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Hubris & egos or humility & wisdom what should prevail?

Detailed News On Page-05

Ecuador leader dissolves congress amid impeachment

Detailed News On Page-07



Shehroze breaks another world record

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Briefs

Pakistan, Iraq ties brotherly

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday said that the brotherly bonds between Pakistan and Iraq were deeply rooted in common religion and shared interests. He said that multi-dimensional cooperation and exchange of high-level delegations were parts of these bilateral relations. The foreign minister was talking to Ambassador of Iraq to Pakistan Hamid Abbas Lafta who called on him, a press release said. The foreign minister further said that Pakistan always supported Iraqi brothers and sisters in difficult times.

Several projects underway

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik has said several projects are in pipeline to meet energy requirements of the country. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad on Wednesday, he said a comprehensive energy security agreement will be struck with a country besides conclusion of an agreement for construction of a new refinery worth ten to fourteen billion dollars. He said we have already succeeded in procuring oil on discounted rates from Russia. The Minister of State also denounced the arson and vandalism of military installations and the building of Radio Pakistan, Peshawar.

Raza opposes trial under Army act

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Raza Rabbani, Pakistan Peoples Party senator, gave his opinion against the use of military courts to dispense justice and said criminal justice system should be used for this purpose. He gave these remarks after the all-powerful National Security Committee also agreed with decision to hold the trial of rioters under the Army Act and Officials Secret Act.

Army Chief visits Silakot Garrison

Tragic events never again; vows COAS

No one allowed to disrespect Shuhada, their monuments, says COAS



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Wednesday said no one would be allowed to disrespect the Pakistan Army's shuhada (martyrs) and their monuments. The Army Chief visited the Sialkot Garrison and laid a wreath at the Martyrs' Monument and paid rich tribute to the Shuhada who sacrificed their lives for the pride, honour and dignity of the nation, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The COAS said, "The martyrs have been promised the highest abode in the life hereafter and shall continue to maintain the highest levels of respect amongst the people of Pakistan. The state of Pakistan and the Armed Forces will always maintain all Shuhada and their families in very high esteem and continue to honour them and

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Forces kill two terrorists in Bannu IBO

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Security forces killed two terrorists during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the Jani Khel area of district Bannu in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the military's media wing said on Wednesday. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement that the IBO was conducted on the reported presence of terrorists in the area. "During the conduct of [the] operation, intense fire exchange took place between our troops and terrorists. Resultantly, 2 terrorists were sent to hell," it added. The military's media wing said weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the slain terrorists. "The killed terrorists remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces and innocent citizens," the ISPR said. The ISPR said locals of the area appreciated the security forces' operation and assured of their full support in eliminating the menace of terrorism.

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnessing the signing ceremony of Memorandum of understanding between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan "Road to Makkah Project" aimed at facilitating Pakistani Hajjaj. - DNA

Vandals to be tried under army act



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb says irrefutable evidence has been collected against the perpetrators, abettors and inciters of violence on May 9 and they will be tried under relevant civil and military laws. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad on Wednesday, she said there are clear directives from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif that no injustice will be done to anyone, however those against

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Pak-Iran leaders to jointly open projects

Mand-Pishin Border Market will provide a thriving platform for trade

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of Iran, Seyed Ebrahim Raisi will jointly inaugurate Mand-Pishin Border Sustenance Marketplace and Polan-Gabd Electricity Transmission Line at Mand-Pishin border crossing

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Pakistan, Saudi Arabia ink 'Road to Makkah' agreement

Pakistani pilgrims would be provided immigration facilities in Pakistan

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on Wednesday signed an agreement for the execution of "Road to Makkah" project aimed at simplifying the immigration process for Hajj and Umrah pilgrims. The agreement was signed at the Prime Minister House during the visit of Deputy Interior Minister of Saudi Arabia Dr Nasir Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Dawood. Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah and the Saudi deputy interior minister signed the document while Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Saudi Ambassador in Islamabad Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki witnessed the ceremony. Minister for Religious Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Senator Talha Mahmood, Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Nawabzada Shahzain Bugti and Special Assistant to the PM Tariq Fatemi were also present. Under the agreement, the Pakistani Hajj and Umrah pilgrims would be provided immigration facilities in

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May 9 events: PM holds Imran responsible

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif says the roots of the mutinous attack on the state, its symbols and sensitive installations on May 9 lie in the contents of Imran Niaz's speeches over the past one year. In a tweet on Wednesday, the Prime Minister said Imran Niaz liberally deployed religious imagery to brand his political agitation as a war between truth and falsehood. Shehbaz Sharif said Imran Niaz relentlessly maligned and attacked the armed forces, the sitting Army Chief and very cunningly prepared his cult with the slogans of

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'Let's sit and talk' Imran says will not resist lawful action

PTI chief says he defended the military when it faced criticism

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan on Wednesday invited all stakeholders to sit and talk while there was still time as he fears another arrest during a raid at his residence in Lahore's Zaman Park. "Probably my last tweet before my next arrest. Police has surrounded my house," he wrote on his official Twitter handle while sharing live link to his address to party supporters on YouTube. "There is still time. Talk and be wise. The only solution to this crisis is elections. Those who can make elections happen, I appeal to them save the country by holding elections," Imran said while addressing party supporters shortly after his tweet. On reports of PTI leaders leaving party, he said: "If someone is thinking this strategy will work, look at this," said Imran as he points towards a sheet in

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All roads leading to Zaman Park sealed

DNA

LAHORE: The Lahore police have blocked all the roads leading to Zaman Park, the residence of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan. According to details, a heavy contingent of Punjab police was deployed on the roads leading to Zaman Park while barriers were installed on several roads. According to local media reports, Canal Road, Dharampura Chowk and Allama Iqbal Road have been closed to traffic. Police personnel wearing bullet proof jackets were present along with mobile vans. Earlier in the day, Punjab government

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More PTI leaders walk out on Chairman Imran Khan

Aamer Mehmood Kiani and Sanjay Gangwani leave party after May 9 riots



NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Three more leaders of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) - MNA Aamer Mehmood Kiani and Sindh lawmakers Sanjay Gangwani and Karim Gabol - announced their resignations from the party, as law enforcers tightened their noose around those involved in the May 9 vandalism across

the country. The resignations come a day after senior leader Mahmood Baqi Maulvi also quit the party, citing his differences with the party's stance against the country's military. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Kiani publicly announced his decision to withdraw from PTI as well as from the political sphere altogether in light of the recent upheaval following the violent protests which erupted around the country follow party chairman Imran Khan's arrest. Kiani condemned the May 9 protests led by PTI supporters, describing the day as a "national tragedy". He expressed remorse over the widespread riots and chaos which spanned over three days, resulting in at least ten fatalities and numerous injuries throughout the country. The former PTI additional secretary general termed the attacks on sensitive sites "painful", leading to the severance of his 27-year-long allegiance with the party. Kiani emphasised his respect for the military, stating: "After Allah, our survival is dependent on the army as our soldiers are sacrificing their lives." He expressed regret over

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Holidays in Gilgit-Baltistan

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SFJ calls for mass emailing to stop Srinagar G20 summit - Page 06

Global warming likely to breach 1.5C threshold - Page 07

Russian missile scientists face treason accusations - Page 08

ATC sends 149 PTI workers to jail for identification parade

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Wednesday sent 149 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers to jail on 7-day judicial remand for identification parade in different cases lodged against them for carrying out attacks on the Jinnah House (the corps commander house), public & private buildings, law enforcement agencies and their vehicles, after the arrest of Imran Khan. ATC Judge Abher Gul Khan conducted the proceedings of the cases at different intervals of the day. Earlier, the Sarwar Road police produced 94 PTI workers, including 2 female tiktokers, before the court. The investigation officer submitted that a case had been registered against the accused on charges of attacking the Jinnah House (the corps commander house), looting valuables worth over Rs150 million and setting it on fire. He pleaded with the court to send the accused to jail on judicial remand for identification parade. At this, the court accepted the plea and sent the accused to jail on judicial remand for identification parade. The court also directed police to produce the accused on expiry of the remand term.

Meanwhile, the Gulberg police also produced 22 PTI workers before the court. The investigation officer submitted that three cases had been registered against the accused over charges of setting Askari Tower on fire, damaging state property, terrorism and others. He pleaded with the court to send the accused to jail for identification parade, which was accordingly accepted by the court.

