



# Islamabad POST

Saturday, August 06, 2022

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 20

**PM Shehbaz Sharif for early disbursement of compensation money**

Detailed News On Page-07

**Russia ready to discuss prisoner swap**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Hungarian commander calls on CJCS**

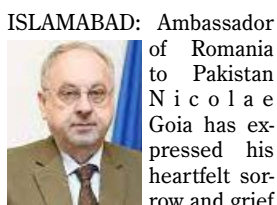
Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

**Romanian envoy grieved over helicopter incident**

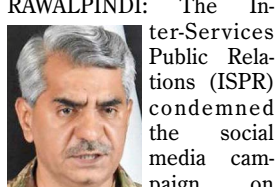
DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan Nicolae Goia has expressed his heartfelt sorrow and grief over the army helicopter incident in which six precious lives were lost. The ambassador in a message said on behalf of the Romanian embassy he would like to extend his deepest and heartfelt condolences on the tragic incident which provoked death of heroes from the Pakistani military. He prayed to God to give the departed souls eternal life in Heaven and to provide families and friends with strength to go through these difficult moments".

**ISPR condemns campaign on copter crash**

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RAWALPINDI: The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) condemned the social media campaign on the tragic Pakistan Army helicopter crash which left six military personnel martyred. The helicopter that had gone missing this week on Monday as it was en route from Quetta to Karachi. The personnel in the chopper were overseeing the flood relief efforts in the southwest of the country. "The regretful social media campaign after the unfortunate helicopter crash on August 1 has caused deep anguish and distress among Shuhada families and rank and file of the Armed Forces," said the military's media wing. The statement further added: "While the whole nation stood with the institution in this difficult time certain insensitive quarters resorted to hurtful and derogatory comments on social media which is unacceptable and highly condemnable."

## Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday. - Editor

## Inside...

IWCCI, start-up sign MoU to lift women-led businesses - Page 02

Secy information calls for support system to spread Kashmiris' message - Page 03

ICCI and PASDEC sign MoU to promote marble, granite sector - Page 04

Children and the far-right web - Page 05

Pakistan out of medal race in hockey event - Page 06

UBG nominates Atif Ikram as presidential candidate - Page 07

US government, private sector impacts in KP's Development - Page 08

## IMF Programme

# COAS reaches out to UAE, Saudi leaders

In a phone conversation with Army Chief, UAE President condoles loss of lives in floods

IRSHAD ALI



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa has spoken with the authorities of the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, media reported. The International Monetary Fund loan programme reportedly came under discussion and positive development is expected

Continued on Page 06

**Miftah says Pakistan on 'right track'**

STAFF REPORT

KARACHI: Finance Minister Miftah Ismail said Friday that Pakistan was heading in the right direction, but he did not rule out the possibility of the country facing bad days ahead. In his address to an event at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in the metropolis, the finance minister said: "We are on the right track, but obviously we might see bad days. However, we are on the right track and if we

Continued on Page 06

# Flash floods kill 550 in Pakistan

Govt agencies and the army have set up aid and relief camps

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ISLAMABAD: Flash floods caused by abnormally heavy monsoon rains killed at least 549 people in Pakistan over the past month, with remote communities in the impoverished southwestern province of Balochistan among the hardest hit, a government agency said. Government agencies and the army have set up aid and relief camps in flood-hit regions and were working to help relocate families and provide food and medicine. Aside from the fatalities, the flooding had damaged more than 46,200 houses, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said on Friday. "We're doing our best to provide for extensive relief and rehabilitation of flood victims," Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said during visit to stricken areas. But the Balochistan provincial government said it needed more funds and appealed to international organizations for assistance. "Our losses are massive," the province's

Continued on Page 06

**Cabinet declares monsoon emergency**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman Friday warned the nation that the federal cabinet has declared a "monsoon emergency" in Pakistan. "We need to brace for the next round of rain torrents starting tomorrow," the federal minister wrote on Twitter. Rehman directed all provincial and district administrations, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), and Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) to act now to take as many preventive measures as possible. Earlier, in its weather advisory, the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) had said

Continued on Page 06

# Pakistan, Indonesia ties on positive trajectory: FM



NEWS DESK

PNOM PENH: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held a meeting with Retno Marsudi, Foreign Minister of Indonesia in Pnom Penh, Cambodia. The two Foreign Ministers expressed satisfaction over the pace of steady progress in bilateral relations. They agreed on the importance of enhanced bilateral exchanges and regular dialogue at all levels to further solidify and provide momentum to the relationship. The two Foreign Ministers

also discussed the important role played by women in Pakistan and Indonesia and committed to work together for women's rights and empowerment. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari thanked the Indonesian Foreign Minister on the timely support and facilitation by the Indonesia government in release of Palm Oil exports to Pakistan. The two Foreign Ministers discussed issues of concern for the OIC and agreed that as the two largest Islamic countries Pakistan and Indonesia need to consult

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting to review rescue and relief operation in flood affected areas. - DNA

**Govt be given one month time**

SHUJAAT HAMZA



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator Vice President Fawad Chaudhry announced that the PTI would hold a mammoth public gathering in the federal capital within few days; wherein the imported government be given one month ultimatum to dissolve the assembly in order to hold fresh elections to get the country out of the quagmire. Addressing a press conference here on Friday, Fawad

Continued on Page 06

**Blast in Kabul kills 8**

KABUL: The Islamic State (IS) militant group on Friday claimed responsibility for a deadly blast in a Shi'ite residential area in Afghanistan's capital Kabul, the group said. The Afghan police said at least eight people were killed and 18 wounded in the blast. The militant group said in a statement that 20 people were killed and injured in an attack launched in western Kabul. "The explosion happened in a crowded place," said Khalid Zardran, the city's police spokesman. Video shared on social media purportedly of the blast site showed men rushing to help the injured after the incident. - Agencies

# Imran to contest by-elections on nine NA seats

By-polls to be held on September 25

**ECP summons Imran Khan on Aug 23**

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday issued a notice to PTI chairman Imran Khan and summoned him on August 23 in the prohibited funding case, in which it had ruled that the party had received foreign funds. According to the ECP website, the case titled "Notice to Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf in terms of Rule 6 of Political Parties Rule 2006, in compliance of judgment by the commission dated August 2 in case title Akbar Sher

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan will contest by-elections on nine National Assembly seats scheduled to be held on September 25, according to a party statement issued on Friday. "In the by-elections of 9 National Assembly constituencies to be held on

Continued on Page 06

# LALA

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# IWCCI, start-up sign MoU to lift women-led businesses

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ISLAMABAD: Samina Fazil, founder President, Islamabad Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IWCCI) on Friday said with the economic situation improving, the government should focus on start-ups to boost the economy. Start-ups boost the economy with revolutionary technology and create new industries over time. When these start-ups go public, they become money-making engines for not just the owners but also for the employees and shareholders, she said. This she said while signing an MoU

with a newly established FinTech (financial technology) start-up, with an aim to digitize the financial needs of small businesses. Samina Fazil said that start-ups need access to overseas markets, which means supporting cross-border data flows, limiting trade barriers and clearing away regulatory obstacles that hamper their growth. We want to financially empower women-led and other businesses by providing a simple and powerful accounting tool, she added. Naima Ansari, former president of IWCCI said that start-up-friendly policies do not require large amounts of money or incentives. She said that we

will support female entrepreneurs who don't have access to expensive accounting resources as we want to play our part in digitising the country for a better tomorrow. We will unlock the female entrepreneurial potential by providing them with this easy-to-use product to solve all their accounting needs, said Ansari. Meenah Tariq, CEO of a newly established start-up Metric, said that start-ups also contribute to changing the image of the country. We will be directly helping thousands of businesses with IWCCI and similar affiliations as accounting literacy is an important step for businesswomen to move closer to their goals, she said.



## Occupation of IIOJK is the biggest humanitarian crisis

SAQIB MUSHTAQ

LODHAN: Deputy Commissioner Lodhran Muhammad Yasir has said that India's illegal occupation of Occupied Kashmir is the biggest human crisis and tragedy of the century. He said that Pakistan stands with Kashmiris with strength and determination. He said that India will have to respond to every atrocity because the blood of martyred Kashmiris is showing the way for the freedom of Kashmir. He said that on August 5, 2019, the Modi government changed the legal status of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and broke mountains of cruelty and brutality on innocent Kashmiris and cut off the Kashmiri people from the outside world and turned

Jannat Nazir Valley into a big human prison. done. He said that persecution of Kashmiris has been going on for the last century but the situation has worsened with the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A. He said that every moment is heavy for the Kashmiri people for centuries. Thousands of military personnel patrol the streets all the time and take immediate action in case of any protest or gathering in the area. Kashmiris are bathed in blood. Their innocence is trampled underfoot, Kashmiris face the rigors of imprisonment and volcanic eruptions are rained down on innocent people. These views were expressed by Deputy Commissioner Lodhran Muhammad Yasir while leading a peaceful protest rally on

Kashmir Exploitation Day here today. On the occasion of Kashmir Exploitation Day, a protest rally was taken out from District Press Club Lodhran to District Council. Meanwhile, a seminar regarding Exploitation of Kashmir Day was also organized in Kanju Hall of District Council. The seminar was presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Azuba Azeem. Additional Deputy Commissioner General Malik Ahmad Faraz Awan, Deputy Director Public Relations Lodhran Nauman Masood Khan, Chief Executive Officer District Health Authority Dr. Shaikat Ali Ijaz, Chief Executive Officer District Education Authority Mian Abdul Razzaq and other officers participated

in the seminar. Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Azuba Azim in his address at the seminar called the blood-warming and blood-warming efforts of children to raise their voice for the rights of the Kashmiri people on the occasion of Kashmir Exploitation Day. He thanked Anjuman Traders, scholars, civil society men and women and dignitaries of the city for participating in the seminar organized on the theme of Kashmir Exploitation Day. He said that a new era has started internationally with the inclusion of Kashmir in the map by Pakistan. He said that the day is not far when Occupied Kashmir will become independent and become a part of Pakistan.

The meeting also discussed uplift projects and public issues of Swabi with special focus on NA-18 constituency. Meeting was informed that rehabilitation of infrastructure damaged by floods in Swabi has been estimated at one billion rupees and a summary has been prepared that would be sent to relevant department. Chairing the meeting, chief minister directed relevant authorities to expedite the process so that required funds could be released timely for the rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure. He also directed the Deputy Commissioner Swabi to prepare a case for granting of Tehsil status to Gadoon and submit it to Board of Revenue for further process. He also directed to expedite work on construction of Ulta small Dam and said that this project is of vital importance to address drinking water issues in the area. He directed finance department to provide required funds during the current financial year to ensure completion of project within stipulated time. CM also directed steps to provide required piece of land for the upgrading Bam Khel Sports Complex to Category-A. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal minister for sports presenting shield to President foundation of Realtors Pakistan Sardar Tahir Mehmood in a ceremony organised by Rawalpindi/Islamabad Photojournalists Association (professional) Col Asif Zaman Director General PSB and President RIPJA professional Sajjad Haider also present held at Pakistan sports board. – DNA

## Traders stage rally against Indian atrocities

PESHAWAR: Trading community here on Friday staged a protest rally against Indian atrocities on the people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). The rally led by the president Tajir Itehad (Traders Alliance), Mujeeb-ur-Rehman marched on busy Saddar Road and chanted slogans against the atrocities of Indian security forces on innocent Kashmiris. The participants of the rally were carrying banners and placards inscribed with slogans against the illegal Indian occupation of Jammu and Kashmir and demand for granting the right of self-determination to Kashmiris. Presidents of various bazaars including Aziz Khan, Naseer Hashmi, Zafar Minhas and other senior traders and shopkeepers also participated in the rally. Addressing the protesters, President, Traders Alliance, Mujeeb-ur-Rehman said that Indian security forces had unleashed a reign of terror on Kashmiris. He said that curfew and lockdown imposed by the Indian security forces had made the lives of Kashmiris miserable. – APP

## Breastfeeding awareness month kicks off in KP

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department, in collaboration with UNICEF was observing World Breastfeeding Week to create awareness among women about the benefits of breast milk for new-born babies. The Global Breastfeeding Month 2022 them/slogan is "Step Up for Breastfeeding: Educate and Support". Director General Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Shaheen Afridi has said "Breastfeeding is the single most cost-effective public health intervention that can provide babies the best start to a healthy life." In a message on the occasion of launching global breast feeding month (August), he said that breastfeeding protect children from infections, and diseases like diarrhoea, building stronger immunity, and preventing new-born and child deaths. "Seminars, walks and other activities will be organized in the districts of Peshawar Kohat, Abbottabad and other areas." – APP

## Utility stores will continue to provide relief to the public

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In order to improve demand and supply and ensure uninterrupted supply of branded items at all utility stores across the country, the prices of some branded items have been increased, but this increase is by the branded companies. Various national and multinational branded companies supplying goods to utility stores have increased the prices of various branded items, while the prices of various pulses have also been increased. Prices of these commodities were kept stable since March/

April. Utility Stores Corporation does not manufacture or produce itself but purchases from reputed and certified branded companies of the country. When raw material prices increase, production charges increase and transportation charges increase, the product cost also increases due to which the prices have to be revised. So that demand and supply improve and availability of these products is possible. Despite this, the utility stores are determined to continue to provide basic and branded items to the public at lower rates than the open market. The new prices of these

items at utility stores will be 5% below the printed retail market price. It should be noted that at all utility stores across the country, subsidised ghee is cheaper by Rs 150 per kg, sugar by Rs 20 to Rs 25 per kg and a bag of 20 kg flour by Rs 700. The price of white gram is Rs 20-40 per kg and dal gram is Rs 15-20 per kg less than the market. Similarly, dal masoor prices are available at Rs.30 to Rs.40 per kg. A subsidy of Rs 20 per kg is also being given on these pulses. Apart from this, more than 1500 other items are also being provided free from the general market in the utility stores.

