to One-China policy: Sanjrani

Detailed News On Page-08

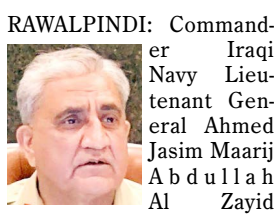
Aisam launches tennis talent hunt program

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

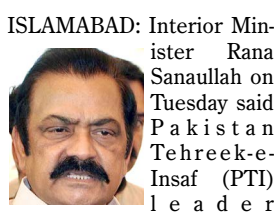
Ties with Iraq highly valued



RAWALPINDI: Commander Iraqi Navy Lieutenant General Ahmed Jasim Maarij Abdullah Al Zayid Wednesday called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa and acknowledged the professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security issues and measures to further enhance bilateral defence collaboration were discussed, an Inter Services Public Relations news release said. The COAS said, "Pakistan values its brotherly relationship with Iraq and acknowledged sacrifices rendered by Iraqi nation in fighting terrorism." - APP

'Gill arrested as per law'

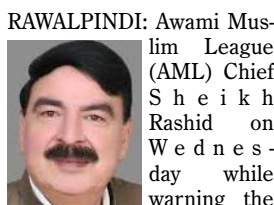
STAFF REPORT



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Tuesday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shahbaz Gill was arrested "in accordance with the law" on charges for inciting the public against the state institutions. "Shahbaz Gill had made statements against the institutions in an attempt to create hatred among its personnel and inciting them towards revolt," he said while addressing a press conference here.

Minus Imran Khan will be minus all

DNA



RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League (AML) Chief Sheikh Rashid on Wednesday while warning the incumbent government of the consequences if they try to exclude the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan from the country's politics said that it will not be minus one but minus all. In a statement on twitter, Sheikh Rashid said that the country is rapidly moving towards political confrontation. He bashed the coalition government over the deteriorating political and economic condition of the country.

Amb. Ferrarese thanks PM

Italy a close and reliable friend: PM

The prime minister receives Ambassador of Italy in Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Wednesday while appreciating Italy's support in the context of European Union's preferential trading GSP Plus scheme, stressed the need to further harness the existing potential to enhance trade and investment relations between Pakistan and Italy. He termed Italy a close friend of Pakistan and a reliable partner, both bilaterally and in the EU context. The prime minister received Ambassador of Italy in Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese on Wednesday along with the Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Italy. The prime minister further observed that Pakistan-Italy relations were marked by growing bilateral cooperation as well as commonality of views on a whole range of regional and global issues. He said Pakistan would be particularly interested in collaborations in the renewable energy sector in which Italy had made remarkable progress. The prime minister also highlighted the immense coop-

eration that Pakistan continued to extend to the international community in the wake of the situation in Afghanistan, particularly since August last year. The Italian ambassador thanked the prime minister for receiving him and expressed his resolve to further increase and diversify the existing ties between the two countries. Earlier this week, it was reported that Pakistani export to Italy witnessed an increase of 40.14 percent during the twelve months of fiscal year (2021-22) as compared to the corresponding period of last year. The overall exports to Italy were recorded at \$1085.675 million during July-June (2021-22) against exports of \$774.658 million during July-June (2020-21), showing growth of 40.14 percent, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the exports to Italy also increased by 61.85 percent by going up from \$74.887 million during June 2021 against the exports of \$121.206 million in June 2022, the SBP data revealed. On month-on-month basis,

Continued on Page 06

Imran behind Gill's statements

Mariyum says that Khan is nervous because he campaigned against martyrs



IRSHAD ALI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Maryam Aurangzeb has said that the statement given by Dr. Shehbaz Gul, chief of staff, spokesperson and representative of PTI chairman, was given on the instructions of Imran Khan, all the evidence will be presented to the public. In response to Imran Khan's speech, Maryam Aurangzeb said in her press conference that a person appeared on the TV screen today who was suffering from fear and panic. Light and camera givers were also absent from Imran Khan's press talk today.

Maryam Aurangzeb said that Imran Khan repeatedly said today that efforts are being made to fight the largest political party of Pakistan with the army and to break his party. Imran Khan said that he did not commit any violation in Tosha Khana. If anyone is harming PTI, that person's name is Imran Khan. Addressing the PTI Chairman, he said that Mr. Imran Khan! Your chief of staff and spokesperson read your script on ARY TV channel. ARY flouted all journalistic demands and aired it. She said that Imran Khan was nervous because he campaigned against the martyrs through his party's social media trolls. Imran Khan launched a campaign against those martyrs who laid down their lives for the country. She said that at the instigation of Imran Khan, a campaign was launched against the martyrs on social media. When the trolls were caught, they said that we ran this campaign at the behest of Imran Khan. The campaign was also witnessed by Pakistanis, families of martyrs and families of armed forces. No patriotic Pakistani can think of trolling about his army and martyrs. Maryam Aurangzeb said that the seeds of hatred that

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Italy in Pakistan, Mr. Andreas Ferrarese calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. - DNA

UAE President, PM Shehbaz discuss ties



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister held a telephonic conversation with the President of the United Arab Emirates, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. During the telephonic conversation, the two leaders exchanged views on matters of common interest. Reaffirming the close fraternal ties between the two countries, they agreed to work closely to further enhance bilateral cooperation in different fields. The Prime Minister offered his condolences on the damage caused by the recent floods in the Emirates, resulting in the loss of precious lives including Pakistani

Pak Rupee gains Rs 2.12 against dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan rupee on Wednesday gained Rs 2.12 against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 221.91 against the previous day's closing of Rs 224.03. According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market were recorded at Rs 216 and Rs 222 respectively. The price of Euro decreased by Rs 2.42 and closed at Rs 226.79 against the last day's closing of Rs 229.20. The Japanese Yen lost four paisas against Pak rupee to close at Rs 1.64. - APP

Want to see Pak army a strong institution: Imran

Says efforts afoot to crush PTI, to disqualify him; fears conspiracy being hatched to pit PTI against army

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan said that a conspiracy was being hatched to pit the country's largest political party against the military, which was also part of the US-backed regime change conspiracy. Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, he said that the regime change conspiracy has not ended and impression is being given that PTI is against the Pakistan Army, which is extremely dangerous and can damage the country. Imran Khan warned the nation that the next phase of regime change conspiracy would be strict as the local abettors have decided to show



Continued on Page 06

Investigation team to probe Gill's case

ISLAMABAD: A four member special investigation team (SIT) was formed following orders of Inspector General of Police Islamabad Dr Akbar Nasir Khan to probe into the case of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) leader Shahbaz Gill. Gill, who is also chief of staff of the PTI's chief Imran Khan, was arrested after lodging a first information report in Kohsar police station on behalf of federal government for 'sedition charges' and inciting the public against state institutions. The SIT headed by senior superintendent of police (SSP), investigation, comprising sub-divisional police officer Kohsar, station house officer Kohsar and sub-inspector Talat Mehmood (Investigation) was mandated to 'investigate the case on merit without fear

Continued on Page 06

Inside...

CAMEA launches book on situation in Afghanistan - Page 02

President for enhancing the quality of Distance Learning - Page 03

Steps being taken to revive book reading habit: Secy Information - Page 04

Victor Orban's eyes may be bigger than his stomach - Page 05

Aisam launches first ever talent hunt program - Page 06

Tough measures helped Pak avert Sri Lanka-like situation - Page 07

An emotional send-off to DHM Yves Manville - Page 08

Denmark resumes loan facility for energy sector



SHUJAAT HAMZA/DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has signed an inter-governmental framework agreement with the government of Denmark for interest-free loans for

renewable energy, water supply, wastewater treatment, and efficient use of power resources. Secretary Ministry of Economic Affairs, Muhammad Humair Karim, and Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan, Lis Rosenholm, signed the agreement.

The Ambassador also had a brief meeting with the Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, in his office. He stated that the efforts to revive bilateral economic and development cooperation between the two countries paid off, with Denmark agreeing to provide on-budget support to the Government of Pakistan through this Inter-Governmental Framework Agreement, and the focus on Waste Water Treatment Projects in Faisalabad and Lahore is immensely appreciated. The federal cabinet accorded approval to the signing of the framework agreement with Denmark on 4 August 2022. This framework agreement is a breakthrough in the bilateral and economic relations between Pakistan and Denmark, who have been partners in successful development cooperation since 1969. However, there had been no active on-budget financial support extended by Denmark since 2017.

Continued on Page 06

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CAMEA launches book on situation in Afghanistan

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI) organized the launch of its second edited book, titled, "Evolving Situation in Afghanistan: International and Regional Perspectives" on August 10, 2022. Speakers on the occasion included, Ambassador Mohammad Sadiq, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM), and Pakistan's Special Representative for Afghanistan, who was the Chief Guest at the occasion and the Keynote address was given by Ambassador Mansoor Ahmed Khan, Pakistan's Ambassador to Afghanistan. Other speakers included Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, Ambassador Riaz Mohammad Khan, Former Foreign Secretary, Ambassador Jawed Ludin, President and Co-Founder, Heart of Asia Society, Dr. Niels Hageswisch, Country Director Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Pakistan, Ambassador Abrar Hussain, Pakistan's Former

Ambassador to Afghanistan, and Ms. Elizabeth Threlkeld, Senior Fellow and Deputy Director of the South Asia Programme at the Stimson Centre, USA. Ms. Amina Khan, while giving her introductory remarks about the book, stated that Afghanistan is being viewed as a regional issue, particularly in terms of the ongoing crises in different parts of the world; this is a very myopic view of the situation and that history has always shown developments in Afghanistan to have global ramifications. She went on to say that Afghanistan cannot be abandoned or ignored; rather, it is a global issue that warrants a collective response. While shedding light on the situation in Afghanistan, she said that while the Taliban are certainly not ideal, it must be asked whether there are any viable alternatives at this stage. Perhaps a clearer question is whether the international community desires the Taliban to fail or succeed, the answer, it appears at this point, will mean the failure or success of Afghanistan. She further explained that on the Taliban's part, now that they are in power, it is

imperative that they deliver on all accounts, and ensure that they honour their pledges of reform pertaining to governance, basic yet fundamental rights, a representative political framework which is not only limited to an inclusive government but rather a diverse and robust opposition and of course honouring CT assurances. It is imperative for the Taliban to realize that if they fail to do so it will become increasingly difficult for the international community and more so from regional countries to engage with them let alone move towards recognition. She also said that there was a consensus amongst the authors that it is essential to recognize that mistakes of the past are not repeated, since abandoning or ignoring Afghanistan will not bode well for any stakeholder. She concluded by saying that it is a time to remain engaged with Afghanistan—where the onus is on all sides to deliver. Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, while giving his remarks stated that the book on Afghanistan is a timely contribution with a perspective from every country.



PTCL, Nokia trial 1-TB live optical network

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) has successfully conducted country's first trial of 1-terabit transport capacity per wavelength, in collaboration with Nokia. The trial was conducted in a live network environment, where PTCL Metro Transport Network was upgraded to 1-Terabit per channel, extending its capacity to extreme speeds of 32-Terabit per fiber, said a news release on Wednesday. The trial was based on Nokia's Photonic Service Engine Transport Technology, designed to maximize network capacity and provide better customer experience, with faster and higher bandwidth. This pilot transformation will lead to transport network enablement for future technologies. This is yet another step on PTCL's roadmap and resolve to prepare its network infrastructure for embracing the growing data traffic demands of high-speed services and bandwidth intensive applications, including Ultra HD Video Streaming, Industrial Automation, Smart Cities and e-learning platforms for its subscribers and enterprise customers. — APP

Delegation of minorities representatives calls on CJP

ISLAMABAD: A 10-member minority delegation, Wednesday, called on Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Umar Ata Bandial, at the Supreme Court. The delegation comprised of Samuel Payra (Chairman Implementation Minority Rights Forum); Rt. Rev. Bishop Fredrick John (Bishop of Karachi & Balochistan); Mr. Manzoor Masih (Member National Commission for Human Rights); Mr. Bakhtawar Shah (Kalash Community); Mr. Tariq Chaman; Mr. Sarwan Kumar Bheel (Hindu Community); Sardar Inder Jeet Singh (Member

Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Community); Mr. Kashif Namet (Advocate High Court Lahore); Ms. Sonia Riasat (Human Rights Activist, Azad Kashmir) and Dr. Muhammad Shoaib Suddle (One-Man Commission on Minorities Rights at Supreme Court of Pakistan). The Chief Justice welcomed the delegates and appreciated the contributions of the minority communities towards inter-faith harmony in Pakistan. He also greeted them on the occasion of the National Minority Day scheduled for 11.08.2022. He briefed the delegation

about the fundamental rights enjoyed by the minority communities under the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973; particularly Article 20 which guarantees every citizen the right to profess, practice and propagate his religion. He added that the Superior Courts of Pakistan being the custodian of the Constitution and thereby the fundamental rights of the people have always been cognizant of the rights of the minorities and have delivered judgments to enforce their rights and implement and address the issues faced by them. — APP

UAE launches program for flood-hit people

ISLAMABAD: The United Arab Emirates has launched a relief program to provide food and shelter to the people of Balochistan hit by the flash floods consequent to torrential rains. The program has been initiated under the directives of Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler's Representative in Al Dhafra Region and Chairman of the Emirates Red Crescent (ERC) who instructed for providing urgent humanitarian aid and support to the flood-affected people, according to the Emirates News Agency.

