

Islamabad POST



Tuesday, July 18, 2023

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Briefs

Abbasi hints at skipping elections

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has hinted at to stay away from next elections. "I don't want to be a part of such system, perhaps I will work better to remain outside of it," Abbasi said. "It is my personal assessment that currently politics won't resolve national issues," he said. "This reality seems to me, at least my contesting election won't bring any solution." PML-N leader told a private television channel Monday. "I would not contest election if all stakeholders will not sit together," he said.

Parvez Elahi detained for 30 days

LAHORE: The Lahore deputy commissioner (DC) has issued a 30-day detention order for PTI President Chaudhry Parvez Elahi under Section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO), it emerged on Monday. The order, which was issued late last night, stated that Elahi would be held at Lahore's Camp Jail, where he has been incarcerated since last month. It came after Lahore police submitted a written request for Elahi's detention for allegedly disturbing the peace in connection with three cases.

Bilawal can't become PM, says Rashid

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League chief and former federal interior minister Sheikh Raza Raza said Bilawal Bhatto Zardari cannot become prime minister of any country. In a sarcastic remark on the social media website Twitter on Monday, the former minister wrote that there's no tax on dreaming. Bilawal undertook 65 foreign trips but got nothing, he added.

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Sanctuaries in neighboring country Liberty for TTP impacts Pak security

Top military brass reaffirms support to govt for economic revival



RAWALPINDI: The military top brass highlighted on Monday the availability of sanctuaries to the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in "a neighbouring country" as one of the major reasons impacting the security of Pakistan. The assessment was made at the 258th Corps Commanders' Conference, held at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, where the participants were briefed in detail about the prevailing internal security environment, according to a statement issued by the military's media affairs wing. The meeting, presided over by Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir, noted that "the sanctuaries and liberty of action available to the terrorists of the proscribed TTP and other groups of that ilk in a neighbouring country and the availability of latest weapons to the terrorists" as major reasons impacting the security of Pakistan, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) statement said. This is the second time in less than a week that the military has made such an assertion. Just three days ago, the ISPR said following an attack at a garrison in Balochistan's Zhob that the armed forces of Pakistan had "serious concerns on the safe havens and liberty of action available to" the TTP in Afghanistan. "It is expected that the interim Afghan government would not allow the use of its soil to perpetrate terror against any country, in the real sense and in line with commitments made in the Doha agreement", the previous ISPR statement had added. At Monday's conference, the ISPR said, the military leadership was also briefed on the government's plan for the economy's revival - the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). The briefing included details about the role of the army in "uplifting agriculture, IT, mining and mineral and defence production sectors under the aegis of Special Investment Facilitation Council", the ISPR statement said, adding that the participants of the meeting "vowed to fully support

Helping clinch IMF deal PM thanks Sri Lankan president for support

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday thanked Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe for supporting and helping Pakistan to reach an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), state-run Radio Pakistan reported. According to the report, premier made the remarks in a telephone conversation with the president of Sri Lanka, which had secured a preliminary agreement with the IMF in September last year after defaulting on its foreign debt. According to state broadcaster, Shehbaz "acknowledged the role played by Sri Lanka as a friend and a well-wisher of Pakistan". The report said that the Sri Lankan president, on the occasion of the premier's meeting with IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva in Paris, had stressed that the Fund should help Pakistan. It added that President Wickremesinghe had informed the IMF official about the problems faced by his country due to default and stressed that Pakistan should be saved from this situation. It quoted PM Shehbaz as saying that the two countries were "close and reliable friends". It also quoted the premier commending the fellow South Asian country's role in "regional peace and prosperity". PM Shehbaz also expressed confidence that both countries would soon come out of the "vortex of current economic difficulties", the report said. "Reciprocating the prime minister's sentiments of goodwill, the Sri Lankan president said Pakistan is our close friend and helping friends is friendship," it further stated. The report said President Wickremesinghe appreciated Shehbaz's efforts in difficult situations and felicitated him on reaching an agreement with the IMF.

Mariyum hails govt performance Govt stabilized economy, provided relief to masses

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb says the government has not only saved the country from default but also stabilized the economy and provided relief to the masses over the last fourteen months. Highlighting the achievements of the government in various sectors at a news conference in Islamabad on Monday, she regretted that the previous government of PTI had destroyed the economy, plundered the country and left it at the verge of default. She said the focus of the previous government was only victimizing political opponents. The Information Minister said that they are leaving behind a stabilized economy and the dividends of which are also coming to the fore. She said various sectors including IT, energy are attracting investment through Special Investment Facilitation Council. Mariyum Aurangzeb said we have added thirty nine hundred megawatts of electricity during the last fourteen months. She said not a single megawatt was added by the PTI government during four years. She said we have reduced our dependence on imported furnace oil for electricity generation to zero. The Information Minister said that the discounted oil has started arriving from Russia while we have also signed an agreement with Azerbaijan for cheap gas. Allowing to the measures taken by the government for the relief and reconstruction in the flood affected areas, she said despite difficult economic situation, direct cash assistance was given to the flood victims under Benazir Income Support Program. She said we also gave Kissan package to turn the challenge of flood into an opportunity for the farmers. She said resultantly,

'Political people must be in interim setup'

These posts should not go to others, says PPP's Kaira

LAHORE: Senior Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Qamar Zaman Kaira said on Monday that Premier Shehbaz Sharif had started consultations with coalition partners on appointing interim setup. Speaking at a private TV programme, Kaira said a politician should be appointed as caretaker prime minister of the country. He said the prime minister would consult the opposition leader after deliberations with coalition partners. Prime Minister Sharif a couple of days ago had announced that the government would hand over the reins to the interim rulers next month, before the completion of the assembly's tenure.

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Election on 2017 census unacceptable: MQM-P

Population of Karachi is around 30 million, which was about 14.9 million in the 2017

LAHORE: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) on Monday came out strongly against the decision of the coalition government to hold elections on the basis of the old census. Addressing a press conference, MQM-P Convener Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui - whose

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Narcotics Control, Nawalzada Shahzad Bugti calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. - DNA

Blow to Tehreek-e-Insaf Khattak launches new faction PTI Parliamentarians

Ex KP CM Mahmood among 57 lawmakers who have joined the party

PESHAWAR: Former PTI leader Pervez Khattak on Monday launched his own breakaway faction of the party by the name of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentarians (PTIP). Social media was rife with visuals of the gathering of the newly formed party and its members, including former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister Mahmood Khan. According to a handout issued by the party, Khattak is the new party's chief while "more than 57" ex-PTI MPs also joined the party with more inductions under way. "Formation of new party came due to differences and conflict within the PTI on May 9 tragedy," the handout reads, adding that all political leaders joining the PTIP held PTI Chairman Imran Khan responsible for the May 9 riots. "Imran Khan's antinational agenda was not only rejected by the public but the party's own leadership. These patriotic politicians parted ways with the PTI over May 9's events," it further said. The PTI and what's left of its leaders came out guns blazing against the new party in an official response. The party reacted to the development through metaphors, saying the "monsoon season is under way" and political parties were "springing up like weeds".

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Lahore sit-in ratified Dubai decisions: Qureshi

MULTAN: Vice Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said that the meeting of Shehbaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari in Model Town has ratified the decisions of Dubai. Talking to media in Multan, Qureshi said that everyone knew what was discussed in the meeting in Lahore. On the issue of dissolution of assemblies, caretaker setup, two major political parties held consultations and decisions were taken. The PTI leader said, "Now they will take other PDM parties into confidence. Decisions have been taken, consultations have to be made with other parties." The PTI vice chairman, taking a dig at the ruling alliance, said other parties of PDM would be invited at a lavish tea party. They would take other PDM parties into confidence over the decisions which had been taken already.