## Kashmir issue can only be resolved through dialogue

ISLAMABAD: Experts at a panel discussion Friday on the plight of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) unanimously agreed that the resolution of Kashmir issue could be reached only through dialogue and engagement. The panel discussion was organized by the Information Service Academy (ISA) here at the ISA auditorium in observance of Youm-e-Istehsal, condemning Indian atrocities against the people of IIOJK. August 5 is remembered as the Youm-e-Istehsal as it was on this day three years ago the right wing Bharatiya Janata Party-led Indian government revoked articles 370 and 35-A of the Indian constitution abrogating the special status of Jammu & Kashmir. Former secretary foreign affairs Riaz Muhammad Khan, while delving deep into the root-cause of the problem, termed Kashmir an unfinished agenda of 1947 partition. He said: "For Pakistanis, Kashmir is not only a matter

of principled position, but they have emotional involvement with the Kashmiri brethren." He said Pakistan's historical position on Kashmir was based on two things - UNSC resolutions and Simla Agreement. He said he did not see any chance of the revival of a dialogue between the two countries as long as "there is Modi-led BJP in power." He said the Congress party had a different position on Kashmir's self-government and autonomy. He concluded his argument by saying Pakistan needed to create political cohesion and achieve economic stability first so that it could effectively raise its voice for the Kashmir cause. He pointed out the power differential between Pakistan and India and asked why it was gradually increasing to which his own answer was: "In my view, one of the factors is that Pakistanis are confused about Westernization and modernization. We need to promote education, and science and technology as progress cannot be made on the basis of just one's belief system. Munawar Hussain, Assistant Professor of Quid-e-Azam University, gave a brief scholarly overview of the dynamics of power and theories of international relations with reference to the Kashmir dispute. – APP

## CM reviews development projects

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan on Friday chaired a meeting to review development projects including construction of Utla Small Dam and rehabilitation of infrastructure damaged by recent flash floods. Former Speaker of National Assembly Asad Qaisar, Member of Provincial Assembly Rangeez Ahmad, Principal Secretary to CM, Amjad Ali Khan, Senior Member Board of Revenue Zakir Hussain Afridi, concerned Administrative secretaries and other senior officials attended the meeting.

## National consultation on the economy of Pakistan

DR. ABDUS SATTAR ABBASI

I WAS real excited when I received an invitation to join a National Consultation on the Economy of Pakistan' on the 19th of July in one of the leading hotels of Lahore. Most of the participants arrived on time which suggested everyone's eagerness in the discussion. Some leading journalists, academicians, authors, serving and retired government officials & judges, religious scholars, development sector representatives, lawyers, engineers, economists and businessmen participated in the consultation. There was significant diversity in thoughts and ideas of participants. Generally religious scholars were of the view to link economic policies with rudimentary practices of early Islamic society with the belief that it is the responsibility of the Creator to feed every living organism on this planet including human beings. Which is undoubtedly true but why we forget that "man shall have nothing but he strives for". Why we are taught to earnestly pray for "which is good in the world". Why we are told to "disperse in the land to seek Bounty". We need to develop a balanced view of life. It is undeniable that majority of Muslim population at the moment is suffering due to weak economic conditions of Muslim societies. Muslim pop

ulations are fundamentally dependent on non-Muslim societies for reasonably comfortable life in modern times from transportation to cellular communications, from medicines to food commodities and from furniture to fixtures & fittings. You name anything for comfort, efficiency and productivity it will have origin in a society other than Muslims. Which I think is unbecoming of followers of a religion which was based on Iqra - reading, understanding, analysis and evaluation. Attractive part of the session was the participation from different walks of life and from different parts of the globe. The meeting was held in the backdrop of recent verdict of Federal Shariat Court to ban interest (riba) from all financial institutions of Pakistan. Therefore the initial focus of the discussion was on miseries and exploitation of riba which usually culminates its cycle with economic depressions in different societies but in recent times we witnessed global impact of such economic turmoil. Banking system, tax regimens, trade embargoes, global financial treaties, monopolies all are blamed for the sufferings of masses in modern capitalistic economies. All claims of trickle-down effect are usually challenged by relevant experts calling for overall transformation of financial and economic system to bring prosperity for less advantaged. It has become a real task for economic and financial

experts to enact a system ensuring equitable distribution of wealth which human society witnessed for hundreds of years of Islamic super continental state. Contemporary financial and economic experts in the session were emphasising the need of expanding tax net to overcome current difficulties of the Country besides other initiatives to expand and strengthen overall economic conditions of Pakistan. Most of the participants were surprised when presenter from UK on a visit to Pakistan told the audience that they pay 20% VAT (value added tax) and then almost 20% on savings to fulfil their national responsibilities. It convinced all participants to inculcate the culture of paying tax but almost everyone was not convinced with current practices of FBR and emphasized the need of tax reforms for the convenience of traders and business organizations. After the speeches of religious scholars a trade representative raised his concern that if interest is considered as a war against the Creator then why there is such a significant prosperity in western countries where interest is not prohibited. There are several justifications to this observation from the religious community such as they will get their share of happiness in this life but will not get anything in the hereafter. However, we should remain cautious about such claims because who

knows what happens in the life after death. The kind of observation from the trade representative is based on apparent facts but lacks deep understanding of business dynamics of western communities. There is a huge segment of leading global business organizations around the world which operates on zero leverage which means without interest based financing for their operations. Second, venture capital to nurture new entrepreneurs and businesses contributes exceptionally in contemporary business landscape which is identical to Islamic sharia compliant mudarabah financing, in some cases angel investors opt for the agreement which is same as the musharakah. Many participants advocated adopting fundamental practices of Islam for economics referring it economics of Madina, at the same time several argued to strengthen modern economic indicators for the sustainability of the Country. Land reforms, tax reforms, electoral reforms, reforms in import & export policies, targeted subsidies, human resource development, attracting overseas Pakistanis with special policies and incentives, almost every aspect came under discussion with 26 contributors to the dialogue. It is important to note that everyone in the hall stressed the need for the political stability in the Country. A representative of The Financial

Markets Association of Pakistan (FMAP) gave some interesting suggestions e.g. tagging imports with exports, balancing expenditures and income, per USD rebate for overseas Pakistanis on their remittances which can increase remittances to threefold, he also predicted significant devaluation of rupee in coming months beyond Rs. 250 per USD. Finally the host and the president of Jamate-Islami ex-senator and ex-minister of finance KPKMr. Siraj-ul-Haq gave his concluding remarks. He referred to ex-chairman FBR who said that economy of Pakistan has already defaulted. He stated that in Islam both the market and the mosque are declared as sacred and any fraud and misappropriation is prohibited in these two places. He said that despite our extensive capability to produce agriculture goods we are subject to shortages. He shared his personal experience as minister finance KPK giving budgets without deficit if there is authentic control on government expenditures. He invited people from all walks of life to join the mission to ensure economic prosperity of Pakistan without necessarily joining his party. – The writer is Associate Professor Management Sciences Head, Center of Islamic Finance COMSATS University (CUI) Lahore Campus, drabdussattar@cuihalahore.edu.pk

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## National Days and Armed Forces Days

## AUGUST

Aug 01/ **CHINA**  
Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/ **SWITZERLAND**  
National Day

Aug 01/ **LEBANON**  
Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/ **SYRIA**  
Armed Forces Day

Aug 4/ **BUKINO FASO**  
National Day

Aug 09/ **SINGAPORE**  
National Day

Aug 15/ **DPR KOREA**  
Independence Day

Aug 15/ **INDIA**  
Independence Day

Aug 15/ **POLAND**  
Armed Forces Day

Aug 17/ **INDONESIA**  
Independence Day

Aug 24/ **UKRAINE**  
Independence Day

Aug 25/ **URUGUAY**  
Independence Day

Aug 30/ **TURKEY**  
Armed Forces Day

Aug 31/ **KYRGYZ**  
Independence Day

Aug 31/ **MALAYSIA**  
National Day

## PMD alerts authorities

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) in an advisory issued on Friday revealed that the monsoon currents continuously penetrating in the country likely to become stronger from August 10 and would bring more rains in the country in the coming days. The PMD has advised the authorities to remain alert of the chances of increased water level in the catchment areas of rivers, flash flooding and landslides in the vulnerable places. — APP

# Secy information calls for support system to spread Kashmiris' message

ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Shahera Shahid on Friday underlined the need for developing a support system for oppressed Kashmiris who needed Pakistan more than ever to raise their voice at every for. "India is in a strong position to block everything on the social media, but we have to continue our struggle and provide a support system to Kashmiris to ensure that their voices reach across the world," she said while addressing to participants of Digital Photographic and Painting Exhibition held here at the Pak-China Centre in connection with Yum-E-Istehsal Kashmir being observed on Friday.

It was organised by the Directorate of Electronic Media & Publications to highlight barbarism in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) especially after revocation of



its special status on August 5, 2019. Two short documentaries were also shown to give a quick and brief review to the audience on the history of Kashmiri people and their struggle amidst Indian brutalities, media gags in post-August 5 scenario and Pakistan's resolve and commitment for the

# Kashmiris sacrificed 100,000 precious lives, says Kaira

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira said on Friday that the Kashmiris had so far sacrificed more than 100,000 precious lives for their right to self-determination. Addressing the participants of a walk held on the occasion of Youm-e-Istehsal, Kaira said despite all the brutal tactics, India had failed to weaken the resolve of self-determination of Kashmiris. Kaira said Indian government had issued millions of domiciles to Hindus in a bid to change the demography of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K). He said according to new changes made in the law, the non-state persons were given the right to buy property there (in the territory).

He pledged the resolve that the people belonging to different school of thoughts in Pakistan were united with their Kashmiri brethren as independence of Pakistan was not complete without the independence of Kashmir. "We have to shake the conscience of the world by our sheer determination and struggle to fight the case of Kashmir at the global level", he concluded. – APP



## FBISE announces SSC-I result with pass % of 69.44

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) has announced the result of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Annual Examination on Friday with the overall pass percentage of 69.44, in a ceremony held here Friday. Addressing the ceremony, Chairman FBISE, Qaiser Alam congratulated the institutions that have trained the teachers in the best way and made the learning achievement (SLO) based examination system a success.

He said that the FBISE is preparing a university program in which we will try to train teachers according to a regular schedule with the help of institutions and directorates, to achieve the goal of quality education. According to the details of the result, a total of 126728 candidates appeared in the exam including 117218 regular and 9510 private candidates appeared in the exam out of which 87999 candidates including 84630 regular and 3369 private candidates could pass the exam. In Science group, a total of 103991 regular students appeared in the exam out of which 77253 students could pass against 2508 private candidates passed out of total 6789 appeared in the exam. In Humanities group, a total of 12773 regular candidates appeared in the exam out of which 7239 passed against 7239 private candidates passed out of 12773 appeared in the exam. – APP

## BMP asks SBP for stern monitoring of banks

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has asked the central bank to keep on its regulatory and stern monitoring of the foreign exchange operations of the banks and money market with a view to control the volatility in the rupee-dollar exchange rate. The BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar said that it's a positive indication that the rupee has started to appreciate against greenback majorly due to less import and partially owing to the SBP's strict monitoring of the foreign exchange operations, suspending the operations of several branches of some exchange companies for violation of SBP regulations.

Mian Anjum expected that with controlled import bill and lower trade deficit, the rupee is expected to gradually strengthen. He said that the rupee depreciation has been overdone and driven by only sentiments. The rupee has overshot due to concerns about domestic politics and the IMF program. The local currency had fallen by Rs52 or 23 percent in 2022 and Rs19 or 8 percent during the last two weeks on fears of delay in the IMF program, falling FX reserves and increased political noise. However, now it has started the recovery and is likely to gain further in the coming days, he hoped. FPCCI former president said that the actions taken by the SBP along with other good news, helped to improve the exchange rate in the interbank and open currency market, as the Pak rupee recorded the highest gain in absolute terms against US dollar. He said that lower than expected imports for July and the IMF Resident Representative's statement that Pakistan has met all prior conditions helped rupee to gain Rs12 or 5 percent to Rs 226. - DNA

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# آرٹیکل 370 کا خاتمہ نامنظور



## Briefs

## KSRC handed over relief consignment to NDMA

ISLAMABAD: King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRC) has handed over another consignment of 20 emergency relief trucks carrying 190 tons loaded with essential food items to NDMA for flood-affected people of Baluchistan and other affected regions. According to a press release issued by the embassy of Saudi Arabia here on Friday, around 2,000 Food packages handed over by KSRC, will help flood-affected people living in Baluchistan and north of Pakistan. Each food package includes all essential items such as; 80 kg of flour, cooking oil of 5 liters, 5kg of Sugar, and 5kg of Daal Chana which will be sufficient for a family. The food bags will be distributed in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and local government. More than 14000 people will get benefit from this emergency relief, it added. It was pertinent to mention here that the King Salman Relief Centre has already distributed 3000 food packages among flood-affected people living in 6 districts of Baluchistan (Lesbela, Khuzdar, Quetta, Pishin, Killa Saifullah, Killa Abdullah) last week. – APP