The Emirates Red Crescent began the implementation of the first phase of the relief programme immediately to ensure that the basic needs, such as food and shelter, of thousands of families are met. The first phase focused on providing aid to areas most ravaged by floods, such as the districts of Lasbela and Jhal Magsi. At a later stage, the authority will send relief convoys to other areas in the province, to help their residents deal with the current situation and overcome the challenges they face in terms of securing food and shelter. The Emirates Red Crescent's aid took into account the requirements of the vulnerable groups such as children, women, the elderly people and others, as part of its humanitarian programmes to aid those affected by floods.

DPO advises newly recruited officers to work hard

District Police Officer Obadat Nisar's open court, 20 citizens put their problems before the DPO, individually issued orders to the concerned officers to solve the requests within the given time, the purpose of the open court is to solve the problems of the citizens without delay, DP and Ibadat Nisar



SAQIB MUSHTAQ

BAHAWALPUR: District Police Officer Ibadat Nisar addressed the newly recruited police men and women officers, also distrib-

uted recruitment orders to the young men, make hard work, honesty and dedication their motto so that better services can be provided to the people, DPO Ibadat Nisar. According to the details, a ceremony was held at

the District Police Lines ground for the new recruits in the police department. The DPO congratulated the newly recruited youths and distributed the recruitment orders. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the youths have been

recruited in the police department on the basis of merit. You have a duty to serve the public with a sincere heart and play your role in crime prevention. We hope that these young meritorious soldiers will perform their duties with



RAWALPINDI: RCCI President Nadeem Rauf presenting bouquet to Muhammad Shoib Khan Jadoon, Director General, Punjab Food Authority (PFA) during his visit to chamber house. — DNA

PFUJ and GTUJ will give away awards to journalists

YOUSUF BHUTTA

GUJRAT: A tributes will be paid to the services of late journalists, while some working journalists will be given awards in recognition of their services—today, Thursday, August 11, 2022, in a ceremony to be held with the joint cooperation of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) and Gujrat Union of Journalists (GTUJ). The ceremony will be held this afternoon at 4:00 pm at E-Library auditorium, Bhimber Road, Gujrat. The organizers of the event, Mr. Tahir Jameel Sial and Mr. Umar Farooq Chaudhary, told The Islamabad Post that this is the first event of its kind in Gujrat, which will be held regularly in the future. This event will help in the encouragement and motivation of suburban journalists. They further told that they also have a plan to organize a digital journalism training workshop for journalists, next month in collaboration with the University of Gujrat. "We also expect proper support and patronage from the district administration and public relations department of Punjab government", they added.

SCN appeals Commissioner for protection of Saiful Muluk

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Conservation Network (SCN), an advocacy body striving for conservation of environment, heritage and culture, has requested Commissioner Hazara Division for enforcing the law to protect Lake Saiful Muluk National Park. In an application submitted with Commissioner Hazara Division, Convener SCN Dr Adil Zareef mentioned that Lake Saiful Muluk had been declared as National Park in 2003 and its protection fell under KP Wildlife and Biodiversity Act 2015. — APP

Ashura observed peacefully across Faisalabad district

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Ashura Muharram was observed peacefully with religious solemnity and reverence throughout the Faisalabad district. On this occasion, tight security arrangements were made along the routes of processions to avert any untoward incident. Punjab Minister for Communication and Works/ In charge Muharram arrangements Ali Afzal Sahi along with Divisional Commissioner Zahid Hussain, RPO Imran Masood, Deputy Commissioner Imran Hamid Sheikh and CPO Umar Saad Malik were remained active whole the day and vis-

ited chowk clock tower, Central Amambargah Digloous, Sitiana road, Peoples Colony, Allama Iqbal Colony and other localities to check the security arrangement on the Ashura Muharram processions routes and they also supervised administrative and security arrangements were made along the routes of processions to avert any untoward incident. Punjab Minister for Communication and Works/ In charge Muharram arrangements Muhammad Afzal, Assistant Commissioners Sahibzada Muhammad Yousof, Muhammad Umar Maqbool, Members of District Peace Committee and other Ulama Karam were also along with them. Punjab Minister for C&W, Commissioner, RPO,

Deputy Commissioner and CPO also kept close liaison with Control Rooms. They visited the main control room at DC office and carried out monitoring of the security affairs on the routes with the help of CCTV Cameras. They visited the medical camps set up at Clock Tower and directed the health department and Rescue 1122 to provide best medical treatment to the mourners. Talking to the mediamen, Punjab Minister for C&W said that Ashura processions and majalis in the district were held in peaceful environment while ideal atmosphere of sectarian harmony was witnessed among all schools of thoughts in this connection.

1550 mourners provided first aid on Ashura

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: The district emergency service Rescue1122 provided first aid to 1550 mourners and shifted 127 patients to hospital during processions and majalis over the two days-9th and 10th of Muharramul Harram. According to Rescue 1122 spokesman Izaz Mehmood has also set up a medical camp at Imamia Gate to provide services to the mourners in addition to deployment of medical bikes teams who were patrolling along procession routes and other areas to provide instant first medical aid to mourners. Under the leadership of District Emergency Officer Kamal Shah in line with directives of Director General Rescue 1122 Dr Khair Ahmed rescue teams visited various tehsils of the district, including Dera Tehsil, Pahar-

pur Tehsil, Kulachi Tehsil and Prova Tehsil and they provided instant services to people there. Giving details, he said in line with Rescue 1122 Muharram plan, 24 ambulances and medical teams continued to perform their services at 18 locations throughout the district, adding ambulances of Rescue 1122 Lakki Marwat, Bannu and Karak also took part in rescue services in Dera Ismail Khan on 9th and 10th of Muharram. He said that services of Jahan Ambulance Service (Private), ambulance of Hiall Ahmar Dera and Al Khidmat Foundation were also utilized to extend services to people on 9th and 10th of Muharram. As many as five tenders of Rescue 1122 service and three fire tenders of TMA Dera, one fire bike, five medical bikes and around 200 rescuers performed their duty at different places across the district, the spokesman said and added that Rescue 1122 Emergency Officer Fazel Manan, Emergency Officer Naumanullah Marwat and Nauman Khan also kept patrolling from Thala No. 1 Dewala to Kotli Imam. — APP

PHC sought report about promotion of police officers

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court Wednesday sought a report from KPK Inspector General of Police, Establishment Department, Attorney General and Advocate General over writ petition filed against the promotion of police officers from grade-17 and above through Provincial Selection Board (PSB). The two-member bench compris-

ing Justice Ejaz Ahmed and Justice Fazal Subhan Butt directed to submit the report about the promotions till September 13 and said that the meeting of selection board convened during this period would be conditional in the court order. Judges said that the court should also be informed whether the provincial government could decide promotions of officers from grade-17 and above and also about the modus operandi. Councilors of the petitioner said that despite including officers having the ranks of DPO and Superintendent of Police acquired confirmation for their appointments; the provincial govt convened a meeting of PSB to promote blue eyed officers. — APP

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

AUGUST

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

Hotels & Restaurants

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Marriott.....	051-2826121
Monal.....	0334-5421812



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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Emergency

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



Enquiry

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



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
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President for enhancing the quality of Distance Learning

President appreciated the performance of AIOU in providing quality education to those who could not afford expensive private schools or full-time schooling

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has called for further enhancing the quality and outreach of Open Distance Learning (ODL) Programmes of the Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Islamabad and using blended learning tools to increase the enrolment of students in different academic disciplines. He said that educating and imparting skills to students according to the market dynamics would help ensure their early employment besides helping in their career progression.

The President expressed these views during a follow-up briefing on AIOU, Islamabad, at Awan-e-Sadr, today. VC AIOU, Prof Dr Zia ul Qayyum, Dean AIOU, Prof Dr Nasir Mahmood, senior officials of AIOU, representatives of HEC and Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training attended the meeting. Addressing the meeting, the President emphasized the need to invest in the formal and ODL modes of education which were the most important platforms for providing education to the masses. He said that ODL and hybrid modes of education could be extended to the Primary and Middle school levels after coordination with the relevant stakeholders from the public and private sectors. This, he said, would help in educating the Out-of-School-



Children (OOSC), who could not attend regular schools due to financial or other constraints. He said that Malaysia was far ahead in all forms of education than Pakistan due to heavy investment in this sector although Pakistan had helped Malaysia in setting up its institutes of higher learning. During the meeting, the President proposed that the mosques, which normally remain vacant from Fajr to Zohr, could be used as schools and "Pesh Imams" could be trained as teachers to provide free of cost education to OOSC of the under-served areas. He also called upon the Ministry of Education and Professional training to play a leading role in bringing all stake-

holders from the public and private sectors on one platform to devise a vision and strategy for extending educational services to hitherto neglected areas of the country by pooling their resources. The President appreciated the performance of AIOU in providing quality education to those who could not afford expensive private schools or full-time schooling. He further advised the University to establish its own marketing and public relations department headed by a qualified professional to market its products not only in Pakistan but to the rest of the world. He also urged the need to double up efforts to market and highlight the 24,000 licenses available under the Digital Learning and

Skills Enrich Initiatives of HEC and COURSERA to maximize the use of this important educational resource which provided over 1000 ready-made courses in various disciplines. The President said that Pakistan was willing to extend ODL and virtual education facilities to the people of Afghanistan through AIOU and the Virtual University of Pakistan (VUP) whose education materials could be utilized by Afghan students, both male and female, through its television network and online means, wherever available. VC AIOU, Professor Dr Zia-ul-Qayyum, briefed the President that as per President's directions during the previous meetings, AIOU was planning

to launch a Life Long Learning Centre besides working on designing Pakistan EdTech, establishing collaboration with the Universities of Turkiye and Leicester University and establishing a Centre of Excellence in Open Distance Learning. He further highlighted that as per a survey conducted by AIOU, almost 70% of students enrolled in post-graduate programs were already employed and were studying to further improve their qualifications. He stated that as per the survey, 40.4% of the students enrolled in the undergraduate programs were able to get part-time jobs due to enhanced qualifications.

HEC invites applications from HEIs to apply for funding

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has invited applications from faculty/researchers of public sector higher education institutions (HEIs) and eligible private universities to apply for HEC funding under the Seminar Conference Programme. According to official sources, HEC provides financial grants to the universities in Pakistan to organise national and international seminars, conferences, symposia and workshops. Through this initiative, the official sources said, HEC

intended to develop a culture of research and knowledge sharing among higher education institutions as well as to establish linkages with relevant industrial and corporate sectors; and explore opportunities for national and international collaborations. HEC has revised policy of the said programme, allowing applicants to apply directly to HEC for funding, the sources added. They said that funds would be released to the concerned university as per approved award upon filing reimbursement

claim within three (03) months of the event. The official sources said that all public sector universities/degree awarding institutions and eligible private sector universities, notified by HEC, complying the following conditions, i.e HEI must have well-established seminar series. HEI must have well-established MPhil and PhD programmes. Hosting HEI should have at least 5-8 PhD faculty members. Call for papers should be announced at least four (04) months prior to the conference. The conference should have a peer review

process (documentary record should be provided to HEC). The event organizer/focal person must be a faculty member of the university in the relevant discipline of the event theme. Applications must be submitted in soft form via HEC online portal (hard copy in original) at least 60 days prior to the event date(s) along with the requisite documents. The head of ORICs /head of research at the respective HEI will endorse the submitted application via HEC online portal: research.hec.gov.pk. - APP

PTI respects national institutions: Nusrat

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Nusrat Khan has said that there is no truth in the allegation that PTI as a political party is making national institutions controversial. In a special interview, Nusrat Khan said that the government is fed up with the popularity of Imran Khan. The federal government that the rally to be held in Lahore on August 13 will actually determine the direction of national politics. In response to a question, Nusrat Khan said that the PTI leader said that the PDM government very cleverly wants to pit the defense agencies and the PTI against each other while it is a fact that our armed forces are achieving such enviable achievements against the elements of linguistic and religious terrorism which are not only seen in the history of the country but also in the whole world. - DNA



CG COMSTECH calls on ED INTROM and Director IMR

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary invited the head of Inter-Islamic Network on Tropical Medicine (INTROM), Dr. Murizal Zainol, and Director Institute of Medical Research (IMR), Dr. Tahir Aris, at a breakfast meeting on August 10, 2022 at Concorde Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Dr. Ahmad Faudzi Yusoff of International Collaboration Secretariat, IMR, National Institute of Health, Ministry of Health, Malaysia also attended the meeting. The issues related to the activation of INTROM and potential collaboration with the IMR were discussed in detail. It was agreed that INTROM will

submit the Act for establishment of its secretariat to the Malaysian parliament again to support and establish the permanent secretariat and provide regular annual funding from the government of Malaysia. It was decided that further discussions on the collaboration between COMSTECH, IMR and INTROM will remain continued. COMSTECH will help IMR/ INTROM to disseminate information about their activities including seminars, webinars, and online lecture series, and the Director IMR, Dr. Tahir Aris will identify some tropical medicine experts from different OIC member states as COMSTECH distinguished scholars, agreed in the meeting.

