



# Islamabad POST

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**Obama criticizes Western hypocrisy over migrants**

Detailed News On Page-07

**Russia plays no good role for the world**

Detailed News On Page-07



**M. Waseem set to face Donnie Nietes**

Detailed News On Page-06



**Briefs**

**Expatriates are 'pride of Pakistan'**

DNA



PARIS: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb has said the overseas Pakistanis are pride of Pakistan as they are playing a major role in its economic development. In a meeting with members of Pakistani diaspora in Paris, she said it is the foremost priority of the government to resolve the issues of expatriates. Mariyum Aurangzeb said the journey of progress and development would continue in Pakistan under the visionary leadership of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Quaid Nawaz Sharif. The prime minister along with a delegation is visiting Paris to attend the New Global Financing Pact Summit hosted by France. He said the overseas Pakistanis were Pakistan's ambassadors and an asset, and that their services for the country's development were laudable.

**PPP has history of rigging, corruption**

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Sirajul Haq on Friday fired a broadside at PPP, saying the latter was having a history of doing rigging, corruption and horse-trading. Addressing a public gathering, Siraj took a swipe at the PPP, claiming, "The PPP leaders cannot compete us". The electoral watchdog had failed to hold transparent elections, he chided the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). "When it came to holding the elections, the ECP fell short of justice," he added. "The aim of the PPP to win the Karachi mayor election is to grab the state land after coming into the power," Siraj asserted. Earlier, JI senior leader Hafiz Naemur Rehman poked fun at political rivals on Friday, saying the Karachi's residents wanted the "mafia out of the city".

**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...**

Netherlands, Pak mark 75 years of bilateral relations - Page 02

Providing clean food to citizens our responsibility - Page 03

Passing out parade held at PAF Airmen Academy Korangi Creek - Page 04

Indian PM Narendra Modi's four-day red carpet visit to the US - Page 05

Pakistan Olympic Association celebrates Int'l Olympic Day - Page 06

Hungary risks ties with Ukraine over POW exchange - Page 07

West Bank violence could spiral 'out of control': UN - Page 08

**'Course correction' PM calls for 'rethink' on int'l finances**

PM Shehbaz meets EU Commission President, Chinese Premier Li Qiang

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said the world should "course correct" by rethinking the global financial architecture, urging everyone to rise to face the challenge hand in hand in a spirit of solidarity and compassion. "The world should use [the] present economic and climate turbulence as an opportunity for course correction," PM Shehbaz said on Twitter. He was in Paris to attend the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact. Separately, President of the European Union Commission has appreciated the level of ongoing cooperation between EU and Pakistan, including GSP Plus. The appreciation came during a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President of the EU Commission Ursula von der Leyen on the sidelines of the New Global Financing Pact Summit in Paris. The Prime Minister thanked the President of the Commission for her participation in the Resilient Pakistan Conference held in Geneva on 9 January this year. He conveyed Pakistan's commitment to continue working in close collaboration with the European institutions for rehabilitation and reconstruction in the flood-affected areas. On this occasion, the EU Commission President lauded Pakistan's efforts to recover from the 2022 floods and assured continued support. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has thankfully acknowledged the vital support

Continued on Page 06

**PM urges expatriates to expose propaganda**

DNA

PARIS: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday urged the overseas Pakistanis to play their role to expose the anti-Pakistan propaganda in their respective countries, besides condemning the arson that took place on May 9. The prime minister, in an interaction with the representatives of the Pakistani community in France as well as the Pakistan Business Forum, told the expatriates that the arsonists of May 9 were spreading lies to instigate the people abroad. The prime minister is visiting Paris to attend the New Global Financing Pact Summit hosted by France. He said the overseas Pakistanis were Pakistan's ambassadors and an asset, and that their services for the country's development were laudable.

Continued on Page 06

**US-India joint statement Imran slams govt on foreign policy**

States no balancing statement about gross HR abuses in Kashmir

QALB-E-ABBAS HASHMI

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has said that the imported government experiment has made Pakistan irrelevant internationally and isolated, which is evident from the joint statement of India and US reducing Pakistan to a promoter of cross-border terrorism in India and nothing more. PTI Chairman, in his reaction to the joint statement of India and the US, said that no balancing statement about the gross human rights abuse in Kashmir or the appalling treatment of minorities especially of Muslims in India. Imran Khan: "The question we want to ask him and PDM is that after a year in government and countless trips of Pakistan's FM to the US, the joint India/US statement reduces Pakistan to a promoter of cross-border terrorism in India and nothing more." He said: "Gen Bajwa along with his

Continued on Page 06

**'Biden should consider facts'**

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Friday took exception to a joint US-India statement issued against Pakistan after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met President Joe Biden a day earlier, saying that the latter should "consider facts the next time he fetes the butcher of Gujarat". Reacting to the development, Asif noted it was ironic that the statement was issued during the visit of "someone who was banned entry to the US for overseeing a pogrom of Muslims when he was

Continued on Page 06



PARIS: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President of the EU Commission Ursula von der Leyen meet on the sidelines of the New Global Financing Pact Summit in Paris. - DNA

**Greece shipwreck 82 bodies recovered; 12 survivors**

Govt to take firm action against traffickers

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said on Friday that the government will take a firm action against those involved in the illegal business of human trafficking. The minister made the comments during the session of the National Assembly today. He added that around 350 Pakistani migrants were aboard the boat that capsized in Greece, out of which 12 survived the tragedy. He added 82 bodies of those aboard have so far been recovered and their identification process is

Continued on Page 06

**Pak rejects India-US joint statement**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Responding to media queries regarding the US-India Joint Statement of 22 June 2023, the Spokesperson said: "We consider the Pakistan-specific reference in the 'Joint Statement from the United States and India', issued on 22 June 2023, as unwarranted, one-sided, and misleading. The reference is contrary to diplomatic norms and has political overtones. We are surprised that it has been added despite

Continued on Page 06

**'Ready for charter of economy' Zardari says will not betray PML-N, urges cooperation**

Former President says everyone will suffer if Pakistan is affected

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan Peoples Party Co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari on Friday insisted that he would not betray the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) - the key ally of the ruling coalition government. Zardari made the remarks in the backdrop of reports circulating on social media that the PPP is "not happy" with the policies of the coalition government and will part ways with the ruling alliance - under the umbrella of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) - ahead of the upcoming elections. Sources privy to the development said that the Bilawal-led party wanted to reclaim Punjab - once the stronghold of the PPP.

Continued on Page 06

**Bilawal showers praise on PM**

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Earlier in the day, PPP Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari commended the performance of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, saying that he is not a premier of the PML-N but more of the PPP. Speaking in the National Assembly today, Bilawal said: "If we want to take the country out of its problems then we will have to work like the premier."

Continued on Page 06

**Civilians trial in military courts 102 people in army's custody, AGP tells SC**

AGP Awan said that authorities had doubts about one of the people in custody being below 18 years of age

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial remarked on Friday that Pakistan Army Act applied to civilians. A seven-member bench - comprising CJP Bandial, Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Jus-

Justice Ayesha Malik, and Justice Mazahir Ali Naqvi, was hearing a set of petitions trials of civilians in military courts. The government had decided to try civilians under

Continued on Page 06



**President lauds services of outgoing Korean, Lanka envoys**

It may be mentioned here that the Korean and Sri Lanka envoys are leaving Pakistan after completing their term. Both of them contributed greatly towards further strengthening of bilateral relations

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has called for further promoting bilateral economic, trade and cultural cooperation with the Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka to further cement bilateral ties. The President expressed these views while talking to the outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Mr Suh Sangpyo, and the outgoing High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, Vice Admiral (r) Mohan Wijewickrama, who made separate calls on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Talking to the outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, the President said that Pakistan highly valued its multidimensional relationship with Korea, which involved collaborations in various fields such as political, economic, scientific, cultural and people-to-people relations. He highlighted that Pakistan was open for business and investment for all its friends and partners, and would especially welcome Korean investment in

various sectors. He stated that Pakistan wanted to increase cooperation with Korea, particularly in the areas of Information Technology and Agriculture. The President also called for further promoting cultural cooperation with Ko-



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing envoys of Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka paying farewell call on the President of Pakistan Dr Arif Alvi. - DNA

rea, adding that Pakistan offered some of the most exotic mountaineering and religious tourism sites and would welcome tourists from Korea to visit Buddhist sites. He remarked that Pakistan was home to the Gandhara Civilization

and some of the most sacred relics in Buddhism, which could be a source of attraction for Korean tourists. Talking to the outgoing High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, the President said that Pakistan attached great impor-

tance to its long-standing friendship and cooperative ties with Sri Lanka, which was its second-largest trading partner in South Asia.