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A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Iran's abundant energy resources can greatly benefit Pak

DNA
KARACHI: The Consul General (CG) of Iran to Karachi Hassan Noorhan has laid emphasis on the potential for strengthening the relationship between Pakistan and Iran through cooperation in various fields. He expressed these views in a recent meeting with a delegation of the Karachi Press Club (KPC) led by its President Saeed Sarbazi at the Iranian Consulate in Karachi, according to a communiqué here on Monday. The delegation included KPC Vice-President Mushtaq Sohail, Secretary Shoaib Ahmed, and Joint Secretary Aslam Khan, which had an opportunity to engage in discussion with the Iranian Consul General. The CG Noorhan expressed his belief in the deep-rooted and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Iran. He said that Iran imports basmati rice, meat, and other commodities from various countries. He said that she (Iran) provided ample trade opportunities for Pakistani businessmen. Noorhan also stressed the potential for promoting cooperation between the two nations in multiple sectors, in particular, Iran's abundant energy resources can greatly benefit Pakistan. He also exemplified the ongoing Pakistan-Iran Gas Pipeline project. President of the Karachi Press Club Saeed Sarbazi, on the occasion, suggested organizing visits of journalistic delegations between the two countries, which received positive feedback from the Iranian Consul General. The Consul General expressed the Consulate's close ties with the Karachi Press Club and accepted an invitation

from Secretary Shoaib Ahmed Khan to visit the Press Club. The forthcoming visit of the Iranian Consul General to the Karachi Press Club, along with the newly appointed ambassador to Pakistan, is anticipated to further foster cooperation and understanding between the media communities of both nations. This exchange of visits aimed at bolstering the already robust Pakistan-Iran relations and exploring new avenues of collaboration. By enhancing cooperation across diverse sectors and facilitating people-to-people interactions, Pakistan and Iran are poised to forge a stronger and more fruitful partnership. The Iranian Consul General's visit to the Karachi Press Club will serve as an important step toward the aforesaid goal, fostering mutual understanding and deepening the bonds between the two nations.

under which their data will be forwarded to the FIA to take action against such miscreants. RPO Syed Khurram Ali while speaking said that the implementation of the security plan regarding Muharram will be ensured with the cooperation of the scholars. Special security will be provided to all mosques and Imambaras during Muharram. On this occasion, all the scholars assured the administration



RAWALPINDI: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi inspects the well-being of a patient during his visit to the Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology (RIS). — DNA

Security of Rwp City to be up ahead Muharam ul Haram

RAWALPINDI : Provincial Minister Primary and Secondary Health Care and Population Welfare Dr. Jamal Nasir chaired the Divisional Peace Committee meeting along with Rawalpindi Commissioner Liaqat Ali Chatha and RPO. This meeting held at Commissioner Office Rawalpindi was attended by Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Dr. Hasan Waqar Chama, CPO Rawalpindi, Addition

a key role in the establishment of peace and order, such a role is needed even today. He said that the cooperation of scholars, administration and police is indispensable for promoting religious harmony and discouraging communal hatred. As always, this time also the scholars of all the schools of thought through-out the province have assured to implement the code of conduct of Muharram. However, every citizen endeavours to keep an eye on the content of religious hatred and incitement on social media because Rawalpindi is a sensitive city and miscreants are looking for opportunities where they can do mischief and make us fight each other and

spoil the atmosphere of the city. Hence, every person should identify such evil elements while playing their social role and not only avoid them but also encourage others not to fall a prey of their propaganda. Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaqat Ali Chatha said that it is not possible to maintain law and order without the cooperation of scholars. A series of meet-



al Commissioner Coordination Syed Nazim Ahmad, President of Traders Association Shahid Ghafoor Paracha, District Khatib Iqbal Rizvi and a large number of scholars from all schools of thought. Dr. Jamal Nasir said that scholars have always played

ings with scholars of all schools of thought is going on across the division to improve mutual relations. He further said that regarding the complaints of spreading religious hatred on social media, social media monitoring cells have been established at the tehsil level, and the police of full cooperation and said that the evil elements cannot be allowed to destroy the peace of the country. They further said that the religion of Islam teaches peace and security to those who spread religious hatred are the tools of the enemies of the country.

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CM promises protection of cotton growers' rights

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi has said the government will protect rights of cotton farmers and Bahawalpur, Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan, Faisalabad, Sahiwal, and Sahiwal commissioners have been directed to ensure the sale of cotton at the fixed support price. He stressed that under no circumstances, farmers should sell cotton at less than Rs 3500/40kg. The cotton farmers will be compensated for their labour as the Punjab government is taking all necessary steps in the field of support price. Mohsin Naqvi said that the cotton crop is the source of prosperity of farmers and development of the country. Steps are taken at all levels to ensure payment of price of cotton to farmers at the rate of Rs-3500 per maund, and the Government of Punjab has also been mobilised in this regard, he concluded.—APP

SAPM Romina for urgent collective action to combat climate change

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) and Convenor of the National Parliamentary Taskforce on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Romina Khurshid Alam on Monday called for urgent collective action to combat climate change to save the planet earth and future generations. She said, "Pakistan is one of the worst hit countries by the climate induced catastrophes but despite resources constraint, the country remains firm in its commitment to accomplish all SDGs to save planet earth and to provide a secure and safe environment for future generations. She made these remarks while representing Pakistan in the 'Fourth Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agree-

Besides the conference, the Convenor will also present Pakistan's case at other prestigious forums arranged at the United Nations. She intends to reaffirm Pakistan's commitment to the SDGs at the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development by highlighting the government's policies focused on education, poverty reduction, gender equality, and inclusive economic growth including the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and Prime Minister's Youth Business & Agriculture Loan Scheme. The Convenor will also participate in the IPU's highest-level political forum arranged to reflect on the progress of SDGs and what role can the National Parliament play in mainstreaming risk reduction strategies for the global agenda in local legislations.—APP

Pakistan's trade with Korea flourishes

KARACHI: The bilateral trade between Pakistan and Korea witnessed a significant boost with Pakistan's exports to Korea doubling to reach \$306 million in the previous year. It was stated by Director General of Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) in Karachi, Sung Jae Kim, during his visit to the Korea Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), said a statement issued here on Monday. Kim highlighted growing trade relations between the two countries and emphasized the need for further bolstering cooperation as well as technology transfer from Korea to Pakistan. He noted that promising growth in trade and investment between Pakistan and Korea bodes well for strengthening bilateral relations and fostering economic growth in both nations. Kim mentioned that Korean companies were working in Pakistan in fish food processing and chemical sectors while YouTubers from Korea were showcasing the beauty of Pakistan to the world.—APP

SCCI calls for steps to promote furniture industry

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) acting president, Ijaz Khan Afridi on Monday called for pragmatic steps to promote the furniture industry in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Speaking at a ceremony of the three-day Pakistan Furniture Expo in Peshawar, Ijaz Afridi said that the furniture industry has played a pivotal role in economic development and enhancement of the country's export, which should be lifted up at an optimal level. Afridi said despite potential exists to make investments in the

furniture sector of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The SCCI's acting chief said the business community in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has faced various difficulties due to current economic turmoil and other issues. Therefore, he urged the department concerned to take serious steps for the resolution of businessperson issues attached to the furniture industry. Like other sectors, he said the furniture industry was not only contributing to economic development but had an important role in improving the country's exports. Ijaz Afridi who was accompanied by the chamber's secretary general Sajjad Aziz and others said the business community has always supported the national economy in difficult circumstances. So, he stressed that traders' issues should be resolved on priority grounds. Later, the SCCI's acting president Ijaz Khan Afridi visited various stalls set up in the furniture exhibition and praised art/designs and high-quality furniture. On the occasion, Ijaz Afridi also distributed certificates among the participants of the furniture exhibition.—APP