MNA Romina meets Ambassador of Nepal

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan

Tapas Adhikari welcomed Ms. Romina Khursid Alam, Member of National Assembly and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister/Minis-

ter of State Convener Parliamentary Task Force on SDG at the Embassy. They discussed Nepal-Pakistan relations, SAARC and

SDGs and ways to further strengthening it. Both sides also discussed the historical relations between Nepal and Lahore and Gujranwala.

Naeemuddin Waraich best choice of PTI in NA-171

Despite all the political revenge, the popularity of Naeemuddin Waraich is increasing among the people

MUMTAZ AHMED BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: PTI's vote bank in NA 171 and PP 247 is increasing day by day. Naeemuddin Waraich is serving the voters without any greed and discouraging revenge politics are the main reasons for the increase in vote bank. The results of the previous elections are a concrete proof of this. First let's talk about election 2013 at that time it was Constituency NA 186. During the 2013 election, the main candidates in NA-186 were Naeemuddin Waraich, Mian Riaz Hussain Parzada and Chaudhry Tariq Bashir Cheema. In the general election

2013, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada won with 74491 votes. Tariq Bashir Cheema got 61403 votes and Naeemuddin Waraich got 52958 votes. In this election, Tariq Bashir Cheema got 13088 votes less than Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada and Naeemuddin Waraich got 8445 votes less than Tariq Bashir Cheema. The result of this constituency in the general elections 2018 was surprising. In this election, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada got 99306 votes, Chaudhry Naeemuddin Waraich got 88519 votes and Chaudhry Tariq Bashir Cheema got 23031 votes. Compared to general elections 2013, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada got 24815 more votes, Chaudhry Naeemuddin Waraich got 35561 more

votes while Chaudhry Tariq Bashir Cheema got 38372 less votes. Tariq Bashir Cheema came second in the 2013 general elections. While in the election 2018, Chaudhry

Naeemuddin Waraich came second. Naeemuddin Waraich's popularity is increasing rapidly not only in NA-171 but also in the surrounding constituencies.



All the candidates and especially Tariq Bashir Cheema are considering Naeemuddin Waraich as the biggest political threat for them. A few people who appear to be with PTI but in reality are enemies of PTI who are spreading disinformation in the constituency for their personal interest. Naeemuddin Waraich is a strong and winning position candidate in NA-171. Apart from Naeemuddin Waraich, there is no such candidate who has the courage to face Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada in the next election. If the PTI leadership believes the disinformation and makes a wrong decision during the distribution of party tickets and gives the ticket to Syed Ali Zain Bukhari, then PTI will lose this seat badly. In

this way voters will also be disappointed and PTI will suffer a heavy political loss. In the last general election too, mistakes were made in the distribution of tickets and many seats were lost. It is hoped that PTI will learn from the past mistakes and will not repeat the same mistakes in the next election. Fearing the continuous popularity of Naeemuddin Waraich among the people, Federal Minister Tariq Bashir Cheema put pressure on the Bahawalpur administration and gave them a clear message that Naeemuddin Waraich came to solve public problems, so stay away from Naeemuddin Waraich. Despite all the political revenge, the popularity of Naeemuddin Waraich is increasing among the people.

Chairman CDA inspects Rawal Dam work

DNA

ISLAMABAD: August 10, 2022: The chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Amer Ali Ahmed today inspected the ongoing work on Rawal Dam flyover. During the visit it was briefed that major part of the Rawal dam bridge/ flyover has been completed. According to the details Asphalt work has been completed on fly over and now uplift of the surrounding is being carried out. Moreover lane marking has been started and will be completed in a couple of days lane and art work will also be completed. New Jersey barriers are being completed in next two to three days and then this bridge/ flyover will be opened for public. Meanwhile remaining works on underpass will continue and will be completed in next 20-30 days, depending on the weather. Meanwhile apart from the flyover, it is also planned that 7th avenue interchange will also be substantially completed by 14th August. The underpass on suhrwardy road will be completed within a few weeks time. Due to continuous efforts of CDA management Two major landmark projects are nearing completion with in stipulated time. These projects will reduce traffic congestion in the capital city

CDA generates over Rs40 mln revenue during July 2022

ISLAMABAD: The Building Control Directorate of Capital Development Authority (CDA) has collected Rs40 million in revenue during the last month. The revenue was collected on account of approvals of building plans, issuance of completion certificates, commercial charges, and other heads including fines on account of a non-conforming use, said its spokesman here on Wednesday. During the month of July, the Building Control Directorate of CDA, he said had fetched over Rs2 million revenue by issuing 20 completion certificates to residential buildings and over Rs100,000 against a completion certificate of a commercial building, whereas 10 building plans generated funds amounting to Rs150,000. Likewise, the directorate generated Rs2 million by issuing NOCs to 55 residential buildings while over Rs35 million revenue was generated by issuing No-Objection-Certificates (NOCs) to 38 commercial buildings. The authority also imposed Rs1.5 million fine on owners of two buildings over by-laws violations during the same period. As a result of steps taken by the authority for ensuring financial discipline and financially strengthening the authority, revenue is increasing gradually. - APP

Relief, rehabilitation measures for GB discussed

ISLAMABAD: Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Khalid Khursheed on Wednesday discussed practical measures for relief and rehabilitation of the needy and poor people of Gilgit-Baltistan with Amir Fida Paracha MD, Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM). Both the dignitaries reviewed the ongoing welfare projects of PBM in Gilgit-Baltistan and took a unanimous decision to enhance the efficacy and scopes of welfare projects. Gilgit-Baltistan CM Khalid Khursheed, while endorsing the poor-friendly policies of PBM, expressed the hope that this institution will make further progress in the future. PBM Managing Director, Amir Fida Paracha said the Shelter Home established in Gilgit-Baltistan will be further improved with the help of public-private partnership, and the poor, daily wage earners, laborers and others, who come for night stay and meal here, will be served with quality services giving them respect and care. - APP

Briefs

Celebs
congratulate
Sadaf, Shahroz

ISLAMABAD: Congratulations are in order for the celebrity couple Sadaf Kanwal and Shahroz Sabzwari, who have recently welcomed their first child, a baby girl. Power couple confirmed the news, first shared by the supermodel Mehreen Syed via social media. Minutes after the joyous announcement was made, showbiz bigwigs poured in immense love and best wishes for the newly born as well as newbie parents. The 'Zakham' starlet Azfar Rehman also showered the little angle with blessings. Rehman shared the adorable click of Shahroz holding the new born along with the caption, "Congratulations, may Allah bless the little angel with health, happiness and prosperity". Former morning show host and actress Shaista Lodhi also celebrated the birth on her Instagram story and penned "Many congratulations to the proud parents" along with the gripping photo of little one. "Congratulations, may Allah keep you away from all evil eyes. So happy for you. This child will bring new blessings in your life," fellow model Huma Khan stated. Minal Khan, Syeda Tuba Anwar, Nadia Hussain, Mathira, Ayeza Khan and many more congratulated the duo and extended warm wishes for the family. - APP

Anti-Polio
drive from
August 22
in RWP

RAWALPINDI: A five-day Anti-polio drive would commence in the entire district on August 22. District In-charge for Polio, Chaudary Muhammad Hussain told APP that over 3,000 polio teams would go door-to-door and administer polio drops to 917,285 children under five years of age in all tehsils and union councils of the district during the campaign. He said that 396 areas in-charge, 204 medical officers, allied hospitals and tehsil headquarters hospitals would participate in the campaign and added "307 fix centres will be set up to administer drops". Hussain further informed that anti-polio drops would also be administered at 182 transit points while teams would also be deputed at toll plazas so that no child would miss immunization. He added that the results of environmental samples to determine the presence of Poliovirus had been tested negative for one year. The Anti-Polio Incharge said that Polio was a national issue and it was the responsibility of all to play an influential role in making the country Polio free. He said the objective of regularly conducting anti-polio campaigns was to keep children safe through protective drops and increase their immunity. - APP

Four drug
smugglers
arrested

ABBOTTABAD: The police on Wednesday foiled the smuggling of ice drug, arrested four accused and recovered 3.106 Kilogram ice and 15 dancing pills from their possession. Following the instructions of District Police Officer (DPO) Sajjad Khan, Abbottabad Police started a massive drive against drug dealers and arrested a 4-member inter-provincial gang that was providing ice drug and dancing pills to young boys and girls in schools, colleges and universities of the district. Police also recovered 3.106 kg of ice, and 15 dancing pills and registered a case against them. While addressing a press conference, the DPO said initially on August 6, police arrested the accused Mubin Shah, a resident of Rustam, Mardan, and seized six dancing pills and 437 grams of ice drug from his custody. On the disclosure of the arrested accused Mubin, Abbottabad police nabbed Saqib Ali, a resident of Mansehra, who was a part of the drug dealer gang, he added. Sajjad Khan further said that police also recovered four dancing pills and 480 grams of ice from their possession, while Sanatullah, a resident of Phulra Mansehra, was arrested along with four dancing pills. - APP

ISA, DEMP arrange Kitab Mela

Steps being taken to revive book reading habit: Secy Information

Says Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had arranged re-recording of the national anthem which would be unveiled by Prime Minister on August 14



ISLAMABAD: The Director General Information Service Academy Saeed Javed presenting a souvenir to Federal Information Secretary Ms. Shahera Shahid. - DNA

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Information and Broadcasting Shahera Shahid said on Wednesday that the government was taking steps for revival of the habit of book reading among the general public as it was not only part of the heritage but also the best possible way to build connection with the past. Addressing the launching ceremony of Book Fair being held in connection with 75th year celebrations of Pakistan's creation here she said that unfortunately the educated people had al-

most given up the book reading habit. The Book Mela was organized by the Information Service Academy (ISA) spearheaded by Saeed Javed, the Director General and Directorate General of Electronic Media and Publications. The secretary Information said there was a need to inculcate this habit among the young generation so that they could learn about the glorious past of their investors. She appreciated the management of a leading book shop chain for sponsorship of the event and expressed the hope that the visitors would not only enjoy the book fair but they would not return empty handed from here.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Secretary Ms. Shahera Shahid along with senior officials of the Information Ministry cutting ribbon to open Kitab Mela. - DNA

Shahera announced that on Thursday a digital exhibition would be organised by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in which Pakistan's 75 years would be depicted digitally. She said that Pakistan Television Corporation and Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation would arrange special events to pay tributes to legendary actors and performers. Moreover, she said that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had arranged re-recording of the national anthem which would be unveiled by the Prime Minister on August 14. She clarified that there was no change in lyr-

ics and tune of the anthem but it has been recorded with the latest equipment. She said that the new recording of the national anthem was a gift to the nation on the occasion of platinum jubilee celebrations of Pakistan's creation and her ministry was proud of it. The secretary information said 75th years celebrations of Pakistan had started about two weeks back and all the attached departments of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting were contributing to these celebrations. Besides senior officials from the ministry, a large number of people from all walks of life attended the ceremony.



