



Islamabad POST

Saturday, September 02, 2023

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 25

Great people manage to turn time into opportunity

Detailed News On Page-03

Libyan PM rejects any normalization with Israel

Detailed News On Page-08

Andy Murray out from US Open

Detailed News On Page-06

Explore business avenues in Pakistan, FO tells diplomats

SIFC had been recently constituted to "serve as a 'One-Window' platform : Foreign Secretary Syrus

ANSAR M BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Diplomatic missions in Islamabad were urged on Friday to "brief and encourage their countries" to profit from Pakistan's rich resources in a bid to attract foreign investment to the country, the Foreign Office (FO) said. The development comes days after caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar directed the relevant authorities to accelerate the realisation of identified Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) projects. The SIFC was formed in June this year by the previous PML-N-led government to "frame economic policies that ensure policy predictability, continuity and effective implementation to revive the economy". Then premier Shehbaz Sharif had said that a key goal of the body was to attract investment from friendly countries. "The immediate task is to increase FDI (foreign direct investment) to \$5 billion," he had said. Subsequently, in July, the previous cabinet had approved a number of initiatives, including proposed legislation for amendments to the Investment Board Ordinance to empower the SIFC to facilitate foreign investments. Today, a briefing session – convened by Foreign Secretary Syrus Sajjad Qazi – on the SIFC was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) for the resident diplomatic missions in Islamabad. According to a press release issued by the FO, "The participating diplomatic missions were requested to brief and encourage their countries to profit from the promise of Pakistan being a resource-rich country." During the meeting, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Government Effectiveness Dr Jehanzeb Khan made a "detailed presentation informing the diplomatic corps on the establishment and various aspects of the council". The FO stated that the premier's special aide "particularly highlighted investment opportunities in Pakistan in four key areas": information technology, agriculture, energy and mining. The statement recalled that the SIFC had been recently constituted to "serve as

MPC to meet on Sep 14: SBP

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Friday clarified that the next meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) was scheduled for September 14, 2023 and reports about holding of emergency meeting were baseless. The central bank in a statement issued here refuted the reports making rounds in the media about holding an emergency meeting of the MPC of the central bank and termed them completely baseless. The SBP further said that it would be premature to forecast the future policy rate as only the MPC, which is an independent statutory body, was empowered to decide about the policy rate. The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled to be held on September 14, 2023, during which it will take stock of the economic developments and make appropriate decisions in the matter, it added.

a 'One-Window' platform to fast-track decision-making and promote as well as facilitate Foreign Direct Investment in the country". It added that the briefing was also attended by senior MoFA officials. In June, plagued by economic challenges amid an "inordinate" delay in the revival of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme, civilian and military leaders had devised an

Continued on Page 02



ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of the United Kingdom Jane Marriott calls on Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. – DNA

After petrol LPG price also goes up

The price of LPG was fixed at Rs240 per kg

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: After the rise in petrol and electricity prices, the caretaker government on Friday gave another shock to the poor people by increasing the rates of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) by Rs39 per kg. After the new increase, the price of LPG was fixed at Rs240 per kg. According to the notification issued by Ogra, the domestic cylinder of 11.8 kg has become expensive by Rs459.85, after which the new price of LPG domestic cylinder has been fixed at Rs 2833.49. Earlier, the Ogra increased the price of LPG by Rs23 per kilogram for the month of August 2023. Further tightening the noose around the poverty-stricken masses, the caretaker government on Friday jacked up the prices of petrol and diesel by more than Rs14 per litre. According to the new prices, the price of

Continued on Page 06

EU, UK envoys meet Kakar Pakistan wishes to continue GSP plus scheme: PM

Pakistan may get GSP status for 4 years: diplomatic sources

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction over the positive trajectory of Pakistan-EU ties and lauded recent progress made in this regard. He emphasized the significant role of the GSP Plus scheme in boosting Pakistan's exports to European markets. He stressed the need to continue the GSP Plus scheme which serves

PICTURE ON PAGE 02

the interests of both Pakistan and the EU. The Prime Minister said that his Government was committed to safeguarding and upholding the rights of all its citizens. He said the Government would provide constitutional continuity till the next general elections are held in the country.

Continued on Page 02

PM for stronger Pak-Iran ties

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday underscoring the close fraternal relations between Pakistan and Iran, reaffirmed the country's strong commitment to further strengthen and deepen the bilateral ties. The prime minister, in a meeting with Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Reza Amir-Moghaddam, who called on him, stressed the need to focus on enhancing cooperation in the economic and security

Continued on Page 02

Briefs

MoFA spokesperson pays tribute to Gilani

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has urged the Indian Government to give unhindered access to family and followers of iconic Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Shah Gilani, for his final resting place. At her weekly news briefing in Islamabad on Friday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Syed Ali Shah Gilani was a true voice and face of the Kashmiris' struggle for their rights and freedom. She said the unflinching commitment of Syed Ali Gilani to the Kashmiris' right to self-determination, in the face of persistent persecution and tremendous personal hardship, has inspired generations of Kashmiris in resisting the occupation and tyranny.

Pervaiz Elahi rearrested under 3-MPO

ABBAS HASHMI

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf President and former Punjab chief minister Pervaiz Elahi was rearrested under 3-MPO (Maintenance of Public Order) by the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police shortly after being released by NAB, according to sources. The seasoned politician would be put under house arrest in Adiala jail for the next 15 days, the sources privy to the matter added.

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

NAB amendment law SC judge questions 'eagerness' to find flaws

NAB submits report before apex court regarding accused who benefited from amendments

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court Justice Mansoor Ali Shah remarked on Friday that there appeared to be an "eagerness" to "find flaws" in the amendments made to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws. The observation was made by Justice Shah during the hearing of a petition filed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan against amendments to the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO). The petition is being heard by a three-member special bench comprising Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Shah. The PTI chief had challenged the National Accountability (Second Amendment) Act 2022 passed by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz-led coalition government. Later, a report submitted by the graft buster to the apex court revealed that the NAB ordinance had ended up solving over 90 per cent of the cases, including high-profile ones, that it was dealing with. The PTI heavily criticised the PDM's decision to approve the amendments, denouncing it as an attempt to limit the graft buster's authority. Further, in July of

Continued on Page 02

Delimitations to be completed by Nov 30

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: After holding a number of consultations with the political parties, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday announced that the delimitation process will be finalised by November 30. In a statement, the electoral body said the purpose of squeezing the duration of the delimitation process is to ensure elections are held as early as possible. The ECP also said that a date for the elections will also be announced keeping in view the schedule for the delimitation process, adding that the date was announced after deliberation with the parties. A day earlier, the Election Commission said that polls would be held by mid-February at the most or by January end if

Continued on Page 02

Pakistan will continue to fight terrorism till end: COAS

General Asim Munir calls upon UN for peaceful resolution of Kashmir dispute



STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, COAS visited Bannu today where nine brave soldiers embraced Shahadat yesterday when a suicide bomber blasted himself near military convoy in Jani Khel area. COAS was briefed on the ongoing operations and overall security situation. COAS visited CMH Bannu to inquire about the health and well-being of the injured soldiers. COAS appreciated the high morale

and unflinching resolve of the troops. "Pakistan Army will continue to act as a bulwark against terrorism to safeguard the nation from this scourge," COAS emphasized. While interacting with officers and troops deployed in the area, COAS emphasized, "The Army, Law Enforcement Agencies and the Nation can never be coerced by the cowardly tactics of the Terrorists, who have a misbelief that they can challenge the iron resolve of the soldiers and writ of the State." He further said, "We have fought for long and will continue to fight the menace of Terrorism till the end. The Nation pays rich tribute to those who have laid their lives and their sacrifices will forever be honoured." Earlier on arrival, COAS was received by Commander Peshawar Corps. Meanwhile, On night 31 Aug/1, fire exchange took place between troops and terrorists in general area Tirah, Khyber District. Troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location, resulting in killing of one terrorist. The killed terrorist remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces and killing of innocent civilians. However, during intense exchange of fire, Havildar Muntazir Shah (age 36 Years, Resident of Sawabi District) having fought gallantly, embraced shahadat.

Continued on Page 02

TURKISH AIRLINES

BEST PART OF THE JOURNEY

Stopover IN ISTANBUL

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT: TURKISHAIRLINES.COM

#turkishairlines #pakistanbul

+92 21 384 02 333 | FREEHOTEL@THY.COM

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Economy **FREE ACCOMMODATION** Business

ECONOMY CLASS PASSENGERS CAN STAY 1 NIGHT FOR FREE IN A 4 STAR HOTEL.

BUSINESS CLASS PASSENGERS CAN STAY 2 NIGHTS FOR FREE IN A 5 STAR HOTEL.

Explore business avenues...

FROM PAGE 01
"economic revival plan" to capitalise on "untapped potential in key sectors" and attract FDI. The SIFC had been established under the said plan to fast-track the development of projects and act as a "single-window" interface for potential investors. Shehbaz had said the new forum would serve as a top decision-making body to push through fundamental reforms in the economy's structure and would focus on "leveraging key sectors such as IT, agriculture, energy, minerals and mining, and defence production". He had contended that the need for a representative forum like the SIFC had long been felt because of the scale of economic challenges caused by internal and external factors. "The textbook approach to deal with a unique set of problems is not workable anymore," he had said in a social media post. "Hence, all the more reason to leverage collective wisdom to kick-start the economy to make it self-reliant, export-driven, and robust, capable of withstanding external shocks and upheavals."

Pakistan will continue to fight...

FROM PAGE 01
Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area, said a press release by military media wing (ISPR). Earlier, Army chief General Asim Munir urged the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and Secretary General for a "peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute" as per the UN resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people.

According to a statement issued by the Foreign Office, the chief of army staff (COAS) made the remarks as the chief guest during the closing session of the preparatory meet organised in Islamabad from August 30-31 ahead of the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Meet. The session was co-hosted by Pakistan and Japan on the theme of "Safety and Security of Peacekeepers". Delegates from different countries, senior UN officials and diplomats based in Islamabad also attended the conference. Gen Munir lauded the UN's role in the "maintenance of international peace and highlighted increasing challenges and unprecedented levels of threats being faced by peacekeepers". He also urged the UN to enable peacekeeping missions to be more effective in addressing the complex threats while assuring the safety and security of the blue helmets. The army chief further highlighted that Pakistan aspired to create a region where peace prevailed and trade, transit and investment generated prosperity for all the states of south, West and Central Asia. Earlier, Under Secretary General for Department of Peace Operations thanked Pakistan for hosting the conference and making invaluable contributions for global peace. Addressing the participants, Interim Foreign Minister Jilani Abbas recalled Pakistan's longstanding commitment to UN peacekeeping, spanning over six decades, as a tangible manifestation of its contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security. He paid tributes to the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives in the noble cause of peacekeeping, including 171 Pakistanis. He underscored the need to ensure a safe and secure environment for UN peacekeepers who tirelessly safeguard peace around the globe. Before Gen Munir's remarks, Under Secretary General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix thanked Pakistan for hosting the meet and making invaluable contributions to global peace.

ATTOCK : Inspector General Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar while distributing electronic wheelchairs among 10 special children of Punjab Police employees has said that 40 more children of police employees will be given wheelchairs with the support of a private organization as well as 15000 rupees monthly stipend is also being given to the special children of police employees. Syed Mubashar Hussain Director Public Relations, Punjab Police said on Friday. He said

LPG price also goes up

FROM PAGE 01
petrol had been increased by Rs14.91 per litre with new price of Rs305.36 per litre, while the diesel price had been lifted by Rs18.44 per litre. Diesel will be available in Rs311.84 per litre.

ICCI and ICSTSI slam further hike in POL prices

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) leading a delegation visited the Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries (ICSTSI) and addressing their members, said that Pakistan's total revenue last year was around Rs.7000 billion and the power sector's total revenue was around Rs.12000 billion, but still the sector is in great loss. He stressed that the government should privatize the power companies to get rid of losses and focus on increasing the share of hydropower to provide cheap electricity. He said that Pakistan has the potential to generate over 100,000 MW of hy-

dropower and if exploited, it can make the country a rich economy of the region. He said that the government has further hiked the prices of petrol and diesel taking them to over Rs.300 mark for the first time in the history of Pakistan, which would have devastating consequences on the people and the businesses. He said that the government has already given a massive hike in the price of electricity, which forced the people to come on the streets. He said that the value of dollar had doubled in 10 years from 2009 to 2019, but the value of dollar has doubled within a period of just over two years as its value on 31 May 2021 was Rs.154, which has surged to Rs.305 on 31st August 2023. He said the total impact of high energy prices and rising dollar rate would unleash a new

wave of unbearable inflation for the people and cause closure of many SMEs. He urged that the government should immediately engage the business community in consultation to devise a way forward for the revival of the economy, otherwise the businesses and the overall economy would plunge into deep troubles where things can go out of control. Sajjad Sarwar, President, Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries (ICSTSI) said that the imposition of many taxes on the electricity bill, including sales tax, advance income tax, electricity duty, fuel price adjustment, F.C. surcharge and TV fee is accounting for almost 40 percent of the total bill. He said that the price of electricity has increased by over 90

percent in the last five years, while the rising inflation has reduced the purchasing power of the people and trade activities are badly suffering. He said that many small traders are now unable to pay high electricity bills and rents of shops and stressed that the government should remove all taxes on electricity bills and POL products to provide some relief to the people and the traders. Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICICI said that increase in energy tariff and POL products would further increase the production cost and many industries would face the risk of closure. He said that instead of taking anti-business measures, the government should focus on promoting ease of doing business. Zafar Bakhtawari former President

ICCI and Secretary General UBG said that Pakistan needs to boost exports to revive the economy. However, decisions like hiking prices of electricity, petrol and diesel besides depreciating rupee would further increase the cost of doing business and make our exports more uncompetitive in the international market. This situation would thwart all the efforts of the business community to revive the economy. Khalid Chaudhry, Akhtar Hussain, Faseeh Ullah Khan, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Irfan Chaudhry, Tayyab Saeed and others were in ICCI delegation. Tariq Khokhar Senior Vice President, Syeda Wajida Saleem Honorary VP ICSTSI, Qazi Muhammad Ilyas Group Leader, Saqib Abbasi, Malik Naem Akhtar, Muhammad Tahir and others were present on the occasion.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the European Union H. E. Dr. Riina Kionka called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar —DNA