EU resolution criticizes HRs violations in India

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq on Monday said that the resolution of the European Parliament condemning the violations of human rights and persecution of religious minorities in India has left Modi and his party exposed at the international level. "India has always tried to hoodwink the world through its policy of deceit and deception", the PM said in a statement. "The ruthless persecution of minorities in India was an eye-opener for the world", PM emphatically said. While welcoming the European Parliament for condemning human rights violations in India, the AJK premier demanded the European countries link trade with India to the improvement of the human rights situation in the country. He said that "India was an extremist state where religious minorities have been deprived of their basic human rights". The AJK premier, while referring to continued bloodshed and violence in the Indian-occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir, said that India had been involved in massive human rights violations in the region. He said that the Kashmiri people have been the worst victims of India's fascism for the past several decades. He, however, maintained that after August 5, 2019, India has turned the occupied territory into a military garrison, where people live in a state of perpetual fear and anxiety. Terming India's 5th August action as a violation of the UNSC resolutions, the PM said that after stripping the region of its special status, the Indian government was hectically engaged to change the region's demography. The prime minister said that the world should take notice of the worsening political and human rights situation in occupied Kashmir, and play its much-needed role to help resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute in line with the UNSC resolutions.—DNA

ings with scholars of all schools of thought is going on across the division to improve mutual relations. He further said that regarding the complaints of spreading religious hatred on social media, social media monitoring cells have been established at the tehsil level, and the police of full cooperation and said that the evil elements cannot be allowed to destroy the peace of the country. They further said that the religion of Islam teaches peace and security to those who spread religious hatred are the tools of the enemies of the country.

Human Rights Protection Training of Rural Women concludes

MEHTAB PRIZADA
ISLAMABAD: "Capacity Building of Women Rights Defenders to Protect Rights" Training of Trainers (TOT) concluded today in Islamabad. The training, held from 13th to 17th July in Islamabad, brought together 25 women from 20 districts of Pakistan, equipping them with the necessary tools to advocate for women's rights in their communities. Ms. Sameera Nazir, Executive Director of PODA said she is hopeful that a group of dedicated activists working at grassroots have mastered the essential skills of human rights advocacy to educate their communities about the process to protect basic human rights and it shows commitment that each of the 25 master trainer women has promised to give the same training to another group of 10 women in their areas and the circle of knowledge will expand.

Mr. Vaclav Jakeš, Third Secretary of the Czech Republic Embassy in Pakistan said the government of Czech Republic has supported this important training for women rights defenders because we had to work very hard in our own country for human rights and gender equality after the Second World War and we realize how important they are for a country's progress. "Bringing people together from diverse backgrounds like from civil society, university students, social mobilizers, journalists, community activists, police officials, teachers, health workers and educating them about basic concept of Human Rights, the Constitution of Pakistan and building their skills in monitoring human rights violations, fact-finding, documentation, and issue-based advocacy is a commendable effort by PODA. I have certainly become more aware of these rights and I will try my best to stand up for the human rights of others" said Bushra Ibrar, a rural woman farm worker from Balochistan. The trainees, who represented a diverse range of backgrounds including civil society members, university students, social mobilizers, journalists, community activists, police officials, teachers, and health workers, were tasked with further responsibility to amplify this training in their communities. The second part of this TOT series will be held in August and will include workshops on Women's Protection Laws in Pakistan and women's rights in the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

- JULY**
- July 01/Japan Self Defence Day
 - July 01/Singapore Armed Forces Day
 - July 01 / Canada National Day
 - July 01/Somalia Independence Day
 - July 04/USA Independence Day
 - July 05/Algeria Independence Day
 - July 09/Argentina Independence Day
 - July 09/Mongolia Revolution Day
 - July 14/France National Day
 - July 15/Brunei Sultan's Birthday
 - July 21/Belgium National Day
 - July 20/TRNC Independence Day
 - July 23/Egypt National Day
 - July 26/Cuba National Day
 - July 26/Liberia National Day
 - July 30/Morocco National Day

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- Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

- Islamabad...0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: A view of the rising smoke from the decompomposition Plant of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), which is causing environmental pollution at Sector G-8, which needs to be shifted to somewhere in outskirts of the Federal Capital.— Online

ICCI for harnessing hydropower potential

President ICCI urges that the government should develop a comprehensive strategy to reduce T&D losses and power theft

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that the high energy cost in Pakistan is a major hurdle in promoting business and industrial activities and called upon the government to focus on harnessing the hydropower potential to promote the economic activities. He stressed that the share of hydropower generation should be increased



that the LNG and oil-based power generations have caused an unprecedented hike in the energy

at least to 50 per cent in the total energy mix in order to provide cheap energy to industry, reduce the cost of doing business and facilitate the growth of business activities that would pave the way for early revival of the economy. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the government has itself conceded that the LNG-based electricity will cost over Rs.51 per unit this fiscal year, furnace oil-based electricity over Rs.48 while the hydropower costs only Rs.6.94 per unit, which shows

cost in Pakistan. He said that according to WAPDA's estimate, Pakistan has the potential to generate 60,000MW hydroelectricity, but this untapped potential has not been harnessed so far due to which our industry is finding itself uncompetitive causing further decline in exports. President ICCI said that the high transmission and distribution losses in Pakistan are also contributing towards high energy cost as the government has to increase power tariffs to cover

Verdict in money laundering case against PM on July 20

DNA

LAHORE: An accountability court (AC) in Lahore on Monday reserved its verdict on the acquittal petitions filed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his son Hamza Shehbaz in a money laundering and assets beyond sources of income case. The court said it would pronounce the decision on July 20. AC judge Qamaruz Zaman heard the petitions. While Anjad Pervaz, representing both father and the son, gave arguments in the case. Earlier, an accountability court (AC) in Lahore accepted the defendants' the Prime Minister, Hamza and others, petition seeking early hearing of their acquittal pleas. AC judge Qamaruz Zaman directed the petitioners' lawyers to give arguments on Monday. In their pleas, the prime minister and his son Hamza Shehbaz had contended that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had filed a false and a fake case against them, and that their assets were well within their sources of income. They went on to say that even the NAB's supplementary report corroborated their argument.

