



Islamabad POST

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Ambassador Moeen Ul Haq received Sitaria-e-Imtiaz

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Malaysia to continue capacity building programs

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Diana knew she would die in an accident: Report

Detailed News On Page-08



Briefs

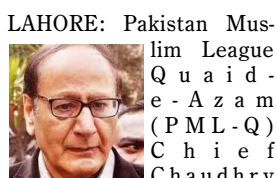
Pak wants close ties with C. Asia



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Thursday reiterated that the government's "Vision Central Asia" was aimed at building sustainable and result-oriented engagement with Central Asian Republics (CARs). The vision focused on political, trade and investment, energy and connectivity, security and defence, and people-to-people exchanges, he added. — APP

PM focused on economic stability

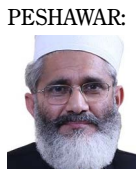
BUREAU REPORT



LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League Q u a i d e - A z a m (P M L - Q) C h i e f Shujaat Hussain has vowed to support the federal government for the economic betterment of the country. Addressing the party's executive committee session, the PML-Q Chief said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is leading the country in the right direction. He is focused on economic stability rather than carrying out victimizing campaigns, he added. Chaudhry Shujaat added that they have to prioritize the economy over politics. The country will progress only when inflation and poverty are controlled, he added.

Talks with TTP is govt's responsibility

DNA



PESHAWAR: Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) chief Sirajul Haq on Thursday said that it is the government's responsibility to negotiate with the proscribed Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). During the press conference in Peshawar, the JI chief said that the people are not ready to bear any more terror situations, adding that now the government will be responsible if any incident happened. A government that cannot protect the people has no right to rule, he said. "A movement has been started against inflation and electricity bills are a big problem, WAPDA authorities are collecting 13 different types of taxes from people, all taxes in electricity bills are illegal," Siraj said.

Imran asks 'neutrals' to redo policies

Blames Establishment for his 'ouster'; says country heading towards precipice

SHUJAAT HAMZA/DNA

ISLAMABAD: PTI chairperson Imran Khan told the "neutrals" to review their policies as there is still time left to make changes and the decisions taken behind closed doors are not in the country's interests. Speaking during a seminar related to freedom of expression, the former prime minister said that the establishment imposed these "thieves" upon Pakistan. "How did the establishment let them [the current government] rule us knowing about the foreign conspiracy? This is because they have the most power right now," said the former premier. "No matter how much you [the establishment] call yourself neutral, the nation will blame you for imposing this government on us," he added. The former premier said that it [the establishment] is forcing us to accept these thieves and for that, they are spreading fear among the nation. "They are calling our MNAs and pressuring us to accept this government," he revealed. The PTI chairman claimed that the government "picks up" his party's social media activists and

Continued on Page 06

PTI announces schedule for rallies

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The PTI Thursday announced its schedule for rallies across Pakistan after postponing its August 19's Karachi jalsa. Addressing a press conference in the port city, PTI leader Ali Zaidi said that the public gathering that was to be held in Karachi tomorrow (Friday) has been postponed due to torrential rains across the province. "The decision has been taken after consultations with party chairperson Imran Khan," he said, adding that all preparations were complete; however, precautions are being taken keeping in view the weather forecast. Schedule of PTI's upcoming 'power shows' As per the schedule released by the PTI, Imran Khan will address 17 jalsas from different cities. The details of these rallies are as follows:

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Imran's tenure as PM a dark chapter

Says Imran Khan a liar, corrupt, foreign agent, media enemy and a hypocrite



ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Marriyam Aurangzeb addressing a press conference. — DNA

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD, Terming PTI Chairman Imran Khan's tenure as prime minister as a dark chapter for media in Pakistan, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyam Aurangzeb said on Thursday that the media organizations and journalists should recall the anti-media track record of the PTI regime before attending his media seminar. In a statement and then addressing a press conference she said that the enemy of media (Imran Khan) who was

what she called "economic murderer" of the media should feel ashamed on conducting the media seminar. Imran Khan indulged in media enmity while sitting in the Prime Minister's chair. She said that Imran Khan was a liar, corrupt, foreign agent, media enemy and a hypocrite and the media had to decide whether to attend the seminar of a person who used the National Accountability Bureau as a tool to suppress media freedom. "The media has to decide whether or not to attend the media seminar of the founder of Pakistan Media Regulatory Authority, which was established by the previous government to control the media. She urged Imran to stop the farce of the media seminar as during his four years rule the media's voice was muzzled and Mir Shakeel-ur-Rehman was arrested by NAB to weaken the national media. "PFUJ, CPNE and PBA will have to decide whether to attend the "media weakening seminar", he media has to decide whether to go to the media seminar of the persons who strangled journalism, during whose tenure firing was done on journalists, the one who imposed unprecedented restrictions on media. The minister said that the media will have to decide whether to participate

Continued on Page 06

Amidst rising terror; tensions Taliban analyzes one-year rule

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR—Amidst rising violent acts in Kabul and other surrounding areas, growing global pressure for respecting Human Rights, the Taliban leaders assembled its own stalwarts and leading ulema in Qandahar in a bid to discuss one year performances and future strategies. It seems to be the first ever high profile gathering where, besides others, there are reports of Taliban supreme leader Haibat Ullah Akhund's appearance for a while. Prior to Thursday gathering being attended by around 3,000 ulema and leading figures of Tehrik Taliban Afghanistan also called Emirate Islami, the interim regime recently sustained a number of deadly terror acts. Besides others these violent acts are included over half a dozen suicide or bomb attacks against leading ulema and worshippers in Mosques and Imambargahs, targeting Al Qaeda chief Dr. Aiman Al Zawahiri in alleged US drone attack, hundreds scores of targeted killing—mostly alleged rivals

and forced disappearance followed by mysterious murder of those who remain occupants of offices in previous democratic regime. The latest bomb explosion occurred in a mosque called Masjid Sedeqya at Kabul's city late on Wednesday night caused lives to 21 and injuries to over 30 others. A leading Khateeb, stated supporter of Emirate Islami namely Mullah Amir Mohammad Kabul, was the prime target of bombers. So far no any group or individual publically claimed responsibility for Wednesday night bomb attack against Khateeb and worshippers in Kabul city area, called Khairkhan but the Taliban rulers are blaming the militants associated with the Islamic States, called also Daaesh. Since empowering of Taliban in mid August last year, Taliban leadership have accused the IS militants of carrying out deadly terror acts including bomb attacks and targeted killing. Besides Taliban regime, neighbouring Pakistan and several other US lead allies have also been made uncertain due to IS terror

based activities across Afghanistan. International media quoting eyewitness, states "a resident of the city's Kher Khana neighborhood where the Siddiquiya Mosque was targeted, the explosion was carried out by a suicide bomber." Though Taliban discourages media reports and access to violence sites yet Afghan government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid has denounced the attack and like in the recent past claimed that the "perpetrators of such crimes will soon be brought to justice and will be punished." Media reports pouring in Peshawar reveal that the Taliban held a well attended gathering, second of its nature since the end of previous June in Kandahar on Thursday. The office holders in the provincial government said around 3000 delegates from all over Afghanistan turned to the event, being held amidst tight security. The event was addressed by a number of Taliban leaders and ministers who described in depth their one year performances and highlighted future strategies and objectives including relations with the rest of the world.

DNA



ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Australia Neil Hawkins in a meeting with the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif. — DNA

CENTCOM Chief holds one-on-one talks with Gen Bajwa

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Commander US CENTCOM along with delegation visited GHQ. Commander CENTCOM had one on one meeting with COAS. Matters of mutual interest, regional security situation & stability, defence and security co-operation particularly military to military ties were discussed during the meeting. The one on one call was followed by delegation level meeting. Pakistan Army's counter terrorism efforts and significant contributions towards regional peace and stability were discussed. Pakistan - US military

Continued on Page 06

Erdogan warns of new 'Chernobyl'

LVIV: Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned Thursday of a nuclear disaster in Ukraine during his first face-to-face talks with President Volodymyr Zelensky since Russia's invasion began, echoing pleas from the UN's chief. A flare up in fighting around Europe's largest nuclear facility in Russian-controlled southern Ukraine has sparked urgent warnings from world leaders and UN chief Antonio Guterres cautioned during talks with Erdogan that any damage to the plant would be akin to "suicide". "We are worried. We don't want another Chernobyl," Erdogan

Continued on Page 06

Australian HC meets Shehbaz

Pak desires peaceful ties with India: PM

Calls for just solution of the Kashmir issue; says relations with Australia excellent

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The newly appointed Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. The Prime Minister appreciated the steady progress achieved in bilateral relations over the years and reaffirmed Pakistan's strong desire and commitment to further enhance cooperation in diverse fields such as trade and investment, agriculture including wheat production, livestock including cattle raising, educational and technical cooperation, direct air-links, skilled migration, and people-to-people contacts. The Australian High Commissioner reciprocated the desire for further strengthening of bilateral relations and conveyed profound gratitude for Pakistan's facilitative role in safe evacuation of their nationals and others from Afghanistan. The Prime Minister highlighted the cooperation that Pakistan continued to extend to the international community in the wake of the situation in Afghanistan, particularly

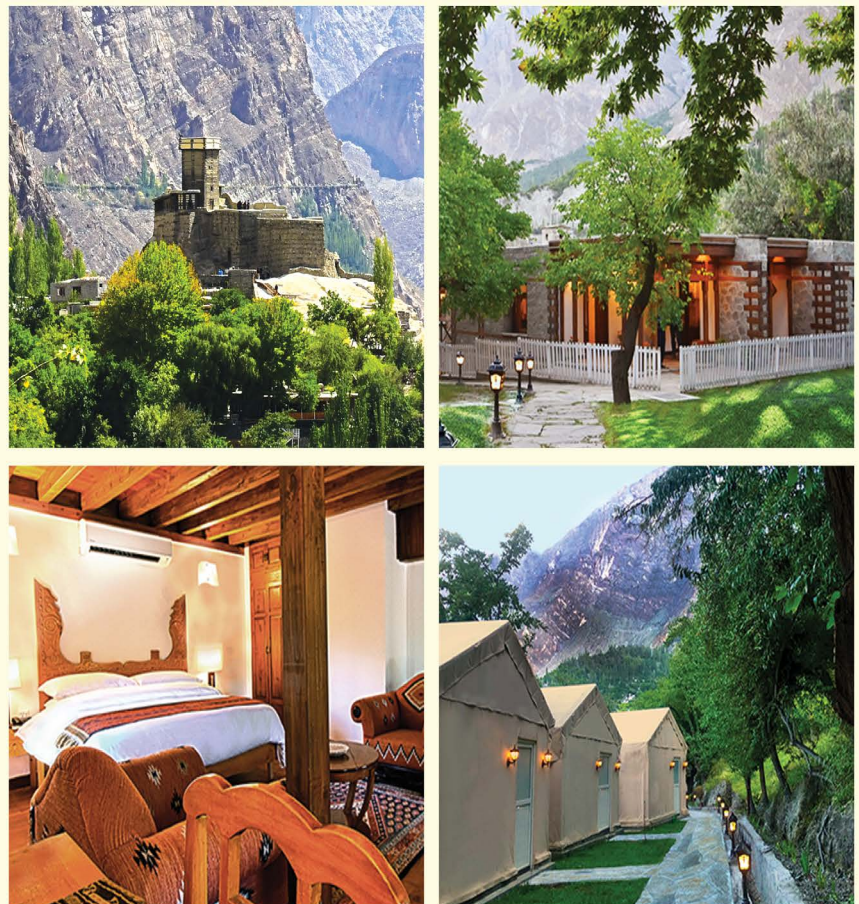
Imran confusing people: PM

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday said Imran Niazi was confusing people by distorting facts, playing mind games and was insulting intelligence of people through deceitful speech. In a tweet on social media platform Twitter, he said, "This is what self-righteousness does to you: you consider yourself holy & above reproach despite flawed conduct in office. You confuse people by distorting facts. You play mind games & insult their intelligence through deceitful ways. Niazi's speech today was nothing but this."

since August last year. The Prime Minister added that Pakistan desired peaceful ties with India, based on the principles of equity,

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Malaysia to continue offering human capacity building programs — Page 08

CM Mahmood for special attention on plantation

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has directed the quarters concerned to pay special attention to plantation in urban areas during the ongoing Monsoon Plantation campaign and said that saplings with the capacity to grow into big trees be selected for plantation in urban areas. He further directed them to take strict actions against the use of plastic bags so as to make province polythene free. He issued these directives while chairing a meeting regarding Urban Plantation Drive held here the other day. Principal Secretary to CM Amjad Ali Khan and high ups of concerned

departments attended the meeting while divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners of the concerned districts joined the meeting through video link.

The meeting discussed threadbare the proposed strategy for plantation under the Urban Forestation Drive and took a number of important decisions. The chief minister on the occasion, directed the concerned administrative secretaries, divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners to execute the strategy chalked out for urban forestation drive in letter and spirit. He also directed the concerned authorities to plant the saplings on road sides, banks of canals, government schools, offices, hospitals and on all other available space. He further directed them to

engage citizens in plantation drive to make it a real success. Mahmood Khan said that those plants be selected for plantation which are suitable to the environment of concerned areas so as to achieve the desired results.

The chair directed the divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners to take indiscriminate actions against the use of plastic bags and said that the provincial government had made proper legislation for the purpose which needs to be implemented in true sense. Mahmood Khan said that urban plantation and ban on plastic bags both are of vital importance and inaction in this regard will not be tolerated at any cost adding that he himself would monitor the progress on monthly basis.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Egypt Tarek Mohamed Dahrough calls on Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif. – DNA

Egyptian Envoy calls on Defence Minister

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Egypt Tarek Mohamed Dahrough, on Thursday called on Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif and appreciated Pakistan's support and assistance for Egypt. The Defence Minister welcomed the Ambassador and assured him of all possible assistance in the promotion of relations especially in the field of Defence between Pakistan and Egypt, a news release said.

"Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Egypt and is focused to further strengthen the existing brotherly relations with Egypt," the Defence Minister said. Moreover, he also underscored the importance of cooperation in defence industry particularly through joint ventures and sharing of expertise in defence technology. The Ambassador highlighted the importance of cordial relations between two countries especially for issues pertaining to Muslim Ummah.

Both sides agreed to further strengthen the institutional framework for high level bilateral political engagement and to closely coordinate in the UN, OIC and D-8 countries organization. – APP

Court grants physical remand of sheikh danish

DNA

FAISALABAD: A local court on Thursday handed over the prime suspect – Sheikh Danish – to police on physical remand until August 23 in a case related to abduction and torture of a female medical student in Faisalabad, ARY News reported. Sheikh Danish, the main accused in the student torture case, was presented before the local magistrate, where the police sought five-day physical remand of Danish. The court approved the physical remand of prime suspect Danish for five days and adjourned further proceedings in the case. Angry lawyers today thrashed the prime suspect, who was produced before a sessions court today. The angry lawyers thrashed Danish for torturing the female student while another man hit the accused with a shoe. Meanwhile, the officials of the elite force intervened and took the prime suspect to a nearby court.