LRH stands with KP people in all testing times

PESHAWAR : Standing with the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in all testing times, Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) Peshawar is a unique healthcare facility providing best healthcare services to all patients despite limited financial resources, laboratories and manpower. From Chitral to DI Khan and Kohistan to Waziristan districts, LRH has accommodated all kinds of patients of the 39 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including seven merged districts by providing the much needed healthcare

services to them irrespective of their financial status, colour and caste. Whether it was 2005 devastating earthquake, 2010 floods or cases of terrorism, the LRH's doctors, nurses and paramedics rose to the occasion by treating hundreds of thousands of patients since its establishment in 1927. Besides treating patients of many ailments including kidney, liver, chest, heart, acute medical and surgical diseases, the colonial era hospital had entertained an influx of coronavirus patients while several

of its doctors, nurses and paramedics laid down lives in line of duty. Named after wife of British Viceroy Lord Reading in 1927, the hospital has a golden history visited by former Presidents, Prime Ministers and other VIPs to acknowledge outstanding services of its doctors and others staff for ailing humanity. Lady Reading, who was the wife of Viceroy Reading, was very fond of Peshawar City and liked Peshawar view from the historic Balahisar fort. "Once during a visit to Peshawar, she fell from the

horse and got injuries while taking a round of the walled city. She was taken to Agerton hospital for treatment but due to lack of medical facilities she was shifted to Royal Military Hospital (Now Combined Military Hospital). After few years in 1927, she visited Peshawar again and desired to upgrade Agerton Hospital. She donated Rs 52000 for the hospital. The Agerton Hospital was later renamed as Lady Reading Hospital (LRH)," said Muhammad Asim, spokesman of LRH while talking to media.—APP

Punjab police aids special kids with wheelchairs

QAZI SHOAB KHAN

ATTOCK : Inspector General Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar while distributing electronic wheelchairs among 10 special children of Punjab Police employees has said that 40 more children of police employees will be given wheelchairs with the support of a private organization as well as 15000 rupees monthly stipend is also being given to the special children of police employees. Syed Mubashar Hussain Director Public Relations, Punjab Police said on Friday. He said

that in a ceremony held at the Central Police Office, IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar said that 40 more children of police employees will be given wheelchairs with the support of a private organization. IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar said that the Punjab Police will provide wheelchairs to physically challenged children of police employees across Punjab in collaboration with a private organization (Milestone). Priority measures are being taken for the treatment of special children. As many as 15000 rupees monthly stipend is also be-

ing given to the physically challenged children of police employees. He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony of distributed wheelchairs among special children of police employees at the Central Police Office. IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar said that he is grateful for the support of Shafiq Rehman, a private organization for providing electronic wheelchairs. In the event, wheelchairs have been given to the children of police officers posted in various units and districts including Special Protection Unit, PHP.

Flood relief activities continue

LAHORE : Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Director General Imran Qureshi on Friday said that relief measures were going on in the flood affected areas of the province. In a statement, he said more than 595 villages were evacuated completely or partially during August 17 to 31, while more than 1,000 rescue personnel participated in round-the-clock relief operations. The DG elaborated that more than 3,000 life jackets were distributed in the affected districts and 108 medical camps were set up to provide medical facilities to the affectees.—APP

37 new dengue cases reported

LAHORE : As many as 37 new dengue virus cases were reported in the provincial metropolis, on Friday. According to the Health department sources, besides the dengue virus cases, 1,185 larvae spots were reported in the last 24 hours, with many patients under treatment in different hospitals of the city. Various squads conducted surveillance at indoor and outdoor places to detect dengue larvae during the last 24 hours. The anti-dengue squad destroyed dengue larvae at 1,185 places in the province during continuing surveillance. Sources said that on Friday, 37 new patients of dengue fever were reported in Lahore. It is worth mentioning here that moreover, 2,678 beds have been allocated for dengue patients in hospitals across Punjab, the Health department said. It may be mentioned here that Deputy Commissioner (DC) Lahore Rafia Haider, Additional

Deputy Commissioners, and Assistant Commissioners are continuously paying surprise visits to check the performance of dengue teams working on the ground, in the wake of increasing dengue cases after rains. The DC reviewed the performance of dengue teams in various towns of Lahore. Checking of more than 5,000 places would be ensured on daily basis, she said. Meanwhile, in a statement issued recently, Ms. Haider announced that the number of dengue surveillance could be increased, keeping in mind the rain alerts of the Meteorological department. Issuing directions for controlling dengue, she warned all town officers to surely complete the set targets on a daily basis. She vowed to monitor various hotspots areas in the city with swift and strict surveillance, urging citizens to not let water accumulate in their homes and surroundings.—APP

ESD secretary reviews monthly operational performance

LAHORE : Emergency Services Department (ESD) Secretary Dr Rizwan Naseer reviewed the operational performance of all Districts of Punjab beside reviewing the ongoing flood rescue operations in River Sutlej. He was presiding over the online monthly operational performance review of all Districts, which was attended by all Divisional and District Emergency Officers (DEOs) on Friday. All Heads of wings of Rescue Headquarters & Emergency Services Academy were also present. Dr Rizwan Naseer appreciated the rescuers who have been in the riverine area since the onset of first flood in River Sutlej on 6th July 2023. As a result of day and night timely evacuation of people and animals in inundated areas, there was no significant loss of human or animal lives especially during the second major flood onset on 16th August, 2023. The Provincial Monitoring Officer (PMO) briefed the chair that Rescue 1122 rescued 351,531 victims while responding to 176,560 emergencies across Punjab during the month of August 2023. He informed that out of total emergencies, Rescue responded 36867 were road traffic accidents (RTAs), 114,325 medical emergencies, 1294 fire incidents, 6,274 delivery cases, 4,404 crime incidents, 4,019 falls/slipping, 1,622 electrocution, 2,079 occupational injuries, 2,44 burn cases, 2,27 drowning incidents, 59 structural collapses, 1,243 Animal Rescue and 3,903 miscellaneous operations in Punjab. On this occasion, Provincial Monitoring Officer briefed the Secretary ESD about monthly emergency statistics and average emergency response time of every District. He informed that 296 people died in 36867 RTAs in Punjab during the last month. Out of these traffic accidents, the majority of traffic accidents 8773 occurred in Lahore in which 35 people died. Similarly, 2588 RTAs in Multan, 2451 RTAs in Faisalabad, 2090 in Gujranwala, 1477 in Rawalpindi, and 1440 in Sheikhupura while the remaining 18048 accidents took place in 30 districts of Punjab. Similarly, the majority of fire incidents took place in major districts i.e., 434 incidents in Lahore, 103 in Rawalpindi, 88 in Faisalabad, 65 in Multan, 63 in Gujranwala, 48 in Sialkot, 45 in Sardogha, and 44 in Sheikhupura. On this occasion, Dr. Rizwan Naseer expressed concern over the loss of 296 lives and serious injuries resulting in disabilities due to road traffic crashes in Punjab last month.—APP

Kashmir freedom conference at death anniversary of Gilani

They have illegally announced death sentence to the great leader of Kashmir Yasin Malik. But India should remember that it cannot end Kashmir's freedom struggle

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Indian Army has been committing war crimes and human rights violations in Kashmir for the last 40 years. But the United Nations, European Union, civilized nations and other human rights organizations have taken a criminal silence; which violates the Geneva Convention and the United Nations' resolutions on Kashmir. The great leader of



Kashmir, Syed Ali Geelani, is an enlightened candle for the oppressed people of Kashmir. On the 2nd of September 3 PM, speakers addressed Kashmir freedom conference at Ramada Hotel Islamabad, on the death anniversary of Sayed Ali Gilani. While addressing the conference, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Human Rights Mashaal Mallick, said that the sacrifices of the oppressed Muslims of Kashmir will not be allowed to go in vain. Until now the plunderer Indian army have brutally martyred thousands of men and women and thousands of Kashmiri youths went missing and were put in jails. They have illegally announced death sentence to the great leader of Kashmir Yasin Malik. But India should remember that it cannot end Kashmir's freedom struggle. Former DGCS General Retired Asad Durrani said in his speech at the conference that India should start a dialogue with Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir issue. Due to the Kashmir issue, the peace of the whole region is at stake. Former Defense Secretary General Retired Alam Khattak said

that, those nations who sacrifice for freedom will get freedom in any case and oppressive forces are retreating in the world. Kashmir is a serious problem among three nations such as India, Pakistan and China. We pay tribute to Syed Ali Geelani for spending his entire life in struggle for the liberation of Kashmir. Prominent journalist and anchor Hamid Mir paid tribute to Syed Ali Geelani in his address and said that now India should understand, that the people of Kashmir will not back down from achieving freedom. The movement of freedom of Kashmir was started by Qauid-e-Azam and Allama Iqbal. India abolished the 35 A and 371 regulation of ending the special status of Kashmir which is a sheer injustice. Hamid Mir said that in the last half century, India could not finish the freedom movement of Kashmir despite the fact that the Indian Army used all its tactics. On the issue of Kashmir, the United States, Europe, United nations, Muslim world and other international organizations should put pressure on India, so that it stops the atrocities in Kashmir.

Pakistan wishes to continue...

FROM PAGE 01
The EU Ambassador said that the EU will continue to provide support to the Government of Pakistan and work to enhance cooperation in areas of mutual interest. Earlier, High Commissioner of the United Kingdom Jane Marriot called on Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar here on Friday and discussed matters of mutual interest. The Prime Minister emphasized that Pakistan and the UK had longstanding relations and said that his government would continue to further strengthen these bilateral ties. He conveyed his good wishes to His Majesty King Charles III as well as to the UK leadership. The Prime Minister stressed the need to enhance cooperation between both countries in trade, investment, climate change, and education. The High Commissioner conveyed felicitations to the Prime Minister on behalf of the UK leadership and said that the UK would continue to extend all possible support to Pakistan during this phase of the democratic transition.

PM for stronger...

FROM PAGE 01
domains. He highlighted that the recent inauguration of Mand-Pishin border marketplace would not only contribute to the economic uplift of the border areas but also serve as a manifestation of the collective commitment to work for the betterment of the two peoples. He noted that President Raisi's policy of 'Neighborhood First' was fully aligned with Pakistan's vision for regional development and connectivity. The prime minister stressed the importance for both countries to leverage their unique geographical location to promote shared objectives of regional peace and prosperity through greater trade and enhanced regional connectivity.

SC judge questions...

FROM PAGE 01
last year, the federal cabinet passed the National Accountability (Third Amendment) Bill for 2022. This bill further restricted NAB's role in corruption cases involving amounts exceeding Rs500 million. Additionally, it rescinded the president's ability to appoint judges for the accountability court. During earlier proceedings, heading the bench, the CJP had observed that the amendments made to the NAO in July this year "are dubious". Meanwhile, Justice Shah threw his weight behind the forming of a full court to decide the matter, emphasising the need for the apex court to decide the SC (Practice and Procedure) Act first. Today, CJP Bandal observed that "the returning of NAB references before May 2023 is a serious matter" as he noted that a list of details about the said cases already lay before the SC.

Delimitations to be...

FROM PAGE 01
the delimitation of constituencies is completed earlier. The Election Commission has held consultations with political parties including Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Muttahida Qoumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) JamaatUlema Islam-Faiz (JUI-F) and others regarding the road map to general elections. In those meetings, the JUI-F, PML-N and MQM-P had backed the ECP to hold general elections after the delimitation while the PTI and PPP had urged the electoral watchdog to drop the process and conduct polls within 90 days. On August 17, the ECP announced the schedule of new delimitations to be carried out as per the new census approved by the Council of Common Interest (CCI) last month. According to the schedule, the new delimitation of the constituencies was expected to be completed in December. However, the date has now been shortened to November. Earlier, the ECP schedule had shown that the fresh delimitation would take nearly four months.



Independence Day of Uzbekistan

Great people are those who managed to turn time into opportunity, opportunity into success, and success into the foundation of development



ON August 31, 2023, Tashkent city hosted celebrations on the 32nd Anniversary of the State Independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev attended the event. The Head of state congratulated the people of Uzbekistan on this significant event. The Leader of Uzbekistan noted that over time, Uzbekistan, having hardened in the trials on the development path and gained the necessary experience, has emerged as a sovereign state with its own specific goals, course, and position. "Your, my dear, everyday work, filled with love and devotion to the Motherland, further strengthens Uzbekistan's independence. In this sense, it would be right to say that the holiday of independence is our common holiday, and independent Uzbekistan is our common pride and honor", Shavkat Mirziyoyev said. Of course, the path of our people to sovereignty and the current prosperity was not easy. Our ancestors' political and enlightenment aspirations in this direction have been gaining strength over the past century and a half. The heroes of the nation, striving for freedom, were repressed. Through independence, their good name is restored.

Before independence, the land, strength, and all the potential of our people were put at the service of agriculture. The word "Uzbek" was associated only with those who worked day and night in the cotton fields. The cotton policy dried up the Aral Sea, led to a crisis in our ecosystem, and turned off our economy and education system. Today, the market economy principles have been introduced in cotton growing. Forced and child labor have been eradicated. The teacher returned to school, and the doctor returned to the hospital. Uzbekistan was excluded from the international "black lists". It's not a secret for anyone that the basis of political independence is, first of all, economic independence. The large-scale work carried out in recent years and the results achieved serve as a solid foundation for strengthening. A clear confirmation is that over the past six years, the gross domestic product in the country has grown by more than 1.5 times, and the number of business entities – by 2 times, industrial growth has exceeded 40 percent. "However, we need to compare today not with yesterday, but with tomorrow and organize work based on this. After all, the future begins with the steps we are taking now", the President said. It was emphasized that education is the basis of progress, and the work done in this area was noted. – The three-thousand-year history of our statehood testifies that our ancestors have always made an enormous contribution to the development of world civilization with their physical labor and intellectual activity. We are the descendants of great personalities who enriched the world not only with material resources but with the fruits of science, enlightenment, and spiritual values. Undoubtedly, their high qualities and the glorious traditions they created still live in our hearts and consciousness and are present in our daily lives. And I am convinced that we can continue this historical path adequately, – the Head of state noted. In his speech, the President drew public attention to the important tasks facing the country today. These are environmental problems, an accelerated transition to an economy that is careful with water, energy, and other natural resources, and the creation of innovative manufacturing enterprises. "We must never forget that natural resources are wealth that belongs to future generations. Therefore, we need to use them wisely, thinking not only about today, but also about tomorrow", Shavkat Mirziyoyev said. Another essential task is to create equal opportunities for women in all spheres of society. Speaking about this, the President cited the words of the great ancestor-enlightener Abdurauf Fitrat: "Women are the mothers of the nation". It was noted that in

recent years, humanity has faced severe trials, and in such conditions, people who are united and have a strong will can develop steadily. "Every citizen of Uzbekistan should consider it his life duty to ensure the unity of our people and the integrity of the country. Only united – we are a single people, only together – a strong country!" the President said. The Leader of Uzbekistan stressed that our peace-loving people would develop friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation with the states near and far abroad. It was noted that no matter how important and complex the upcoming tasks are, we all have enough strength and capabilities to solve them. "As history testifies, the nation that managed to turn time into opportunity, opportunity into success, and success into the foundation of development is a great nation. Today, our hardworking, courageous, and noble people show just such qualities", the Head of state said. The President expressed gratitude to all compatriots and our people, who selflessly work on this path. "Long live our people – the creator of all our achievements! May peace and tranquility always reign in our beautiful country! May the Almighty always protect our



Motherland! May our independence be eternal!" the President concluded his speech with these words. The holiday continued with a glorious concert program. It reflects the dreams of our ancestors about freedom, the feeling of happiness of gaining independence, the confident movement into the future, and the hopes of our people. The memory of the brave sons who died in the name of the peaceful life of the country is honored. Our people's rich art and values were vividly manifested in classical songs and melodies, in the performances of folklore and ethnographic groups – a unique synergy of different cultures in Uzbekistan.