The court sent the accused to jail on 7-day judicial remand for identification parade and ordered police to produce them on expiry of the remand term. The Mughalpur police produced 14 PTI workers before the court. The investigation officer submitted that the accused were involved in a case of damaging state property.—APP



LAHORE: Mr. Shafqat Abbas in a group photo with the participants of two days workshop on "Documentary Making" conducted by PIC Lahore.—DNA

Pak, Netherlands seek integrated flood resilience strategies

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the Netherlands on Wednesday explored integrated flood resilience strategies to enhance the former's climate resilience, early warning systems, water management, and spatial flood plain planning. The possibilities for a long-term collaborative partnership to the effect were discussed during a meeting between Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Senator Sherry Rehman and a delegation of the experts of the Dutch Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Team here at the Climate Ministry. The DPR delegation was led by Ambassador of the Netherlands Henny de Vries, a news release said. Sherry Rehman expressed her appreciation for the valuable findings of the DRR Team, which conducted a comprehensive assessment following the devastating floods in 2022 on the request of the Ministry of Climate Change

and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) to provide technical assistance in flood and water management. Recognizing the Netherlands as a country with extensive experience and expertise in water management, the minister highlighted that their support could greatly aid Pakistan in adopting an integrated approach towards pre-modeling, forecasting, and the establishment of preventative infrastructure. She said, "Pakistan needs a multi-layered flood safety strategy, combining both soft and hard solutions, as we cannot engineer our way out of it. The approach can involve various aspects, including flood prevention through conventional hard defenses such as dikes, embankments, and barges, as well as flood-resilient sustainable spatial planning, early warning systems, and flood forecasting. "The success of this strategy hinges on bridging coordination gaps between provinces and districts to ensure effective preparedness and response. Un-

coordinated planning has posed significant challenges in the past, making it crucial to establish a streamlined and coordinated approach at all levels." During the meeting, it was highlighted that the floods in Pakistan were exacerbated by climate change and the extensive integration of floodplains. It was emphasized that urgent action was needed to implement both mitigation measures and create additional space for rivers to discharge. "The flood in 2022 was rare, but it might not be rare in the future," said one of the experts highlighting that climate change is making extreme weather patterns more common. The discussion also emphasized the overarching theme of Water Governance in the flood safety strategy at all levels. There was a pressing need to integrate spatial planning, land and water management, and incorporate nature-based solutions to restore resilience, including providing more room for rivers to flow. Additionally, it was highlighted that acute

short-term recovery measures should be connected to long-term strategies within a vision for a climate-resilient future. The minister stressed the significance of water as a crucial input for Pakistan's economic growth. "To minimize the likelihood of future flood occurrences, Pakistan must strive for a minimum level of water security. This entails reducing vulnerability to the destructive impacts of water while harnessing the benefits it can bring. By focusing on achieving water security, we can work towards a more sustainable and resilient future, mitigating the recurrence of devastating floods," she said. Sherry Rehman emphasized that while early warning systems played a critical role, as prediction and forecasting alone were not sufficient. "It is essential to move beyond crisis management and adopt a more proactive approach. There is a pressing need to address gaps in capacity, coordination, and funding at the district and provincial levels for

proactive preparedness. Effective community engagement at the local level is key to ensuring a well-organized response, along with implementing measures that focus on longer-term and integrated perspectives in order to mitigate the devastating and costly impacts of floods. By adopting proactive measures and considering long-term strategies, the aim is to prevent and mitigate the destructive consequences of floods more effectively." The minister concluded by announcing the establishment of a formal Ministerial Hub at her ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, National Disaster Management Authority, Federal Flood Commission, and other pertinent Ministries and Departments. "This initiative aims to strengthen the partnership with the Netherlands and facilitate further progress in addressing climate resilience, water management, and flood prevention measures," she said.

Kalash's Chelam Josh festival ends

CHITRAL: The Kalasha tribes' annual religious festival, Chelam Josh, also known as Joshi in local language, ended in Bomburit Valley with all its colors, festivities with sweet memories of the locals, and good numbers of foreign tourists.

However, the festival continues in Kalash Valley, Brier. In this festival, Kalash men play drums while Kalash women dance shoulder to shoulder in a circular circle singing religious songs.

Their families decorate their hats with notes of one hundred, five hundred, and thousand rupees.

It is considered as a sign of respect and dignity for them. By noon, Kalash women and children from different villages gathered in groups to dance to the beat of the dholak (drums), singing songs and dancing.

After noon, Kalash people hold walnut branches and leaves in their hands and wave them. They move slowly towards the main dance hall i.e. Chirsu, during which Muslims or people of other religions are not allowed to join this procession. When these people reach Charsu, they dance there with great enthusiasm to make their god happy.—APP

Modern nursing courses to be introduced

LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Health Minister Dr. Javed Akram on Wednesday said that modern courses for nurses under the auspices of the University of Health Sciences were being introduced. He, as a chief guest, was addressing a ceremony organized on the occasion of World Nursing Day at Allama Iqbal Medical College here. He said that the nursing department was backbone of the medical field. "We have to give nursing its due respect," he added. He said that nursing sector was the first priority of the government. He said that under the leadership of Principal Allama Iqbal Medical College Professor Dr. Nadeem Hafeez Butt, nurses in Jinnah Hospital were providing the best services to patients.—APP

Talha meets Saudi deputy interior minister to strengthen relations

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood, attended a prestigious dinner hosted by Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki in honor of the distinguished guest, Saudi Deputy Interior Minister Dr. Nasir bin Abdul Aziz Al Dawood, and his accompanying delegation on Tuesday night. The event served as an important platform for fostering stronger ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Upon Dr. Al Dawood's arrival in Pakistan, Senator Talha Mehmood warmly welcomed him and engaged in discussions that centered around significant matters of mutual interest. The esteemed officials primarily focused their attention on the 'Road to Makkah' project, which aims to enhance the accessibility and convenience of pilgrims traveling to the holy city. During the meeting, the two dignitaries also deliberated on the Hajj arrangements, a subject of immense importance for both countries due to their shared commitment to facilitating a smooth and well-organized pilgrimage experience for Muslims worldwide. Senator Talha



expressed his gratitude to Dr. Al Dawood for his visit, underscoring the value of such interactions in fortifying the longstanding bond between the two countries. He further emphasized the deep-rooted religious, cultural, and historical ties that unite the two nations. Dr. Al Dawood reciprocated the warm sentiments and conveyed his appreciation for Pakistan's hospitality. He acknowledged the efforts made by the Pakistani

government in ensuring the welfare of pilgrims and commended their dedication to upholding the sanctity of religious practices. The discussions held between the Minister for Religious Affairs and the Saudi Deputy Interior Minister demonstrated the commitment of both nations to fostering collaboration and cooperation in matters related to religious affairs. The bilateral exchange of ideas and expertise is expected to pave the way for

enhanced coordination and improved facilities for future Hajj seasons. As the dinner drew to a close, Senator Talha Mehmood and Dr. Al Dawood expressed optimism regarding the future of bilateral relations. They vowed to continue working together to strengthen ties in various fields, reinforcing the foundation of friendship and mutual understanding that existed between the two countries.—APP

BM Care, Al-Shifa Eye Trust hold free eye camp

RAWALPINDI: KBM Care Foundation in collaboration with Al-Shifa Eye Trust Hospital Rawalpindi has conducted a free eye camp and an awareness campaign targeting youth to prevent avoidable blindness in Azad Kashmir on May 17, 2023. "Aten-member delegation of ophthalmologists from Al-Shifa Eye Trust and volunteers and officials of KBM Care started the camp activity, in which more than 500 patients were examined with free checkup, computerized screening, provision of medicines and glasses to the deserving people besides referral to Al-Shifa Eye Trust Hospital Rawalpindi for free of cost operations. The camp is a part of the series of the activities that were agreed by the high officials of both the organizations. Col (ret'd) Tariq Usman General Manager Outreach Programme of Al-Shifa Eye Trust in a meeting with the officials of the KBM Care assured full support to the organization in jointly organizing eye screening and surgical camps across Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Asghar said that we believe that everyone has the right to access to healthcare services, regardless of their financial position. District Education Officer Sudhnoti Sardar Arshad Hussain appreciated the efforts of both the organizations for provision of health services to the people at their doorsteps. He assured that the education dept will fully support the awareness campaign against blindness and facilitation in organization of eye camps in the district. KBM Care President Khalid Majeed said, "Both the organizations are committed to providing free eye care services to the underprivileged communities of Azad Kashmir." He assured that KBM Care would continue its humble efforts to support the people of the area and reaching to those who need the most.—DNA