## Various steps taken for reducing circular debt

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Power Khurram Dastagir Khan on Friday informed Senate that various steps have been taken by the government for reducing the flow and stock of circular debt. Replying to queries during question hour in the Senate, the minister said that the steps taken included the return on equity of independent power plants. Government-owned power plants have been reduced to decrease capacity. He said that the steps were being taken to improve recoveries and reduction of transmission and distribution losses of DISCOs. He said that other steps included the resolution of the Quetta Agri-Tube-well non-payment issue by metering these consumers and disconnection of chronic non-paying consumers. He said that other steps included budgeting complete subsidy requirements for the power sector, moving interest costs from the power sector to public debt by conversion of PHL loans to public debt and harmonization the process of uniform tariff and bringing automaticity in the notification of tariff. Khurram Dastagir Khan said that the major reasons for the increase in circular debt were delay in passing of generation cost increase to the consumers, delay in notification of quarterly adjustment in tariff, unbudgeted/unpaid subsidies, non-payment by K-electric, markup charges billed by IPPs and not allowed by the regulator to be passed to the consumers, PHL debt service payments and less recoveries payments. – APP

## WAPDA paying compensation to Mohmand Dam affectees

ISLAMABAD: Senate was informed on Friday that WAPDA is paying a compensation package of Rs. 6 million to the households affected due to the construction of Mohmand Dam Hydropower Project. Replying to question during question hour in the Senate, the Minister of State for Law and Justice Shahadat Awan informed the Senate that a total 80 of households are being affected according to WAPDA. The minister said that the WAPDA is giving compensation package to the affected households, who are fulfilling the prescribed criteria in addition to their structure, crops, trees and livestock compensation. Replying to another question, he said that rates fixed for the land acquisition in Mohmand Agency for the construction of Dam. He said that National Commission and land Acquisition Committee have assessed and finalized reasonable rates, adding that if the land owners feel aggrieved, they have legal right to approach the Referee Court for the enhancement of rates. – APP

## ICCI and PASDEC sign MoU to promote marble, granite sector

ICCI shall facilitate PASDEC in organizing awareness seminars, exhibitions and trade shows through its network of members besides providing display stalls or space for events for development and promotion of the marble & granite sector

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Driven by the objective of promoting trade of dimensional stone (marble, granite and onyx) and mutual benefit of public and private sectors, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Pakistan Stone Development Company (PASDEC) to promote the development of marble and granite sector of the country and enhance its exports. Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President ICCI and Brig. Babar Miraj Shami, Chief Executive Officer, PASDEC signed the MoU in a ceremony held at ICCI. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President, Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi former President, Muhammad Naveed Malik former Senior Vice President ICCI and others were also present at the occasion. By signing MoU, PASDEC will provide technical support to the marble sector in planning, development and execution of mechanized mining & processing facilities for better growth of this sector. PASDEC



will also provide technical assistance to the investors & business community for boosting exports of marble and granite products. On the recommendations of ICCI, PASDEC in collaboration with the federal government will make efforts for the establishment of marble cities, machinery pool warehouses and other projects. PASDEC in close coordination with ICCI, will work for the development of marble and granite

sector strategy and submit proposals to the Government of Pakistan. PASDEC will also invite representatives of ICCI in meetings for recommendations on policy formulation. PASDEC shall conduct geo-technical study and shall provide machinery on rent or lease to the business community to facilitate the local dimensional stone mining industry. PASDEC in cooperation with ICCI will train labour for dimensional

stone industry and give technical assistance to the concerned business sector for skill development. ICCI shall facilitate PASDEC in organizing awareness seminars, exhibitions and trade shows through its network of members besides providing display stalls or space for events for the development and promotion of the marble & granite sector. PASDEC would invite one representative to ICCI for attending meetings of the standing committee on Marble Industry. Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, ICCI said that the marble sector has great potential to grow and enhance exports of the country. He said that the MoU between ICCI and PASDEC is a right step towards harnessing the actual potential of the marble sector for better economic growth of the country. Brig. Babar Miraj Shami, CEO, PASDEC said that his organization has the expertise and vision to make Pakistan a globally competitive player of international dimensional stone industry while ICCI has outreach to the private sector. He hoped that the close mutual cooperation between both institutes would produce win-win results for the marble sector as well as the overall economy.

## Defence analyst calls upon India to reverse its illegal action

ISLAMABAD: Defense analyst Abdullah Gul on Friday called upon the Indian government to reverse its unilateral and illegal action of August 5, 2019 by restoring special constitutional status of the state of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. "India has been exposed in last three years since its unilateral and illegal move of abrogating article 370 and 35-A," said Gul in a statement in connection with Youm-e-Istehsal. He said after August 5 the situation in IIOJK has completely changed, the international media that never speak regarding Indian atrocities in Kashmir valley before has been highlighting Indian brutal policies and grave human rights violations in IIOJK. He said the world is keeping mum on the Kashmir

issue as India claims itself as a strategic ally of the United States. India was exposed in front of the United Nations and world's human rights organizations after the UN representatives highlighted Indian cruel policies on innocent Kashmiris, he added. "I would like to appreciate the role of social media activities across the globe in favor of Kashmiris. After that the world forums started discussion on the Kashmir issue," he remarked. He lauded the role of Pakistani government for effectively highlighting the Kashmir issue on all international forums and wanted a peaceful resolution to the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions. He noted that India has violated international norms and UN charter as

well. Kashmiris were always wanted to be the part of Pakistan before its partition and 26 days before the partition, the genuine representatives of Kashmiris unanimously passed the resolution of Kashmir's Accession to Pakistan during a meeting of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference at the residence of Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan in Srinagar. The Kashmiris never accepted Indian occupation and continued their freedom struggle since then. "We are hopeful that sooner or later the Kashmiris will get for which they have been striving for decades. The criminal silence of the international community over the Kashmir issue may lead to a nuclear war between two nuclear powers," said the defence analyst. – APP

## One minute silence, traffic halted on Youm-e-Istehsal

ISLAMABAD: One minute silence was observed here Friday across the capital at 08:59 a.m. on Youm-e-Istehsal to mark the completion of third year of Indian military siege of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and illegal, immoral and unconstitutional step to strip its special status. The traffic was also came to a halt on three points in the federal capital including Express Chowk Signal, Ayub Chowk and Faisal Avenue Chowk to express solidarity with Kashmiris. The government has planned a series of activities including seminars and conferences to mark the Youm-e-Istehsal and express solidarity with the oppressed Kashmiri people while rallies in their support were being staged across the country with vibrant participation of people from all walks of life. – APP

## CAS calls world to come forward for Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD: On completion of three years of illegitimate revocation of the special status of IIOJ&K, contriving demographic changes and continued military siege by India in gross violation of human rights, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force has expressed his resolve to stand with brave and resilient people of IIOJ&K in their peaceful struggle against Indian oppression. In his message, he said that for the sake of fairness, justice and human dignity, it is imperative that the international community should come forward with practical steps that would force India to reverse its present course against the Kashmiri people. India must realize that martyrdom of each Kashmiri and destruction of each Kashmiri house would only further strengthen the Kashmiris' resolve for freedom from Indian occupation. Throughout the Kashmiris' struggle, we would always stand by our Kashmiri brethren for their legitimate freedom struggle, said the Air Chief. – DNA



## Pakistan exports to Italy increase 40.14% to \$1085m during FY 2022

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani export to Italy witnessed an increase of 40.14 percent during the twelve months of fiscal year (2021-22) as compared to the corresponding period of last year. The overall exports to Italy were recorded at \$1085.675 million during July-June (2021-22) against exports of \$774.658 million during July-June (2020-21), showing growth of 40.14 percent, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the exports to Italy also increased by 61.85 percent by going up from \$74.887 million during June 2021 against the exports of \$121.206 million in June 2022, the SBP data revealed. On month-on-month basis the export to Italy also witnessed surge of 11.77 percent in June 2022 as compared to the exports of \$108.433 million in May 2022. Overall Pakistan's exports to all countries also witnessed an increase of 26.56 percent in twelve months, from US \$25638.974 million to US \$32450.087 million, the SBP data said. On the other hand, the imports from Italy during the period were recorded at \$770.439 million against \$568.022 million last year, showing growth of 35.63 percent during the fiscal year under review. Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the imports from Italy however decreased by 28.39 percent, by going down from \$73.938 million during June 2021 against the exports of \$52.944 million in June 2022, the data revealed. On month-on-month basis the imports from Italy witnessed an increase of 16.28 percent in June 2022 as compared to the exports of \$45.530 million in May 2022. The overall imports increased by 32.75 percent, from US \$54272.920 million to US \$72.048 million during the period under review. The trade surplus during the period under review was recorded at \$315.236 million against \$206.636 million during same period of last year, showing 52.55 percent growth. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Rangers and Islamabad Police conducts a flag march on "Youm e Istehsal" to support Kashmiries. – APP

## Minister for devising future planning to overcome energy crisis

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal Friday stressed the need for devising future policies and planning on scientific basis to bring the country out of energy crisis. Addressing the closing ceremony of the five-day training workshop on integrated energy planning organized by USAID here, the minister said the project of integrated planning in the energy sector was initiated in 2016 and under the same project, the

government would be succeeded to bring the country out of the energy crisis in future. Under the Vision 2025, he said the energy, food and water securities were combined as energy had become as important as the food and water security. Ahsan Iqbal hoped that the participants of the training workshop would benefit from the new researches in the energy planning. He said in the modern economy, energy had now become the basic necessity and without it the life was not possible. In today's era, the minister said there was a war of competition across the globe, and cheap and clean energy was the basic requirement to win that war. Ahsan Iqbal said the government had to take tough decisions to set the direction of the country's on right path. Now, he said due to those tough decisions, the country had been put on the path of economic revival and stability. – APP

## Overpopulation: A major cause of Pakistan's problems

KHALID KHAN

EVERY year on July 11, World Population Day is observed to increase public awareness of the problems with global population that developing nations face. The event was held for the first time in 1989 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Program. Pakistan's social, economic, and political issues are all rooted in the population crisis. Pakistan is the world's fifth-most populous country. In 2021, the National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS) has projected Pakistan's population to be 224.78 million, whereas 63.1% reside in rural areas, while the rest live in urban areas. Since the first census in 1951, Pakistan's population has increased more than sixfold. A total of 2.83 percent of the world's population lives in Pakistan, which only covers 0.59 percent of the Earth's surface. Because of this huge increase in the population, the country's social and economic growth are facing big problems. According to the 2017 census, Pakistan has South Asia's highest population growth rate

at 2.4 percent. Why have we been unable to keep our population growth rate under 1.5% while Bangladesh and India have attained the target? Pakistan's population is expected to treble by 2050 and exceed 400 million people, according to the UN. Pakistan already has a big problem with having too many people, and the expected population growth will exacerbate the unpleasant effects of having a large population. In Pakistan, the majority of people think that it is improper to use family planning methods. The persistence of high birth rates has also been facilitated by the rejection of family planning. It is not unusual for married women to have as many children as possible. As a result, 70% of them didn't use any form of birth control. However, most people believe that it is odd and a contradiction with Islam to opt for the family planning programme while, on the other hand, they choose male offspring over female, which is also a contradiction with the preaching of Islam. Moreover, 60 percent of Pakistan's population is still under the age of 30 as a result of the country's high birth rate. Because more resources are needed to raise more children, this has risky repercussions. Caring

for so many children may be difficult when nearly 39 percent of Pakistan's families are poor. Long ago, the world came to understand the crucial link between economic growth and the population. The fertility rate in most of Europe is currently less than 1%. Several Southeast Asian nations, including Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand, have successfully imitated this. Iran and Bangladesh are arguably the best examples of nations that reduced their fertility rates from more than five (50 years ago) to one and 1.3, respectively, by using smart and rational methods. With an appalling fertility rate of 2.1, Pakistan is crawling. With a population density of 900, Bangladesh was once seen as a typical example of the Malthusian trap. It seemed to have problems with food security and overpopulation. But the country worked hard to make sure development happened through consistent policies, strong political commitment, family planning programmes in the public and private sectors, and other investments in human capital. Population growth continues to be a significant contributor to low per capita income,

subpar health and poor education, high unemployment, inequality, deficits in the balance of payment and the depletion of shared resources in Pakistan. Therefore, Pakistan's population strategy needs to be articulated within the larger socioeconomic framework of the nation. The desired economic policy results, such as decent employment opportunities, increased income, and a higher percentage of women in the labour force, have an impact on population outcomes, such as the use of contraception and fertility choices, which in turn affect the rate of population growth overall. Higher rates of women working in well-paying jobs could make it more expensive to have a child, which could make people more aware and lower birth rates. Finally, Pakistan's family planning programme has been hampered by management and administrative shortcomings. Pakistan will require the dedication of community, religious, and governmental leaders to overcome these challenges. It will be necessary to modify mindsets and to elevate the status of women.

– The writer teaches at LUAWMS, Uthal, Balochistan.