A CEREMONY commemorating repression victims was held on Shahidlar Khotirasi (Memory of Victims) Alley. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev attended it. Surahs from the Quran and duas were recited in memory of the departed. Memorial pilaf was served. During the days of independence celebrations, Uzbekistan people traditionally pay tribute to the memory of patriots, remember their struggle for freedom and independence and their contribution to the achievement of these prosperous days. This tradition confirms that our people never forget and always appreciate the selfless service to the Motherland. During the totalitarian regime, thousands of people in the country were subjected to repression. Families were destroyed, and children were left orphans. In 1937-1938 alone, when the repressions reached their most tremendous scale, about 7,000 of our compatriots were shot. Executions were carried out on the site where the current alley now stands. During the years of independence, landscaping was carried out here, and a Museum of Memory of the Victims of Repression was created. Branches of the museum are open in the Republic

of Karakalpakstan and regions. Now, the museum has organized an exhibition dedicated to the figures of the enlightenment of Turkestan. The reading of the Quran also took place at the symbolic tombstone in the alley. It was noted that from 1937 to 1953, 100 thousand people were repressed in Uzbekistan, of which 13 thousand were shot. Unfortunately, the repression did not end there. In the 1980s, thousands more of our compatriots suffered from injustice. Under false accusations, which became the basis for the so-called "Cotton Case" and "Uzbek Case", 40,000 country residents were investigated, and 5,000 were prosecuted. The Head of state stressed that political repressions against the great son of Uzbekistan people, Sharof Rashidov, who headed Uzbekistan for twenty-five years, cause particular regret, which was launched after his death. The excellent work being carried out to study the life of the Jadids and to perpetuate the memory of unjustly repressed people was noted. "We work hard to restore justice. Commissions were formed with the participation of historians, and archival documents are being studied. Over the past two years, the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan

has rehabilitated more than 850, and this year – another 240 of our compatriots. We must not stop this research. Our people must know the truth", Shavkat Mirziyoyev said. The history of that time is replenished with new documents and material evidence. Memory books have been prepared in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions, and the city of Tashkent, including information about almost 40 thousand of our compatriots. These collections will be published soon. The President noted that, at the same time, it is necessary to perpetuate the memory of the victims of repression directly in mahallas where they lived. "Yes, museums have been organized, books are being published, and rehabilitation continues. But we must not stop there. I think it would be right in every way to install nameplates where the victims of repression were born and where their descendants now live, in schools. Moreover, it is on such memorable days that it is necessary to visit their homes. We visit the participants of the war. Why don't we remember the victims of repression? After all, their life is full of heroism. We must study it, promote it, bring it to the attention of young people", the President said.

President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev laid flowers at the Independence Monument in Yangi O'zbekiston (New Uzbekistan) Park



THIS monument was erected on the 30th Anniversary of the country's Independence on the idea of the President in honor of the Motherland, the country's brave, peaceful, and hardworking people and their exploits. It has become a tradition to lay flowers at it on the occasion of significant events and during the visits of foreign delegations. Representatives of the Legislative Chamber and the Senate of the Oliy Majlis, the Presidential Administration, ministries and agencies, and the public of Tashkent took part in the ceremony and laid flowers at the monument.

Business development guidelines outlined during the Dialogue with the President

On August 18, the 3rd Open Dialogue of the President Shavkat Mirziyoyev with entrepreneurs took place. The dialogue with business taking place at various levels of government is very widespread in the world, and helps to conduct economic policy optimally combining the interests of business with the interests of the development of the state.

DIALOGUE IN DEVELOPMENT: The 1st Open Dialogue of the President with entrepreneurs was organized on August 20, 2021. At the suggestion of the Head of State, this format became traditional and this day became the Day of Entrepreneurs in our country. This was the first experience of this kind in Uzbekistan, which has already managed to show its high efficiency in terms of optimizing the economic policy in relation to business, as evidenced by the results in the field of entrepreneurship development in subsequent years. During the 1st Dialogue, the President outlined 7 most important areas of further work to solve problems that hinder business activities. The first direction concerned financing issues, the second – improving the tax system and reducing the tax burden on business, the third was related to improving the procedure for providing land, the fourth devoted to the development of the necessary infrastructure, the fifth provided support for exporters, the sixth was related to the transport and logistics sector, the seventh was aimed at simplifying business procedures. The 2nd Dialogue took place on August 22, 2022. During it, the President outlined 5 main directions of support for the development of entrepreneurship. The first direction was the introduction of separate approaches to supporting enterprises by dividing them into categories: microbusiness, small business, medium business. The second direction was the creation of a more favorable financing system. The third one was the introduction of special approaches to support business based on the conditions of districts and cities. The fourth one was the protection of entrepreneurs' property. The fifth direction was monitoring the activities of entrepreneurs and holding them accountable. Accomplished during the year. During the Dialogue that took place this year, an assessment of what was done during the year in the directions established during last year's dialogue was carried out. So, business entities were divided into micro, small, medium and large categories and each one began to apply a separate approach. Similarly, districts and cities were divided into 5 categories, separate tax, credit and financial regimes were introduced in 60 districts, as a result entrepreneurs of these districts over the past 6 months have used benefits in the amount of about 1 trillion sums. Due to this, the income of entrepreneurs in 20 districts increased to 1.5-2 times compared to last year. The deadline for the refund of value added tax has been shortened. Due to this, from August 1, 2022 to August 1, 2023, 6 thousand enterprises returned 20 trillion sums, and more than 2 thousand conscientious entrepreneurs-exporters, without waiting for the receipt of currency from exports, received 7 trillion sums to their payment accounts. By reducing



the rate of VAT to 12%, the number of participants in the value chain increased by 26 thousand, and their activities came out of the "shadow". The number of VAT payers has reached 184 thousand. As a result of the write-off of tax debts that arose as a result of the use of inefficient tax mechanisms, 2 trillion sums remained at the disposal of business. In the field of lending, a system has been created for using goods in circulation, export contracts, letters of credit and future revenue as collateral. Due to this opportunity, \$1 billion in loans were provided to entrepreneurs. Due to the simplification of the procedure for opening micro-financial organizations, an alternative credit market for banks has appeared in the country. Over the past year, the number of such organizations has increased 1.5 times, the volume of loans allocated by them has increased 3 times. During the year, non-bank organizations allocated 3 trillion sums of loans. As a result of the simplification of the processing system in the customs territory, the number of entrepreneurs using this customs regime has doubled, thanks to which \$455 million worth of products were exported over the year using this opportunity, and \$110 million worth of added value was created. Licenses and permits for 119 types of activities that were previously "inaccessible" to aspiring entrepreneurs were canceled or transferred to the notification form. At the same time, only due to the cancellation of licenses for such type of activity as automobile transportation of goods on the territory of the republic, the volume of cargo transportation increased 1.5 times. In the 6 months this year, the number of inspections decreased by 40% compared to the same period last year, from 104 thousand to 64 thousand. If we evaluate in general how the business developed during the year after the previous Dialogue, then over the year the number of small entrepreneurs increased by 40 thousand and amounted to 490 thousand, medium-sized entrepreneurs by 2 thousand and reached 10 thousand. The number of large enterprises increased by 400 over the year, reaching 1.5 thousand. Due to the use of the provided benefits, the annual turnover of 155 enterprises exceeded \$100 million. The annual volume of foreign investments has reached \$10 billion for the first time. This is 3 times more than in 2017. Over the past 2 years of constant Dialogue with business, domestic enterprises have exported products worth \$25 billion, and also started production of previously imported products worth \$10 billion. Designated areas of business support During the Dialogue with entrepreneurs this year, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in his speech outlined 5 main areas in which further support for the development of business and entrepreneurship will take place. New opportunities for small businesses. A lot of attention is paid to the development of small businesses. More than \$1 billion is allocated annually for financial support of micro-businesses. At the beginning of the year, it was clearly defined who belongs to the small business category. A holistic ecosystem will be created to support this sector. Qishlok Qurilish Bank will be transformed into a Business Development Bank, under which 14 Centers for Small Business will be created in each region. Entrepreneurs who wish to switch from micro to small business will be assigned to these Centers every month. Entrepreneurs who have studied in such Centers in the regions will be provided with loans on favorable terms.

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Fertilizer imports grew 130.40 %

ISLAMABAD: Fertilizer-manufactured imports into the country during the first month of the current financial year grew by 130.40 per cent as compared to the imports of the corresponding month of last year. During the month of July 2023 about 18,995 metric tons of fertilizer valued at \$11.388 million were imported as compared to the imports of 6,449 metric tons valued at \$4.943 million in the same month last year, according to the data of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. Meanwhile, the imports of agricultural and other chemicals into the country during the first months of the current financial year decreased by 10.78 per cent as compared to the imports of the corresponding month of last year. During the month of July 2023, agricultural and other chemicals costing \$718.801 million were imported as compared to the imports of \$805.634 million in the same month of the previous year.

In the first month of the current financial year, 2,987 metric tons of insecticides valued at \$17.789 million were imported as compared to the imports of 3,114 metric tons worth of \$24.064 million in the same month last year. During the period under review, 156,948 metric tons of plastic materials valued at \$204.250 million were imported as against the imports of 143,102 metric tons valuing \$241.805 million in the same period last year.—DNA

NPO to organize webinar on fire hazards issues

ISLAMABAD: The National Productivity Organization (NPO) in collaboration with the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry is going to organize an online training program on fire hazards issues and practices on 08 September (Friday). The workshop would provide information chemistry of fire, kind of fire, fire control and equipment, personal protection equipment, fire accident and investigation, and fire accident report, according to NPO. After the workshop, the participants were able to recognize fire hazards and introduce the basic elements. It also helped to recognize fire hazards and introduce basic elements of preventing fires in the workplace. The workshop is very important for all factory managers, supervisors, workers, and safety officer firefighters.—APP

Weekly inflation up by 0.54 percent

ISLAMABAD: The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.54 percent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on August 31st, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 277.21 points as compared to 275.71 points during the past week, according to the PBS data. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 24.39 percent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 = 100 is covering 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs 17,732, increased by 0.68 percent and went up to 283.10 points from last week's 281.19 points. The SPI for consumption groups from Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs 22,889-29,517, Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175 increased by 0.65 percent, 0.60 percent, 0.57 and 0.49 percent respectively. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 20 (39.22%) items increased, 08 (15.68%) items decreased and 23 (45.10%) items remained stable. The items, which recorded a decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week (WoW) included tomatoes (3.36%), bananas (2.49%), onions (2.01%), chicken (1.23%), garlic (0.58%).—APP

Jamal inaugurates week-long Defence Day cultural activities

The minister also visited Islamabad and took keen interest in the displays and expressed his determination to establish a state-of-the-art Museum in federal capital

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah on Friday formally inaugurated a week-long cultural activity being organized in connection with Pakistan Defence Day to be observed on September 6. In this regard, a special exhibition of warfare artifacts opened here at Islamabad Museum located at Sir Syed Memorial. The inauguration ceremony was also attended by Federal Secretary for National Heritage and Culture Humaira Ahmed and heads of all attached departments of the division. Talking to media, Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah highlighted the importance of the participation of children and youth in the mega cultural and literary activities. National Heritage and Culture Division and its attached department have planned a series



of cultural activities and events in major cities aimed at highlighting the importance of patriotism and sacrifices and inculcate the

love and respect of our homeland in the hearts of our younger generations. The Minister said that the cultural activities were

include live performances, stage plays, puppet theatres, musical concerts, exhibitions, artisans at work, seminars, tableaux, etc.

Jamal Shah said that Pakistan Defence Day is an opportunity for Pakistanis to reaffirm their commitment to National unity and harmony. Federal Minister Jamal Shah said that 6 September is an important day in the history of our country and in this aspect all the attached departments have planned special cultural events to highlight the sacrifices of our national heroes. He also said that a National Songs mega musical event would be organized in which renowned singers would sing national songs to mark the day in a befitting manner. Earlier, the minister also took round of special exhibition of warfare artifacts displayed at Islamabad Museum by Department of Archaeology and Museum (DOAM). The minister also visited Islamabad and took keen interest in the displays and expressed his determination to establish a state-of-the-art Museum in federal capital.

GDA urges suspension of Sindh LGs for transparent elections

ISLAMABAD: The Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) delegation, during their meeting with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday, pressed for the suspension of Sindh Local Governments (LG) and the installation of administrators to ensure transparency in the upcoming general elections. During a consultative meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja, the delegation urged the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to suspend Sindh Local Governments (LG) and appoint administrators to ensure transparency in the upcoming general elections.