ISLAMABAD: Relief goods being distributed among the flood affected people on behalf of the UAE government. - DNA

Heavy monsoon rains, protection revives dried springs in Margallas

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) Chairperson Rina Saeed Khan on Wednesday said the recent heavy monsoon rainfalls and better protection had helped revive the dried springs of the Margalla Hills National Park. The Margalla Hills National Park is home to pristine ecology, wildlife and plant species that are sprawling over an area of 17,000 hectares facing acute threats due to wild fires, arson, poaching, hunting and tree cutting. In an exclusive chat with APP, the chairperson said that the preservation and protection measures by the IWMB through public and community mobilisation

have helped control tree cutting and enhance green cover in the protected area. Rina said the conservation efforts had also improved vegetation on the hiking trails and across the national park that replenished the aquifer of the Margalla Hills. She added that massive rains and vegetation had revitalized the water level in the springs that were empty for the past many years. "Water level has improved specially at Trail-6 where all water springs are filled with water stretching over some three kilometers area. Trail-6 is also a leopard preserve zone which is not open for public and hence has unprecedented green cover and plants

in the area." The IWMB Chairperson said the IWMB rangers and patrolling staff also successfully removed Lantana camara which was an invasive species that used to suck lots of water from underground reservoirs. She underlined that the IWMB staff patrolling was improved in the National Park to control tree cutting, pollution, littering in the protected area and bathing in the freshwater springs. "The water in springs to remain till the months of November and December this year as the experts claim. The aquifer of Margalla Hills National Park has also filled to its maximum which is almost 30 feet deep," she mentioned. - APP

Air Quality: Capital's ambience clean

ISLAMABAD: The air quality of the federal capital on Wednesday was clean as air pollutants ratio recorded were below permissible limits. Director General Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) Farzana Altaf Shah told APP that the agency controlled air emissions from the industrial area that resulted in improved air quality for citizens to breathe safe air. The air quality was recorded healthy as suspended particles were noted below permissible limits in the atmosphere alongwith the pollutants' ratio due to consistent rainy weather and reduced vehicular traffic on roads. - APP

AIOU holds national songs competition

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) organized a national song competition among 55 students of Rawalpindi and Islamabad region in light of Independence Month celebrations. During the national songs, the audience kept waving Pakistani flags. Dr. Abdul Sattar, Dr. Mohammad Qasim and Dr. Asad Munir were the judges of this event. Four best participants were selected and the final round will be held at the end of the Independence month Celebrations. Cash prizes of 7,000, 5,000 and 3,000 will be given respectively to the students who get first, second and third positions in the competition. Certificates of participation will be given to all the students who participated in the competition. The four participants selected for the national song competition include Usman Malik, Maimoona Mushtaq, Shahana Islam, and Ameer Haider. Director Student Affairs, Rana Tariq Javed said that the main objective of the national song competition was to awaken the spirit of patriotism in the young generation. He said that the children expressed their love for Pakistan through national songs and highlighted the spirit of love for the country and soil. He added that the Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum, had given instructions to celebrate August as Independence Month to explain the meaning of freedom to the new generation. Different events and competitions including bait-baazi, painting, speeches and national song competitions are arranged under the supervision and consultation of the Registrar, Raja Umar Younis. - DNA

IESCCO issues power suspension schedules

ISLAMABAD: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule: On 11 th August, From 07:00 am to 12:00 Noon, Bhargah, Range Road, Domeli, Bhargah, Padiyal, Mumtaz Shaheed, Dina City, Colonel Akram, River Garden, Main Bazaar, Morat, Madina Town, Malkwal, Charah Feeders and surroundings will remain closed and surroundings will be closed. IESCO management apologizes to its esteemed customers for the power outage. - APP

PEMRA warns TV channels for 'propaganda,' against state institutions

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Electronic Media Regulation Authority (PEMRA) on Tuesday issued fresh directives to warn all the satellite TV channels, specifically news and current affairs of legal action for either running a "propaganda" campaign or spreading "misinformation and disinformation" against the state institutions. According to PEMRA, the directives were issued in continuation to the earlier ones which were issued by the authority from time to time for stopping the "propaganda, misinformation and disinformation" against the state institutions.

The media watchdog said a trend had been observed on satellite TV channels where in some of their News/Programme anchors, guests/analysts were indulged in spreading misinformation and disinformation against the state institutions without any cogent justification. "Such trend on channels not only tantamount to casting aspersions against state institutions, but also a planned propaganda campaign against the state institutions," said PEMRA while terming the airing of such content "violation of the directives issued by the Authority, provisions of PEMRA Electronic Media (Programmes and Advertisement) Code of Conduct 2015 and the principles

laid down by the Superior Courts." It noted that freedom of speech and expression was the fundamental right of every citizen as per Article 19 of the Constitution, however, "this right is subject to restrictions imposed by law in the interest of glory of Islam or the integrity, security or defense of Pakistan, or any part thereof, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to the contempt of court [Commission of] or incitement to an offence." PEMRA asked all satellite TV channel licensees to follow the principles laid down in the Constitution as well as judgment of the Supreme Court of Pakistan passed in suo moto case No. 28 of

2018 and the judgment of the Islamabad High Court, Islamabad passed in Criminal Original No. 270/2019 dated 25-11-2019 and ensure strict compliance to the relevant provisions of PEMRA laws including section 20(f) of PEMRA Ordinance 2002 as amended by PEMRA (Amendment) Act 2007, and others. It reiterated its direction to all satellite TV channel licensees about the implementation of an effective time delay mechanism, and the formation of an impartial and independent editorial board in order to avoid using their platform by anyone (employee or guest) for spreading misinformation, disinformation and propaganda against state institutions.

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US, China ties doesn't need to be so tense

CHINA, economically ascendant, has become increasingly assertive in pressing its economic, political and territorial claims. The United States, which long treated the country as something of a charity case, now regards it as a rival and, increasingly, as a threat. While some tension is inevitable, the rhetoric in both nations has taken a bellicose turn. There is little trust or cooperation even on issues of clear mutual interest, like combating the Covid-19 pandemic or addressing climate change.

The hardening on both sides was on full display last week. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi made a provocative visit to Taiwan to underscore America's support for its democratic government, and China mounted an overheated response, staging military exercises that encroached on Taiwan's airspace and territorial waters to emphasize its determination to establish sovereignty over what it regards as its own. China announced on Friday that it also would suspend communication with the United States on a number of issues, including climate change and efforts to prevent drug trafficking.

There are several concrete steps the United States could take that might help improve relations. First, instead of relying on punitive trade policies rooted in fear of China as an economic rival, the United States needs to focus on competing by investing in technical education, scientific research and industrial development. It is past time for President Biden to make a clean break with the Trump administration's failed gambit of bullying China into making economic concessions by imposing tariffs on Chinese imports.

Taiwan is an important part of that project. Ms. Pelosi's visit was ill timed. The Biden administration's most urgent foreign policy priority is helping Ukraine to defeat Russia's invasion, and the Taiwan contretemps makes it only harder to persuade China to limit support for Russia. The substance of Ms. Pelosi's message to Taiwan, however, was on the mark. The United States has long supported the maturation of Taiwan's democracy, and it is in America's interest to treat Taiwan as a valued ally.

The United States has long maintained a policy of "strategic ambiguity" with regard to Taiwan, selling arms to its government while declining to make any outright security commitments. Arming Taiwan remains the best way to help. But clarity could help, too. Treating China as a hostile power is a counterproductive simplification. The two nations occupy large chunks of the same planet. They do not agree on the meaning of democracy or human rights, but they do share some values, most important the pursuit of prosperity.

The uncomfortable reality is that the United States and China need each other. There is no better illustration than the cargo ships that continued moving between Guangzhou and Long Beach, Calif., during Ms. Pelosi's visit — and will continue long after her return.

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Gaza bleeds

THE Israeli dagger is notorious for not differentiating between the civilians and the militants. As the bloodied pink bow of a five-year-old Alaa Qadoum made its way back to her grief-stricken father, the bestiality streak has managed to break (for the millionth time) the brief hiatus of precious little peace. Israel, in the meantime, appears quite confident as it harps to the tunes of targeting military targets. Contrary to its claims, the Palestinian Health Ministry has confirmed that the bombs dropped by Israeli fighter jets on the coastal enclave have so far taken 12 lives. Another 80 have been wounded. Jerusalem's apathy towards the bloodshed appears from having followed the protocol of "warning" residents before flattening the targeted two-storey structure amid the bustling Gaza City.

Those impacted, however, bemoan how they were not warned with the said phone calls but the fumes of rockets. The latest round of violence has also shut down the only power plant in Gaza and the hapless citizenry is forced to scamp for private generators enduring the scorching summer heat. There is nothing out of the ordinary for people walking on the street paying the price of the slightest blow to Israel's ego.

The "imminent threats" broadcasted to the entire world have already succeeded in getting support from the likes of the UK and the US, which believe PM Yair Lapid has the constitutional obligation to pound Gaza however he wants in the name of existential security.

That the "right to defend itself" prompted retaliatory attacks from the other side, pushing Israel and Gaza into the second day of yet another seething conflict is conveniently left in the footnotes. Only a few months ago, Mr Lapid drew the ire of the entire Muslim world when he offered to conduct "a joint pathological investigation" into the much-talked-about killing of renowned journalist Shireen Abu Akleh. While recognition of how the household name was trapped within crossfire despite wearing a visible press tag was, definitely, a positive development, those familiar with Israel's obsession with obliterating facts and protecting perpetrators could not allow for one more erasure. The international uproar over snipers shooting at unarmed Palestinians at the Gaza fence did culminate in such a "self-proclaimed investigation."

Quite expectedly, neither the foot soldiers nor the military advocate general was held to account for greenlighting these illegal operations. No matter how brilliantly Israel may hide under the cover of civilisation and shared ideals, it cannot stow away the very nature of its apartheid regime. Millions of Palestinians have been on the butcher's block for far too long now and as the hope of freedom drains out of their eyes, the rest of the Muslim Brotherhood is comfortably perched upon the golden pedestal of new alliances and the modern world order.

Victor Orban's eyes may be bigger than his stomach

James Dorsey

Mr. Modi has been a member of the RSS since the late 1960s. However, he is believed to have last referred to the Akhand Bharat concept in an interview in 2012 when, as Chief Minister of Gujarat, he suggested that "Hindustan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh should rejoin"

WHEN Prime Minister Victor Orban recently spelled out his vision of Hungary's frontiers, he joined a club of expansionist leaders such as Russia's Vladimir Putin, China's Xi Jinping, and members of the Indian power elite who define their countries' borders in civilisational rather than national terms.

Speaking on Romanian territory in the predominantly ethnic Hungarian town of Baile Tusnad in Transylvania, a onetime Austro-Hungarian possession home to a Hungarian minority, Mr. Orban echoed the worldviews of Messrs. Xi and Putin. Those views are on display in the South China Sea and Ukraine, as well as in statements by the Russian leader about other former Soviet republics.

It's a worldview also embraced by members of India's Hindu nationalist elite that endorses a country's right to expand its internationally recognized borders to lands inhabited by their ethnic kin or territories and waters that historically were theirs. Unlike the Russian and Chinese leaders, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been careful to avoid public support for the civilisationalist concept of Akhand Bharat embraced by his ideological alma mater.

The concept envisions an India that stretches from Afghanistan to Myanmar and encompasses nuclear-armed Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives.

Mr. Modi's silence hasn't prevented Mohan Bhagwat, head of the powerful ultra-Hindu nationalist Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sang (RSS) or National Volunteer Organization, from recently predicting that Akhand Bharat would become a reality within 15 years.

Mr. Modi has been a member of the RSS since the late 1960s. However, he is believed to have last referred to the Akhand Bharat concept in an interview in 2012 when, as Chief Minister of Gujarat, he suggested that "Hindustan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh should rejoin."

However, in contrast to his more recent silence, Mr. Modi has approached Indian Muslims, the world's largest minority and its largest Muslim minority, in much the same way that Mr. Orban envisions a racially and religiously pure Hungary. The Hungarian prime minister sparked outrage in his July speech when he rejected a "mixed-race world" defined as a world "in which European peoples are mixed together with those arriving from outside Europe."

Mr. Orban asserted that mixed-race countries "are no longer nations: They are nothing more than conglomerations of peoples" and are no longer part of what he sees as "the Western world." Mr. Orban stopped short of identifying those countries, but the United States and Australia would fit the bill.

Romanians may be more concerned about Mr. Orban's racial remarks than his territorial ambitions, described by one Romanian Orban watcher as a "little man having pipe dreams." Romanians may be right. Mr. Orban's ability to militarily assert his claims is far more restricted than those of his Russian and Chinese counterparts. Nevertheless, one underestimates at one's peril.

Mr. Orban shares Mr. Putin and Mr. Xi's resentment of perceived historical wrongs that need to be rectified irrespective of international law and the consequences of a world whose guardrails are dictated by might rather than the rule of law. His speech seems to promise to reverse what he sees as an unjust diktat. His revanchism may explain why Russia's alteration in Ukraine of national boundaries by force doesn't trouble him.

Mr. Orban left no doubt that his definition of the Hungarian motherland included Transylvania and other regions in the Carpathian Basin beyond Hungary's borders that ethnic Hungarians populate.

Insisting that the world owed Hungary, which eventually would call in its debt, Mr. Orban asserted that his country was driven by the notion "that more has been taken from us than given to us, that we have submitted invoices that are still unpaid... This is our strongest ambition." Mr. Orban implicitly suggested a revision or cancellation

of the 1920 Treaty of Trianon, which deprived Hungary of much of its pre-World War I territory.

