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**Australian envoy
greet Pakistan on
Independence Day**
**Japanese envoy
greet Pakistan
nation on Ind day**
**Denmark envoy
lauds NAB
performance**


Briefs

Pak women entrepreneurs complete business training

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: More than 100 Pakistani women recently completed a virtual training on how to export their products and explore new international markets as part of a collaborative program conducted by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and several Pakistan Women Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Under this first phase of the program, 115 women from various business and industry sectors completed five online training sessions on "Export Processes and Documentation." Participants increased their understanding of formal export procedures, the role of key stakeholders, export documentation, and international standards. In the second phase, businesses exhibiting strong export potential will receive logistics support to participate in international trade exhibitions, technical assistance to improve export potential and international market access, and mentoring from industry experts. "Owning your own business is a brave and noble endeavor, and for a woman, it can be even more challenging, especially during this devastating pandemic," stated USAID/Pakistan Mission Director Julie Koenen. "We are confident that these virtual training sessions will provide these strong women entrepreneurs with the tools and resources necessary to open new markets internationally to sell their products and provide for their families." Many of the participants praised the training, saying that it is helping them adapt their business models to meet international market standards and practices.

Japanese envoy greets Pak nation



A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Matsuda Kuninori, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, has congratulated the Pakistani people on the occasion of the country's 74th Independence Day, which is marked on August 14th, and reiterated his resolve to work together to further deepen and strengthen the existing friendly relations between the two countries. "On behalf of the Government and the people of Japan, I would like to express our sincere congratulations to the Government and the people of Pakistan on their 74th Independence Day and best wishes for further peace and prosperity in Pakistan."

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BRT finally sees light of the day

PM Imran Khan inaugurates the much-delayed project; says this is the best metro bus project of Pakistan

FAKHAR DURRANI / DNA

PESHAWAR: Prime Minister Imran Khan Thursday inaugurated the Peshawar Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project here calling the third generation travel facility as "the best metro bus project" of Pakistan. This is the best metro bus project of Pakistan. Being third generation facility, this is a high level project among metros (in other cities)," the prime minister said addressing the inauguration ceremony of the project here. While inaugurating the project, PM Imran said while he had reservations about it earlier, former chief minister KP Pervaiz Khattak ultimately allayed his concerns. "A good transport system benefits everyone," said the prime minister, hoping that the system will reduce commute cost for daily travellers.

"Our aim is to make the lives of common people easier. The cost of Rs10 to 50 is enough and doable by daily wagers. If a daily wage cannot find a job here he can go to another place," said PM Imran. He said that tickets for students will be introduced so it is easy on their pockets and will aid in mobility as well. "This connects the entire city, will increase per capita income and when you have a good transport system, it changes things," the premier spoke of the BRT project. PM Imran expressed satisfaction over the eco-friendly aspect of the transportation medium, saying that the buses are being run on a hybrid of diesel and another petroleum source that will reduce pollution as well. Minister for Defence Pervaiz Khattak, Religious Affairs Minister Pir Nurul Haq Qadri, KP Governor Shah Farman, Chief Minister Mahmood Khan and senior officials attended the ceremony.

Denmark envoy lauds NAB performance

Chairman NAB apprised Rolf Michael Hay Pereira Holmboe, Denmark envoy about NAB's Anti Corruption Strategy in order to eradicate corruption

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Rolf Michael Hay Pereira Holmboe, Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan called on Honorable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman National Accountability Bureau at NAB Headquarters here today and discussed matters of mutual interest. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman National Accountability Bureau at NAB apprised Rolf Michael Hay Pereira Holmboe, Ambassador of Denmark about NAB's National Anti Corruption Strategy in



order to eradicate corruption from Pakistan and remarkable efforts to nab the corrupt elements as per law. Rolf Michael Hay Pereira Holmboe, Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan lauded NAB's excellent performance of NAB under the

dynamic leadership of Honorable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in order to make Pakistan corruption free through concerted efforts to eradicate corruption from Pakistan.

COAS to visit Saudi Arabia

DNA / SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa will visit Saudi Arabia this weekend, officials said, seeking to calm diplomatic strains over Kashmir as financial support for Islamabad hangs in the balance. The two countries are traditionally close and Saudi Arabia in 2018 gave Pakistan a \$3 billion loan and \$3.2 billion oil credit facility to help its balance of payments crisis. But Riyadh is irked by criticism from Pakistan that Saudi Arabia has been lukewarm on the Kashmir territorial dispute, two senior military officials told Reuters, motivating General Bajwa's planned fence-building visit on Sunday. "Yes he is travelling," ISPR chief Major General Babar Iftikhar told Reuters, though the official line was that the visit was pre-planned and "primarily military affairs oriented."

Pakistan has long pressed the Saudi-led Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) to convene a high-level meeting to highlight alleged Indian violations in the occupied Kashmir. But the OIC has only held low-level meetings so far. "If you cannot convene it, then I'll be compelled to ask Prime Minister Imran Khan to call a meeting of the Islamic countries that are ready to stand with us on the issue of Kashmir and support the oppressed Kashmiris," Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi told local media last week. Soon after the remarks, the government was criticised by opposition leader Shehbaz Sharif, who termed FM Qureshi's statement "highly unfortunate, irresponsible". However, FM Qureshi had denied there was any ill will between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. Qureshi said while speaking in Geo News programme "Aaj Shahzad Khanzada Kay Sath" that Riyadh was still Islamabad's ally and that it acknowledged the feelings and aspirations of Pakistanis.



