

Islamabade

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Indian court sentences Yasin Malik to life in prison

Detailed News On Page-01

Marriyam assures APNS of full support

Detailed News On Page-08



Benzema can create legacy in UCL final

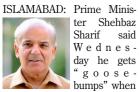
Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

PTIs sitins cause damage: PM

STAFF REPORT



he recalls the disruption caused by PTI's 2014 sit-in during PML-N's government. "We should not be wasting time in dividing the nation and staging sit-ins. Whenever I recall the 2014 sit-in, I get goosebumps," the prime minister said while addressing the workers of the Karot Hydropower Project. The prime minister's comments came as the PTI is marching from Peshawar to Islamabad under party chairman and former PM Imran Khan's leadership.

West lacking 'unity' over Ukraine

APP

DAVOS: Ukrainian President



the extent of its support for Ukraine in its defence against Russia's months-long invasion. "Unity is about weapons. My question is, is there this unity in practice? I can't see it. Our huge advantage over Russia would be when we are truly united," Zelensky said during a panel discussion on Ukraine at the World Economic Forum. Washington and European countries have poured billions of dollars' worth of arms into Ukraine to help the country's outgunned forces beat back the better-armed Russian invaders.

Kaira condemns Indian court verdict



Adviser to Prime Minister on Kashmir affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar

Zaman Kaira has strongly condemned the unfortunate verdict issued by an Indian court against Yasin Malik and termed it as totally outrageous and unjustified. According to a media release issued on Wednesday, Kaira said the conviction of Yasin Malik based on flimsy and fabricated grounds was a blatant violation of basic human rights. - APP

Police, PTI workers clash across country

Imran in Islamabad; wants elections date

SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Imran Khan on Wednesday night reached Islamabad leading a huge convoy."No amount of state oppression and fascism by this imported govt can stop or deter our march," the former premier wrote on his official Twitter handle. We have entered Punjab and will InshAllah be heading towards Islamabad. The PTI chief in a fresh statement to his supporters this evening asked them to take to the streets following the top court's verdict regarding the venue of the political gathering.

"I urge the entire nation to take to the streets with their families after the decision of the Supreme Court," Imran said in a video statement released from an undisclosed location. The former premier added that he was on his way to the famous D-Chowk and asked his supporters to come out of their homes to convey a message that they won't accept anyone's subservience. Soon after Imran Khan's announcement that he will reach Islamabad's D-Chowk soon, the Capital Police vowed to stop anyone from entering the feder-

use force in other areas of the capital. Continued on Page 06

al capital's Red Zone. "If anyone tried

to come near the Red Zone, he will be dealt with an iron hand," Islamabad

IG Dr Akber Nasir said. Akber said

that he has asked the officers not to



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PTI, govt accord was almost done!!

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: At one point in time a deal between the PTI and government was almost reached. It is learnt that a deal was struck between the PTI and the government and it was expected that there will be no dharna in Islamabad. The PTI agreed to only hold a procession and then disperse. According to sources that the Establishment tried to faciliate a deal between the PTI and the government. In return the government was to announce dissolution of the assemblies. Another option was that the PTI MPs would return to the parliament, become part of the proceedings for election reforms etc and then Assembly shall be dissolved. It may be mentioned here that the Shehbaz govt had already decided to step down and pave the way for the fresh elections, however it wanted to have IMF deal first. But the PTI suddenly announced the long march date, which turned the things topsy-turvy. According to sources, Asad Umar, Pervez Khatak and Shah Mahmood Qureshi took part in

Continued on Page 06

PTI's long march failed to win support: Sana



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah Khan on Wednesday said the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf's (PTI) long march towards Islamabad failed to win the masses' support as only a small number of people had come out on its appeal. "I'm thankful to the masses for rejecting Imran Khan's violent long march. Since morning only a few hundred

Continued on Page 06

SC allows

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed the PTI to hold its Azadi March protest near Peshawar Mor between the H-9 and G-9 area of Islamabad and restrained the government from arresting its leaders and

Will not submit to PTI pressure, says Maryam

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) vice president Maryam Nawaz on Wednesday while appealing that the institutions should not make decision to placate people resorting to pressure tactics said that that it would be the best decision if the establishment would work within the ambit of constitution. Addressing a press conference in Lahore on Wednesday, she said that the judiciary should also deal with this fitna as the holy Qur an commands.

The PML-N vice president said that her party respects Supreme Court s decision, ordering the government to allow PTI to organise long march at a ground between H-9 and G-9 areas of the federal capital. The decision is basically a safe exit for them. Their lawyer kept saying in court that they wanted a specific ground which can only hold 10,000 people. To this, the government lawyer repeatedly said the ground can only hold 10,000 people but PTI knew they cannot produce more people than that number so they insisted," she added. Regarding PTI's talks with the government, Maryam Nawaz said that PML-N leader Ayaz Sadiq was contacted by Asad Qasier and Fawad Chaudhry two days ago for the talks and proposed that the government announce elections time frame within 8 to 10 months to which Sadiq said that the proposal would be laid before party supremo Nawaz Sharif.

Pakistan and Indonesia hold dialogue in Bali Both sides express satisfaction

over pace of bilateral relations 72 years, they agreed on enhanced bi-

News Desk / DNA lateral exchanges at all levels to further solidify the relationship. They BALI: The 3rd Round of Policy Planalso agreed on the need to further ning Dialogue between strengthen Pakistan and Indonesia held on 24 May 2022 Bali, Indonesia. Ms. Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, Additional Secretary (Asia Pacific), led the Paki stan delega headed by Dr. Yayan Ganda

tion, while was Hayat Mulyana, Head of the Foreign Policy Strategy Agency (FPSA). Pakistan's Ambassador to Indonesia, Mr. Muhammad Hassan and Ambassador Adam Mulawarman Tugio of Indonesia to Pakistan also attended the Dialogue.

The two sides expressed satisfaction over the pace of development of bilateral relations, which are rooted in shared history, culture and faith. Exchanging views on the growth of Pakistan-Indonesia ties over the last

benefit of the two countries. As the two biggest Islamic countries, the two sides discussed issues pertaining to Muslim communities and OIC in-cluding Islamophobia and the situations in Palestine, Afghanistan and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Global developments and regional issues were also discussed at length including peace and security in South Asia, the

contacts in

all dimen-

sions to

the mutu-

Asia-Pacific and beyond. The two sides emphasized the importance of continued dialogue and agreed to remain engaged on issues of mutual interest through various existing mechanisms, at bilateral and multilateral levels.

Inside..

Global warming poses threats to human lives, aquatic resources Page 02

Jordanian Ambassador visits FPCCI capital office - Page 03

Rule of law to be ensured at all costs, Senate told - Page 04

Palestinians denied justice in Israeli courts - Page 05

Xi stresses not to politicize human - Page 06

Chinese companies to invest \$6b in Pakistan

- Page 07 Marriyam assures APNS of rates' increase, ads quantum

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protest at H-9

Continued on Page 06

Yasin Malik sentenced to life imprisonment

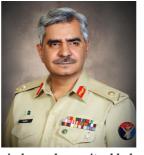
The NIA court handed down two life sentences and five 10-year terms of rigorous imprisonment, which will run concurrently. Moreover, a penalty of 1 million has also been slapped on the Kashmiri leader

News Desk

sentenced Kashmiri freedom fighter, Yasin Malik, to life imprisonment in a terror RAWALPINDI: Director-Genfunding case, the country's media report- eral Inter-Services Public Reed. The National Investigation Agency lations (DG ISPR) has issued (NIA) had sought the death penalty for the a statement condemning the Kashmiri leader and chief of the Jammu Indian court's decision to senand Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), but tence Kashmir liberation acthe court awarded him two life imprison- tivist Yasin Malik. The statements, according to the media. The NIA ment issued by the DG ISPR court handed down two life sentences and five 10-year terms of rigorous imprison- Yasin Malik over fabricated alment, which will run concurrently. More-legations. These kinds of acts over, a penalty of 1million has also been by India would not be able to