Domestic edible oil, ghee output grew by 12.75%

ISLAMABAD: Domestic production of cooking oil, and vegetable ghee during the 11 months of the financial year that ended on June 30, 2023, increased by 12.57 per cent and 10.44 per cent respectively as compared to the output of the corresponding period of last year. During the period from July-May, 2022/23 about 513,206 metric tons of edible oil were produced locally in order to fulfil the domestic requirements as compared to the manufacturing of 455,884 metric tons of same period last year. Meanwhile, during the period under review, about 1.421 million tons of vegetable ghee were locally manufactured as against the production of 1.286 million tons in the same period last year, which was up by 10.44 per cent, according to the data of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. The Large Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) in the country grew by 5.88 per cent during the month of May 2023 as compared to the previous month (April). The Quantum Index Numbers of Large Scale Manufacturing Industries (QMI) for May 2023 estimated at 110.69 as compared to 104.46 during April 2023. The provisional quantum indices of LSMI for May 2023 with the base year 2015=100 have been developed on the basis of the latest data supplied by the source agencies including Oil Companies Advisory Committee (OCAC), Ministry of Industries and Production, Ministry of Commerce and Provincial Bureaus of Statistics.— APP

Govt starts crackdown against illegal loan application

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Amin-ul-Haque Monday said in a decisive move to combat fraudulent loan applications, the government initiated a crackdown against illegal loan providers. In a statement, he said, that Chairman Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Major General (r) Hafeezur Rehman directed immediately to take swift action on the illegal loan applications. Under the orders issued, 43 loan applications had already been blocked, said Amin-ul-Haque. The targeted companies, operating within the lending industry, were registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, he added. Highlighting the severity of the issue, Amin-ul-Haque shed light on the involvement of mafia groups operating through social media platforms, particularly Facebook. These unscrupulous entities have resorted to blackmailing innocent individuals, exploiting their financial vulnerabilities. To raise awareness and safeguard the public, a comprehensive public awareness campaign has been launched. The citizens are urged to report any suspicious loan applications or incidents involving the loan mafia groups to the PTA, the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Cybercrime wing, or their local police stations. The collaborative efforts of various law enforcement agencies aimed to address the increasing cybercrime wave in the country. To ensure effective coordination, the minister has a direct contact with the Director-General of FIA, providing regular briefings on the progress of the operation. Amin emphasized the need for proactive measures, rather than waiting for complaints to accumulate, against those involved in fraudulent loan schemes.



RAWALPINDI: View of badly damaged vehicles struck by an out of control Dumper Truck near Lahore High Court Bench at Swan area in the outskirts of the city.—DNA

170 Fulbright Scholarship students to depart for USA

ISLAMABAD: The United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP) Monday announced that 170 accomplished Pakistanis had been awarded the prestigious 'Fulbright Scholarship' to study and conduct advanced research at leading U.S. universities. The flagship academic exchange program of the U.S. Government, the Fulbright Program, enabled students from around the world to attend universities across the United States, said a press release issued here on Monday. The 2023 cohort gathered for a two-day pre-departure orientation to prepare for their educational journey and learn about the American culture, life on campus, and opportunities for exchange students in the United States. U.S. Acting Deputy Chief of Mission, William Ostick congratulated the students on securing the scholarship and advised them to connect with fellow students and learn from each other's experiences. "In the United States, the students will be cultural ambassadors, strengthening ties between the peoples of Pakistan and the United States. They will connect with Americans eager to learn more about Pakistan. And when return, the student can help explain America — its people, its values, and its character their communities," he added. This year's 170 participants belong to 44 public and private universities. Among these are 129 Master's and 41 PhD students and 7 Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) fellows. Women represent 61 percent of this year's departing cohort. The recipients will begin their educational journey this fall at 81 U.S. universities in various disciplines, including engineering, energy management, and social sciences.—APP

JULY 2023

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Briefs

Loan apps should be outlawed right away

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 Monday that all online loan applications should be banned immediately. These applications are being run without following any rules and regulations and most of them are cheating the poor people by employing different dirty tactics amid the provision of cheap and quick loans, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that heavy interest and penalties are also charged for late repayment of loans, while the staff of these companies extort many times more than the original amount through threats, intimidation, fraud, and blackmailing. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that poor borrowers are helpless to confront a well-organised company. A few days ago, a person from Rawalpindi took a loan of thirteen thousand rupees to pay the children's fees and house rent but had to commit suicide due to the bullying, threats, and blackmailing of the staff of a company.

Speeding dumper rams into five vehicles near Sowan bridge

RAWALPINDI: In a road accident here on Monday, a speeding dumper ramed into five vehicles near Sowan Bridge on G.T. Road. According to Rescue-1122 spokesman, the incident took place near Lahore High Court (LHC) building, where a speeding dumper ran over five vehicles including four cars and a Suzuki pickup. As a result, a man named Munir, 39 years last his life on the spot due to a head injury, while four others namely Ramish, 23, Umar 27, Masood 61, and a female 35 years old sustained wounds. The body and the injured were rushed to the hospital, he informed. --APP

SMEDA to organize webinar on July 19

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) is going to organize a webinar on "How to sell on Daraz" for profitable business growth on July 19 (Wednesday). The session is being offered by SMEDA under National Business Development Programme (NBDP) for SMEs, to extend non-financial advisory services to small and medium businesses, according to a source in the authority. The programme will provide opportunities to the SMEs on high trending and most demanding e-commerce tools and platforms. The training provides information about introduction to e-commerce, introduction to daraz, signing up for daraz seller account, daraz creation guide and introduction to daraz live.

Pakistan needed to follow China's experience

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Region countries needed to follow China's experience unleashing potential of digital innovation, said Prof Seyed Komal Tayyebi, President of the ECO Science Foundation, a Pakistan-based regional scientific alliance. "China's experience in digital transformation provides us with invaluable lessons and policy strategies that we can learn from and adapt to the unique context of each member country, especially Central Asia economies and beyond, Prof Seyed Komal Tayyebi said. This will not only strength



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of health Abdul Qadir Patel being briefed about cancer hospital in PIMS. --DNA

A new partnership aims to boost Pak global rankings

As the Country Partner Institute of the New Economy and Societies Platform, World Economic Forum, Mishal Pakistan plays a pivotal role in measuring and improving Pakistan's global rankings on various indicators

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Organic Pakistan, a pioneering organization dedicated to promoting organic agriculture and sustainable practices, and Mishal Pakistan, a leading institution in the development sector specializing in research and communication strategies, are thrilled to announce a collaborative partnership aimed at revolutionizing the agriculture landscape in Pakistan and enhancing the country's international rankings. Through this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Organic Pakistan and Mishal Pakistan will work together to address critical issues related to agro-economy, climate change, and food security. The collaboration will involve the exchange of updated and timely data, media training, capacity-building workshops, and the creation of knowledge resources to foster public discourse and develop key opinion-makers. As the Country Partner Institute of the New Economy and Societies Platform, World Econ-

omic Forum, Mishal Pakistan plays a pivotal role in measuring and improving Pakistan's global rankings on various indicators. The collaboration between Mishal Pakistan and Organic Pakistan will support the World Economic Forum's initiatives by providing essential data and narratives related to sustainable agriculture, urban farming, and other crucial areas. Muhammad Nadeem Iqbal, Founding Chairman of Organic Pakistan, expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership, stating, "We are excited to join forces with Mishal Pakistan to drive sustainable agriculture practices and revolutionize the agriculture landscape in Pakistan. Through this collaboration, we aim to provide valuable data and resources that will contribute to improving Pakistan's international rankings, despite the challenges posed by climate change. Through the collaboration's efforts in knowledge creation, dissemination through media training, capacity-building workshops, and joint advocacy, the goal is to enhance

the country's positioning on international indices and foster a sustainable and resilient future for the country. Jahangir expressed his confidence in Pakistan's potential to become the world's future food basket, given its favorable conditions and resources. The MOU sets the framework for joint initiatives, including the development of key opinion-makers, advocacy campaigns, and the sharing of resources and expertise. Both organizations are committed to creating knowledge resources through seminars, interactive workshops, and thematic reports to promote public awareness and understanding of sustainable agriculture practices and related subjects. The partnership between Organic Pakistan and Mishal Pakistan signifies a significant step toward driving sustainable agriculture practices, fostering public discourse, and contributing to a healthier and more resilient society in Pakistan. The collaboration will leverage the expertise of both organizations to enhance Pakistan's global

reputation. Organic Pakistan is a pioneering organization dedicated to promoting organic agriculture, sustainable practices, and social responsibility. By advocating for organic farming and urban agriculture, Organic Pakistan aims to create a more sustainable and resilient food system in Pakistan. The organization's efforts align with several Sustainable Development Goals, including Zero Hunger, Sustainable Cities and Communities, and Climate Action. Mishal Pakistan is a leading institution in the development sector, specializing in design thinking, research, communication strategies, and narrative development. As the Country Partner Institute of the New Economy and Societies Platform, World Economic Forum, Mishal Pakistan actively measures and improves Pakistan's global rankings on key indicators. The organization collaborates with various stakeholders to devise and deliver development solutions and promote Pakistan's progress on international platforms.