PESHAWAR: Prime Minister Imran Khan travelling in Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). — DNA

Army determined to defend' Pakistan: ISPR

NEHAL MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Director General ISPR Major General Babar Iftikhar says Pak Army is fully configured, prepared and determined to defend honour and territorial integrity of motherland. Addressing the media briefing in Islamabad on Thursday, he said we are fully aware of hegemonic and expansionist designs of enemy that is posing threat to regional peace. Wishing the nation a very happy 73rd Independence Day, he paid tribute to the struggles of our national heroes Quaid-e-Azam and Allama Iqbal for achieving an independent state for us. Major general Babar Iftikhar also paid tribute to the

struggle of Kashmiri people who are fighting for their right to self-determination since last 73 years. He said innocent Kashmiris are being killed on the name of fake counter terrorism. He said Indian illegal acts in IIO-J&K are aimed at changing the demography of the occupied territory and against all international norms. He said the local political leadership of IIOJ&K is under arrest. The DG ISPR said Pakistan has fully highlighted the severity of Kashmir issue at every forum and now it is being discussed all over the world. He said a recent UN report has pointed out the existence of a terrorist outfit in India through which it plans its terrorist activities in neighboring countries.

The Director General said resolution of Kashmir issue is the key for regional peace and even Secretary General UNGA has also stressed for it. The DG ISPR said it is very unfortunate that violations

of the Line of Control by India continue in which unarmed, innocent civilians are being targeted. He said Pakistan is playing its conciliatory role in Afghan peace process with sincerity.



Pak rejects 'illegal' border fencing claims

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has rejected reports of illegal border fencing by Afghanistan. Responding to news items in the Afghan media and reported statement of the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Spokesperson rejected the insinuation that Pakistan military was conducting "illegal" fencing of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. The Spokesperson made clear that the fencing along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border was being done to address Pakistan's serious security concerns and was fully in accordance with the established norms of international law, without encroaching into Afghan territory. The Spokesperson added that the Afghan side would be well-advised to engage on border matters through the relevant institutional mechanisms to address any misconceptions.

Australian envoy greets Pakistan

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Dr Geoffrey Shaw has issued a statement marking Pakistan's Independence Day. Dr Shaw said: "I join the people and Government of Pakistan in celebrating the occasion of Pakistan Independence Day. Pakistan has continued to strengthen as a nation during its 73 years of independence and Australia has been a steadfast friend throughout this time. As Commonwealth nations, we share many values, including a commitment to democracy and a rules-based order. A hallmark of our bilateral relationship is that we have always stood alongside each other during times of crisis, and this has never been truer than during the global COVID-19 pandemic. With deep admiration, I

recognise the resilience and resolve shown by Pakistan in the course of battling this virus.

Australia is proud to stand with the people of Pakistan as they continue to build a strong, open and prosperous country. The Pakistani diaspora in Australia goes back to the arrival of Pakistani cameleers in the mid-19th century. Since then, the dynamic Pakistani community has enriched the tapestry of Australia's multicultural society, including in the fields of science, education, technology, medicine and the arts and through faith-based organisations. I welcome our bilateral cooperation in education, trade, development, defence and security, as well as, our strong sporting and cultural ties. I am confident that our two nations will continue to strengthen our friendship well into the future.

Indian diplomat summoned

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A senior Indian diplomat was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today to register Pakistan's strong protest over the ceasefire violations by the Indian occupation forces along the Line of Control (LoC) on 12th August 2020, resulting in serious injuries to two innocent civilians. Due to indiscriminate and unprovoked firing by the Indian occupation forces in Jandrot Sector of the LoC, 40 year old Shakeela Bibi w/o Muhammad Rafeeq and 12 year old Aysha Kausar d/o Muhammad Rafeeq, residents of Village Panjot, sustained serious injuries. The Indian occupation forces along the LoC and the Working Boundary (WB) have been continuously targeting civilian populated areas with artillery fire, heavy-caliber mortars and automatic weapons.

92% of COVID-19 patients recovered

DNA

ISLAMABAD: With a steady decline in coronavirus cases across country, over 92% of COVID-19 patients have recovered in Pakistan, according to the latest statistics released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Thursday. As many as 264,060 people have recovered from coronavirus across Pakistan so far, making it a significant count, as it constitutes 92% of the total number of patients. There are now 16,475 active cases in the country. About 753 new coronavirus cases were reported with 10 new deaths across the country over the last 24 hours.

Samarkand human Rights Forum on youth2020

The draft convention on youth lays norms and principles inter alia: Strengthening the institution of the family, recognizes the diversity of young people, and the need to promote and protect human rights at All stages

COMMENT

By Justice [®]
Ali Nawaz Chowhan



LET me congratulate the Republic of Uzbekistan, the national Human Rights center and the office of the OHCHR and other sponsors for carrying forward the vision for developing international standards for the protection of youth rights put forward by H.E

the president of Uzbekistan at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly on sept 19th 2017. And today we have the draft of the convention to be adopted and ratified. This convention takes into account the interests and needs of various groups of 1.8 billion young people the largest ever in the world. The young generation, as a social subject need comprehensive support from the state not confined to declarations through black letters. This is possible through allocation of resources, recognising the importance of the youth and involving them in statecraft. What is causing great concern is the decadence in the general health, education, wellbeing, employment of the youth. The lack of a healthy lifestyle, the presence of high level of morbidity, drugs, alcohol consumption, tobacco smoking abortions low productive attitudes. What is also causing concern is increase in nationalists sentiments marginalisation criminalisation of the youth environment in different regions with youth unemployment. The absence of a convention addressing these issues creates difficulties for creation of a legislative framework in the field of state youth policy. Which should be based on the principles and norms enshrined in a fresh convention on the rights of the youth. The previous documents on Youth rights do not contain any criteria for measuring progress in achieving the broad goals. In Pakistan youth participation was through attachment after an educational program with industrial and commercial units and govern-

ment sectors where the internee also got a sustenance allowance. But it was a policy confined to that government. Presently our government is engaging youth in what is called as its tiger program for tree plantation and checking hoarders. Previously we had youth hostels to encourage social contact. The idea of involving youth in social service before they completed education was a German idea. Some countries like Switzerland go was conscription. It it's all ad hoc. The draft convention on youth lays norms and principles inter alia: Strengthening the institution of the family, recognises the diversity of young people, and the need to promote and protect human rights at All stages. It speaks of the emotional cultural and spiritual needs of young people.