## ISPR felicitates athletes for winning medals

RAWALPINDI: Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General, Major General Babar Ifthikhar on Friday extended congratulations on behalf of the armed forces to weightlifter Nooh Dastagir Butt and judoka Shah Hussain Shah for winning gold and bronze medals respectively in the Commonwealth Games. The ISPR DG, in a tweet, said: "Congratulations from Pakistan Armed Forces to Nooh Dastagir Butt for winning Gold Medal & Shah Hussain Shah for winning Bronze Medal in Commonwealth Games making Pakistan proud. Pakistan Zindabad." – APP

## Senate offers Fateha for martyrs of IIOJK

ISLAMABAD: The Senate on Friday offered fateha for the martyrs in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Senator Mian Raza Rabbani said that today the whole nation and Kashmiri across the world were observing Youm-e-Istehsal against the illegal revoking of IIOJK special status. Deputy Chairman Senate asked Senator Mushtaq Ahmed to led the Fateha. – APP

## Senate body directed to present report on PMDC bill

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate Mirza Muhammad Afridi on Friday directed the Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Health, Services, Regulations and Coordination to submit a report on Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC), bill 2022, in the House immediately after the holidays of Muharram-ul-Haram. Replying to Point of Order in the House raised by the Minister of State of Law and Justice Shahadat Awan, the Deputy Chairman said that it was a very important bill which should be passed as soon as possible, but the relevant committee has failed to present the report within the stipulated timeframe. Shahadat Awan asked that the chair direct Chairman Standing Committee to present the report after two days but unfortunately it could not be presented in the House so far. – APP

## Police, ICT admin holds flag march

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police and district administration on Friday conducted a flag march in connection with Youm-e-Istehsal to express solidarity with the people of Kashmir to mark the three years of illegal siege in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The vehicles of traffic police, police commandos, Rescue 15, patrolling police personnel, Pakistan Rangers and other law enforcement agencies participated in the flag march. The flag march commenced from the Pakistan Sports Complex and culminated at the same point after passing through various areas of the Industrial Area and Rural zone.

## PNCA presents mime show on Youm-e-Istehsaal

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) on Friday presented an online mime performance "Seeds of Hope" on the occasion of Youm-e-Istehsal to mark the completion of three years of Indian military siege in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). The PNCA highlighted Indian brutalities in IIOJK like the oppression of women, challenges for patients and gagging of media through the classical medium of communication mime, said director mime Waqar Azeem. Talking to APP he said mime was a theatrical technique of actions, characters, and emotions without using any words with the help of gestures, expressions and movements. The mime show was presented on social networking sites including Facebook and Instagram, as live performance for audience in PNCA's auditorium was quite difficult due to the maintenance of the hall, he added. – APP



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Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti  
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

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Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad

## Children and the far-right web

The number of people known to be involved in far-right extremism in Britain remains very small. But as this week's Guardian investigation has shown, there is reason to be concerned about the age at which a minority of boys are being influenced online by far-right views, including racism and misogyny. In January, a 13-year-old from Darlington became the youngest person to be convicted of terrorism offences. Teachers and headteachers are struggling to deal with the kinds of language and attitudes that pupils come across on their devices and then bring into classrooms. Given that 19 out of 20 children arrested last year for terrorism offences were linked to extreme rightwing ideology, the suggestion made in a leaked draft of William Shawcross's review of the Prevent programme that far-right activists have received disproportionate attention compared with Islamists seems highly questionable – at least with regard to young people. When the review is finalised it should address teachers' concerns. These relate to the tools available to tackle a growing problem, as well as the problem itself. Safeguarding training for education professionals, youth workers and others must extend to recognising where pupils have been harmed by material seen or read online. These adults need the confidence and knowledge to engage with and challenge young people – mostly teenagers – when they display such influences. The online safety bill has a crucial role. For too long children have been unprotected in virtual spaces. Whatever happens when the bill returns to parliament in the autumn, new rules compelling social platforms to ensure children do not encounter specified forms of inappropriate content, and obliging them to tell Ofcom how they will achieve this, should receive cross-party support.

This whole terrain remains complex and contested. Analysing the connections between, for example, the widespread availability of violent internet pornography and misogynistic attitudes "in real life" is not a straightforward task. In the words of the radicalisation expert Prof Paul Jackson, the reality today is "much more messy" than models of far-right culture and organisation based on 20th-century events. The proliferation of highly discriminatory language and behaviour across the digital landscape must not be conflated with the threat of terrorism. But nor should anyone be blasé about its impact – particularly on the minority of boys who are most susceptible. Shielding young people from toxic ideologies and conspiracy theories is an urgent safeguarding issue. If we are to make any progress, well-informed teachers and other adults will be needed alongside regulatory and technological changes.



## Washington's lack of wisdom

United States House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan exposed that Washington hopes to foster Taiwan's "independence" by slicing the salami. Her visit demonstrates the lack of political wisdom in the US political circle – which is not restricted to the handling of the most sensitive issue in Sino-US relations. The paucity of common sense in favor of truth-defying conviction that prevails in Washington is causing myriad troubles in the world. The generation of statesmen who experienced World War II and laid the foundation for the postwar order, who displayed political wisdom featuring courage, vision and responsibility, have had no inheritors in the contemporary political circle in Washington. The key perspective with which to observe Pelosi's visit to the Chinese island is not to analyze all its consequences, both immediate and potential, but the root cause that led to her trip. If unaddressed, the defective US political system will continuously scourge the world with its spillover effects, which deserve more attention than those of inflation. Although US politicians have become more individually self-assertive, with Pelosi as a case in point, they are all busy scrambling for personal political interests, feathering their own nests by abusing their positions, and justifying the costs inflicted in doing so as the price that needs to be paid for an apple-pie world. Moreover, the self-interest of US politicians is becoming increasingly divergent with those of even their own supporters, although the former have more channels and space to hijack the opinions of the latter. So there is actually no such thing as a "bipartisan agreement" in Congress, only short-lived personal interest alliances. The cold shoulders Pelosi has met with in the Republic of Korea and Japan, and the reserved receptions she received in Singapore and Malaysia, speaks volumes of her hosts' shared awareness of the divergences between her and the Joe Biden administration, and their reluctance to be implicated in the political entanglements of Washington. Pelosi's visit to Taiwan has by no means served the US' national interests. And the US will continue to pay for the rise of populism in its elite political circle. The showboating of Pelosi has served to break many tacit political understandings across the Taiwan Straits and in Sino-US relations that have helped to keep the stability of the region and the ties. It has also highlighted the moral high ground of Beijing, and Beijing will take the initiative to seize the opportunity of this watershed event to transform its agenda into a new normal for the Straits. China is not seeking confrontation with the US, a country that it thinks it can co-exist with, if not outcompete by doing its own things well given the US' incurable political ailments. Beijing has been gifted an opportunity to advance the resolution of the Taiwan question in its intended direction by the hubris of the House speaker who believes she has singlehandedly forced it to curve its redline.

## The Question of Taiwan

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

Therefore, China feels that now China is free to take any decision or action, as USA itself has broken the commitment. A wider community of countries endorsed the point of view of China and there is consensus among them that China's concerns are justifiable. Pakistan also echoed the same and foreign office of Pakistan clearly stated that Pakistan is staunch supporter of One China Policy and any action against this policy will create complications

One China Policy explicitly explain, why Taiwan is inalienable and integral part of China. It is a redline, which has been drawn since the establishment of People's Republic of China. United Nations 1971 reinforced the One China Policy through the UNs resolution 2758. Therefore, a wider community of countries by following the UNs resolution, started to develop diplomatic relation with People's Republic of China. According to official statistics of China 181 countries have built diplomatic relationship by recognizing People's Republic of China. They unambiguously endorsed the People's Republic of China as the sole legal and legitimate representative of the people of China. United States of America (USA) follow the pursuit and established diplomatic relation with China, by committing firm adherence to One China Policy. USA, through the second communique assured that USA and its

people will recognize the People's Republic of China, sole representative of people of China. In addition to this, USA committed that it will only keep commercial and unofficial linkages with Taiwan. Both countries will make sure that they work together for peace in Asia-Pacific region and no country will be seeking hegemony. Third communique also reaffirmed the commitment to One China Policy. Unfortunately, since the economic and peaceful rise of China, USA started to deviate from the One China Policy. USA in collaboration with Western and Eastern allies launched policy of containment of China by hook or crook. They introduced many tools including Pivot of Asia, QUAD, B3W, human rights, democracy etc. to check the rise of China. They also tried to agitate China by interfering in Hong Kong and Xinjiang. Despite all provocations, China kept its cool and tried to avert the interference and criticism by peaceful means. However, the visit of Ms. Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan has changed the whole dynamics. Although China was continuously warning, but USA never gave a head to China's advice. Many Countries were also asking USA to respect the One China Policy. Despite all this, Ms. Nancy Pelosi went ahead with her visit and described it an act of support to Taiwan. From the visit China has made three important deductions. First, USA is deliberately crossing the Chinese redline. Second, it is ultimate denial of One China Policy, which was recognized by UNs and USA herself. Third, it is official departure of USA from its stated policy and committed given to China in 1979. Therefore, China feels that now China is free to take any decision or action, as USA itself has broken the commitment. A wider community of countries endorsed the point of view of China and there is consensus among them that China's concerns are justifiable. Pakistan also echoed the same and foreign office of Pakistan clearly stated that Pakistan is staunch supporter of One China Policy and any action against this policy will create complications. Russia, Iran, Venezuela etc also have showed their commitment to One China Policy.

However, USA is not listening to sane voices, rather it is beating the drum of democracy, which is good for nothing. China and world understand that it is usual practice of USA and Western allies, when they have to extract benefits from other countries, they start to talk about the democracy. Thus, China is taking this visit very seriously. China has announced that it will take strongest counter measures. China

seems to be committed to honour its words. For example, Ms. Hua Chunying, spokesperson of foreign office of China said on 3rd August that "China will keep its words, just have patience". Further she said, there is no room or option for China to compromise on legitimate rights of China. China has already started to take practical actions. For examples, on 3rd August China introduced list of trade sanctions on Taiwan and it is expected that list will keep growing. On other hand, People's Liberation Army (PLA) has also started full scale exercise and operation on six-sides of Taiwan. PLA is on high alert and is ready to take any action, at any level. It seems that PLA is preparing itself to go for reunification of Taiwan with mainland China. It is apparent from the statement of Taiwan that now PLA is in position to close air space and Sea for Taiwan.

The situation has stirred tension in the region. Regional and peace-loving countries are extremely worried about the situation. They consider situation can be further deteriorated and there is possibility of hot conflict. If conflict broke out, it will be the bad news for world. As, world is already going through multiple challenges at global level. COVID-19 is still haunting world. Countries are struggling to come out of impacts and put their economies on the track. Russian-Ukraine crisis has further complicated the situation. It has shaken commodity markets across the world. Inflation is playing havoc with economic and social structures of countries. USA GDP is on contraction, which has created fear of recession. In this context, a new conflict will tremble the global system. Rather, impacts will be beyond the imagination of world. As, we know China is major trading and economic partner of world. USA is biggest economy of world. So, a conflict between two major economies will shatter the economies of the world. It will spur a new era of economic meltdown and inflation, which will be beyond the capacity of common citizens to absorb. Second, the hot conflict will not stay in the region. It will expand all over the world and may it will be first time that hot conflict reaches to USA.

Despite all provocation, China is still showing restraint and allowed the Ms. Nancy Pelosi to land and depart, peacefully. It indicates that China values peace over conflict, but USA needs to understand that patience has a limitation. Therefore, USA must stop such provocative actions, which can disturb the peace. The conflict will not be good for anyone, rather it will create problems for the people of USA and region. Thus, it is advisable for USA and allies to stay committed to One China Policy and avoid interfering in internal affairs of China. Otherwise, international community will consider USA responsible for deteriorating situation in the region. In the conclusion, world need peace and sustainable development, not conflicts. Thus, it is recommended that being biggest economy of world, USA must play its role to secure peace and development.

## Western media and the war on truth in Ukraine

Marwan Bishara

Russia hopes to degrade the morale of the Ukrainian resistance and deflate European support for a war that cannot be won, while the US wants to shore up Ukrainian and European enthusiasm for a winnable war, even if privately, US officials doubt Ukraine could recover all its occupied territories

Who is winning the war in Ukraine depends on who is doing the talking. Predictably, Russia says that it is winning as planned, while the United States says Ukraine is pulling a surprise win, thanks to its steadfast resistance and Western support. On the face of it, authoritarian Russia cannot be trusted with the facts, let alone the truth about the war, while the liberal West inspires greater credibility as it allows for a free and independent inquiry. But in reality, as Chinese military strategist Sun Tzu said, "all warfare is based on deception". Neither side could or should be trusted to reduce the fog of war, because both are fully engaged in psychological warfare, which is key to winning the overall war in Ukraine. In fact, both sides are propagating their own selective facts and myths, while censoring counterclaims, as each needs to maintain an appearance of progress in order to justify big sacrifices in blood or treasure. And both sides need to up the ante in order to harden public resolve behind their goals, which thus far have excluded any serious effort towards a diplomatic solution. Russia hopes to degrade the morale of the Ukrainian resistance and deflate European support for a war that cannot be won, while the US wants to shore up Ukrainian and European enthusiasm for a winnable war, even if privately, US officials doubt Ukraine could recover all its occupied territories. While the Russian media has little or no choice but to parrot the official line, Western media has a choice but chooses to trust NATO and Pentagon briefs and reports, regardless of their intentions. Take for example the declaration of an anonymous (why anonymous?) senior Pentagon official that: "Russia has committed nearly 85 percent of its military to the war in Ukraine" and "has removed military coverage from other areas on their border and around the world"; Russia "still has not figured out how to use combined arms effectively"; Russia is "taking hundreds of casualties a day". Among Russia's military fatalities have been "thousands" of lieutenants and captains, "hundreds" of colonels, and "many" generals.