Two months earlier, Hungarian President Katalin Novak ruffled diplomatic feathers when she posted a picture of herself climbing a mountain peak in Romania's Alba County, standing by a disputed milestone painted in Hungarian colours. At the time, Ms. Novak advised Romanian Foreign Minister Bogdan Aurescu that it was her duty to represent "all Hungarians, regardless of whether they live inside or outside the borders" — a claim Romania rejected.

Mr. Orban's grievance and racially driven nationalism may be one reason the Hungarian leader has been Europe's odd man out in refusing to sanction Russia for its invasion of Ukraine fully. In a break with European Union policy, Hungary's foreign minister Peter Szijarto met his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov in Moscow on the eve of Mr. Orban's speech to request additional gas supplies.

In contrast to the EU, which wants to remove Russia as a supplier of its energy, Mr. Orban insisted that "we do not want to stop getting energy from Russia, we simply want to stop getting it exclusively from Russia."

Mr. Orban's speech is unlikely to ease the task of Tibor Navracscs, Hungary's regional development minister and a former EU commissioner. Mr. Navracscs arrived in Brussels this week to persuade the EU to release 15 billion in covid recovery funds amid an unprecedented disciplinary process that could lead to the suspension of EU funding because of Hungarian violations of the rule of law. So far, Mr. Orban's support of Russia has isolated him in Europe with the de facto demise of the Visegrad 4 or V4 in its current form in the wake of the invasion of Ukraine and the threat of an economic recession.

Grouping the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia, the Visegrad 4 were united in their opposition to EU migration and rejection of what the Hungarian leader termed Europe's "internal empire-building attempts," a reference to the European Commission's efforts to stop moves that hollow out Central European democracy.

Leaving Mr. Orban isolated, Slovakian Prime Minister Eduard Heger has pledged to use his current six-month presidency of the European Council to return the Visegrad 4 to the roots of its founding in 1991 as the four countries emerged from communism: respect for democracy and a commitment to European integration. If successful, Mr. Heger's V4 will likely be a V3 with Hungary on the outs. Said Mateusz Gniazdowski, an analyst at the Warsaw-based Centre for Eastern Studies: "Attempts to ideologically use the V4 brand harm mutual trust and don't contribute to building a strong Central Europe in the EU."

Evidence reaffirms that Palestine remains an Arab cause

Ramzy Baroud

Arabs may disagree on many issues, and they do. They might stand on opposite sides of regional and international conflicts, and they do

IT seemed all but a done deal: Palestine has become a marginal issue that no longer defines Israel's relations with Arab countries. Indeed, normalization with Israel is afoot and the Arabs, so it seems, have finally been tamed. Not so fast. Many events continue to demonstrate the opposite. Take, for example, the Arab League's two-day meeting in Cairo last week. The meeting was largely dominated by discussions on Palestine and concluded with statements that called on Arab countries to reactivate their boycott of Israel until the latter abides by international law. The strongest language came from Arab League Assistant Secretary-General Saeed Abu Ali, who called for solidarity with the Palestinian people by boycotting companies that support the Israeli occupation.

The Conference of the Liaison Officers of the Arab Regional Offices on the Boycott of Israel praised the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, which has been under intense Western pressure for its unrelenting advocacy of international action against Israel. One of the recommendations by Arab officials was to support Arab boycott initiatives in accordance with the Tunis Arab League summit of 2019, which resolved that "boycott of the Israeli occupation and its colonial regime is one of the effective and legitimate means to resist."

Anyone who is familiar with the history of the centrality of Palestine in the Arab discourse understands that it is not a mere political question that is governed by opportunism and immediate political or geopolitical interests. Modern Arab history is a testament to the fact that, no matter how great the US-Western-Israeli pressures and however weak or divided the Arabs are, Palestine will continue to reign supreme as the cause of all Arabs. Political platitudes aside, the Palestinian struggle for freedom remains a recurring theme in Arab poetry, art, sports, religion and culture in all its manifestations.

Arabs may disagree on many issues, and they do. They might stand on opposite sides of regional and international conflicts, and they do. They might even go to war against one another and, sadly, they often do. But Palestine remains the exception. Historically,

it has been the Arabs' most compelling case for unity. When governments forget that, and they often do, the Arab street constantly reminds them of why Palestine is not for sale and is not a subject for self-serving compromises. For Arabs, Palestine is also a personal and intimate subject. Numerous Arab households have framed photos of martyrs who were killed by Israel during previous wars or while fighting for Palestine. This means that no amount of normalization or even outright recognition of Israel by an Arab country can wash away its sordid past or menacing image in the eyes of ordinary Arabs. A most telling example of this is how Egyptians and Jordanians answered the question "Would you support or oppose diplomatic recognition of Israel by your country?" The interesting thing about this question is that both Cairo and Amman already recognize Israel and have had diplomatic ties with Tel Aviv since 1979 and 1994, respectively. Still, 93 percent of Jordanians and 85 percent of Egyptians opposed that recognition as if it never took place.

The argument that Arab public opinion carries no weight in nondemocratic societies neglects the fact that every form of government is predicated on some form of legitimacy; if not through a direct vote, then it is through other means. Considering the degree of involvement the cause of Palestine carries in every aspect of Arab societies — on the street, in mosques and churches, in universities, sports, civil society organizations and much more — disowning it would be a major delegitimizing factor and a risky political move. American politicians, who are constantly angling for quick political victories on behalf of Israel in the Middle East, do not understand or simply do not care that marginalizing Palestine and incorporating Israel into the Arab body politic is not simply unethical, but also a major destabilizing factor in an already unstable region. Historically, such attempts have failed, often miserably so, as apartheid Israel remains as hated in those countries that have normalized relations as it is in those nations that have not. Nothing will ever change that as long as Palestine remains an occupied country.

— Courtesy: Arab News

Climate change and governmental action

Attiya Munawer



The impact of climate change on agriculture across the country is a call to action for us. If we do not take immediate steps to address these issues, a major food crisis could ensue. Our govts have focused on building housing societies and roads, bridges in their own interest but in the public interest never paid attention to such important sector as agriculture. They could have earned huge foreign exchange by exporting agricultural products

PAKISTAN is one of the countries in the world which is going through severe climate change and events. It has not been raining in most parts of the country for the last three months which is affecting the whole country. Farmers are facing difficulties in cultivating crops such as on the one hand it is not raining and on the other hand due to expensive petrol and diesel, it has become cumbersome for farmers to run tube wells as a result, reports are prior coming in that this time cultivation will be on a small area, the effects of which will be borne by the people in the event of a reduction in the next crop and a drastic increase in prices.

There is no doubt that the problems are increasing instead of decreasing across the country. Rising temperature across the country due to lack of rains is also affecting the crops. Wheat crop has been severely affected by the record heat on present year and the country has not been able to produce the required quantity of wheat. There is a shortage of 4 million metric tons and this wheat will have to be imported. The situation may not be a major problem for the government under normal circumstances, but the way Russia is facing the food crisis due to the Ukraine war and the high prices with wheat shortages, importing wheat will only increase the pressure on foreign exchange.

The coalition government was well aware of the changing situation before coming to power, but its main focus was on acquiring values rather than solving public problems, so it focused on political change yet climate change was ignored and all the losses are being borne by the farmers and the people. One of the perspective demonstrates that due to rising temperatures and water scarcity, crops are being damaged while the other scenario highlights the incidence of forest fires is increasing.

A large forest of Chalgoza has been burnt to ashes in Balochistan. The forests of Murree have caught fire. One after another forest fires are causing many fears. Pakistan already has a very low forest cover of 2.5%, on which the increasing incidence of forest fires will further affect the environment.

The impact of climate change on agriculture across the country is a call to action for us. If we do not take immediate steps to address these issues, a ma-

major food crisis could ensue. Our governments have focused on building housing societies and roads, bridges in their own interest but in the public interest never paid attention to such important sector as agriculture. They could have earned huge foreign exchange by exporting agricultural products. The priority of our governments is to give NOCs to housing societies rather than agriculture, because the elites who get NOC are sitting in the parliament with them and as out-turn, agricultural areas are rapidly turning into concrete jungles.

It is true that the world is taking serious steps to mitigate climate change, but our rulers are conspiring to get out of the cycle of intervention; with rising public inflation, unemployment and climate change, the impact of food shortages is tormenting the people but the government is stabbing the people with price hikes to please the IMF while showing indifference to everything. The government should focus on climate change by delimiting its focus on political changes in the changing circumstances. Immediate demarcation of cities must be done and put a complete ban on the expansion of mega cities. There should also be a ban on construction on agricultural areas whilst selection of such areas for industrial areas should be done where the lands are not suitable for agriculture. Similarly with the rapid construction of big dams, small dams will have to be constructed as well, otherwise water is not available for agriculture yet and may fall a bombshell of drinking water shortage.

It is noteworthy that the impact of climate change would have made a difference if every government had acted honestly in accordance with its claims. If so many trees were planted across the country under the Billion Tree Project, we would have got positive results from it. May be like every time, this project of ours has become a sight of corruption. Are our drying springs, rise in temperature and change in rainy season and decrease in agricultural commodities, nothing is forcing us to think why the one who thought did not move for practical action and the one who tried to put into practice did not succeed? Aren't these blessings of nature valuable to us? We have to think and learn from our mistakes, otherwise future generations will face more difficulties and will never forgive us.

Briefs

Italy a close...

FROM PAGE 01

the export to Italy also witnessed surge of 11.77 percent in June 2022 as compared to the exports of \$108.433 million in May 2022. Overall Pakistan's exports to all countries also witnessed an increase of 26.56 percent in twelve months, from \$25638.974 million to \$32450.087 million, the SBP data said. On the other hand, the imports from Italy during the period were recorded at \$770.439 million against \$568.022 million last year, showing growth of 35.63 percent during the fiscal year under review. Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the imports from Italy however decreased by 28.39 percent, by going down from \$73.938 million during June 2021 against the exports of \$52.944 million in June 2022, the data revealed. On month-on-month basis, the imports from Italy witnessed an increase of 16.28 percent in June 2022 as compared to the exports of \$45.530 million in May 2022. The overall imports increased by 32.75 percent, from \$54272.920 million to \$72.048 million during the period under review. The trade surplus during the period under review was recorded at \$315.236 million against \$206.636 million during same period of last year, showing 52.55 percent growth.

Imran...

FROM PAGE 01

Imran Khan sowed are being reaped today. Imran Khan's entire politics is based on hatred, sedition, chaos, hooliganism and corruption. The campaign against the martyrs' families was carried out by PTI trolls and Bushra Bibi's son Arsalan. She said that Imran Khan started the fight with Pakistan forces. Today Imran Khan compares himself with Nawaz Sharif. Nawaz Sharif was a three-time elected Prime Minister. He also had secrets in his chest, but he remained silent for the sake of the country. Nawaz Sharif had said at that time that the institutions should work within the constitutional limits, this is our position even today. The federal minister said that Imran Khan says that the institution should interfere in politics. Imran Khan says that if the institution does not save his chair, then he is an animal. Imran Khan's spokesperson said that from Lance Naik to Brigadier, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf is associated with it. Imran Khan instigated him to violate his oath.

Want to see...

FROM PAGE 01

muscles to crush and intimidate people. He said that they chalked out a plan to crush the PTI in cahoots with Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) under the foreign backed plan because the opponents could not win the elections against PTI; hence they wanted to knock out PTI on technical grounds. Imran Khan further said that the foreign conspiracy was made successful by local Mir Jafar and Mir Sadiq, as when he was ousted as prime minister, celebrations started in India and Israel. He said that that India had a problem that the PTI government and the Army were on the same page but ironically today these people 'are labelling us traitors'. Imran Khan said that during the Mumbai attacks, Asif Zardari made a statement that Pakistan's DG ISI should be sent to Mumbai. He also revealed that the PPP co-chairman had sent a message to then US administration through the former ambassador Hussain Haqqani requesting them to save him from Pakistan Army. "Now, it seems as though we are anti-military and they are patriotic," he said, added his party wanted to see Pakistan Army strong. Every effort has been made to crush PTI but they did not sit silently, he added. He stated that Nawaz Sharif revealed the name of the Mumbai's attacker that he was a Pakistani, adding that it was said in Dawn Leaks that the Pakistani army was involved in terrorism. He said that India called Raheel Sharif a terrorist, but Nawaz Sharif invited Modi to the wedding. Talking about foreign funding, Imran Khan stated that PTI started regular political fund-raising and PTI submitted the identity cards of 40,000 donors in 2012.