DG ISPR condemns life NEW DELHI: An Indian court Wednesday sentenced Kashmiri fraedom fighter Vec

said that India has sentenced



slapped on the Kashmiri leader, according suppress Kashmir's struggle for independence, it added. to NDTV. The Hurriyat leader was convict. The DG ISPR added that the real struggle for Kashmir ed in the terror-funding case last week af- is continuous in the Indian Occupied Kashmir. We stand ter he pleaded guilty to all the charges last with our Kashmiris brothers in their fight for autonomy Tuesday, including the ones under the Unand independence, he added.. The statement from the lawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). military's media wing came after an Indian court award-Yasin had refused to contest the charg- ed life imprisonment to Jammu and Kashmir Liberation es, including Section 16 (terrorist act), Front Chairman, Muhammad Yasin Malik. - DNA

Pakistan rejects life sentence verdict

ISLAMABAD: The Indian Charge d'Affaires (Cd'A) in Islamabad was called to the Foreign Office Wednesday and conveyed Pakistan's strongest condemnation and rejection of the malafide conviction and sentencing of Hurriyat lead- Hurriyat leader in 2019, the same year er Mr. Yasin Malik in a grossly suspicious and contrived case registered under the draconian Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and Indian Penal Code (IPC), dat- Malik's wife Mushaal Hussein Muling back to 2017, filed against him by the Indian National Investigation Agency (NIA). The Indian Cd'A was con-mate." Verdict in minutes by Indian kanveyed Government of Pakistan's strong indignation over the highly reprehensible sentencing of Mr. Yasin Malik iconic leader will never surrender. after his conviction on fabricated charges, denial of fair In Kashmir's main city of Srinagar, potrial and inhuman incarceration despite his deteriorating lice fired tear gas and pellets to disperse health, in complete defiance of the Universal Declaration stone-pelting protesters outside Malik's of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). It was highlighted that by implicating him in a concocted case and carrying day" for Indian democracy and its justice out a bogus and one-sided trial, India has again misused

Section 17 (raising funds for a terrorist act), Section 18 (conspiracy to commit a terrorist act) and Section 20 (being a member of a terrorist gang or organisation) of the UAPA and Sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 124-A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code.

The Indian government arrested the when the special status of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir was revoked. lick said the sentencing was illegitigaroo court," she wrote on Twitter, "The

residence.In response, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said "today is a black system, noting that despite the order, the idea of freedom Malik symbolises could never be imprisoned.

Continued on Page 06

Global warming poses threats to human lives, aquatic resources

PESHAWAR: Misal Khan, (83), who was busy like a honeybee while threshing his wheat crop at his fields under the blistering sun in his native village, suddenly collapsed after feeling dizziness apparently due to heatstroke.

Being a resident of Dheri Ishaq in Nowshera district, Khan's sons, who were also around and busy in work along with their father rushed to a nearby clay pot and sprinkled water on his face and head in order to get their father senses but to no avail-

'I dashed towards my 'Baba Jan' after he fell off the thresher on a hay-stock and became unconscious. We suddenly bundled him into a datsun in a hurry to shift him to a nearest Government Rashid Hussain Shaheed Hospital. Pabbi after witnessing blood was oozing out from his nose profusely and mouth was foaming.

"My Baba was all-well in the morning and had a breakfast with us before mustering labourers for threshing wheat in open fields at about 12:10pm in a sweltering sun," Khurshid Khan, his younger son at Pabbi hospital observed while talking to APP. He said the doctors informed him that his father had suffered severe heat- stroke, which ruptured his nasal vein causing bleeding. "The patient's condition was precarious when he was brought to the hospital as a vein coming from head to nose was ruptured, which caused heavy flow of blood with swollen throat, vomiting and other heatstroke symptoms," said head of ENT Department, Dr Aziz Khan. He said these heat waves' symptoms were mostly witnessed due to the rise of temperature owing to climate change and global warming posing serious threats to humans, animals, birds and aquatic species. "The patient was lucky enough to have been brought to the hospital in time as he his low immunity level due to age factor", he added. Dr Aziz said, "heat waves are more dangerous for old citizens and children due to their low immunity and their direct exposure to scorching sun may prove fatal."

Dr. Zaheeruddin Babar, Director and Chief Spokesman Met Office, Islamabad said the plain areas of Sindh and Punjab were severely hit by heat-waves this month and its spill-over to mountainous areas up to lower Swat, Chitral, Chillas, Hunza and Gilgit were witnessed. Due to an increase in global warming, he said, rain patterns had undergone changes over the recent years for countries like Pakistan due deforestation and increase

in hazardous emissions. Pakistan is home to over 7,253 known glaciers, including around 543 in Chitral Valley most anywhere in the world except polar regions, feeds our rivers and contributing 75precent stored water supply vital for the country's agrobased economy. The chief weather forecast guru said melting of glaciers and ice- packs in lower elevations in northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan and Hindukash region especially in Chitral would increase if the reasons leading to global warming and climate change were not addressed. Terming global warming an international issue, Dr Zaheer said Pakistan was among 10 countries in the world

most vulnerable to climate change and

Anti-Dengue awareness campaign launched

ration. Deputy Commission-

er Lt. (R) Sohail Ashraf was

chief guest on this occasion.

Addressing the seminar

Deputy Commissioner said

that although the district

administration and the health authority were tak-

ing all necessary steps to

control the spread of den-

gue but the lesson to adopt

precautionary measures

on regular base is utmost

He asked the teachers to

play the role of leaders in

the schools by educating

and training the students

on modern lines and sen-

sitive them to convey the

message to protect from

dengue and spread aware-

ness against dengue from

home to the streets and

necessary for long term.

countries would become inhabitable after a few decades if burning of fossil fuels like coal, vehicles' emissions and deforestation continued with an existing rate." Dr Zaheer said an increase of carbon dioxide in air due to greenhouse gas emissions, brick kilns and smoke emitting vehicles were largely contributing to rise of temperature and caused heatstroke besides air pollution. Ikhtiar Wali Khan, PML-N Spokesperson and Member Provincial Assembly told APP that vanishing of endangered Shisham, Siris and Peepal canopy trees due to urbanization have resulted in a substantial increase in temperature in Peshawar region.

Following ruthless chopping of these indigenous trees, he said Peshawar was today engulfed by polluted air and nearly five million of its people were exposed to heat waves in its wake. History revealed that Peshawar was lush green surrounded by a thick forest as mentioned by first Mughal Emperor Zaheeruddin Babar in his book "Tuzke Babri," but unfortunately one found no traces of the green gold today. Ikhtiar Wali said today one can find withered Shisham while going through Swat Canal linking Katlang-Swabi , Michi Canal in Dargai-Malakand, Abezai branch in Charsadda and outskirts of Peshawar. Today migratory birds like Houbara and Cranes can hardly be seen in Peshawar's outskirts for which once it was famous and aquatic species like Masher and Trout in River Swat and Kabul were decreased due to rapid in-

achieve the desired results

The Deputy Commissioner

said that special attention

should be paid to clean-

liness inside and outside

schools, houses, offices so

that dengue does not get a

ful organization of the semi-

nar and appealed the citizen

that precautionary meas-

AC City Sahibzada Mu-

Eduactaion and Health Ali

Ahmad Siyan, Dr. Bilal Ah-

mad also spoke the seminar.

Chief Officer MPC Zubair

Hussain, In charge DEOC

Muhammad Sadiq, Educa-

tionalist Akhtar Butt and

teachers were also present.

Yousaf, CEOs

ures should be adopted.

chance to spread.

hammad

through joint efforts.

HARIPUR: German ambassador interacts with members of civil society during his recent visit to Haripur. - DNA

Crackdown on beggars intensified

FAISALABAD: The anti-beggary squad of the Social Welfare Department caught 15 beggars from different intersections on Wednesday.