He added that Pakistan wanted to further expand economic cooperation and trade relations with Sri Lanka under the Pak-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement. He stated that both countries should explore ways to rejuvenate SAARC and work together to fight poverty and promote peace, economic growth, and development for the benefit of the entire region. He also recalled Pakistan and Sri Lanka's support for each other at the UN and other international bodies and expressed the hope that this cooperation would continue at international fora. The President appreciated the role of outgoing envoys in improving bilateral cooperation with Pakistan in all areas of mutual interest.

It may be mentioned here that the Korean and Sri Lanka envoys are leaving Pakistan after completing their term. Both of them contributed greatly towards further strengthening of bilateral relations.

# Netherlands, Pak mark 75 years of bilateral relations

Chairperson Almarah Sophiya Warraich thanked the ambassador for her presence at the MoU signing ceremony

DNA

LAHORE: Netherlands Ambassador in Pakistan Henny da Vries cut a cake to mark 75 years of relations between the two countries during a ceremony, held at the National Hockey Stadium, here on Friday. The ambassador also attended the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between SBP Khawaja Junaid Hockey Academy and Almarah

Foundation, an orphanage, under which more than 100 children, between 3 to 9 years of age, would be imparted hockey skills during the next 10 years. Hockey Olympian Khawaja Junaid, chairperson Almarah Foundation, and DIG Police Mehboob Aslam Lillah, welcomed the guest at the hockey stadium. Former IGP Punjab Tahir Raza, Olympians Shehbaz Senior, Khalid Bashir, philanthropists and a large number of hockey players

and enthusiasts attended the event. Ambassador Henny da Vries said Netherlands and Pakistan enjoyed strong diplomatic relations and she would work to further strengthen the bilateral trade and relations. She said: "I am immensely pleased to visit historic city of Lahore and pleased to find myself among little children, who promise a bright future for the country." Henny da Vries said sports was a binding force among societies, and it was admirable

that young children would be groomed under the eye of great hockey players. She lauded the philanthropic work of Almarah Foundation which had been taking care of more than 100 orphan children and working to ensure a bright future for children. DIG Mehboob Aslam Lillah shed light on the journey of Almarah Foundation over the past 27 years. Chairperson Almarah Sophiya Warraich thanked the ambassador for her presence at the MoU signing ceremony.



Outgoing Sri Lankan High Commissioner posing for a picture with staff on the occasion of farewell lunch hosted by the embassy's staff in his honour.—DNA

## PPP leadership sacrificed their lives for democracy

KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that the leadership of PPP has sacrificed their lives for the survival of democracy, the mission of Shaheed Baba and Shaheed Bibi will be fulfilled under the leadership of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto and fulfill the trust of the party leadership. He said this after attending the shrine of martyrs of Pakistan Peoples Party in Garhi Khuda Baksh Bhutto and offering Fateha, said a statement issued here on Friday. On this occasion, Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, Parliamentary Leader of People's Party in City Council Najmi Alam, President of Pakistan People's Party District South Khalil Hot, General Secretary Karamullah Waqasi, Farhan Ghani, Nazir Bhutto, Kemari Town Chairman Humayun Khan, Other town chairman, UC chairman and elected local body council members of Karachi were also with him. Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab prayed at the shrines of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, Shaheed Shah Nawaz Bhutto, Mir Murtaza Bhutto. The deputy mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad said PPP will fulfill the mission of its martyred leaders. Later, Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab visited the shrine of Hazrat Lal Shahbaz Qalandar in Sehwan Sharif and recited Fateha, Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad and other elected representatives were also with him.—APP

## Int'l Day of Women in Diplomacy ISSI holds roundtable discussion to Mark

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a Roundtable Discussion to mark the 'International Day of Women Diplomacy' on June 23, 2023. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, shared a special message on the occasion. The discussion

was chaired by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI. Participants included: Ambassador Tehmina Janjua, Former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan; H.E. Nyambura Kamau, High Commissioner of Kenya to Pakistan; Dr. Noor Khan, Minister Counsellor/Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Norway in Islamabad; Ms. Alice Courlander, Second Secretary at the British High Commission in Islamabad; Ambassador

Nadeem Riyaz, President IRS; Ambassador Shah Jamal, Former Ambassador to Iraq; Ambassador Fauzia Nasreen, Former Ambassador to Poland; Ambassador Riffat Masood, Former Ambassador to Iran, Dr. Shabana Fayyaz, Professor, QAU; Dr. Salma Malik, Associate Professor, QAU; Ms. Iqra Ashraf, Director Spokesperson Office/StratCom, MoFA; and Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, BoG, ISSI.



## Minister orders maximum facilities to patients at govt hospitals

LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Health Minister Dr. Javed Akram has said that maximum facilities should be provided to patients at the public sector hospitals as these hospitals were being run with citizens' tax money. During his visit to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital on Friday, he said emergency conditions of hospital were slightly better. "I am visiting the government hospitals across the province on the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi," he added. Dr Javed said the Punjab cabinet was

working with good intentions for betterment of people. By pointing out shortcomings in the government hospitals, he added that better facilities for patients could be brought about in hospitals. He asked the medical superintendent (MS) to realise the responsibility and create facilities for patients. He said a patient should not face any problem in any government hospital of the province. He said a male hostel for post-graduate researchers (PGRs) would be established at Fatima Jinnah Medical University

(FJMU). "Better treatment of patients is our first priority," he said. He directed the MS to remain in hospital and all MS should ensure their visit to the hospital daily in the evening. He said that Sir Ganga Ram Hospital would be made a state-of-the-art medical facility. He added that supply of medicines was being ensured in the government hospitals. FJMU Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Khalid Masood Gondal said Sir Ganga Ram Hospital was creating convenience for patients coming to hospital.—APP



## WAPDA, UAE firm sign MoUs for capacity enhancement

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the Private Office of Sheikh Ahmed Dalmook Al Maktoum of United Arab Emirates on Friday. The MoUs were signed by Chairman WAPDA Lt Gen (Retd) Sajjad Ghani and Sheikh Ahmed Dalmook Al Maktoum on behalf of their respective organizations, said a press release. The first MoU is aimed at establishing a framework for cooperation and collaboration between the Private Office of Sheikh Ahmed Dalmook Al Maktoum and WAPDA to explore investment opportunities for WAPDA's small hydel power stations including 1MW-Renala, 22 MW-Rasul, 13.2 MW-Chichokimialian and 13.8 MW-Nandipur. The second MoU is related to exploring investment opportunities in the energy sector of Pakistan, specifically for the development of floating solar power project on water reservoirs and water bodies of the existing hydel power stations of WAPDA. Under the two MoU, both organizations will work together to assess the technical and economic feasibility of these projects and develop a plan for their implementation.