ple. It gives special attention and support to youth living in difficult conditions. It also speaks of the need of international cooperation and deepening exchange of experience interstates based on the needs of the people. It will help implement the UN youth2030 strategy and will ultimately ensure the achievement of the sustainable Development goals. This will remove the dependency prevalent in youth forcing them out in the streets protesting and destabilising the law and order. I support Uzbekistan and all the sponsors of the convention

Justice Ali Nawaz chowhan
Formerly: Chief Justice of the Gambia, intl judge of the UN at The Hague, of Pakistan superior Judiciary and chairman NIHR Pakistan (NCHR).

NAB and the opposition

Events that transpired on in front of NAB Lahore's headquarters, where PML(N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz was present following a summons issued by the accountability watchdog for questioning her in a fresh investigation related to "illegal" acquisition of land in Raiwand, are unfortunate. The clash between workers of the PML(N) and the Punjab Police that saw stones being pelted from both sides resulted in injuries, damage to property and arrests. Maryam Nawaz alleges, rather outlandishly, that she was made to appear at NAB's premises to be tacked even though there are clear visuals of PML(N) workers' cars packed with stones, suggesting that what happened was premeditated. But for the police to resort to the same hooliganism rather than attempting to diffuse the situation through more conventional means is regrettable and demands an inquiry. That this is the third investigation against Maryam Nawaz while the previous two cases against her remain open, is perhaps one reason for the frustration that resulted in her party workers acting out the way they did; NAB's highhanded style of investigating and preparing multiple cases, exclusively against her party's leaders, is another. In this backdrop, considering the animosity between the PTI and opposition, it seems yesterday's events were inevitable. For over two decades NAB has been used exactly for what it was created by General Pervez Musharraf- political victimization. The former dictator used it to keep dissenting voices in check, allowing engineering of political parties. Both civilian governments that followed used it to keep each other embroiled in legal troubles. Prime Minister Imran Khan has however taken it a step further, running an ineffective anti-corruption drive that is heavily reliant on the NAB to keep piling on cases and pressures on opposition leaders while ignoring ongoing investigations into the PTI's questionable projects such as the BRT and Malam Jabba. Although there was some hope recently with regards to discussing reform of the NAB law, negotiations fell through as soon as they began with neither the PTI nor the opposition leadership willing to meet the other halfway. The bureau's shoddy investigation methods, abysmal conviction rate and the propensity to detain an accused without justification, make this form of so-called accountability simply untenable. As history has shown time and again, when the chips are down and the shoe is on the other foot, the same treatment could be meted out to those currently in power and enjoying virtual immunity.

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Uzbekistan-Pakistan-Afghanistan: Triangle of Peace

Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan



Uzbekistan first president Islam Karimov proposed “6+3 Contact Group” to resolve the issue of Afghanistan. It was initiated during NATO/EAPC Summit in Bucharest in April 2008. Islam Karimov proposed five vital of stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan

Sustainable peace in Afghanistan has regional as well as international ramifications which will definitely further enhance regional connectivity, trade activities and economy and commerce too. Regional countries especially, Uzbekistan and Pakistan have played tremendous role to bring peace in Afghanistan through negotiations, track-II diplomacy, dialogue and development. Uzbekistan first president Islam Karimov proposed “6+3 Contact Group” to resolve the issue of Afghanistan. It was initiated during NATO/EAPC Summit in Bucharest in April 2008. Islam Karimov proposed five vital of stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan. A trilateral summit was held in Istanbul and Turkey, Pakistan and Afghanistan actively participated in the summit. The government of Pakistan initiated the new formula i.e. six plus two formula in the summit. Pakistan, Iran, China, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, all immediate neighbours of Afghanistan had to be consulted to bring peace in Afghanistan. Russia and the US would also be part of six plus two formula. Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said that Afghanistan's six immediate neighbours, as well as China and Russia. Right from the beginning, Uzbekistan has desired to find a “workable” formula to win hearts and souls of people of Afghanistan through “intensive” “economic cooperation” at least with the northern regions of Afghanistan, successful implementation of transport and logistics projects, and the expansion of educational programs. Tashkent was succeeded to achieve bilateral cooperation with