According to official sources, beggars were taken into custody from Jamia Chishtia Chowk, outside Kutchehry Bazaar, Saleemi Chowk, Allied Hospital, Bilal Road, University Road, and Station Chowk. They were handed over to the police for further legal action. - APP

PHA turning city into lush-green

He said that a special monitoring unit had also been constituted for regular inspection of green areas on a daily basis

FAISALABAD: The Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) is actively working to develop parks and turn the city into lush-green. Presiding over a meeting here on Wednesday, Director General PHA Muhammad Ayyub Khan directed all town in-charges to beautify the green areas by planting colorful plants in respect of the summer weather. He said that a special monitoring unit had also been constituted for regular inspection of green areas on a daily basis. He said that in connection with beautification of the city, a comprehensive report from director engineering had also been sought. - APP

VC inaugurates EPI Center of excellence at KMU



OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq vice-chancellor Khyber Medical University (KMU), Peshawar in collaboration with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Department of Health inaugurated the EPI center of excellence at KMU. This center will provide vaccination for 12 childhood diseases according to the national immunization schedule. The center will be open from 8 am to 8 pm Monday to Saturday.

Assistant Prof. and in charge of KMU Mass vaccination center Dr. Khalid Rehman, Dr. Mohsin DD

EPI, Dr.Arif EPI coordinator Peshawar, Dr. Feroz Shah Deputy DHO, and Dr. Asad were also present at the occasion.

Meanwhile, speaking on the

occasion, vice-chancellor

KMU Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq said that the inauguration of this center is a great initiative for the residents of Hayatabad and its surrounding areas which would help the local population to be vaccinated against 12 diseases in a calm and clean academic environment. He hoped that the establishment of this center would

not only enhance the coverage of EPI in the area but would also provide local

the diseases which are being researched along with the causes, recommendations can also be made for the prevention of these diseases. Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq said that besides more than 1.6 million diagnostic tests in the Public Health Reference Lab and about 100,000 vaccinations at the Corona Mass Vaccination Center, now with the establishment of EPI center it is evident that KMU is in the forefront in serving the people of the country and especially the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in social services besides academic and research activities.

Another police inspector

PESHAWAR: A police inspector of Frontier Region Police (FRP) was shot dead by unknown assailants in Saddar Circle area of police station Inqilab Road here on Wednesday. According to CCPO Office, the martyred police inspector, Sahar Gul was taking his children to school when came under the attack. His children however remained unhurt in the firing. SSP Operations, Haroon Rashid accompanied by SSP Investigation Shahzada Kokab Farooq reached the crime scene and started the investigation procedure. The SSP Operations directed the police force to carry out the investigation on scientific lines to arrest the real perpetrators behind this gruesome incident on urgent basis. He also directed for exam-

ining the crime scene evidence with minute details and ordered utilizing the human intelligence and statements of eye witnesses. He said perpetrators involved in this heinous act would be brought to the justice at all cost. A week ago, the Station House Officer (SHO) of Shahpur police station, Shakeel Khan was also martyred by unknown attackers on Northern By-pass road near Motorway. - APP

ANF seizes huge quantity of drugs

KARACHI: The Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Sindh in a drive against anti social elements seized a huge quantity of drugs and arrested an accused in separate actions. According to a spokesman for ANF Sindh on Wednesday, ANF Police Station Korangi intercepted various parcels at the offices of private courier companies and recovered heroin and suspicious materi-

From three separate parcels booked for UK, about 280 grams of heroin concealed in 3 ladies suits, 850 grams of heroin concealed in 10 pairs of gloves and 700 grams heroin concealed tactfully in ladies suits were recovered. While from another parcel booked for Australia 14.600 grams of suspicious material. tactfully absorbed in 11 books, was recovered. – APP

shot dead

al booked for abroad.

Shah for convening conference on climate change ISLAMABAD: Minister for Water Resources Syed Khurs-

heed Ahmed Shah on Wednesday underlined the need for convening a conference on important national issues like climate change and water scarcity aimed at devising an effective strategy to tackle the confronted challenges. Responding to a Calling Attention Notice regarding the shortage of water in Cholistan, he said there was a drought-like situation, the area had faced in 1910 and the shortage of water supply would further deteriorate the situation. Currently, the water in and out-flow at almost all dams had considerably decreased and even the Mangla dam reached below its dead level, declaring it 'dangerous' having a negative impact on the national economy. The minister said the climate change was badly affecting the country as in August there would be excessive water due to melting of snow in mountains, advising the Ministry of Climate change to work on war-footing and suggest corrected measures for the agriculture sector for effective utilization of water. Answering a supplementary question, Khursheed Shah also stressed the

need for judicious utilization of underground water for

irrigation purposes, adding at present there was around

45-47 per cent water shortage. He said the country had

sufficient water but there was a need for better man-

agement by increasing its storage capacity with the con-

struction of new dams. He was of the view that there

should be more dams in the next 4-5 years to preserve

the water that went to the sea unutilized. - APP

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ISHFAQ MUGHAL FAISALABAD: Under the joint arrangements of Dis-Kyrgyz envoy

calls on Acting Governor of Sindh

KARACHI: Acting Governor of Sindh Agha Siraj Durrani met Ambassador of Kvrgyzstan to Pakistan Totuiaev Ulanbek Asankulovich at Sindh Governor House here on Wednesday.

Issues of mutual interest including bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields were discussed during the meeting, said a statement. Appreciating Kyrgyzstan's assistance in various fields, the Acting Governor Sindh said that Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan had friendly relations, while improvement in strategic relations between the two countries had further strengthened the close ties between the two sides. - APP

Call for protecting rights of working women in factories

OUR CORRESPONDENT

trict Administration and Dis-

trict Education Authority,

an anti dengue awareness

seminar was held at Iqbal

hall of Metropolitan Corpo-

PESHAWAR: Representatives of a civil society organization called for protecting the rights of working women in factories and business premises, stressing the need to strict implementation of all relevant laws/regulations in this regard. Speakers while expressing views during an introductory session about Working Women's Alliance (WWA), an initiative of non-profit organization, Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability [TDEA], and Free and Fair Election Network [FAFEN] in collaboration with Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), here at the chamber's house on Wednesday, said the women have pivotal role in economic development of the country. The session was chaired by the chamber's president Hasnain Khurshid Ah-

mad while Ms Naheed, a representative of TDEA acted as moderator on the occasion. Senior members of the chamber, officials of TDEA/FAFEN, government relevant officials, traders, industrialists, women social activists, representatives of an non-government organisation, members of working women alliance and others were present during the introductory session. Ms Naheed through her multimedia presentation elaborated key terms of references (TORs) regarding working women's constitutional and fundamental rights that were set during a dialogue at the national level. She sought the SCCI cooperation for further modification and improvement in these TORs. Stressing the need for full enforcement of relevant laws and regulations regarding women rights, Hasnain Khurshid told the forum that rights and all required facil-

ities to working women in factories have been assured. The SCCI chief said factory owners are fully abiding with labour laws and ensuring rights of all employees,

workers, especially female employees/ workers and those working on daily wages in factories. He informed us that the minimum wages, announced by the provincial government, have been strictly implemented by factory owners. Farhad Asfandyar, a member of the women alliance, said the forum actively engaged relevant stakeholders to ensure provision of all rights to working women in the province. He said women rights have been protected in factories at every level.

Dr Riffat Aziz, Sajjad Aziz, SCCI's secretary general and others also spoke on the occasion and reaffirmed their commitment to work jointly for rights of working women.

Biochar can improve agri productivity, address ailment issues: Experts

Dean Faculty of Animal Husbandry Prof Dr Qamar Bilal said that the country needed a serious intervention to combat environmental, soil and water degradation with proper remediation

FAISALABAD: Application of biochar could not only address human ailment issues but also improve soil and crop health in addition to increase agricultural productivity. This was stated by the experts while addressing an international seminar on "Biochar Impact on Soil, Crop, Human Health and Society (A Gastroenteritis Context)" at Syndicate Hall University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) here on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan said that as per international standards, permissible limit of heavy metals was 10 parts per billion (ppb), but unfortunately

levels of heavy metals and pathogens in the water resources of the country were alarmingly high.

He was of the view that biomaterials science, especially applications of biochar and low cost organic amendments etc. were essential to provide solutions for environmental issues and to lower down the heavy metals impact

from the crops. Dean Faculty of Agriculture Prof Dr Aman Ullah Malik said that for sustainable agriculture, biochar could be used to help combat global warming by sequestering carbon in the soil.