## PRCS steps in to assist Afghan migrant families

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Red Crescent society intending to initiate projects for Afghan migrant families residing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, focusing on providing cash assistance as well as healthcare and education services. According to a press release issued here on Friday, Habib Malik, Chairman of Pakistan Red Crescent, and Abdullah Khan, Secretary General, have stated that due to the Ukrainian conflict, there has been a decrease in financial aid from international organizations. Secretary General Abid-

ullah Khan emphasized that there is a shortage in providing monetary assistance. In response to this situation, Pakistan Red Crescent has taken on the responsibility of supporting Afghan migrant families in need. Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent society Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said that they have successfully completed distribution of cash assistance to over 5,000 Afghan migrant families residing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The priority will now be given to Afghan families

who are either unregistered or possess only Afghan citizenship cards, as they are considered more deserving. Pakistan Red Crescent will collaborate with the Ministry of Saffron and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to work together for the benefit of these families in the areas of health and education. Chairman Habib Malik emphasized Pakistan Red Crescent's firmly belief in serving humanity without any discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, or nationality.—APP

## CM visits Katcha area to boost police morale

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited the Katcha Area in Rahim Yar Khan in order to boost the morale of police officers and jawans taking part in the ongoing operation against dacoit gangs. He visited various 'mauzas' and deep katcha areas, which are being cleared from dacoit gangs and met the police jawans deployed at the front line bunkers. He appreciated the spirit of police jawans taking part in the operation in severe hot weather, said a handout issued here. Mohsin Naqvi, Inspector General of Police Dr Usman Anwar, Additional IGP South Punjab

and other police officers took their meal with the police jawans, listened to their problems and promised solving their problems. Mohsin Naqvi met students getting education in schools and inquired from them about their educational activities. He also distributed prizes among students in the school, established in the Katcha area. The CM inquired after patients at the temporary dispensary and asked them about the treatment facilities. He announced establishment of a school and a hospital in the Katcha area and ordered es-

tablishment of a dispensary and a school after acquiring a house with the cooperation of local residents. Mohsin directed additional chief secretary South Punjab to take prompt measures for establishing a school and a hospital and stated that the people of Katcha area would be provided health and education facilities. Complete medical cover would be provided to jawans of police force and their families, he added. Operation in the Katcha area was underway successfully and the police had got

the area vacated from the miscreants, he said adding the nation was proud of brave sons of Punjab Police. Mohsin Naqvi saluted the valour and spirit of the police officers and jawans taking part in the operation and added that establishing durable peace in the katcha was a priority. A permanent infrastructure is being established after eliminating hideouts of the miscreants. IG Police Dr. Usman Anwar, while briefing the caretaker CM about law and order and areas being cleared in Katcha, apprised that medical screening of all Punjab police officers and jawans had been conducted.—APP

## Pakistan to support Azerbaijan in mobile manufacturing, telecom sectors

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Amin ul Haque has said that Pakistan had vast investment opportunities in various sectors including IT and Telecom. "We wish the bilateral relations in the Technology sector to be strengthened and the trade volume to increase further, he said during a meeting with Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov here Friday. Syed Amin ul Haque further said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan had long-standing relations as Islamic brotherhood countries, Pakistan was the first to



recognize Azerbaijan and the love between the two countries was natural, said a news release. Cooperation in Trade and Industrial sectors can further strengthen mutual

relations in this regard, he said. The minister said the Ministry of IT will provide all possible facilities and supports to Azerbaijan government and businessmen in all sectors including In-






formation Technology Parks, Software Technology Parks, Mobile Manufacturing and Telecom sector. The Ambassador said, the revolutionary steps taken in the IT sector in Pakistan are commend-

able. "We wish to benefit from these experiences of Pakistan", he said. He informed that the Minister for Digital Development and Transport of Azerbaijan would visit Pakistan in the second week of July. During his visit, we are looking forward to signing different Memorandum of Understanding on bilateral cooperation in Technology sectors. The Ambassador of Azerbaijan also extended an official invitation to the Minister of IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin ul Haque to visit Azerbaijan. The meeting was attended by Secretary IT Navid Ahmed Shaikh, Member IT Syed Junaid Imam and Director General International Coordination Jawad Sherazi.

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## Briefs

## Tanveer for collective efforts to improve governance

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain on Friday stressed the need for making collective efforts to improve the institutional governance, which faced 'extreme deterioration' during the PTI tenure, and achieve the required goals of national development. Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly, he said all institutions should work within their constitutional ambit and avoid own-interpretation and rewriting of the laws passed by the Parliament in line with the Constitution of Pakistan. "Performance of institutions witnessed a decline during the tenure of the past government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). All institutions should work within their constitutional limits," he said. He was of the view that all institutions should exhibit greater patience and tolerance beside forging greater national unity to come out of the confronted crisis whether it was related to economic or governance. Commenting on the issue of prolonged electricity load-shedding echoed in the House, he said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government during its last tenure (2013-18) had brought the power load-shedding at 'zero' from 20-hour duration outages. He said the PML-N leadership had completed installation of new power generation plants in the shortest time frame of three years, which usually took seven years to complete. He said some of the power generation projects were to be completed in the next three to four years when the PML-N left the government before the 2018 general elections, but unfortunately, the PTI government did not give due attention on the power projects rather put them on the back-burner. —APP

## Pakistan Railways to run three special trains

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has announced to run three special trains to facilitate the passengers on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha holidays. According to a notification issued by Pakistan Railways, the first Eid Train will depart from Quetta to Peshawar on Monday. The second train, departing from Karachi to Lahore, will start its journey on Tuesday while the third Special Eid Train will run from Lahore for Karachi on July 03 after Eid-ul-Azha. This has been a regular feature for Pakistan Railways to announce special trains operation on the occasion of Eid to provide a comfortable and convenient travel facility to the general public who are visiting their native towns to celebrate the festival with their families and relatives. —APP

## Shah for focusing on indigenous power-generation resources

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Water Resources Syed Khursheed Ahmad Shah on Friday informed the National Assembly that we have to pay attention to power generation projects based on indigenous resources including hydel power, Thar coal and local gas. Currently, only 7,000 MW hydel power is being generated out of total 20,000 MW hydel potential, he added. He called for paying special attention to hydel power generation projects by scrapping other development schemes for the time being. He said that currently, over 2600 MW was being generated from Thar coal alone while the additional 1000 MW would soon be added to the system shortly. He said that the allegation of Rs 100 billion corruption was leveled against our then minister in 1995 in \$ 5 billion LPG deal with France. The agreement was published in Dawn and later the agreement was scrapped through suo moto notice, he added. —APP

## Passing out parade held at PAF Airmen Academy Korangi Creek

Air Officer Commanding Trophy for the Best Performance in General Service Training was awarded to Academy Sergeant Aircraftman Noman Karim whereas Trophy for Best Performance in foreign trainees was lifted by Corporal MD Salim Ahmed from Bangladesh

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Passing out Parade of Aero Apprentices was held at PAF Airmen Academy, Korangi Creek, Karachi, today. Air Marshal Ahmad Hassan, Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (Engineering) Pakistan Air Force, was the chief guest at the occasion. Earlier, Air Vice Marshal Syed Imran Majid Ali, Air Officer Commanding, PAAK, received the chief guest. A total of 1567 Aero Apprentices including trainees from Pakistan Navy and allied countries have successfully completed their technical training. While addressing the ceremony, the chief guest said, "PAF is a highly professional organization that is venerated as a combat efficient force and has always come up to the expectations of the nation during times of trial



through its historic valor, operational preparedness and professional excellence". He further said that PAF is equipped with state-of-the-art weaponry and has full potential to defend the aerial boundaries of the motherland.

The chief guest emphasized that the current situation necessitates to keep our training and professionalism fully harmonized with the contemporary requirements for developing competent and professional airmen, fully capable

of protecting our modern defence assets. The chief guest congratulated the graduating airmen and wished them a bright future and success in their upcoming professional assignments. He also commended the Academy In-

structional Staff for their sincere endeavors and commitment to the cause of training. Later, the worthy chief guest awarded trophies to the distinction holders. Chief of the Air Staff Trophy for Overall Best Performance was awarded to Aircraftman Muhammad Yousaf, Asghar Khan Trophy for the Overall Best Performance in Aeronautics was clinched by Aircraftman Muhammad Yousaf whereas Nur Khan Trophy for Best in Aero Avionics Technology was conferred upon Aircraftman Muhammad Ibrahim Suleman. Air Officer Commanding Trophy for the Best Performance in General Service Training was awarded to Academy Sergeant Aircraftman Noman Karim whereas Trophy for Best Performance in foreign trainees was lifted by Corporal MD Salim Ahmed from Bangladesh.