The GDA delegation emphasized the importance of adhering to the Election Commission's directives for transferring and appointing provincial officers. They noted that despite the Chief Election Commissioner's letters to the Caretaker Chief Ministers, the transfers have not been carried out. They also proposed the appointment of unbiased Returning Officers, and if feasible, District Election Commissioners and Officers from Federal Services could assume the role of Returning Officers. After completing all these arrangements, the Election Schedule should be announced. The delegation expressed unwavering support for the Election

Commission's fresh delimitation plan, emphasizing that a transparent election process hinges on proper delimitation. Consequently, the delimitation should align with the latest census data, and elections should follow the updated boundaries. They also recommended revising the electoral rolls to guarantee accurate and up-to-date voter information. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Election Commissioner affirmed that conducting transparent elections within the bounds of the constitution and the law is the foremost duty of the Election Commission. He recognized the GDA's recommendations and pledged that the Election

Commission would thoroughly evaluate these proposals and make decisions in full compliance with the constitution and the law. Furthermore, he provided assurance that the delimitation process would be conducted transparently. The Chief Election Commissioner conveyed to the delegation that the Election Commission has scheduled a crucial meeting on Friday with various political parties. Considering the consultations and feedback from these parties, the Election Commission will proceed to announce the election schedule. This announcement will follow a further reduction in the duration of the delimitation process.—APP

CDNS attains Rs210 billion targets in fresh bonds

ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has attained target of Rs210 billion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, from July 1st to August 31st, 2023-24. The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year from July 1st to June 30th, 2022-23, the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Friday. This is Rs 200 billion additional annual target than the target of Rs1300 billion for the previous financial year 2021-22, he said. "The CDNS has set a reviewed saving target of Rs 1.4 trillion for the current financial year (2021-22) which will "promote the savings culture in the country," he said. In view of the current market trend in the country, the ambitious target had been set to further improve the savings culture, he said. "He said that at present, work was being done on institutional reforms in CDNS and new reforms and innovations were being introduced." He said, "At this time Automated Teller Machine (ATM) has also been introduced in CDNS which will provide enough facilities to the users." Replying to a question, he said the CDNS has collected an investment of Rs16 billion in the month of July 2023-24 through Islamic investment bonds. The directorate has set a target of Rs 75 billion for the new financial year 2023-24 for Islamic finance bonds, he said. Replying to a question, he said the CDNS's aim was to introduce new dimensions in the Islamic finance sector. He informed that CDNS had reviewed and set a target of Rs 60 billion in the fiscal year (2022-23) for Islamic investment to introduce the new products in the market. "Islamic finance has a very important role in the global financial sector at this time, and a large part of the economy of many major countries currently includes Islamic finance," he said.—DNA

Pakistani teams set to compete in Hangzhou (China) Asian Games

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) have recently revealed the player rosters for their men's and women's cricket teams, set to compete in the Hangzhou Asian Games. Given India and Pakistan's cricketing prowess, experts are speculating that the cricket gold medal at the Asian Games could likely be decided between these two cricket giants. Moreover, according to Gwadar Pro, shortly after the Asian Games concludes, the International Olympic Committee will convene a meeting in Mumbai to determine whether cricket, after a 128-year absence, will make a comeback to the "Olympic family." The cricket matches of this edition of the Asian Games are also being seen by insiders as the ultimate litmus test for cricket's potential re-entry into the Olympics. In ensuring the smooth execution of these events, the host city Hangzhou in China is in its final stages of preparation. Officials from Zhejiang University of

Technology's Pingfeng campus cricket venue, where the Asian Games cricket matches are set to unfold, emphasized the critical role of pitch quality. "The key to successful cricket matches lies in the quality of the playing surface. Thus, professional upkeep such as grass trimming and compaction needs to be carried out a month prior to the event. Currently, the Asian Games Organizing Committee has collaborated with the Asian Cricket Council and brought in experts from Bangladesh to oversee the final maintenance," they shared during a media interview. The group stage and final matches of the cricket event at the Hangzhou Asian Games are scheduled at Zhejiang University of Technology's Pingfeng campus. This cricket field stands as China's largest, with a construction area of approximately 49,400 square meters and a total built-up area of around 12,689 square meters. It boasts an elliptical playing field measuring 150 meters along its longer axis and 120 meters along its shorter axis, accompanied by seating for 1,347 spectators and an all-encompassing pavilion. The indoor pavilion's

brick-red exterior façade complements the surrounding landscape, resembling a picturesque vista naturally unfolding from the northern mountains. The outdoor playing field takes on a boxy circular shape, housing four competition pitches and boasting a playing area roughly equivalent to that of two football fields. "In meeting the exacting demands of cricket pitches for clay, we embarked on a 13-month-long quest across a vast expanse of 9.6 million square kilometers of land to locate suitable soil sources. After subjecting 27 soil samples to 162 rounds of rigorous testing, we finally pinpointed the most suitable soil source in Liulie Village, Yancheng, Jiangsu," officials from Zhejiang University of Technology's Pingfeng campus cricket venue shared during an interview. Prior to this, Zhejiang University of Technology's Pingfeng campus cricket arena hosted Asian Games test matches, earning high praise from both the Chinese national team and international participants like Hong Kong and Japan for the quality of the playing field. The spokesperson is confident that following the final month of preparations,

Pakistani delegation visits Xinjiang to strengthen Sino-Pak ties

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A six-member high-level Pakistani delegation recently visited China's Xinjiang region. It was led by the former Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal. The delegation's objective was to explore collaboration opportunities and deepen mutual understanding between Pakistan and China through Xinjiang. During their visit, the delegation engaged in constructive discussions with Xinjiang representatives on trade, investment, and infrastructure development. Both parties reaffirmed their dedication to enhancing bilateral trade and identifying new avenues for economic collaboration. Xinjiang's strategic position as a gateway to Eurasian markets was underscored as a significant opportunity for Pakistan to broaden its exports. The delegation observed the rapid advancements made in various sectors in Xinjiang. They attended the China-Eurasia Expo 2023 in Urumqi, toured the Cloud Computing Center, visited a state-of-the-art hospital in Kalamay, and had a productive meeting.

Gap between income, expenditure widened

ISLAMABAD: Brig. (ret) Aslam Khan, Chairman of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) said on Friday that the difference between the income and expenditure of the people has widened a lot, which has made their lives miserable. The majority of the masses are not able to survive even after compromising over the expenses incurred on children's education and treatment, he said. Apart from professional beggars, many lower middle-class people have also started begging to feed their families, he added. Aslam Khan said in a statement issued here today that people are told that the government doesn't have the resources to provide relief, which is wrong. There is no shortage of resources, but they are for the elite, not the people. He said that the influential are being given an annual benefit of seventeen and a half billion dollars; all kinds of mafia, including the sugar mafia, are provided with the opportunity to plunder the masses, but nothing can be done for the people because they are not the priority. Aslam Khan said that in the current situation, people's pockets and stomachs are not only empty, but they are suffering from great psychological pressure, the effects of which will be felt by the entire society. He noted that the former government, which came to power with the slogan of putting the economy back on track, left after handling its corruption cases and giving a free hand to the profiteers. He said that there is no hope from the current government that it will take any action against those who loot the people. Those who are telling the public that the government does not have the resources to provide subsidies should inform the masses where the resources to reward the elite are coming from. Aslam Khan said that the fall of the rupee, the loss of confidence in the business community, and the collapse of the stock market show that the economic conditions of the country have become worse than before.—APP

ANF recovers 45 kg drugs in six operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations managed to recover 45 kg of drugs and arrested five accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday. He informed that in an operation, 500 ecstasy tablets were recovered from the possession of an accused arrested near Abbas University Peshawar. The accused, a resident of Nowshera confessed to supplying drugs to the university students. In another operation, 7 kg hashish and 5 kg crystal were recovered from the vehicle intercepted near Motorway Toll Plaza Peshawar. Two suspects who were trying to smuggle drugs from Peshawar to Punjab were arrested during the operation. In the third operation conducted near Kohat Tunnel, 6 kg of hashish concealed for smuggling was recovered. The spokesman further informed that 11 kg of hashish was recovered from the Zakh Khel area in Khyber. In the fifth operation, a resident was arrested from the Faizpur Interchange Lahore area and ANF recovered 12.6 kg of opium and 600 grams of hashish from his possession. In the sixth operation, 1720 grams of Ice was recovered from a parcel recovered at a courier office in Sialkot. Ice concealed in 56 gloves was being smuggled to Australia. Separate cases were registered against all the accused while further investigations are under process, he added.—APP

Alvi condemns suicide attack on military convoy

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday strongly condemned the suicide attack on a military convoy in Jani Khel area of Bannu district. Expressing deep sorrow and grief over the loss of precious lives in the attack, the president reiterated the national resolve to completely eradicate the menace of terrorism in the country. He said the whole nation was firmly standing behind its valor security forces in the war against terrorism. President Alvi said efforts would continue till the complete elimination of terrorism from the country. He paid tribute to the martyred who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the country's security. The president prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed souls in eternal peace and grant courage to the family members of the martyrs.—DNA

Fatima Surrayya Bajia remembered

ISLAMABAD: Award-winning author and dramatist Fatima Surrayya Bajia who wrote plays and adapted classic Urdu novels for Pakistani radio and television was remembered on the occasion of her birth anniversary. Born on September 1, 1930 in Hyderabad Deccan, India, she was the eldest among ten siblings and "Bajia" means older sister. Although, she did not attend a formal school, she was well educated at home and became a pioneer for women in the fields of literature and the media. When the family moved to Pakistan after partition, they brought with them a library containing several thousand books. These were trying times for the family and Bajia eventually took on the responsibility of raising her nine siblings—who included the painter, writer, and television personality Anwar Maqsood, the poet and screenwriter Zehra Nigah, and celebrity chef Zubaida Tariq by earning money by sewing dolls and designing clothes. Fatima Surrayya Bajia began her writing career with an Urdu daily in 1960. From there, she started writing radio plays and working with PTV soon after the network was founded. After the success of her televised serial Araq, she went on to write hundreds of popular plays and adaptations with a strong emphasis on women, children, and Urdu culture. Bajia was known for spending long hours at work and taking a close interest in all details of production from set design to costume design and makeup.—APP

German Embassy officials visit families in Jaranwala

The donations include essential food items, bedding, clothing, and sanitary supplies

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a solemn demonstration of solidarity, representatives from the German Embassy in Islamabad undertook a visit to Jaranwala today to express support for the Christian community, which faced a distressing incident of mob violence last month. Head of Communications and Cultural Affairs Dorota Berezicki and Human Rights Counsellor Julia Klein met with affected families and bore witness to the aftermath of the gruesome mob violence



which had resulted in the looting and destruction of places of worship and residences belonging to the Christian community in Jaranwala. During this visit, HE Bishop Indiras Rehmat, local church officials and representatives from the Caritas Office in Faisalabad briefed the embassy delegation providing insights into the ground-level situation and the challenges faced by community as they try to rebuild their lives. In a gesture aimed at providing immediate assistance to the afflicted families, the German Embassy distributed emergency aid packages donated by the embassy's local and German staff. The donations include essential food items, bedding, clothing, and sanitary supplies. Germany upholds its steadfast commitment to the principles of peace, tolerance, and interfaith harmony. It is a solemn belief that no family should ever experience insecurity within their homes due to their faith.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 04 Issue: 332

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off 11: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad

Uzbekistan celebrates the Independence Day

Nestled in the heart of Central Asia, Uzbekistan is a country with a rich history, stunning landscapes, and a promising future. This landlocked nation, often referred to as the "Jewel of Central Asia," has captivated travelers and historians for centuries. The country well-know for its diverse tapestry, from its historical landmarks and cultural heritage to its modern developments and the warm hospitality of its people.

In recent years, Uzbekistan has embarked on a journey of modernization and economic reform. Under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the country has focused on improving its business environment, infrastructure, and tourism sector. Initiatives such as visa liberalization, tax incentives for foreign investors, and the development of tourism clusters have attracted international attention. The construction of the Tashkent City International Business Center and the revitalization of historic districts in cities like Tashkent and Samarkand are just a few examples of the country's commitment to modernizing while preserving its cultural heritage. The country celebrates the independence day on September 1. The President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev in his address on the occasion said that it was not a secret for anyone that the basis of political independence is, first of all, economic independence. The large-scale work carried out in recent years and the results achieved serve as a solid foundation for strengthening. A clear confirmation is that over the past six years, the gross domestic product in the country has grown by more than 1.5 times, and the number of business entities – by 2 times, industrial growth has exceeded 40 percent. The Uzbek President, ever since assuming his office, has also focussed on further strengthening relations with the outer world and especially the neighbouring countries. Relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan are time-tested and deep-rooted. The leaderships of both countries have interacted on a number of occasions with a view to intensifying bilateral as well people-to-people relations. The railway line project connecting Uzbekistan to Peshawar in Pakistan is going to be landmark project, which is aimed to establish a rail link between the two countries, enhancing trade and connectivity in the region. It is hoped that a new era of peace and development shall be ushered in once this project become operational. Uzbekistan offers huge business opportunities as well as the incumbent Uzbek government has introduced a variety of reforms directed towards Ease of Doing Business.



'Positive' if Biden administration follows through

That the Sino-US relationship is fraught, to say the least, is undeniable. Likewise, that the two sides are making efforts to prevent relations from being strained to breaking point is self-evident. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo is the latest Joe Biden administration official to visit China as the two sides seek to strengthen communication to ease the frictions that have been producing sparks in what has become a potentially explosive environment. Although Raimondo said that she wanted to discuss "concrete ways" that the two sides can work together to accomplish business goals, her exchange of views with Chinese officials has been about more than just boosting commerce. That she met with Chinese Premier Li Qiang, Vice-Premier He Lifeng, Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Commerce Minister Wang Wentao and Culture and Tourism Minister Hu Heping indicates that there have been broad discussions on the state of relations, both sides' concerns, and the moves each side thinks the other should make to stabilize and improve relations. The essence of this is that both sides think the other should do more to match their words with actions – Raimondo calling for a predictable and fair regulatory environment for US businesses in China and her Chinese hosts calling for an end to the discriminatory subsidies and sanctions targeting Chinese companies. The recent spate of visits by senior officials in the Biden administration to China is potentially a positive development as it reflects that the US side has recognized that in trying to hurt China, it is also harming the US. "We can't drift to a place of greater conflict. It's not good for the US, it's not good for China, it's not good for the world," Raimondo acknowledged. If her visit is a marker that the US side has finally grasped this fundamental fact, then there are indeed grounds for her upbeat words of farewell regarding the agreements reached to continue dialogue on the tough issues between the two sides. "I am leaving with some optimism," she said. Since she also said she had not expected any breakthroughs on the issues affecting US companies such as Intel, Micron, Boeing, Visa and Mastercard during the trip, but did hope to "see some results" in the coming months, presumably that means there will similarly be some moves in relation to the concerns expressed by her Chinese hosts. That the two sides are hoping to pave the way and create a conducive atmosphere for a possible meeting between the leaders of the two countries at the APEC leaders' meeting in November in the US, gives added impetus to their efforts to ease tensions and carry out pragmatic cooperation. Nonetheless, for any sustainable improvement in relations to be realized, the US side must demonstrate that its measures supposedly targeting actions and behavior that undermine US national security are not, as Raimondo claimed, simply targeting China with the aim of curtailing its development.