PTI leader says police raided his house

SIALKOT: PTI overseas leader Khayrat Chaudhry has alleged that police team has raided his residence and offices. The PTI leader and candidate for NA-66 said "A raid of police which included about 30 personnel attack at my house in Lahore where I was saved by the grace of Allah. Then they came at my Dera in Dalowali Sialkot and arrested my servants last midnight. After that they came after me at my house Kunden Pur Sialkot last night and arrested my brother and nephew also Ikram Virk. All these people are still in their custody. Chaudhry requested all PTI leaders and workers to be careful. —DNA

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Punjab govt to expedite ICCI Industrial Estate project

He said that the business community should send the issues related to excise and communication department through their respective chambers of commerce and every possible effort will be made to solve them

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Punjab's Industry and Commerce Minister S.M. Tanveer said that on his instructions, Punjab Industrial Estate Management and Development Company has identified four places for establishment of industrial estate by ICCI. He stressed that the Chamber should finalize one of them to expedite the completion of industrial estate project. He expressed these views while addressing the business community at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), said a press release. S.M. Tanveer said that

promoting industrialization, enhancing exports, increasing remittances and development of agriculture will have to be focused to revive the economy. He said that Pakistan has immense potential for development and product development with the help of professionals is being focused on to improve exports. He said that he is also working on various initiatives for the economic empowerment of women. He said that as long as he is working as minister in Punjab, he will continue to play a role in solving the key issues of the business community. Punjab's Excise and Com-

munications Minister Bilal Afzal said that due to his efforts, funds have been released for the rehabilitation of Kahuta Road, while other roads covering 2600 kilometers will also be repaired. He said that the business community should send the issues related to excise and communication department through their respective chambers of commerce and every possible effort will be made to solve them. He said that the proposals of the chambers will be included in the annual development plan of Punjab. United Business Group Chairman Shahzad Ali Malik said that his group

will bring forward young business leaders from the platform of Federation of Pakista Chamber of Commerce and Industry so that they can play their effective role in the economic development of the country. He was confident that UBG will win the upcoming elections of FPCCI. He said that a coordination committee has been formed to solve the problems of the business community in Punjab, while the issues of business community in other provinces will also be addressed. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in his ad-

dress, stressed that at least 10-year economic policies should be formulated for the better promotion of business and investment, because the continuity of policies is very important for the development of the economy. He said that successful business leaders of the country should be inducted in the federal and provincial cabinets so that they can play their role in improving the economy. He thanked the S.M. Tanveer for identifying four sites for Industrial Estate of ICCI and said that ICCI will soon finalize one of them to move forward on this important project.

National Days and Armed Forces Days

MAY

May 03/Poland
National Day
May 06/Bulgaria
Armed Forces Day
May 06/UAE
Armed Forces Day
May 07/Kazakhstan
Armed Forces Day
May 08/Czech Republic
National Day
May 09/European Union
National Day
May 17/Norway
Constitution Day
May 21/Hungary
Armed Forces Day
May 22/Yemen Republic
Re-unification Day (National Day)
May 24/Eritrea
National Day
May 25/Argentina
National Day
May 25/Lebanon
Liberation and Resistance Day
May 28/Azerbaijan
Republic Day
May 28/Ethiopia
National Day



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



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PIA Flight Info.....114
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Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi...5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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



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

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank

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Pakistan, UK to join hands to eliminate hate content

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and United Kingdom on Wednesday agreed to work together to eliminate content related to hate and terrorist attitudes on social and online media.

The decision was made during a meeting between Acting British High Commissioner Andrew Dagleish and Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb.

During the meeting, the promotion of bilateral diplomatic relations including cooperation in various fields of media, digital media, media training and filmmaking was also discussed. The minister congratulated the ambassador and the people of UK over the coronation of King Charles III. Aurangzeb said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to the United



Kingdom and his participation in the coronation of King Charles III were manifestation of the friendship based on respect and trust

between the two countries. Stating that Pakistan attached special importance to bilateral relations with Britain, she expressed the

determination to further strengthen the bilateral ties. During discussion on the cooperation in film policy and media training,

the minister said film and drama played an important role in highlighting the culture and positive identity of any country. Marriyum

Aurangzeb appreciated the role of British government for development of health, education, governance and human resource in Pakistan.

She said Pakistan government would get help from Britain's modern media curriculum to provide training to journalists.

The Acting British High Commissioner appreciated the progress made in the information sector including the economic policies of the present government of Pakistan.

He hailed Pakistan's improvement of 7 ranks in the Global Media Freedom Index and congratulated the Information Minister over the achievement. The High Commissioner also assured all possible cooperation to reduce the economic crisis of Pakistan and expressed his good wishes and deep interest in promoting bilateral relations.

CDA all set to develop new parks

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) is all set to develop several new modern parks in the federal capital to provide better recreational facilities to the residents.

"The civic authority has already developed around 37 public parks in the federal capital during the last ten years and is working on a policy to increase their number in the coming years," official sources in the CDA told APP on Wednesday. "We need three to four months to develop a new park after completion of the codal formalities."

At present, they said the federal capital had six amusement parks, which were considered sufficient to cater to the recreational needs of Islamabad residents.

"But the policy has been made that whenever a new sector will be developed, an amusement park will be constructed along," they



France alumni day to be marked in May

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The first ever France Alumni Day, the world day of international graduates from the French Higher Education will be held in May 2023 in France and all over the world.

In France, Alumni from all countries will be celebrated during a special gathering hosted by the French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Mrs Catherine Colonna, at the Ministry on the 23rd of May.

In Pakistan, the French Embassy, Campus France Pakistan and France Alumni Pakistan will host all Pakistanis who got a part of their Education and professional training in France on the occasion of three networking events for meeting each other and discussing with Embassy representatives, companies & key people in the following cities: • Karachi on Friday 19th May • Islamabad on Saturday 20th May • Lahore on Sunday 28th May The

events in Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore will open with a welcome speech given by respectively Mr. Nicolas Galey, Ambassador of France to Pakistan, Mr. Alexis Chahtahinsky, Consul General of France in Karachi and Mr. Habib Anwar, Honorary Consul of France in Lahore. The Higher Education and Scientific Attaché of the French Embassy in Pakistan and the Campus France Pakistan officer will present the French Alumni Network in Pa-

kistan. Outstanding Pak-France Alumni will then be invited to share their life and success stories. There will also be time for alumni to network with representatives from the French community, corporate and academic sectors. Launched on the initiative of the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Mrs Catherine Colonna, France Alumni Day is organized worldwide by Campus France, which coordinates and develops the network France Alumni since its creation in 2014.

Thunderstorm in ICT, KP, GB

ISLAMABAD: Wind-dust/ thunderstorm-rain is expected in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir, Islamabad and Pothohar region on Thursday. Met Office also predicted that hailstorm is also likely at few places during the period, however, hot and dry weather is expected elsewhere in the country.

According to the Synoptic Situation a westerly wave is affecting upper and central parts of the country and likely to persist till 18th May. During past 24 hour the weather remained hot and dry in most parts of the country. However, rain wind/thunderstorm occurred in Barkhan, Dadu, Padidan and Bannu.

The Rainfall(mm)recorded during past 24 hours including Barkhan 09, Dadu 06,Padidan 02 and Bannu 01. Today's Recorded Highest Maximum Temperature's (°C): Mohenjodaro 44, Dadu, Padidan, Sakrand, Shaheed Benazirabad, Jacobabad and Bahawalnagar 43. - APP

added.

The sources said that the CDA was developing several new sectors, including I-11, I-12, I-14, I-15, I-16, D-12, and Park Enclave, adding that Model Villages and parks were also being developed in the said areas. "As and when these areas are developed and completed, the new parks will be there to meet the demand and requirement of the general public as per CDA approved layout plan," they added.