## NPO to organize webinar on "Productivity Enhancement"

ISLAMABAD: The National Productivity Organization (NPO) is going to organize a webinar on the importance of team building to enhance productivity on June 26 (Monday). The objectives of the webinar include enhancing communication, developing trust and collaboration, strengthening problem-solving abilities and building stronger relationships, according to NPO document. It would also highlight encouraging effective leadership, enhancing team productivity, adaptability and resilience, establishing a team charter, applying practical team-building techniques, and evaluating progress and continuous improvement. The webinar has been designed for senior management, middle management, team leaders, supervisors, customer care staff, sale staff and the business development team. —APP

## DC visits DHQ, cattle market to inspect facilities

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Hasan Waqar Cheema on Friday visited the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) and reviewed the medical facilities provided to the patients. He interacted with the patients, their attendants and inquired about the treatment facilities being provided to them at the hospital. Cheema took rounds of various hospital wards including the male and female wards, operation theater, medical store, the emergency department and others. He directed the management of the DHQ to ensure cleanliness arrangements in the hospital and adequate seating and clean drinking water for the patients and their attendants. He also directed to ensure medicines in sufficient quantities in the hospital. The DC further asked for the best cleanliness arrangements at the hospital's washrooms and directed them to make the air conditioning system functional. Later, the deputy commissioner also visited the cattle market in the Khayaban Sir Syed area and reviewed the seating, drinking water, cleanliness, medical facility and other arrangements. Waqar directed the concerned officials to ensure plenty of water and shady places for animals during hot weather. He directed the police officials to watch criminal elements like pickpockets in the cattle markets. —APP

## Govt on toes to manage power supply during peak summer

ISLAMABAD: Despite the economic recession and pressure by International Monetary Fund to do away with subsidies, the government is pursuing a focused agenda of overcoming power shortage during the peak summer season through a multi-pronged strategy. Since the uninterrupted power supply is considered crucial for the development of industrial, agricultural and domestic sectors, its smooth supply to domestic consumers is equally important. But it becomes difficult when one's hands are tied to certain international monetary compulsions and there is a shortfall in indigenous supply and demand. Therefore, the present government is vigorously pursuing arrangements to provide respite to industry and common consumers

during the ongoing hot spell. Rising fuel prices and new energy situation after Ukraine war also necessitated Pakistan to utilize its indigenous resources like hydel, solar, wind and Thar coal as it has already announced not to build any new power projects depending on imported coal and ensure 60 percent of its power through local sources by 2030. "We are taking pragmatic steps to overpower load-shedding by focusing on generation, transmission and energy conservation to provide maximum relief to people," stated Minister for Power Division Khurram Dastgir. The present government has added cheap 3800 megawatts (MW) indigenous electricity to the national grid in just one year which would gradually help

reduce power tariffs. He said over 2000 MW alone electricity was added to the system from local Thar coal during the said period. Moreover, 1320 MW Shanghai Electric, ThalNova, Karot hydropower project and K-3 Karachi Nuclear Power Plant project have started generating electricity since the present coalition government took over led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Khurram Dastgir said Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) government had successfully added over 10,000 MW electricity to the national grid through China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects from 2013 to 2018. "Efforts of the then PML-N government, had not only controlled load-shedding but there was also surplus power available in the sys-

tem," he remarked. "But, criminal negligence of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government had delayed a number of projects dragging the country back to darkness." He informed that total power generation from Thar coal stood at 2640 MW with formal commissioning of 1320 MW Shanghai Electric Thar Coal Project under the CPEC. "Another 330 MW Thal Nova Thar coal project has also been synchronized in February that would help reduce load-shedding and cut the power tariff." Khurram said there were 175 billion tons coal reserves at Thar that were sufficient to generate 100,000 MW electricity. Moreover, Bolan-Gawadar Transmission Line has also been completed for importing 100 MW electricity from Iran.

## Dollars being smuggled to Afghanistan, Iran

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Brig. (retd) Aslam Khan, Chairman of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) said on Friday that a large number of dollars are being smuggled from the country to Afghanistan and Iran. Pakistan's economy is getting weak due to continuous smuggling of dollars, while the economy of both the neighbouring countries is getting stable, he said. There is no corruption in the government machinery in Afghanistan due to which their economy is flourishing despite the sanctions, he added. In a statement issued here today, Aslam Khan said that immediately after the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, one US

dollar was available at 124 Afghani, while now one US dollar is available at 86 Afghani. In contrast, at the time of the American withdrawal from Afghanistan, one US dollar in Pakistan was worth about 176 rupees, which is now available at almost 300 rupees. He noted that despite the wishes of dozens of countries, the dollars smuggled from Pakistan helped Afghanistan to remain afloat. The rulers in Afghanistan are not inclined to create assets and prefer personal welfare over national interest. Aslam Khan said that resources are not being plundered in Afghanistan but distributed properly, which is promoting economic development.

## Army's role in economic growth termed crucial

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh said on Friday that Army has agreed to play a role in boosting the economy, which is very encouraging for the business community. The government has announced an Economic Revival Plan to address economic issues and promote prosperity, and the business community is pinning high hope on the plan and the COAS amid the economic downturn, he said. Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as President ICCI and Chairman PVMA said in a statement that the Special Investment Facilitation Council has been established to attract investment and the Army's contribution in it will be significant. The economic revival plan recognises the importance of domestic development and foreign investment while the Army has assured to support these initiatives, which has gone down very

well with the business community, he added. The business leader said that the Army's commitment was very essential for the success of the plan and the plan require a secure and stable environment which the Army can provide. In order to maintain stability and national security, the Army can help protect domestic and foreign assets which will be favourable for the commercial activity and encourage local and foreign investors, he added. The plan emphasises the value of cooperation between civilian and military leadership which will encourage good decision-making, optimise use of available resources, and accelerate investment and execution, he observed. Atif Ikram Sheikh said that one of the industries targeted for expansion and development is the production of defence equipment, which will have a substantial economic impact. He noted that human resource development and job creation are essential for a healthy economy, which has been stressed

in the plan. This will help people become more independent, promote economic inclusion, and lower unemployment rates through providing vocational training, encouraging entrepreneurship, and job creation. Building infrastructure is essential for boosting the economy and luring investors and this plan will help improve connectivity, facilitate trade, and bolstering the general investment climate by constructing roads, bridges, dams etc. The economy can be adversely impacted by catastrophes, and the Army plays a crucial role in reducing the negative impact of such occurrences because of its well-established disaster response and relief capabilities. It also helps to restore economic activity in impacted areas, fostering resilience and stability, by offering immediate assistance, relief supplies, and rehabilitation support, he said. It is impossible to overestimate the contribution of the Army to the development of the national economy, he concluded.