Ranjha sees Imran's disqualification

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan was going to be disqualified in the Toshakhana reference as he has not declared million of rupee assets, the amount he received from the sale of state gifts, said PML-N leader Mohsin Shah Nawaz Ranjha on Thursday. Talking to the media here at Islamabad outside ECP premises, he said according to the relevant law, the decision of the case against Imran Khan in the Election Commission was to be announced within 30 days.

The Election Commission has the power to send the matter to NAB or to take a decision on its own, he added. He said the entire nation and PTI workers will witness Imran's disqualification on technical grounds. He also added that Imran Khan had not mentioned the amount received by him after selling toshakhana gifts in his tax returns. "Imran Khan did not even leave the tea-set of the Prime Minister's house and he cites examples of Hazrat Umar (RA) sans following teachings of Islam," he said, challenging Imran to drag him in the court if he was lying. He said the cases of PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and the former president Asif Ali Zardari were different from this case, as they had declared their respective gifts in assets declaration.

Nawaz Sharif would soon return to Pa-

kistan and take part in the elections as the nation direly needed a genuine leadership, he added. Everyone including Nawaz Sharif should be provided a level playing field, he asserted. He said the general elections without Nawaz Sharif would not be considered as transparent. Meanwhile, the ECP adjourned the hearing of Toshakhana reference filed against the PTI chairman Imran Khan till August 22.

A five-member ECP bench headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja comprising Nisar Durrani, Justice(Retd) Ikramullah Khan, Shah Mohammad Jatoti, and Babar Bharwana heard the case. ECP ordered petitioner Ali Gohar Khan, Mohsin Nawaz Ranjha of the PML-N, and five others to share the copy of reference with the PTI lawyer. Imran's lawyer Barrister Gohar argued that his client was not a member of the National Assembly, therefore, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) cannot send a notice to him. On which the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) remarked that the National Assembly Secretariat had not sent the resignation to the commission and therefore Imran Khan was still the MNA. CEC ordered PTI chairman Imran Khan's counsel to provide the record in the Toshakhana reference. – APP

Pak-EU exchange of visits to boost exports

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of UK-Pakistan Business Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq Thursday said frequent exchange of Pak-EU high level delegations would boost exports, besides strengthening economic cooperation and trade relations. Talking to a delegation of importers and exporters led by President of Pak-British Friendship Council North UK Muhammad Arbab Khan, he said Pakistan always attached great importance to its relations with the European Union as well as cooperative bilateral trade ties with all the EU member states.

He expressed the hope that the upcoming visit of an EU parliamentary delegation to Pakistan and the next round of political and security dialogues under the EU-Pakistan Strategic Engagement Plan would pave a way for substantive cooperation between the two sides, besides improving trade and enhancing exports manifolds. Mian Kashif Ashfaq said the current GSP plus status was enhancing the mutually beneficial trade ties between the two sides and Pakistan would hopefully continue to be part of the arrange-

ments beyond 2023.

He urged the local exporters to also focus on imports in all EU member states, besides the UK, as the same were big markets for Pakistan. He said exports worldwide acknowledged as a major source of income of any country without of which no state could progress in any sphere of life. He said in the prevailing scenario, all countries - even developed and under-developed - accorded paramount importance and offered incentives in their respective states to increase exports. He said the UK-Pakistan Business Council - a non profit entity - was fully committed to facilitate the importers and exporters of either countries to promote trade and fortify economic cooperation between two countries. He said being a patriotic citizen of Pakistan, he bore all expenses of the council from his own pocket. Leader of the visiting delegation Muhammad Arbab Khan thanked Mian Kashif for extending cooperation and encouraging them for investment and joint ventures in their areas of mutual interests.

IHC seeks report from IGP regarding torture on Gill

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday directed the IGP Islamabad to submit an initial report by August 22, regarding the allegations of torture on Shahbaz Gill during police custody or in jail. The court order said since it was a serious matter and reflects upon the Islamabad Capital Territory Police, hence it is only appropriate that Inspector General of Police (IGP) submit a report as to the allegations of torture. The order also said that the additional superintendent Adiala Jail had no explanation when he was enquired about delay in handing over of the accused to the police after receiving the 'Robkar' of additional district and session court. He,

however, said the delay was due to the medical condition of accused.

It further said that the medical officer of Adiala Jail had said that the accused had asthma since childhood. The explanation tendered by the officials of Central Jail Adiala is not satisfactory hence they are directed to submit written explanation on this behalf and submit on next hearing along with relevant record. The court also served notices to additional superintendent Adiala Jail, medical officer and Islamabad police for clarification on allegation of torture on Shahbaz Gill during police custody or in jail. Earlier during hearing, Justice Aamer Farooq remarked that it had to be clarified that whether the accused was tortured or not.

Hotel One opens in Sargodha



DNA

SARGODHA: With 23 hotels in 16 locations across Pakistan, Hotel One opened its doors to the beautiful city of Sargodha on 16th August 2022. Located in the heart of the city, Hotel One Sargodha is surrounded by Airforce Club, Golf course, Mall of Sargodha, Daewoo and Skyway bus terminals. The hotel will attract both domestic and international guests, offering quality accommodation and services. Home to a total of 48 rooms split between 4th and 5th floor of the Burj Ismail Mall. The shopping mall includes a cinema, food court, playland, gym, pool, and

Al-Fatah supermarket. The hotel is designed to help guests feel energised, productive, and at home.

The Hotel opening ceremony was attended by Flt. Lt. (R) Imran Qureshi, Deputy Commissioner Sargodha, Mr. Chaudhary Shoaib Ahmed Basra, President of Sargodha Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI), Mr. Makhdoom Zafar Iqbal, Senior Vice President SCCI, Mr. Muhammad Hassan Yousaf, Vice President SCCI, Mr. Haji Muhammad, Chairman Ismail Sons (Pvt) Ltd., along with Mr. Ahmed Iqbal Saeed, Vice President Operations Hotel One, Mr. Haider Imam, Director Sales Hotel One,

Mr. Waqar A. Qureshi, Corporate Director Development Hashoo Hotels, and Mr. M. Ubaid Abbasi, Resident Manager Hotel One-Sargodha. The event was covered by representatives from Media Channels, including Discovery Pakistan.

Hotel One is known as the best-lect-service hotel chain, by Hashoo Group - the hospitality conglomerate, and the owners of five-star Pearl-Continental Hotels and Resorts, Marriott Hotels, and PC Legacy Hotels in Pakistan. Since 2006, Hotel One has continued to lead the budget-friendly, limited-service hotel industry by delivering value, convenience, and reliability across Pakistan.

UAF starts online registration

DNA

FAISALABAD: The University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) has started online registration for third entrance test to get admission in postgraduate degree programs at main campus and its sub-campuses including Toba Tek Singh, Burwala/Vehari and Depalpur Okara. According to Director Graduate Studies Dr Faisal Saeed Awan, the closing date for the online registration for the entrance test in MSc(H)/MPhil/ MS or PhD programs is Aug 24, 2022 and the test will be held on Aug 31, 2022. Candidates can visit the website uaf.edu.pk for online registration, he added.

UAF observes tree plantation day The University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) observed national tree plantation day on Thursday. In this regards, a seminar was held under the auspices of Department of Forestry and Green Youth Movement. Deans Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sarwar, Dr Sarfraz Hassan, Dr Qamar Bilal, Dr Asghar Bajwa, Treasurer Umer Saeed Qadri, Dr Jaffar Jaskani, Dr Tahir Siddique, Dr Farrukh Nawaz, Dr Rasheed Ahmad, Dr. Muhammad Irfan, Dr Haroon Rasheed and other notables attended the seminar and planted the trees.

Zong, Growtech connect for agriculture technology



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading Telecommunication Company, Zong 4G has entered into a strategic partnership with GROWTECH Services (www.growtechsol.com) - a leading agriculture-technology company operating in Pakistan. Through this agreement, GROWTECH Services will provide technological solutions to Zong subscribers, to overcome the agricultural challenges and meet the evolving needs of the farmers. GROWTECH is an agriculture technology company working on a data-driven, scientific basis, led by its team of experts and agronomists to remotely guide the farmer

communities, through their analytical advice and recommendations. It has also enabled Agri-commerce by empowering the farmers to buy inputs and sell outputs.

The agreement was signed between Mr. Faisal Bilal (founder) represented GROWTECH Services and the management of Zong 4G in the presence of officials from both entities. The collaboration with Growtech highlights and strengthens Zong 4G's position as the trusted communication and connectivity partner for corporations across Pakistan. The company's wide-range corporate portfolio offers flexible and cutting-edge services and solutions that are designed to meet the ever-evolving needs of the corporate sector.

Pakistani diplomats proved professionalism

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood Thursday said over the years Pakistani diplomats had proven their mettle on the world stage, earning praise for their skills and professionalism, from friend and foe alike. Talking to the position holders of 40th Specialized Diplomatic Course and trainee officers of 42nd Specialized Diplomatic Course, he said, "This is despite the relatively small size of our service, and the many constraints and challenges inherent in representing a developing country. I have no doubt that all of you will live up to the high standards set by your predecessors." "You will find that the Foreign Service of Pakistan is not just a career or a profession. It is a higher calling that demands dedication, hard work, and a commitment to the pursuit of excellence." "The Foreign Service Academy has come a long way since the time I

was a probationary officer."

"In those days, we were trained in a more modest establishment that was called the Foreign Service Training Institute. I am glad that young officers today have access to this much more spacious and better-equipped facility in the heart of Islamabad's Diplomatic Enclave." He said the ministry will of course continue to provide all possible support in the discharge of FSA's crucial mission. "Let me at the outset congratulate the young officers who received awards for their outstanding performance. This is obviously a moment of pride for them and their families, whose support is always the most critical factor in such success."

The Foreign Secretary said the awards were the rightful recognition of the hard work and dedication that participants had demonstrated during the training. "I have no doubt

that your achievement will inspire you to aspire towards even greater heights of professional excellence - both in the Ministry and in the Missions you would serve abroad."

"I am also pleased to get the opportunity for interface with the probationary officers of the most recent batch of the Foreign Service of Pakistan. I wish to extend a warm welcome to you to the Foreign Service family. You should take pride in becoming the latest entrants to a fraternity that has a long and proud history of providing meritorious service to the nation and safeguarding and promoting our national interests."

"Diplomacy in the 21st century is at once more challenging and more rewarding. Modern communications and social media have drastically shortened response times, and put aspects of diplomacy—that were once conducted quietly behind closed doors—

right in the public spotlight. I am sure that your time at the Academy would have sufficiently equipped you to deal with the challenges presented by a changed world."

He said, "Good diplomats must still have a deep understanding of the regional and international environment. They should have a sense of history, be able to analyze the present, and develop insights for the future. They should understand their country's core interests and be capable of effectively protecting and advancing them. Above all, they should never stop learning and always strive to improve themselves as professionals. In the end, there is no substitute for hard work, persistence and substance." He said he was sure that the Foreign Service Academy had provided the trainees with the requisite toolkit to navigate the challenges that lie ahead. – APP

Meeting held on jail reforms

PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dr Shahzad Khan Bangash, and Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi on Thursday jointly chaired a meeting on jail reforms. The meeting was also attended by Inspector General of Police, and Inspector General of Prisons, KP. The meeting reviewed the current prisons system and proposed reforms for improving it. The meeting was informed that KP government would build a jail in every district headquarter of the province. It was also informed that every jail would have separate and independent portion for women and juvenile prisoners, and sleeping space for every prisoner with adequate toilet and hygiene facilities.

The meeting was told that prisoners capacity of central jail Peshawar had been increased to 2,400, district jail Abbottabad to 808, 15 sub jails in merged districts to 894, sub jail Charsadda to 150, and sub jail Besham to 20 inmates. – APP

National Days and Armed Forces Days

AUGUST

Aug 01/ CHINA
Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/ SWITZERLAND
National Day

Aug 01/ LEBANON
Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/ SYRIA
Armed Forces Day

Aug 4/ BUKINO FASO
National Day

Aug 09/ SINGAPORE
National Day

Aug 15/ DPR KOREA
Independence Day

Aug 15/ INDIA
Independence Day

Aug 15/ POLAND
Armed Forces Day

Aug 17/ INDONESIA
Independence Day

Aug 24/ UKRAINE
Independence Day

Aug 25/ URUGUAY
Independence Day

Aug 30/ TURKEY
Armed Forces Day

Aug 31/ KYRGYZ
Independence Day

Aug 31/ MALAYSIA
National Day

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Rescue (Police).....15

Bomb Disposal.....15

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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

ICCI chief stresses need for productive entrepreneurs

Muhammad Shakeel Munir briefed the students about the working and functioning of ICCI and the initiatives being taken by the Chamber to resolve the key issues of business community and promote the interests of business community



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan needed productive entrepreneurs to create new jobs, introduce new technologies, increase productivity and enhance exports in order to steer the economy out of current troubles and put it on the path of sustainable growth, therefore, students should focus on entrepreneurship that offers them a prosperous career.

This was said by Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) while addressing a delegation of Bahria University students who visited ICCI led by Haroon Khan, Assistant Director, international Office, Bahria University, Islamabad along with Dr. hc. Sander Schroever from Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands who engages industry and corporate experts from Pakistan to deliver guest talks on contemporary business skills for students.

The visit was a part of International Summer School on the topic of "International Business Skills" being organized by the Bahria University in collaboration with Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands from August 15-20, 2022. Muhammad Shakeel Munir briefed the students about the working and functioning of ICCI and the initiatives being taken by the

Chamber to resolve the key issues of business community and promote the interests of business community. He informed the students about the contemporary business skills that were essential to succeed in the current competitive business environment. He also highlighted the importance of political stability for economic stability of the country and said that an environment marked by the political instability was not conducive for attracting the potential investors to the country.

Muhammad Faheem Khan, Vice President ICCI thanked the Bahria University students for visiting ICCI and hoped that their visit would be a good learning experience for them. The students asked many questions

to the business leaders about the growing sectors of Pakistan's economy, major export markets of, international standards for exports and other potential markets that could be tapped for exports. They also got many tips about becoming a successful entrepreneur and showed great interest in the talk given by the ICCI Office Bearers.

Haroon Khan, Assistant Director, international Office, Bahria University, Islamabad and Dr. hc. Sander Schroever from Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands thanked ICCI management for hosting the students and providing them useful tips about international business skills, entrepreneurship, exports, business and investment.

Relief operations by PAF in full swing

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Relief Operations for the flood affectees by Pakistan Air Force in South Punjab Region are in full swing. Food and medical facilities are being provided round the clock to the affected families by the relief teams of PAF. As a humanitarian gesture, 12155 pounds of basic food items and commodities were distributed amongst the needy families.