2023 Yangtze River Tourism Season kicked off in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: To promote river culture through Yangtze River Tourism, the China Cultural Center in Pakistan is organizing series of online videos and theme exhibitions to celebrate 2023 "Yangtze River Tourism Overseas Promotion Season". The opening ceremony for the 2023 Yangtze River Tourism Overseas Promotion Season took place in Yichang, Hubei Province of Central China, according to Gwadar Pro on Wednesday. The event, with

a focus on the theme "Guarding the Golden Waterway and Promoting Green Development," aims to showcase the successes of ecological civilization construction and sustainable development in the Yangtze River basin. It spreads the Yangtze River culture to the people of Pakistan as well as to the international community. This year, the promotion season will last to the end of June. The Yangtze River is the longest river in Asia and

the third-longest river in the world. China's top culture and tourism authority has released 10 tour routes and travel itineraries that will enable tourists to experience the culture and history of the Yangtze River while also ensuring its protection. According to China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the new routes were created under the direction of the Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) for National Economic.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: A street vender is surrounded in the students as a large number of students are buying traditional Ice Gola outside their school at pack up time, during high temperature in Federal Capital. — Online

Chinese language and cooking competitions held

DNA

ISLAMABAD: To further strengthen the China-Pakistan friendship and understand Chinese culture, the China Study Centre (CSC) in collaboration with the International Office, Institute of Professional Development (IPD) at Karakoram International University (KIU) held Chinese Language and Chinese cooking

competitions among the students. Two events regarding the International Chinese Language Day and Chinese Cuisine were held in the KIU convocation area. According to Gwadar Pro, a large number of students and senior administrative and teaching officers of the university participated in the ceremony. Chinese language writing competitions were also held for the faculty and students

in the event organized in connection with International Chinese Language Day. "The culture and lifestyle of Gilgit Baltistan and China have similarity and we need to further understand each other's language and culture," said Vice-Chancellor KIU Dr. Attaullah Shah on this occasion, adding that further cooperation between the two brotherly countries in the field of education and research is needed.

PM approves Sitara-e-Imtiaz for Naila Kiani

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has approved the conferment of the national civil award Sitara-e-Imtiaz on renowned mountaineer Naila Kiani in recognition of her achievement of successfully summiting the world's highest peak, Mount Everest.

The PM's Office has issued a notification, containing his approval for conferment of the civil award on the mountaineer who is the second Pakistani woman to summit Mount Everest.—APP

We will focus on creating skilled manpower: Rector

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation from the National University of Technology (NUTECH) headed by the Rector visited Japan to attend seminars and discussions on TITP (Technical Intern Training Program) Japan, for which NUTECH is a Sending Organization. During the visit, the team met with the HE Ambassador of Pakistan in Japan, Embassy officials, JITCO and OTIT reps for the expansion of skilled manpower export to Japan. The NUTECH team also visited Supervising Organizations,



Foreign Language School and met the Mayor of Hokkaido. The visit proved very successful as three interns' documents were cleared from OTIT and additional seats for Pakistani students and

faculty were secured in Japanese institutions. NUTECH aspires to strengthen its ties with Japan by strengthening partnerships and exploring more avenues of collaboration in Japanese in-

dustries. Collaborations between NUTECH and Japan would open new employment opportunities and help the skilled workforce capacity building in line with the expectations of the Japanese and industries.



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Briefs

Senate Committee calls for budget proposals

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Finance Committee on Wednesday decided to hold Pre-budget meetings along with all the relevant stake holders in order to restart the declining economy of the country. Senator Saadia Abbasi recommended to hold meetings calling upon all the stake holders and hear their suggestions and concerns to be incorporated in the upcoming budget. The committee endorsed this view point and the meetings are likely to be commenced from next week. Earlier in the meeting the point of public importance raised by Senator Rana Mehmood Ul Hassan regarding sugar smuggling was disposed of. It was observed that the member concerned has not shown attendance twice besides, ample discussions has been made on smuggling and the Prime Minister has also taken initiative on the same, therefore the matter was disposed of.

Briefing by the SECP on media reports regarding proposed amendments to Non-Banking Finance Companies and Notified Entities Regulations proposing to increase its fees on AMC's by over 350% to the original level, which was reduced after detailed deliberations by SECP policy board in FY 20 was also taken up. The SECP officials said that there is no media reports in their knowledge. It was briefed that the policy board has the power and mandate to specify fees chargeable by the SECP and SECP implements the fees as approved by the policy board. It was briefed that the policy board of the SECP along with other private members comprises of Secretary Finance Division, Secretary Law, Secretary Commerce and Deputy Governor State Bank who are permanent members. It was apprised that the rates of fees have been revised to the level of 2019 after detailed deliberation and careful analysis in the Financial position and autonomy of SECP.

PTI miscreants damaged important

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Interior Attaullah Tatar on Wednesday said that PTI miscreants wanted to divert attention from Imran Khan's corruption through vandalism and anarchy but strict action would be taken against them as per law. Addressing a press conference here, Tatar said that PTI workers desecrated the holy places of the country while memorials of martyrs as well as sensitive installations were attacked following a conspiracy. He said that Quaide-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's house in Lahore was not spared and Imran Khan's nephew Hasan Niazi was seen involved in the attack on Jinnah's house. He said that miscreants also burnt pictures of martyrs and plane of 1965 hero M.M Alam in Mianwali was also targeted. He said that PTI miscreants also damaged the monument of Captain Colonel Sher Khan Shaheed (Nishan Haider) whose bravery was appreciated even by the enemy. All these criminals will be punished and a precedent to be set to avoid any incident of mischief in future, he said and added that prosecution teams and teams of legal experts had been constituted for the purpose. He appealed the courts not to neglect such shameful acts as these are related to the integrity and sovereignty of the country. He said there is an audio of Murad Saeed inciting workers while several PTI leaders can be seen leading the miscreants. He said that the model of Chaghai mountain was damaged and Radio Pakistan building in Peshawar was also set on fire which announced the independence of Pakistan in 1947.—APP



RAWALPINDI: An artisan painting a delivery truck at Pirwahdi.—APP

'Attempts to use NSC meeting for political purposes deplorable'

Durrani Questions LEAs for protecting Rana's house but not Corps Commander's house from rioters

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Dr. Iftikhar Durrani said that National Security Committee (NSC) was very important forum, which sole objective was to discuss national security issues; however, he expressed his shock that the NSC forum was unfortunately hijacked; hence attempts were made to use the meeting of the forum held in the PM house on Tuesday for political purposes. In a video message, Dr. Iftikhar Durrani said that the current prime minister Shehbaz Sharif was led the forum. He said that it was said in the court about Shehbaz and his absconder brother Nawaz Sharif that they recruited around 20,000 to 25,000 criminals in the Punjab Police. According to Abid Boxer, he said, that they killed around 950 people in Punjab police encounters. Dr. Iftikhar Durrani said that among the participants in the NSC meeting, he saw those who were operating Al-Zulfiqar organization and the mastermind

of Lyari gang war headed by Uzair Baloch, besides those who sought US help against the army through Memogate.

Moreover, he said that the mastermind of Dawn Leaks, who in connivance with Narendra Modi, was running a campaign against Pakistan forces, as Nawaz Sharif and his daughter were also part of the campaign.

Similarly, PTI senior leader stated that the RAW-trained agents were also present in the important meeting along with those who were supported to be taken to task. Durrani said that it was decided in the NSC meeting to crush a peaceful movement and take a decision against the party. He stated that an attempt was to create a specific narrative such as attacks on army installations.

He said that Corps Commander's House was attacked under a well-thought-out plan and conspiracy, which was condemnable and those responsible should be punished. However, he said that it was all done through a well-conceived plan to involve PTI leaders so as to justify action against them, add-

ing that there was sufficient evidence to negate the narrative that was the reason PTI leadership demanded free and transparent trails into the violent incidents to bring the culprits to justice.

However, Durrani raised a question that when Corps Commander's house was attacked, at the same time, a much bigger crowd gathered outside Rana Sanaulah's house in Faisalabad but no damage was done there.

PTI leader expressed his surprise as to why Corps Commander House was not protected even in presence of army, police, quick response force and tight security from rioters.

He said that the state was there but no effort was made to protect the military installations in order to create a narrative under an organized conspiracy. "Who are the people behind the conspiracy that Rana Sanaulah's house is saved but important installations were vandalized," Durrani asked.

He said that on March 14, the same state agencies stormed the house of former Prime Minister

Imran Khan and shots were fired, women and children were harassed in Zaman Park operation. Iftikhar Durrani went on to say that some PTI leaders' audios were being played but there was nothing anything about violent protests even in a single audio.

He said that if geo-fencing was done, it would be known that Shehryar Afridi stopped people from going forward. However, PTI senior leader stated that at present, political confrontation and hatred were on the rise and all certified national criminals were using this situation for their personal and vested political mileage.