Even today, as US Special Operation Command covertly deploys special forces across Africa to fight "shadow wars", it blatantly preaches "free and transparent press". One does not know whether to laugh or cry. So it is no surprise that governments, whether autocracies or democracies, lie about wars for tactical or strategic reasons. In fact, there is a fancy name for it – stratagem, which means to deliberately send untrue signals to unsettle the enemy while reassuring one's own side. What is shocking is how the "free press" in the "free world", which its credit has helped reveal much of the official deception in the past as in the "Pentagon Papers" and the "Afghan Papers", is adamant about echoing and amplifying the official line as if it were complicit in the war. The difference cannot be overstated, because NATO's ultimate objective is to defeat Russia and deter China from following in its footsteps, regardless of the price for Ukraine. That is why both sides seem adamant to continue the fight regardless of the cost. Russia hopes time will force a weakened Ukraine and a wobbling Europe to blink first and eventually back down. And the US is keen on Ukrainians fighting on regardless of whether a "victory" is achievable, as long as the war exhausts the Russian military and weakens its economy. It is betting that Putin's Russia will crack in Ukraine just as the Soviet Union imploded after a decade-long war against the US-supported armed uprising in Afghanistan. But then again, Ukraine is no Afghanistan; not in any relevant way, and Russia does not view it as a disposable geopolitical asset. So even if Ukraine has in fact managed a surprise upset against the invading Russian forces and forced Moscow into an unexpected war of attrition, it remains far from certain that it could maintain its counter-offensive for another six months, let alone another six years. The ongoing battle for Kherson may provide a clearer signal about where things are heading. But as long as Western military support remains robust but defensive in nature so as not to risk a nuclear confrontation with Russia, expect the destructive war of attrition to continue in the medium run, or reach a tense stalemate at best, not any form of a decisive victory for either side.

Did someone say diplomacy...?!

Courtesy: Al Jazeera

## How smouldering discontent affects the Taliban rule in Afghanistan

Abdul Basit

The third division is between the Taliban's Haqqani Network and the Kandhari Taliban faction. The Haqqanis and Kandharis trade blame for consolidating power and accommodating their clansmen and friends in the government ministries and institutions

Is Macron's political career doomed to sink? Factional rift and competing interests to move up the power ladder are among the key factors pushing the former insurgent group to the brink of implosion. During twenty years of insurgency, the Taliban's common goal of ousting the US troops from Afghanistan held the group together, keeping factional differences at bay. But since coming to power in August 2021, its internal cohesion has been under persistent stress because of several factors ranging from the differences over power sharing to shunning some headline positions such as allowing girls to attend secondary schools in return for gaining international legitimacy. On July 31, the elimination of Al Qaeda chief Ayman al Zawahiri in a US drone strike in Kabul, where he was living in a Haqqani Network's safehouse with his family, added another layer of complication to the Taliban's internal order. There are four major divisions in the Taliban administration. The first is between the movements' pragmatist and hardline leaders. Unlike the pragmatists, mostly from the Taliban's political office like Deputy Prime Minister Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar and Deputy Foreign Minister Sher Abbas Stanikzai, the hardliners such as the Haqqani Network have been in favour of protecting Al Qaeda.

omy for a movement that is already struggling to transition from an insurgent group to a governing entity has accentuated the internal incoherence. A case in point is Akhundzada's decision in March to put on hold the reopening of girls' secondary schools in Afghanistan despite the Taliban cabinet promising to reopen them. To convince Akhundzada, the Taliban cabinet travelled to Kandahar to explain its decision to the Supreme Leader's inner religious circle. The ensuing discussion between the ideological authorities and political leaders resulted in a deadlock, prompting Akhundzada to put the decision on hold. He also formed a commission to ensure that all religious requirements – like inducting enough female teachers in schools and making modest uniforms mandatory – are fulfilled before girls' secondary schools are reopened.

The second division is between the Taliban fighters and top leaders. The Taliban foot soldiers had to bite the bullet on several occasions. In the initial weeks of power capture, the Taliban fighters from Kandahar expected financial rewards from the high command. They even visited the Ministry of Finance in Kabul, expecting they would find cash there. Much to the dismay of low-rung Taliban fighters, the top leadership was quick to pass orders, asking all the fighters

to desist from such acts. To uphold their call of general amnesty, the high command also instructed its foot soldiers to stop pursuing revenge killings.

The third division is between the Taliban's Haqqani Network and the Kandhari Taliban faction. The Haqqanis and Kandharis trade blame for consolidating power and accommodating their clansmen and friends in the government ministries and institutions. The fourth division is between the Pashtun and non-Pashtun or Uzbek and Tajik Taliban. The non-Pashtun Taliban feel marginalized and discriminated against by their Pashtun counterparts. The arbitrary demotions, arrests and removal of various Uzbek Taliban commanders and resultant protests and armed clashes have exposed these cracks out in the open. Even the Taliban chief of army staff, Qari Fasihuddin Fitrat, an ethnic Tajik credited with the Taliban's speedy military victories, also feels alienated. He does not have the authority to appoint or transfer commanders. Similarly, in January 2022, the arrest of a well-respected Uzbek Taliban commander Makhdoom Alam on trumped-up charges of kidnapping a boy two years ago and helping Daesh-K organise rioting and protests from his followers and other Uzbek fighters in the northern Faryab province. The Uzbek Taliban want authority and autonomy in the Uzbek-dominated provinces of Faryab, Jawzjan and Sari-Pul and a fair share in the government from the Pashtun Taliban. Likewise, in July, the only Hazara Shia Taliban commander Maulawi Mahdi parted ways with the Taliban over the ownership of a coal mine in his native Balkhab district. After defecting from the Taliban, Mahdi moved back to Balkhab, cut all communications with the Taliban, mobilized his followers and forced the Taliban governor to escape to Kabul. The on-off clashes are continuing between Mahdi and the Pashtun Taliban fighters.

So far, the Taliban have used appointments as a tool to contain internal rifts. The Taliban hardliners, despite their small number, have an outsized influence on the Taliban's key decisions, appointments and policy-making process. With time, these cracks will become untenable and hard to manage for the Taliban. How the Taliban administration balances the expectations of the Afghan people, demands of the international community and hopes of the movement's factions and fighters will impact its future trajectory.

Courtesy: TRT World



## Briefs

## COAS...

FROM PAGE 01

for Pakistan soon. It comes days after Nikkei Asia reported that Gen Bajwa appealed to the United States to help Islamabad secure an early dispersal of \$1.2 billion in funds under the IMF programme to avert the risk of debt default. Meanwhile, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) received telephone call from President of UAE His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The UAE President expressed deepest condolences over tragic loss of precious lives due to helicopter crash in Lasbela. According to the report, the army chief reached out to the US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman on a phone call, sources from both US and Pakistan revealed to the publication's correspondent Wajahat S Khan, on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak publicly.

The sources revealed that Gen Bajwa requested the White House and Treasury Department to urge the lender to expedite the bailout process and immediately release the nearly \$1.2 billion that Pakistan expects to receive under the resumed loan programme. Pakistan and the IMF reached a staff-level agreement over the release of the funds to support the country's fragile economy. The staff-level agreement will pave the way for the \$1.2 billion disbursement, which is expected this month after the board approves it. In a related development, Pakistan has completed the last precondition for the combined seventh and eighth reviews, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Tuesday, adding that a board meeting is tentatively scheduled for late August once adequate financing assurances are confirmed. Esther Perez Ruiz, the IMF's Resident Representative for Pakistan, confirmed the last prior action in a statement sent to the media.

## Miftah says...

FROM PAGE 01

control our imports for three months, we can boost our exports through various means." The incumbent government faced an uphill task of ending oil and power subsidies when it came to power – and after much deliberation, it did put an end to them as the country needed the support of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Pakistan reached a staff-level agreement with the IMF last month followed by months of deeply unpopular belt-tightening by the government, which took power in April and has effectively eliminated fuel and power subsidies and introduced new measures to broaden the tax base. The new government has slashed a raft of subsidies to meet the demands of global financial institutions but risks the wrath of an electorate already struggling under the weight of double-digit inflation.

## Govt be...

FROM PAGE 01

said that a meeting of the PTI political committee was held and discussed various issues threadbare. He said that they have decided to hold a gigantic meeting in Islamabad in the next 48 hours and the government would be given one month deadline to dissolve the assemblies because they could not let the cabal of crooks anymore to destroy the country economically and politically. He said that the Foreign Office should clarify the position of Pakistan pertaining to the drone that killed Ayman al-Zawahiri in Kabul whether or not Pakistan's airspace was used for the drone. He said that Pakistan has already paid a heavy price in this regard and if Pakistan assisted the US in this attack, it could again deteriorate Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan, as every countryman was worried about the development. Lashing out at the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), Fawad said that the election watchdog was showing great interest in cases related to PTI and its chairman Imran Khan with great speed, which clearly showed the electoral body's biasness towards the party.

## Commonwealth Games-2022

## Pakistan out of medal race in hockey event

## DNA

BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan are out of the medal race in the hockey competition in the Commonwealth Games 2022. The invincible Australians showed Pakistan the door in their pool-A match on Thursday. The Pakistani players looked helpless in their efforts to make a comeback as their rivals dominated the game from the very beginning of the faceoff. The Pool-A toppers, Australia took the 1-0 lead in the 12th minute when Blake Govers netted the goal. Pakistani players struggled to hit an equalizer in the second quarter but to no avail.

Pakistan's troubles multiplied when Jeremy Hayward got his team the 2-0 lead in the 19th minute. Hayward hit another goal - his second and overall the third one - in the third quarter. The Pakistani players could not do anything to stop the advance of the Aussies and Tom Wickham enhanced the lead to 4-0 in the 42nd minute. Wickham hit his second goal just two minutes into

## Zaman, Inam qualify for final

BIRMINGHAM: Inam Butt defeated South Africa's Edward Lessing by 5-3 in Men's Freestyle 86kg Wrestling event's semi-final to ensure a medal for Pakistan in Commonwealth Games 2022. In a close contest, both the fighters dominated with their defending skills. But, Inam made the most of last minutes to score two crucial points to qualify for the final. Gujranwala-hailed Inam will meet India's Deepak Punia in Men's Freestyle 86kg Wrestling event's final today. On the other hand, Zaman Khan outclassed his England opponent to reach the final of the Men's Freestyle 125kg wrestling event. Zaman will meet Canada's Amr-aveer Dhesi in the final match later today. Earlier, in Men's Freestyle 65kg Wrestling event, Inayatullah lost to Canada's Lachlan McNeil by 11-0. He managed to make his place in the Bronze medal contest against Scotland's Ross Connelly. – DNA

the fourth quarter, pushing the lead to 5-0. Australia got the 6-0 lead when Jacob Anderson netted a goal in the 53rd minute. Nathan Ephramus threw the ball into the net

## Khawaja knocked out of CWG-2022

BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan's Fahad Khawaja has been knocked out by an English opponent in the Round of 32 of the Men's Singles table tennis event in the Commonwealth Games 2022. After a sensational group stage performance, Khawaja clashed with Paul Drink of England, who dominated the Pakistani player and handed him a 4-0 loss on Friday, beating him by 6-11, 5-11, 3-11, and 4-11. Earlier, Khawaja beat Guyana's Christopher Franklin, Bangladesh's Mohutasin Ahmed Ridoy, and Derron Douglas of Trinidad and Tobago in the group stage to qualify for the round of 32 of the event. It should be mentioned here that Khawaja is the top ping pong player of Pakistan and has won three Silver medals in South Asian Games. – DNA

for another goal in the second last minute of the game. With a convincing win of 7-0 lead, it was a walkover for Australia which had already advanced into the CWG semi-

## Squash team ends their journey

BIRMINGHAM: Pakistani duo of Tayyab Aslam and Nasir Iqbal lost to Scotland's Greg Lobban and Rory Stewart by 2-1 in the Squash Men's Doubles round of 16 event in Commonwealth Games 2022. After a convincing victory the other day in round of 32 against Ghana, Tayyab and Nasir fought hard to advance to the quarter-final of Men's Doubles. Scottish pair took an early lead to win the first set by 11-4. However, Pakistani pair fought back hard to win a nail-biting second set by 11-10. With a 1-1 posted on the scoreboard, the two teams fought in a match-decider contest. Pakistani competitors fell too short as their Scottish opponents won the third set by 11-3. Pakistan squash team failed to win a medal at Commonwealth Games 2022. – DNA

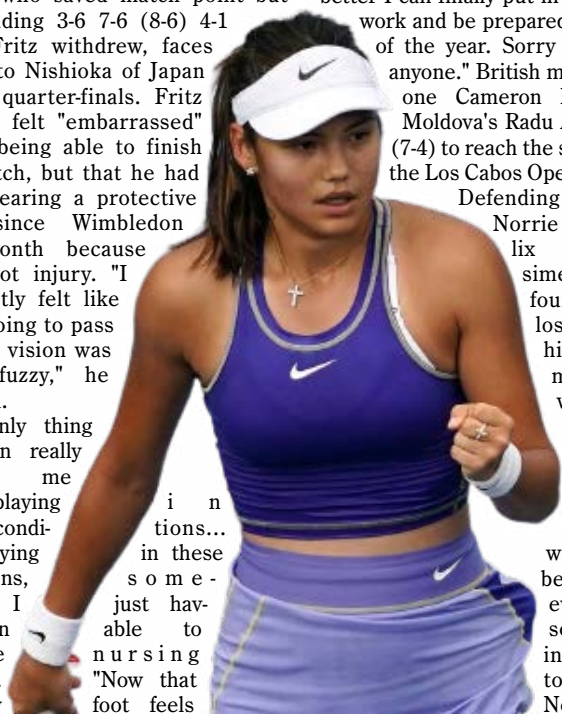
nals in the hockey event. Pakistan are out of the medal race. However, they will clash with Canada in the seventh position match on August 6.