Moreover, 939 patients were also attended by the paramedical team of Pakistan Air Force. The recent floods have caused devastation in the low-lying areas of South Punjab Region, badly damaging the villages and infrastructure. Despite inclement weather conditions throughout the country, especially in flood stricken areas, PAF personnel are working hard to provide humanitarian assistance to flood affectees.

Legal formalities being fulfilled, says Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazir Tarar said on Thursday that the government would fulfill all legal formalities to bring Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shahbaz Gill to justice as no one was above the law. Responding to point of order raised by Leader of the Opposition in Senate Dr Shahzad Waseem, the minister for law said that law would take due course against Shahbaz Gill as no one could be lawfully interfered or punished by the authorities except for breach of law.

"Shahbaz Gill has been arrested for incitement against institutions and their leadership," Tarar said adding Shahbaz Gill was being prosecuted in accordance with the law of the land.

Earlier, Leader of the Opposition in Senate, Dr Shahzad Waseem condemned the alleged torture on Shahbaz Gill and quoted relevant laws which protect the weak from the mighty. He said that the state was silent despite the fact that the relevant constitutional clauses were being brazenly breached. Main purpose of torturing Shahbaz was to get favourable statement from him, he claimed. - APP

Trade with regional states key in boosting exports

ISLAMABAD: Trade with regional states can play a key role in boosting exports besides strengthening regional economic integration.

While talking to a delegation of industrialists and traders led by Syed Hussain Amir Jafri, Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis here Thursday said that private sector of Pakistan must fully exploit its potentials to maximum extent to explore investments avenues for joint ventures and exports in all the regional states which he added will not only enhance exports but also bring economic prosperity in the region.

He said unfortunately all other regional states except Pakistan are taking full advantage of promotion of bilateral and multilateral trade that's help stabilising their economies besides improving economic growth and cooperation. Expressing his concern, he said Pakistan's regional trade deficit has further yawned instead of increasing its volume.

Meher Kashif Younis said barter trade in local currency can effectively neutralise and minimise pressure on Pakistan rupees. He said Pakistan can comfortably at least exports upto US\$50 billion all over the world including nine regional states which included China, Afghanistan, Iran, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives. He said no one can rule out the vital significance of broadening regional trade to speed up exports and he urged the government to take immediate measures to focus on increasing intra regional trade on the classic pattern of ECO and D-8. - APP

Political parties asked to share miseries of flood affectees

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman on Thursday said that flash floods in the country swept away hundreds of houses, left families homeless, death toll increases, whereas people were facing shortage of medical supplies and food.

Taking the floor of the Senate, she said at a time when the country was facing natural calamities, the political parties instead of doing politics should come forward and share grief of flood victims. Criticizing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan, she said the former prime minister's 'misrule' had created an 'economic tsunami' in the country. She said in democratic society peaceful protest was the right of every citizen, but the law should not be taken into hands.

The PTI always demonstrated non-democratic attitude towards the leadership of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). "Our leaders had faced exile, but never uttered a single word against the state institutions, as PPP believes in the politics of principles," she maintained. She said Imran Khan's double standard has exposed to the nation as his party had hired a firm in the US to improve its image in the United States. - APP

AIOU conducts research training workshop

ISLAMABAD: A one-day training workshop on "How to write a winning research proposal" was organized by the Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) at AIOU, the other day. More than 70 faculty members attended the workshop. Former chairman, Pakistan Council for Science and Technology and Ex-Vice Chancellor, Haripur University, Prof. Dr Anwar-ul-Hassan Gilani was the resource person for the training workshop while Dr Muhammad Latif Gondal, Director ORIC, hosted the event. Prof. Dr Anwar-ul-Hassan said that Allama Iqbal Open University had earned a lot in the field of education and research in recent years. Research activities are on the rise in the tenure of Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum. He explained the difference between a research proposal, manuscript, research paper, and thesis in detail. Dr Anwar also highlighted the elements of a research proposal, different types of sponsors for obtaining grants, and details of the National Research Program for Universities by the Higher Education Commission (HEC). - APP

3 million to be enrolled under Benazir Taleemi Wazaif Program

ISLAMABAD: Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) has set a target to enroll three million additional children by financial year 2022-23 through the allocation of Rs35 billion under the Benazir Taleemi Wazaif Program, a Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) initiative. According to the details shared by the BISP, so far eight million children have been enrolled under this initiative through disbursement of Rs40 billion.

Benazir Taleemi Wazaif, initiated in 2012, has been focusing on school enrollment and reducing the dropout rate of children of BISP beneficiaries through cash incentives. The objective behind this program was creating awareness amongst beneficiary families on importance of education, increasing enrollment rates and reducing the dropout rate by ensuring the retention. The program enrolls the children of Benazir Kafalat beneficiary family, aged between 0-42 years, from Primary to Grade 12.

The program includes quarterly disbursement of Rs1500 for primary, Rs2500 for secondary and Rs3500 for higher secondary to the boy child while the quarterly disbursement of Rs2000 for primary, Rs3000 for secondary and Rs4000 for higher secondary to the girl child. The program is providing higher stipend for girl child, with a one-time graduation bonus of Rs3000 on completion of primary education.

The cash transfer is linked with 70 percent school attendance. The biometric based payment mechanism is in place while the stipend is paid through the

mother of enrolled children.

The program is being executed through end-to-end digital enrollment and monitoring mechanism to minimize leakage to ensure transparency in implementation. The program has helped increase the proportion of children currently enrolled in schools by 13 percent points for boys and 15 percent points for girls.

The school enrollment rates in BISP households are significantly higher for those supported by the CCT (81 percent) as compared to those who are not (60 percent). The average attendance rate for both boys and girls is significantly above the minimum required (70 percent). On average boys had attendance rate of 83 percent and girls had 81 percent. - APP

Pak to follow Chinese model of economic development

The Minister said that in 2013, the government of Pakistan started Special Economic work on nine Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under CPEC but during the previous regime," We could not complete even one of them"

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday said Pakistan would follow the Chinese model of economic development, which he said was a miracle of modern times.

According to the Chinese, modern economic development is possible only with the continuation of political stability, social solidarity and economic policies; Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal said this while addressing China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Green Development, High Level Dialogue organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) here.

The Minister said that Pakistan has always lacked political stability and continuity in economic policies due to which economic development has not been possible.

Ahsan Iqbal said that in the year 2020 China's industrial relocation was to take place and "We did not have the infrastructure to benefit from this change."

During this period, China's Industrial units were shifted to Vietnam and the Association of SouthEast Asian Nation (ASEAN) countries. The Minister said that in 2013, the government of Pakistan started Special Economic work on nine Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under CPEC but during the previous regime," We could not complete even one of them."

If these SEZs were completed, China's industrial relocation would have taken place in Pakistan today, he said. Ahsan Iqbal said that in 2013, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was started by the former prime minister Nawaz Sharif for bringing the \$46 billion investment in infrastructure and energy projects.

On this occasion, he said that China and Pakistan have agreed to work together on a green economy. He said that the current leadership of China believes in environment-friendly industrial development and in the future they were giving special importance to environment-friendly policies in new projects.

He said that Pakistan and China were starting work on several green energy projects which would help in improving the environment. Ahsan said that most of the solar and wind energy projects would start a new era of sustainable economic development in the country. He said that anti-environment industrial development had also played a role in spoiling the environment in the world and Pakistan had also suffered from this.

"Today Pakistan Is among the five major countries affected by environmental crises", he said.

Talking to media persons on the occasion, Ahsan Iqbal criticized the CPEC Authority and said that not a single dollar had been invested in this project after the creation of this authority. Earlier, an investment of \$29 billion dollars had come in the CPEC project.

That is why now "we are going to the mechanism followed from 2013 to 2019 so that this project can be implemented in a good way." He said that China had agreed to bring more investment in this project. - APP

Briefs

Imran crossed limits for personal interests

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Energy Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan on Wednesday said that Imran Khan and his party leaders had crossed limits to achieve personal interest. Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) was found involved in running civil disobedience drive, he said while talking to a private news channel. Khan's party had used derogatory remarks against the security institutions, he added. He said that Imran Khan was found guilty after the reports of election commission in foreign funding case. In reply to a question, he said the PTI leaders had adopted Indian trend through social media to malign national institutions. To a question about economy of the country, he said that Pakistan's economic and other sectors were progressing day by day. – APP

Acting CJ FSC for promoting religious harmony

RAWALPINDI: Acting Chief Justice of the Federal Shariat Court Dr. Syed Muhammad Anwar said on Wednesday that there was dire need to promote religious harmony, brotherhood and peace. "Every religion is a choice of any individual to adopt. Islam is the only religion which has respected other religions," the acting chief justice of Federal Shariat Court said while addressing the launching ceremony of the regional network of religious leaders and actors namely "weaving communities of Faith Together" at Christian Study Centre (CSC). He emphasized on the importance of Intra and Interfaith harmony for a peaceful co-existence. "The foundation of interfaith harmony is also stated in the Holy Quran," he said. "Whatever happens in Barma and Myanmar is not the reflection of their religion," he maintained. "Terrorist have no religion, whereas Shia-Sunni division is also against religion," he asserted. Chairman Islamic Ideological Council Dr Qibla Ayaz said that great personalities taught the lesson of humanity. "To work for humanity is not to associate it with any religion," he added. – APP

Ali Zafar to mentor young artists

ISLAMABAD: Vocal powerhouse Ali Zafar keeps promoting budding artists by giving them a chance to showcase their talent before the audience. Once again, the heartthrob has taken an initiative to groom young talent. Zafar has won millions of hearts not only with back-to-back hit tracks but also with his phenomenal acting skills. The man of many talents has a soft corner for the struggling artists, who despite being ripe with talent could not make it to the limelight. As the singer-turned-actor all set to rock the stage in forthcoming Texas concert, the all-rounder came up with yet another exciting announcement. Turning to his social media handle, the 'Teefa In Trouble' sensation shared a video message announcing a talent hunt for the female singers "Ladies in Texas, Houston, if you are a singer or performer, this is your chance to be on stage with me to sing the duet 'Sajna Door' from my movie 'Teefa In Trouble' this Saturday, 20th August. Record your auditions and tag me in stories". "It's time for the best talent to shine on stage. And yes, the top ten auditions will get free VIP tickets and backstage passes," Zafar stated while revealing the perks for winner as well as top ten entries. He has earlier launched 'Lightingale Records' to make ways for aspiring musicians. The much-adored artist who is also known to be the mentor of young singers such as Yashal Shahid, Urooj Fatima, and Nirmal Roy. – APP

Fake news create misperception about Xinjiang's life: Shengjie

The seminar was organized by China Study Centre of COMSATS University. Wang Shengjie gave a keynote address, presenting China's viewpoint on issue of Xinjiang

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Fake and planted media reports have created misperception about Xinjiang's cultural beauty and its socio-economic rise. This was stated here by Wang Shengjie, a senior diplomat of Chinese Embassy while addressing a dialogue on 'China's Xinjiang Policy', as a guest of honour. He said, many countries are suffering because of war on terror. The main reason behind this is the spread of fake news through social media which creates panic and chaos among the general public. The seminar was organized by China Study Centre of COMSATS University. Wang Shengjie gave a keynote address, presenting China's viewpoint on the issue of Xinjiang. He talked about the beauty and cultural prosperity of Xinjiang by calling it a wonderful land. According to him, many countries are suffering because of this war on terror. The main reason behind this is the spread of fake news through social media which creates panic and chaos among the general public. Only people who get benefit from terrorism are the military complexes. He mentioned some of the quotes of Moin-ul-Haque, Mushahid Hussain Syed and Zafar-ud-din Mahmood where they described Xinjiang as a land of beauty and peace that accounts for 25% increase of Uyghur popu-

lation between 2010 and 2018. He concluded by giving some suggestions for the improvement of the problem by strengthening the policy communication, promote people to people connections and trade cooperation. The inaugural session started with the welcome address of Prof. Dr. Shams ul Qamar, Campus Director of COMSATS University Islamabad, who welcomed all the speakers and discussants to the dialogue while thanking the Chinese Embassy for their assistance in arranging such events. He mentioned that Pak-China friendship is embedded deeply in the roots of both the countries. He gave a brief introduction about the CUI faculty and alumni's who are working closely with the Chinese academia and seeking education from the leading Chinese universities. Group Captain (Rtd.) Sultan M. Hali, Defence Analyst, gave the second keynote speech by rightly portraying Xinjiang. He said that Xinjiang was in a very poor condition in 1974 but it is much more beautiful and prosperous than even New York at present times. The GDP of Xinjiang has been recorded as 1.38 trillion in 2020 with major high speed rails projects and more than 21 airports. According to provided information, 20,000 mosques are currently present in Xinjiang where Islamic education is being taught to young Muslims leaving behind extremism. Muhammad Nasir Khan, President, Ex Chi-

nese Association, Pakistan, and the 3rd keynote speaker mentioned fast economic development as the secret of Xinjiang and China's success. He said that the Chinese government paid a lot of attention towards the development of Xinjiang and worked out several measures for bringing economic prosperity. He happily mentioned that the rights of all the ethnic groups in Xinjiang including Muslims are very well protected by the government and there has been a sharp decrease in the terrorist attacks after 2016. Prof. Dr. Tsui Yenhu, Professor of Social Anthropology, Institute of Social-Cultural Anthropology, Urumqi, Xinjiang, also played his role as the last keynote speaker by joining the session via a video link from China. Later the second session which was the dialogue about China's Xinjiang Policy, moderated by Dr. Tahir Mumtaz Awan, Head of China Study Centre. Dr. Awan opened the discussion by highlighting the three main themes of discussion. The session started with Mr. Khizar Hayat, Eurasian Century Institute, Islamabad, who completely nullified the accusations made by the global world against China on the Xinjiang matter by announcing them as false accusations. Dr. Shabana Fayyaz, Chairperson, Department of Defense and Strategic Studies, Quaid-e-Azam University, considered academia as the important player to prop-

erly showcase the reality in front of the people by reducing the gap between researcher and the main stream researcher. According to her, not every foreign writer is portraying China as wrong but a few. She briefly explained the developmental projects initiated by China in Xinjiang including poverty alleviation, providing fishing and shipping rights, and education and vocational training to the people. Hamza Rifaat Hussain, Researcher, Islamabad Policy Research Institute, focused on lack of narrative inertia, need to differentiate between separatism, secessionist tendencies and religious persecution and lack of international verification of information as the leading causes of the false propaganda which is being created against China. Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, CEO, Asian Institute of Eco-Civilization Research and Development, regarded understanding China's policy and their economic model to deal with them in a better manner. He mentioned that more than 80% of China's trade is done via Xinjiang so why would they be treating the people of that area as so. Ms. Hina Naveed, Researcher, Overseas Chinese Association, mentioned that they have initiated a separate desk to study the matter of Xinjiang and its people. She said that these conspiracies are done against China so as to create hurdles in their economic rise.