Durrani recalled that Amnesty International clearly stated that no citizen can be tried under a military court. He stated that this contradiction was only because Imran Khan was talking about following the constitution, adding that an atmosphere of fear was created at this time, as women and children were being abused.

He said that Punjab Police and every other organization running on public's tax was barging into people's homes, as Shahryar Af-

ridi and PTI social media ladies were still missing.

Durrani stated that Usman Dar, his mother and sisters were harassed, adding that media was also stopped from talking about human rights.

He said that there was no room for all these brutal acts in any democracy but ironically there was even no forum in Pakistan to raise the issues of human rights violations. The PTI leader urged that people must have to shatter the idols of fear, as they were determined and peaceful and stood for Pakistan come what may.

Durrani suggested that if they wanted to punish someone, then conduct an independent investigation should be carried out, as they had also enough proofs, adding that footage of the burning of Radio Pakistan was shown but no one went there.

He said that PTI leaders were constantly instructing the workers to remain peaceful, because violence was not the philosophy of PTI, urging that people stood by the Constitution of Pakistan and broke the chains of fear.

Minister sets target to enroll 52000 OOSC children

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Rana Tanveer Hussain has set an ambitious target to enroll all approximately 52,000 Out Of School Children (OOSC) in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) by June 30, 2023.

To ensure the retention for the children, the minister directed Ministry's officials to allocate Rs. 200 million for two years to the National Education Foundation (NEF) for the purpose of catering to the educational needs of OOSC in ICT.

Federal Minister, who is also Chairman of the Board of Governors of the NEF, disclosed this while chairing a meeting of the Board here Wednesday. The esteemed Board members, including senior officers from the Ministry of Education and Finance and renowned educationists attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the minister commended the NEF for its unwavering efforts in catering to the needs of OOSC in ICT. He also expressed satisfaction with the ongoing programs implemented for the disintegrated group of children in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and ICT and congratulate on successfully win the UNESCO project for training non-formal teachers.—APP

IESCO notifies power suspension schedule

ISLAMABAD, May 17 (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) Wednesday issued a power suspension programme for Thursday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work.

According to an IESCO spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM, Islamabad Circle, I-11/1, I-11/3, Metro, Sohdran Road, New PTN, Capital Steel, Industrial, I, Fawal Rehbar Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt. Circle, Shahpur, Dhok Noor, Chahan, Chontra, Rajar, Chakri, SPD, SPF, Kahota City-II, Hanif Shaheed.—APP

Pakistan committed to ensuring generation of environment-friendly energy

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Power Division Khurram Dastgir on Wednesday said Pakistan was committed to ensuring generation of environment-friendly energy and an ambitious target had been set up to enhance share of renewable energy (RE) to 60 per cent in the total country's energy mix by 2030. Addressing at the Future Energy Conference 2023, he said Pakistan was moving fast on path of economic development, said a statement received here from Bangkok.

He said the share of environment-friendly energy in Pakistan had surged to over six per cent of the total country's energy mix. The government had also plan to switch to 30 per cent electric vehicles by



2030, he added. He said complete ban on coal import by 2030 was also part of the plan. National Electricity Policy 2021 envisaged to meet the

energy needs through local indigenous resources, he added. He said although Pakistan share in environmental pollution was very minimum

but badly affected due to climate change. Pakistan was paying special attention to the generate power through solar and wind, he added.—APP

Share Pakistan Portal' launched

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday launched the 'Share Pakistan Portal', a digital repository for an improved targeted communication between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and its over 100 diplomatic missions abroad.

In his remarks on the launch event in collaboration with National Information Technology Board (NITB), the foreign minister said that the online standardized information system would collect and communicate the impact of public diplomacy initiatives in pursuance of Pakistani foreign policy objectives. Bilawal mentioned that he had initiated the 'Foreign Minister's Change Management Initiative' as a

commitment to improving the Ministry's ability to effectively deliver on its mandates through management reforms. To materialize this, he said, the team of experts from MoFA and missions abroad brainstormed on a number of reforms in the diverse areas including human resources, finance, logistics, communication, counselor, protocol and community services for digitalization and simplifying the rules, policies and procedures. He said that his 'Change Management Initiative' would be aimed at building a culture of work that is focused more on results and enhanced productivity, value innovation and bringing decision making closer to the point of delivery. He said that the comprehensive report on 'Change Management Initiative'

would further address and transform the diplomatic service that will be better equipped to respond to the new realities and challenges of the modern world. The 'Change Management Initiative' will ensure a seamless communication between the ministry and the country's diplomatic missions abroad, he added. Bilawal said that the portal was designed to simplify communication and sharing of information both horizontally and vertically in the public diplomacy domain between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its diplomatic posts abroad. He said that the portal would bring efficiency and transparency in various public diplomacy initiatives. The foreign minister said that the paperless digital tool was the first portal launch


covering the integration of digital technologies in both the public diplomacy strategic outreach efforts and the institution. "It will be used in diplomacy for outreach decision support, drafting strategic communication, translating foreign policy, and analysis of latest trends," he said. Bilawal expressed the confidence that the digital tool would serve as a model for future projects for useful and effective communication between the Ministry and its missions. He hoped that the portal would be the first step to simplification of communication systems and IT based solutions in the engagement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with other government departments and facilitate inter-department coordination.

CTP issued 21 challan tickets


RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) issued challan tickets to 21 vehicles using tinted glasses here on Wednesday. Two vehicles were impounded due to lack of documentation. According to the CTP spokesman,

in charge of Traffic Adiala Circle, conducted operations at different places of the circle and 21 vehicles were issued challan tickets for having black paper while two vehicles were impounded due to lack of

documentation. Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Taimoor Khan warned that stern action would be taken against violators and they would be punished according to the law.—APP



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Liz Truss' Taiwan trip

If the 10 days when her government's business was suspended during the period of national mourning for the passing of Queen Elizabeth II was deducted, Liz Truss actually served as the United Kingdom's head of government for only 39 days, rather than 49 days. That makes her the shortest-serving prime minister in the UK's history. It is a record that will be hard to beat.

Despite her short tenure, she managed to inflict her own damage on the country. To tackle inflation and energy shortage, her government introduced an energy price guarantee policy to cap energy prices, and a mini-budget program of large-scale borrowing and tax cuts. These caused financial instability, and all of them were criticized and quickly reversed. What advice then could Truss, who famously lost out in comparison to a lettuce, offer to the authorities on the island of Taiwan except how to cause chaos.

What the Taiwan authorities hope to gain from Truss' five-day visit starting from Tuesday is anybody's guess. Allowing the island to become a catwalk for disgraced Western politicians desperate for the public eye only serves to expose the nature of these visits as marriages of convenience. Such collusion is nothing but a "dangerous political show", as China's embassy in the UK said.

The speech Truss gave on Wednesday proved the point, as it showed that the former UK leader, who proved unfit for office, intends to take advantage of the visit to do nothing but parrot Washington's words to pour oil on fire over the Taiwan question.

To give Truss her due, she has been consistent in acting as a mouthpiece of Washington. In a speech titled "The Return of Geopolitics" in April 2022, Truss, then the UK's foreign secretary, called on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to be ready to tackle global threats by working with Japan and Australia to ensure order in the Pacific, saying: "We must ensure that democracies like Taiwan are able to defend themselves".

It is clear that Truss has nothing of any value to offer for the peaceful resolution of the Taiwan question. Her trip is motivated by her desire to earn some personal political capital from it. But in doing so, she is playing an ugly role inciting the Taiwan secessionists to further their collusion with external forces to turn the island into a geopolitical tool for them. The number of visits some "distinguished guests" from the West have made to the island lately has laid bare the fact that it is these Western politicians playing the "Taiwan card" for their own narrow ends that threaten the peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, and that are taking the initiative to try and change the status quo of the Strait via brinkmanship.



Western double standards a source of troubles

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz hit the bull's eye when he offered a reality check on the West's double standards in a speech in Berlin on Monday, attributing the reluctance of some influential countries such as India, Vietnam and South Africa to criticize Moscow for the Russia-Ukraine conflict, to the fact that they believe international principles are not applied equally. "When I talk to leaders from those countries, many assure me that they are not questioning the underlying principles of our international order. What they are struggling with is the unequal application of those principles," he said. "What they expect is representation on equal terms, and an end to Western double standards." His remarks are revealing, given that examples of Western countries resorting to double standards on such issues as free trade, human rights and democracy to advance their own agendas abound. The practice has become a major source of global instability and frictions on economic and geopolitical fronts. Take the United States for instance. While it constantly criticizes China for challenging the rules-based international order, the country itself has grossly violated the World Trade Organization rules governing the multilateral trade system by unilaterally imposing tariffs and sanctions on other countries.