## Raducanu wins marathon contest in sweltering Washington heat

## SPORTS DESK

WASHINGTON: Britain's Emma Raducanu said she needed a "monumental effort" to beat Colombia's Camila Osorio and reach the Washington Open quarter-finals. Raducanu, who will start the defence of her US Open title this month, won 7-6 (7-5) 7-6 (7-4) in two hours 50 minutes. "It just gives you a lot of confidence coming through a match like that," said the British number one. Compatriot Dan Evans progressed as American Taylor Fritz retired. In hot and humid conditions, Raducanu and Osorio required medical timeouts. "For me it was a pretty monumental effort to really get through that," said Raducanu. "There were many moments in both sets where you want to go for the easy option of trying to finish the point early, but I'm just really pleased and proud of how I dug in when it really mattered." Raducanu will play Russia's Liudmila Samsonova in the last eight.

Evans, who saved match point but better I can finally put in the on-court work and be prepared for the rest of the year. Sorry if I worried anyone." British men's number one Cameron Norrie beat Moldova's Radu Albot 6-3 7-6 (7-4) to reach the semi-finals of the Los Cabos Open in Mexico. Defending champion Norrie will play Felix Auger-Aliassime in the last four. He has lost all four of his previous meetings with the Canadian. "Every time I play Felix he plays really well and has beaten me every time, so I am going to have to play well," Norrie said.



## Israel maintains crossings' shutdown

## AGENCIES

GAZA: The Israeli regime has kept the crossings with Gaza closed for the third consecutive day following the arrest of a senior Palestinian resistance figure, further tightening its inhumane blockade that has been in place since 2007. The closure of the crossings comes as fear of imminent Palestinian retaliatory operations following the arrest of Bassam al-Saadi grows in occupied territories. Al-Saadi was arrested on Monday in the occupied West Bank city of Jenin along with his son-in-law and aide, Ashraf al-Jada, during a raid by Israeli forces. Another member of the Palestinian resistance movement was killed in a gun battle with Israeli troops. In response to Saadi's arrest, the Gaza-based group announced in a statement that it was declaring a state of "alertness" and raising its fighters' "readiness." Soon after the arrest was made, Israeli authorities announced the closure of crossings at the Israeli fence separating Gaza from occupied territories. According to World Health Organization, the crossing shutdown has affected 50 patients a day who are in need of healthcare outside Gaza. The closure has also blocked the supply of fuel to Gaza's sole power plant. Officials warned on Thursday that the plant will shut down within 48 hours if the situation persists. Gazans are already facing regular blackouts as they have just 10 hours of electricity a day, and millions of people will be affected with the shutdown of the power plant. "That would have a grave impact on the daily life of over two million people and vital services," said Mohammad Thabit, an official with Gaza's power distribution company. According to analysts, the ongoing closure of the crossings will further decrease the already low standards of living in the tiny seaside territory.

## World must notice Indian repressions in IIOJ&amp;K, says Kaira to a webinar in Canada

## DNA

Ottawa: Like Pakistan and elsewhere in the world, Youm e Istehsal Kashmir was observed in Canada by the Pakistan High Commission and the Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora to condemn India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K), and to pay homage to the sacrifices of Kashmiris for their just struggle to self-determination. The activities included a photo exhibition arranged at the Pakistan High Commission in Ottawa to highlight human rights violations in IIOJ&K, demonstrations by Pakistani and Kashmiri communities in Ottawa, Toronto and Calgary, movement of a Kashmir HR violations-themed truck on main roads in Toronto and a high-level webinar attended by Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira, High Commissioner for Pakistan to Canada Zaheer A. Janjua, former Pakistan Ambassador Karamatullah Ghori and noted Canadian author and journalist Robert Fantana. Addressing the webinar hosted by Consul General of Pakistan Toronto Abdul Hameed, Advisor to the Prime Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira termed the Indian actions of 5 August 2019 a blatant violation of the UN Charter, the 4th Geneva Convention and international laws. He noted that for the last three years India had tried every tactic of oppression against the Kashmiris but their resolve and passion for freedom had not weakened. He said the people of Pakistan stand firmly behind their brothers and sisters in Kashmir and Pakistan's moral, diplomatic and political support to

the Kashmiris shall continue until India ends its gross and systematic violations of human rights in IIOJK, revokes its illegal actions of August 5, 2019 and grants the Kashmiris their inalienable right to self-determination. Speaking on the occasion, High Commissioner Zaheer

A. Janjua said it was no secret that India had taken its illegal and unilateral actions on 5 August 2019 to suppress Kashmiris' freedom struggle, deny them their right to self-determination and change the demographic structure of the valley.



## Zelensky accuses Amnesty of victim blaming

## AGENCIES

KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has lashed out at Amnesty International after it accused his forces of violating international law and endangering civilians in their defence against Russia's invasion. The sharp rebuke came as three more ships loaded with over 58,000 tonnes of Ukrainian grain were set to depart from Black Sea ports on Friday under a recent agreement between Moscow and Kyiv aimed at easing a global food shortage. In a report on Thursday, Amnesty listed incidents in 19 cities and towns in which Ukrainian forces appeared to have put civilians in harm's way by establishing bases in residential areas - findings Zelensky equated to victim blaming in his evening address. The rights group, he said, had sought to offer "amnesty (to) the terrorist state and shift the responsibility

from the aggressor to the victim". "There is no condition, even hypothetically, under which any Russian strike on Ukraine becomes justified. Aggression against our state is unprovoked, invasive and terrorist," he added. "If someone makes a report in which the victim and the aggressor are supposedly equal in some way... then this cannot be tolerated." After a four-month investigation, Amnesty said it had found that the Ukrainian military had established bases in schools and hospitals, and launched attacks from populated areas, asserting that the tactics violated international humanitarian law. The group noted, however, that the tactics "in no way justify Russia's indiscriminate attacks," which have battered civilian populations. On Thursday, Russian bombardments targeted several towns and villages, including Mykolaiv in the south, where residential buildings were damaged in two neighbourhoods, according to the

mayor. Eight people were killed and four wounded on Thursday by a Russian strike that hit a bus stop in Toretsk, near the eastern front line, the regional governor announced. And in Kharkiv, the country's second most populous city, local authorities reported Russian missile attacks on industrial zones. Ukrainian forces are conducting a counter-offensive in the country's south, where they claim to have retaken more than 50 villages previously controlled by Moscow. Meanwhile, three more ships laden with Ukrainian maize were set to depart on Friday morning - two from the city of Chornomorsk, and one from Odessa, where the first grain shipment to leave Ukraine since the war began set sail on Monday. Grain shipments to global markets have been able to resume under a deal struck last month between Kyiv and Moscow - mediated by Turkey and under the aegis of the UN - in a bid to alleviate a crisis that has seen

food prices soar in several countries. Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar credited Friday's expected departures to "the intensive work of the Joint Coordination Center", according to the Anadolu state news agency. The centre is overseeing the implementation of the agreement. The deal provides for the establishment of secure corridors in the Black Sea to allow merchant ships to export between 20 and 25 million tonnes of Ukrainian grain held up in port. A similar agreement signed at the same time allows Russia to export its agricultural products and fertiliser despite Western sanctions. Turkey hopes the agreements could build confidence and lead to a ceasefire between the two countries. Separately, the European Union on Thursday announced it was slapping sanctions on former Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich and his son Oleksandr for allegedly undermining Ukraine's security.

## Imran to...

FROM PAGE 01

September 25, Chairman Imran Khan himself will contest from all the seats," the PTI announced on its official Twitter handle. Earlier today, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) issued the schedule for the vacated national assembly seats. According to the schedule released by the ECP, the candidates can submit their nomination papers from August 10 to 13, which will be verified by August 17, whereas the election symbols will be issued to the candidates on August 29. According to the ECP, the by-elections will be held for the constituencies of NA-22 Mardan, NA-24 Charsadda, NA-31 Peshawar, NA-45 Kurram, NA-108 Faisalabad, NA-118 Nankana Sahib, as well as NA-237, 239, and 246 of Karachi. The seats fell vacant after National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf On July 28 accepted the resignations of 11 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf members exactly 109 days after they resigned from their seats.

## ECP...

FROM PAGE 01

Babar" has been fixed for hearing on August 23, at 10am. It also issued a notice to Imran in a separate hearing with regard to his disqualification, which will be heard on August 16. Earlier this week, the electoral body, in a unanimous verdict, ruled that the PTI did indeed receive prohibited funding and issued a notice to the party asking why the funds should not be confiscated.

## Flash floods...

FROM PAGE 01

Chief Minister Abdul Qudoos Bezenjo said. There were food shortages in every district hit by the flooding, with some also disconnected from the rest of the province due to more than 700 kilometres of roads being washed away. Bezenjo said his province needed "huge assistance" from the government and from international aid agencies. The past month was the wettest in three decades, with 133% more rain than the average for the past 30 years, the NDMA said. Balochistan, which borders Iran and Afghanistan, received 305% more rain than the annual average, the disaster agency said.

## Cabinet...

FROM PAGE 01

that monsoon activity is likely to continue in the coming days while more rains are expected from August 10-13. Met Office informed that monsoon currents are continuously penetrating the country and are likely to become stronger from August 10 (Wednesday).

## Pakistan...

FROM PAGE 01

closely including in the framework of OIC and other international organizations. Foreign Minister Zardari and Foreign Minister Marsudi also agreed on the need to further expand cultural exchanges and strengthen people-to-people contacts in all dimensions to the mutual benefit of the two countries. They agreed to remain engaged on issues of common interest.

## FM writes...

FROM PAGE 01

including illegal demographic changes, and grave atrocities in the form of incarceration of Kashmiri leadership; extra judicial killings; enforced disappearances; arbitrary detentions; and staged 'cordon-and-search' operations. He noted that India's actions are in blatant violation of international law, including relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and the 4th Geneva Convention, as well as the OIC resolutions. The Foreign Minister also recalled that the Resolution titled "The Jammu and Kashmir Dispute", adopted by the 48th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in Islamabad on 23 March 2022, rejected "the illegal and unilateral actions taken by India on August 5, 2019 and subsequent steps to change the internationally recognized disputed status of the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and to alter the demographic structure of the occupied territory."



## Briefs

## Canada seeks extradition of French priest

DNA

OTTAWA: Delegation of representatives of Canada's indigenous peoples to the Vatican holding a picture of French priest Johannes Rivoire. (EPA Photo)

Canada has requested the French government for the extradition of a French priest, Johannes Rivoire, accused of sexually abusing Indigenous children more than 30 years ago, the Canadian minister of justice David Lametti said Thursday.

It comes days after Pope Francis, during his "Pilgrimage of Penance" to Canada, apologized for the Catholic Church's role in abuse to the Indigenous people.

"I humbly beg forgiveness for the evil committed by so many Christians against the Indigenous peoples," Francis said to a large crowd of Indigenous people in Alberta, near the site of a former residential school. These schools, funded by the Canadian government and administered by the Catholic Church, sought to annihilate the culture and language of Indigenous people through physical or sexual abuse. Lametti said it was important for Canada and its international partners that "serious crimes are fully investigated and prosecuted," as quoted by AFP.

The French foreign ministry confirmed it had received the request, and announced it was being processed by justice officials. Rivoire, 92, who spent three decades in Canada's far north, is facing an arrest warrant in Canada since February 2022, after a fresh complaint was lodged in September for a sexual assault that took place around 47 years ago.

## Israel targets IJ center in Rafah

DNA

GAZA: Four people, including a senior commander of the Islamic Jihad and a child, have been killed in an airstrike by Israel on a center affiliated with the resistance movement in the besieged Gaza Strip, only days after the regime arrested a senior figure of the group. The Palestinian Health Ministry said 19 people were also injured in the attack in Rafah on Friday.

The resistance movement confirmed in a statement that one of its commanders, Tayseer al-Jabari, was killed in the strike. Secretary-General of the Islamic Jihad Ziyad al-Nakhalah said the Israeli enemy must expect a "non-stop" confrontation in the wake of the Friday aggression.

There will be no truce following this attack, the Islamic Jihad official said. All resistance groups must struggle under one flag in this fight, Nakhalah said. Israeli adventures will not go unanswered, he said, adding that the Zionist enemy bears full responsibility for the airstrike. All Israeli cities could be in the cross hairs of resistance fighters, he added.

"We will sacrifice our blood and our weapons and we will not hesitate for a moment to respond to this aggression."

## Head of Greek intelligence resigns

DNA

ATHENS: Head of Greece's National Intelligence Service (EYP) and the prime minister's general secretary have resigned over a surveillance scandal involving a journalist and an opposition leader, state media said on Friday.

Resignations of Panagiotis Kontoleon, the EYP chief, and Grigoris Dimitriadis, the general secretary, were accepted by Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, according to the official AMNA news agency.

In a statement, the prime minister's office said Kontoleon submitted his resignation "following wrong action found in the process of legal connections."

Themistoklis Demiris, secretary general of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, is taking over as the new intelligence chief. Last week, Kontoleon told the parliament's Institutions and Transparency Committee that his agency was spying on journalist Thanasis Koukakis.

# FPCCI election

## UBG nominates Atif Ikram as presidential candidate

Chairman UBG Shahzad Ali Malik while talking to media persons here said that high level 20-member core committee comprising top leaders across country held marathon session and discussed threadbare candidatures for all seats of President, SVP & VPs including women

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's United Business Group (UBG) Friday nominated veteran trade leader Atif Ikram from Islamabad as its presidential candidate and Arif Jeewa from Karachi as Senior Vice President for the annual election of FPCCI.

Chairman UBG Shahzad Ali Malik while talking to media persons here said that high level 20-member core committee comprising top leaders across the country held marathon session and discussed threadbare the candidatures for all seats of President, SVP and VPs including women.

He said prior to finalising the names of successful candidates feedback of all leaders was taken and in first phase of selection process Atif Ikram and Arif Jeewa were finally picked with consensus in a democratic manners for the top slots of president and senior vice president.

He said that the UBG provincial level scrutiny committees submitted their recommendations to core committee for the award tickets to the best candidates contesting elections for the slots of President, SVP and VPs.