ISLAMABAD: UNICEF representative in Pakistan, Abdullah Fadil calls on Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri at Benazir Income Support Program Headquarters. – DNA

Imran's ECP case has to be announced in 30 days

Mohsin Shah Nawaz Ranjha said that Imran Khan gave a false affidavit, when Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi went to Saudi Arabia, they hid the gifts taken from there

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League (N) leader Mohsin Shah Nawaz Ranjha has said that the case against Imran Khan in the Election Commission has to be decided within 30 days according to the law. While talking to the media outside the Election Commission on Thursday, he said that Imran Khan did not reveal the gifts worth millions of rupees of ToshiKhana in the false affidavit. He said that if Nawaz Sharif can appear in the court then why not Imran Khan? "The entire nation and PTI workers will see how Imran Khan is disqualifying on the technical grounds," he added. Mohsin Shah Nawaz Ranjha said that Imran Khan gave a false affidavit, when Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi went to Saudi Arabia, they hid the gifts taken from there. In this affidavit, ToshiKhana's gifts worth

crores of rupees were not disclosed, Ranjha told the media persons. He said that Imran Khan's lawyer used to go to the court and said that it was a matter of national security. Pakistani people were embarrassed all over the world when the royal family of Saudi Arabia was called and asked that your gift was returned, should we buy it, what a shame it was for Pakistanis when these things came out. He said, "We narrate the events of the time of the Messenger of Allah and say that the law is equal for all." He said that if Nawaz Sharif could be disqualified for not taking salary from his son, then the same decision would be applied to Imran Khan. Those who gave him the certificate of "Sadiq & Amin" should also think about him, he added. He said that since the disqualification of Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan has not

been able to recover, today is the time to repent over the past sins. Everyone including Mian Nawaz Sharif should get a level playing field, he said. Mohsin Ranjha said that if Mian Nawaz Sharif did not get a chance to contest the election in the upcoming elections, that election would not be considered transparent. Mian Nawaz Sharif would soon return to Pakistan and participate in the elections, he informed. He said, "The Election Commission has the authority to send the matter to NAB or to take a decision on its own." "In ToshiKhana case, Imran Khan can be jailed for up to three years, as you have sold the things of ToshiKhana and hide from the nation" he lamented. He said that the cases of Nawaz Sharif and Zardari were different from this case, adding, they had shown gifts in assets. – APP

Lure of playing against India, Pakistan up for grabs

ISLAMABAD: The lure of playing against India and Pakistan on the big stage is up for grabs for the team that can win the Asia Cup qualifier tournament in Oman. Hong Kong, Kuwait, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates will battle it out in the four-team round robin style tournament, with the winning country earning a spot in Group A at the Asia Cup later this month, the ICC reported on Thursday. Games against India (August 31) and Pakistan (September 2) will then follow for the winner of the qualifier tournament, meaning stakes are high during the five-day event in Al-Amerat. The UAE are the highest ranked T20I team in the qualifier tournament at 12, but on recent form there doesn't appear to be much between any of the four contenders. Hong Kong will be buoyed by their comprehensive seven-wicket triumph over Singapore at the 2022 ICC Men's T20 World Cup Global Qualifier B last month and have an experienced former first-class cricketer and Ireland international at the helm with Trent Johnston their head coach. – APP

RCCI to organize BOC in Thailand

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) is going to organize a business opportunity conference in Bangkok, Thailand on August 19. The objective of the conference was to enhance trade links between the Association of South East Nations (ASEAN) countries and bring closer the business community and private sector of Pakistan and Thailand. The BOC will also help to improve bilateral trade, connectivity and attract foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country. Nadeem Rauf, the president of the chamber, has given the details and said that the business conference is being organized on the sidelines of the thirty-fourth achievement awards organized by the chamber. About 150 businessmen, institutions and government representatives from Thailand including Pakistan are participating in the conference, he said. B2B meetings on the sidelines of the will also be held and local Chambers have shown great interest in meeting with Pakistani businessmen, he said. The memorandum of understanding (MoUs) will also be signed between the business community, chambers of commerce and business organizations of the two countries, he added. He said that the Rawalpindi Chamber has always been pushing for the promotion of regional trade, in this regard the business conference and awards were held in Malaysia in 2019, Malaysia is an important member of ASEAN. Nadeem Rauf said that the share of ASEAN countries in world trade is close to 25% and both Pakistan and Thailand being members of ASEAN have brotherly relations. There are vast opportunities for mutual trade in many sectors including tourism, automobile, construction, seafood, apparel, marble and medicines, he said. – DNA

HEC making sincere efforts to enhance quality of education

ISLAMABAD: HEC was making sincere efforts to enhance access to higher education in such a way that it does not compromise quality. Under the dynamic leadership of new Chairman Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, HEC to put more effort to increase the quality of country's higher education. According to the sources, HEC has taken various initiatives to develop the higher education sector, while Dr Mukhtar was making more efforts to implement the policies to improve quality in letter and spirit. "There is no denying the fact that access to higher education must increase, but there should be a constant improvement in the quality of education and research" the sources added. They said that HEC was encouraging universities to generate resources other than the Government's funding. The sources said that there is need to strengthen universities' capacity for resource generation as well as efficient management of these resources. "Teachers play a key role in any education system. HEC has a system in place for their capacity building, but it needs to be further strengthened and planning should also be done to include training of college teachers" they added. Secondly, "the world is shifting towards a system where focus is being given to skills of students therefore we also need to train our teachers and university management to plan their curricula and teaching methodology in that way," the sources informed. The sources revealed that the HEC has been directed by the incumbent Federal Education Minister to restart the national ranking process of universities, as it is an important factor to urge universities for improving their performance. – APP

Action underway against illegal societies

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Law and Justice Senator Shahadat Awan on Thursday said Capital Development Authority (CDA) was taking action against all illegal housing societies being developed in its jurisdiction as per by-laws and the Constitution. During 'question hour' in Senate, he said there were 117 illegal housing societies being built in the domain of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) which had been serviced notices and further inquiry was in progress against them. He also admitted that there were certain societies which purchase a small portion of land and sell out more than the available land. In this context, the civic body had started an aggressive media campaign against such developers which were allegedly involved in illegitimate practices, he added. Shahadat further said the interior ministry was also addressing the grievances of the public into the matter. Responding to Senator Fawzia Arshad's query, he said there were 16 housing societies registered with Cooperative Societies Department, ICT which include; Multi-professionals Cooperative Housing Society, Federation of Employees Cooperative Housing Society, Pakistan Medical Cooperative Housing Society, Services Cooperative Housing Society, – APP

Wani condemns killing of prisoners

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) Altaf Hussain Wani has strongly condemned the killing of under trial prisoners by the Indian Army in fake encounters and said Kot Bhalwal Jail has become a new death trap for innocent Kashmiris. "It is quite ridiculous to see that prisoners are being used as scapegoats and killed by the Indian army in fake encounters after being labelled as militants", Wani said in a statement issued here today. While terming the assertions of Additional Director General of Police, Jammu zone, as a cock and bull story, he said that Mohammad Ali Hussain was killed in a fake encounter the way Zia Mustafa-a citizen of Azad Kashmir-was killed last year. "Zia was also lodged in the same jail. He was taken out from the jail and rushed down to the woods in Bhatia Durrian area of Poonch district where he was killed during a so-called cordon and search operation". – APP

11 more dengue patients in RWP

RAWALPINDI: As many as 11 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 110. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Thursday said that, among the new cases, five patients had arrived from Chak Jalaludin, two from Rawalpindi Cantonment and Kulyial and one each from Dhoke Hukamdad, Potohar town area and Islamabad. During the last 24 hours, he added that around 83 dengue fever suspects were brought to the city's hospitals, out of which eleven tested positive. Dr Sajjad said that the district administration had sealed 342 premises, registered 862 FIRs, issued challans to 1,082, notices to 5,075, and a fine of Rs 2,972,500 was imposed on violations of SOPs in various areas of the district from January 1, 2022, to date. He added that prevailing weather was suitable for breeding dengue larvae and asked the concerned to remove stagnant water in outdoor and household settings to stop mosquitoes from breeding after rain and submerged water. Furthermore, the health official urged the residents to keep their water tanks clean and not to leave any place wet with stagnant water as water accumulation was a leading cause of mosquito-borne diseases, including dengue fever. – APP

Pak remains the land of opportunities: Mushahid Sayed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Creation of Pakistan was an achievement that was unbelievable for many and yet after 75 long years of independence, Pakistan was a land of opportunities with an unprecedented talent to rise and emerge as one of the most developed countries of the world, despite the challenges confronting its course, said Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed. He was addressing the inaugural session of a 2-day National Seminar titled "Kaleidoscope: 75 Years of Pakistan" organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). The event featured discussions on Pakistan's history, internal challenges, non-traditional challenges, foreign policy issues, economy and media. Senator Mushahid said that 75 years into independence were a watershed moment to reflect on the series of

challenges impending the country's path to growth and development. Some of the major issues still lingering on he added, were education with a literacy rate of 58 per cent that needed to improve, political instability which was a precursor to several other challenges and lastly, foreign policy adventures which had historically proven rather costly for the country and its people. Despite these challenges and many others, Pakistan was a country that reflected a dichotomy of a soft state but a very strong society, said Senator Mushahid. He added that our leaders had significantly learnt from the mistakes committed in the past while our people were a resistant nation, refusing to give in the test of time. Dr Yaqoob Khan Bangash, Fulbright Fellow at Harvard University while reflecting on the forthcoming years asserted that the biggest

challenge confronting Pakistan at present were weak institutions and hence, not everything could be entirely blamed on the uncertainties within the political system. He said that democracy and investment in the democratic culture were imperative for Pakistan to move forward and compete with the world. While corruption was an easy target to blame for all the ills, a bright future for this great country only required strong rule of law and stronger institutions to ensure their implementation instead of mere infatuation with eradication of corruption, he said. Ambassador Dr. Major General Raza Muhammad, President Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) said that Pakistan was amongst the most resilient countries across the globe to be standing tall despite having endured endless challenges including the menace of terrorism. He expressed his hopes for a bright future of

Pakistan with its youth leading from the front. Dr Tughral Yamin, Associate Dean Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) at National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) highlighted the relevance of

geo-strategy in Pakistan's foreign policy. He was of the opinion that the foreign policy had always been a victim of bloc politics and that the country's alignment with distinct blocs had proven detrimental to its internal peace. However,

he added that Pakistan was a strong and resilient country which had always stood up to all the stringent challenges. The contemporary challenges could be resolved by making Pakistan a hub of education and industry, he said.



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Ehsaas Ration Programme

ACCORDING to media reports, in the first meeting of Ehsaas Program Committee chaired by Chairperson Ehsaas Program Punjab Dr. Sania Nishtar, it was decided that one crore families will be assisted in Punjab. Low-income families will be provided with ration at low cost, Ehsaas desks are being established in various districts of Punjab, MoUs will be signed soon with National Bank, Nadra and mobile companies for transparent registration of the program. The Ehsaas program was a successful program at the federal level under the PTI government, it will be launched across Punjab very soon after approval from the Punjab cabinet.

This plan of the Punjab government to provide cheap ration to one crore families of the province is welcome, but it is very difficult to control the rising inflation if the government does not control the inflation in Punjab, the largest province of the country in terms of population. If it wants to provide relief to the public, then it should mobilize the market committees and price control magistrates in the districts across the province along with the Ehsaas program and take performance reports from them on a daily basis. And if any official is found guilty of negligence or negligence, then action should be taken against him. The increasing rate of inflation kept forcing the people to live in poverty. will fail to provide relief.

Pakistan in search of itself

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Pakistan was the result of a powerful intellectual, Muslim modernity, which exploded in subcontinent and then developed rapidly among the educated Indian Muslim middle class in the 1930s and 1940s. Muslim modernization explained...

PAKISTAN'S Independence Day on August 14 can be considered a double Independence Day. Indian Muslims also fought for independence from British rule and later armed for their own nation-state, the current state was once a part of the Indian subcontinent. After the British crushed the Indian Rebellion of 1857, the Crown took full control during the British Raj. This continued until Pakistan's independence in 1947. The Mountbatten Plan separated Pakistan (consisting of West and East Pakistan) from India and made it an independent Muslim country. In 1971, East Pakistan gained independence and known as Bangladesh. Today West Pakistan is only known as Pakistan. The main Independence Day ceremony is organized in Islamabad, where the national flag is raised up on the Parliament and Presidential House buildings. The national anthem and widely broadcast and televised speeches by the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan follow. Pakistan, India and Bangladesh were originally part of a larger region known as the Indian subcontinent. Since the introduction and acceptance of Islam in the subcontinent, peace has been disrupted by conflict and Hindu per-

secution of Muslims. Intellectual thought and philosophy were set in the movement after the 1857 War of Independence to protect the Muslim minority. Circumstances were not in the Muslim ummah's favor, but with courage and faith, the disappointed Muslims living in the subcontinent were able to put their dream of freedom to true. The All India Muslim League was founded in 1906 and on October 1 of that year the first delegation of 36 Muslim leaders met to the Viceroy of India in Shimla with the demand for a separate state for Muslims. For Muslims, the idea of Pakistan and freedom would have remained a dream were not for one man's extraordinary effort and struggle to make it a reality. Muhammad Ali Jinnah was a lawyer and politician who later became the father of the nation of Pakistan. Jinnah was the leader of the All India Muslim League from 1913 until Pakistan's independence. Allama Muhammad Iqbal was another visionary who promoted the idea of Muslim separation from India. In his presidential address in Allahabad on December 29, 1930, Iqbal introduced this idea. The title of Allahabad is now revolutionary in history. The name "Pakistan" first appeared in a 1933 brochure entitled "Now or Never". It was a great day in history. The meeting was attended by prominent Muslim leaders from across India and ultimately resulted in a legitimate solution to the centuries-old Muslim struggle for autonomy and independence. A turning point came on February 20, 1947, when British Prime Minister Clement Attlee announced full independence for India by June 1948. Lord Mountbatten, the last Viceroy of India, said after several consultations with the British Government and leaders of Congress. Both the Indian Congress and the Muslim League welcomed Mountbatten's plan. In July 1947, the British Parliament introduced the Indian Independence Act. Separate provisional governments of Pakistan and India were formed on July 20. Finally, on August 14, 1947, the great subcontinent was divided into two countries, India and Pakistan. The partition was fraught with bloodshed and carnage. Since the introduction of the concept of a separate nation for Muslims, Hindu barbarism has intensified and the ideas of Jinnah and other Muslim leaders to create an independent identity for Muslims have been strongly opposed. Our ancestors and relatives were destroyed and histories of division are collected and preserved to this day. "You are free; you are free to go to your temples. You are free to go to your mosques or other places of worship in this state of Pakistan. Pakistan was the result of a powerful intellectual, Muslim modernity, which exploded in subcontinent and then developed rapidly among the educated Indian Muslim middle class in the 1930s and 1940s. Muslim modernization explained the social, economic, and political decline of the Muslims of India was due to Muslims were reliant on of the "antiquated" methods of Islamic law and the study of the sacred texts of Islam according to their primitive conditions;

the conventional attitude towards science and modern education; arid mindset among Muslims due to the way they were taught their faith by traditionalist/orthodox ulemas; they also preferred delusion to reason and open debate to faith. Their lack of understanding that history is not just a collection of old stories.