EU must adapt to prosper in an evolving world order

Khaled Abou Zahr

This is why a strong and focused response is required in light of the potential difficulties presented by the rising of new economic powers from the East, or what some call the Global South. In order to manage this new terrain while still retaining its global influence, the EU must adjust its policies, encourage innovation and create new relationships.

The global order has undergone significant changes in recent decades, with countries from the East emerging as powerful economic players. Nations such as China and India have rapidly transformed to become economic

The BRICS conference in Johannesburg last week was described as a symbol of an evolving global order. This has a clear impact on the future of the EU. Indeed, the EU finds itself at a crossroads in a world that is becoming more integrated. This is why a strong and focused response is required in light of the potential difficulties presented by the rising of new economic powers from the East, or what some call the Global South. In order to manage this new terrain while still retaining its global influence, the EU must adjust its policies, encourage innovation and create new relationships. The global order has undergone significant changes in recent decades, with countries from the East emerging as powerful economic players. Nations such as China and India have rapidly transformed to become economic powerhouses, challenging the traditional dominance of Western economies. As the world becomes multipolar, the EU must acknowledge that its global influence is no longer guaranteed by economic might alone. In order to face these challenges, Brussels must embrace a multifaceted strategy. There is no doubt that innovation should be at the forefront of its goals. This is the big differentiator even as the national economic output of rising powers surpass the European ones. In this field, the EU has a history of technological prowess, and must continue to invest in research and development to remain competitive on the global stage. By fostering an environment that encourages innovation, the EU can lead the way in crucial fields such as renewable energy, artificial intelligence and biotechnology.

It is clear that the EU has still a great role to play and potential to unlock from within. Yet, in order to avoid the biggest risks of this changing world, Europe also needs to listen to its own growing powers. Indeed, the EU should give a bigger say to emerging powers in the future of the bloc.

Countries such as Poland, Hungary, Czechia, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Romania need to gain in the decision-making process of the EU in order to secure its future.

As the world becomes multipolar, the EU must acknowledge that its global influence is no longer guaranteed by economic might alone.

As an example of the rise of these countries, we notice that in 2021, Poland and Czechia exported machinery to neighboring markets valued at nearly 77 billion (\$84 billion) and 63 billion, respectively. Hungary's main export was electronic machinery valued at 29.6 billion, while Slovakia's was vehicles at 28.4 billion. Why should Poland, the rising dynamic economic power, not have a greater voice? Or Hungary? All this shows that the power within the EU bloc is still not fully exploited. And developing this integration would give greater leverage for the EU's global positioning.

Brussels also needs to propose an updated pact to its global trading partners. For example, the environment in Africa is now more competitive both for markets and energy, so there is a need for a new approach in order to keep strong relations. In the same way, the EU needs to plan a strategy to engage and compete with the rising economies and preserve their interests. It is one of the facets of this new world as competition and collaboration collide.

Addressing these challenges might also require a reform of the EU's internal mechanisms as well. Streamlining bureaucracy, promoting investment in disadvantaged regions, and harmonizing regulations across member states will make the EU more agile and attractive to both investors and skilled professionals. A united front will not only bolster economic prospects but also reinforce the bloc's influence on the global stage. It is also important for the EU to unify its global strategy both economically and politically.

It is an absolute necessity for the EU to speak as one voice. And it is an urgent one. There should not be division when facing global competition or new challenges. The EU has to adapt and compete differently on global markets, and in order to achieve this it should have a unique global political voice that represents the interests of all European nations.

One of the EU's biggest challenges concerns the complexities of managing refugee and migrant flows, which has underscored divisions among member states regarding the distribution of hosting and integration responsibilities. Along with the impact of the pandemic, this has accelerated the rise of nationalist and populist movements in various EU countries. The worries of these nations and people regarding migrant flows need to be addressed with a concrete policy and not brushed off, or else it will become a real challenge to the EU's cohesion, leading to increased criticism of EU institutions and calls for more nationalist policies and departures similar to Brexit.

The other big challenge is energy. Indeed, as the situation in Ukraine has shown, the EU cannot stay dependent or have a flawed energy supply chain. And so, as Brussels works toward transitioning to renewable energy sources and reducing carbon emissions, it also needs to keep a pragmatic approach.

One thing is clear, there needs to be trust and boldness in the future of the EU in order to answer these challenges. The bloc must recalibrate its strategies and tactics while focusing on innovation. It needs to double down on its values and core mission. This means taking a bold step toward a unified foreign policy voice. It is the only way forward to protect the interests of all EU countries, and turn the old continent into a new power.

– Arab News

Guardians of the horizon: PAF's enduring legacy of skyward excellence

Shaza Arif

The ascent of airpower was not the only seismic shift in modern warfare. The dawn of the nuclear age brought with it a reimagining of destruction on an unprecedented scale. During the Cold War, the deterrence theory reigned supreme, suggesting that the sheer destructive potential of nuclear weapons could prevent outright conflict. This perspective positioned nuclear capabilities at the pinnacle of airpower, overshadowing its other diverse roles. However, regional conflicts like the Indo-Pak War of 1965 and the Arab-Israeli war of 1967 offered poignant reminders of airpower's multifaceted

Airpower has steadily ascended in its significance in the annals of warfare. From its nascent stages in World War I, where it showcased its potential in counter-air measures, support for ground forces, and strategic bombing, to its maturation between the wars. Notably, this interwar period was not just about technological advancement but a deepening understanding of airpower theory. By World War II, airpower's myriad roles – from air support, interdiction of supply lines, and escort missions to troop deliveries and long-range bombardment – cemented its place as a crucial military tool. As a result, global leaders increasingly recognised and integrated airpower into their broader military strategies.

The ascent of airpower was not the only seismic shift in modern warfare. The dawn of the nuclear age brought with it a reimagining of destruction on an unprecedented scale. During the Cold War, the deterrence theory reigned supreme, suggesting that the sheer destructive potential of nuclear weapons could prevent outright conflict. This perspective positioned nuclear capabilities at the pinnacle of airpower, overshadowing its other diverse roles. However, regional conflicts like the Indo-Pak War of 1965 and the Arab-Israeli war of 1967 offered poignant reminders of airpower's multifaceted significance. These wars underscored not only the artful application of airpower across various roles but also emphasised the pivotal role of training and leadership. In these instances, smaller air forces, perceived as underdogs, managed to outmanoeuvre and outperform their numerically superior adversaries, proving that expertise and strategy could tilt the scales of war. The Indo-Pak War of 1965 marks an important chapter in the history of the subcontinent. While brief, the conflict offers valuable insights, especially about the potent role of airpower and its strategic application. As the war broke out, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) was well-

equipped with American-supplied F-104 Starfighters, F-86 Sabres, B-57 bombers and a high-altitude reconnaissance squadron of RB-57. With a keen insight about Indian activities, the PAF was put on high alert by then-Air Chief, Air Marshal Nur Khan, days before the conflict began. Leadership and professionalism played a decisive role in responding to the enemy's incursions and countering the threat posed by its superior forces. Despite a considerable disparity between the two forces, standing at a ratio of 3:1, the rigorous training and tactical prowess shone through, enabling Pakistan to outmanoeuvre a conventionally larger Indian Air Force (IAF). By the end of the conflict, the IAF had lost 66 aircraft, whereas the PAF lost 12 F-86s, 1 F-104 and 3 B-57s. Heroic actions of the PAF officers stand as a testament to the inherent professionalism and motivation embedded within the service. Notable amongst them were Squadron Leader Sarfaraz Rafiqi and Flight Lieutenant Imtiaz Bhatti, whose swift and strategic actions enabled them to destroy four Indian Vampire aircraft on the eve of the war. Following these setbacks, the IAF was compelled to withdraw 80 Vampires and an additional 50 Ouragons from frontline duties. This move dramatically diminished their operational strength by a substantial 35%. A pivotal turn in the conflict occurred when Squadron Leader MM Alam, piloting his F-86, downed 5 Indian Hawker Hunter aircraft, despite the latter's technological advantage. Remarkably, he achieved this feat in just 30 seconds, not only marking a decisive moment in the battle but also setting a world record.

Such heroism by the PAF extends beyond the confines of the '65 War. Legendary fighter pilot Saiful Azam will always be remembered for his courageous achievements in both the 1965 War and the 1967 Arab-Israel War, where he became the only fighter pilot who downed four Israeli aircraft – an unparalleled feat and another

world record. The truest embodiment of bravery, loyalty and sacrifice for the nation would surface again in 1971 through the actions of a 20-year-old Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas. In a selfless act, he thwarted the hijacking of a PAF plane by a defecting officer, sacrificing his own life. The prestigious Nishan-e-Haider remains an emblem of his wholehearted commitment to the motherland. Another notable instance is that of Flight Lieutenant Sattar Alvi. Deployed in 1973 to aid the Syrian Air Force against Israeli incursions, Alvi expertly piloted a Syrian MiG-21, managing to down an Israeli Mirage fighter jet. In a recent chapter from 2019, the PAF's proficiency was underscored when they downed an Indian MiG-21 and Su-30 on February 27th, responding to India's aggressive actions a day earlier, known as the Balakot strike. While Pakistan executed its operation flawlessly, the Indian side experienced a fratricide incident, highlighting current vulnerabilities in the IAF's defence strategy. PAF's befitting response showcased the continued relevance of the pivotal role of airpower in Indo-Pak's strategic calculus.

Throughout its storied history, the PAF has stood as a bulwark against a numerically superior foe, its strength derived from visionary leadership, judicious use of advanced technology, meticulous training, and an undying commitment to defending the nation's skies. To any adversary who might underestimate them: the PAF's legacy of excellence isn't merely a chapter in history – it is a continuous narrative, echoing with resilience and determination, ensuring that Pakistan's skies remain secure now and for generations to come.

The writer is a Research Assistant at the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, Pakistan. She can be reached at: cass.thinkers@casstt.com

Keywords: Pakistan, India, 1965, Air Power, 6 September, Defence Day.



Independence Day of Uzbekistan

'REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY'

Trans-Afghan railway to connect Uzbekistan with Pakistan



THE Trans-Afghan Highway initiative was launched in 2018. In February 2021, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan signed a roadmap in Tashkent to construct the Mazar-i-Sharif-Kabul-Peshawar railway. In January 2022, it approved a route for the highway. The expedition work began in July 2022 to determine the route of the Trans-Afghan railway and a feasibility study for the project. A project office for coordinating the construction of the proposed Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan railway opened its doors on May 12 in Tashkent. The office will coordinate the development of a feasibility study for the trans-Afghan railway line. The infrastructure would connect Central Asia, via Afghanistan, with the 230mn-strong market of Pakistan and will bring the regions to a higher level of development. On July 18, 2023 Uzbekistan, Pakistan and Afghanistan signed a joint protocol to connect the Uzbek rail network with Pakistan Railways. The route for this connection will pass through Termez in Uzbekistan, Mazar-i-Sharif and Logar in Afghanistan, and culminate in Pakistan via the Kharachi border crossing in Kurram. This route was finalised in a meeting of a trilateral working group of the three countries on the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan railways project.

in Islamabad. This was the second meeting of the working group since January this year. This railway project would not only facilitate regional, transit, and bilateral trade amongst participating countries, but would also provide better people-to-people connections in the entire region. The line would contribute to regional trade and economic growth. The three countries also agreed on a roadmap for conducting technical studies, financing sources, and other key aspects for the early implementation of the project. The countries appreciated the professional work of the experts of the three railway networks in achieving a consensus on the final route and its implementation modalities. Uzbekistan estimates that the 760 km railroad is expected to reduce delivery times of cargo between Uzbekistan and Pakistan by about five days. At the same time, the cost of goods transport would also be reduced by at least 40 per cent. It has been estimated that the project would be completed by the end of 2027 and trains could be able to carry goods up to 15 million tons yearly by 2030. The three countries have already signed a roadmap strategic plan to construct a new 573 km Trans-Afghan railway that will connect Central Asia with ports on the Arabian Sea. The agreement provides for conducting a joint expedi-

tion to survey the route and its terrain as well as a preliminary feasibility study for the project. On August 26-27, 2023, the Minister of Transport of the Republic of Uzbekistan Ilkhom Makhkamov and the Special Representative of the President of Uzbekistan for Afghanistan Ismatulla Irgashev visited Afghanistan. During the trip, an expedition along the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan road route took place. The situation on this route, the Salang pass connecting Kabul with Northern Afghanistan (Mazar-i-Sharif), and the Torkham border checkpoint on the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan were studied. At the bilateral talks, the issues of forming an international transport corridor for access through Afghanistan and Pakistan to the ports of the Indian Ocean, strengthening cooperation between the transport logistics enterprises of the two states, creating favorable conditions for international road carriers, including lifting restrictions on transit through Afghanistan and cargo transportation to other destinations were discussed. Following the meeting, the parties agreed to mobilize all opportunities for the development of transit cargo transportation between the two countries, the press service of the Ministry of Transport reports.

Business development guidelines outlined during the Dialogue with the President



FROM PAGE 03

When an entrepreneur invests 10% in a small business project, the Business Development Bank will invest 45%, and the remaining 45% will be allocated by the State. Loans will be provided to entrepreneurs on preferential terms for a period of 5-7 years. From October 1, credit lines for \$150 million of these funds will be opened. With the launch of a new small business project, all taxes received from it will be transferred to the Business Development Bank for working capital within two years. In general, this system will help 150 thousand small businesses to get back on their feet, 25 thousand will be able to move to the middle category, 250 thousand new permanent jobs will be created. Initiatives related to the development of medium-sized businesses. Despite the fact that medium-sized businesses are an important link in our economy, nevertheless, the conditions for its dynamic growth are not yet sufficient, since only the Entrepreneurship Fund provides guarantees or compensation for commercial loans. Therefore, new approaches will also be established to support entrepreneurs who want to move from small to medium-sized businesses and the activities and working methods of existing business support funds will radically change. The Entrepreneurship Fund will be responsible for providing financial assistance to projects in the field of services and services, "green" and energy-efficient projects, and the Industrial Development Fund for industrial projects. These funds will not be limited to budgetary means alone, but will receive powers to independently attract investments, due to which they will attract an additional \$1 billion for medium-sized businesses next year. From September 1, loans at a rate of 5% in foreign currency and at a rate of 10% in national currency for 10 years period will be allocated from the newly created Industrial Development Fund to finance new projects, loans for working capital for up to 1 year in foreign currency at 4% rate and at 10% rate in national currency. At the same time, the fund will also provide 15% advance payments for imported equipment in the form of a loan. An industrial mortgage system will also be established, production sites in the form of a "ready-made business" will be built and transferred to entrepreneurs. In particular, at least 3 new industrial zones will be created in each region, in which it is allowed to privatize land plots after fulfilling investment obligations. The Entrepreneurship Fund will be responsible for the service sector and will be given the authority to enter medium-sized businesses as a participant. For this purpose, an additional \$25 million will be allocated to the Fund this year, and another \$100 million next year. At the same time, it also issues a guarantee for a loan in foreign currency for medium-sized businesses.