He said that names of the highly potential candidates



of VPs seats including woman VP will be announced shortly after further deliberations and consultations with provincial and local leaders. He said 3 candidates VPs from Karachi will be taken on board while one VP from Lahore.

Shahzad Ali Malik said that the best highly educated young winning candidates

enjoying the highest degree of integrity with a spirit of serving the business community will be awarded tickets on merit without any liking and disliking. He said under rotation policy, federation president will belong to federal territory.

He said 12 members UBG committee will visit Karachi on August 20 to hold further consultations with local leaderships for the final selection of three candidates for VPs. He claimed that UBG will clean sweep federation election as more than 85 per cent business community has reposed full confidence in UBG for pursuing business friendly

policies and supremacy of democracy besides taking all important decisions with consensus in the larger interest of the business community."

"We firmly believe in rule of law, promotion of democratic system and strengthening of national economy by safeguarding the interests of traders", he added.

Shahzad Malik said that UBG would act as a bridge between traders and government and all out efforts will be made on top priority to take care of the interests of the business community as well as safeguarding the national interests, he concluded. - APP

# Pakistani embassies organize events to mark Youm-e-Istehsal



Ankara

DNA

BAKU: The somber occasion of Youm-e-Istehsal was observed at the Embassy of Pakistan, Baku on 5 August 2022. Representatives of local media, think tanks and students from Azerbaijani universities attended the event. Later, a photo exhibition was also organized at the Embassy premises depicting the miserable situation of Kashmiri people in ITOJ&K Addressing the event. Ambassador Bilal Hayee noted that 5 August is considered as a dark day in the history of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. 3 years ago, on 5 August 2019, people of Jammu and Kashmir were robbed of their distinct identity recognized and protected under the Constitution of India. That is why it is called Youm-Istehsal or Day of Exploitation. With the abrogation of articles 370 and 35A of the Consti-

tution, Government of the BJP tried to eradicate the special status of the Kashmiri people in sheer violation of the UN Security Council Resolutions and Geneva Conventions. Ambassador Hayee informed "today's event marks the completion of an unprecedented three years long military siege and draconian curbs on the fundamental freedoms of the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir".

Meanwhile Pakistan's ambassador to Ankara said on Friday that Kashmir was a political and humanitarian issue, as well as one of peace and security, as it pits two nuclear-armed nations against each other. Muhammad Syrus Sajad Qazi made his remarks at an event held at the Pakistani Embassy in the Turkish capital Ankara to mark the third anniversary of Youm-e-Istehsal, or Day of Exploitation, which was attended by officials, journalists and diplomatic representatives.

Qazi acknowledged Turkey's position



Baku

on the dispute, saying the rest of the world should use its stance as a model. Messages were also read from Pakistan's president, prime minister and foreign minister, who expressed their solidarity with the people of Kashmir and urged the international community to take the necessary steps to ease their suffering.

PARIS

Charge d'Affaires a.i. Mr. Muhammad Amjad Aziz Qazi highlighted the importance of this day which marks the completion of three years since August 5, 2019 when India illegally and unilaterally took actions in violation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir and of international law in an effort to obliterate the distinct identity of the Kashmiri people. Pakistan, the Kashmiris, and the international community have vehemently rejected the steps taken by India to alter the demographic structure of Indian Illegally

Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), he added. Mr. Qazi stressed that India had completely failed in its attempt to dampen the spirit of the Kashmiri people through these illegal actions or even to make them compromise on their legitimate right to self-determination.

Paying homage to the sacrifices of Kashmiri people, Mr. Amjad Qazi saluted their indomitable spirit in the struggle for right to self-determination while adding that the unabated Indian repression including extra-judicial killings of innocent Kashmiris, unprecedented restrictions on freedom of speech, fake encounters, cordon-and-search operations, custodial torture and deaths, enforced disappearances, incarceration of Kashmiri leadership and youth, use of pellet guns, destruction and burning of houses, and other methods of subjugation have miserably failed to shake the resolve of the brave Kashmiri people.

# India converts IIOJK into open prison

BRUSSELS: Pakistan's Ambassador to Belgium Dr. Asad Majeed Khan on Thursday underscored that the Indian government had converted the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) into the world's largest open prison by curbing the liberties and civil rights of the 8 million innocent Kashmiris. He expressed these views while speaking at a webinar organized by the Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels on the eve of Youm-e-Istehsal Kashmir to express its firm support to the people of IIOJK.

The webinar was aimed at highlighting the Human Rights violations and Demographic Reengineering in IIOJK by the Indian government, especially since August 5, 2019, a press release issued here by the Embassy said.

The panelists at the webinar included Phil Bennion, former MEP, Lord Wajid Ilfat Khan, former MEP and Baron Khan of Burnley, Muzamil Ayyub Thakur, President World Kashmir Freedom Movement, Ali Raza Syed, Chairman EU Kashmir Council, Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman Kashmir Institute of International Relations, Dr. Mubeen Shah, former President Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Barcs Sandor, Senior European Journalist and Ambassador Pakistan to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg Dr. Asad Majeed Khan. - APP

# Sadr mobilises supporters for mass prayer

BAGHDAD: Tens of thousands converged on Baghdad's Green Zone Friday for mass prayers in a new power play by Iraqi Shiite cleric Muqtada Sadr after his adversaries conditionally backed his call for early elections. Sadr, a longtime political and religious force in the war-scarred country, has for months been in a political standoff with a rival alliance backed by Iran. Worshippers converged on a vast square inside the normally secure Green Zone, home to government and diplomatic buildings, including the parliament which his followers have occupied since last Saturday.

Sadr's mass prayer appeal follows his demand for early elections - a possibility that the rival bloc says it is conditionally open to, despite the last national polls only taking place about 10 months ago. The country's political factions have not been able to form a government, even as the country grapples with rampant corruption, crumbling infrastruc-

ture and unemployment. Sheikh Ali al-Atabi, 38, joined the throng to support Sadr. Calling people to Friday prayers is "part of his repertoire" when he "wants to use the people for something," Atabi explained. A similar prayer call and pressure tactic from Sadr in mid-July drew hundreds of thousands of Muslim worshippers to Sadr City, a Baghdad district named after his assassinated father.

Also on his way to the midday prayers, Qassem Abu Mustafa, 40, described the gathering as "a thorn" jabbing "the enemy to demand legislative elections and reforms."

"The prayer will be the prayer of a million men," said the civil servant. The faithful, mostly men but with some women, used umbrellas to protect themselves from Baghdad's 42 degrees Celsius (108 Fahrenheit) heat. Some waved Iraqi flags and carried portraits of Sadr, calling out: "Yes, yes Sayyed," a reference to his formal title. "Whatever Mr Sadr's opinion, we are with him," Abu Mustafa said. Months of post-election negotiations between Sadr's bloc - the largest in parliament - and other factions failed to lead to agreement on a new government, prime minister and president. Sadr's bloc emerged from the October polls as parliament's biggest, but still far short of a majority. In June, his 73 lawmakers quit in a bid to break the logjam. That led to a rival Shiite bloc, the pro-Iran Coordination Framework, becoming the largest in the legislature. - APP

# Azerbaijan summons UK charge d'affaires over London attack

BAKU: Azerbaijan on Friday summoned UK's charge d'affaires in Baku over Thursday's attack on the country's embassy in London. A "resolute protest" was expressed to him in connection with the attack committed by a "religious radical group," said a statement by the Foreign Ministry.

The ministry underlined that the "provocation" seriously affects security of the diplomatic representation, urging the UK to take security measures in accordance with international legal obligations. "Guarantees were requested from the opposite party that such situations would not happen again," it added. A request was also made to conduct a thorough investigation by the relevant UK institutions, and bring the guilty to justice.

"The British chargé d'affaires expressed deep regret and concern over the incident," the statement read. The embassy building in London was stormed by the Mahdi Servants Union, a Shia Muslim organization based in London, according to UK media reports. Eight people were arrested after police reached the area. Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's envoy in the UK, said on Twitter that the attack by "London-based radicals is unacceptable & barbaric." - APP

# China sanctions Pelosi, announces 8 more 'measures'

China had warned of serious "countermeasures" against undertaking such a trip, including military action

AGENCIES

BEIJING: China on Friday announced sanctions on US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her family, accompanied by "countermeasures" against the US, following Pelosi's Taiwan visit earlier this week. "Speaker of the US House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi insisted on visiting China's Taiwan region. This constitutes a gross interference in China's internal affairs," the Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Beijing also announced at least eight "countermeasures" against the US over Pelosi's Taiwan trip, which was not mentioned in her official tour agenda.

"It gravely undermines China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, seriously tramples on the One-China principle, and severely threatens peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait," the statement said, calling Pelosi's visit an "egregious provocation."

"China decides to adopt sanctions on Pelosi and her immediate family members in accordance with relevant laws of the People's Republic of China," it added.

# No justification 'of China's over reaction'

WASHINGTON: Calling China's military response to US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's trip to Taiwan an "overreaction," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said there was "no justification" for Beijing's actions. "The fact is speaker's visit was peaceful. There is no justification to this extreme, disproportionate and escalatory military response," Blinken told a news conference in Cambodia where he was attending the ASEAN summit. Blinken asserted that the US does "not support Taiwan's independence." Beijing has launched massive military exercises surrounding Taiwan after Pelosi visited the self-ruled island earlier this week, against the warnings of China which sees it as its "breakaway province."

"Nothing has changed about our one-China policy which is guided by Taiwan Relations Act, Three Communiques, and the six assurances," Blinken noted, saying: "We do not want unilateral changes to status quo from either side." The US wants a peaceful resolution to cross-strait disputes, not by force, he said. Chinese missiles landing in Japan's exclusive economic zones is a "significant escalation," Blinken said, adding that the US "will fly, sail, and operate wherever international law applies and will continue maritime transit through Taiwan Strait." He stressed that the US does "not seek and will not provoke a crisis" but assured Washington's support to its allies in the region. Blinken, however, added that the Chinese military response to Pelosi's visit may "destabilize the wider region."

On the situation in Myanmar, Blinken urged humanitarian access to country ruled by a military junta since last year. He also called for global support against endorsing elections planned by the junta next year. "They will not be fair and free under current situation," he added. - DNA

Beijing has launched massive military exercises surrounding Taiwan after Pelosi visited the self-ruled island earlier this week, against the warnings of China which sees it as its "breakaway province." China had warned of serious "countermeasures" against undertaking such a trip, including military action.

The eight countermeasures Beijing announced include the cancellation of a phone call between the leaders of US and Chinese military theaters, the working meeting between the Chinese and US Defense Departments, and suspension of China-US cooperation on illegal immigrants, drug control, and climate change.

Pelosi is the first sitting US House speaker who visited Taiwan in the past 25 years. She led a delegation of US lawmakers that began their trip from Singapore on Monday, followed by Malaysia from where she traveled to Taiwan, triggering angry response from Beijing. She left Taiwan on Wednesday evening for South Korea and finally landed in Tokyo on Thursday night. Pelosi ended her four-nation Asia trip to return to the US on Friday afternoon.

# China summons Canadian diplomat

DNA

BEIJING: China's foreign ministry said on Friday that it summoned Beijing-based Canadian diplomat Jim Nickel over Canada's participation in a statement issued by the foreign ministers from the Group of Seven (G7) nations.

This is the latest in a string of diplomatic complaints made by Beijing after the G7 called on China on Wednesday to resolve tension around the Taiwan Strait in a peaceful manner. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Xie Feng summoned Nickel on Thursday and urged Canada to "immediately correct its mistakes" on the issue of Taiwan or "bear all consequences", according to the Chinese foreign ministry statement published on Friday.

# Russia records over 18,000 Covid cases

DNA

MOSCOW: Russia's COVID-19 case tally rose by 18,555 over the past day to 18,672,422, the anti-coronavirus crisis center reported on Friday. The country records over 18,000 daily cases for the first time since April 1. As many as 1,906 people were hospitalized with COVID-19 in Russia over the past day, down 0.5% from a day earlier. The number of hospitalized patients increased in 40 regions, while in 40 other regions the figure decreased. The situation remained unchanged in five regions. A day earlier, 1,916 people were rushed to hospitals. Moscow's COVID-19 cases surged by 6,149 over the past day versus 5,973 cases a day earlier, reaching 2,846,586, according to the anti-coronavirus crisis center. St. Petersburg's COVID-19 cases increased by 2,078 over the past day versus 1,814 a day earlier, reaching 1,562,781. Russia's COVID-19 recoveries rose by 9,817 over the past day, reaching 18,019,883, the anti-coronavirus crisis center told reporters on Friday. A day earlier some 9,752 patients recovered. Russia's COVID-19 death toll rose by 47 over the past day, reaching 382,651, the anti-coronavirus crisis center told reporters on Friday. A day earlier 44 COVID-19 deaths were registered.

# Efforts continue to contain forest fire in Berlin

DNA

BERLIN: Efforts continued on Friday to contain a forest fire in Germany's capital which broke out at a bomb disposal site in Grunewald. Berlin's fire department said emergency crews battled flames in the forest, but could not get closer to the site due to risk of further explosions. "We fear that there may be more explosions and debris flying through the aid," fire department's spokesman Thomas Kirstein told reporters. German armed forces, the Bundeswehr, have sent armored vehicles to help firefighting crews effectively respond to the fire. The blaze has burned nearly two hectares (five acres) of the forest in two days, but have not reached houses or businesses. Locals were advised to keep doors and windows shut due to smoke. Authorities also closed down parts of the A 115 highway, and train services were suspended in the area as a precautionary measure.