Kabul through the implementation of various befitting economic propositions and meaningful logistics projects to further enhance regional connectivity. President of the Republic of Uzbekistan adapted new “holistic” approach towards resolution of Afghanistan issue and introduced new “innovative” and result oriented strategies to bring peace in Afghanistan. Tashkent has been cooperating with international main stakeholders and offers various projects in different sectors i.e. economic, logistics, education, etc., and even considers prospects for organizing negotiations between the government of Afghanistan and the Taliban on its soil. Tashkent has been trying to act in all directions of the foreign policy on Afghan issue by covering the maximum number of spheres i.e. in terms of bilateral relations, there has been rigorous sincere efforts of initiating ambitious and large-scale projects, reformation/redesigning of national priority towards Afghanistan, rebuilding the dialogue with the international community and systematic efforts to further enhance soft power image projection and separation of its regional Central Asian agenda from the Afghan one. By all means Pakistan has had been important to bring peace in Afghanistan. Singing of latest peace deal between the US and Taliban at Doha “reconfirmed” positive and “participatory” role of government of Pakistan in the peace process of Afghanistan. The government of Pakistan and armed forces are doing their levels best to support the West and especially the US to curb the terrorist incidents. The successful military operations in the tribal areas by Pakistan's armed forces spoke louder than words and showed our commitment to fight against terrorism. President Mirziyoyev followed a holistic approach towards Afghanistan and strongly “discarded” a “military solution”. He facilitated peace talks between all parties of the conflict, and implemented economic projects. In 2017, the position of President's Special Representative on Afghanistan was introduced. This step aimed at promoting Afghan vector into a separate sphere of Uzbek foreign policy. Economic cooperation with Afghanistan focused on a number of aspects: infrastructure construction, energy, and trade. Uzbekistan opened customs point in Termez to ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid, restored 11 bridges between Mazar-i-Sharif and Kabul. With the support of ADB, the Hairatan-Mazar-i-Sharif railway was constructed. Uzbekistan also showed keen interest in the construction of the “Mazar-i-Sharif-Herat” railway in the framework of the Trans-Afghan Transport Corridor project. In addition, Uzbekistan has become a leading electricity supplier to Afghanistan. In 2009, the “Guzar-Surkhan” transmission line was initiated, which increased the supply to 300 MW. As a result, its electricity supplies reached to 1.5 billion kW / h of electricity to Afghanistan by 2016. Uzbekistan held a conference on Afghanistan in Tashkent during March 2018 which subsequently emerged a useful platform to restart stalemate talks and prompted track-II diplomacy. It pioneered the Kabul process, the Moscow format, the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group, etc. However, the high turnout from the international community allowed Uzbekistan to emerge from the shadow. The activities of Uzbekistan over the past 3 years suggest that the Afghan strategy is based mainly on a combination of economic and soft power image projection. Stability in Afghanistan and at least in

the northern regions is important for promoting its economic expansion. Uzbekistan is interested in playing a greater economic role in Afghanistan. The Surkhan-Puli Khumri energy project aimed at increasing the delivery of electricity from Uzbekistan to Afghanistan, and a transportation project to extend the existing Hairatan-Mazar-i-Sharif railroad to Herat. The latter project has a long-term implication for Tashkent, because once realized the railroad will become the shortest route for the country's goods to reach a sea port. Uzbekistan-Pakistan bilateral relations has been further strengthened during recent times because of the better political understanding, improvement in bilateral trade, phenomenal rise to tourism and the last but not the least joint efforts to bring peace and harmony in the region. Uzbekistan Foreign Minister H.E. Abdulaziz Kamilov visited Pakistan and met with his counterpart Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Prime Minister Imran Khan. During his stay he thoroughly discussed means and ways to non-military solution in Afghanistan, increase in trade and commerce and enhance bilateral cooperation in diversified sectors of economy. Both foreign ministers conducted a purposeful joint press conference which showed high level of political understanding, strong commitments to achieve desired goals of socio-economic prosperity and connectivity through peace and harmony in the region, connecting through rail corridor, investments in diverse sectors of economy, tourism and other befitting propositions between the two countries. It also showed Uzbekistan sincere efforts to bring peace in Afghanistan through regional resolve, dialogue and development. Speaking at a joint news conference Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov and his counterpart Shah Mehmood Qureshi said both the countries shared views on Afghanistan. They expressed the resolve to further enhance bilateral cooperation to promote peace and stability in the region. Qureshi said both countries shared common views on Afghanistan as they feel that there was no military solution to the Afghan problem. He added: “We are prepared to facilitate and support the dialogue process in Afghanistan.” Both Pakistan and Uzbekistan want peace in Afghanistan and were willing to support the efforts he added. Pakistan is ready to promote connectivity in the region for the benefit of our people, he said. The Foreign Office says that the visit strengthened meaningful deliberations in all areas of bilateral cooperation including political, security & defence cooperation, peace process in Afghanistan as well as trade and investment promotion. Areas of mutual interest for future collaboration were also identified, including agriculture, tourism and cultural cooperation. On his part, Uzbek FM Abdulaziz Kamilov said Pakistan, as a regional power, can play role in guaranteeing regional peace and stability. The minister said: “Pakistan and Uzbekistan have common views on regional security, especially peace and stability in Afghanistan.” Uzbek FM Kamilov acknowledged Pakistan's vital role in the fight against terrorism and its efforts to bring peace and stability to the region. He said the two countries have a common approach to encouraging the peace process in Afghanistan, combating terrorism and facing other challenges. Uzbekistan Foreign Minister H.E. Abdulaziz Kamilov also called on Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan at Prime Minister's Office. Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed his strong desire to see rapid increase

in economic cooperation with Uzbekistan. Suggestions 1. Being prominent regional expert of Uzbekistan & CIS, I humbly suggest that President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev should pay official visit to Pakistan so that regional equation of power may be in favour of both the sides. Pakistan is the only easy and shortest gate-way to Central Asia and base of “CPEC and One Road One Belt” which should not be ignored. 2. There should be a closed mechanism at the highest level for political consultations on the issue and emerging trends in Afghanistan so that both countries should play positive and contributory role to bring peace. 3. Pakistan also provides immense opportunities of greater regional connectivity which government of Uzbekistan should be tapped for a win-win situation for both sides. Gwadar seaport has been activated and in this connection first cargo consignment of Afghanistan transit trade reached from Afghanistan. Uzbekistan may consider utilizing its seaport for its greater sustainable connectivity with South East Asia. 4. Uzbekistan shows great interest to build Hairatan-Mazar-i-Sharif railway and Pakistan under the framework of the CPEC has approved US\$6.5 billion Railway M1 mega project. Both countries should explore befitting propositions to extend cooperation in the fields of construction and railways. 5. Energy sector would create win-win propositions for both the countries so both countries should also explored chances of joint ventures in the mix of energy power generation in the days to come. 6. Close liaison in the field of agro economy is the need of the hour. Both countries have comparative advantages in the production of cotton which must be clubbed to initiate a joint venture in textile and garments. Uzbekistan blesses with colored cotton which should be shared with Pakistan. 7. President Mirziyoyev has initiated the “Strategy for the Further Development of Uzbekistan 2017-2021”. It is indeed a blue print of its socio-economic development in the next five years. It highlighted five principles i.e. improvement of state construction, economic liberalization, development of the social sphere and implementation of active foreign policy. Due to which now Uzbekistan is on the right path to achieve the desired goals of socio-economic prosperity, further politicization, democratization, greater attraction of FDIs, and the last but not the least people and business friendly bureaucracy in the country. 8. Government of Uzbekistan should consider joining CPEC which will bring immense socio-economic, geopolitical and geo-strategic dividends to macro-economy of it. 9. Center for Global & Strategic Studies has the capacity and expertise to create bridges of better understanding among all the main stakeholders to expedite desired socio-economic integration in the sectors of construction, energy, agricultural, industries, tourism and above all people-to-people contact. CGSS is the prime institute of policy and public diplomacy too for which both countries should take advantage. Moreover, its proven specialty in the Euro-Asian Region would be value-addition to disseminate falsified propaganda of the west and make a trustworthy and heart-to-heart connection, vital for achieving all desired goals of greater regional connectivity, greater socio-economic prosperity, tourism and above all business development.