The Fund will introduce a system of "mortgage services" in the fields of tourism, trade and services. These two new systems will be fully launched from October 1. Next year, 2,000 new projects for medium-sized businesses in industry and 10,000 in the service sector will be financed, which will allow additional services to be provided for \$1 billion, new products to be produced for \$5 billion and 350,000 new jobs to be created. Competitive products will enter new markets. Last year, the program "New Uzbekistan - a country of competitive products" was launched, 100 leading exporting enterprises were selected, as a result of which the exports of these enterprises will increase by 1.5 times this year. At the same time, due to the situation in the international arena, logistics costs have increased 3-4 times. Therefore, an additional \$100 million will be allocated to compensate for their logistics costs. Another \$25 million will be allocated for the certification of products abroad, the introduction of international standards and the training of specialists in this field. This year, this program will continue, the number of participating enterprises will be increased to 500, all benefits under the program will be preserved for them.

Simplification of tax administration. Over the past 7 years of tax reforms, benefits and preferences granted to entrepreneurs, they have more than 120 trillion sums at their disposal. According to the conducted surveys, 62% of entrepreneurs positively assessed the reforms in the tax sphere, but tax administration remains difficult, there are cases of interference in business and corruption in the system. From now on, the tax authority will be radically reformed, and tax administration will be simplified. The majority of value-added tax payers have declared an unfair application of the tax deduction coefficient for tax refunds, that is, the "tax-gap" system. Starting from October 1, 2023, when the value added tax is refunded, this practice will be canceled.

An open rating of entrepreneurs will be introduced. At the same time, starting from January 1, 2024, enterprises with a high rating will be exempt from all types of tax audits, they will be refunded an excessive part of the value added tax within one day, the practice of temporarily suspending the validity of the certificate of the value added tax payer will be abolished. All disputes between entrepreneurs and tax authorities will be transferred to the jurisdiction of the administrative court, and any restrictions on entrepreneurs filing complaints directly to the court will be lifted. The deadline for filing a claim against entrepreneurs for tax will be reduced from the current 5 years to 3 years. At present, entrepreneurs are required to submit about 8 thousand indicators to 16 state bodies within the framework of more than 140 reports. As a result, 500 thousand entrepreneurs annually spend 300 billion sums on preparing such various reports. In this regard, from January 1, 2024, outdated reports will be discontinued, all reports will be submitted through a single electronic system, and their paper form will be canceled.

Conclusion: In conclusion, it should be said that if, following the results of the President's Dialogue with entrepreneurs last year, the transition to targeted support of business was indicated based on its characteristics and regional conditions of activity, then the results of work in this direction during the year have already fully confirmed the effectiveness of this approach. Nevertheless, during the dialogue held on August 18 this year, much larger and more ambitious tasks were set - to create a single comprehensive business development system that will stimulate the growth of successful enterprises from micro to small, from small to medium, from medium to large, producing highly competitive products on the world market.

And it is the targeting and individuality of support for all types of businesses in all regions that is a necessary condition for such an evolution and the successful development of the most competitive enterprises. This is necessary in order for the economy of Uzbekistan to maintain sufficiently high growth rates, without which it is impossible to ensure a decent increase in the standard of living of citizens. And therefore, it was quite natural to award 44 entrepreneurs with honors and medals on the Entrepreneur's Day, and 126 with the badge "Faol Tadbirkor".

Uzbek cuisine: Palov – the head of everything

IN Uzbekistan, there is a saying that guests can leave the house only after they have tasted the pilaf prepared by the owners. Pilaf or, as it is called in Uzbekistan - palov, is a traditional dish that every resident of Uzbekistan should be able to prepare. This delicious food is made from very simple ingredients: rice, meat, spices, carrots and onions. Pilaf is served as an everyday and holiday dish, especially for such events as a wedding, return from a pilgrimage, birth of a child, anniversary, funeral, and as an aid to those in need. The history of pilaf goes back to the ancient times. It is believed that a guest who has visited Uzbekistan and has not tasted real Uzbek pilaf, did not know the essence of Uzbek culture and hospitality. Uzbek pilaf is a dish of true gourmets and connoisseurs of Oriental cuisine. There are more than 100 pilaf recipes in the world, and Uzbekistan boasts of its own branded versions. In each region of Uzbekistan pilaf is prepared according to the unique recipes. For example, in Tashkent holiday pilaf "Bayram Osh" is prepared, in Andijan the rolls from grape leaves are added to pilaf ("Kovatok palov"), in Khiva dietetic version of pilaf is cooked ("Chalov"). However, few people know about the history of pilaf. An ancient legend tells about the origin of the word "palov", which is associated with the name of the great Avicenna. In fact, palov is an abbreviation consisting of the capital letters of the dish's ingredients: P-piyoz-onion, A-ayoz-carrot, L-lahm - meat, O-olio - oil, V-vet - salt.

Once, the son of Bukhara ruler met a beautiful girl from a poor family. Because of class inequality, their marriage was impossible. Suffering from an unhappy love, the Prince weakened and lost interest in life and food. Then his father invites the famous physician Abu Ali Ibn Sino (Avicenna). He asked to find out the cause of this disease and cure the young heir. After examination, Ibn Sino realized that the cause of the young man's illness was unhappy love. Ibn Sino told the ruler that there are 2 options to bring his son back to life: the first option is to marry the young man to his loved girl; the second option is to feed him one very high - calorie drug of seven ingredients called "palov". After feeding the Prince this dish, Avicenna saw that his patient felt an unexpected surge of strength. Since that time the palov became widely used by the people and turned from the medicinal drug into a regular dish during the wide feasts and celebrations. An old Eastern proverb



says: "A good pilaf needs a hot fire, a cauldron with rice and meat, and ... love". Indeed, there are some subtleties in the preparation of pilaf. For example, the meat should be washed only in running water, and the rice should be carefully sorted, lightly rubbing it between the palms. The oil is poured into the cauldron after it is properly heated, then the fire is reduced and meat, onions, carrots and spices are put into the cauldron - it turns out "Zirvak". When "Zirvak" is ready, rice is poured into the cauldron. The pilaf is very tasty on the open fire. In Uzbekistan pilaf has been an indispensable part of the ritual of family celebrations for a long time. Indeed, pilaf unites people, strengthens relationships, gives life, and supports health and immunity - it must be a reason why Avicenna has recommended it. The culture and tradition of pilaf cooking was included into the list of UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2016.

Uzbekistan: Miri Arab Madrasah



BLESSED Bukhara- the center of Islamic culture and ancient history of Uzbekistan. Over the course of two thousand years of history, this city has witnessed great historical events and brutal bloody battles. One of these battles took place in 1511-1512 between the troops of Timurid Babur and the Uzbek Khan Sheibanikhan. In November 1512, near Gijduvan, the Uzbek army prevailed over the united army of Muhammad Babur. The ruler of Bukhara was appointed the winner of the Battle of Gijduvan Ubaydullah Khan, the nephew of Muhammad Sheibani Khan, a connoisseur of the Koran, a talented poet and patron of scientists. It was under Ubaydullah Khan that the real flourishing of Bukhara took place, the city acquired its own unique architectural style. In 1514, the Kalon Cathedral mosque, built under Karakhanid Arslan Khan (1102-1130), one of the largest in Transoxiana, was restored until 1404, when the construction of the Bibi-Khanim mosque in Samarkand, built by Temur's grandson Ulugbek, was completed. By order of Ubaydullah Khan, the facade of the mosque was decorated with a grandiose peshtak and a new mihrab was installed. Not far from the Bibi-Khanim Mosque in 1530, the construction of the Miri Arab madrasah was started, which surpassed the size of the Ulughbek madrasah in Samarkand. The new madrasah was named after an Arab scholar, a native of Yemen, Amir Abdullah al-Yamani, a disciple of the influential Naqshbandi Sheikh Khoja Ahrar and spiritual mentor of Ubaydullah Khan.

Today, Miri Arab Madrasah is part of the Poi-Kalon architectural ensemble, which includes the Kalon Mosque and minaret and the Emir Alimkhan Madrasah. The main facade of the madrasah looks at the Kalon minaret. The entrance to the madrasah is decorated with a majestic and ornate peshtak with a deep niche, massive guldasta towers are located on the edges of the facade. If you enter through the main entrance on the right, you can see the marble tomb of Sheikh Abdullah al-Yamani and the supposed burial place of Ubaydullah Khan himself. In 1943, the Kurultai of Muslim ulema in Tashkent established the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, whose chairman was appointed Sheikh Eshon Babakhan ibn Abdulmazzhidkhan. It was through the efforts of the sheikh in 1945 that the Miri Arab madrasah was restored and received the status of an educational institution. The madrasah was a prestigious educational institution at the time. The teaching in the Miri-Arab madrasah lasted 9 years, during which both religious and secular subjects were studied. Graduates of the Miri Arab Madrasah at various times were famous spiritual and political leaders, muftis. The size of the structure was quite large, it included 111 living rooms for students, as well as 2 large halls. Educational lectures and Friday services were held in one of them, and there were the tombs of Sheikh Sayyid Abdullah and Ubaidulla Khan emir in another. The Madrasah has a decoration in the form of a mosaic, consisting of a white ceramic mass, that is, the kashin itself. And the image of the patterns on such ceramics made them very bright and slightly shiny, which added a special beauty to its appearance. Vegetable and geometric patterns prevail in the external decoration of the madrasah, and the domes are covered with blue tiles. The Miri-Arab madrasah is included in the UNESCO World Heritage. Nowadays the madrasah is operational, and it gathers many tourists and believing Muslims who come to weekly Friday prayer like many centuries ago.

Briefs

Liverpool
reject £150m
Al-Ittihad
offer for
Salah

RIYADH : Liverpool have rejected a £150m offer for forward Mohamed Salah from Saudi Pro League side Al-Ittihad. The bid for the 31-year-old was for in excess of £100m, with additions taking it up to £150m. Liverpool remain insistent the Egyptian international is not for sale, and that is final as far as the club are concerned. Salah, who joined the Reds from Italian side Roma in 2017, signed a new three-year contract last summer. Live transfer deadline day: All the news, rumours, analysis and reaction transfers - all the done deals on deadline day. Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said last week that Salah was "100% committed" to the Anfield cause, and on Friday he reiterated the club's stance that the player was not for sale. "The position remains the same. Absolutely no doubt about that. That's how it is. Nothing else to say," said Klopp. The player's agent has previously dismissed talk of a move to Saudi Arabia but has not responded following the latest links with Al-Ittihad. "Mohamed remains committed to Liverpool," agent Rami Abbas Issa wrote in a social media post on 7 August. —DNA

President
suggests
nine-month
transition for
Niger junta

NIAMEY : Nigerian President Bola Tinubu on Thursday floated the idea of a transition back to democracy in neighboring Niger similar to the nine-month period his country underwent in the late 1990s. The Economic Community of West African States has imposed sanctions on Niger after troops ousted President Mohamed Bazoum in a coup on July 26 and the bloc threatened military intervention as a last resort if talks fail to restore civilian rule. In a statement on Thursday, the bloc insisted it wanted Bazoum back in power right away. "The military authorities in Niger must restore constitutional order immediately by liberating and reinstating... President Mohamed Bazoum," it said. Niger's new military leaders have dug in, saying they want a maximum three-year transition period to restore constitutional order and have ordered police to expel France's envoy as tensions build with a key partner in Niger's anti-jihadist fight. Late on Thursday, Niger's interior ministry announced it was stopping UN agencies, NGOs and international organizations from working in military "operation zones." It did not specify which regions were affected, but said the measures were "due to the current security situation." "All activities and movements in the zones of operations are temporarily suspended," it said. Tinubu said Nigeria returned to civilian rule in 1999 after a nine-month transition period instituted by former military head of state General Abdulsalam Abubakar, who has also headed delegations to meet the Niger junta. —APP

Israeli forces
raid WB
town: 1 killed,
3 injured

TUBA : One Palestinian was killed and three others were injured on Friday when the Israeli army raided a town in the northern West Bank. The Israeli forces stormed the town of Akkaba in the Tubas district of the West Bank, and surrounded a house, according to eyewitnesses. The residents of the town reacted when Israeli soldiers demanded that the Palestinians inside the besieged house surrender. A conflict erupted between Israeli soldiers and armed individuals in the region, and some Palestinians were detained by the soldiers. Four Palestinians were injured by Israeli forces' gunfire during the clashes in Akkaba town, local hospital sources said. One of the injured being treated at Tubas Turkish Hospital lost his life, the Palestinian Ministry of Health announced. —APP

Kyrgyzstan keen to expand
ties with Pakistan : Envoy

He said, Kyrgyzstan today is actively developing project on construction of railway connection "China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan". This initiative will contribute to the increase of the level of connectivity in our region

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan Olanbek Totuaev has said on August 31, 1991 Kyrgyzstan gained its independence and nowadays is on the path of pursuing sustainable development goals, implementing significant reforms and taking steps for growth in all spheres. Kyrgyzstan is comparatively young country, but the history of the Kyrgyz nation lasts for more than 3000 years. Our nation within this long period has achieved lots of successes, as well as periods of decline. As one of the most outstanding of them, I can point out the creation of the great Kyrgyz Khaganate. He made these remarks while speaking on the occasion of the Independence Day of Kyrgyzstan. Federal Minister for Culture Jamal Shah was the chief guest. The ambassador further said, today Kyrgyzstan is actively developing state, which is intending to build strong in-



terconnections with its foreign partners, create stable and prosperous economy and grow its value on the international arena. The legislation of my country is being permanently modernized,

we are adopting new initiatives and actively implementing digital technologies in all spheres in order to grow the efficiency of all interstate processes. 'My country is following the path of multivectoral

foreign policy, aimed to develop mutually beneficial relations with all its international partners. We are interested in building fruitful partnership with all nations, especially in terms of people-to-peo-

ple contacts, as well as cultural and humanitarian linkages". He said, Kyrgyzstan today is actively developing project on construction of railway connection "China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan". This initiative will contribute to the increase of the level of connectivity in our region. He added, Kyrgyz people are looking forward to strengthen ties with brotherly people of Pakistan, taking into account deep common history, single religion and numerous cultural similarities. The bilateral relations between Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan are described as friendly, also have a rich history and many things in common from the perspective of religion, culture, language and traditions. For the last years our countries have organized significant number of visits on different levels, are actively cooperating within the framework of various regional and international organizations. I am confident that by our joint efforts, we can build prosperous and developed region for the future of our nations.