In Indian subcontinent with a social, economic and educational application, Muslim modernity then transformed the ideology of a reformed and modernized cultural Muslim separatism into an equally enlightened and economically dynamic political polity within itself. A political dimension was also included. On February 14, 1948, Jinnah spoke about "Muslim democracy and told to a journalist that he did not know what theocracy meant. He added that "We (Muslims) learned democracy thirteen hundred years ago," he clearly said, referring to the claims of early Muslim modernists that Islam was an inherently enlightened and progressive religion. By using the term 'Muslim democracy', Mr Jinnah was also referring to Iqbal's vision of an 'Islamic democracy' in which the people would send scholars to meetings and decisions would be made and the laws of ijihad would be enforced by approved and consensus (unanimity). Therefore, although the country's two main founders, Mr. Jinnah and Pakistan's first prime minister, Liaquat Ali Khan, insisted that Pakistan should not become a theocracy, they often explained their vision of a progressive and liberal country in secular terms but through Islamic symbolism and language. For this reason, there are also indications that the two leaders are talking about the Islamic Republic. But it is defined in a modernist way as flexible and able to meet the needs of modern times. Therefore, the central debate in Pakistan revolved around the two competing currents of Muslim nationalism in South Asia: one postmodern and the other politico-theocratic. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan pioneered the idea of Muslim modernity in the 19th century. Allama Muhammad Iqbal developed it further in the early 20th century to Mr Jinnah mobilizing it into a popular movement for a country to them. Pakistan was to become a project of Muslim modernity. In theory, Muslim modernity emphasized the rational and timely interpretation of Islam's sacred texts, the adoption of a scientific mindset, and the incorporation of social modernity into practice, as modernists viewed Islam as a flexible and inherently progressive faith. Since it was the modernists who led the movement to create Pakistan, they wanted a country where the project of Muslim modernity could be fully constructed without obstacles such as "Hindu majority thinking". The current hybrid system is just a continuation of that practice of new faces in same clothing. Instead of social and economic justice, we have economic inequalities and social repression of the weak. Islam enjoins rule of law but in Pakistan the people are at the mercy of the whims of the rulers who are swayed more by their vested interests rather than the welfare of the people at large.

Continuation of attacks on polio teams

TWO POLICE personnel were killed as a result of an attack on a polio team in Tank district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The attack on the police personnel responsible for the security of the polio team was carried out in a village near Kot-e-Azam. The accused escaped. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the incident and said that those who attacked the polio workers want to cripple the children of the nation. The work of giving protective drops to prevent the dangerous disease of polio has been going on for years, which is supported by the United Nations subsidiary UNICEF, under which health workers perform this service as a special campaign. Like the rest of the world, in Pakistan, this process continues throughout the year to prevent and prevent this deadly disease, but for the past few years, reports of attacks on polio teams in the remote areas of our country have been coming out from time to time through the media. This is in fact a result and response to the negative propaganda in which our illiterate people are being told that polio vaccination is actually a Western conspiracy to control the human population and therefore those who administer such vaccinations should be forcibly stopped from doing so. So the extremists are influenced by this negative propaganda and target the polio teams. Unfortunately, our rulers issue the same stereotyped statement on the terrorist attack on the polio team that strict action will be taken against the enemies of children's health. And so they think that they have done their duty. But this kind of rhetoric cannot do much good. In order to prevent this kind of activities, firstly, there is a need to break the false propaganda about anti-polio vaccine in the community, for which the services of local school teachers and imams of mosques can be hired. Those who attacked other polio teams should be arrested and given real and exemplary punishments so that no one dares to do such an illegal act again.

Türkiye's tight-rope balancing on Russia and West

Bilgehan Ozturk

This is clearly a biased and parochial view of Türkiye's relations with Russia, which disproportionately highlights the elements of co-op while disregarding the ones of profound conflict in this relationship as if it exclusively consists of former

FROM hosting peace talks in Istanbul to bringing together foreign ministers of Ukraine and Russia and securing the 'Grain Deal', Ankara's steadfast determination in dealing with the conflict has provided a glimmer of hope in these troubled times. Türkiye's seemingly fractious relationship with Russia, which contains elements of both cooperation and conflict simultaneously, seems to be keeping many flabbergasted. As the human mind cannot stand contradictions, it tends to concentrate on one side of a given inconsistency in order to better make sense of things by simplifying them. The recent reactions to Ankara's latest engagements with Moscow attest to the limited condition of the human mind, as it were. As Erdogan and Putin pledged to deepen their cooperation, especially in trade and energy, following their bilateral meeting in Russia's Sochi, Türkiye's ties with Russia have been once more spotlighted and problematized, with some Western officials going as far as threatening Ankara with sanctions. This is clearly a biased and parochial view of Türkiye's relations with Russia, which disproportionately highlights the elements of cooperation while disregarding the ones of profound conflict in this relationship as if it exclusively consists of the former. The reality is, as usual, much more complex. As a matter of fact, the alarmist portrayal of Türkiye's relations with Russia is not only the result of a failure in grasping the complexity of the issue, but also the result of a strong desire to achieve a change in Ankara's policy. Through accusations, threats, and criticisms, Türkiye is being pressured to sever its ties with Russia – just for the sake of it – and to hop on the bandwagon of sanctions against the latter without any well-defined strategic goal. As such, it is a pretty short-sighted policy or effort since turning Türkiye into any other European or NATO country would do no good to anyone, neither Europe, Ukraine, or the rest of the world. On the contrary, it is Türkiye's unique and balanced position between Russia and Ukraine on one hand and between Russia and the West on the other that enables the former to 'get things done', and it does so not for its own benefit exclusively. From hosting the peace talks in Istanbul to bringing together the foreign ministers of Ukraine and Russia, and lastly, to securing the 'Grain Deal', none of these activities could be taken as ones that exclusively serve Turkish national interests. The Grain Deal provides the most conspicuous example of the global ramifications of Türkiye's sustained balanced conduct, going beyond the warring parties and the immediate environment of the war in Ukraine. Nevertheless, this is not to say that Türkiye is putting everyone else's interests and priorities above its own. Like every rational actor, Türkiye is pursuing, first and foremost, its own interests, which also happen to benefit third parties, too, as a side benefit. They always find themselves on the opposing sides of conflicts that take place in areas of common interest, such as Syria, Libya, Crimea/Ukraine, South Caucasus, Central Asia, and so on. Türkiye had to stand up against Russia in all those areas of common interest, at times at the cost of direct military conflict with Moscow, to safeguard its interests, and it did so on its own. Having to deal with Russia alone taught bitter lessons to Türkiye, not only because of the Kremlin's reckless behaviour and use of crude force but also because of the sense of abandonment by its Western allies in the face of Russian brinkmanship on many occasions. Russia is an extremely difficult actor to deal with, and Türkiye learned it the hard way. Accordingly, Türkiye has developed a coping mechanism, a peculiar way of dealing with Russia over years. It entails managing a mixture of conflict and cooperation with Russia. Cooperation, or sharing some stakes with Russia, function as 'credits' to be spent later, on other fronts, either to convince Moscow to do something or to 'earn' the leeway to escalate against Russia when necessary. Türkiye is basically transposing its hard-earned and valuable experience in peacetime to its delicate balancing in wartime on multiple levels. Türkiye's Western allies must make the most of this skill and experience instead of striving to kill it.

– The writer is a foreign policy researcher at the SETA Foundation.
– Source: TRT World

KSA a perfect partner for New Uzbekistan

Ulugbek Maksudov

Uzbekistan and Saudi Arabia have similar approaches to many regional and international issues, as well as similar positions on regional security and countering modern threats and challenges. Our two countries continue to exercise mutual support for each other's positions and candidacies within the framework of international organizations. For example, Uzbekistan supported the candidacies of Saudi Arabia for membership ...

RELATIONS between Uzbekistan and Saudi Arabia were well established. The visit of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to Riyadh in May 2017 opened a new page in their bilateral relations. The Kingdom was one of the first countries to recognize the independence of Uzbekistan on Dec. 30, 1991. A memorandum of understanding for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries was signed on Feb. 20, 1992, during the visit to Uzbekistan of then-Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal. Uzbekistan was keen to develop bilateral relations with the Kingdom and the first Uzbek president visited Saudi Arabia in April 1992, when talks were held with the Saudi king.

In November 1992, Uzbekistan opened its consulate in Jeddah and then, in May 1995, the Uzbek Embassy was opened in Riyadh. The Kingdom opened its embassy in Tashkent in March 1997. This year, we are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. On this occasion, congratulatory telegrams have been exchanged between the Uzbek and Saudi foreign ministers. Great appreciation has been expressed for the efforts of the parties in expanding the scope of bilateral relations and guaranteeing mutually beneficial and long-term cooperation between our two countries. Since the beginning of Uzbek-Saudi relations, the two sides have paid special attention to the development of their cooperation and have signed many agreements in the fields of political affairs, economy, trade, investments, technology, culture, youth, sports, avoidance of double taxation, air transport, protection and the promotion of investments. Currently, the process of preparing new agreements for signing between Uzbekistan and Saudi Arabia is underway. There will be 15 initial ones, including four agreements between the two governments and eight between the relevant ministries and departments. At the same time, the conferences of the Saudi-Uzbek intergovernmental joint committee play an important role in the development and activation of economic, investment and cultural, scientific, technical and social cooperation between the two countries. The fifth session of the joint commission was held in the Uzbek capital Tashkent in March. The delegation of the Kingdom, which included officials from government agencies and private sector leaders, was headed by Minister of Investment Khalid Al-Falih. Uzbek and Saudi members discussed ways to cooperate in the sectors of health, agriculture, trade, energy and petrochemicals. During the meeting, promising opportunities for the economic and investment growth of Saudi and Uzbek companies in both countries were reviewed. There was also a meeting of the Saudi-Uzbek Business Council, in which representatives of both the Kingdom's and Uzbekistan's private sectors had the aim of promoting and developing business between the two friendly countries. Over the past few years, the Saudi Fund for Development has helped and supported a large number of projects in Uzbekistan. One of the most important has been the construction of the Samarkand-Gozar road, for which the fund has contributed \$30 million of the total \$100 million cost. The Saudi Fund for Development has also contributed to financing the construction of secondary schools and medical centers, as well as technical equipment for the latter, in addition to financing projects for drilling wells in the country.

About 20 projects have been implemented in Uzbekistan so far with the support of the fund. They cover the fields of healthcare, education, energy, transport and public utilities development in Uzbekistan. Meanwhile, Uzbek-Saudi political relations are based on trust and the desire of both parties to further develop and deepen their mutually beneficial and equal cooperation. The official visit in July 2021 of Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan to Uzbekistan confirmed the great interest in activating bilateral relations and, at the same time, serving the interests of our countries.

Uzbekistan and Saudi Arabia have similar approaches to many regional and international issues, as well as similar positions on regional security and countering modern threats and challenges. Our two countries continue to exercise mutual support for each other's positions and candidacies within the framework of international organizations. For example, Uzbekistan supported the candidacies of Saudi Arabia for membership on the UN Economic and Social Council for the period 2019-2021, the Human Rights Council (2020), the Executive Board of UNESCO (2019), the World Heritage Committee (2019) and others. In 2020, Saudi Arabia supported Uzbekistan's election to the UN Human Rights Council. Uzbekistan and Saudi Arabia and their diplomatic missions are focusing all their efforts on strengthening and intensifying bilateral cooperation in the priority areas of increasing the volume of trade exchanges, expanding investment partnerships, implementing joint economic, cultural and humanitarian projects, scientific and educational exchanges, and others. I would like to draw attention to the fact that Uzbekistan has become a country of democratic change and has set itself the strategic goal of building a "New Uzbekistan" under the leadership of President Mirziyoyev, who is laying the foundations of the country's "third renaissance." Saudi Arabia is a unique and ancient country and at the same time a modern one that is implementing Vision 2030, which aims to diversify its economy and develop the sectors of health, education, infrastructure, entertainment and tourism. It is doing this by intensifying economic and investment activity inside and outside the Kingdom. Successful cooperation between Uzbekistan and Saudi Arabia is developing in all these areas. The government of Uzbekistan supports Vision 2030, which is concerned with development and is consistent with the strategy for building a new Uzbekistan, aimed at reforms and liberalization of the economy, as well as creating an attractive economic climate for investments.

– The writer is Uzbekistan's ambassador to Saudi Arabia
– Source: Arab News

Briefs

Imran asks 'neutrals' to redo policies

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forces them to say that they tweeted under his directions. "Whoever tweets against the army is picked up," he added. Talking about his party aide Shahbaz Gill, Khan said that he shouldn't have passed the remarks for which he is being tried, adding that torturing him is a big crime. "Maryam Nawaz, Ayaz Sadiq, Maulana Fazlur Rehman have talked against the army, however, nothing happened to them," he stressed. The former premier once again repeated that transparent elections were the only way to stabilise the political situation in the country. At the outset of his speech, Khan talked about freedom of expression and called it a part of liberating society. He added that a nation can only prosper if it is liberated. The PTI chief said that he is not afraid of freedom of expression, adding that freedom does not mean insulting someone. Berating the two main parties in the coalition government, the former prime minister said that the PML-N and PPP have made corruption cases against each other. "In 1996, Nawaz Sharif and Zardari moved Rs1.5 billion out of the country," he alleged. Khan claimed that everyone knows about the corruption done by these parties. "I supported former president Pervez Musharraf because he came to end corruption, however, he later gave an NRO to these people," he added.

PTI announces schedule for rallies

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- August 21 (Sunday) – Rawalpindi
- August 24 (Wednesday) – Haripur
- August 26 (Friday) – Karachi
- August 27 (Saturday) – Sukkur
- August 28 (Sunday) – Peshawar
- August 29 (Monday) – Jhelum
- August 31 (Wednesday) – Attock
- September 1 (Thursday) – Sargodha
- September 2 (Friday) – Gujrat
- September 3 (Saturday) – Bhawalpur
- September 4 (Sunday) – Faisalabad
- September 6 (Tuesday) – Mardan
- September 7 (Wednesday) – Bhawalnagar
- September 8 (Thursday) – Multan
- September 9 (Friday) – Sheikupura
- September 10 (Saturday) – Gujranwala
- September 11 (Sunday) – Quetta

CENTCOM Chief holds...