He said that this international

seminar provided a unique opportunity for the scientists, practitioners, and all other stakeholders to work together for the cause of food security and health issues as well as to learn from experiences of UK-based partners of GAST-ROPAK project.

Dean Faculty of Animal Husbandry Prof Dr Qamar Bilal said that the country needed a serious intervention to combat environmental, soil and water degradation with proper remediation.

He stressed the need of joint efforts in order to address gastroenteritis issues. He said that animal waste caused contamination. Therefore, the experts, scientists and all policy makers should take this issue seriously for its durable solution. Chairman Department of Agrono-

my Prof Dr Abdul Khaliq said that management of soil variability would ensure sustainable agriculture production. He stressed the need to save soil and water wisely as the situation was deteriorating especially in poor peri urban areas. Dr Chris Quince and Richard Doyle from Earlham Institute, Dr Ruben Sakrabani of Cranfield University, Dr Lyla, Dr Noel McCarthy from Trinity College Dublin and others also spoke on the occasion. – **APP**

National Days and Armed Forces Days

MAY

May 03 / Poland May 06 / Bulgaria

May 06 / UAE

Armed Forces Day

Armed Forces Day May 07 / Kazakhstan

Armed Forces Day May 08 / Czech Republic

National Day

May 09 / European Union National Day

May 17 / Norway

Constitution Day May 21 / Hungary Armed Forced Day

May 22 / Yemen Republic Re-unification Day (National Day)

May 24 / Eritrea May 25 / Lebanon

Liberation and Resistance Day May 25 / Argentina

National Day May 25 / Jordan Independence Day

May 28 / Azerbaijan Republic Day

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Jordanian Ambassador visits FPCCI capital office

Ambassador says Jordan has strong and historic relations with Pakistan based on mutual respect and common values

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Jordanian Ambassador to Pakistan Ibrahim Al-Madani visited FPCCI Capital Office Islamabad yesterday and met Vice President FPCCI Umar Masood-ur-Rehman and Chairman Coordination Mirza Abdul Rehman and discussed Bilateral trade and various issues including investment promotion. Jordanian Ambassador Ibrahim Al-Madani said that he is committed to provide all possible facilities to Pakistani businessmen in joint ventures, including finding investment opportunities in Jordan. He further said that Jordan has strong and historic relations with Pakistan based on mutual respect and common values.

"We intend to enhance our bilateral trade relations by intensifying our engagement with the private sector in Pakistan," he said. The most important way to increase bilateral trade is through business-to-business cooperation and people-to-people contacts. He said that in the coming months there would be high-level visits by trade delegations. The two countries will not reap the benefits unless both sides show interest.

65 vehicles, 52

motorcycles

recovered by

AVLC

ISLAMABAD: State Min-

ister for Interior Abdul

Rehman Khan Kanju on

Wednesday informed the

National Assembly that

during the current year

about 65 vehicles and 52

motorcycles were recovered by Anti-Vehicle Lifting

Cell (AVLC) till-date in the

federal capital and handed

during 'Question Hour' he said that during 2021 a

total number of 160 vehi-

cles were recovered by the

AVLC from 195 accused

persons, stolen from Islam-

abad and other parts of the

country and handed over to

He said that during the last

10 years, a total number of

5,110 cases of stolen vehi-

cles were registered within

the federal capital out of

these 1,663 vehicles were

recovered. During the same

period, he said, 7,368 cases

of stolen motorcycles were

registered in Islamabad and

motorcycles. – APP

real owners.

over to real owners. Responding to questions



The ambassador said that Pakistani products that can be exported to Jordan include fabrics, garments and agricultural seeds, machinery and spare parts, oil, juice, cotton, fiber optics, paper, leather and many more. Jordan exports to Pakistan fertilizers, iron, pharmaceuticals, plastics, processed food products, some agricultural products and machinery. FPCCI Vice President Umar Masood-ur-Rehman thanked Jordanian Ambassador Ibrahim

Al-Madani for visiting the FPCCI Capital Office and said that we have a long history of bilateral trade while the volume of trade is

very small. He drew the attention of the Jordanian Ambassador to the Special Economic Zones of Pakistan and said that Jordanian companies could reap the full benefits by setting up their own manufacturing plants in Pakistan as labor in Pakistan is much cheaper than in Jordan. He said that in order to remove trade barriers and increase trade volume, the business community of both the countries must

be brought closer. Umar Masood-ur-Rehman added that there are excellent investment opportunities for Jordanian investors in various sectors of Pakistan's economy, including energy, tourism, information technology, food processing, agriculture, development, furniture, hotel industry and development of tourist destinations. Therefore,

Jordanian investors should take full advantage of these opportunities. Former President of Islamabad Small Chamber and Convener of FPCCI Standing Committee on Real Estate Tahir Arain, President of Haripur Chamber Muhammad Saleem Awan, Vice President Malik Umair Khalid and Group Leader of Islamabad Chamber Abid Khan and others were also present on the occasion. Mirza Abdul Rehman Chairman

Coordination FPCCI Capital Office Islamabad while talking to the Ambassador of Jordan said that promotion of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Jordan is necessary, increasing the volume of trade between the two countries needs time. He said that there are vast investment opportunities in Pakistan and promotion of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Jordan is necessary. He further said that Pakistan has immense investment opportunities in oil, gas and minerals sectors besides tourism.The experience of Jordan's tourism sector can be used for development in the sector. Finally, Omar Masood-ur-Rehman and Mirza Abdul Rehman presented the FPCCI shield to the Jordanian Ambassador.

under the Islamabad Health Regulation Act, 2018. IHRA aims to improve the quality, efficiency and safety of healthcare services delivery by adopting evidence-based regulatory standards for the registration and licensing of healthcare establishments, health professionals, and equipment. – **APP**

fatal coronavirus during the last 24 hours, raising the district's tally of confirmed cases to 46,604. As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here on Wednesday, the total infected cases included 43,098 from Rawalpindi and 3,506 from other districts. Among

"Presently, 33 confirmed The report further said that at 0.49 percent. – APP

Five more diagnosed with virus RAWALPINDI: Five more

efforts against antimicrobial

resistance

ISLAMABAD: The Islama-

bad Healthcare Regulatory

Authority (IHRA), and DAI

- Fleming Fund Country Grant Pakistan have de-

cided to start joint efforts

against Antimicrobial Re-

A Memorandum of Under-

standing (MOU) was signed

in this regard between IHRA

and Fleming Fund to combat

Antimicrobial Resistance.

This MOU will allow inter-

ventions in five public and

private hospitals in Islama-

bad. The healthcare profes-

sionals and administrators

of the selected hospitals

will be trained in AMR con-

cepts and the importance

Antibiotic use in Pakistan

has increased by 65% over

the last 16 years. The mis-

use and overuse of antimi-

crobials by health practition-

ers has increased resistance

in humans, which has re-

sulted in severe illness and

even death. According to

the World Bank, by 2050, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) may lead to 10 mil-

lion deaths annually. There

is a wide practice of health

practitioners prescribing

generic, broad spread anti-

biotics without checking if it

is the appropriate solution

for their patients. Around

75% of Pakistani patients

are receiving at least one

antimicrobial agent in a hospital setting. The Is-

lamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority (IHRA)

is an autonomous health

regulatory body enacted

of AMR stewardship.

sistance (AMR).

people were diagnosed with

the news cases, three had arrived from the Taxila area and two from Rawal town. patients are quarantined at homes and no one at health faculties", the report added, 6,876,248 people, including 44,790 health workers, had jabbed themselves against the lethal coronavirus (COV-ID-19) across the district since the vaccination administering drive launched on March 10, 2021. District Health Authority updated that during the last 24 hours, 1,020 samples were collected, out of which 1,015 were declared negative, while the positivity rate was recorded