Real Spirit of the Independence Day

Syed Sajjad Shaukat



On this occasion, the government, the opposition leaders, civil societies and media owners, including all other segments of society must sign a charter of unity which is very necessary to pull the country out of the ongoing serious crises and to meet the Indian war-mongering designs

It was due to the selfless practical unity among the Muslims under the leadership of Quaid-i-Azam Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah that Pakistan became a tangible reality on August 14, 1947. But, that unity started declining after passing through various crises, and the result was

separation of East Pakistan in 1971, as India manipulated differences between East Pakistan and the West Pakistan. Although the 14th August is celebrated every year as the Independence Day, but, this time, it has come at a time when Pakistan is facing multiple threats of grave nature externally and internally, which are worrying all the citizens. More than 12 months have passed. But, Indian fanatic government of the ruling party BJP led by the extremist Prime Minister Narendra Modi continued lockdown in the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK)—since August 5, 2019 when Indian government revoked articles 35A and 370 of the Constitution, which gave a special status to the disputed territory of the Jammu & Kashmir (J&K). Thus, New Delhi unilaterally annexed the region with the Indian Federation to turn Muslim majority into minority. Acting upon the ideology of Hindutva (Hindu Nationalism), Indian biased rulers also issued domicile certificates to 40000 non-Kashmiris. While, Indian fanatic rulers are also escalating tensions with Pakistan and have continued shelling inside Pakistani side of Kashmir by violating the ceasefire agreement in relation to the Line of Control (LoC). Externally, Pakistan's forces, especially, Pak Army and Rangers have been boldly responding to India's unprovoked firing at the LoC. Notably, the Indian Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 (CAA), passed by the Indian Parliament further exposed the discriminatory policies of the Modi regime. The CAA coupled with the National Register of Citizens (NRC) is mainly against the Muslim immigrants particularly from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. Since last year, daily mass protests continued across every state in India against the CAA and the NRC. Despite criticism of the rights groups, foreign leaders, the UNO and moderate Hindus in wake of violent protests which killed and injured hundreds of persons—mostly Muslims by the police and fanatic Hindus, Modi's government has not withdrawn the CAA/NRC. In this regard, a government-appointed-the Delhi Minorities Commission (DMC) said in its recent report: “At least 53 people, mostly Muslims, were killed and more than 200 were injured in the worst communal violence in the Indian capital Delhi...against a new citizenship law [CAA] in February, this year...laying out the path to citizenship for six religious groups from neighbouring countries except Muslims...the law

was discriminatory...Muslim homes, shops and vehicles...mosques were selectively targeted during the rioting...broke out across the country...with support of the administration and police, a retaliatory plan of pro-CAA protesters was worked out to trigger violence at a large scale...Some senior BJP leaders like former member of Delhi legislative assembly Kapil Mishra of fuelling the Feb 23 violence”. Besides, despite the new agreement to resolve the issue of eastern Ladakh through dialogue, border dispute between China and India, which remains unsettled, has increased tension between the two countries. In this context, Pakistan's civil and military leadership has repeatedly stated that in order to divert attention from internal crises and border dispute with China, New Delhi can arrange another Pulwama-type false flag terror attack in the Indian Held Kashmir to justify military adventure against Pakistan. In response, Chief of the Army Staff Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa has frequently said that Pakistan's Armed Forces are fully ready to meet any prospective aggression or invasion by India. Internally, Pakistan's Armed Forces and country's primarily intelligence agency ISI have successfully broken the backbone of the foreign-backed terrorists. Peace has been restored in the Balochistan province and Karachi, including other vulnerable regions. Despite it, in the recent past, terrorist attacks particularly in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan which is central point of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) show that the CIA-led Indian RAW, Afghanistan's intelligence agency National Directorate of Security and Israeli Mossad are destabilising Pakistan and want to damage the CPEC project which is part of China's One Belt, One Road (OBOR) initiative or BRI, as the US and India have already opposed this project. At this juncture, Pakistan is also facing multi-faceted crises and challenges like corruption, soaring prices, energy-shortage, unemployment, crimes, lack of health facilities, and dependence upon the US-led developed countries, IMF and World Bank for financial aid. And coronavirus pandemic has affected Pakistan in wake of country's fragile economy. In this respect, civil and army institutes are implementing comprehensive plans for treatment of the patients and to