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FBISE to announce matriculation result on Tuesday

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) Islamabad will announce the results of matriculation exams 2023 on Tuesday (Tomorrow) July 18 at 2 pm. According to a circular issued by the Secretary Federal Board Dr Bashir Khan Yousofzai, "Education Minister Rana Tanveer will be the chief guest of the event to be held at FBISE." The position-holder students along with their parents will also participate in the result of the first annual examination of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC), he added. --APP

Pakistan's first judicial protection unit established


ISLAMABAD: In response to the growing need for improved security measures, the security division of Islamabad police has been revamped along with the setting up of the first Judicial Protection Unit to enhance judges' security. Spearheaded by the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the Security Division underwent a comprehensive reorganizing to fortify the security of judges' offices, court premises, and residences. This development comes as a result of special directives from Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, and the dedicated efforts of Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan, reflecting the government's commitment to safeguarding judicial authorities. The newly formed Judicial Protection Unit will be placed under the vigilant supervision of the SSP Security Division, a police spokesman said. To ensure enhanced surveillance, a standard operating procedure (SOP) has been issued, along with the installation of over 500 high-tech security cameras within court premises. These cameras are integrated with the advanced surveillance system of the Safe City Islamabad project, allowing for real-time monitoring of court premises. Recognizing the importance of adequate personnel, the Ministry of Interior has received a request for the recruitment of 350 individuals to further bolster the security of residences and courts. Once the necessary financial resources are allocated, the performance of this unit is expected to improve significantly. --APP

'Cornered Tigers - The 1992 Story' Premieres on Tapmad

DNA


ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's biggest OTT platform tapmad is streaming a first of its kind docu-series on the biggest and most cherished sports event in Pakistan's history i.e. Cricket World Cup 1992. With the much-hyped Asia Cup just around the corner and the World Cup later this year, this exclusive and nostalgic docu-series aims to introduce the historic journey of the green squad in 1992 to the younger generation of cricket lovers in the country. The best part about the docu-series is getting to hear the stories from the legendary team players themselves, the trailer for Cornered Tigers shows legends Wasim Akram, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Moin Khan, Javed Miandad, Mushtaq Ahmed & Ejaz Ahmed and others revealing their personal journeys, emotions, and insights

throughout the 1992 Cricket World Cup. There is also a special appearance by Shoaib Akhtar where he sheds light on the impact of the 1992 world cup on his life. "Cornered Tigers - The 1992 Story" is directed by Adnan Sarwar and produced by Producer, Nina Kishif, and it is available for free on tapmad. Cornered Tigers tells the tale, by the heroes who made it possible. Unleashing resolve, focused commitment and sturdy belief in their leadership was what Pakistan team was made of", commented the producer Nina Kishif while speaking about the docu-series. "The 1992 World Cup win is one of my fondest childhood memories. A rare uniting moment for our country which brought us pride. It has been a special project which gave me the opportunity to interact with my childhood heroes and to be able to document and archive not just the historic event, but also the thoughts of those who achieved it."



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
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en the ties between China and the ECO region but also foster welfare, sustainable development, and prosperity for all." During the symposium on the member country, especially Central Asia economies and beyond, Prof Seyed Komal Tayyebi said. This will not only strength

(GPEC) in Beijing earlier this month, Prof Tayyebi acknowledged and commended the remarkable progress that China has made in its digital transformation journey. He added that "China's success in embracing digital technologies, fostering innovation, economic digital-

ization, and implementing effective policy strategies serves as an inspiration to countries around the world, including the ECO Member Countries." As part of its digital transformation initiatives, ECOSF recognizes the immense value of technology-enhanced learning in today's digital age. "We are actively promoting the use of digital and innovative tools to enhance e-learning, scientific and technical literacy across our member countries," he said. "Moreover, ECOSF is driving the transformation of traditional educational practices, leveraging digital technologies to make learning more interactive, immersive, and tailored to the needs of learners."

Water crisis

ALMOST two decades ago, Uruguay led the way as the world's first country to enshrine the right to clean water in its constitution. Now it is parched and desperate. Residents can cross the reservoir serving Montevideo on foot. The capital has declared a water emergency, with officials warning that it is a matter of days before it runs dry. For months they have been eking out tap water supplies by adding brackish estuary water, selling pregnant women and people with serious health conditions not to drink it. The main culprit is the worst drought in more than 70 years. Though Uruguay is naturally rich in water, rainfall is highly variable due to the impact of La Niña and El Niño weather patterns. The problems are exacerbated by global heating, which makes dry years drier and rainy years wetter, as well as increasing evaporation losses. Neighbouring Argentina is beset by shortages already. Many more countries around the world face similar challenges – or soon will. Climatic factors are only one part of this problem. Researchers and campaigners have been warning for years that the growing impact of exported agriculture and forestry was unsustainable. Only a small proportion of Uruguay's water is used for human consumption. Experts say that 2004's constitutional changes led to major improvements in what had been a hierarchical and fragmented water management system. But integration in planning has not been matched in implementation. Successive governments have failed to adequately invest in maintaining and overhauling infrastructure, perhaps in part because in previous droughts, rain arrived just as matters were getting really desperate: "We all fell asleep," admitted José Mujica, president from 2010 to 2015. But opposition from big business, as well as the government's significant role in the failure to establish a satisfactory long-term strategy. That will have to change if the country is to find lasting solutions. There is reason to be optimistic. The 2004 constitutional reforms, approved by more than 60% of the population in a referendum, also enshrined public management of water supplies, and were motivated in large part by the privatisation of drinking water and sanitation services. A coalition of civil society and political groups, the National Commission for the Defence of Water and Life, identified profit-driven water management and greed as a fundamental threat to the basic rights of citizens. In a country that has been ranked as the most corrupt in the Americas, civil society could play an essential role in finding solutions again. The importance of access to clean water is a top priority for the public once more. Uruguay's crisis today is the future for more and more nations. They could learn a lot by looking to its past.