RDA vets 2022-23 budget worth Rs 2,287 mln

RAWALPINDI: The Finance

Sub-Committee of Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) on Wednesday vetted the fiscal year 2022-23 budget worth Rs 2,287 million and estimates of the development expenditure have been sent to the government of Punjab for endorsement. The Finance Sub-Committee comprising Finance Department, P&D Department and HUD&PHE Department met under the chairmanship of Director General, RDA, Capt. (R) Tahir Zafar Abbasi to scrutinize/vet the annual budget of RDA for fiscal year 2022-23. The meeting was informed that total outlay of RDA's budget for the fiscal year 2022-23 is Rs 2,287 million. The major portion of the budget allocated for the ongoing and new development schemes. The ongoing development schemes included construction of Rawalpindi Ring Road

(38.3 km) main carriageway

from Banth (N-5) to Thalian

(M-2) and provision of LED

street lights for Ward 1 to

Ward 6 of CCB, UC-42, UC-75

and UC-78, Rawalpindi. – APP

1,402 motorcycles were recovered and handed over to ISLAMABAD: Turkish Chef presents a Turkish delicacy to the wife of the Turkish Ambassador the owners of vehicles and on the occasion of Turkish cuisine week, celebrated at the embassy. - DNA Telenor, LUMS management consider synergies

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Staying true to their mission, Telenor Pakistanleadership met with senior officials from LUMS to strengthen linkages between the private and academic sectors. The LUMS delegation, including Dr Arshad Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor, Mr Shahid Hussain, Rector, and Ms Nuzhat Kamran, Director of Advancement, met with CEO Telenor Pakistan Irfan Wahab Khan and his team to discuss partnerships for

LUMS officials were briefed on the network's ongoing work revolutionising digital and financial sectors through innovative educational inter-

future collaboration in areas

of mutual interest.

ventions that enhance the end-user experience with an eye on scaling technology. Irfan Wahab Khan said,"Telenor Pakistan and LUMS share the ambition to create a stronger, more resilient digital society that thrives on inclusion. Collaboration between the industry and academia, such as applied research and data science, is key to pushing business innovation.

With research finding its way in the industry supported by data insights, this tie-up will pave the way for digitalisation advancements that ultimately improve livelihoods and empower young minds to do more and be more." Dr Arshad Ahmad comment-

ed, "Telenor Pakistan has contributed to a strong digital ecosystem supporting tech startups. Advancementsin health, fintech and platform learning have resulted fromimproved connectivity and communication, even in the most challenging times. We look forward to forging stronger ties and achieving great goals with Telenor Pakistan." Telenor Pakistan has a history of collaboration within the country's education sector, focusing on improving the state of digital education, such as its recent partnership with Orenda, Noon Academy, and Telenor Velocity's onboarding of multiple Ed-tech startups. Discussions like this enable the kind of knowledge-sharing partnership that cannot be achieved through financial investments alone and is fundamental in building Pakistan's human capital development.

ANF recovers 516 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI: Narcotics Force (ANF) Balochistan and ANF In telligence on Wednesday recovered 516 kg narcotics. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, ANF Balochistan and ANF Intelligence in a joint operation seized 516 kg narcotics including 410 kg opium and 106 kg heroin which were smuggled from Afghanistan and concealed in Gali Harbi, an area of Gulistan Tehsil of Qilla Abdullah to send abroad through Gawadar. A case has been registered against

AIOU starts English access micro scholarship program

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has inaugurated English Access Micro Scholarship Program in Gujranwala Region in collaboration with US Consulate. The purpose of this initiative is to provide youngsters (aged 13 to 19) access to education and employment opportunities through language teaching.US Consul General, William K. Makaneole was the chief guest of this ceremony, whereas Federal Minister for Energy, Mr. Khurram Dasatgir Khan, RD Gujranwala, Dr. Qaisr Kazmi, Focal Person English Access Micro scholarship Program, Dr. Saira Maqbool and a large number of students were also present. Program Coordinator, The US Consul General said that this year marks the 75th anniversary of US-Pakistan relations. He said that youth will have to work day and night for the development of Pakistan. Khurram Dastagir Khan said that 24,000 Pakistani students have participated in the English Access Micro Scholarship Program and this program would determine the future of Pakistani children. Khurram Dastgir Khan praised the educational services and activities of Allama Iqbal Open University. According to Dr. Saira Maqbool, this 2-year English Access Micro Scholarship Program is funded by the US Consulate in Lahore. AIOU has offered this program again after the successful conclusion of its first batch, 800 forms were received, and 100 students including 50 girls and 50 boys were selected after a written test and interview. - DNA

Fragile economy cannot afford political turmoil

Malik urged political parties to demonstrate best prudence and exhibit the highest degree of wisdom to iron out the differences as unrest had wreaked havoc in all economic fronts

DNA

poor more miserable besides

putting the country at stake, he

ISLAMABAD: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) President, Iftikhar Ali Malik cautioned Wednesday that country's fragile economy was not in position to bear the brunt of prolonged political turmoil at this crucial juncture of time. The political turmoil had been inflicting tremendous loss to economy, making the lives of

said while talking to a delegation of young educated progressive women led by an emerging Utuber Ms Noreen Asim Siyal .Malik said, Pakistan was among a few countries where political instability had badly damaged the economic growth despite having plenty of indigenous resources. He said political instability has a significant negative effect on economic growth and government should take immediate measures on war footings to bring political stability, which he said was a pre-requisite for sustainable



economy. Malik urged political parties to demonstrate best pru-

gree of wisdom to iron out the differences as unrest had wreaked havoc in all economic fronts. He said that politics of confrontation, protest, violence and agitation was not solution to issues adding time has changed now and the influential nations were paying more attention to financial warfare to continue their dominance. These countries are successfully

mies of poor nations to achieve

their unholy designs adding Pa-

dence and exhibit the highest de-

using their weapons of economic destruction to weaken econo-

kistan's economy was not strong enough to withstand economic terrorism. Iftikhar Ali Malik highlighted the importance of enhancing exports by reducing cost of doing business to make country's products competitive in the world markets.

On the occasion, Ms Noreen Asim Siyal thanked Malik for encouraging them and said women almost constitute 49 percent of the population who can strive hard in every sphere of life if given equal benefits and opportunities at par with their fellow entrepreneurs.

Thursday, May 26, 2022

Briefs

Flight operations may affect due to road closures

ISLAMABAD: A spokesman for Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) on Wednesday feared that the flight operations of the national flag carrier could affect due to road closures in Islamabad and Lahore. Spokesman Abdullah Hafeez Khan, in a brief press statement, said the PIA's all routine flights were in line with their schedule; however, there could be some delays because of unavoidable reasons [Road closures caused by PTI's long march towards Islamabad.] He requested all passengers to leave their homes for their respective airports, keeping in view the situation at roads, and remain in contact with PIA Call Center 111786786 for information about flights. - APP

'Govt will not allow anyone to challenge state writ'

ISLAMABAD: Senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) Tahira Aurangzeb Wednesday said that government will never allow anyone to challenge writ of the state as protection of lives and property of people is responsibility of government and these cannot be compromised.

Speaking to PTV news, she lamented that PTI leadership was leading the country toward anarchy, adding, the party was planning to attack law enforcement agencies. "There is freedom of expression and peaceful protests in the country but the PTI coming to Islamabad only aim for chaos," she added. Replying to a question, she made it clear that law will take its due course if the march goes violent. Imran Khan has snatched away basic rights of common people and did not give anything to the masses except price hike, she said. - APP

Pak earns \$562m by exporting transport services

ISLAMABAD: earned US \$ 562.750 million by providing different transport services in various countries during the first nine months of fiscal year (2021-22) as compared to the corresponding period last year. This shows increase of 27.32 percent as compared to US \$ 441.980 million earned through provision of services during the corresponding period of last fiscal year (2020-21), Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. During the period under review, the exports of sea transport services witnessed an increased of 52.87 percent, by going up from US \$ 61.260 million last year to US \$ 93.650 million during the period under review.

Among the sea transport services, the exports of freight services surge by 104.56 percent from US \$26.520 million last year to US \$ 54.250 million whereas the exports of other sea transport services also rose by 13.41 percent from US \$34.740 million to US \$39.400 million current year, the PBS data revealed. The exports of air transport services increased by 26.07 percent by going up from US \$ 358.390 million last year to US \$451.820 million during July-March (2021-22).