further stop the spread of this novel virus. Moreover, Pakistan's security forces have been facing a different war, while enemy is also different, who employ subversive activities of various kinds which include both internal and external challenges. In these terms, Pakistan is in the state of new war, being waged by the Armed Forces and intelligence agencies against terrorists. At this critical moment, this significant day emphasizes that our political leaders must pledge that they will not support their parties at the cost of the country. In order to castigate the conspiracy of the external enemies against the integrity of the country, our political leaders and human rights groups must also stop manipulating any crisis against Pak Army and ISI whose image are deliberately being tarnished by the external plotters. As regards the Independence Day, the 23rd of March 1940 was a watershed in the history of the Sub-continent, when All India Muslim League passed the Resolution in Lahore for the creation of an independent state. Earlier, in his address to the Muslim League at Allahabad in 1930, the idea of a homeland for Muslims in their majority areas had been envisioned by the poet Allama Sir Muhammad Iqbal, and had become the aspiration of Indian Muslims. In fact, the British colonialists in connivance with majority Hindu population had manipulated and targeted Muslims through every possible way. In that background, Muslims had started struggle for a separate state. Nevertheless, prior to the Lahore session of Muslim League, Muhammad Ali Jinnah had specified to this historical congregation of the Muslims, the watch-words of 'Faith, Unity and Discipline' which were not only necessary for waging the battle for an independent homeland, but also for present Pakistan. The essence of these watch-words is unity which is also the real spirit of the Independence Day. However, it is good development that despite differences, Pakistan's ruling party PTI, opposition parties and military are on one page regarding Indian prospective aggression and military lockdown in the IOK. On this occasion, the government, the opposition leaders, civil societies and media owners, including all other segments of society must sign a charter of unity which is very necessary to pull the country out of the ongoing serious crises and to meet the Indian war-mongering designs.

— (The writer is author of “Invisible Balance of Power”)

Briefs

Pak-China
friendship
enters new
era: Shafqat

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education & Professional Training Shafqat Mehmood on Thursday said that Pak-China friendship had entered a new era of cooperation through initiation of socio-economic support by Chinese Government under CPEC.

He stated this in a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing here. A 11-member Chinese delegation led by the Ambassador of China, Yao Jing, Parliamentary Secretary to M/o FE&PT, Wajih Akram, Chairman NAVTTC, Syed Javed Hassan, Executive Director NAVTTC, Dr. Nasir Khan, were present in the meeting.

The minister said that "We are very keen to have close synergy and cooperation with China, the closest friend of Pakistan of all times, and collaboration in TVET sector will help us analyze what kind of jobs and training are required to meet the needs of CPEC mega projects including ML-1." "NAVTTC being the premier TVET organization and also a member of CPEC socio-economic Development Working Group will work closely with Chinese companies and CPEC Authority to prepare Pakistani workforce as per the needs of different kind of projects", he added.

The minister said Pakistan was grateful to China for its never ending support and look forward to start various joint programmes for skill development in the country. — APP

2000 workers
recruited in
NHMP: Murad

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Communications Murad Saeed said on Thursday that two thousand vacancies in National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) had been filled by fresh recruitments whereas the process had been started to make more recruitments to overcome staff shortage.

Addressing a function as Chief Guest at for performance appraisal of National Highway and Motorway Police, he said that needs of the Motorway Police would be included in the PC-1 of each project in future.

He said with the expansion of the motorway network in the country, the need for NHMP personnel had increased but in the past it was not allowed to recruit more staff as per its requirements. Murad Saeed said work on western route of CPEC had been accelerated, which would play a role of catalyst in development of the less developed areas. He said five mega road infrastructure projects would be executed this year under public private partnership without burdening the national exchequer.

'Extended
Kamyab Jawan
Programme a
milestone'

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue, Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh Thursday termed the extended Kamyab Jawan programme as an important milestone for promotion of businesses and job creation.

In a tweet, he said that the government has launched expanded Kamyab Jawan program to promote small businesses and employment. He said the per applicant maximum limit of loans has been increased from Rs5 million to Rs25 million while the number of participating banks has also been increased from 3 to 21.

The advisor said that the initiative would generate hundreds of thousands of jobs. "Important milestone: Govt has launched expanded Kamyab Jawan program to promote small businesses & employment. Increased maximum limit per applicant from Rs 50 lacs to Rs 2.5 cr & increased participating banks from 3 to 21. Will generate hundreds of thousands of jobs," he tweeted. — APP

'Pakistan is the greatest achievement of Jinnah'

A Vision is based on the values of an individual. Jinnah's vision was based on the values which included Democracy, Diversity, Social Justice; speakers at CGSS conference remarked

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On 13th August 2020, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad organized an Online Conference titled "Reawakening the Jinnah Vision".

The session was commenced with the opening remarks by Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery HI(M), (Retd), President CGSS. He stated that Jinnah formed Pakistan based on Two Nation Theory. He further mentioned that even though Muhammad Ali Jinnah was offered the Premiership of the country but he refused and chose to struggle for Pakistan.

Mr. Javed Jabbar, Former Federal Information Minister, Pakistan mentioned that a Vision is based on the values of an individual. Muhammad Ali Jinnah's vision was based on the values which included Democracy, Diversity, Social Justice, & Emancipation of Women. He further

mentioned that during these 73 years, unfortunately, Pakistan has drifted away from Jinnah's values and vision. Lastly, Mr. Javed Jabbar mentioned that the greatest achievement of Muhammad Ali Jinnah was the achievement of Pakistan despite the major opposition.

Lieutenant General Khalid Maqbool HI (M), (Retd), Former Governor of Pakistan explaining the Jinnah's Vision mentioned that his vision comprised of the values which include Democracy, Welfare of the society, equality, law & order. He further mentioned that Jinnah's political journey is a practical example of his vision. Moreover, Lt. Gen. Maqbool highlighted the need for making the institutions stronger to make Pakistan strong.