Islamabad
Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily
Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza
Member APNS / ABC Certified
Vol: 03 Issue: 292
Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com
Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-22621960
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Nato summit and Ukraine

VOLODYMYR Zelensky had to put a brave face on it, after being petulantly ingratitude by British defence secretary Ben Wallace, but last week's Nato summit was a disappointment for Ukraine's president and the embattled country he leads. Nato's repeated failure to offer an unambiguous timetable for Kyiv's full membership will be seen by the Kremlin as a weak bedding of bets. It will probably be exploited in any future talks to end the war. Like a poor man at a feast, Zelensky was instead obliged to witness an orgy of self-congratulation by Nato leaders. The trigger was the apparent decision by Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Turkey's president, to lift his veto on Nato membership for Sweden, which, last checked, was not being bombarded by Russia. Nato says Stockholm's accession to the club will enhance the security of all its members, but the decision must give Ukrainians a warm feeling inside. Hailing the Sweden agreement as proof of Nato "unity", Biden praised Erdoğan effusively, commending him for his "courage, leadership and diplomacy". Coinciding with Turkey's release of Ukrainian prisoners placed in its custody by Russia and some unusually amicable exchanges between Erdoğan and the EU mediators's old enemy, Greece, all the talk was of a sudden, pro-western tilt by the notoriously unyielding Turkish leader. Sadly, Nato leaders appear to have jumped the gun. Within hours of giving Sweden the thumbs-up, Erdoğan warned its accession would need the approval of Turkish MPs, a possibly lengthy process. Yet parliament is dominated by Erdoğan supporters, so any delays will be at his behest. It became clear, too, that the unspoken quid pro quo in the sale to Turkey of long-coveted US F-16 jets – the same jets that are denied to Ukraine, which actually needs them. Nato joy was also tempered by the belated realisation that Erdoğan's unexpected summit geniality did not signal a change in his policy towards Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, with whom he maintains friendly relations for pragmatic reasons of national and personal self-interest. Turkey has rejected western sanctions on Moscow and boosted bilateral trade since the war began. Turkish exports almost doubled, to around \$4.9bn (£3.74bn), in the first half of this year. Erdoğan said last week he was ready to help Ukraine continue Great Britain's Black Sea, and Turkey continues to sell Russian oil. At the same time, Russia remains Ankara's top supplier of natural gas. Putin reportedly deferred billions of dollars in gas payments before May's presidential election, which Erdoğan won. Around 6 million Russians will visit Turkey this year. One is expected to be Putin himself, but Erdoğan, who has long had improved relations with the west may help him revive Turkey's ailing, ill-managed economy. Yet given his ongoing double-dealing over Russia, this sort of additional all-horse-trading does nothing overall to enhance Euro-Atlantic security in tangible ways. Likewise, the leaders' declaration fiercely condemned Putin's "illegal war" of aggression, but summiters offered no new ideas about how to stop it. Disappointing. The world's most powerful military alliance could and should be more directly and forcefully engaged in defending Ukraine's people from Russia's criminal predations. By that urgent measure, the Vilnius summit was a flop.

Pakistan's shifting Afghan Policy..

Qamar Bashir



The Army chief who is fully aware of the seriousness of the TTP presence in the safe havens in Afghanistan, did not mince his words when he warned the Afghan Government to abide...

In recent statements, the army chief has shifted from an appeasement policy with the Afghan Interim Government to an aggressive policy, warning it to rein in the Tehreek-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militant umbrella group, which has been using Afghan soil to launch attacks in Pakistan, adding that Pakistan has "serious concerns about the safe havens and freedom of action available to the Tehreek-Taliban Pakistan militant groups". He made these remarks after two militant strikes in recent days killed 12 Pakistani soldiers on the Pakistan-Afghan border in Balochistan, when on July 12, TTP attacked a military base in the Zohab area, resulting in the Army's biggest single-day death toll in several months. Three soldiers were martyred in a separate attack on the same day when gunmen targeted an army convoy in Sui, infuriating the Army chief, who warned, "Such attacks are intolerable and will provoke a robust response from Pakistan's security forces." He also expressed his concern about Afghan nationals being involved in terrorist acts in Pakistan. This is not the first time such heinous and abhorrent acts have been carried out from Afghanistan. TTP has been continuing its attacks with complete impunity since cancelling a ceasefire agreement in late 2022, and even earlier. TTP attacks were in full swing across Pakistan between 2007 and 2014, killing 80,000 Pakistanis, including women,

children, and security officers. After the TTP assaulted the Peshawar Army Public School and massacred 150 people, including 130 schoolchildren, the Pakistan army launched Zarb-e-Afghan operation in December 2011 which drove the leaders and fighters of TTP to Afghanistan, where they reorganized themselves started re-launching their attack with tacit approval of the Afghan Government.

The Army chief who is fully aware of the seriousness of the TTP presence in the safe havens in Afghanistan, did not mince his words when he warned the Afghan Government to abide by the Doha agreement signed on February 29, 2020. The agreement which was aimed at ending the war contained the commitment by the Taliban to prevent Afghanistan from being used as a safe haven for terrorist organizations such as al-Qaeda and the Islamic State but did not specifically say the same thing about TTP and since there was no guarantor of the agreement therefore, soon US troops withdrew in haste leaving behind war spoils which were looted and paraded by the Taliban, and fleeing of Afghan Government with suitcases stuffed with dollars, the Doha agreement had died then and there. Taliban has been refusing to comply with any of its provisions including education to women and respecting human rights. In fact, the guarantors of the Doha Agreement were Taliban themselves who now have amazing assets in their hands, the terrorist groups Pakistan, India, Russian, Chinese and Central Asian Republics, which they use as trump card to get favorable deals but point blank refusing to take actions against them or banish them to the country of their origin. They keep these assets close to their hearts and only either slow down or increase their activities when and where it suits them.

With Pakistan, too, they play the Tehreek-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) card most effectively. They keep the Pakistani government under constant pressure without taking the blame of militant attacks into Pakistan, directly, while simultaneously providing safe havens for TTP and the freedom to attack inside Pakistan with total impunity. As soon as Pakistan refuses to capitulate to their demands, they employ TTP to accomplish their objectives. TTP according to a report by the United Nations Security Council are 6,000 trained and armed fighters in Afghanistan who have been targeting Pakistani security forces, Chinese nationals, and Chinese enterprises in Pakistan. Ironically, there has never been a constant and persistent policy pursued by Pakistan with Afghanistan. Since 1990, Pakistan's policy towards the Taliban in Afghanistan has undergone several shifts due to changing geopolitical dynamics and regional security concerns. In 1990 Pakistan supported the Taliban to establish a friendly government in Afghanistan to counter the influence of its rival, India. After 9/11, from 2001 to 2010, Pakistan shifted its policy and joined the U.S.-led global coalition against terrorism. It pursued a policy of supporting reconciliation efforts in Af-

ghanistan from 2010 to 2014. Prompted by the APS attack, from 2014 to 2020 Pakistan's focus shifted towards combating domestic terrorism, and from 2020 to July 2023, Pakistan intensified its efforts to facilitate the return of Taliban and USA and its allies and in the later period to pursue the policy of engagement and dialogue.

The Army Chief's statement during his visit to Balochistan was indicative of the failure of the prior government and alerted the TTP to live in Afghanistan in exchange for the Taliban could be persuaded to come to the negotiating table and agree to a political settlement. It has been reported that the TTP, some open and others under the radar, released Taliban prisoners, including some considered high-level commanders, granted amnesty to TTP members who agreed to adhere to the Pakistani Constitution, and allowed the TTP to live in Afghanistan in exchange for the Taliban ceasing its terrorist activity against Pakistan. This approach opposed the notion that the Taliban are merely terrorists who should be ignored or forcefully defeated. Instead of achieving the set objectives, this appeasement policy emboldened TTP even more, and as a result, they renewed their attacks inside Pakistan with ferocity, violated and damaged the barbed wire security fence on many points across the entire length of the Pakistan-Afghan border, caused deaths in Sui, the northern areas, and escalated their attacks against civilians, security forces, and the army inside Pakistan.