Among the air transport ser vices, the exports of passengers services rose by 22.64 percent, from US \$ 236.84 million to US \$ 290.460 million, whereas the exports of freight services dipped by 0.64 percent, from US \$23.410 million to US \$ 23.260 million, in addition the export of other air transport services surge by 40.72 percent from US \$ 98.140 million to US \$ 138.100 million. Meanwhile. the exports of road transport services during the period under review witnessed a decline of 24.51 percent by going down from US \$ 14.810 million to US \$ 11.180 million during this year, it added. Among the road transport services, the exports of freight services decreased by 74.95 percent, from US \$11.060 million to US \$ 2.770 million during the fiscal year under review, while the export of postal and courier services also decreased 18.88 percent, from US \$7.520 million to US \$6.100m, the data revealed. - APP

ISLAMABAD: People facing problems in reaching their work places due to road closure because of PTI long march. - DNA

Rule of law to be ensured at all costs, Senate told

Tarar said that on intercepting three vehicles in Lahore, a large number of ammunition including 16 automatic weapons have been recovered. He made it clear that the govt will not allow any armed group to plan attack on federal capital

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the House in the Senator, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Wednesday said that no one would be allowed to interrupt the daily life of people and the rule of law would be ensured at all costs. Replying to a point of order in the Senate, Tarar said that there would be no compromise on the writ of the state and appealed everyone to respect supremacy of law and constitution.

He said that the affairs of the state run under certain rules and laws and it was moral and constitutional obligation of every citizen to avoid creating unrest in the country. H appealed the parliamentarians from Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to follow rule of law in the country and avoid becoming part of unlawful activities. Tarar said that on intercepting three vehi-

cles in Lahore, a large number of ammunition including 16 automatic weapons have been recovered. He made it clear that the government will not allow any armed group to plan attack on federal capital. He added the government of Punjab has also started investigation into killing incident of policeman in Lahore, who was on duty.

He made it clear that a fake case was filed against Rana Sanaullah on Model Town incident and added that the Anti-Terrorist Court and Lahore High Court has cleared him from all such charges.

He said that Senator Ejaz Chaudhry has been released and assured the house that no any action will be taken against parliamentarians. He said that there are clear directions in this regard from the government. Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani informed the House that there was no need to issue a production order for Senator Ejaz Chaudhry as he has been released.

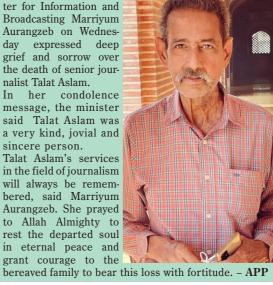
Senator Mohammad Humayun Mohmand said that PTI parliamentarians, leaders and workers were being arrested without any reason. He said that the government should stop arresting innocent people. Senator Danesh Kumar said that the chairman Senate should give ruling on arrest of parliamentarians to stop this practice. He added the government should avoid arresting parliamentarians. He appreciated the immediate response of Leader of the House and the government for taking notice of arrest of Senator Ejaz Chaudhry and release him instantly. Senator Dost Muhammad Khan said that previous long-march of PTI were held peacefully and assured that this long-march will also be held in a peaceful manner. Senator Fida Muhammad said that rather discussing personal issues the House should discuss issues of citizens of the country. He said that it was the constitutional right of every citizen to agitate against government policies. - APP

Marriyum grieved over demise of senior journalist Talat Aslam

Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of senior journalist Talat Aslam. In her condolence message, the minister said Talat Aslam was a very kind, jovial and sincere person. Talat Aslam's services in the field of journalism will always be remembered, said Marriyum Aurangzeb. She prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and

Minis-

ISLAMABAD:



Capital's hospitals make special arrangements ensure their availability and

lic sector hospitals in the federal capital have made special arrangements to ensure uninterrupted medical services to the citizens. The federal capital's two major hospitals- Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) and Federal Government Polyclinic (FGPC) will remain on high alert, keeping in view the situation.

According to an official of the PIMS hospital, all heads of Departments have been directed to make necessary arrangements in this regard to cope with any emergency situation. All heads of Clinical Departments have also been directed to make

presence at local stations of Rawalpindi and Islamabad and no one will be allowed to leave the station without prior approval of the Dean/ CEO, PIMS during the long march. The Clinical Head of the departments has been asked to prepare an emergency roster of the doctors concerned to perform emergency duties as well as first and second on-call senior doctors of departments including the General Surgery Department, General Medicine Department, Neuro Surgery Department, Orthopedic Department, Emergency and Accident Centre, Oral and Maxillo-

and Blood Bank. Similarly, FGPC hospital administration has directed all departments' heads, specialists, Medical Officers. Blood Bank officers, Deputy Chief Nursing Superintendent, Security Officers, and all technicians of stores not to leave the station and will remain accessible and available to reach the hospital immediately in case of any emergency.

The blood bank Officer has been advised to keep reserves of blood in hand for at least 100 bags while the Transport Supervisor will keep all the ambulances along with drivers in a func-

The DED of Medical stores will ensure sufficient medical store supply in the Casualty Wards while the DED General Stores will ensure the availability of sufficient store items in the emergency and other wards. The Incharge Oxygen will ensure sufficient stock of gases and remain available in the hospital. The Incharge Emergency Department has been asked to stay on high alert the Emergency Department to meet any emergency situation besides reserving 20 beds (10 male and 10 female) in the emer-

gency department.

PIA likely to resumes flights on Islamabad-Xian

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) is likely to resume its commercial passenger flights on Islamabad-Xian-Beijing-Islamabad route from June 04, PIA Country Director Qadir Bux Sangi said on Wednesday. The national flag carrier has got permission from the relevant authorities to operate its commercial passenger flight for Xian on June 04, he told APP. In the last week meeting between Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, the two sides agreed on resumption of direct flights between China and Pakistan operated by Pakistan International Airlines as soon as possible. They also agreed on the increase direct flights between the two countries according to the development of the epidemic. PIA suspended its flight operation between Pakistan and China after December 18 last year after closure of Xian airport following the Covid-19 pandemic prevention and control measures imposed by the Chinese authorities. - APP

IHRA to start efforts against antimicrobial resistance

IHRA is an autonomous health regulatory body enacted under the Islamabad Health Regulation Act, 2018

ISLAMABAD: The Healthcare Regulatory Authority (IHRA), and DAI - Fleming Fund Country Grant Pakistan have decided to start joint efforts against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in this regard between IHRA and Fleming Fund to

combat Antimicrobial Resistance. This MOU will allow interventions in five public and private hospitals in Islamabad. The healthcare professionals and administrators of the selected hospitals will be trained in AMR concepts and the importance of AMR stewardship. Antibiotic use in Pakistan has increased by 65% over the last 16 years. The misuse and overuse of antimicrobials by health practitioners has increased resistance in humans, which has resulted in severe illness and even death. According to the World Bank, by 2050, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) may lead to 10 million deaths annually. There is a wide practice of health practitioners prescribing generic, broad spread antibiotics without checking if it is the appropriate solution for their patients. Around 75% of Pakistani patients are receiving at least one antimicrobial agent

in a hospital setting. The Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority (IHRA) is an autonomous health regulatory body enacted under the Islamabad Health Regulation Act, 2018. IHRA aims to improve the quality, efficiency and safety of healthcare services delivery by adopting evidence-based regulatory standards for the registration and licensing of healthcare establishments, health professionals, and equipment. - APP

Radioactive material cause serious health hazards

Umar Masood emphasized on creation of awareness about the sources of radioactive radiation, particularly in the business circle

ISLAMABAD: Vice President, Federation Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Umar Masood-ur-Rehman on Wednesday said that radioactive material can cause serious health hazards as well as environmental concerns.