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training exchange programme also came under discussion. The visiting dignitary acknowledged Pakistan Army's commendable efforts in fight against terrorism, counter terrorism experiences and efforts for regional peace and stability. Later, the visiting dignitary also visited Army Museum and took keen interest in various historical enclosures.

Pak desires peaceful ties...

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justice and mutual respect. In this context, a just and peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people was indispensable. The Prime Minister stressed that the international community had to play a facilitative role in this regard, as it was essential for durable peace and stability in South Asia. The High Commissioner thanked the Prime Minister for receiving him and expressed his resolve to further increase and diversify the existing ties between Australia and Pakistan.

Pakistan seal ODI series victory over Netherlands

Babar scored 57 before falling to Aryan Dutt. But, Rizwan remained unbeaten alongside Agha as they both scored 92 runs for the fourth wicket partnership

SPORTS DESK

ROTTERDAM: Mohammad Rizwan found his feet calm and composed to gain his form back and help Pakistan in a successful run-chase in second ODI which handed them 2-0 victory in three-match series [with a match to go] against the Netherlands. Rizwan, who suffered to reflect his presence in the ODI format, was on song to steer Pakistan to a victory by seven wickets here on Thursday. Agha Salman, on the other hand, scored his maiden ODI fifty before skipper Babar Azam set the tone in run-chase by scoring his eighth half-century in last nine ODIs. Babar and Rizwan partnered strongly after Fakhar Zaman (3) and Imam-ul-Haq (6) walked back earlier. The two batters scored 88 runs to help Pakistan dominate in front of easy target. Babar scored 57 before falling to Aryan Dutt. But, Rizwan remained unbeaten alongside Agha as they both scored 92 runs for the fourth wicket partnership. Rizwan remained not out for 69 whereas Agha dominated with his quick 35-balls 50 not-out. For the Netherlands, Vivian Kingma bagged



two wickets while Dutt took a scalp. Earlier, Bas de Leede and Tom Cooper partnered strongly to haunt Pakistan but bowlers in Green Shirts made a solid comeback to bowl out hosts Netherlands for 186 runs. The two batters joined hands after the Netherlands were 8-3 in 3.2 overs. They went onto score 109 runs of 133 balls to set the tone for the home side to set a good score. But, Mohammad Nawaz was the man who broke the well-set partnership for Pakistan who had a tough time while defending 315 runs in the first ODI. Cooper caught and bowled by Nawaz and it gave a sigh of relief to number fourth ODI team's camp. Cooper made 66 off 74 balls including seven boundaries and two sixes. Leede kept going and fought till the last wicket. He smoked 89 runs laced with two boundaries and three sixes. He was the last man to fall off Haris Rauf who bagged three wickets to mark his solid comeback. Netherlands' skipper Scott Edwards, who scored a 71 runs in previous match, fell to Nawaz who also bagged as many wickets as Haris. Naseem Shah, in just his second ODI, bagged two wickets. Wasim Jr and Shadab Khan took a wicket each.

Emma Raducanu thrashes Azarenka in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI: British number one Emma Raducanu produced another eye-catching display as she thrashed former world number one Victoria Azarenka less than 24 hours after beating Serena Williams. Raducanu continued her preparations for the forthcoming defence of her US Open title with a 6-0 6-2 win in Cincinnati. The 19-year-old played Belarusian veteran Azarenka just 18 hours after beating Williams, who will retire after the US Open, 6-4 6-0 on Tuesday. The Briton, ranked 13th in the world, will meet the American seventh seed in the last 16 of the Western and Southern Open on Thursday. "I was playing a great match for sure and to play Vikika I had to stay focused throughout," said Raducanu, who beat 22nd-ranked Azarenka to earn her first top-30 win since last year's US Open. Raducanu stunned the sporting world with her unexpected triumph in New York last year, when she became the first qualifier to win a Grand Slam title in what was only her fourth senior tournament. The victory propelled the previously little-known teenager into global superstardom, but she has since faced the difficulties often encountered by young players in their first full season on the WTA Tour. Regularly hampered by fitness issues this year as she adjusts to the rigours of the senior tour, Raducanu arrived in Cincinnati with a record of 11 wins and 14 losses this season. But with her fearless and accurate groundstrokes, she has so far shown a similar level in the WTA 1000 event to the one which led to her success at Flushing Meadows. Pegula, however, is likely to provide a sterner test - and a more accurate appraisal of Raducanu's current level - than Williams or Azarenka. In what was her first career meeting with



23-time major champion Williams and likely to be the last, the teenager clinically took advantage of the 40-year-old's lack of sharpness by hitting 14 winners and making just one unforced error in a ruthless victory. After that night session, Raducanu returned to Cincinnati's centre court against 33-year-old Azarenka and produced another dominant display. The forehand continued to be a potent weapon, while she was also helped by wayward returning from the two-time Grand Slam champion. After cruising through a 26-minute opener to record a second straight bagel, Raducanu raced into a 4-0 lead in the next set, before Azarenka finally got on the scoreboard with back-to-back holds. She offered a little more belated resistance when Raducanu served for the match, earning two break points and saving a match point before the Briton wrapped up victory. "In the second set I could feel the important moments and a couple of turning points that could have made the second set really difficult," added Raducanu. "I am really pleased with how I dug in, and serving it out in that last game was really difficult." American teenager Coco Gauff has played down the seriousness of the ankle injury which forced her to retire from a first round match against Czech qualifier Marie Bouzkova on Tuesday. With her home Grand Slam looming, the 18-year-old said it was a minor sprain that "should be healed very soon". Romania's Simona Halep pulled out of the Cincinnati event with a thigh injury before Wednesday's match against Russia's Veronika Kudermetova, while Polish world number one Iga Swiatek, Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina and Tunisia's world number five Ons Jabeur reached the last 16. - DNA

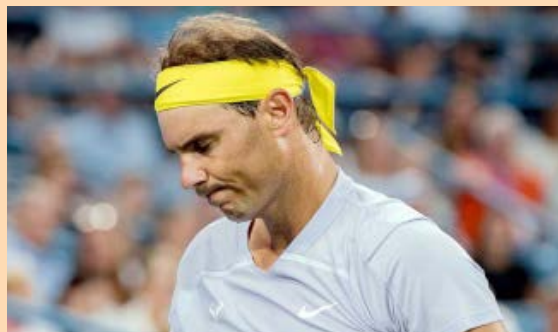
British Billionaire wants to buy Manchester United

LONDON: News of the 69-year-old's interest follows a Bloomberg report that the Glazer family are willing to sell a minority stake in the club. "If the club is for sale, Jim is definitely a potential buyer," Ratcliffe's spokesperson told The Times. "If something like this was possible, we would be interested in talking with a view to long-term ownership." United, 20-time English champions, are bottom of the Premier League after losing both their opening games of the season under new manager Erik ten Hag. The woe-ful start has intensified criticism of the Glazers and their perceived lack of investment in the team. This summer has seen new signings fail to materialise, including a fruitless pursuit of Barcelona's Dutch midfielder Frenkie de Jong, while superstar striker Cristiano Ronaldo could leave Old Trafford. The club has struggled since Sir Alex Ferguson retired in 2013 and has not won a trophy since 2017. There have been multiple protests against the Glazers' ownership in recent years, including one in May 2021 which caused the Red Devils' home league match against Liverpool to be postponed. United fans are planning another protest against the American family during their latest meeting with their Anfield rivals on Monday at Old Trafford. - APP

Nadal loses at Cincinnati Open in first match

CINCINNATI: Rafael Nadal's first match since pulling out of the Wimbledon semi-finals because of injury ended in defeat at the hands of Croatian Borna Coric at the Cincinnati Open. The Spaniard, 36, lost 7-6 (9-7) 4-6 6-3 to the world number 152. Nadal has spent six weeks recovering from the abdominal muscle injury and the defeat in the round-of-32 match is a blow to his US Open preparations. The year's final Grand Slam event gets under way on 29 August. "In terms of New York, it's a Grand Slam, a different kind of tournament," said Nadal, who has won the US Open in 2010, 2013, 2017 and 2019. "I was only able to play two sets before this match in the last 40 days. "I know that to gain condition, I will have to be on the tour practising with the guys." American Taylor Fritz, who Nadal beat in the Wimbledon quarter-finals, defeated Australian Nick Kyrgios 6-3 6-2 to reach the third round. Fritz then criticised the ATP Tour's off-court coaching trial, saying allowing players to receive instructions during a match went against the idea of tennis being an individual sport. "It's a dumb rule," said the world number 13. "Why are we making it not an individual sport? A huge part of tennis is

as much mental as it is physical, and a big part of it is you need to be figuring it out on the court for yourself. "I think it's ridiculous that you can be mentally not there, not good analytically, not good at kind of working through things and coming up with strategies, and you can have someone tell you what to do. I hate it." Fritz will next play sixth seed Andrey Rublev after the Russian beat Italy's Fabio Fognini 6-7 (7-9) 7-6 (7-3) 6-2. Greek fourth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas won 6-3 6-4 against Serbian Filip Krunic while Poland's Hubert Hurkacz lost to American John Isner 7-6 (7-5) 6-7 (7-5) 6-2. Elsewhere, Canada's seventh seed Felix Auger-Aliassime defeated Australian Alex de Minaur 6-3 6-2 and compatriot Denis Shapovalov fought back to win 3-6 6-4 6-3 against American Tommy Paul. Shapovalov will next take on world number one Daniil Medvedev next while Auger-Aliassime faces Italian Jannik Sinner. - DNA



Developing relations with all African countries stressed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: It's an opportune time for Pakistan to give due attention towards developing relations with a number of African countries so far ignored, especially in the Central African region, in foreign policy through a clear strategy, an informed approach, and consistent program with a strong focus on the private sector supported by the public sector. These observations emerged during a roundtable, titled Central Africa: An Untapped Region, Prospects and Challenges, organized by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, under its 'Understanding Africa Program'. The discussion was addressed as the main speaker by Ambassador (r) Imran Yawar and moderated by Dr. Saif Malik, senior research fellow at IPS. Khalid Rahman, IPS' chairman, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, Ambassador (r) Tanveer Akhtar Khaskheli, Prof. Dr. Anwar-ul-Hassan Gilani, member IPS-National Academic Council, and Ambassador (r) Salahuddin Choudhry also spoke on the occasion. The speakers and discussants underscored the need to forge a foreign relations policy, based on multi-sectoral connectivity and the facilitation of interactions between business-to-business and people-to-people

between African states and Pakistan. Ambassador Yawar stated that the contributions of Pakistan in the decolonization of many African states and the UN peacekeeping missions in the African continent have created immense goodwill for Pakistan over the years. However, unfortunately, Pakistan has not been able to capitalize on it, largely because of an Africa-blind mindset at the policy level. This murky outlook has predominantly prevailed because of the eminence of

challenges that mask the potential and prospects of Africa, the world's richest continent. Central Africa is one such region which is the continent's least cohesive, least developed, and least stable part. Leadership and governance failures, interstate and intrastate conflicts, the influence of foreign actors, and humanitarian issues are the main interwoven challenges that foster instability and hinder socio-political and economic progress of the region, he added.



The former diplomat stressed that Pakistan should shed its narrow perspective of Africa, which has prevented it from benefiting from its already existing goodwill and potential in the region that presents a lot of opportunities for investments in various sectors. In his concluding remarks, Khalid Rahman highlighted that Pakistan's policy approach should be based on furtherance of leadership diplomacy, multi-sectoral connectivity, interaction and visibility, proper diplomatic presence, parliamentary exchanges, and consistency to tap into the goodwill and potentials in Central Africa and Africa as a whole, while also taking into account the global governance issues. In this regard, the foreign policies and initiatives must be developed with a consistent vision and concrete outlook to engage with Africa meaningfully. Moreover, in order to shift the mindset, efforts are required at multiple levels involving the role of media, top-notch leadership, academicians, and think tanks. Awareness at the grassroots level is equally necessary to change the myopic mindset regarding the African continent. The prevalent scenarios also present an opportunity for a comprehensible common strategy about the global governance issues, which are common to Africa and Pakistan, he added.

Imran's tenure as PM a dark chapter

FROM PAGE 01

in the seminar of the person who had been given the title of "media predator by international organizations". The media will have to decide whether to believe the specter of their freedom and job-snapping seminar or not. CPNE's 2020 report, International Media Watch and Reporters Without Borders (RSF) 2021 reports were testimony to Imran Khan's media hostility, Maryam Aurangzeb said. She pointed out that International Media Watch had called Imran Khan a fascist and in four years of Imran Khan rule, the ribs of journalists were broken, they were kidnapped, the freedom of the media was crushed and the parliament was locked. She said that Imran Khan who controlled media through NAB also made media workers jobless. The media has to decide whether to attend the seminar of the person who had snatched the pen from the journalists, ordered the removal of anchor persons from the screen, she maintained.

Erdogan warns of new 'Chernobyl'

FROM PAGE 01

said during a press conference in the eastern city of Lviv, during which he also assured the Ukrainian leader that Ankara was a firm ally. "While continuing our efforts to find a solution, we remain on the side of our Ukraine friends," Erdogan said. Guterres said he was "gravely concerned" about the situation at the plant and said it had to be demilitarised, adding: "We must tell it like it is - any potential damage to Zaporizhzhia is suicide". Erdogan, who has major geopolitical rivalries with the Kremlin but maintains a close working relationship with President Vladimir Putin, met with the Russian leader less than two weeks ago in the Black Sea resort of Sochi. The Turkish leader along with Guterres were key brokers of a deal inked in Istanbul last month allowing the resumption of grain exports from Ukraine after Russia's invasion blocked essential global supplies. Ahead of the press conference with Zelensky, Ukraine's port authority announced that the 25th cargo ship under the deal had departed for Egypt carrying 33,000 tonnes of grain. Ukraine and Russia are two of the world's biggest grain exporters and the halt in exports saw grain prices soar and fears rise of global food shortages, particularly in poor countries already experiencing shortfalls. Guterres said during the meeting with reporters that the sides hoped to intensify efforts to bolster operations at three southern ports designated for exports under the deal. "We will do our best to scale up our operations to face... the coming winter," the UN chief said, hailing the deal that saw a safe corridor established for cargo ships to exit Black Sea ports. The success of the grain deal contrasts with failed peace talks early in the war and Zelensky on Thursday ruled out peace with Russia unless it withdraws its troops from Ukraine. He told reporters he was "very surprised" to hear from President Recep Tayyip Erdogan that Russia was "ready for some kind of peace", adding: "First they should leave our territory and then we'll see". - Agencies

Death toll in Austria storms rises to 5

VIENNA: Five people, including two children, died in Thursday as storms wreaked havoc in Austria, according to the country's news agency and officials. Three people died due to a falling tree in Lower Austria state, news agency APA reported. In the southern state of Carinthia, two children were killed and about a dozen other people injured at a small lake when the storm also uprooted several trees there, said Red Cross spokeswoman for the state Melanie Reiter. Elsewhere in the region, roofs were blown off and other damage caused, she told AFP. - Agencies

Briefs

China
opposes US-
Taiwan trade
initiative

DNA

BEIJING: China on Thursday opposed the US-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade amid high tensions over the status of the island nation. "The one-China principle is the premise for China's Taiwan region to engage in any external economic cooperation," China's Commerce Ministry said in a statement. Beijing's statement came after the US on Wednesday said it has agreed to launch formal negotiations on a bilateral trade framework with Taiwan early in the fall. "The United States and Taiwan, under the auspices of the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States, today have reached consensus on the negotiating mandate for the US-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade announced on June 1, 2022," the Office of the US Trade Representative said in a statement. It added that the mandate sets out the broad objectives shared by the two sides for the upcoming trade negotiations, which are expected to start "early this fall." The Chinese Commerce Ministry also criticized the US ban on electronic design automation software, saying: "The move violates international economic and trade rules and disrupts the global supply chain."