Prof. Dr. Naushad Khan, Vice-Chancellor, Islamia College University, Peshawar mentioned that it is important to understand the accurate vision of Jinnah and it's proper awareness



among the nation and especially the youth. He also stated that Jinnah worked for an inclusive and united country. Furthermore, he suggested that the National Integration in the Education System of Pakistan is highly required. Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob, Vice-Chancellor,

Islamia University of Bahawalpur briefed about two major aspects which are the Views of Jinnah and the speech delivered on 11th August 1947. He mentioned that Muhammad Ali Jinnah adopted various principles and then struggled for Pakistan based on those principles. Furthermore, he

mentioned that the main objective of leadership is to produce leaders. Lastly, he suggested that joint struggle and cooperation are required for incorporating the true vision of Jinnah in today's Pakistan. Brigadier Akhtar Nawaz Janjua(Retd), Senior Member Advisory Board, CGSS

informed the participants regarding the leadership qualities of the Jinnah. Moreover, he mentioned that Jinnah, in various instances, stressed on the Islamic principles as the basis of the new country.

Mr. Owais Rabbani, Founder & Chairman, Jinnah ka Pakistan mentioned that it is unfortunate that even after 73 years of Independence, the Pakistani nation is still confused regarding the vision of Quaid-e-Azam. Mr. Rabbani also mentioned that it is important to include women in the important decisions of the country. Lastly, he stated that there is a minor difference between the Vision of Jinnah and Allama Iqbal. Jinnah worked for the practical execution of the Allama Iqbal's vision.

The Conference was attended by 50 participants. The Conference was moderated by Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Taimur Akram (Retd), Executive Director, CGSS.

All 15
BMGIAns
elected
unopposed

DNA

KARACHI: All candidates of Businessmen Group (BMG) have been elected unopposed for the Managing Committee of Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry for the year 2020-22. According to details, a total of 20 nominations were received by the Election Commission who all belonged to Businessmen Group. The nominations papers were scrutinized by the Election Commission, which rejected 5 nomination papers by declaring them invalid that led to unanimous election of the remaining 15 BMG candidates. Therefore, all 15 BMGIAns were declared successful in KCCI's Election 2020-22.

Siraj Kassam Teli, Chairman Businessmen Group (BMG) and Former President KCCI, on the occasion, expressed gratitude to Almighty Allah and conveyed thanks and compliments to the Business & Industrial community of Karachi for reposing confidence and trust on Businessmen Group.

Siraj Teli said, "By the grace of Almighty Allah, BMG has been winning all the elections without losing a single seat for the last 23 years and after terribly defeating the opponents in 2018 election with double the votes, BMGIAns have been blessed with an unopposed victory by the Almighty Allah."

He said that 23 years of success is an acknowledgement of the public service by the Businessmen Group which also testifies that overwhelming majority of Business and Industrial Community endorses the policies of BMG because they understand and believe that BMGIAns are serving them selflessly for their betterment.

Pakistan's tea
industry faces
challenges:
Report

ISLAMABAD: Tea industry in Pakistan is facing huge challenges while China showing an upward trend in its growth, say a report published by Gwadar Pro on Thursday. Quoting a Canadian scholar Dan Bolton, the report says the trading volume of Pakistan in this sector is decreasing sharply in recent years, especially in 2020. The economic downturn in Europe, Japan and America has also threatened Pakistan's tea industry. Dan Bolton, founder of the magazine Tea Journey, stated in his latest report that tea industry of China is bucking the trend while global tea market has showed a vulnerability facing COVID-19 epidemic.

"Pakistan is a main tea market with a huge import volume, ranking 47th in the world, spending \$21m on tea in 2019", he analysed in the report, "The global economy will continue to decline for a long time, which will impact the innovation and product quality of the tea industry."

The global economic downturn is causing the situation of tea industry worse. "The biggest threat is that people fail to address the medium - and long-term challenges faced by tea industry," said Nigel Milliken, President of the European Specialty Tea Association. "We need to realign the economy with a reasonable sense of urgency so that tea industry can move out from stuck of labour shortages, land degradation, water shortages and rising input costs," Milliken said.

Global tea trades have fallen by an average of 12.8% since 2015. According to Daniel Workman, an analyst at the world's top tea export company, the volume of global tea trade totalled just \$6.4 billion in 2019. Among them, with sales of \$2 billion, and accounting 31.8%, China is leading foreign trade of tea until today. Bolton said that tea industry of China is bucking the trend and leading global tea industry in post-epidemic era.

China has discovered a new mode of tea consumption that investors pay attention on contactless transaction, such as home delivery service and automatic tea vending machine. — APP

China is time tested friend of
Pakistan, says KP Governor

DNA

PESHAWAR :Mr. Shah Farman, Governor of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province of Pakistan has said, creation of Pakistan was the warranted reality of the time and no one can deny this fact. Establishment of a separate homeland for the Muslims of Indian Sub-continent was must which later one become their national identity. The fact should be accepted by opponents of the division of Indian continent as well. He was talking during his visit to China Window – a Peshawar based cultural centre. The event was arranged to celebrate the Independence Day of the Country, the 14th of August. On this Day in 1947, Pakistan was emerged on the world map. The Governor also addressed a colourful ceremony wherein a large number of prominent figures from various walks



of life were in attendance. Paying rich tributes to the Father of the Nation, Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the Governor said, he indeed had made the nation proud on his achievements by enabling them to lead their lives in line with their aspirations and with dignity. Today, he remarked, what the world observes in shape of discriminatory treatment on part of Indian govern-

ment towards its minorities, especially the Muslim Community in India, offers sufficient justification as far as creation of Pakistan is concerned. The miserable life condition of minorities in India whose just rights are usurped on daily basis further supplements the stance, which had been vocally and successfully pursued by the movers of the Pakistan Movement. Con-

trary to that, the Governor said, the rights of minorities in Pakistan are constitutionally guaranteed.