The major source of radioactive material is found in the scrap metal which is recycled in the industry, this was stated by Umar Masood-ur-Rehman, Vice President FPCCI in a meeting with the team of Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) led by Muhammad Rahman, Member Executive, said in a press release issued by FPCCI here. Muhammad Qayyum DG (Inspection and Enforcement), Safeer Hussain Head of PPSD, Anayat Ullah, and Syed Majid Hussain Shah Principal Scientific Officers were in the delegation. Umar Masood emphasized on creation of awareness about the

sources of radioactive

radiation, particularly

detection

radioactive

the business circle.

sources in the imported scrap consignment is an important function of PNRA, he said. Since the country of origin may cause a financial loss in case of detection of any radioactive source in the consignee's importing country, he urged a unifying and harmonizing the inspection and monitoring strategies and methods in the context of scrap metal. The team of PNRA gave a detailed presentation during the meeting and answered various

questions raised by the participants. Muhammad Rehman, Member Executive PNRA urged FPCCI to collaborate with PNRA for enhancing awareness and to control the chances of any radioactive activity in industrial units to ensure the production of radioactive source free products and commodities. The Vice President of FPCCI assured the team of PNRA of support and cooperation and suggested holding sessions in other regional offices of FPCCI in Peshawar, Lahore, Quetta, and Karachi to educate and sensitize the business community about the preventive measures against radioactive contamination. - APP

PM grieves over death of journalist **Talat Aslam**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed grief over the death of veteran journalist Talat Aslam.

The prime minister paid tribute to the late journalist for his services to the press freedom and for raising awareness about the rights of minorities and women.

He extended condolences to the bereaved family of Talat Aslam. - APP

CDNS achieves Rs 990b through fresh bonds

ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) on Wednesday achieved the target of issuing Rs 990 billion fresh bonds in the last 10 months of current fiscal year 2021-22 from July 1st to May 24th. The CDNS had set an annual gross receipt target of Rs 980 billion from July 1 to June 30 of the previous fiscal year 2020-21 to promote savings in the country, the senior official of CDNS told APP here.

The senior official said the CDNS had set Rs 250 billion annual collection target from July 1 to June 30 for the year 2020-2021 as compared to Rs 352 billion for the previous year (2019-20) for the same time span to enhance savings in the country. The CDNS had set Rs 352 billion annual collection target for the year 2019-20 as compared to Rs 350 billion for the previous year (2018-19), he said.

Replying to a question, he said the CDNS has decided to start Islamic finance and will start implementing its procedural work from next month to provide the facility of Islamic finance in the institution. In this regard, under Islamic Sharia Compliance, Prize Bonds and Savings Certificates will be issued for investment in accordance with Sharia Principles, he said.

The CDNS will provide Islamic investment opportunities to its consumers in an institution like the rest of the private and public sector banking, where Islamic reached 20 percent.

Replying to another question, the senior official said that (CDNS) has started working to increase new investment opportunities and promote digital investment through many new projects. The CDNS in collaboration with State Bank of Pakistan is developing digital Prize Bonds, which will be available through online electronic channels, he said.

He said the CDNS is in process of launching its first Mobile App for online purchase and encashment of National Savings Schemes. The official said that for better and efficient transfer of funds electronically, the CDNS is going to adopt RAAST in the current month for speedy flow of funds through its financial tributaries, he said. - APP

ITP issues traffic plan amid PTI's long March

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) on Wednesday issued a traffic plan for the convenience of the general public ahead of PTI's long march towards the federal capital.

The entry and exit points to the Red Zone have been closed at 'Ayub chowk', 'NADRA chowk', 'Express chowk', and 'Serena chowk'. Those who wish to enter or exit the Red Zone can only use Margalla roads. Ataturk Avenue has been

closed from Nazim ud Din T-Cross to Geo Chowk, advising the commuters to use 7th Avenue to reach their destinations

Nazim ud Din Road has been closed from Zoom petrol pump to Ataturk Avenue and the Jinnah Avenue has been blocked from China Chowk to Express Chowk. the commuters are advised to use Margallah Road as an alternative route.

Murree Road is blocked for both sides of traffic towards Faizabad from Rawalpindi. the commuters can use Islamabad Expressway as an alternative route.

Islamabad Expressway has been closed for incoming traffic to Islamabad at the Gulburg Green Bridge and the commuters are advised to use Rawalpindi-Peshawar road to reach their destination. - APP

UK's Afghan evacuation: a disaster

HE excoriating parliamentary report on Britain's handling of the withdrawal from Afghanistan is such a lengthy catalogue of failure that it is far quicker to say what was done well: there were heroic efforts by individuals, working under enormous pressure, to save lives. Unfortunately, as the inquiry by the Commons foreign affairs committee - chaired by the Conservative MP Tom Tugendhat - makes clear, they were utterly let down by both ministers and top officials.

Politicians and senior officials showed too little interest, were absent at key moments, took inadequate or misguided action and failed to record what they did. MPs found that the "chaotic and arbitrary" Foreign Office response probably cost hundreds of people their chance to leave, and thus is likely to have cost lives. Yet those who are to blame have utterly failed to take responsibility. Indeed, when challenged, the Foreign Office provided answers that "in our judgment, are at best intentionally evasive, and often deliberately misleading".

The chaos in the days before and after the fall of Kabul to the Taliban on 15 August 2021 looked appalling enough at the time. The detail provided by Foreign Office whistleblowers and others shows it was worse. The government should have begun planning when the US withdrawal was announced in February 2020, instead of simply hoping the US might change course. What action it did take was late, inadequate and often incompetent.

Dominic Raab, then foreign secretary, had a single one-to-one conversation with the British ambassador in Kabul in the two weeks before the city fell, as the Taliban advance accelerated. He – like the prime minister, the minister for Afghanistan, Lord Ahmad, and the Foreign Office's permanent secretary, Sir Philip Barton were still on holiday on 15 August.

Beyond holding those who failed accountable, three issues are paramount. First, as the human rights group Global Witness says, the failure continues; people are still waiting for visas and the criteria have been tightened to bar some of those originally told that they had valid claims. Second, those who have made it to the UK must be properly supported to make their home here; thousands of Afghans remain in temporary accommodation. Finally, Afghanistan is in desperate straits. Development as well as humanitarian aid is necessary, along with serious consideration of how to get the economy back on to its feet. Britain has failed Afghans appallingly. It must not continue to do so.

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



A refreshing change in Australia

USTRALIA has sworn in a new prime minister. Anthony Albanese surprised political pundits as he led Labor to victory in the Australian general election. This was the Labor Party's first election victory in close to a decade. Albanese, a seasoned political leader, promised voters "safe change" during the campaign, which he ran efficiently. Voters echoed the positive messaging and showed the door to Australia's conservative Liberal-National coalition, which has been in power since 2013. "I want to bring Australians together. I want to seek our common purpose and promote unity and optimism, not fear and division," Albanese said in his victory speech.

These elections, coming as they do, after the pandemic, were also seen as a referendum on the style of the former prime minister, Scott Morrison. Dubbed a 'bulldozer' by media for his hard decisions during the pandemic, Morrison didn't always follow a collaborative political approach. Albanese, on the other hand, has a reputation of being a 'builder'. Though he has adjusted some of his more left-leaning policies, most voters seem to embrace his positions on key issues like climate. Labor will however need the support of Greens and other cross-benchers to pass its legislation in the Australian Senate.

As one of the most important issues of the election, climate crisis was a major talking point for Labor. The new prime minister is expected to take greater and faster action on climate change. Labor has already promised to cut emissions by 43 per cent (by 2030) and to reach net zero by 2050 by strengthening the mechanism used to persuade companies to make cuts. Critics would want Albanese to do more to keep global temperature rise within 1.5 degrees Celsius, as outlined in the Paris Agreement. Australia's foreign relations will be another major focus area for the new prime minister. Just 24 hours after taking oath, Albanese flew down to Japan to attend the Quad Summit in Tokyo. Sitting together with the world leaders, including President Joe Biden, Albanese discussed climate change, and the challenges faced by the Indo-Pacific region. He is holding individual bilateral meetings with Biden, Narendra Modi and Fumio Kishida. With a full plate in front of him – from reinvigorating the country's vital manufacturing industry to holding a referendum on enshrining an Indigenous Voice to Parliament in the constitution - Albanese needs to hit the ground running.