These were and are grave violations of the Doha agreement and the norms of a decent neighborhood, necessitating a stern, commensurate, and appropriate response. However, when dealing with Afghanistan, we must exercise extreme caution, as antagonizing the Afghan interim government could lead to increased tensions and hostility, which could result in cross-border attacks, the influx of refugees, and the spread of extremist ideologies. It would strain bilateral relations, impede efforts to improve economic cooperation, trade, and regional connectivity projects such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), CASA 2000, and TAPI pipeline, and India would count on the opportunity to increase its influence in Afghanistan. As the adage goes, haste makes waste; therefore, it is in our best interest to maintain a stable and cooperative relationship with the Afghan government and develop a comprehensive strategy and multifaceted approach to the problem of the Afghan interim government to prohibit the use of its territory for attacks within Pakistan, keeping in mind that implementing such a policy requires time, patience, and ongoing commitment from both Pakistan and Afghanistan. The proposed strategy may involve a sustained and comprehensive diplomatic engagement to establish a cooperative relationship and build trust through high-level visits, diplomatic channels, and regular dialogues; addressing

security concerns and promoting mutual understanding; jointly developing a robust intelligence cooperation mechanism; improving surveillance technologies; increasing the presence of border forces and conducting joint exercises to secure the border; and conducting joint exercises. At the same time countering extremist ideologies by promoting moderate and inclusive narratives, with an added emphasis on educational programs, social media campaigns, and community engagement initiatives to promote tolerance, peace, and pluralism in Afghanistan.

Army chief's plate is already full due to complex security issues, which include but are not limited to precarious borders with Iran, where many of our security personnel are martyred by insurgents who, after unearthing Iranian army troops, seek refuge in Iran. Balochistan. Our borders with Afghanistan, where despite barbed wires along the entire border, the Pakistani Taliban who have been given safe havens inside Afghanistan carry out terrorist attacks along the borders and within the country, as well as our hot borders along the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir, are experiencing increased pressures. Recently, he had to deal with the politically motivated attacks on over 200 military installations across the country by FTT activists, and for the first time in the annals of the armed forces, he had to take stern action against serving and retired army officers.

It is unfortunate that, instead of keeping him alone and allowing him to focus on the extremely urgent and grave external and internal security and safety, he has been drawn into almost all civilian matters. He had to save foreign, financial, and economic affairs by convincing Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and China to re-roll their deposits. He had to intervene in trade and commerce by attracting substantial investment from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in the livestock and agricultural sectors. He was to bring back behind the transfer of Karachi port terminals 6 to 9 to a Dubai-based company, which will bring in foreign currency and enhance the performance of the Karachi port, as well as initiating the process of auctioning the inoperable steel plant in Nowshera. He had to deal with China in Iran, where he has conferred with the Iranian president, foreign minister, and armed forces leadership to ease tensions along the Iran-Pakistan border and devise a joint strategy to combat terrorism and extremism in the region. And the approach of the interim government and civilian institutions to shoulder the full weight of the civilian domain's responsibilities, which include, among many others, the development of a multifaceted strategic policy and approach to engaging the interim government and to resolve the issue of cross-border terrorism diplomatically, politically, and economically, without resorting to the use of kinetic force, which history tells us has never worked in the case of Afghanistan.

Role of MLT to promote peace, healthcare

Samra Zulfiqar



Understanding the challenges faced by medical laboratory technology is essential for addressing gaps in resources, infrastructure, and professional development

MEDICAL laboratory technology in Pakistan encounters numerous challenges that can influence its effectiveness in promoting peace, healthcare, and countering extremism. These challenges encompass limited resources, infrastructure gaps, and the need for continuous professional development. Limited resources pose a significant obstacle for many medical laboratories in Pakistan. Inadequate funding, outdated equipment, and insufficient supplies hinder their ability to conduct accurate and timely diagnostic tests, leading to misdiagnosis and prevention efforts. Moreover, certain regions lack well-equipped laboratory facilities and trained professionals, resulting in limited access to modern technologies, quality control systems, and standardized protocols. Consequently, laboratory professionals play a vital role in countering extremism by integrating health education, addressing healthcare disparities, promoting dialogue, building trust, and empowering vulnerable populations. By dispelling misconceptions, fostering inclusivity, and providing support, they contribute to social

cohesion, resilience, and the rejection of extremist ideologies. Understanding the challenges faced by medical laboratory technology is essential for addressing gaps in resources, infrastructure, and professional development. Overcoming these challenges is crucial to improving the quality and accessibility of laboratory services, enhancing disease detection and prevention, and ensuring accurate and reliable diagnostic outcomes. Embracing technological advancements, increasing investment in healthcare infrastructure, fostering collaboration, and promoting research and development have offered significant opportunities for advancing medical laboratory technology. These advancements enhance diagnostic capabilities, expand access to quality laboratory services, and contribute to the overall development of healthcare systems, ultimately promoting peace and fostering social harmony. By recognizing the importance of these topics and effectively addressing the challenges and opportunities within medical laboratory technology, Pakistan can harness the full potential of this field to drive positive change, improve healthcare outcomes, and promote a more peaceful and inclusive society. Medical laboratory technology plays a pivotal role in promoting peace, healthcare, and countering extremism in Pakistan. Throughout this assignment, we have explored various aspects of medical laboratory technology and its impact on these important issues. We began by examining the role of medical laboratory technology in promoting peace through accurate and timely diagnostic testing, disease surveillance, and effective public health interventions. The ability to identify health risks, detect diseases early, and implement preventive measures contribute to healthier communities and foster social harmony. Additionally, medical laboratory technology plays a crucial role in addressing healthcare disparities, promoting accessible healthcare services, and empowering vulnerable populations, thereby countering the grievances that can be exploited by extremist ideologies. Furthermore, we discussed the importance of collaboration, research, and innovation in medical laboratory technology. Collaborative efforts among healthcare professionals, researchers, policymakers, and industry leaders enhance healthcare systems, drive advancements in medical research, and foster interdisciplinary approaches to healthcare delivery. These collaborations not only lead to improved health outcomes but also contribute to countering extremist narratives by addressing healthcare disparities, promoting inclusivity, and fostering social cohesion. We also explored the challenges and opportunities in medical laboratory technology. Despite resource constraints and infrastructure

gaps, advancements in technology, increased investment in healthcare infrastructure, collaborations with international partners, quality assurance, and research and development present opportunities for the advancement of medical laboratory technology. By embracing these opportunities, medical laboratories can enhance their diagnostic capabilities, improve access to quality healthcare services, and strengthen their contribution to countering extremism. Medical laboratory technology is a critical component of healthcare systems in Pakistan, serving as a catalyst for peace, improved health outcomes, and the mitigation of extremist ideologies. The ongoing efforts and collaboration among medical laboratory professionals, researchers, policymakers, and community leaders are instrumental in addressing health challenges, promoting inclusivity, and fostering social harmony. By harnessing the power of medical laboratory technology, we can continue to strive for a healthier and more peaceful society. Let us take an active role in promoting peace and advancing the field of medical laboratory technology. We can support healthcare initiatives, advocate for equitable access to healthcare services, and challenge extremist narratives through education and awareness. As students, we can pursue careers in medical laboratory technology, embrace technological advancements, and actively engage in research and innovation. Together, we can make a positive impact on society, foster peace through healthcare, and contribute to a healthier and more harmonious world. As a student of the University of Okara, I am privileged to witness the profound impact of medical laboratory technology in promoting peace, healthcare, and countering extremism in Pakistan. Through meticulous diagnostics, research endeavors, and community outreach, the University of Okara exemplifies its commitment to shaping a brighter future. As I continue my journey as a student at this esteemed institution, I am inspired by the transformative power of medical laboratory technology and the invaluable contributions it makes to our society. Together with the University of Okara, I am dedicated to fostering social well-being and embracing the remarkable potential of medical laboratory technology. At the end, I thank to Respected Sir Dr. Muhammad Akram Zuber for his valuable source of guidance. He generously shared his time and knowledge, providing me with valuable feedback and constructive criticism that has significantly improved the quality of my work. His patience, encouragement, and willingness to engage in meaningful discussions have been truly inspiring.