And comparing the way Europe has dealt with Ukrainian refugees over those fleeing from conflicts in the Global South, CNN's correspondent Arwa Damon observed that, "We are painfully seeing that refugees are selectively welcomed, and war criminals are selectively punished. It's not just the Western media that is biased; it's the Western world." Such bias, often born out of Western arrogance and hypocrisy, has also eroded the trust that exists among nations to enable them to work together to deal with the real challenges that confront humanity, such as climate change.

Even though many European countries are seeking to revive coal projects to prioritize energy security, they have pointed an accusing finger at African countries, the least responsible for global warming, for not doing enough to meet their climate obligations. That's despite the fact that the continent has not received the full amount of promised funding and technologies from the developed world to switch from fossil fuels to clean energy. The time has gone when the West could claim the high moral ground and dictate to the rest of the world what they should do based on the Western standards. It would be a boon for the world if the Western countries took a look in the mirror before passing judgment on others.

Hubris & egos or humility & wisdom what should prevail?

Dr Arif Alvi



I move forward to Fatima Jinnah's burial in 1965.

She was maligned as a candidate and was labelled as anti-state when she contested against President Ayub Khan. When she died, my father and I as a young matriculate, were at her funeral. A huge crowd was there. Because of a few isolated slogans, tear gas was fired right into the centre of the huge but peaceful crowd, that turned violent. We never learnt

I have been thinking whether my interest in politics is because of nature (my genes) or nurture (experiences). In undivided India, my father was the President of the Nainital Muslim League. He was arrested immediately after partition and spent six months in jail on fabricated charges of 'anti-state' activities and was only released when my mother wrote to Jawaharlal Nehru who was my father's patient.

The earliest memory of my life is that of a three-year-old. We used to live, in the clinic of my father facing Victoria Road in Karachi directly across Paradise Cinema. The students were protesting on the road on January 9 1953. Suddenly, there was commotion and shots were fired. My father (and I observing from between his legs) watched from the balcony. Tear gas shells and, immediately thereafter, real bullets were fired. I remember seeing a body slumped on the road. An inspector warned my father to go inside. That's all I remember. Reflecting on it today, it was a story of hubris that has been repeated throughout our history. Protesting students were pushed aside by a flag-carrying automobile whose occupant was Minister of Interior Mr Mushtaq Gurmani. That is when the firing started. Gurmani lost consciousness because of tear gas and was lifted away. Sadly and criminally, 26 students were killed. The first to lose his life was a young boy scout, Nainsuk Lal, who was tending to a bullet-injured student protester. The entire city joined the protest and life was paralysed. Public property was damaged including Gurmani's car. During the negotiations that followed, peace was restored on the appeal of a student leader Kazim, not on the request of the government. Did we learn anything? The next year in 1954 in memory of those killed, a convention was held in Katrak Hall. Mr A K Brohi, then a Minister was supposed to speak. Gurmani felt insulted the year before, he was also against negotiations that had brought peace, and his hubris and ego was yearning for revenge. Brohi arrived, but a planned pandemonium was started with plain clothes people along with arranged gangsters mixing among the students unknown to them. The peace squad among students was led by Dr Adeb Rizvi (of SIUT today).

Our long history of labelling parties and leaders as traitors and anti-state dates back to 1951 when the Rawalpindi Conspiracy case was initiated. Those ar-

rested included Faiz Ahmed Faiz, Maj. Gen. Akbar Khan, Sajjad Zaheer and Capt. Zafarullah Poshni (who recently died and has written an excellent book 'Prison Interlude' a memoir of those days). A special law was passed to try them. All were sentenced but then released after four years of imprisonment when an Appeals Court declared the allegations to be totally false. I simply cannot imagine Faiz Sahib, and the army personnel of that time to be traitors.

I move forward to Fatima Jinnah's burial in 1965. She was maligned as a candidate and was labelled as anti-state when she contested against President Ayub Khan. When she died, my father and I as a young matriculate, were at her funeral. A huge crowd was there. Because of a few isolated slogans, tear gas was fired right into the centre of the huge but peaceful crowd, that turned violent. We never learnt. Mujeeb was called a traitor following Agartala Conspiracy Case. Ayub Khan refused to invite him to the Round Table Conference (RTC) in 1969 but relented when the opposition insisted. The RTC collapsed in a couple of days because of the clear inability of the politicians to reach a deal. However, many politicians in East Pakistan were dubbed traitors and the rest is history. Imagine our desperation, when hubris had spectacularly failed, that before Mujeeb was released, Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto went to meet him in prison and urged him to consider a loose confederation.

Hyderabad conspiracy case was instituted in 1975 by PM Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Shaheed in which National Awami Party (NAP) was banned. Its entire leadership including Wali Khan, Bizenjo, Atallah Mengal, Khair Bakhsh Marri, Najam Sethi and Habib Jalib were arrested and tried for treason. The 3rd Amendment was passed hurriedly to give a very broad definition to anti-state activities. I remember reading an excellent 40-page patriotic rejoinder of Mr Wali Khan on the allegations of treason. Were the above traitors? We should also not forget that in July 1977, when politicians delayed the conclusion of negotiations, it provided an excuse for an 11-year-long take-over that was painful in all respects.

Many experiments have been conducted and many somersaults taken in our political processes, for example, the 'creation' of political parties, the creation of their anti-dotes, then destroying them, then creat-

ing 'Pro-Pakistan' alternates, then destroying them too. Suppression, then appeasement, then accommodation - policies emerging from the thinking of whoever was in power, rather than through a serious, broad-based, inclusive strategic process.

Where do we go from here? I urge everybody to take a deep breath. I will stick my neck out as I have learnt from experience and history both, and state that no political party today has ever been anti-Pakistan or that it comprises of traitors. Excesses have been committed by all during our history, out of frustrations including during the MRD. When all avenues are closed, anger in all its dimensions is the only route left which then colours the national landscape into a lethal red.

I have urged all stakeholders to 'Think Again', and have even gifted a book of the same title by Adam Grant to many of them. An outstanding example of today is the remarkable peace achieved between Iran and Saudi Arabia. A great achievement of their leaders, kudos to HH Mohammad bin Salman and Irani leadership along with the positive role played by our friend China. This signifies a major reversal of thinking by these great leaders, who would go down in history for ending decades of animosity.

Can we find a similar greatness in our leadership? I personally know there are many on all sides of the spectrum, including in the establishment, but everyday events and hot exchanges between them fogs their perception into dangerous arguments, even unrealistic questions are floated like, 'Are you with Pakistan or against Pakistan?'

The first and last thing elders would say would be to cool down, learn from the past, and save the family. Our friends who have a clear view from outside are urging us too. Those nations achieve greatness which learn from history. Those who don't, are forgettable dots in the sands of time. I have been urging all that we desperately need to find a solution. I am confident that Inshallah, better sense will prevail and with the spirit of forgiveness we will succeed in sorting out our disputes. A lot of work is to be done, and many golden chapters are to be written. Long Live Pakistan!

—The writer is the President of Pakistan.

Erdogan scents victory as Turkish presidential election goes to a runoff

Yasar Yakis

The most important one will probably be regarding Turkey's Syria policy. Kilicdaroglu strongly supports the withdrawal of the Turkish military presence from Syria and sending back as many Syrian refugees as possible. Another area where Kilicdaroglu may take the initiative is Turkey's accession process to the EU. This does not mean that accession may materialize any time soon, but it may make more efforts to fulfill the EU's Copenhagen political convergence criteria and Maastricht economic

The elections that were held in Turkey on Sunday produced both conclusive and inconclusive results. The parliamentary elections concluded with the victory of the present government coalition, composed of the ruling Justice and Development Party, known as the AKP, the far-right Nationalist Movement Party and the New Welfare Party. This coalition obtained 49.9 percent of the votes, giving it 322 seats in the parliament, while the opposition coalition obtained 35 percent and 213 seats. The pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party, which promised to support the opposition coalition, obtained 10.5 percent of the votes and earned 65 seats in the parliament. As the parliamentary majority will be held by the present government coalition, all that the opposition coalition will be able to do is prevent the adoption of any decision that requires a qualified majority.