Thailand's
king reduces
prison term
of former PM

BANGKOK : Thailand's king on Friday reduced the prison term of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra from eight years to a single year following the divisive politician's return from 15 years of self-imposed exile. The decision by King Maha Vajiralongkorn was published in the Royal Gazette, making it effective immediately. Thailand is a constitutional monarchy, giving the king the final word on pardons of convicted criminals. The decree granting Thaksin, 74, royal clemency said the action was taken so he could use his knowledge and abilities to help the nation and its people. Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam, who is also acting justice minister, said on Thursday he had received a letter from Thaksin requesting a royal pardon, mainly on medical grounds. Thaksin was ousted as prime minister in a military coup in 2006 and accused of corruption, abuse of power and disrespecting the monarchy. He fled Thailand in 2008 when he faced prison term on charges he described as politically motivated. By promoting populist policies and using his telecommunications fortune to build his own political party, he had been elected prime minister in 2001 and was easily re-elected in 2005. Thailand's traditional royalist ruling class felt threatened by his popularity. — Agencies

Putin will host Turkish leader
to repair Ukraine grain deal

FOREIGN DESK

MOSCOW : Russian President Vladimir Putin will host Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan for talks in Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi on Monday, the Kremlin announced Friday, just over six weeks after Moscow broke off a deal partly brokered by Ankara that allowed Ukrainian grain to reach world markets despite the 18-month war. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov announced the talks Friday, ending weeks of speculation about when and where the two leaders might meet next as international efforts continue to patch up the Black Sea Grain Initiative which got grain and other food to Africa, the Middle East and Asia where hunger is a growing threat. Turkey, together with the United Nations, brokered a deal



in July 2022 that allowed Ukraine to ship grain and other foodstuffs from three Black Sea ports. A separate memorandum between the U.N. and Russia, agreed at the same time, pledged to overcome obstacles to Moscow's shipment of food and fertilizer to world markets. US hits North Korean and Russian accused of supporting North Korea's ballistics missile program.

A view of the grave of Dmitry Utkin, who oversaw Wagner Group's military operations, at the Federal Military Cemetery in Mytishchy, outside Moscow, Russia, Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023. Utkin, whose military call sign Wagner gave the name to the group, is presumed to have died in a plane crash along with Wagner's owner Yevgeny Prigozhin and other military company's

officers was buried at the Federal Military Memorial Cemetery in Mytishchy, outside Moscow on Thursday. (AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko) The Wagner mercenary group's second-in-command is buried in a quiet Moscow ceremony. However, Russia pulled out of the deals earlier this year, claiming that its conditions hadn't been met. On Thursday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov hosted his Turkish counterpart for talks in Moscow. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres sent Russia a new proposal in hopes of reviving the deal but it didn't satisfy Moscow's demands, Lavrov said then. Lavrov said he had given Ankara a list of actions that the West would have to take in order to resume Ukrainian grain and fertilizer shipments. Talks between Putin and Erdogan could help unlock that.

Bodies'
identification
difficult in SA fire

DNA

JOHANNESBURG : Emergency services teams have left the scene of one of South Africa's deadliest inner-city fires and pathologists faced the grisly task Friday of identifying dozens of charred bodies and some body parts that have been transported to several mortuaries across the city of Johannesburg. That will establish whether the death toll of 74 rises following Thursday's pre-dawn blaze at a derelict downtown apartment building that was inhabited by mainly homeless people and others who found themselves marginalized in one of Africa's biggest cities. Emergency services personnel conducted three searches through all five stories of the building and believe that all bodies and body parts have been removed from the scene, Johannesburg Emergency Services spokesperson Nana Radebe said. Radebe said the building - now a burned out shell - has been handed over to the police and forensic investigators, who will conduct their own searches. Medics stand by the covered bodies of victims of a deadly blaze in downtown Johannesburg, Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023. Dozens died when a fire ripped through a multi-story building in Johannesburg, South Africa's biggest city, emergency services said Thursday. (AP Photo/Jerome Delay) At least 74 are dead, many of them homeless, as fire rips through a rundown building in South Africa. In Johannesburg, South Africa, Thursday, Aug. 24, 2023. The BRICS leaders announced that they would welcome six new members in January 2024.

Economic
concerns
grow in UK

LONDON : The UK's manufacturing sector on Friday experienced a significant decline in activity, reaching its lowest point since the initial COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns. According to the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), this downturn is second in severity only to the first lockdown in May 2020 and rivals the conditions witnessed during the global financial crisis of 2008-2009, as reported by S&P Global. In August, the PMI plummeted to 43 points, down from July's 45.3, falling well below the crucial threshold of 50. — APP

US Open 2023

Andy Murray loses to
Dimitrov in New York

SPORTS DESK

NEW YORK : Andy Murray says he "might need to accept" a long-awaited deep run at a Grand Slam may not ever come after his latest effort was ended in the US Open second round. Former world number one Murray, 36, lost 6-3 6-4 6-1 against 19th seed Grigor Dimitrov in New York. Murray, ranked 37th, has not reached the last 16 of a major since resuming his career after hip surgery in 2019. "It's unbelievably challenging to play at the highest level," he said. "It's obviously disappointing



to not play how you would like. "Maybe I need to accept the deep runs and everything that I felt I'm capable of, they might not

win Murray still enjoying 'the work' despite setbacks. Putting together a run at a major was Murray's prime target this season as the three-time Grand Slam champion continues in the twilight of his career. The Scot reached the Australian Open third round in January and, after skipping the French Open, lost in the Wimbledon second round last month. Despite these setbacks at the majors, Murray has continued on an upward trajectory and recently moved up to his highest ranking since his comeback four years ago. "I still enjoy everything that goes into it.

Pope visits Mongolia to boost
relations with China, Russia

There, they provide care for elderly people with mental or physical disabilities, or who are homeless, undocumented, or otherwise ostracized by their families.

NEWS DESK

ULAANBAATAR : It's the first time a pope has visited the landlocked Asian country and comes at a time when the Vatican's relations with Mongolia's two powerful neighbors, Russia and China, are once again strained. Francis arrived in the Mongolian capital Ulaanbaatar after an overnight flight passing through Chinese airspace, affording the pontiff a rare opportunity to send a note of greetings to President Xi Jinping. Vatican protocol calls for the pope to send such greetings whenever he flies over a foreign country. In his message to Xi, Francis expressed "greetings of good wishes to your excellency and the people of

China." "Assuring you of my prayers for the wellbeing of the nation, I invoke upon all of you the divine blessings of unity and peace," Francis said. Speaking to reporters en route to Mongolia late Thursday, Francis said he was looking forward to visiting a country that has just a few people, but with a culture that you need your senses to understand. "There are only a few inhabitants - a small people, but a big culture," he said aboard the ITA charter plane. "I think it will do us good to try to understand this long, big silence, understand what it means but not intellectually, but with senses." He added: "Mongolia, you understand with your senses." On tap are official meetings with

the Mongolian president and prime minister and a speech before Mongolian government, cultural and business leaders, followed by Francis' first encounter with the bishops, priests and nuns who form the backbone of a tiny Catholic community of 1,450 that has only been in existence for a generation. Three decades of religious freedom While Christianity has been present in the region for hundreds of years, the Catholic Church has only had a sanctioned presence in Mongolia since 1992, after the country shrugged off its Soviet-allied communist government and enshrined religious freedom in its constitution. The Holy See and Mongolia have had diplomatic relations ever since,

and a handful of missionary religious orders including Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity have nurtured the tiny community through its first three decades of life. Four Missionaries of Charity sisters - Jeanne Francoise from Rwanda; Chanmi from South Korea; Viera from Slovakia and Suder from India - run a nursing home on the northern outskirts of Ulaanbaatar with a capacity of 30 beds. There, they provide care for elderly people with mental or physical disabilities, or who are homeless, undocumented, or otherwise ostracized by their families. Sister Jeanne Francoise said it was an honor that Francis was coming to Mongolia, saying she had seen him once before when she was living in Rome.

IESCO ISLAMABAD ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY (IESCO)						
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)						
(TENDER Notice No.03 IESCO/CIVIL/NCB-05 to 09)						
IESCO invites sealed bids from the contractor Registered with Pakistan Engineering Council and renewed for the year 2023-24. Single Stage Single Envelope Bidding procedure as per below mentioned detail, under National Competitive Bidding (NCB) basis in accordance with Provisions of PPRA Rules.						
EXECUTION OF SMALLER CIVIL WORKS & SPECIAL REPAIR WORKS IN IESCO REGION.						
T No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs)	Comp. Period	Tender Sale Closing Date & its price (Rs.2000.00) upto 1500 Hrs	Bid Submission Date & Time	Bid Opening Date & Time
05	CONSTRUCTION OF 01 NO ROOM ALONG WITH VERANDA AND P/F FILTRATION PLANT AT IESCO COLONY 132 KV GRID STATION S/TOWN RAWALPINDI	=3046895.00	120 Days	19.09.2023 (Rs.2000.00) upto 1500 Hrs	21.09.2023 11:00 AM	21.09.2023 11:30 AM
06	CONSTRUCTION OF 01 NO ROOM ALONG WITH VERANDA AND P/F FILTRATION PLANT AT IESCO COLONY 132 KV GRID STATION KTM RAWALPINDI	=3046895.00	120 Days	19.09.2023 (Rs.2000.00) upto 1500 Hrs	21.09.2023 11:00 AM	21.09.2023 11:30 AM
07	CONSTRUCTION OF 01 NO ROOM ALONG WITH VERANDA AND P/F FILTRATION PLANT AT IESCO COLONY MARRIR HASSAN RAWALPINDI	=3046895.00	120 Days	19.09.2023 (Rs.2000.00) upto 1500 Hrs	21.09.2023 11:00 AM	21.09.2023 11:30 AM
08	CONSTRUCTION OF 01 NO ROOM ALONG WITH VERANDA AND P/F FILTRATION PLANT AT IESCO COLONY KALA GUIRAN JHELUUM	=3046895.00	120 Days	19.09.2023 (Rs.2000.00) upto 1500 Hrs	21.09.2023 11:00 AM	21.09.2023 11:30 AM
09	CONSTRUCTION OF 01 NO ROOM ALONG WITH VERANDA AND P/F FILTRATION PLANT AT IESCO COLONY RAJAR	=3046895.00	120 Days	19.09.2023 (Rs.2000.00) upto 1500 Hrs	21.09.2023 11:00 AM	21.09.2023 11:30 AM

ELIGIBILITY

- This Invitation for Bid is open to all Bidders meeting the following requirements:
- Tenders documents, will be issued from the office of Executive Engineer Civil Division IESCO Street No.63 Sector G-8/1 Islamabad on any working day, during the office hours on the presentation of written request on original letter pad of the firm from the owner of the firm(s) or their authorized representative(s) original CNIC having valid original power of attorney on stamp paper not older than six months.
- Pakistan Engineering Council Registration renewed for year 2023-24 with at least Category C-6 having Specialization Code of CE-10.
- A Bidder may be in person, private entity, or government-owned enterprise or any combination who is active tax payer.
- The bidder/JV shall have furnished income tax returns for current year to FBR.
- Bidder will provide the fresh bank balance of firm upto 50% of estimate cost.

Terms & Conditions:

- Presentation of false / wrong documents will be strictly discouraged and their CDR shall be forfeited besides black listing.
- The tender documents will not be issued to the contractors who have already been working in this office and they have not completed their works yet for the year 2022-23 within stipulated period.
- Deposit Earnest Money Rs.91407.91407.91407.91407/- in the form of CDR in favor of Executive Engineer Civil IESCO shall also be submitted in this office before purchase the tender form and alongwith tender form.
- The successful bidder will be produce 10% of contract price in shape of pay order / Bank guarantee/CDR performance security before signing the contract agreement.
- Tender Opening Committee reserves the rights to reject the one or all tender under PPRA rule 33 (1).

1. Tenders are also available at PPRA / IESCO website.

Note: The Tenders document will be obtained from the publication of Tender advertisement date till 19.09.2023 upto 1500 Hrs. PID (I) No. 1427/23

Chief Engineer/Operation Director
IESCO Head Quarter, Islamabad
بجلی بیٹائی
ذمہ داری نبھائی

Briefs

President approves reconstitution of NEC

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday approved reconstitution of the National Economic Council (NEC) a constitutional entity responsible for evaluating the country's economic condition and devising strategies to promote equitable development and regional balance. The president approved the reconstitution of the 13-member body by exercising Article 156 of the Constitution. The Council would be led by Prime Minister with chief ministers of all the provinces and representatives of caretaker governments of the federal government and the provincial governments as its members.

According to a statement issued by the President House press wing, caretaker minister for power, industry, commerce and investment S.M. Tanvir would be the member of the Council from Punjab province, minister for finance, revenue, planning and development Muhammad YunusDhagha would be member of NEC from Sindh province. Similarly minister for finance, excise, taxation and narcotics Ahmed RasoolBangash would be member of the Council from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and minister for finance and revenue Amjad Rasheed from Balochistan. Federal minister for planning, development and special initiatives, minister for communication, railway and maritime affairs, and federal minister for power and petroleum would also be part of the NEC. - APP

Trump's trial will be livestreamed

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump's trial in Georgia over charges of election fraud will be livestreamed and televised, a judge has ruled. All the hearings will be available live on Fulton County Court's YouTube channel, said Judge Scott McAfee. A date for the trial has not yet been set, but it could be next year when Mr Trump is running for re-election. Mr Trump and 18 people are charged with a conspiracy to overturn the state's 2020 presidential election results.