Briefs Liberty for TTP impacts Pak security

FROM PAGE 01 the strategic initiatives planned by the Government of Pakistan for the revival of the economy by providing all possible technical and management support for the overall good of the people of Pakistan...

Govt stabilized economy, provided...

FROM PAGE 01 the country registered record wheat crop this year. The Information Minister said that the Budget of BISP has been enhanced by seventy two percent to 465 billion rupees...

Political people must be in interim setup

FROM PAGE 01 The senior PPP leader said that political offices could be run only by politicians, as this was their job. He said the most elevated political office of the country was that of the prime minister...

Rain forces early stumps after Saud, Saman's heroics

The two didn't let the spinners take more grip on the match and stood there till the end before rain forced early stumps. Pak were 221-5 in 45 overs when stumps were called

SPORTS DESK

GALLE: Saud Shakeel and Agha Salman, with great potential and patience, saved Pakistan from further collapse... The two batters added 31 runs before going for tea and probably having a chat with their skipper Babar Azam...



FROM THE LAST TEST IN KARACHI where he took Pakistan out of crisis in the first innings. He once again proved himself and scored his sixth consecutive Test half-century...

of the opening Test in Galle, Pakistan came out to bat with the hope to topple a towering total. But Sri Lanka fast bowlers provided a great start to their team...

Masood and Abdullah built up a brief partnership of 44 runs but Shan's quick batting knock came to an end when he was trapped in legs by Ramesh Mendis...

his wicket and finally succeeded in it after the wicketkeeper batter looked to play his favorite sweep shot. Meanwhile, Sarfaraz completed his 3000 runs in Test cricket. Pakistan scored 132 runs in the second session with Jayasuriya taking three wickets followed by Rajitha and Mendis with a wicket each for the hosts...

Messi hailed as 'America's number 10' at rapturous Miami unveiling



MIAMI: It rained on his parade, but Lionel Messi greeted his new Inter Miami fans and was hailed by the club's owner as 'America's number 10' at a damp but celebratory unveiling event on Sunday...

his own bilingual speech. 'Tonight is a gift and celebration to the city that opened its arms to my family,' said the Cuban-American businessman. 'Tonight we are doing this in the rain. This is holy water,' he added...

England announce playing XI for fourth Ashes Test

LONDON: England have announced the playing XI for the fourth Ashes Test which will start at Old Trafford on July 19. Veteran pacer James Anderson will replace Ollie Robinson for the fourth as England have decided to go with four pacers to attack Australia's batting...

Son rules out Saudi Arabia transfer

TOTTENHAM Hotspur forward Son Heung-min said he would have moved to Saudi Arabia to continue his career if he wanted to but opted to stay with the Premier League club to redeem himself after a disappointing 2022-23 campaign...

Alcaraz needs new rivals for a new era

LONDON: Novak Djokovic was still trying to digest the loss of his Wimbledon crown to Carlos Alcaraz when one reporter asked him whether Sunday's clash was the start of a great rivalry...



has faced the 20-year-old Alcaraz three times. Certainly the prospect of another showdown at US Open in a few weeks is exciting, but whether or not 23-time Grand Slam champion Djokovic can stretch his career long enough to battle Alcaraz on a regular basis is questionable...

Gimenez the hero as Mexico lift 9th Gold Cup

Gimenez raced into the penalty area, spinning away from one defender and beating another before slotting a left-footed shot past Panama goalkeeper Orlando Mosquera

LOS ANGELES: Santiago Gimenez scored the name-winner minutes after entering the match Sunday as Mexico beat Panama 1-0 to win a record-extending ninth CONCACAF Gold Cup crown. The final of the regional championship for North and Central America and the Caribbean was a fast-paced physical affair between a Mexico team eager to move on from recent disappointments and a Panama side seeking a first Gold Cup crown in their third appearance in the finals...

73,000 at SoFi Stadium, home of the NFL's Los Angeles Rams and one of the venues tabbed for the 2026 World Cup to be hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico. Mexico added a ninth Gold Cup title to those it won in 1993, 1996, 1998, 2003, 2009, 2011, 2015 and 2019. The United States own seven titles but were stunningly eliminated by Panama in a penalty shoot-out during the semifinals...

for the Gold Cup. Mexicans sometimes do not believe much in the process but even if we had lost the final today, I think we should evaluate many other things, not only the final result but also the process. 'If we trust in the process, the results will be immensely better,' Mexico thought they'd seized the lead in the 35th minute when an attack launched by a long clearance from goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa ended with Martin Skopelny onto a cross from Luis Romo and finished by a left-footed shot from the center of the box into Mosquera's net. It took several minutes before a VAR review deemed Martin was offside. Ten minutes later Mosquera kept the score level as he came up with two saves in rapid succession...

Lahore sit-in rattled Dubai decisions: Qureshi

FORM PAGE 01 He said it was quite clear now that new caretaker prime minister would be affiliated to which party. 'It is pre-announced that what type of caretaker setup will be installed,' he said. 'Who has to decide the political course of Pakistan? The leaders of the two major parties have to do it or the right will be given to the people?'

Election on 2017...

FROM PAGE 01 party is a standard in the government - said the population of Karachi is around 30 million, which was about 14.9 million in the 2017 census, and his party would not accept figures less than this. The MQM-P leader vowed to resist the move after Interior Minister Fawaz Chishti announced that the government would not notify the recently concluded census as the results are not authentic and the Election Commission of Pakistan needs at least four months to complete the delimitation process...

Under laws, the census is done after every 10 years but the last one becomes controversial, and it was decided to conduct a fresh exercise after the 2017 census. MQM-P Demanding to rectify the flaws in it, they refused to accept the results.

Khattak launches...

FROM PAGE 01 'Attempts are being made to destroy the standing crop of wheat in the country with a locust horde of 14 parties,' the party spokesperson added in a statement. 'In politics, the officials of the Department of Agriculture' are working hard day and night in the challenge of cultivating these new crops. Taking a dig at the formation of the Itekhkam-Pakistan Party in Lahore, the PTI said: 'That seed turned out rotten and was ground into the soil even before harvest.' Similarly, it said: 'The seed in KP called 'Parliamentary' was washed away in the first rain of public reaction.' Nonetheless, the party said it was grateful to the 'Department of Agriculture' and its staff for 'exposing the dirty games involved in behind-the-scenes conspiracies and separating them from PTI'.

UN chief 'deeply' regrets Russia's decision

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Monday he 'deeply' regrets the decision by the Russian Federation to terminate the implementation of the Black Sea Initiative, which includes the withdrawal of Russian security guarantees of navigation in the northwestern part of the Black Sea. The breakdown of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, brokered by the United Nations and Turkey, threatened to drive global food prices back up as the war in Ukraine enters its 17th month following the Russian invasion. 'The Russians sent a letter this morning to the UN Coordination Center in Istanbul announcing the termination of their participation in the Black Sea Initiative,' according to a UN official. Speaking after Russia's move to suspend the grain export deal, the UN chief warned that the decision of millions face hunger and the consumers that are confronting a global cost-of-living crisis 'will pay the price.'