Aisam launches first ever talent hunt program

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Legendary Tennis star Aisam Ul Haq along with country's most Davis Cupper Aqeel Khan has launched Nationwide Tennis Talent Hunt Program in four different cities including Peshawar wherein 52 players in different age groups turned up here at Pakistan Tennis Club on Wednesday. Soon after reaching the provincial metropolis, the two legendary Tennis stars Aisam and Aqeel with their team members Shahid Afridi (coach) and Haroon (trainer) conducted first day trials-cum-physical tests to hunt players in different age groups. Chairman KP Tennis Association Dr. Tahir, Secretary Umar Ayaz Khaili, coaches Janan Khan, level-II qualified coaches Zakir Ullah, Nouman Khan, Shaharyar Khan, and more than 52 players were also present during the colourful opening ceremony. Addressing a press conference, Aisam said, "The players would be short-listed through a properly planned structure by giving each and every one in age group U12, U14, U16 and U18 a due chance to come and show their worth to ensure their selection." He said they came to Peshawar for two days after conducting trials and physical tests in Lahore, Islamabad and would go to Karachi to select four players in all four groups who would be handed over to qualified coaches and trainers to get them ready for representing Pakistan internationally. "My own coach and trainer will help out the selected players," Aisam disclosed. The very positive outcome of the initiative, taken with the help of sponsorship, was receiving more than 300 online registrations nationwide, he said, adding that "yet we are expecting more tennis kids to join this program during the trials in all cities." "We've finalized the assessment program with our team of coaches and fitness trainers and good numbers of players



turned up in Peshawar, which has a good tennis talent," Aisam said. He said that he would sponsor 16 of the most talented youngsters to be selected from the trials and he would be taking care of their coaching, and training and other needs besides enabling them to participate in the national and international events. The first-of-its-kind talent hunt program will help Pakistan to be part of the international circuit in future, he added. "The aim of the talent hunt program is to identify youngsters who can go on to represent Pakistan in international

events and also set a base at the grassroots level for tennis to prosper in the country," Aqeel Khan said. The Ace-Academy Tennis Talent Hunt Program would help in the coaching and provide mentorship to the selected youngsters for a period of 12 months where they would be provided with the tools to accelerate their professional careers, he informed. "I am super excited for launching the Ace Tennis Talent Hunt Program in Pakistan with 16 budding juniors from Peshawar, Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi that will be selected

and sponsored for one year, and for this, we are working hard to find out sponsorship at least for a cause to boost Pakistan's tennis only," said Aisam. Earlier, the selection of the players through playing tennis and physical fitness started in the morning and continued up to 5:00 pm wherein players in the age of U16 and U18 participated on the first day and similarly for players in the age group U12 and U14 will be organized on Thursday [August 11] before finalizing four names from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Talent Hunt Program.

Raducanu, Murray beaten in first round of Canadian Open

MONITORING DESK

MONTREAL: Andy Murray lost in straight sets in the first round of the Canadian Open but fellow Briton Cameron Norrie progressed at the tournament in Montreal. Three-time champion Murray was beaten 6-1 6-3 by American Taylor Fritz. Emma Raducanu failed to win a single point in her first-set tie-break against Camila Giorgi. Emma Raducanu's US Open title defence preparations suffered another blow as she was beaten by Camila Giorgi in the National Bank Open first round. The British number one, who is 10th in the world rankings, lost 7-6 (7-0) 6-2 to the Italian defending champion. Ninth seed Raducanu had led by an early break in the second set before Giorgi reeled off six games in a row to win in Toronto. "I think it was a really good match, to be honest," said the 19-year-old. "I just need to get better at dealing with players who play as quick as she does." The US Open, where Raducanu memorably triumphed last year, begins on 29 August in New York. There were also wins for Britain's Jack Draper



and Dan Evans. After a 24-hour delay because of rain, Fritz - world number 13 and a quarter-finalist at Wimbledon last month - produced a dominant performance that several times reduced Murray to smashing his racket against the court in frustration. It took Norrie just took just 73 minutes to beat Nakashima. The world number 11 will face Botić van de Zandschulp in the second round. Draper set up a meeting with Greece's world number five Stefanos Tsitsipas after



beating France's Hugo Gaston 6-2 6-3. Evans defeated Filip Krajinovic of Serbia 6-2 1-6 6-0 either side of a rain delay and will now play Russia's Andrey Rublev, who had a bye in the first round. Nick Kyrgios, who claimed his first ATP Tour title since 2019 at the Citi Open on Monday, is through to the second round after a 6-4 6-4 win over Argentina's Sebastian Baez. The Australian, ranked 37th in the world, will face world number one Medvedev in the second round.

Movements seen in FIH World Rankings

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The recent Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England and a series of test matches between Poland, Austria and Chile have made some impact upon the FIH World Rankings among both men's and women's nations. While there have been shifts and movements up and down the table, the top of the men's and women's rankings remain unaltered, said a press release. Australia men, victors in Birmingham for the seventh consecutive time, are sitting at the top of the men's rankings with 2851 points. Belgium (2742) and Netherlands (2646) are in second and third place. Germany (2340) men sit in fourth place, while silver at the Commonwealth Games helped India (2294) maintain its position in fifth, just ahead of Commonwealth Games bronze medalists England (2158) in sixth. Argentina (2082) and Spain (1849) are in seventh and eighth position respectively, while New Zealand's (1778) fifth place in Birmingham means the Black Sticks remain in ninth. Further down the table, South Africa men's (1450) impressive fourth place finish at the Commonwealth Games sees them move to 14th, one place ahead of Canada (1421). Wales (1383) remain in 16th while Pakistan's (1333) performances over the two week long competition sees them rooted to 18th spot. Scotland (1159) was also non-shifters in 21st position. Chile (959), Austria (1169) and Ireland (1469) are currently involved in a three-team test series. The results so far have favoured Ireland as the Green Army has moved from 14th to 13th. Austria remains in 19th place while Chile sits at 23rd. In the women's rankings there is no movement in the top three. Netherlands (3155) continue to top the table as they have for the past decade. Argentina (2714) was in second placed with Australia (2589) in third after a silver medal win in Birmingham.

Paul Pogba voices solidarity with people of Gaza

FOREIGN DESK

PARIS: French football player Paul Pogba has expressed sympathy with the Palestinians who lost their lives during Israel's latest attacks on Gaza. On Instagram, the Juventus midfielder posted a photo of Gazan children who lost their lives in the attack with a note saying: "May Allah protect the people of Gaza." Israeli warplanes launched airstrikes in the Gaza Strip last week, citing what the army said was an "imminent threat of attacks" by the Islamic Jihad group.

ICC saddened at the passing of Rudi

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has expressed deep sorrow at the death of former Emirates ICC Elite Panel Umpire Rudi Koertzen. Koertzen, 73, who officiated in 331 international matches in a career stretching from 1992 to 2010, passed away in a car accident in South Africa on Tuesday, said a press release. ICC Chief Executive Geoff

Allardice remembered him as a highly professional umpire who was respected by colleagues and players alike. ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice said, "Rudi was among the best umpires of his generation and one players had utmost respect for. He officiated in international games for close to two decades and the ICC relied on him for some big matches during this period. "Rudi was also very popular among his contemporaries and always willing

to help. His contribution to cricket will be remembered for years to come. We send our condolences to his family and friends at his tragic death." Koertzen, one of the original members of the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires when it was formed in 2002, is third in the list of Test umpires in terms of number of match appointments, having officiated in 108 matches. He is second in the list for ODIs with 209 matches and stood in 14 T20is.

Islamic Solidarity Games kick off in Konya

NEWS DESK

KONYA: A solemn opening ceremony of the 5th Islamic Solidarity Games has been held in the Turkish city of Konya. President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva attended the ceremony. The aerobatics flights of "Turkish Stars" over the Konya Metropolitan Municipality Stadium, where the opening ceremony was held, produced a wonderful impression on the audience. Then Maher Zain, a Swedish singer of Lebanese origin, performed with a concert program. Drone and light effects added a special color to the ceremony. Then verses from the holy Quran-Karim were read out. The audience of the remarkable event gave a round of applause for President of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and other heads of state and government as they entered the arena. President of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan had a short conversation with First Lady of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva and Vice-President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva. Dancers who appeared first on the stage created the logo of the 5th Islamic Solidarity Games. The logo in the shape of a tulip symboliz-



ing number 21 was designed specifically for the Games. The logo also includes the word, which means "brother" in Arabic. A composition describing different periods of Turkish history and cultural riches was demonstrated during the ceremony. At the end of the composition, the Turkish flag and the moon-star figure were projected onto the

stage using light effects. Then the military brought out the State Flag of Türkiye. The flag was raised to the sounds of the National Anthem of Türkiye - the Independence March. After the raising of the flag, the ceremony featured a parade of volunteers and teams participating in the 5th Islamic Solidarity Games "Konya 2021".

Azerbaijani athletes were the fourth to enter the arena. President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva warmly welcomed the members of Azerbaijani team. During the ceremony, the tricolor flag of Azerbaijan was carried by athlete Nazim Babayev and volleyball player Ayshan Abdulazimova. Nazim Babayev is the European champion, winner of the 4th Islamic Solidarity Games, double winner of the Winter Universiade and bronze medalist of the Summer Youth Olympic Games. Ayshan Abdulazimova is the captain of Azerbaijan women's national volleyball team, winner of the Challenge Cup, the Golden Europe league and the 4th Islamic Solidarity Games.

A total of 281 athletes represent Azerbaijan in the Islamic Solidarity Games. They will compete in weightlifting, shooting, athletics, 3x3 basketball (women and men), judo, football, wrestling, gymnastics, aerobics, rhythmic gymnastics, handball (women and men), karate, kickboxing, fencing, archery, para-archery, para-athletics, para-swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, cycling, volleyball (women and men) and swimming. More than 4,000 athletes from 56 countries will compete for 483 sets of medals in 24 sports at the 5th Islamic Solidarity Games, which are scheduled to last until 18 August.

Investigation team to...

FROM PAGE 01

and favor', said a notification issued by the deputy inspector general police (DIG), operations on Wednesday. "The investigation team will collect all relevant information from the concerned individual, officials, offices and departments relating to the case. The SSP investigation was delegated the powers to obtain the digital information from Pakistan Telecommunication Authority for the purpose of investigating the case," it added. "The progress report in the subject case may be submitted to the DIG operations within seven days," the notification read.

UAE...

FROM PAGE 01

nationals. He also expressed his deepest sympathies with the Emirati brethren. The UAE President also extended heartfelt commiserations on the loss of precious lives in floods in Pakistan as well as on the sad demise of army personnel in the recent helicopter crash. Recalling the decisions taken during the visit of the Prime Minister to the UAE in April 2022, the two leaders reviewed the progress and resolved to further strengthen trade and economic ties, with particular focus on accelerating cooperation and building partnerships in areas comprising investments, energy, and infrastructure.

Highlighting the generous support extended by the UAE to Pakistan over the years, the Prime Minister welcomed the recent announcement by the UAE to invest US\$ 1 billion in various economic and investment sectors in Pakistan. Pakistan and the UAE enjoy close fraternal ties which are rooted firmly in common belief and shared values and culture. The UAE is Pakistan's largest trading partner in the Middle East and a major source of investments, and hosts more than 1.6 million Pakistanis.

Denmark...

FROM PAGE 01

The efforts to revive bilateral economic and development cooperation between the two countries paid off, with Denmark agreeing to provide on-budget support to the Government of Pakistan through this Inter-Governmental Framework Agreement. This Framework Agreement would act as an umbrella agreement for potential development sector projects emanating from it, mainly in the sectors of renewable energy, energy efficiency, water supply, and wastewater treatment sectors. Each project will have its separate financing agreement, which will be negotiated with the Danish side case by case in consultation with all the stakeholders. Currently, wastewater treatment projects in Faisalabad and Lahore are in the pipeline, which is to be negotiated under the ambit of this framework agreement. This agreement offers the Danida Sustainable Infrastructure Finance (DSIF) Facility by the Danish side, which would provide interest-free but tied loans up to but not limited to 100 million and facilitate the transfer of technology and know-how from Denmark to Pakistan.

Shajjar Abbas sets new national record

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan's young sprinter Shajjar Abbas has created a new national record in 200m and qualified for the semi-finals by finishing first in his heats in the Islamic Solidarity Games 2022. Abbas clocked 20.68 to surpass his previous best of 20.87, which he achieved during XXXII Qosonov Memorial in Almaty and manually recorded 20.7 by Liaquat Ali in the 2015 National Games. World Athletics only recognizes automatically recorded timings. Shajjar had earlier also created a national record of 100m by clocking 10.25 in Islamic Solidarity Games in less than a week after clocking 10.38 in Birmingham during Commonwealth Games. The Pakistani athlete finished first in his heat, followed by his countryman Mueed Baloch who clocked his personal best at 21.28.