The former Republican president, who faces three other criminal trials, has pleaded not guilty to the 13 charges he faces in Georgia. All proceedings in Fulton County's courts are usually livestreamed. However, it will be the only one of Mr Trump's four trials that will be broadcast, and could be one of the most watched trials in recent years. Mr Trump briefly travelled to Atlanta last week to turn himself in at Fulton County Jail and have his mugshot taken. He has waived the right to appear in court next Wednesday at his arraignment, a short hearing at which the plea is officially entered in court. - Agencies

ATC sends Imaan on judicial remand

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Friday sent human rights lawyer ImaanZainab-Mazari-Hazir on a two-week judicial remand in a terror case. The court also sought the arguments on Mazari's bail petition on Sept 2. She was produced before the court of Judge Abul-Hasnat Muhammad Zulqarnain on Friday after the expiry of her physical remand. Mazari was arrested on Aug 20 on the charges of sedition in Islamabad. She got bail in the sedition case on Aug 28 but was re-arrested within hours in connection with a freshly filed terror case. Her lawyer Zainab-Janjua, public prosecutor Raja Naveed and her mother ShireenMazari were also present in court on Friday. The judge ordered sending Imaan on judicial remand to Adiala Jail. Mazari's legal team filed a bail petition on medical grounds which was also heard by same court.

Air Chief attends graduation ceremony of Turkish Air Force

CAS expressed his unwavering commitment to enhance the existing bilateral ties in military-to-military cooperation with Turkiye especially in the field of defence production, two way sharing of technology and the joint development of fifth generation fighter aircraft

DNA

ANKARA: Consequent to a special invitation by the Turkish Presidency, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force made a landmark visit to Turkiye to attend the prestigious Graduation and Flag Detachment Ceremony, as Guest of Honour, which was held at Turkish Air Force Academy. The ceremony was also attended by H.E Dr Khalid Bin Mohammad Al-Attiyah, Minister of State for Defence & Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Qatar and Colonel General Zakir Hasanov, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, along with senior military commanders and high level state officials from across the world. The Graduation and Flag Detachment Ceremony, held at the Turkish Air Force Academy, is a moment of immense pride and accomplishment for the graduating cadets, as they mark the culmination of their rigorous training and embark on their journey as officers of the Turkish Air Force. The presence of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu as the Guest of Honour adds to the significance of this event and underscores the deep-rooted camaraderie between the two air forces. During the event Chief of the Air Staff interacted with various high-level dignitaries including General Ziya Cemal KADIO LU, Commander of Turkish Air Force. The Air Chief expressed his gratitude to the Turkish President, H.E Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoan, for extending such a warm invitation and reaffirmed Pakistan Air Force's commitment to fostering a robust partnership with the Turkish Air Force. He also emphasized the shared values and aspirations that form the foundation of the deep-rooted friendship between



Pakistan and Turkiye. Chief of the Air Staff expressed his unwavering commitment to enhance the existing bilateral ties in military-to-military cooperation with Turkiye especially in the field of defence production, two way sharing of technology and the joint development of fifth generation fighter aircraft. He also reiterated his resolve to further

deepen the strong bond of friendship that unites the two nations in the face of shared challenges and wished to explore further avenues of collaboration in the defence and aviation sector. A follow up to the recent Strategic Framework Agreement on Defence Collaboration, the visit serves as a testament to the deep-rooted historical, religious, cultural and strategic bonds shared between the two nations. Owing to this strategic framework work, Turkiye's leading firms have already committed to strategic partnership by establishing their offices in the recently inaugurated "Alpha Techno Square" of Pakistan's esteemed National Aerospace Science and Technology Park. Subject framework has the potential to pave the way for enhanced cooperation and exchange across various sectors, particularly in aerospace and technology. The collaboration has also opened doors for joint ventures, technology transfer and knowledge sharing between the two countries, fostering growth and innovation in the aerospace industry. During his trip abroad, CAS also called on General Gabor Bőröndi, Chief of General Staff, Hungarian Defence Forces. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity for military leadership of both sides to engage in fruitful discussions concerning mutual interests, strategic objectives and exploring avenues for enhanced cooperation. The Air Chief conveyed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening the existing partnership between the two countries and exploring possibilities for further collaboration in the defence sector. The historic visit of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu to Turkiye not only strengthens the existing ties between the two brotherly countries but also signifies the enduring commitment of both nations to work collaboratively towards a more secure and prosperous region.

New US CG assumes charge in Peshawar



PESHAWAR: Senior Foreign Service Officer Shante Moore has assumed responsibility as the Consul General at the United States Consulate General in Peshawar. "I am delighted to welcome Shante Moore as our new Consul General in Peshawar," said U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome. "We have a dynamic relationship with the people and government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Consul General Moore brings to Peshawar the experience needed to broaden and deepen our partnerships, and to advance our shared efforts to build for the future and ensure sustainable economic growth that benefits all members of society." Consul General Moore joined the State Department in 2000 and most recently served as the long-term chargé d'affaires and Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) at the US Embassy in Trinidad and Tobago. - DNA

Israeli forces kill Palestinian, injure 3 'Long live Palestinian cause'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM: Israeli military forces have shot dead a Palestinian man and injured at least three others during an incursion in the northeastern part of the occupied West Bank amid a sharp uptick in deadly Israeli military raids and rampages by extremist settlers on Palestinians. The official Palestinian news agency Wafa, citing medical officials, reported that 36-year-old Abdelrahman Fayeze Ghannam was critically shot in the head as Israeli soldiers raided the village of Aqabah early on Friday morning. He was pronounced dead about an hour later. Israeli soldiers reportedly fired live ammunition and tear gas canisters. They surrounded a house belonging to a local resident, identified as Abdel Razzaq Abu Arra, before seriously damaging it with a rocket-propelled grenade. Abu Arra was arrested, along with his son. Residents in the area said there were armed clashes with Israeli forces. Four young men sustained gunshot wounds during the confrontations. Two of them, including Ghannam, were wounded by live ammunition, while the other two were struck by rubber-coated metal bullets. The Israeli forces also arrested members of a family during the raid. They later released three of them but kept one in custody. Israeli forces launch raids on various cities of the West Bank almost on a daily basis under the pretext of detaining what the regime calls "wanted" Palestinians. The raids usually lead to violent confrontations with residents. More than 200 Palestinians have been killed this year in the occupied Palestinian territories and Gaza. The majority of these fatalities have been recorded in the West Bank. - Agencies

TRIPOLI: Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah has vehemently rejected any form of normalization with Israel in his first public remarks after Tripoli received massive popular backlash over a secret meeting between the North African country's top diplomat and her Israeli counterpart. Dbeibah made the statement during a televised ministerial meeting on Thursday after an off-the-record sit-down took place between Libyan Foreign Minister Najla al-Mangoush and her Israeli counterpart Eli Cohen in the Italian capital of Rome last week. Cohen boasted after the meeting about "the great potential" for Tel Aviv and Tripoli to cooperate in various fields. "We affirm our rejection of any form of normalization. Long live Libya, long live Palestine, and long live the Palestinian cause in all of our hearts," Dbeibah said during the televised meeting. Expressing his regret that Mangoush had acted "independently," the Libyan prime minister warned of "harsh measures" after the two foreign ministers' secret meeting, without providing further details. - Agencies

Farrukh strongly condemns re-arrest of Elahi

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) West Punjab President Farrukh Habib strongly condemned the re-arrest of PTI Minister Pervez Elahi despite Lahore High Court's (LHC) clear instructions, prohibiting his detain in any case. PTI West Punjab President made it clear that such brutal tactics would serve no purpose as they could not eliminate the people's love for PTI Chairman Imran Khan in anyway. Reacting to Pervez Elahi's re-arrest, Farrukh Habib said that the PTI President was re-arrested by Islamabad police. He said that Punjab Police played the role of a facilitator in total disregard of the order of the LHC, as the court strictly ordered the force to take him home safely in their custody. Farrukh Habib said that PTI senator Aon Abbas Buppi was kidnapped for 10 days and now his forcefully recorded video statement was releasing announcing quitting PTI. He stated that picking up people, torturing them, keep them in unlawful detentions and then forced them to announce parting ways with the PTI.

Honour killing Man extradited from Pakistan to Italy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A man, who was wanted for murdering his daughter - a Pakistani-Italian citizen - in a case of honour killing, has been arrested from his native village in Pakistan and extradited to Italy for trial. According to the Italian justice minister, Shabar Abbas was apprehended last November on suspicion of killing his 18-year-old daughter, Saman Abbas, who went missing in April 2021 after she refused to travel to Pakistan for an arranged marriage. Carlo Nordio, the Italian justice minister, termed the development a "step forward to allow justice to run its full course after a horrific crime" in a statement. He added that the suspect was on his way to Italy. The teenage victim was identified by dental records after human remains were found near her family home in the northern Italian town of Novellara more than a year after her disappearance. Prosecutors believe that the family was angered when they found out that Abbas had a boyfriend in Italy. They allege she was killed when she returned to the family home to collect some documents after living nearby for a while under the care of social services. The father has denied that his daughter is dead. Her uncle was extradited from France to face trial, along with two of her cousins. - DNA



Drone attack on Pskov airbase from inside Russia: Kyiv

KYIV: The drone attack on an airbase in the Russian city of Pskov on Tuesday was launched from inside Russia, Ukraine's military intelligence chief has said. Kyrylo Budanov said two Ilyushin cargo planes were destroyed and two damaged. Russia says four were damaged. Mr Budanov did not say whether the attack was carried out by Ukrainian or Russian operatives. Ukraine's drone attacks on Russia occur almost daily. It had already admitted the Pskov attack. But Mr Budanov's comments appear to end speculation that it was caused by a long-range weapon. On Thursday President Volodymyr Zelensky said that a Ukrainian-made weapon had hit a target at a distance of 700km. Pskov is nearly 700km (434 miles) from the Ukrainian border. "We are working from the territory of Russia," Mr Budanov told the War Zone website on Thursday, without saying what type or quantity of drones were used. He said the drones targeted the tops of the aircraft - the location of the fuel tanks and a critical section of the wing spar. The damaged aircraft are long-range cargo planes, ideal for transporting troops and equipment over long distances and therefore valuable war assets for Russia. Ukrainian officials are generally tight-lipped about attacks inside Russia, says BBC World Affairs correspondent Paul Adams. But it seems that as the campaign gathers pace, officials in Kyiv are more willing to claim them as part of the country's war effort. Meanwhile drone attacks on several locations in Russia continued overnight Thursday to Friday. Unconfirmed reports say

a factory making electronic parts for rockets in the town of Lyubertsy outside Moscow was hit. However, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said in his Telegram channel that the drones over Lyubertsy were shot down without causing any damage or casualties. As with previous attacks in the Moscow area, a number of flights from Moscow airports were delayed or cancelled on Friday morning. Kursk Region Governor Roman Starovoyt said one residential and one administrative building had been hit in the town of Kurchatov, close to the Kursk nuclear plant. - Agencies

Bomb threats in Kyiv

KYIV: Kyiv police reported bomb threats to the Ukrainian capital's schools on Friday as children returned to classrooms for a second academic year since Russia's all-out invasion. Kyiv's police said its forces were checking educational facilities. "We have received information about explosives in Kyiv's schools," police spokeswoman Yulia Girdvilis told AFP. "All educational institutions are being checked by Kyiv police forces with the involvement of the State Emergency Service." The police force also said any evacuations would be decided by schools and the police, calling on people to "stay calm." Nearly four million students are returning to learning, both virtually and in the classroom, Ukraine's education ministry said. - APP

Iranian envoy condemns increasing blasphemous incidents in EU states

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Iranian Ambassador Reza Amiri-Moghaddam emphasized the distressing trend of increasing incidents that disregard the sanctity of religious symbols, particularly in European nations. Addressing an event titled "Honoring the Holy Quran from the Perspective of Religions and Sects" organized by the Iranian Cultural Consulate in collaboration with Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen here at a local hotel the other day, the Ambassador highlighted the contradiction between championing human rights and the violation of religious sanctity, citing the desecration of the Holy Quran on over six occasions in the past six months. Ambassador Amiri-Moghaddam conveyed his pleasure in joining the assembly of learned individuals and expressed gratitude for their presence on this significant occasion. He extended his appreciation to those who played a role in organizing the event that brought together scholars and devotees from various religious and sectarian backgrounds, including Shia, Sunni, Christian, Sikh, and Hindu, united by a common purpose.

The event, which focused on the honor and reverence of the Holy Quran from a multi-religious perspective, was described by Ambassador Amiri-Moghaddam as timely and relevant. He went on to express his concerns about recent incidents in European countries that had displayed disrespect for the sanctity of the Holy Quran. He pointed out the unfortunate permission granted by the Swedish government for the disrespect of the Holy Quran under the guise of freedom of expression, which he deemed a dangerous precedent. Expressing disappointment over the lack of preventative actions, he raised concerns about similar future occurrences. He asserted that the desecration of the Holy Quran extended beyond a religious issue, presenting it as an affront to all divine scriptures across various faiths. He said the condemnation of this act came from religious leaders globally, including those within Islamic countries, who stood united against such unacceptable behavior. The Ambassador underscored the significance of this issue, considering its implications on the objectives outlined in the United Nations Charter and the principles of mutual coexistence. He pointed to the violation of interna-

tional law that prohibits the propagation of religious hatred. He highlighted the contradiction between these actions and international agreements and human rights principles, citing treaties that prohibit any form of discrimination inciting hatred or undermining equality. The Ambassador labeled the despicable act of disrespecting the Holy Quran as emblematic of an agenda that seeks to fuel discord among Islamic nations. He expressed concerns about the silence of European nations on these matters within their borders, raising questions about their commitment to protecting religious sanctity while upholding freedom of expression. Amid the advancements of technology that amplify humanity's spiritual and ethical capacities, he urged scholars to promote positive discourse. He stressed the need to create an environment where all religions can effectively counteract the trend of disrespect. He emphasized the importance of national and international actions to prevent the recurrence of such acts. Concluding his address, the Ambassador expressed gratitude to the people of Pakistan, scholars and the government for their resolute stance against the disrespect of the Holy Quran.

MURREE SPARKLETTS
Bottled Drinking Water

WATER TASTES BEST IN GLASS!!

CARBONATED WATER ALSO AVAILABLE IN GLASS BOTTLE

330ml, 750ml

For Sales & Supply Contact:

Rizi Abbas 03325599169	Kaiser Waheed 03325808422	Riaz Muhammad 0335 5111043
---------------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------