Russian,
Indonesian
presidents
discuss food
security

AGENCIES

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday spoke over the phone with his Indonesian counterpart Joko Widodo and discussed global food security. "Vladimir Putin, in particular, informed about the efforts being made by Russia together with Türkiye and the UN Secretariat to stabilize the situation on the world grain and fertilizer markets," a Kremlin statement said. The two also discussed preparations for the G-20 summit scheduled to be held in Bali in November, it added. Putin also congratulated Widodo on Indonesia's Independence Day, a national holiday celebrated on Aug. 17. The two leaders also discussed the development of relations between the two countries with an emphasis on the agreements reached during Widodo's visit to Russia earlier this year.

Thousands of
UK workers
strike amid
inflation

WEB DESK

LONDON: Britain's rail, mail and dock workers are launching strikes in vast numbers as 40-year-high inflation erodes the value of wages at a record pace. Britain's train network faces further heavy disruption on Thursday and Saturday in major walkouts that follow the sector's biggest strike action for 30 years already this summer. Tens of thousands of staff are expected to strike over the two days, leaving a skeleton train service that will hit holiday-makers and commuters. London's Underground railway, commonly known as the Tube, will be hit by a strike on Saturday, ahead of an eight-day stoppage starting on Sunday by dockers at Felixstowe, Britain's largest freight port, located in eastern England. "We will continue to do whatever is necessary to defend jobs, pay and conditions during this cost-of-living crisis," Sharon Graham, head of major British union Unite, said this week. Official data on Wednesday showed UK inflation at a 40-year high above 10 percent, as soaring food and energy prices hurt millions of Britons. And the situation is set to worsen under a new prime minister, as under-fire Boris Johnson prepares to step down.

A new era in relations between
Uzbekistan and Saudi Arabia

The official welcoming ceremony of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan took place at the Al-Salam Royal Palace in the city of Jeddah. Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud met President Shavkat Mirziyoyev

DNA

TASHKENT: On August 17, 2022, at the invitation of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques – King of Saudi Arabia Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev arrived in the sacred city of Medina, from which the program of the state visit to Saudi Arabia begins. The leaders of Medina Province met the President of Uzbekistan at the Prince Mohammad Bin Abdulaziz International Airport. After a short conversation, Shavkat Mirziyoyev left for Al-Masjid an-Nabawi – the Prophet's Mosque, which is one of the main Muslim shrines. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev visited the Prophet's Mosque in Medina. As is known, Medina has an important place in the history of Islam. Prophet Muhammad moved here in 622. The longest Surahs of the Holy Quran were sent down here. Al-Masjid an-Nabawi is a huge mosque built around the house of the Prophet. The Messenger of Allah himself and his great companions Abu Bakr Siddiq and Omar Ibn Khattab are buried here. This room in high regard is called "Hujra al-Saada" ("Room of Happiness"). Shavkat Mirziyoyev, having arrived at the mosque, entered Hujra al-Saada, sent a blessing on the Prophet Muhammad, and greeted him. He recited a dua asking for peace and prosperity for our people. The President of Uzbekistan also got acquainted with the Museum of the Life of the Prophet and Islamic Civilization. The museum is dedicated to two large themes: the life and activity of the Prophet Muhammad, the development of Islamic culture and science, and their influence on the social and spiritual life. This is told through visual exhibits and technologies, in several foreign languages. During the inspection of the museum, the President exchanged views with Saudi scholars on Islam, the ties that bind the Uzbek and Arab peoples. Sheikh Dr. Nasser Al-Zahrani noted that the data presented in the museum are taken, in particular, from the books of our great ancestors Imam Bukhari and Imam Termizi. Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted that scientific centers named after these outstanding thinkers are opened in Uzbekistan, monuments of Islamic culture are carefully preserved, and invited Saudi scientists to visit Uzbekistan. The President of Uzbekistan also talked with our compatriots making the pilgrimage to Medina. Then the President left for the city of Jeddah. President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev arrived in the city of Jeddah as part of a state visit to Saudi Arabia. Leaders of Makkah Province, the Minister of Investment Khalid Al-Falih and other officials met the President of Uzbekistan at the King Abdulaziz International Airport. The official welcoming



ceremony of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan took place at the Al-Salam Royal Palace in the city of Jeddah. Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud met President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. A guard of honor was lined up in honor of the distinguished guest. The national anthems of the two countries were played. Talks were held between the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and the Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud. The Leader of Uzbekistan conveyed sincere greetings and best wishes to the King of Saudi Arabia Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. The intensification of contacts at different levels

was noted with satisfaction. Meetings of the Intergovernmental Commission and the Business Council are held regularly. Trade volumes are growing, joint ventures are being created. At the same time, the two countries have a huge potential to bring relations to a qualitatively new level, primarily in the trade and economic sphere. The President of Uzbekistan expressed confidence that his first state visit to Saudi Arabia would open wide opportunities for this. The talks at the highest level demonstrated the commonality of views and aspirations. The State Program Saudi Vision 2030 successfully implemented in the country was highly appreciated. It is conso-

nant with the goals and objectives of the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for the transformation of all spheres of society. The two countries pay much attention to the implementation of the principles of the digital and green economy. The parties discussed issues of further enhancing mutually beneficial ties in the political, trade, economic, investment, cultural and humanitarian spheres. The need for creating even more favorable conditions for building up contacts between business circles, increasing volumes, and diversifying the structure of mutual trade was noted. One of the important steps in this direction will be the introduction of a visa-free regime for entry

into Uzbekistan for citizens of Saudi Arabia. "I am sure that today's historic meeting will serve as a powerful signal to enrich our cooperation and strengthen business ties. The businessmen of our countries are looking forward to the results of our talks" Shavkat Mirziyoyev said.

The President of Uzbekistan invited leading Saudi companies to take an active part in the privatization of commercial banks, large industrial facilities and infrastructure in Uzbekistan.

Mutual interest was expressed in building up partnerships in energy and petrochemistry. Currently, together with ACWA Power, the implementation of large energy projects worth \$2 billion 600 million has begun. Partnership with Sabc in the chemical industry has promising prospects. The issues of implementation of infrastructure projects in transport, water supply, development of electricity networks, social sphere in the regions of Uzbekistan with the participation of the Saudi Fund for Development were considered.

The successful holding of the next meeting of the Uzbekistan – Saudi Arabia Business Council was noted with satisfaction. Following the event, agreements and contracts were signed for more than \$14 billion in the energy, chemical, electrical fields, infrastructure development, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, information technology, and transport. The main attention at the meeting was paid to strengthening cultural and humanitarian ties. In particular, today more than ten thousand students of Uzbekistan are studying Arabic, which is the official language of the United Nations. Views were exchanged on the current issues of the international and regional agenda.

The talks showed the coincidence of the views and approaches of Uzbekistan and Saudi Arabia in several aspects. The two countries invariably support each other in the international arena. Uzbekistan supports the candidacy of Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, to host the World Expo 2030. Readiness was expressed for establishing a dialogue in security, for consolidated assistance in strengthening peace in Afghanistan and restoring the economy of this country.

The President of Uzbekistan welcomed the receipt by Saudi Arabia of the status of a dialogue partner in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Following the talks, the signed documents were exchanged. A Joint Statement was adopted on further enhancing the full-scale partnership between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. 15 documents on cooperation were signed at the level of governments and ministries of the two countries in such areas as energy, customs, civil aviation, tourism, agriculture, healthcare, labor relations and others. In honor of the visit of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, a state reception was given on behalf of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

Indonesians must remain cautious
amid global recession threat

ANTARA

JAKARTA: Though Indonesia's economy is relatively stable and has entered an expansion phase, Indonesians must remain cautious in the face of the global recession threat, People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) Speaker Bambang Soesatyo has said. "Three countries and one region, those being the United States, the People's Republic of China, India, and the European Union, which represent 62.1 percent of the world's GDP (gross domestic product), are being hit by a (decline) in economic growth and hyperinflation, and even facing a threat of recession," Soesatyo pointed out. He made the statement during the commemoration of Constitution Day and the 77th anniversary of the People's

Consultative Assembly at the Parliamentary Complex, here on Thursday. The theme of "The Constitution as the Foundation for Indonesia's Post-Pandemic Economic Awakening" for the commemoration of Constitution Day is aimed at further cementing the direction of the ideals of an independent Indonesia, he explained. The ideals comprise protecting the entire nation and the entire homeland, promoting public welfare, educating the people, and participating in maintaining world order based on freedom, eternal peace, and social justice, in an effort to create an independent, united, sovereign, fair, and prosperous Indonesia, he expounded. "The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated the medical (sector), as well as struck the world economy, Indonesia has been no exception. After more

than two years of struggling with the pandemic, the world has managed to overcome it well, in general; public health is gradually (improving), and life has returned to normal within certain limits," he noted. However, the sudden turmoil in geopolitics, especially the war between Russia and Ukraine, has made things worse for the global economy, he noted. Currently, the world is going through multiple crises, such as in the economic, food, and energy sectors, as well as inflation. The spike in food and energy prices has once again constrained people who had just made it out of the COVID-19 pandemic, putting the world economy at risk of a recession. Therefore, Soesatyo reminded the public not to dismiss or take the threat of a global recession lightly.

Armenians in
Lachin burn houses
before leaving

BAKU: Homes and forests are being set ablaze in the Azerbaijani border region of Lachin by illegally settled Armenians as they leave the region, showed recent captured footage. Despite successive warnings not to burn their homes or harm the environment, images have been circulating on social media showing some Armenians burning their houses and nearby forests. Footage showed Armenians setting fire to their homes in the city of Lachin and nearby villages of Zabuh and Sus, along with the surrounding forestland. Azerbaijan is set to retake control of Lachin, which lies on the route between the city of Khankendi in Karabakh and Armenia, at the end of this month, in accordance with a joint declaration signed by Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia. Russian troops and the Armenian population will leave the areas along the route known as the "Lachin corridor," where Lachin, Zabuh, and Sus are located and which was temporarily put under Russian control in accordance with the tripartite declaration signed on Nov. 10, 2020 after 44 days of conflict. As part of the declaration, Azerbaijan built 32 kilometers (20 miles) of road passing around Lachin for the Armenian population in Karabakh to use on their way to and from Armenia. Russian forces providing security on the route of the old Lachin corridor will also move the checkpoints to the new road. Lachin and its villages were occupied by the Armenian army in 1992, and then Armenians brought from Syria and Lebanon were settled there in the following years. Throughout the process, Azerbaijan has declared that it sees this as a war crime and violation of the Geneva Conventions. According to information from the Armenian press and social media, the Armenian population that settled in Lachin and Zabuh and Sus was warned to leave the region by Aug. 25. They will be able to settle in either Armenia or Khankendi and will receive financial assistance from Yerevan. Relations between the former Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan have been tense since 1991 when the Armenian military occupied Nagorno-Karabakh, also known as Upper Karabakh, a territory internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, and seven adjacent regions. As new clashes erupted in September 2020, the ensuing conflict saw Azerbaijan liberate several cities and over 300 settlements and villages that were occupied by Armenia for almost 30 years. – APP

Morocco bus
crash leaves
23 dead

RABAT: A bus crash east of Morocco's economic capital Casablanca on Wednesday left 23 people dead, a health official said, marking one of the deadliest such accidents in recent years. The bus overturned on a bend of a motorway in Khouribga province in the morning, local authorities said, giving an initial toll of 15 dead. Regional health director Rochdi Kaddar later revised the death toll up to 23, telling AFP that another 36 people were injured in the crash. The bus was travelling between Casablanca and the rural region of Ait Attah, near the town of Beni Mellal at the foot of the High Atlas mountains. The injured were taken to a hospital in Khouribga and an investigation has been opened into the accident. Road accidents, often deadly, are relatively frequent in Morocco and other North African countries. – APP

Pak investment
promotion
Seminar held
in Wuxi

BEIJING: Pakistan Investment Promotion Seminar was held in China's Wuxi city, Jiangsu province to attract Chinese investors. According to Gwadar Pro on Thursday, companies from different sectors participated in the seminar. The textile industry, power supply policies and trade preferential agreements were the key focuses among Chinese investors. Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai Hussain Haide attended the seminar, and made a detailed presentation on Pakistan's business environment and incentives. "Pakistan is one of the earliest supporters of the 'the Belt and Road' initiative, China Pakistan Economic Corridor plays a pivotal role in Pakistan's economic development. – APP

Ambassador Moin
ul Haque receives
Sitara-e-Imtiaz
Ambassador Haque joined the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1987, and has served in France, Sri Lanka, Canada, and Turkey. In 2013, he was appointed Director General (Europe), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and later assumed the position of Chief of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

BEIJING: Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque was granted Sitara-e-Imtiaz, Pakistan's third highest civil award in recognition of outstanding services during his meritorious diplomatic career. "I am humbled. I thank the Honorable President, the Government, and the Ministry for this Award. Indeed, a personal honor, but I dedicate it to my family, Foreign Service of Pakistan (FSP), and my institution. Anything and Everything for Pakistan," the ambassador tweets. Ambassador Haque joined the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1987, and has served in France, Sri Lanka, Canada, and Turkey. In 2013, he was appointed Director General (Europe), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and later assumed the position of Chief of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Chinese President, Xi Jinping made his first state visit to Pakistan from April 20 to 21, 2015. Ambassador Haque, then chief of protocol, led his team to welcome the 'historic visit' of a highly esteemed guest. He remained Ambassador of Pakistan to France and accredited to Principality of Monaco from 2017 to 2020.