The Governor also welcomed the good gesture of the brotherly neighboring country, Peoples Republic of China to actively sharing the Independence Day pleasantries of the Pakistanis and said China is the time tested friend of Pakistan. Beyond doubt, he added, we as a nation have always found the Peoples Republic of China shoulder to shoulder to us as a trusted friend in every hour of test upon which every Pakistani feels proud. In this connection, the Governor particularly mentioned the role of China Pakistan Economic Corridor oriented projects and said, with every passing day, the economic activities are enhanced in our country and the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also bears no exception.

Sri Lankan PM
greets Iftikhar
Malik on success

DNA

LAHORE: Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa Thursday congratulated Iftikhar Ali Malik on his success in the election as President South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) Chamber of Commerce and Industry for a term of two years.

In his message, "Sri Lankan PM extending best wishes said he is also highly impressive about the views of Iftikhar Ali Malik that the positive engagements of the SAARC countries and its co-operation with private sector is a solution for wide spread poverty and unemployment of the region". He further hoped that "given the long standing cordial relationship between our two countries will contrib-

ute positively to achieve the goals of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry".

"Mahinda Rajapaksa finally assured that his support and patronage is guaranteed to Iftikhar Ali Malik and SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry to carry forward its mandate for the development of the region". He also thanked Iftikhar Ali Malik for his compliments and best wishes extended to him with regard to his election campaign.

Iftikhar Malik thanked Sri Lankan PM for congratulation and conveyed his message to him that he would do his best to promote regional trade and Pakistan had advanced its belief that a secure and peaceful environment in South Asia was crucial for the advancement of region's development and prosperity.

Danyal Gillani: new
Press Counsellor Paris

DNA

PARIS: Danyal Saleem Gilani has taken over charge as Press Counsellor in Pakistan embassy in Paris. Danyal Saleem Gilani is one of the most experienced information officers who has demonstrated his immense skills in key institutions in Pakistan. He has also been the Press Secretary to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and Chairman of the Film Censor Board. Before being appointed as the Press Counsellor Danyal was working as Director, Information Minister's Office. His appointment in France is no less than a challenge.

Danyal assumes the office when Pakistan is facing serious challenges especially in FATF. Danyal has to play his part in highlighting Pakistan's



position in the French media. Meanwhile, the European Union Journalists Forum has welcomed appointment of Danyal Saleem Gilani. His predecessor Qamar Bashir will report back to Islamabad Information Headquarters after a long stint as Press Counsellor in France. Before joining the civil service of Pakistan Danyal remained associated with various newspapers on key positions. He is a respected figure among the journalistic fraternity of Pakistan.

'Last decade
was earth's
hottest on
record'

DNA

NEW YORK: A new report released Wednesday details how 2019 was another year of extremes for Earth's climate, adding to a litany of evidence exposing the grim reality of our warming world.

Last year saw devastating wildfires burn through Australia; large regions including Europe, Japan, Pakistan, and India experienced deadly heat waves; almost 100 tropical cyclones created havoc; glaciers and sea ice continued to melt at worrying levels; and drought and floods destroyed vital crops and infrastructure.

Financial Times publishes
traveler's impression of Tajikistan

DNA

DUSHANBE: A European traveler Sophy Roberts shares her fascinating recollections of Tajikistan's tourist attractions published in the Financial Times on August 7. Roberts visited Tajikistan in December 2019 per initiative of the Committee for Tourism Development within the implementation of the Rural Economic Development Project. In her article, Roberts notes that during her travels to Pamir Mountains, she passed through Bokhtar, and got acquainted with the cultural sites of the region,

especially Ajina-Tappa. She tells that the statue of Central Asia's largest reclining Buddha was excavated in 1966 on this hill, now occupying the first floor of Dushanbe's Museum of National Antiquities.

Roberts also recalls her night in the home of a local resident, decorating the walls with needles and embroidery, slicing pomegranates into eight pieces in front of guests by the host and hearty meat soup, and other national dishes and Tajik hospitality. While continuing her travels, along the Silk Road, Roberts visited the Khoja Mashhad Madrasah and praises its

construction. She describes the twin domes of the madrasah, noting that the design of the building resembles a small mausoleum, and the eyelids of the domed lights illuminate the ancient bricks of the inner walls of the madrasah.

Also, the foreign traveler welcomes the initiative of Tajikistan for the further development of tourism and thus improving the conditions of the national economy. She notes that the government of Tajikistan intends to enrich tourism by 2022 by five percent of GDP from the expansion of the tourism sector.

PAF ever ready to counter any threat: Air Chief

He further said that PAF would never be intimidated by stockpiling of weapons by the enemy
He added that PAF, in synergy with sister services, is ever ready to counter any threat to the sovereignty of our sacred motherland

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force visited an operational air base on Thursday. During the visit he participated in an operational training mission in the dual seat JF-17 Thunder aircraft. Being a seasoned F-16 pilot himself, the Air Chief had a firsthand assessment of operational capabilities of the indigenously manufactured dual seat fighter aircraft. Interacting with the air and ground crew, the Air Chief lauded the level of motivation and thorough professionalism of the personnel. He added that the induction of dual seat version and Block-3 variant of JF-17

Thunder would help in maintaining the cutting edge of the PAF. He also stated that PAF personnel are the proud custodians of the legacy of valiant air warriors of Pakistan, which was manifested during Operation Swift Retort, last year. He further said that PAF would never be



intimidated by stockpiling of weapons by the enemy.

He added that PAF, in synergy with sister services, is ever ready to counter any threat to the sovereignty of our sacred motherland. Earlier on his arrival at the base, the Air Chief was received by Air Officer Commanding and Base Commander.