Briefs

Russia launches Iranian satellite

DNA

ALMATY: An Iranian satellite launched by Russia blasted off from Kazakhstan Tuesday and reached orbit amid controversy that Moscow might use it to boost its surveillance of military targets in Ukraine. As Russia's international isolation grows following Western sanctions over its invasion of Ukraine, the Kremlin is seeking to pivot Russia towards the Middle East, Asia and Africa and find new clients for the country's embattled space programme. Russian space chief Yuri Borisov hailed "an important milestone in Russian-Iranian bilateral cooperation, opening the way to the implementation of new and even larger projects", speaking at the Moscow-controlled Baikonur cosmodrome in the Kazakh steppe. Iran's Telecommunications Minister Issa Zarepour, who also attended the launch, called the launch of the Khayyam satellite "historic" and "a turning point for the start of a new interaction in the field of space between our two countries".

Firefighters battle to contain Cuba depot blaze

MATANZAS: Helicopters and firefighters battled Tuesday to contain a days-old blaze at a fuel depot in Cuba that has already destroyed four tanks and was threatening four more. The fire, which started on Friday after lightning struck one of the tanks, left a 60-year-old firefighter dead and 14 colleagues missing, according to authorities. More than 100 people were reported injured, with 22 still hospitalized. About 5,000 people have been evacuated from around the disaster zone on the outskirts of Matanzas, an industrial city of 140,000 people some 100 kilometers (60 miles) west of Havana. As teams prepared Tuesday to try and douse the fire with foam, fears were rising that the blaze could threaten the fuel supply to thermochemical plants at a time Cuba is already battling electricity outages. Four military helicopters flew repeated sorties over the depot, dropping sea water on the blaze. "The firefighting teams continue to clear a path to the flames so the teams charged with applying the foam can get to the place," Matanzas governor Mario Sabines said on Twitter. He added that smoke from the fire had reduced visibility to near zero, and drones were deployed to provide a better view. - APP

Tunisian court revokes president's decision

DNA

TUNIS: A court in Tunisia on Wednesday halted the implementation of Tunisian President Kais Saied's decision to sack judges. Speaking to a local radio, the Administrative Court's spokesman, Imad Al-Ghabri, said on Wednesday the court had reviewed all the appeals against the president's June decision and decided to halt its implementation. The head of the Association of Young Judges, Murad al-Masoudi, said 47 appeals by the sacked judges were approved and included in the court's decision to revoke the president's decision. In June, President Kais Saied sacked 57 judges, accusing them of corruption and protecting terrorists. Several Tunisian parties and organizations, as well as the US and the rights group Amnesty International, condemned Saied's decision. Tunisia has been in the throes of a deep political crisis that aggravated the country's economic conditions since Saied ousted the government, suspended parliament and assumed executive authority in July 2021. He later dissolved the assembly after lawmakers held a session to challenge his measures. While Saied insists that his measures were meant to "save" the country, critics have accused him of orchestrating a coup.

Tough measures helped Pak avert Sri Lanka-like situation

"There were serious worries about Pakistan heading Sri Lanka's way and Pakistan getting into a default like situation but thankfully we made some significant changes..... I think we averted that situation"

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Miftah Ismail said Wednesday that Pakistan has successfully averted Sri Lanka like situation and the economy of the country was now heading in a right direction. "There were serious worries about Pakistan heading Sri Lanka's way and Pakistan getting into a default like situation but thankfully we made some significant changes..... I think we averted that situation," the minister said in an interview with CNBC television channel. He said that the country was now in International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme while a staff level agreement has already been signed and approval from

IMF board for release of funds under the Extended Fund Facility is expected to be given by end of this month (August). The minister said, the country was headed in a right direction adding that due to reduction in demand, the interest rates has been increased. The imports have also gone down whereas the Pakistani rupee has appreciated by around 7 percent against dollar during last week. The minister said that the tough decision and measures taken by the government had affected people of the country, however government had no other option to save economy from collapsing. He said, the international fuel prices increased while the com-



modity and edible oil prices also surged, creating challenging environment at international level. He said, the Pakistan economy was not in position to absorb the international price-hike shocks and

that was why the government had to pass on the price increase to the people to avert Sri Lanka like situation in the country. He said, Pakistan was passing through difficult times, however expressed the hope that the prices in international market would come down within a couple of months and would help reduce domestic inflation. The minister said that although the headline inflation was touching 25 percent however expressed the hope that it would come down as fuel and commodity prices decline, expecting that the inflation would remain around 12 percent. He said that there were imports of \$80 billion last year while the export stood at \$31 billion and

remittance \$30 billion, showing that the country had deficit of around \$20 billion. To a question about rise in interest rates, the minister said that it was State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to decide change in markup rates after taking into account several economic indicators. Talking about China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the minister said that it was a flagship project and Pakistan welcomed other countries including Afghanistan, Iran, Central Asian countries, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Oman to join it. He said, the regional countries could also benefit from it as the project could be of great benefit for people of the region.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Tax Ombudsman, Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah, cutting ribbon during the "Inauguration Ceremony of Facilitation Desk" at Federal Tax Ombudsman Secretariat. - DNA

UN envoy warns Israel Gaza ceasefire is 'fragile'

NEW YORK: The UN Security Council held an emergency meeting Tuesday to assess a fragile truce between Israel and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) militants in Gaza after three days of deadly fighting, with a UN envoy calling on all sides to abide by the agreement and the Council members denouncing the deliberate targeting of civilians, notably children. Tor Wennesland, the UN's special coordinator for the Middle East peace process, told an emergency meeting of the 15-member Council that the cycle of violence will only stop with a political resolution to the decades-old conflict that ends the Israeli occupation and includes a two-State solution, based on the June 1967

borders and in line with UN resolutions and international law. "The ceasefire remains in place as I speak," said Wennesland, updating on events between 5 and 7 August, which marked the worst outbreak of fighting since May 2021. Alongside efforts by the UN, Qatar, United States, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority, he welcomed Egypt's crucial role in brokering the accord. "Together these efforts helped prevent the outbreak of a full-scale war," he said, adding that it and allowed for the delivery of humanitarian relief into Gaza earlier that day. "The situation is still very fragile, and I urge all parties to observe the ceasefire." Wennesland said that 46

Palestinians were killed and 360 injured during the recent escalation, during which Israel launched 147 strikes on Gaza and Palestinian Islamic Jihad fired 1,100 rockets and mortars into Israel. Hundreds of homes and other civilian infrastructure were destroyed. The figures are provisional and "verification is ongoing," he added. "While fully recognizing Israel's legitimate security concerns I reiterate that under international law, all use of force must be proportionate and take all feasible steps to avoid civilian casualties," Wennesland said. "Children, in particular, must never be the target of violence or put in harm's way." Wennesland

said that the escalation had exacerbated already chronic shortages of essential medicines in Gaza, and that the closure by Israel of the Erez crossing into the Strip for six days had severe humanitarian consequences for Gazans, including preventing patients traveling for medical treatment in Israel. "The closures also worsened the already precarious food-security situation in the Gaza Strip, reducing stocks of basic foods, particularly wheat flour," he said. Wennesland thanked Egypt for the role it played in securing the ceasefire, alongside the UN, and also thanked Qatar, Jordan, the US and the Palestinian Authority for their deescalation efforts. - APP

LOCA strongly condemns Pelosi's visit

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Lahore Overseas Chinese Association (LOCA) strongly condemned the visit of the US House of Representatives Speaker Pelosi to Taiwan. According to Gwadar Pro on Wednesday, LOCA office-bearers jointly voiced that Pelosi's crazy move to visit Taiwan, China, is a serious violation of China's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, serious damage to the peace and stability of the Taiwan Straits, and a threat to regional and world peace. Luo Jianxue, president of Lahore Overseas Chinese Association, pointed out in the denouncement that,

Pelosi, disregarded China's solemn representations and firm opposition, insisted on visiting Taiwan, China on August 2, seriously undermining the peace and stability of the Taiwan Straits. It is a serious violation of the one-China principle and the three Sino-US joint communiqués, and a serious violation of international law and basic norms governing international relations. Chi Riming, vice president of Lahore Overseas Chinese Association, pointed out Pelosi's crazy move seriously hurt the feelings of all Chinese sons and daughters in the world! Ms. Gao Sujing, Deputy Secretary-General of Lahore Overseas Chinese Association, said that "Overseas Chinese firmly support all countermeasures taken by China. We firmly oppose any conspiracy attempt to obstruct China's reunification and great national rejuvenation!" Zeng Qingqiang, Lahore Overseas Chinese Association official and general manager of BYTER CROP PROTECTION in Pakistan, said: "Taiwan has been China's territory since ancient times, and it is an inalienable part of China's territory. Any conspiracy to split Taiwan will eventually be judged by history."

Azerbaijan, Algeria eyeing bolstering relations

"Meeting between Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan and Algeria with the participation of delegations from both sides has started," the ministry tweeted

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has welcomed in Baku Ramtane Lamamra, Algerian foreign minister and special presidential representative, Azernews reports, citing the ministry. "A tete-a-tete meeting between Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Bayramov Jeyhun and Ramtane Lamamra, Minister of Foreign Affairs and National Community Abroad of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Special Representative of Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune has just started," the ministry wrote on its Twitter page on August 10. Following the one-on-one discussion, the sides held the expanded meeting of the delegations. "Meeting

between Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan and Algeria with the participation of delegations from both sides has started," the ministry tweeted. Bayramov welcomed the guest and conveyed his sincere congratulations on the 60th anniversary of Algeria's independence. The minister emphasized that there is a wide potential for the further development of friendly and cooperative relations between Azerbaijan and Algeria. Talking about the importance of political dialogue and mutual visits between the two countries, the minister mentioned the historic visit of former Algerian President Abdelkader Bensalah to Azerbaijan to participate in the XVIII Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement and his meeting with the Azer-



bajani president in October 2019. The minister noted with pleasure the participation of the Chairman of the National People's Assembly of Algeria, Ibrahim Boughali, in the Baku Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement Parliamentary Network, as well as the participation of the Algerian representative in the Youth Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement. Bayramov spoke about Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan for 30 years, the post-conflict situation in the region after the 44-day war

China-Pak animated film screened at Chinese film festival

Divided into 10 exhibition themes, the 2022 Origin Western Film Festival involves 31 films with a total of 300 screenings

BEIJING: The first China-Pakistan co-produced animated film, Allahyar and the Legend of Markhor, has been on display at the 2022 Origin Western Film Festival in China's northwestern city of Xi'an since August 5th, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday. The only foreign film in the 7-day exhibition, Allahyar and the Legend of Markhor is shown in two of the 15 designated cinemas and theatres in Xi'an, with a total of seven showings, according to the official statement of the film festival. It is to be noted that the markhor-themed animated film premiered in China on December 19th, 2021 as part of the activities to celebrate the 70th anniversary of China-Pakistan diplomatic ties, and it was set for theatrical release across the Chinese mainland on December 25, 2021. The film is also the second Pakistani animated film released in China after the Donkey King, which becomes the best-performing Pakistani film with a record box office in China. The animated film is a co-production by Xi'an Bailu Fenghe Tourism Culture Communication Co., LTD., Xinying Jiayin (Xinyi) Film Culture Development Co., LTD., Danxi Pictures (Xiamen) Culture Media Co., LTD., and the 3rd World Studios (Pakistan). Divided into 10 exhibition themes, the 2022 Origin Western Film Festival involves 31 films with a total of 300 screenings. The film festival was hosted by Western Film Group, Shaanxi Broadcasting and Television Cultural Industry Development Co., Ltd., Shaanxi Film Industry Association, and Xi'an Chenshuo Film Co., Ltd, CEN added. - DNA

Pakistani volunteer assists anti Covid efforts in China

"I'm living here for the past 20 years and witnessed China's competence and success in fighting against Covid"

BEIJING: A well-known Pakistani businessman Ashraf Hussain is assisting Yiwu 'anti-epidemic force as a volunteer for a couple of days, which is appreciated by Chinese and foreigners around China. Wearing a full protective kit and a face shield, Ashraf rendered his service in the Choujiang local community where he lives. His tasks were to guide foreigners and Chinese in registration and following the rules on the side. Ashraf Hussain has been doing business in Yiwu city, for the past 20 years and has also been volunteering for the Pakistani community in Yiwu city for the past 15 years. He is closely coordinating with the local municipal government and Yiwu foreign office to help Pakistanis and other foreigners as well. "I'm living here for the past 20 years and witnessed China's competence and success in fighting against COVID-19. I'm very happy to help foreigners and my Chinese brothers and sisters. The reason is very simple, as we Pakistanis consider China as our second home. Therefore, we care like family", he told China Economic Net. The local city government and Pakistani community are acknowledging the valuable services of Ashraf Hussain, who is one of the prominent service providers to the Pakistani community in this city. "My main responsibilities were to maintain order in the queue, problem with health QR code, translation and also solve other relevant problems in a timely manner", Ashraf mentioned. He believes that taking on such kinds of responsibilities helps experts get more understanding of local culture and one may adjust easily to the new living environment. - APP

Annual US consumer inflation up 8.5%

DNA

WASHINGTON: Annual consumer inflation in the US rose 8.5% in July, easing from the 9.1% yearly gains in June, when it marked the largest 12-month increase since November 1981, according to Department of Labor figures released on Wednesday. The consumer price index (CPI), which measures changes in the prices of goods and services from a consumer's perspective, was lower than the market estimate of a 8.7% annual increase. On a monthly basis, CPI in July remained unchanged from the previous month, again beating market expectations for a 0.2% increase. The monthly CPI increase in June was 1.3%. "There were some indexes that declined in July, including those for airline fares, used cars and trucks, communication, and apparel," the Department of Labor said in a statement. Core CPI, which excludes food and energy, increased 0.3% in July from the previous month, again below the market expectation for a 0.5% gain. In June, core CPI had posted a monthly increase of 0.7%. Annually, core CPI rose 5.9% in July year-on-year, similarly below the market forecast of 6.1%, after gaining 5.9% in June from the same month a year ago.