## Police arrest five gamblers

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district Police arrested five gamblers and recovered Rs 10,500 stake money, four mobile phones, and valuables from their possession, said a police spokesman here on Friday. He informed that Taxila police conducted a raid and arrested five gamblers namely Meharban, Sajid, Nisar, Adnan and Arif who were allegedly involved in betting while playing cards. A case has been registered against them while further investigation is under process. —APP

## Around Rs. 23 b disbursed among 2.5 m beneficiaries

ISLAMABAD: The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has disbursed a total of Rs. 23 billion among 2.5 million deserving women under Benazir Kafaalat program during the last four days. According to the disbursement details till date revealed by the BISP here Friday, those beneficiaries who have not received their quarterly payment yet must visit their respective camps to receive the amount. The beneficiary women must receive their full payment as well as a receipt. The BISP has been disbursing Benazir Kafaalat cash and Benazir educational stipends since Monday (June 19). After a 25 percent increase, this time the quarterly installment amount is Rs. 9000. About 81 billion rupees is being distributed among nine million deserving families under Benazir Kafaalat. In case of any complaint, the beneficiaries must immediately report to BISP toll-free helpline 0800-26477. All messages from BISP are sent from 8171 only. —APP


## Chances of IMF program restoration low: Zahid

DNA

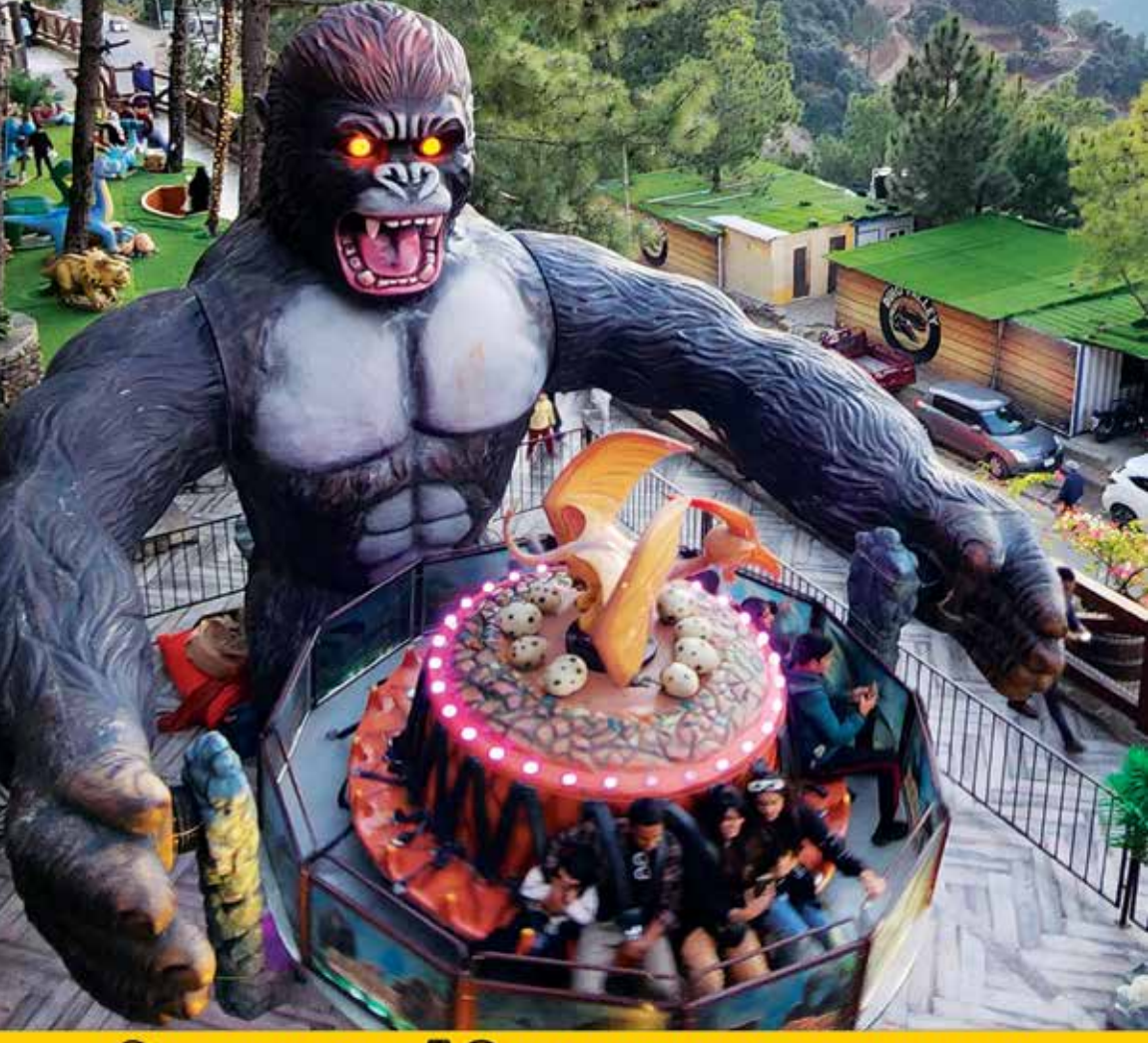
ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Friday that the current EFF program of IMF is ending in a week and now the chances of a tranche are slim. As a result of Prime Minister Mian Shehbaz Sharif's meeting with IMF MD, if the suspended loan is granted, then both the international organization and Pakistan will have to take special measures to do so, he added. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the IMF

will have to withdraw from some of its conditions and Pakistan will also have to make changes in the federal budget. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the finance minister Ishaq Dar has already said that the IMF is looking at the issue of Pakistan geopolitically, which seems to be correct to some extent. The business leader said that apart from Prime Minister, the Finance Minister Ishaq Dar is also meeting the ambassadors of America and important countries in a bid to restore the program. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government has fulfilled most of the conditions of the IMF, but compared to the financial

requirements of six billion dollars, 4 billion dollars have been arranged. The finance minister has also clarified that national interests cannot be sacrificed for the IMF, in which case the IMF's inflexible attitude makes it impossible to revive the program. He said that due to the IMF, Pakistan has increased the interest rate to 21 percent, the petroleum levy has been increased to 50 rupees per litre, the value of the rupee has also been reduced; but the lender is still not satisfied. The IMF has also described the current budget as going against the basic terms of its program, which include increasing the tax base and reforming failed public institutions.



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## Strait Forum counters Western narratives

In mainstream Western narratives and those of the pro-independence forces in Taiwan, the two sides of the Taiwan Strait are on the brink of war. They have fabricated the lie that as the Chinese mainland, which has been placed in a bully's role in those narratives, constantly upgrades preparedness for "a war of aggression" to reunify the island with the motherland, Taiwan must be armed to its teeth for self-defense, with substantial Western support.

An armed conflict between the two sides of the Strait that would inevitably drag in some of the world's strongest militaries is imminent in the words of their fearmongering. The 15th Straits Forum, which was opened in Xiamen, Fujian province, sent a very different message, displaying a common aspiration on both sides of the Taiwan Strait for peace and development. As the largest gathering for non-governmental exchanges across the Strait held since the pandemic control measures were lifted on the mainland, the event was a thermometer of public enthusiasm for constructive cross-Strait engagement. That more than 5,000 people from Taiwan were invited as guests alone revealed the mainland organizers' sincerity. In a congratulatory letter read out by Wang Hu-ning, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Chinese President Xi Jinping expounded what Wang said was the "ultimate truth" that "Compatriots on both sides of the Strait will do well only when the country and nation do well". While declaring a continuous dedication to cross-Strait economic and cultural exchanges and cooperation, integrated development in all areas, and delivering benefits to people on the island, Wang extended an invitation to all compatriots there to share the extensive opportunities arising from "Chinese-style modernization". Wang reiterated the mainland side's persistent emphasis on "placing hopes on the people of Taiwan", pledging to make every effort to do and do well whatever is conducive to increasing good feelings, as well as deepening mutual understanding and identification across the Strait. A "Cross-Strait People's Declaration" jointly compiled by kinship organizations from both sides of the Strait was released at the gathering, vowing to forge tighter people-to-people links across the Strait to serve the purpose of peaceful reunification. And under the peace-oriented principles both leaders highlighted, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council have jointly issued a document on supporting Fujian to "Explore New Ways of Integrated Development on Both Sides of the Strait" and to build a corresponding pilot zone. The narrative of an impending war is part of the collusive games Washington and the pro-independence forces on the island are playing. Beijing insists on reunification, and apparently it prefers the peaceful realization of that goal more than anyone else.