# 3 more grain ships leave Ukrainian ports

KIEV: Three more ships carrying grain and foodstuffs set out from Ukrainian ports on Friday under a recent landmark deal, according to Türkiye's National Defense Ministry. The first ship, Panama-flagged Navistar, departed the port of Odesa for Ireland with 33,000 tons of grain, said the ministry in a statement. The ship will undergo inspection at the Joint Coordination Center (JCC) in Istanbul before it continues to sail to its final destination. - DNA



## Briefs

Hungarian  
Commander  
calls on  
CJCSC

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Lieutenant General Romulusz Rusz-in-Szendi, Commander of Hungarian Defence Forces, who is on official visit to Pakistan called on General Nadeem Raza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi. Matters of bilateral defence cooperation including security, military exchanges, training and prevailing regional environment were discussed during the meeting. Commander of Hungarian Defence Forces said that these mutually beneficial interactions have deepened the bilateral defence relationship, strengthened the cooperation and enhanced mutual understanding between the two armies. Chairman JCS reaffirmed the strong and long-standing bilateral defence relationship between Hungary and Pakistan.

PPP invites  
applications  
for Bye-  
Elections

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party has invited applications for the bye elections to nine National Assembly seats which fell vacant due to the resignations and for which the ECP has invited nominations to be filed from Wednesday Aug 10. The nine seats on which bye elections have been announced to be held on September 25 are NA-22 Mardan-III, NA-24 Charsadda-II, NA-31 Peshawar-V, NA-45 Kurram-I, NA-108 Faisalabad-VIII, NA-118 Nankana Sahib-II, NA-237 Malir-II, NA-239 Korangi Karachi-I and NA-246 Karachi South-I. Secretary General of the PPP Farhatullah Babar said that candidates desirous of Party tickets should submit their applications addressed to the President Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians along with a bank draft of Rs 40,000 in favor of PPP which should reach the Party secretariat House 1, Street 85, G-6/4, Islamabad by Monday August 8.

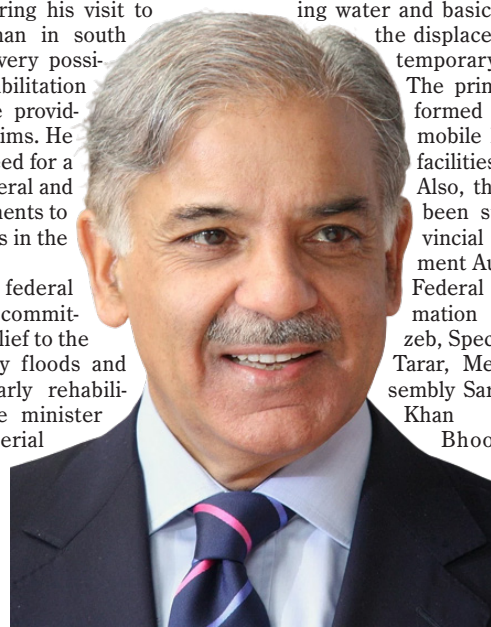
FO confirms  
safe return  
of Pakistani  
journalist

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Friday confirmed the safe return of Pakistani journalist Anas Mallick, who had gone missing in Afghanistan's capital Kabul on Thursday. "So glad that Anas Mallick is safely back in Kabul. Alhamdulillah," the Foreign Office said in a tweet following the earlier post of his disappearance. Journalist Anas Mallick also confirmed his return via his twitter handle, saying "I am back". - DNA

PM for early disbursement  
of compensation money

PM Sharif said the govt was committed to providing relief to people affected by floods and ensuring their early rehabilitation

ROJHAN: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday stressed early disbursement of compensation money among the floods-affected people. During his visit to the flood-hit Rojhan in south Punjab, he said every possible relief and rehabilitation facilities would be provided to the flood victims. He emphasized the need for a joint survey by federal and provincial governments to assess the damages in the wake of floods. PM Sharif said the federal government was committed to providing relief to the people affected by floods and ensuring their early rehabilitation. The prime minister earlier had an aerial view of the area to see the devastation caused by the heavy rains. He, on the occasion, was given a briefing by the



authorities concerned regarding the ongoing relief and rehabilitation work in the area including the supply of food, drinking water and basic health facilities to the displaced people staying at temporary shelters. The prime minister was informed about provision of mobile hospitals and allied facilities to affected locals. Also, the initial survey has been submitted with Provincial Disaster Management Authority. Federal Minister for Information Marriyum Aurangzeb, Special Adviser Ataulh Tarar, Member National Assembly Sardar Riaz Mehmood Khan Mazari, Aslam Bhootani and National Disaster Management Authority Chairman Lt Gen Akhtar Nawaz accompanied the prime minister. - APP

US government, private sector  
impacts in KP's Development

US companies McDonald's, Hardees, Subway, KFC, Ramada, Hilton, and Uber have operations in KP, employing thousands of local residents

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Through a donation of \$130 million from the American people and in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan, the U.S. government completed the Gomal Zam Dam, which resulted in augmenting Pakistan's energy capacity by 17 megawatts - enough capacity to power over 20,000 homes. The project at Gomal Zam Dam enabled local farmers in Dera Ismail Khan and Tank districts to successfully cultivate more than 191,000 acres of unproductive land by creating the region's first reliable supply of water and doubling agricultural production in the area, creating economic opportunities for 30,000 households.

We constructed over 1,300 kilometers of roads including 652 kilometers of highways, 35 bridges, and two tunnels along the border region, the busiest of which caters to 16,000 vehicles every day. As a result, four major trade corridors between Pakistan and Afghanistan promote bilateral trade and regional economic integration. These roads have reduced the cost of travel and vehicle maintenance for the people of KP, fueled the construction of new businesses along the roadsides, and improved the delivery of social services for populations moving into the settled areas of the NMDs. The U.S. government built an additional 1,240 kilometers of roads in the NMDs in crop con-



trol and border security projects to help farmers and businesses get goods to market. To date, we have also completed 1,300 regional water projects to provide drinking water, irrigation, and power to local communities. The construction and renovation of 420 facilities for the police has helped increase rule of law in the province. The U.S. government has spent \$2.6 million renovating 28 regular police stations into model police stations, including training on modern policing service-delivery practices and support for women. Education: With the literacy rate in the newly merged districts at 33 percent overall

and at only 12.7 percent among women, the U.S. government improved reading instruction for more than 600,000 children in KP by training over 14,000 teachers and distributed more than three million books for public use. Our higher education programming has awarded more than 8,500 university scholarships and competitive grants to deserving yet financially disadvantaged Pakistani students who are pursuing careers in fields such as agriculture and business management that are vital to improving the economy. The United States constructed 229 and rehabilitated more than 1,000 schools that were damaged

due to militancy and natural disasters thus benefiting more than one million students. 2,800 people from KP participated in U.S. government-funded exchanges to the United States or educational programs in Pakistan and are now members of the Pakistan-U.S. Alumni Network (PUAN).

We have invested \$1.3 million in public diplomacy grants for KP over the past six years to build capacity and train journalists, youth, entrepreneurs, and persons with disabilities. This includes an investment of \$5.5 million in English language programs in KP. Since 2012, a U.S. government grant has set up 21 KP universities partnerships with U.S. universities on various research projects and collaboration. Since 2002, we have trained over 2,456 participants in investigative and forensic best practices under the Police Program. We have also trained 820 judges and prosecutors in judicial cooperation and information sharing.

Health: The United States rehabilitated more than 200 facilities, 120 kilometers of the municipal drainage system, and 180 drinking water wells in Peshawar, which resulted in providing access to basic drinking water, sanitation, and solid waste management services to more than 2,000,000 people. We are delivering life-saving services for more than 340,000 women and children through multiple interventions in region and have also trained more than 10,000 healthcare providers.

China halts dialogue with  
US on military, climate

The ministry said a total of 68 Chinese military aircraft and 13 navy ships had conducted missions in the strait

DNA

TAIPEI: China announced on Friday it was halting dialogue with the United States in a number of areas, including between theater-level military commanders and on climate talks, in an escalating furor over U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan. China's foreign ministry said it was also suspending cooperation with Washington on the prevention of cross-border crime and drug trafficking, an area along with climate change where U.S. officials see opportunity for cooperation. Enraged after Pelosi became the high-

est-level U.S. visitor in 25 years to the self-governed island that Beijing regards as its sovereign territory, China launched military drills in the seas and skies around Taiwan on Thursday. The live-fire drills, the largest ever conducted by China in the Taiwan Strait, are scheduled to continue until noon on Sunday. Taiwan's defence ministry said on Friday it scrambled jets to warn away Chinese aircraft that it said entered the island's air defence zone, some of which crossed the Taiwan Strait median line, an unofficial buffer separating the two sides.

The ministry said a total of 68 Chinese military aircraft and 13 navy ships had conducted missions in the strait. China's Eastern Theater Command of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) said in a statement that its military conducted air and sea drills to the north, southwest and east of Taiwan on Friday "to test the troops' joint combat capabilities". U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington has repeatedly made clear to Beijing it does not seek

a crisis over Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, which took place on Wednesday during a congressional tour of Asia.

"There is no justification for this extreme, disproportionate and escalatory military response," he told a news conference on the sidelines of ASEAN regional meetings in Cambodia, adding, "now, they've taken dangerous acts to a new level".

Blinken emphasised that the United States would not take actions to provoke a crisis, but it would continue to support regional allies and conduct standard air and maritime transit through the Taiwan Strait.

"We will fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows," he said. Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi told a media briefing after the ASEAN meetings: "I heard that U.S. Secretary of State Blinken held his news conference and spread some misinformation and was not speaking truthfully."

"We wish to issue a warning to the United States: do not act rashly, do not create a greater crisis," Wang said.

Islamic countries'  
envoys, diplomats  
visit Xinjiang

BEIJING: A delegation of 32 envoys and senior diplomats from 30 Islamic countries to China visited Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region from August 1-4, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Hua Chunying said on Friday. Ma Xingrui, Secretary of the Party Committee of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, met with the delegation, she said during her regular briefing held here at International Press Center (IPC). She said that the delegation visited Kashgar, Aksu and Urumqi, visited mosques, Islamic schools, museums, old city renovation, grassroots communities, technology enterprises, green development and rural revitalization projects, and worked with local religious figures and graduates from education and training centers. They communicated with each other and learned about the real situation of Xinjiang's economic development and prosperity, freedom of religious belief, ethnic unity and harmony, and people living and working in peace and contentment. "Members of the delegation expressed that the Chinese government adheres to the people-centered approach and has made great achievements in promoting the governance and development of Xinjiang," she added. The spokesperson said that people of all ethnic groups live in harmony and happiness here, and Muslims have their freedom of religious belief and various rights guaranteed. What the delegation saw and heard along the way in Xinjiang was completely different from some Western media reports. - APP

Russia ready to  
discuss swap with US

MOSCOW: Russia said on Friday it was ready to discuss a prisoner swap with the United States in private, a day after a Russian court jailed U.S. basketball star Brittney Griner for nine years for a drugs offence. The case against Griner, a two-time Olympic gold medalist and Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) star, plunged her into a geopolitical maelstrom after Russia sent troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Joe Biden had previously agreed on a diplomatic channel that should be used to discuss possible prisoner exchanges. "We are ready to discuss this topic, but within the framework of the channel that was agreed upon by presidents Putin and Biden," Lavrov said during a visit to Cambodia. "If the Americans decide to once again resort to public diplomacy ... that is their business and I would even say that it is their problem." U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington was prepared to engage with Moscow through the established diplomatic channels. He said Griner's conviction highlighted her wrongful detention by Russia and further compounded the injustice that had been done to her. - DNA

Bilawal,  
Korean FM  
agree to  
strengthen  
ties

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and his Korean counterpart Jin Park on Friday expressed their resolve to further strengthen cooperation and dialogue on the entire spectrum of bilateral relations. The two sides noted the growing economic and development cooperation between Pakistan and Republic of Korea. Both foreign ministers stated this in a meeting on the sidelines of the 29th ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Meeting in Phnom Penh, foreign office said in a press release. The two foreign ministers reviewed the state of relations between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea and agreed to further strengthen bilateral cooperation and dialogue. They also exchanged views on the global and regional situation and identified areas of convergence. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari underscored that Pakistan valued its relations with Republic of Korea and its role as a key member of the ASEAN Regional Forum. - APP

Minister forms  
treatment  
teams in  
flood-hit areas

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Abdul Qadir Patel on Friday constituted various teams for treatment of flood-affected people across the country. According to spokesman of Health Ministry, the teams of doctors would reach the calamity-hit areas of Balochistan within next two days. Over 30,000 vaccines would be provided in the affected areas. Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) has already been directed to vaccinate children in flood-affected areas.

The vaccines of typhoid, measles, diarrhea would be provided in flood-hit areas in within the next two days, the minister said adding that the ministry was providing medicines for fever, flu and eye diseases. Optimum health facilities were being provided in flood-affected areas. - APP

3 more grain  
ships leave  
Ukraine:  
Turkey

ISTANBUL: Three more ships loaded with grain sailed from Ukraine on Friday under a UN-backed deal lifting Russia's blockade of the Black Sea, Turkey's defence ministry said. The Panama-flagged Navistar left Odessa for Ireland with 33,000 tonnes of grain, it said. And two ships left the port of Chornomorsk - the Malta-flagged Rojen headed to Britain with 13,000 tonnes of grain, and the Turkish-flagged Polar net sailed towards Turkey with 12,000 tonnes of grain. An empty Barbados-flagged ship, the Fulmar, was headed to the port of Chornomorsk to be loaded with grain, it said. - APP

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11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,  
G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan  
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165