In the presidential election, Recep Tayyip Erdogan got 49.5 percent of the votes. Therefore, there will be a runoff. Erdogan has a better chance of winning the second round because he will mobilize all potentials of the state to ensure his victory.

The elections unfolded amid relative calm, without any major events. The atmosphere was tense until a few days ago. In the eastern province of Erzincan, stones were thrown at Ekrem Imamoglu, the mayor of Istanbul, as he was addressing a meeting of his party. He would have been a candidate for the post of deputy president of the republic if the opposition coalition had won the election. Some participants in the meeting were wounded by the stones aimed at Imamoglu. The police did not do anything to prevent the incident. If Erdogan emerges victorious in the second round, he will either continue the policies he has followed so far or he might make some adjustments in light of the lessons he has drawn from past experience. Both options are likely. Kemal Kilicdaroglu will face Erdo-

gan in the runoff and, if he were to win, more options are likely because the composition of the opposition in parliament may cause problems for the parties that make up this bloc. As far as Turkey's foreign policy after the elections is concerned, there are several options. If Erdogan remains as president, the country's foreign policy is likely to remain more or less unchanged. But if Kilicdaroglu manages to become president, some changes are almost certain. The most important one will probably be regarding Turkey's Syria policy. Kilicdaroglu strongly supports the withdrawal of the Turkish military presence from Syria and sending back as many Syrian refugees as possible. Another area where Kilicdaroglu may take the initiative is Turkey's accession process to the EU. This does not mean that accession may materialize any time soon, but it may make more efforts to fulfill the EU's Copenhagen political convergence criteria and Maastricht economic criteria. Kilicdaroglu may also seek ways to find an accommodation with Greece. Regarding Turkey's relations with Middle Eastern countries, Kilicdaroglu may return to Ankara's traditional policy of not taking sides in inter-Arab conflicts. He also seems to be intent on putting an end to Erdogan's strong bias in favor of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Another presidential contender, Sinan Ogan, got 5.2 percent of the votes in the first round. He participated in the presidential race in order to be able to negotiate concessions with Erdogan and Kilicdaroglu. He is politically closer to the present opposition coalition, but he is strongly against its cooperation with the pro-Kurdish party. Therefore, he has become an important stakeholder in the delicate balance between Erdogan and Kilicdaroglu. Another minor contender for the presidential election was Muharrem Ince of the Homeland Party. He was also running in order to negotiate with the potential presidents, but he decided to withdraw from the race three days before the election. His name remained

on ballots and he obtained 0.3 percent of the votes. Ince was originally a member of the main opposition Republican People's Party, known as the CHP. He ran against Erdogan for the presidential post in 2018 and got 30.8 percent of the votes. But these were mainly the CHP's votes, not Ince's. This time, having given up on the presidential race, he encouraged his members to vote for the Homeland Party. This was a futile suggestion, because the party's votes are almost insignificant. Therefore, such votes would be wasted. The government did not miss the opportunity to harshly criticize the failure to cope with floods caused by heavy rains on the day before the elections. These occurred in municipalities held by the opposition, while the government kept silent about similar floods in municipalities held by the AKP. Just days before the elections, Kilicdaroglu made an unnecessary statement that cast a shadow on Turkish-Russian relations. Referring to Russia, he said: "If you want the continuation of our friendship after May 15, get your hands off the Turkish state. We are still in favor of cooperation and friendship." Kilicdaroglu said this one day before Ince gave up in the presidential race. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov rejected claims of Russian interference. He said: "We officially declare, there can be no talk of any interference. If someone provided Mr. Kilicdaroglu with such information, they are liars." Erdogan followed up Peskov's statement by saying: "If you attack Putin, I will not tolerate this." Kilicdaroglu claimed that he would not have raised this subject if he did not have evidence of possible interference by Russia. Russia is a country that is important for Turkey in all circumstances. Ankara and Moscow have so many common interests in their bilateral relations. A nuclear power station is under construction by Russia in Turkey. It will be owned and operated by Moscow. It would be a pity if such an inadvertent exchange of blame were to leave indelible traces in their relations.

Courtesy: Arab News

Briefs

Ali Zaidi rebuts reports of leaving PTI

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Sindh chapter president Ali Zaidi on Wednesday condemned the attack on military installations during violent protests in the country following Imran Khan's arrest on May 9. Addressing a press conference in Karachi, the PTI leader said that his political struggle has always been "peaceful", adding that he was in custody during the last few days and did not know about the violent attacks following Imran Khan's arrest. "PTI was not involved in the vandalism done on the Corps Commander House, [Jinnah House]", he said. "The reason you can sleep peacefully at night is because your borders are being protected," he said. He maintained that those who were involved in vandalism must be held accountable. "Whoever attacked military posts, they should be held accountable. This can't be PTI in any case," the former federal minister added.—DNA

PTI leaders summoned in Al-Qadir trust case

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has summoned former federal ministers and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders in National Crime Agency £190m Scandal or Al-Qadir Trust Case, media reported on Wednesday. Sources told media that the accountability watchdog has decided to make PTI leaders - who were part of PTI cabinet - part of investigation. In this regard, the NAB issued summons notices to former federal ministers Ali Zaidi, Shafiqat Mehmood, Hammad Azhar and Zulfi Bukhari. Meanwhile, the bureau also summoned former federal minister Faisal Wadwa in the case. Furthermore, National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has also summoned Bushra Bibi - wife of former premier and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan - in the Al-Qadir Trust case. A three-member team of the anti-graft body reached Zaman Park to hand over the summons to Bushra Bibi for Thursday's appearance.—DNA

Ch Shujaat ups the ante with call for banning PTI

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) supremo Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain criticised on Wednesday the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), saying that a person claiming to be the leader incited the people to indulge in acts of vandalism. Speaking to media, Mr Hussain heaped praise on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Asim Munir, saying, "Gen Asim Munir is the leader of the army. Whoever speaks against him will target the country". Mentioning about the rally of the PML-Q to express solidarity with the army, Mr Hussain said, "Not only single party [PML-Q] is representing the today's rally". The former prime minister while expressing his views regarding the elections said the PML-Q was convinced from the first day that elections should be held simultaneously in the country. Speaking about PTI's future, Mr Hussain said, "Irrespective of the fact whether the country will hold elections or not, the PTI will know its future soon." On Tuesday, Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) leader Chaudhry Sarwar said that those involved in the vandalism on May 9 should be brought to justice.

Russian missile scientists face treason accusations

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said he was aware of an open letter from Siberian scientists in defence of the men, but that the case was a matter for the security services

NEWS DESK

MOSCOW: Three Russian academics who have worked on hypersonic missile technology face "very serious accusations", the Kremlin said on Wednesday, in a treason investigation that has spread alarm through Russia's scientific community. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said he was aware of an open letter from Siberian scientists in defence of the men, but that the case was a matter for the security services. In the letter, published on Monday, colleagues of Anatoly Maslov, Alexander Shpiyuk and Valery Zvegintsev protested their innocence and said the prosecutions threatened to inflict grave damage on Russian science. "We know each of them as a patriot and a decent person who is not capable of doing what the investigating authorities suspect them

of," they said. President Vladimir Putin has boasted that Russia is the global leader in hypersonic missiles, capable of travelling at speeds of up to Mach 10 (12,250 kph) to evade enemy air defences. On Tuesday, Ukraine said it had managed to destroy six of the weapons in a single night, although Russia disputed this. Notices of academic conferences stretching back over many years show the arrested scientists were frequent participants. In 2012, Maslov and Shpiyuk presented the results of an experiment on hypersonic missile design at a seminar in Tours, France. In 2016, all three were among the authors of a book chapter entitled "Hypersonic Short-Duration Facilities for Aerodynamic Research at ITAM, Russia". The open letter from their colleagues at ITAM - the Khristianovich Institute of Theoretical and Applied Me-

chanics in Novosibirsk - said the materials the scientists had presented in international forums had been checked repeatedly to ensure they did not include restricted information. The cases showed that "any article or report can lead to accusations of high treason", the open letter said. "In this situation, we are not only afraid for the fate of our colleagues. We just do not understand how to continue to do our job." The letter also cited the case of Dmitry Kolker, another Siberian scientist who was arrested last year on suspicion of state treason and flown to Moscow despite suffering from advanced pancreatic cancer. Kolker, a laser specialist, died two days later. It said such cases were having a chilling effect on young Russian scientists. "Even now, the best students refuse to come to work with us, and our best young employees are leaving science."