Greeks grapple with energy costs

DNA

ATHENS: Like many other European countries, Greece has been facing the challenge of the energy crisis in recent months. The Russia-Ukraine war has created chaos not only in geopolitical terms but in the everyday lives of citizens across Europe. Greeks are among those greatly affected, facing challenges on various fronts, including rising costs for electricity, fuel, and essential commodities. The government has offered some help with electricity bills and fuel vouchers, but with price hikes affecting almost everything, it seems like a drop in the ocean. With a gross monthly minimum wage of 713 (\$728), salaries in Greece are considered low compared to other European countries. Greeks are struggling to get by, and with monthly electricity bills exceeding 1,000 (\$1,022), a new crisis appears to be brewing. The World Bank has warned that the war in Ukraine will not only drive up energy prices but also food costs for the next three years, resembling the crises of the 1970s.

Algeria to host joint military exercises with Russia

DNA

MOSCOW: A Russian military facility announced Tuesday that joint military exercises with the Algerian armed forces will take place in November in Algeria. The press service of the Southern Military District told reporters on Tuesday that the joint Russian-Algerian anti-terrorist drills dubbed Desert Shield 2022 will take place in Algeria's desert for the first time. The exercise will be held at the Hammaguir testing ground in Bechar Province near the border with Morocco, TASS reported. The press service specified that the drills would involve about 80 soldiers from motor rifle units stationed in the North Caucasus and about 80 Algerian soldiers. During the exercise, the forces will practice search, detection and elimination of terrorist groups in the desert setting. The first joint Russian-Algerian drills took place in North Ossetia in October 2021 with a total of about 200 soldiers participating and about 40 units of combat and special equipment involved. According to some observers, the exercises are a response to the "African Lion" military drills, which took place in Morocco in June and caused uproar in Algeria due to Israel's participation for the first time. Algeria's specialized website Mena Defense said the type of exercises conducted by the Algerian and Russian paratroopers are "tactical."

Briefs

Up to 50 missing after migrant boat sinks off Greece

AGENCIES

ATHENS: An air and sea rescue operation was underway Wednesday after around 50 people went missing when a migrant boat sank in the Aegean Sea, the Greek coastguard said. The vessel foundered at dawn off the islands of Karpathos and Rhodes after setting sail on Tuesday from Antalya, southern Turkey, heading for Italy. "According to the statements of 29 rescued people, there were 80 people on the boat, so up to 50 people are missing," a coastguard press official told AFP. But state television channel ERT said the number of people on board had been between 30 and 60. Coastguard spokesman Nikos Kokkalis told the channel: "It's not possible that the boat could have been transferring 80 migrants. We are talking about a lower number." The rescue effort, ordered by merchant shipping minister Yannis Plakiotakis, according to a coastguard statement, included four vessels already sailing in the southern Aegean, two coastguard patrol boats and a Greek air force helicopter. Strong winds of up to 50 kilometres per hour (30 mph) were hampering the operation, Kokkalis told Skai radio.

Trump refuses to answer questions in probe

AGENCIES

NEW YORK: Former U.S. President Donald Trump said on Wednesday he refused to answer questions during an appearance before the New York state attorney general in a civil investigation into his family's business practices. "I declined to answer the questions under the rights and privileges afforded to every citizen under the United States Constitution," Trump said in a statement. The Constitution's Fifth Amendment offers protection against self-incrimination. New York State Attorney General Letitia James is looking into whether the Trump Organization inflated real estate values. Trump and two of his adult children, Donald Trump Jr. and Ivanka Trump, fought to avoid testifying but lost. James has said her investigation uncovered significant evidence that the Trump Organization, which manages hotels, golf courses and other real estate, overstated asset values to obtain favorable loans and understated the values to get tax breaks.

French ambassador hosts farewell dinner

An emotional send-off to DHM Yves Manville

The outgoing Deputy Head of Mission French embassy all praise for Pakistani friends



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of France Nicolas Galey speaking during the reception. - DNA

ANSAR M BHATTI/DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador France Nicolas Galey hosted a farewell reception for the outgoing Deputy Head of Mission Yves Manville who is leaving Pakistan in September after completing his term. Ambassador Galey was all praise for the great diplomatic and communications skills of Mr. Yves and admitted he learnt a lot from his experience. The ambassador said it was a pity that he was leaving but then that is what diplomacy is all about, he added. The ambassador said Mr. Yves will of course be heading towards yet another destination, which he cannot announce yet but for sure the new destination will match his talent and expectations. The ambassador particularly mentioned his professional role during the pandemic and the carica-



ISLAMABAD: Members of Eurasia group posing for a picture during the reception hosted by the French ambassador for Yves Manville. - DNA

tures issues. In both cases, Yves put in his best efforts to handle the situations effectively. Ambassador Nicolas Galey could not resist himself by praising Mr. Yves for his objective and in-depth analysis about the political and economic situation of Pakistan. The veracity and accuracy of his analysis proves himself to be an expert on the regional matters having deep knowledge of Pakistan polity. The ambassador wished him best of luck for his all future endeavors. The outgoing Deputy Head of Mission Yves Manville in his rather emotional remarks thanked the Ambassador of France for hosting a farewell dinner and providing him with an opportunity of meeting with a galaxy of friends. Yves particularly mentioned Iqram Seghal whom he met for the first time in Brussels during the water conference. Since then, he said Mr. Iqram has been a close friend from whom he

had learned a lot of things. He also made a mention of the book of Iqram Seghal and termed it a great source of information and learning. Yves Manville thanked the presence of the members of the Eurasia group including the Additional Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs and former MOFA spokesperson Aysha Farooqi. It may be mentioned here that The University of Le Havre, the largest port in France (and ranked ninth largest port in Europe) hosted the eighth session of a Europe-Asia symposium devoted to the emergence of Eurasia (under the title: "The completion of Eurasia?"), in May 2022. For the first time, representatives of Pakistan were invited, including a representative of the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Four Pakistanis, two women and two men, two online and two physically, had attended the event.

2 terrorists killed in exchange of fire

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Two terrorists were killed during an exchange of fire with security forces in the Kulachi area of Dera Ismail Khan district on Wednesday, according to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). The military's media affairs wing said in a statement that on August 10, an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded on a police vehicle in the area. "The army's Quick Reaction Force immediately reached and cordoned off the site," it stated. Resultantly, the ISPR said, an exchange of fire took place with terrorists in which two militants were killed.

Commander Iraqi Navy visits Naval Headquarters

DNA

Islamabad: Commander of Iraqi Navy Lt General Ahmed Jasim Maarj Abdullah Al Zayid called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. Upon arrival at Naval Headquarters, Commander of Iraqi Navy was received by the Naval Chief and was presented Guard of Honour. Afterwards, the Honorable Guest was introduced to Principal Staff Officers at Naval Headquarters. Commander of Iraqi Navy called on Chief of the Naval Staff in his office. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest including bilateral collaborations and regional maritime security milieu were discussed. The Naval Chief highlighted Pakistan Navy initia-



tive of Regional Maritime Security Patrols for ensuring maritime security and peace in the region. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan Navy's efforts and initiatives in support of collaborative maritime security in the region. Later, Commander of Iraqi Navy was given detailed briefing on Pakistan Navy roles and operational capabilities.

It is expected that the recent visit of Commander of Iraqi Navy will further enhance bilateral collaboration between the two countries. Separately, Lieutenant General Ahmed Jasim Maarj Abdullah Al Zayid, Commander Iraqi Navy also called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office. During

the meeting, both the dignitaries discussed matters of professional and mutual interest. While appreciating professionalism of Pakistan Air Force, Lieutenant General Ahmed Jasim Maarj Abdullah Al Zayid acknowledged PAF's rising indigenous capacity in aviation industry. The Air Chief said that Pakistan and Iraq have longstanding religious, cultural and historical bonds which were manifested through strong military ties between the two countries. The Air Chief further said, "Pakistan values its deep-rooted relations with Iraq, which are based on convergence on all important issues relating to operations & training, evolving paradigm of warfare, emerging technological challenges, counter security measures and regional peace & stability".

Pakistan denounces India's move regarding 14 August

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday strongly denounced the Modi-led BJP government's move to mark August 14 - Pakistan's independence day - as 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day'. The Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson said that the "revisionist" BJP-RSS regime "sought to hypocritically and one-sidedly invoke the tragic events and mass migration that occurred in the wake of Independence in 1947". According to the foreign ministry, the BJP's "deplorable" aim, as part of its divisive political agenda, was "wantonly attempting to play with the sentiments of the people through distorted interpretation of history". "If the Indian leaders genuinely care about agony, suffering and pain, they must work to improve the conditions of the Muslims and other minorities in India," said the statement. The MoFA stated that the last seven decades were replete with "undeniable proof that India's espousal of secularism was a sham". "The fact is that today's India is an undeclared 'Hindu Rashtra' that has no place or tolerance for other religious minorities, especially Muslims who are faced with discrimination, persecution and political and socio-economic exclusion." The FO advised New Delhi to desist from politicising events related to Independence and instead sincerely honour the memories of those who made sacrifices for a better future for all.

Sanjrani reiterates 'One-China' policy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has reiterated Pakistan's strong commitment to the 'One-China' Policy and reaffirmed Parliament and the people of Pakistan's unflinching support for China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Pakistan is deeply concerned over the evolving situation in the Taiwan Strait, and Parliament of Pakistan believes that it has serious implications for regional peace and stability", he underlined. Chairman Senate of Pakistan Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani remarked that the world is already reeling through a critical security situation due to conflicts, with destabilising implications for international food and energy security. Parliamentarians in Pakistan are of the view that the world cannot afford another crisis after the ongoing conflict in Ukraine that has negative consequences for global peace, security and economy, he added further.

Man arrested for killings that shook New Mexico

NEWS DESK

ALBUQUERQUE: A Muslim immigrant from Afghanistan has been arrested as the prime suspect in the serial killings of four Muslim men that rattled the Islamic community of New Mexico's largest city, police said on Tuesday. After days bolstering security around Albuquerque-area mosques, seeking to allay fears of a shooter driven by anti-Muslim hate, police said on Tuesday they had arrested 51-year-old Muhammad Syed, one among the city's Islamic immigrant community. Authorities said the killings may have been rooted in a personal grudge, possibly with intra-Muslim sectarian overtones. All four victims were of Afghan or Pakistani descent. One was killed in November, and the other three in the last two weeks. A search of the suspect's Albuquerque home uncovered "evidence that shows the offender knew the victims to some extent, and an inter-personal conflict may have led to the shootings," police said in a statement announcing the arrest. Investigators are still piecing together motives for the killings of the four men, Deputy Commander Kyle Hartsock of the Albuquerque Police Department said at a news conference. In response to reporters' questions, Hartsock said sectarian animus

by the suspect toward his fellow Muslim victims may have played a role in the violence. "But we're not really clear if that was the actual motive, or if it was part of a motive, or if there is just a bigger picture that we're missing," he said. Syed has a record of criminal misdemeanors in the United States, including a case of domestic violence, over the last three or four years, Hartsock said. Police credited scores of tips from the public in helping investigators locate a car that detectives believed was used in at least one of the killings and ultimately track down the man they called their "primary suspect" in all four slayings. Syed was formally charged with two of the homicides: those of Aftab Hussein, 41, and Muhammed Afzaal Hussain, 27, killed on July 26 and Aug. 1, respectively, Albuquerque Police Chief Harold Medina told the briefing. The latest victim, Nayeem Hussain, 25, a truck driver who became a U.S. citizen on July 8, was killed on Friday, hours after attending the burial of the two men slain in July and August, both of them of Pakistani descent. The three most recent victims all attended the Islamic Center of New Mexico, Albuquerque's largest mosque. They were all shot near Central Avenue in southeastern Albuquerque.

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