## Macron's green finance deal

The International Energy Agency in 2021 had an unambiguous message: developing new fossil fuel resources is incompatible with restricting global heating to below 1.5C, a threshold beyond which the most disastrous climate impacts lie. Yet the oil and gas industry isn't listening. Last year it committed half a trillion dollars for new capital expenditure on future drilling and extraction, while making outrageous profits of \$4tr. Business as usual will destroy life as we know it. Energy is fundamental for development and meeting basic needs. But producing it from coal, oil and gas is simultaneously the cause of the climate emergency. Clearly the issues of climate, energy and development must be addressed in an interconnected way. This is very difficult against a post-Covid backdrop when poor nations have record levels of debt.

The French president, Emmanuel Macron, should be congratulated for hosting a summit to reimagine financial solutions to the interlinked global goals of tackling poverty, curbing planet-destroying emissions and protecting nature. But there is still a long way to go. The announcement by the International Monetary Fund that rich countries had met a target, set in 2019, of a \$100bn climate fund for poor countries is probably less than meets the eye. The contrast with the trillions of dollars mobilised in an instant, to bail out finance houses in 2008, is stark. It is inexcusable that funds to address global heating cannot be found.

"For us it is about saving lives, for others, it is about saving profits," said Mia Mottley, the prime minister of Barbados, chiding the rich world for inaction during a "polycrisis moment". Colombia's president, Gustavo Petro, called for a global financial transaction tax. Kenya's president, William Ruto, came to Paris after endorsing a report, "Just Transition", which pointed to Africa's potential for harnessing renewable energy far outstripping any projected needs. Yet the continent has been barely able to industrialise at all, let alone tap its vast green power potential. Leaders in North America and Europe are intent on reshaping their energy systems, but the key materials required are found in the developing world. Even China, which dominates critical rare earth elements and their processing, lacks vital metals. This should allow for a grand bargain, where poorer countries are given policy space to address the three structural deficiencies that hinder their development – a lack of food sovereignty, a lack of energy sovereignty, and low value-added manufacturing – in return for sharing their minerals. Mr Ruto said the three weeks taken to create the current "Bretton Woods" financial institutions should be enough to design their replacement. This might sound ambitious but it was Martin Luther King who warned against the "tranquilising drug of gradualism". This sense of urgency is needed now to stop an environmental disaster.

## Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's four-day red carpet visit to the United States

James Dorsey

In an interview with The Wall Street Journal this week, Mr. Modi asserted that the South Asian nation's quest for great power status based on being the world's most populous country and, by 2030, its third largest economy, did not involve "supplanting any country." Instead, Mr. Modi said, "We see this process as India gaining its rightful position in the world." The prime minister noted, "I am the first prime minister to be born in free India. And that's why my thought process, my conduct, what I say and do, is inspired by my country's attributes and traditions." A former US State Department official and the Carnegie Endowment

The visit spotlights the adjustments the United States faces in transitioning from a US-dominated unipolar world to a multipolar world populated by three major powers – the US, China, and India – and several middle powers with greater agency to hedge their bets and chart independent courses.

Those adjustments include the viability of a foreign, defense, and security policy anchored in alliances rather than more narrowly-focused agreements and micro-laterals like I2U2, which groups the United States, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and India, or AUKUS, a trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. I2U2 was created last year to facilitate "joint investments and new initiatives in water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security."

In an interview with The Wall Street Journal this week, Mr. Modi asserted that the South Asian nation's quest for great power status based on being the world's most populous country and, by 2030, its third largest economy, did not involve "supplanting any country." Instead, Mr. Modi said, "We see this process as India gaining its rightful position in the world." The prime minister noted, "I am the first prime minister to be born in free India. And that's why my thought process, my conduct, what I say and do, is inspired by my country's attributes and traditions." A former US State Department official and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace's Tata Chair for Strategic Affairs, Ashley J. Tellis, argued that India and the United States differ on what a 21st-century world order should entail. The Tata family, whose Tata Group is India's largest conglomerate with operations in more than 100 countries, funds Carnegie and the chair. India "does not harbor any innate allegiance toward preserving the liberal international order and retains an enduring aversion toward participating in mutual defense. It seeks to acquire

advanced technologies from the United States to bolster its own economic and military capabilities... It does not presume that American assistance imposes any further obligations on itself," Mr. Tellis said in a recent Foreign Affairs article. Bolstering Mr. Tellis' argument, prominent Indian commentator C. Raja Mohan noted that "the Indian argument of 'strategic autonomy'...is only deployed in the engagement with the US. ...We rarely ask how Delhi, despite the talk of strategic autonomy, has allowed a massive and unhealthy reliance on Russian weapons to develop over the decades." Widely viewed as India's most popular politician rooted in Hindu nationalism with a track record of illiberally hollowing out the world's largest democracy and rolling back minority rights, particularly regarding India's 200 million Muslims, the world's largest Muslim minority, Mr. Modi stands firm in the struggle to shape the 21st-century world order. That battle is as much a power struggle as it is a battle of ideas. "Ideologies play a central role in structuring international orders as well as mounting collective efforts to challenge and transform them," scholars Gregorio Bettiza, Derek Bolton, and David Lewis noted in a recent journal article. Challengers, they said, "tend to organize around alternative beliefs and values." Juxtaposed with the Biden administration's democracy vs. autocracy framework, Mr. Modi's model of illiberalism combined with non-alignment while maintaining close ties to the world's major economies is increasingly a preferred alternative for autocratic middle powers, particularly in the Gulf, according to Middle East expert Jon Alterman. US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said on the eve of President Joe Biden's White House meeting with Mr. Modi that the US leader would not lecture the Indian prime minister about human rights. "Ultimately, the question of where politics and the question of democratic institutions go in India is going to be determined within

India by Indians. It's not going to be determined by the United States," Mr. Sullivan said.

Mr. Alterman suggested, "That is precisely the conclusion that officials in Riyadh and Abu Dhabi and Cairo—and others—would like Washington to reach about them. They would like to have the US president welcome their rulers without lectures or preconditions." India's appeal as a model for authoritarians and autocrats is not simply self-serving. It also benefits from the fact that credibility is essential in the battle of ideas. Credibility is what the United States lacks. The effective dropping of human rights concerns in the US-India relationship is just the latest example of the United States refusing to put its money where its mouth is or, at best, its selective adherence to its democratic and human rights values. Earlier, Mr. Biden lost ground by framing the Ukraine war as a fight between democracy and autocracy rather than what resistance to the Russian invasion is about: upholding the rule of law and the inviolability of internationally recognised borders. Mr. Biden's problem is that inconsistency in US policy has become as much a liability as it long was an asset. The rise of illiberalism in the United States, symbolised by former President Donald J. Trump, compounds Mr. Biden's difficulties. To be sure, balancing values with the requirements of big power geopolitics produces uncomfortable compromises. The United States has yet to attempt to regain credibility by countering legitimate allegations of hypocrisy and opportunism with a well-argued rationale for selective insistence on its values that for decades have rung hollow and insincere. Mr. Raja Mohan, the Indian commentator, put his finger on the US dilemma by noting that "if Washington can do business for many decades with the House of Saud, the Pakistan Army, and the Chinese Communist Party, it is unreasonable to think it will be squeamish about building on clearly convergent interests with the Modi government."

## Sunariwala: From barren earth to prosperity

Muhammad Rizwan



The distance between Sunariwala and Depalpur is 18km, while Shir Gad is 14km away and Hujira is 12km away from Sunariwala. Okara is located approximately 43km from Sunariwala. Sunariwala falls under the jurisdiction of Okara district and its tehsil is Depalpur. The province where Sunariwala is situated is Punjab. The administrative authority overseeing Sunariwala is the Punjab government.