Ukraine denies Russia destroyed Patriot system

KYIV: Ukraine denied on Wednesday that a Russian hypersonic missile had destroyed a U.S.-made Patriot missile defence system during an air strike on Kyiv. Russia's defence ministry made the assertion on Tuesday after an overnight air attack on the Ukrainian capital. Two U.S. officials later said a Patriot system had probably suffered damage but that it did not appear to have been destroyed. "I want to say: do not worry about the fate of the Patriot," Ukrainian air force spokesperson Yuriy Ilnat told Ukrainian television. He ruled out the possibility of a Russian "Kinzhalt" missile knocking out a Patriot system. "Destroying the system with some kind of 'Kinzhalt', it's impossible. Everything that they say there, it can remain in their propaganda archive," he said. The Patriot system is one of an array of sophisticated air defence units supplied by the West to help Ukraine repel Russian air strikes following Moscow's invasion last year. It is considered one of the most advanced U.S. air defence systems, including against aircraft, cruise missiles and ballistic missiles, and typically includes launchers along with radar and other support vehicles. Russian President Vladimir Putin has touted the Kinzhalt missile as proof that his country has world-beating military hardware.—Agencis

China fines comedy troupe \$2m for military joke

BEIJING: A Chinese comedy troupe has been slapped with a 14.7m yuan (\$2.1m; £1.7m) penalty over a joke about the military that invoked a slogan from President Xi Jinping. The quip, which likened the behaviour of a comedian's dogs to military conduct, irked authorities. They said Shanghai Xiaoguo Culture Media Co and comic Li Haoshi had "humiliated the people's army". The company accepted the penalty and terminated Mr Li's contract. The offending remark was made during a stand-up performance in Beijing on Saturday, when Mr Li alluded to two canines he had adopted which were chasing a squirrel. "Other dogs you see would make you think they are adorable. These two dogs only reminded me of... 'Fight to win, forge exemplary conduct'," said Mr Li, whose stage name is House. The punline is part of the slogan that President Xi unveiled in 2013 as a goal for the Chinese military.—DNA

FM for exploring avenues in Pakistan-Korea ties



DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to bolster the existing friendly relations between Pakistan and South Korea, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met with South Korea's Ambassador to Pakistan, Suh Sangpyo, on Wednesday. During the meeting, both officials highlighted the longstanding historical ties between the two nations and emphasised the potential for further cooperation in various fields, particular-

ly technology and trade. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto expressed his appreciation for the strong bilateral relations and pointed out the immense opportunities available for South Korean businesses to invest in Pakistan. He underscored that Pakistan's skilled human resources can greatly benefit South Korea, and stressed the need to enhance collaboration in this area. "Pakistan is committed to providing trained human resources to South Korea in

diverse fields, and we look forward to expanding and strengthening this cooperation," said Mr Bhutto-Zardari. The discussions also focused on exploring new avenues for collaboration in trade and investment. Both sides recognized the untapped potential and expressed their willingness to further facilitate bilateral trade, with a particular emphasis on sectors such as technology. The meeting between Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Ambassador

Suh Sangpyo reflects the commitment of both countries to deepen their ties and explore avenues for mutual growth and development. Pakistan and South Korea have enjoyed friendly relations over the years, and this meeting signifies their shared desire to build on the existing partnership. With Pakistan's strategic location and South Korea's technological prowess, the prospects for mutually beneficial collaboration are promising.

Erdogan: Grain deal extended for two months

UNITED NATIONS: The Ukraine Black Sea grain deal has been extended for two more months, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Wednesday, one day before Russia could have quit the pact over obstacles to its grain and fertiliser exports. The flow of ships through the corridor had been grinding to a halt during the last few days with the deal apparently set to expire on Thursday. Earlier on Wednesday, the last remaining ship registered to travel through the corridor had left a Ukrainian port. U.N. data showed that the DSM Capella had left the Ukrainian port of Chornomorsk carrying 30,000 tonnes of corn and was on its way to Turkey. "The Black Sea grain corridor deal has been extended by two months with the efforts of Turkey," Erdogan said in a televised speech, also thanking the Russian and Ukrainian leaders and U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres for their help. A spokeswoman for Rus-

sia's Foreign Ministry said they would be commenting later on the reported extension. The United Nations and Turkey brokered the Black Sea deal for an initial 120 days in July last year to help tackle a global food crisis that has been aggravated by Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, one of the world's leading grain exporters. Moscow agreed to extend the Black Sea pact for a further 120 days in November, but then in March it agreed to a 60 day extension - until May 18 - unless a list of demands regarding its own agricultural exports was met. To convince Russia in July to allow Black Sea grain exports, the United Nations agreed at the same time to help Moscow with its own agricultural shipments for three years. "There are still a lot of open questions regarding our part of the deal. Now a decision will have to be taken," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Tuesday.—Agencies

IHC extends Imran's interim bail till May 31

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court has extended the interim bail of former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan in any case registered against him in Islamabad till May 31. The order was issued on Wednesday by IHC judge, Justice Miangul Hasan Aurangzeb during the proceeding on a petition filed by Imran Khan requesting the court to issue order for the provision of details of all cases registered against him and restrain authorities from capturing him. Justice Aurangzeb extended the PTI chairman's interim bail and also barred police from arresting him till May 31. The additional attorney general, advocate general and state counsel appeared before the court. Barrister Gohar Ali appeared on behalf of Imran Khan. The federal government requested the court to give it some time to provide detail of the cases against Khan. Accepting the federal government's request, the court adjourned the case till May 31.

Hungary blocks military aid to Ukraine

BUDAPEST: Hungary will continue to block the disbursement of a new tranche of European Union military support to Ukraine until Kyiv removes a Hungarian bank from a list of international sponsors of Russia's war, Hungary's foreign minister said Wednesday. Peter Szijarto, speaking in Vienna after a meeting with his Austrian counterpart, called Ukraine's recent listing of OTP Bank "scandalous and unacceptable," and said that Hungary wouldn't approve the release

of 500 million euros (\$543 million) from the EU's European Peace Facility until the bank is removed from the list. "We cannot support the allocation of another half a billion euros from the European Peace Facility for arms transfers to Ukraine, and we will not give it the green light as long as OTP is on this particular list," Szijarto said. Earlier this month, Ukraine's National Agency on Corruption Prevention classified OTP Bank as an international sponsor of the war over its continued presence

in Russia, sparking a backlash from Hungarian officials. After the listing of OTP, the banking group's Ukrainian branch released a statement arguing that it had "drastically reduced its presence in the Russian market," and that its market share there had decreased to only 0.17%. Relations between Hungary and neighboring Ukraine have been strained by Budapest's refusal to supply Kyiv with weapons or to allow their transfer across the countries' shared border.—Agencies

US report slams blasphemy card against Imran Khan

"On Sept 13, Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz party leader Javed Latif, in a press conference, accused former prime minister Imran Khan of 'attacking the basic principles of Islam' by 'supporting' the Ahmadiyya community while he was in office," the report pointed out.

MONITORING DESK

WASHINGTON: An annual US report has once again criticised the Pakistan Democratic Movement government for using the blasphemy card against former prime minister Imran Khan. The US report on international religious freedom, which was released in Washington on Monday, noted that several political leaders used inflammatory religious language to attack their political rivals last year. The annual report covers 2022 events. "On Sept 13, Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz party leader Javed Latif, in a press conference, accused former

prime minister Imran Khan of 'attacking the basic principles of Islam' by 'supporting' the Ahmadiyya community while he was in office," the report pointed out. "Mr Latif accused Khan of giving interviews to foreign media in which he promised that Qadianis [Ahmadis] will be given religious freedom," the report added. The report also noted that JUI-F leader Maulana Fazlur Rahman tweeted messages on Sept 7 calling Mr Khan a "pro-Qadiani" and a "Jewish agent". Leaders of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf responded by accusing the government of "spreading religious bigotry and hatred", the report added. The US Commission on International Religious Freedom

(USCIRF), which compiles the annual report, raised this issue in its initial report as well, which was released on May 1, noting that "the new government under Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, which took office in April 2022, weaponised the country's blasphemy laws against Mr Khan and his cabinet members". The issue was also raised at a US State Department news briefing earlier this month when Spokesperson Vedant Patel said the United States "strongly oppose(s) laws that impede the ability of any individuals ... to choose a faith, practice a faith, change their religion, not have a religion, or tell others about their religious beliefs and practices".