As the Pakistan Ambassador to China, he assumed the charge in 2020, where he handled the COVID-19 situation, and arranged successful visits of the top leadership of Pakistan. Last year, both Pakistan and China celebrated seven decades of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Ambassador Haque, led his team at the Pakistan Embassy to organize more than 140 events to celebrate diplomatic ties between the two all-weather friends in a befitting manner. It is worth mentioning that President, Dr. Arif Alvi conferred Pakistan Civil Awards on 253 Pakistani citizens as well as Chinese citizens on the occasion of the 75th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary of the country. – DNA



Briefs

Diana knew she would die in an accident

WEB DESK



NEW YORK: Princess Diana passed away in a car crash in Paris in 1997, and new secret notes suggest that she may have predicted her own death, as per The New York Post. The revelation came in a preview of a new Discovery+ docuseries about the late princess, The Diana Investigations, with the Princess of Wales reportedly requesting a private meeting with her legal advisor in 1995 to discuss something 'on her mind'. As per the advisor's noted cited in the docuseries, known as the 'Mishcon Notes', Diana allegedly told Victor Mishcon about her prediction, and the advisor took notes of their conversation. The notes allege that Diana told Mishcon about 'reliable sources' telling her that 'a car accident might be staged' to kill her. The princess also reportedly said that she would "either end up dead or be seriously injured". In an every turn of events, Diana was involved in an August 1997 car crash in Paris' Pont de l'Alma tunnel as her driver, Henri Paul, smashed into a pillar in an effort to get away from paparazzi following the car. Diana, her partner Dodi Al-Fayed, and Paul all died in the accident.

Finland PM partying video causes backlash

AGENCIES

HELSINKI: The Finnish Prime Minister, Sanna Marin, is facing a backlash after being seen partying in a leaked video. In the footage, thought to be taken from social media, she and friends including Finnish celebrities are seen dancing and singing. She has faced criticism from opposition parties, with one leader demanding she take a drug test.

Ms Marin, 36, denied taking drugs, saying she only drank alcohol and just partied "in a boisterous way". Formerly the world's youngest prime minister, Ms Marin makes no secret of partying, and has often been photographed at music festivals. Last year she apologised for going clubbing after coming into close contact with a Covid-19 case. Just last week, Ms Marin was dubbed the "coolest prime minister in the world" by German news outlet Bild. Commenting on the video on Thursday, she said she knew she was being filmed but was upset that the video had become public.

Russia mulls dissolving Israeli emigration agency

DNA

MOSCOW: The relationship between Russia and Israel has rarely been so tense. Despite high-level phone calls, the Russian arm of the Jewish Agency for Israel faces forced closure. There has been speculation in both countries as to what might be behind this development. The Russian-language department of the British broadcaster BBC reported in July on a 20-page document containing a list of alleged irregularities that the Russian Justice Ministry had sent to the Jewish Agency in June. According to an anonymous source at the Jewish Agency in Russia, there were two main points of criticism: That the personal data of Russian citizens had been collected and sent abroad, and that the Jewish Agency was encouraging the "brain drain" from Russia by helping some of best qualified workers in the country to leave.

Malaysia to continue offering human capacity building programs

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Acting High Commissioner of Malaysia, Mr Deddy Faisal Ahmad Salleh and his wife, Madam Noor Emilia Alias hosted a reception in honour of the Alumni of Malaysia Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP). The reception was attended by 92 distinguished members of the alumni who has attended the programme in Malaysia. Also present were former Pakistani diplomats who were previously posted in Kuala Lumpur including Lieutenant General Tahir Mahmood Qazi (Rtd.) The purpose of the reception is to promote continuous engagements and foster a long-lasting and strong bond of friendship with all government officials who have attended the MTCP courses in Malaysia.

It is also to establish closer relations and strengthen networking between the High Commission of Malaysia in Islamabad and former MTCP participants, particularly from Pakistan. Malaysia attaches great importance to its bilateral relations with Pakistan. The long standing bilateral relations and close cooperation between our two brotherly countries have covered various areas in trade, investment, education, tourism, culture, defence and technical assistance on human capital development. Acting High Commissioner of Malaysia Mr Deddy Faisal Ahmad Salleh stated in his remarks that MTCP reflects Malaysia's commitment to South-South cooperation, particularly technical cooperation and formulated based on Malaysia's principle that the development of a country depends on the quality of its human resources. In addition, Malaysia sees MTCP as integral towards strengthening mutually beneficial bilateral relations. Mr Deddy Faisal added that this is also in line with the idea of "Keluarga Malaysia" or Malaysian Family based on the values of inclusion, togetherness and gratitude which was introduced by Prime Minister Dato' Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob. Malaysia, with its pluralistic society, had implemented and translated the figh of al-Ta'ayush which laid down three main principles in building good fraternal relations with all components of society. The three main principles are: 1. Brotherhood among fellow Muslims (ukhu-



ISLAMABAD: Alumni of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) posing for a picture during a reception hosted by the Acting High Commissioner of Malaysia Deddy Faisal Ahmad Salleh. – DNA

wah Islamiyyah); 2. Brotherhood among fellow citizens (ukhuwwah wataniyyah); 3. Brotherhood among fellow human beings (ukhuwwah basyariyyah). Ukuwwah basyariyyah is based on a brotherhood that grew and developed on universal human values regardless of racial, religious, tradition, belief and cultural background. Mr Deddy Faisal highlighted that the Malaysian High Commission is planning to offer more courses in various sectors for Pakistan, such as agriculture, economy, finance and trade, education, environment, industrial technical training, diplomacy, public management and administration, professional services, social development and science, technology and ICT. The envoy reiterated the Malaysian High Commission's commitment to sharing developmental experiences and expertise by providing various human capacity-building programmes and technical assistance to Pakistan in the coming years. "Hopefully the MTCP participants would utilise the knowledge and experience to further contribute for the betterment of Pakistan," the Malaysian envoy added. MTCP emphasizes human resources development mainly through training and capacity-building courses including short-term courses at Malaysian public and private training institutions, and long-term courses at Malaysian public universities. Annually, Malaysia's flagship MTCP offers more than 60 technical training and capacity-building programmes in vast areas of development in collabora-

tion with leading local training institutions and international development partners. Mr Deddy Faisal said that the Malaysian Government aims to encourage more future participation from Pakistani officials in the MTCP, as it would not only be beneficial for the bilateral relations but it would also assist in the career development of the participants. Mr Deddy Faisal also stated that Malaysia's trade relations with Pakistan have been encouraging. In 2021, the bilateral trade has grown to 36.3% and our total trade is worth 1.901 billion US Dollars. A majority of this total trade volume is contributed by the export of Palm Oil and palm Oil Based Agriculture Products which account to 51.9% share of this

total volume. Malaysia has been ranked first among 135 countries in the Global Islamic Finance Development Indicator and first among 81 in the Global Islamic Economy Indicator, both for the 9th year running. Mr Deddy Faisal ended his remarks by saying that : "No man is an island entire of itself: every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main". Likewise, I believe no nation no matter how strong or advanced can succeed alone or can remain resilient as we continue to face the challenges that lie ahead. However, if we pool our strengths together, join hands in enhancing our efforts at integration and work towards the achievement of progress and shared prosperity, I believe we will succeed.

EU's diplomatic offensive in Latin America

NEWS DESK

BRUSSELS: Brussels sees its influence slipping away in Latin America and is preparing to ramp up diplomacy and economic relations in 2023, according to EU documents revealed by Spanish daily El Pais on Thursday. The leaked text, composed by the European Union External Action Service (EEAS), simultaneously warns that the 33 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are increasingly under the hold of Beijing's economic interests and Moscow's political sway. While the EU has focused more on neighboring countries like Libya, Syria and Ukraine over the past decade, China increased its investments in Latin America 26-fold between 2000 and 2020, according to the document. Likewise, 21 countries in the region have signed onto China's Belt and Road Initiative. Meanwhile, the objections of some EU states have stalled the massive EU-Mercosur free trade agreement, just like pending updates to trade agreements with Mexico and Chile. This, in part, has allowed China to overtake the EU (and in some cases the US) in terms of trade in many Latin American countries. Importantly, Latin America is also home to the majority of the world's known lithium deposits, as well as massive deposits of petroleum and natural gas, the text points out. Meanwhile, the war in Ukraine highlighted a shift toward Moscow and away from the

West in many states. Russia's influence on popular opinion is also seen to be increasing. Although Latin American countries were more aligned with the West in the UN votes condemning the Russian war, in the latest Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly in April, the European delegation was unable to pass a condemnation of Moscow, even using the same language as the UN declaration. Meanwhile, the report also noted a trend of new "antiestablishment" leaders who may be more open to moving away from traditional alliances, such as the new leaders in Peru, Chile, Honduras, Costa Rica and Colombia. The election of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in the upcoming Brazil elections would only solidify this "remarkable transition" from the right to the left, according to the document. At the same time, the EU sees a risk of political instability on the continent due to the economic consequences of both COVID-19 and soaring commodity prices attributed to the war in Ukraine. That's why Brussels, under the leadership of Josep Borrell, wants to take advantage of the current situation to boost diplomacy and deploy its funds dedicated to Latin America "strategically and for maximum impact." According to the report, the EU is studying a package for 2023 that could mobilize up to 8 billion (\$8.14 billion) of European investments in Latin America. "The EU's credibility, power and leverage on the international stage is at stake," warned the EEAS report.

Clashes as Greek govt evacuates Athens camp

DNA

ATHENS: Police and migrants have faced off as Greek authorities start evacuating one of the last refugee camps in Athens, officials say, with videos showing authorities using tear gas and a flash grenade. The attempted eviction of the Eleonas camp, which hosts around 670 refugees and migrants, started at around 5:00 a.m. local time. Police were seen removing barricades residents had built around the gates of the camp in anticipation of the clearance operation. Migrants and activists clashed with riot police, who used tear gas and a flash grenade to push back protesters, according to videos at the scene. Migration Minister Notis Mitarachi said on Twitter Thursday that the government was "proceeding with the closure of the Eleonas camp" as part of an upgrade of the area and with places available in other areas. "Unfortunately, a small group of migrants and solidarity groups are trying to disrupt the move," Mitarachi said.

Pak-Iran FTA to be finalized in six months

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Syed Naveed Qamar Thursday said that Iran and Pakistan would give final shape to the proposed bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in the coming six months. After signing the FTA between the two countries, free trade would increase and the volume of bilateral trade would reach \$4 billion, he hoped. Syed Naveed Qamar stated this while talking to the media persons along with Iranian Minister for Roads and Urban Development, Rostam Ghasemi after the 21st Session of Pak-Iran Joint Economic Commission (JEC) which was held here from August 16 to 18. Iranian Minister for Roads and Urban Development, Rostam Ghasemi along with a delegation of 57 dignitaries participated in the 21st Session of Pak-Iran JEC. Federal Commerce Minister, Syed Naveed Qamar said that in the FTA, both the sides would negotiate to reduce tariffs and there would be an exchange of trade lists in different sectors of the two countries. He said that an agreement would be signed for promoting transit trade in the next three months, through which free economic zones would be established in the two countries. Naveed Qamar said that for the promotion of transit trade, it had been decided to establish six border markets, in which, the work on establishment of three border markets had already been started and work would be started on the other three soon. The initiative would promote free trade on both sides of the border and increase the mutual trade, he said. The minister said that it was time for final agreements and practical work for which both the countries had agreed. He said that the national airlines of the two countries had expressed their willingness to promote mutual cooperation. The minister said that relations between the two countries were deep rooted, adding We share the bonds of history, religion, geography, culture and traditions" He said that Iran was the first country to recognize Pakistan as an independent state in 1947.

EU hosts Serbia-Kosovo meeting

FOREIGN DESK

BRUSSELS: The leaders of Serbia and Kosovo met in Brussels on Thursday for another European Union-mediated attempt to resolve lingering issues between the two wartime rivaling states that have spiked tensions in the Balkans. EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, speaking before the meeting between Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic and Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti, said "recent tensions in the north of Kosovo have demonstrated yet again that it is time to move forward towards full normalization" of relations between the two states. "I expect both leaders to be open and flexible to find common ground," Borrell tweeted. Kosovo is a former province of Serbia, which has refused to recognize the country's 2008 declaration of independence.

UN calls on Myanmar military to end violence

NEW YORK: The United Nations has once again called on the junta in Myanmar to halt executions, end violence, and release all political prisoners. Myanmar's military staged a coup and detained the then-de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi as well as some of the key members of her ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) Party. The junta claimed that it had seized power after finding widespread fraud in elections held three months earlier that Suu Kyi's NLD had won in a landslide. Following the coup, the military handed power to General Min Aung Hlaing and imposed a state of emergency for a year. The coup has drawn worldwide condemnation and the UN Security Council has already called on the junta to release all political prisoners, including Suu Kyi, but all to no avail. In late July, the junta executed four political activists in the country's first use of capital punishment in more than three decades. – Agencies

Pak, Kyrgyzstan for further consolidation of bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the Kyrgyz Republic on Thursday held the second session of Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) wherein the two sides agreed to further consolidate the bilateral relations in all areas of mutual importance. During the session, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the timely completion of the CASA-1000 power transmission project. The two sides exchanged views on bilateral cooperation in areas of trade and investment, connectivity, energy, investment, culture, education, science and technology, security and defence, and parliamentary exchanges. Pakistan delegation was led by Additional Secretary (Afghanistan and West Asia) Aamar Aftab Qureshi while the Kyrgyz Republic delegation was led by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Artykbaev Aibek Muhtarovich. During the meeting, the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, as well as regional and multilateral issues, were discussed. The additional secretary underscored that Pakistan was committed to further deepening and broadening its ties with the Kyrgyz Republic. He said that Pakistan's "Vision Central Asia" Policy was focused on political and diplomatic, trade and investment, energy and connectivity, security and defence, and people-to-people exchanges.



The additional secretary highlighted that Pakistan was firmly focused on enhancing economic security through advancing connectivity agenda. Both sides expressed satisfaction on close fraternal relations and coordination at various international forums, especially in the

United Nations, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Economic Cooperation Organization, and Shanghai Cooperation Organization. It was observed that Pakistan and the Kyrgyz Republic continued to support each other's candidatures at the UN and other international bodies.

The two sides agreed to hold the 3rd meeting of the Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) at an early date in Bishkek. The important regional and international issues particularly Afghanistan, and the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) were discussed during the consultations. The additional secretary briefed the Kyrgyz side on the grave human rights situation in IIOJK. He said that India's illegal and unilateral actions of August 5, 2019 were aimed at undermining the internationally recognized disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir, and altering the demographic structure of IIOJK in blatant violation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions and international law including the 4th Geneva Convention. These steps were forcefully rejected by Pakistan, the Kashmiris, and the international community, he added. Sharing Pakistan's perspective on the situation in Afghanistan, the additional secretary emphasized the need for practical engagement with interim Afghan government and provision of humanitarian and economic assistance to the Afghan people. It was decided to hold the next session of the political consultations in Bishkek at a mutually convenient date. – APP