The Sunariwala village is located in Depalpur, which is situated in Okara, the largest city in Okara district. Okara itself is situated in the Punjab province of Pakistan, a beautiful country in the world. Sunariwala is positioned at the corner of Bayas River, which has been dry for many years. To reach Sunariwala, one can take the Shir Gad road from Depalpur to Shairgad or the Hujira road from Depalpur to Hujira. Another option is the Shairgad road from Hujira to Shairgad or the Hujira road from Shairgad to Hujira. One can also travel on the Depalpur road from Hujira to Depalpur or from Shairgad to Depalpur. The major cities near Sunariwala include Depalpur and Hujira. If the residents of Sunariwala need to purchase any items, they usually visit Depalpur or. The University of Okara is also accessible from Sunariwala.

The distance between Sunariwala and Depalpur is 18km, while Shir Gad is 14km away and Hujira is 12km away from Sunariwala. Okara is located approximately 43km from Sunariwala. Sunariwala falls under the jurisdiction of Okara district and its tehsil is Depalpur. The province where Sunariwala is situated is Punjab. The administrative authority overseeing Sunariwala is the Punjab government. Sunariwala is part of Pakistan, a country known for its beauty.

In 1967, Sunariwala was an underdeveloped village. Haji M Sharif, who came from Arifwala, took an interest in purchasing land at a low price when he saw some people selling their land while traveling to Hujira. After consulting his family and other individuals such as Haji Ismaeel, Kushi Muhammad, and Solaman, they decided to buy the barren land. They cleared the land by cutting down bushes, making it uneven. The individuals involved in cutting down the bushes were Chodary Abdul Majeed, M Shareef, Solaman, Glam Mhammad, Haji Ismaeel, and Haneef. They worked on developing the

land for five years, making it more suitable for cultivation. To make the land even, they used bales in small sections.

In 1971, they purchased an area of 17 acres, and in 1990, the people of Sunariwala bought their first tractor. In 1992, they expanded the cultivated area. Initially, wheat was the primary crop, but in 1993, electricity was introduced to Sunariwala. M Shareef, M Haneef, Solamaan, and Kushimuhammad were the individuals involved in the electrification process. In 1975, M Shareef's sons started receiving education in Mazra Bad. Rasheed Ahmad and Abdul Hafiz completed their middle education there and later enrolled in the Government Model High School in Depalpur. This progress was made possible by M Shareef's efforts. When the electrical system was established in 1993, tube wells started running on electricity, resulting in increased water supply. M Shareef began producing more crops, including rice, leading to higher profits than expenses. These advancements brought about changes, and the agricultural productivity of the area increased. In 1995, the production of sugar increased significantly due to improved water availability. People started growing vegetables and fruits, with guava and orange being the prominent fruits. In 1996, people began selling vegetables and crops in nearby cities. Animal husbandry also started in 1987, and the number of animals increased significantly. In 1996, the people of Sunariwala purchased a portion of plain land from Zada Bibi and sold more animals to others.

The land was priced at 750 rupees per acre at that time. They once again worked on developing the uneven land, utilizing machinery and technology. After clearing the bushes, the land

became suitable for cultivation, and crop production resumed. However, water shortage became a challenge, affecting the productivity of the previously fertile land. To address this issue, with the help of Haji Share Muhammad, a new tube well was established without relying on electricity. The tube well was initially powered by an engine and was later converted to electricity in 1999. By 2002, the condition of the land improved, and the people of Sunariwala enjoyed a better quality of life.

In 1995, a teacher arrived from Depalpur, motivating the people to pursue education. Rasheed Ahmad was the first person from Sunariwala to pass matriculation. He completed his matriculation from the Government High School in Depalpur.

Abdul Raziq was the first person from Sunariwala to complete MPhil and also the first to learn by heart The Holy Quran in Urdu. Haji Jan Muhammad was the first person to join the army, while Hafiz Muhammad Dine and Hafiz Ahmad Dine were the first individuals to thoroughly learn The Holy Quran. M Abdullah Rasheed was the first person to complete MPhil in a science subject. M Bilal Rasheed was the first to join a university, specifically pursuing software engineering. At the last, I am deeply grateful for Sir Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer's mentorship, as his guidance has not only enhanced my writing skills but also broadened my understanding of the subject matter. His expertise and experience have guided me to delve deeper into the topic, enabling me to present a more nuanced and well-reasoned opinion.

—The writer is Department of Food Science and Technology University of Okara rizwanrasheed1199@gmail.com





**Briefs**

**Hundreds of migrants rescued off Canary Islands**

DNA

MADRID: At least 227 migrants were rescued off Spain's Canary Islands on Thursday, officials say, a day after reported deaths of more than 30 migrants there. Emergency services say the Coast Guard saved the migrants travelling on inflatable boats near the Lanzarote and Gran Canaria islands in the Atlantic. A number of them were taken to hospital to be treated for a "mild condition". On Wednesday, two charities said more than 30 migrants may have drowned after their dinghy sank off Gran Canaria. Spanish authorities said rescue workers found the bodies of a minor and a man, and rescued 24 other people. However, the charities - Walking Borders and Alarm Phone - said about 60 people had been on board. Helena Maleno Garzon, from Walking Borders, said 39 people had drowned, including four women and a baby, while Alarm Phone said 35 people were missing. Both organisations monitor migrant boats and receive calls from people on board or their relatives. A Spanish rescue service ship, the Guardamar Caliope, was only about an hour's sail from the dinghy on Tuesday evening, according to Spanish news agency Efe.

**3 killed in Russian attacks in southern Ukraine**

DNA

KYIV: At least three people were killed in Russian attacks in southern Ukraine on Friday, including two who died after a trolleybus company came under fire in the city of Kherson, regional officials said. Oleksandr Prokudin, the governor of the Kherson region, said two men aged 55 and 43 were killed by "targeted fire" on the Kherson trolleybus company in what he described as "another Russian terrorist attack". Several other people were injured, he said in a post on the Telegram messaging app. Video footage posted by the regional authorities showed a wounded man on the ground inside the trolleybus company's building, with broken glass and blood on the floor. Another dead or wounded man lay on the ground outside, and a man was shown being lifted on a stretcher into an ambulance. The prosecutor's office said the attack took place around 10.20 a.m. (0720 GMT) and that it had launched an investigation. Yuriy Malashko, the governor of the Zaporizhzhia region, wrote on Telegram that a 35-year-old man had been killed in a Russian artillery barrage on the village of Mala Tokmachka and that four people had been wounded elsewhere in the region.

**Gold falls by Rs1,500 per tola in Pakistan**

KARACHI: The gold price in Pakistan continued to lose its shine as it fell by Rs1,500 per tola on Friday due to the decrease in the international market. According to the data released by All-Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association (APSGJA), the price of gold (24 carats) decreased by Rs1,500 per tola and Rs1,285 per 10 grams to settle at Rs217,000 and Rs186,043, respectively. Meanwhile, the price of the yellow metal also declined by \$10 and settled at \$1,919 per ounce in the international market today. The gold rate has been volatile in Pakistan recently amid continued political and economic uncertainty, and high inflation. People prefer to buy this precious commodity in such times as a safe investment and a hedge. - DNA

**West Bank violence could spiral 'out of control': UN**

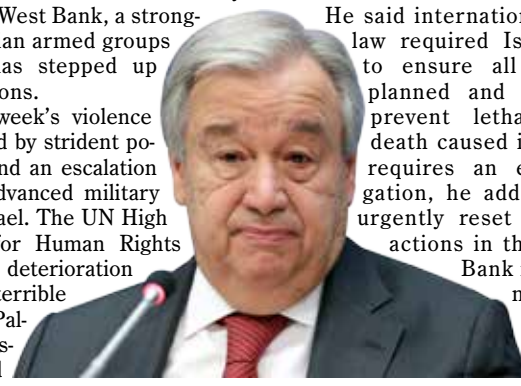
The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said the sharp deterioration was having a terrible impact on both Palestinians and Israelis and called for an immediate end to the violence

NEW YORK: The new outbreak of violence in the occupied West Bank could spiral out of control, the UN human rights chief warned on Friday. This week, at least 18 people have been killed in the territory - in incursions by the Israeli military or attacks by Palestinians or Jewish settlers. "These latest killings and the violence, along with the inflammatory rhetoric, serve only to drive Israelis and Palestinians deeper into an abyss," Volker Turk said in a statement. So far this year, more than 200 people have died in violence linked to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the vast majority of them Palestinians.

Deadly violence has flared in recent days in the northern West Bank, a stronghold of Palestinian armed groups where Israel has stepped up military operations. Turk said this week's violence was being fuelled by strident political rhetoric and an escalation in the use of advanced military weaponry by Israel. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said the sharp deterioration was having a terrible impact on both Palestinians and Israelis and called

for an immediate end to the violence. He said international human rights law required Israeli authorities to ensure all operations are planned and implemented to prevent lethal force. Every death caused in such a context requires an effective investigation, he added. "Israel must urgently reset its policies and actions in the occupied West Bank in line with international human rights standards, including protecting and

respecting the right to life," Turk said. "As the occupying power, Israel also has obligations under international humanitarian law to ensure public order and safety within the occupied Palestinian Territory." Turk said the underlying dynamics leading to violence and the arbitrary loss of life needed to be addressed urgently and would require political will from Israel and the Palestinians as well as the international community. "For this violence to end, the occupation must end," he said. "On all sides, the people with the political power know this and must instigate immediate steps to realise this." - Agencies



**Extreme weather hits China**

BEIJING: Many cities in China continued to issue heat and rainfall response warnings on Friday, as residents in many areas are experiencing weather extremes that could go down in history in the last few days. According to the China Meteorological Administration (CMA), weather observations from Wednesday to Thursday showed that a total of 2,830 stations across the country recorded high temperatures above 40 C, while 2,130 stations recorded heavy rainfall. On Friday morning, the National Meteorological Center (NMC) continued to issue high temperature orange warnings, the second highest across China's four-level weather warning system, as the highest temperature in Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shandong on Friday is expected to reach 40 C. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Dr Reza Amiri Moghadam calls on Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. - DNA

**NDMA warns of urban flooding**

Rains, storms expected from tomorrow

ISLAMABAD: Amid the forecast of pre-monsoon rains in upper and central regions of the country from June 25 to 30, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Friday warned of urban flooding in major cities and directed provinces to ensure public safety during this period. It said the showers could cause flash flooding in Punjab and trigger landslides in the hilly areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan. A day earlier, the Pakistan Meteorological Department said rain and wind-thundershower with isolated heavy falls were expected in the upper and central parts of the country under the influence of moist weather conditions. The areas forecast to receive rain with occasional breaks include Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Murree, Galliat, Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum, Azad Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, Chitral,

Swat, Manshera, Kohistan, Abbottabad, Haripur, Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi, Nowshera, Kurram, Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Kohat, Mianwali, Sargodha, Hafizabad, Mandi Bahauddin, Sialkot, Narowal, Lahore, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Sheikhupura, Faisalabad, Jhang and Toba Tek Singh. Meanwhile, Sukkur, Jacobabad, and Larkana may receive rains and wind-thundershowers from June 27 to 28. In a weather advisory issued today, the NDMA said the prevailing heatwave conditions were likely to subside under the new weather system. "Heavy rainfall may cause urban flooding in low-lying areas of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Gujranwala, and Lahore from June 26-27," it stated, adding that flash flooding could be triggered in the hill torrents of Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur and adjoining areas of north-east Balochistan on June 27. - DNA

**Relatives mourn Titanic sub deaths**

LONDON: Relatives and colleagues mourned on Friday five people who died when their submersible imploded in the North Atlantic during a deep dive to the Titanic wreck, triggering questions about safety rules for such adventures into the ocean depths. Debris from the Titan submersible, which had been missing since Sunday, was detected on Thursday by a robotic diving vehicle deployed from a Canadian ship as part of an international rescue effort. Remains of the submersible, which lost contact with a surface ship about 1 hour and 45 minutes into a 2-hour descent, were discovered on the seabed about 1,600 feet (488 meters) from the bow of Titanic wreck, about 2-1/2 miles (4 km) below the surface, U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral John Mauger said. He told reporters on Thursday the debris was consistent with "a catastrophic implosion of the vehicle." The five who died included Stockton Rush, U.S. founder and chief executive officer of OceanGate Expeditions, which operated the submersible and charged \$250,000 per person to make the Titanic trip. He was piloting the craft. The others were British billionaire and explorer Hamish Harding, 58; Pakistani-born businessman Shahzada Dawood, 48, and his 19-year-old son, Suleman, both British citizens; and French oceanographer and Paul-Henri Nargeolet, 77. "These men were true explorers who shared a distinct spirit of adventure, and a deep passion for exploring and protecting the world's oceans," OceanGate said. - Agencies

**Ukraine claims advances, stops Russian attack in east**

NEWS DESK

KYIV: Ukraine's armed forces have halted a Russian offensive towards the cities of Kupiansk and Lyman in the east of the country, and are advancing in the south, a senior Ukrainian defence official said on Friday. "We had very fierce battles in the Kupiansk and Lyman directions, but our soldiers stopped the enemy there," Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Ma-

liar told Ukrainian television. Ukraine is in the early stages of its most ambitious counterattack since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022 and says it has retaken eight villages, its first substantial gains on the battlefield for seven months. But Russia still holds swathes of territory in eastern and southern Ukraine, and Ukrainian forces have yet to push to the main defensive lines that Russia has had months to prepare. "Indeed, we still have the main events

ahead of us. And the main blow is still to come. Indeed, some of the reserves - these are staged things - will be activated later," Maliar said. She said Russian forces still aimed to gain control of the whole of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions in eastern Ukraine. Ukraine's military operation in the south was going according to plan and its forces were advancing, even if minefields were slowing them down, she said.

**Taliban letter reinforces bar of female aid staff in Kandahar**

WEB DESK

KABUL: Taliban authorities in Afghanistan's Kandahar province ordered female aid workers this week to stop work on a refugee project, according to an official letter, reinforcing rules against women working despite exemptions sought by some organisations. The letter between departments of the ministry for refugees in Kandahar, the Taliban's historical heartland, said aid agencies had been in viola-

tion of the orders in work related to refugees in Spin Boldak, a town near the border with Pakistan. "All partner organisations that are working with the Department of Refugees and Repatriation of Spin Boldak ... should ask their female colleagues not to come to their work and stay at home until further notice," the letter said. A spokesperson for the United Nations' humanitarian coordination office said the body was aware of the instruction and seeking clarity. The letter underscored the uncertainty of the operating environment in Afghanistan for aid agencies who say they intend to stay and deliver aid during a humanitarian crisis but seek exemptions to let female staff work, to reach female beneficiaries and avoid breaching UN charter principles. The Taliban administration signalled in January it would work on a set of written guidelines that could allow aid groups to operate with female staff in some cases, but it has not yet done so.

**Decision to increase renewable energy to 60 percent lauded**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Schofer, along with Federal Secretary for Energy Rashid Mahmood Langrial and USAID Mission Director Reed Aeschliman, concluded the



second cohort of the Future of Women in Energy Scholars program with a certificate distribution ceremony on June 23, 2023. The program, which was launched in 2022 in Pakistan, aims to support and inspire Pakistani women to pursue careers in the energy sector. Held in Islamabad, the ceremony featured remarks from the U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission and the Federal Secretary for Energy. "We commend the Pakistani government's decision to increase its share of renewable energy to 60 percent by 2030. We remain committed to supporting this goal by creating opportunities for all Pakistanis, including women, to benefit from the country's inclusive growth and development," stated Mr. Schofer. Federal Secretary for Energy Rashid Mahmood Langrial acknowledged that the United States and Pakistan have a long history of partnership in the climate and energy sectors and emphasized the important role of women in Pakistan's economy.

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