It appears that he has already taken the first sprint.

Palestinians denied justice in Israeli courts

Yossi Mekelberg

The actual act of driving so many families from their homes, of making them homeless in order to allow the army that occupies their land to train, arguably in order to improve its ability to violate their human, civil and political rights, is shockingly ironic

NCE upon a time, there were courts in Israel where Palestinians could, at least occasionally, obtain some of the justice denied to them by the might of the occupation and have their rights protected. But after 55 years of living under occupation, Palestinians have learned that it is increasingly futile for them to look for fair treatment - or to be treated in line with international law and standards, let alone compassion - in their daily dealings with Israel's military and civil authorities in the West Bank and Gaza.

There were occasions when the High Court of Justice was the last bastion of mitigating the arbitrary nature of the occupation; an occupation that by its sheer military power continues to deprive Palestinians of their basic rights and impose on them every kind of restriction that suits it. However, last week, once again, the High Court - this former fortress of human rights - approved the eviction of up to 1,200 Palestinians from their homes in eight villages in the southern West Bank area of Masafer Yatta, allowing Israel to reassign it as a closed military zone for training purposes.

The actual act of driving so many families from their

army that occupies their land to train, arguably in order to improve its ability to violate their human, civil and political rights, is shockingly ironic. It beggars belief that the highest court in the country has not even nudged the state to apply a drop of common sense and humanity and support the Palestinian petitioners whose sole wish was to remain on the land where they have been living since

at least the beginning of the 20th century. Those who want to see the people of Masafer Yatta driven somewhere else would have the court believe that the Palestinians living there have embarked on an unlawful building spree. The reality is very different, as in this part of the South Hebron Hills the people the Israeli courts have almost certainly condemned to expulsion are mainly traditional cave-dwellers who built some makeshift structures and tents for public services, including a medical center, schools and mosques. None of these buildings are as fancy as those in the prosperous Jewish settlements that have come to be scattered across the West Bank and which benefit from huge government subsidies.

It is for the court to ask itself why it approved the mass eviction of people who pose no threat to anyone and condemn them to a state of destitution. Can the "most moral army in the world" not train anywhere else? Does it need to make the lives of some of the poorest people in the West Bank utterly miserable and stoke up even more anger among the rest of the population? After all, the hamlets of Masafer Yatta are in Area C, which comprises 60 percent of the West Bank and is where, under the Oslo Accords, Israel retains almost exclusive control over security, law enforcement, planning and construction. In this case, the occupying force is responsible for the security and well-being of all the people who live there. But Israel has instead chosen to contravene international law and establish in this area a population of at least 325,000 Jewish settlers in 125 settlements and about 100 outposts, which enjoy excessive investment in their infrastructure and security that amounts to more funding per capita than even Israelis inside the Green Line enjoy. At the same time, Palestinians find it almost impossible for their planning applications to be approved. So inevitably they build without permission to meet the needs of their growing population and to keep their communities functioning. What else can we expect them to do?

By now, when it comes to dealing with the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, the Israeli courts have become a

mere rubber stamp for the government, the security forces and the settlers' wishes. The courts in these cases are guided neither by international law nor by how they would have ruled in cases brought by Israeli citizens rather than Palestinians. On the one hand, judges are complicit in dodgy arrangements between the government and the settlers by which they legalize outposts built by settlers without government approval, in defiance of Israeli law and authorities. And on the other they show no compassion in allowing evictions of Palestinians and in so doing neglect their responsibility as the occupying power to ensure everyone's well-being, livelihood and, equally important, their dignity. It could be expected that, in a democratic system, courts would not whitewash the misdeeds of government. How can the highest court in the land feel comfortable with the fact that it is never Jewish settlers that are ordered to evacuate their homes and pave the way for the army to train? It must surely bother those who are in charge of upholding the law that, even though their ruling is in line with the law, it is one that intrinsically favors Israelis, as laws are enacted by their representatives, while the Palestinians have no representation in this legislative process or the power to contest laws that discriminate against them.

Do not get me wrong, I am not suggesting that judges should bring their political opinions into their work. This would obviously destroy the very foundations of any justice system and further encourage politicians, not that they need much encouragement, to use their power to influence the selection of judges who will toe their own political line. However, there are times, despite the absence of a written constitution and especially when surrounded by the darkness of the occupation, when the justice system should be a beacon of light and have the courage to challenge the arbitrary nature of the two other branches of government should they abuse their powers in such an obvious and disturbing way.

The case of Masafer Yatta demonstrates once again that by such actions – as well as by turning a blind eve to regulations and restrictions on the use of firearms in disregard of Palestinians lives, by allowing lengthy detentions of children without trial and by imprisoning nearly 2 million people in Gaza within a harsh blockade - the High Court of Justice has failed Palestinians time and again, demonstrating that there is one standard of justice and morality applied to Israelis and another to Palestinians.

- Courtesy: Arab News

homes, of making them homeless in order to allow the Washington did not dispel ASEAN's doubts

Ding Duo

At the summit, the US put forward cooperation initiatives for ASEAN in many fields, including climate change, clean energy and transportation infrastructure, space cooperation, digital economy development, people-to-people...

HE historic summit between the US and ASEAN took place recently in Washington. It was the first time the leaders of ASEAN member states were invited as collective guests of the US. Over the years, the US has continued to deepen its partnership with Southeast Asian countries. ASEAN is the fourth largest market in the world, and the US is ASEAN's largest source of foreign direct investment, with the bilateral trade volume exceeding \$360 billion in 2020. It cannot be denied that Washington still has a huge influence in the Southeast Asian region, although such influence has weakened over recent years. There are many reasons for this change. One of the im-

portant facts is the improvement of China's soft and hard power, especially its economic and technological strength. Another reason is that the US has adjusted its policy toward China and has led to an overall intensification of competition in many fields. Southeast Asian countries are becoming more cautious about getting involved in the game of great powers. Although the Biden administration proposed a new version of the Indo-Pacific strategy in February this year, this strategy still has obvious shortcomings in the economic field. The Russian-Ukrainian conflict and changes in the security situation in Europe have also affected Washington's

The economic agenda is one of the focal points. Washington believes that Beijing's strong economic influence in the region poses a serious challenge to its dominance, so it must strengthen economic ties with the region. It hopes to use the summit to further strengthen consultations with ASEAN countries on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework and win ASEAN's support. From China's view, the Biden administra-

strategy and resource investment in Southeast Asia.

tion has not shied away from looking at Southeast Asia from the perspective of US-China strategic competition, and the summit is full of hidden issues regarding Sino-US competition. The summit can be viewed as an important step for the US to implement its Indo-Pacific strategy. But Washington is trying to downplay the geopolitical overtones of the summit, as seen in White House briefings and speeches from Biden, Harris and Pelosi. The reason may be that the US needs to consider the feelings of ASEAN, and to highlight the openness and inclusiveness of the Indo-Pacific strategy.

It is worth noting that, recently, Chinese officials and scholars have made extensive and persistent criticism of the US practice on inciting camp confrontation and establishing small groups around the world. Some ASEAN countries also expressed concern about the division of the international community and the resurgence of the Cold War mentality. Although Washington has repeatedly emphasized its support for ASEAN centrality, what the US has done in diplomatic practice is to maximize the instrumental value of ASEAN countries. Another noteworthy detail is that the US ambassador to ASEAN had been vacant for many years, and Biden did not hold separate bilateral meetings with ASEAN leaders at this summit. The US strengthens its alliances and builds small multilateral mechanisms in the region with QUAD and AUKUS as main pillars, which in fact weakens ASEAN's centrality in regional security affairs. Such an approach can hardly be regarded as a respect attitude for ASEAN. The starting point of it is not the common interests of Southeast Asia, but the strategic interests of Washington in reshaping China's surrounding environment.

At the summit, the US put forward cooperation initiatives for ASEAN in many fields, including climate change, clean energy and transportation infrastructure, space cooperation, digital economy development, people-to-people and cultural exchanges and higher education, maritime and law enforcement, and medical cooperation. Behind this variety of cooperation projects is the relatively limited US investment in Southeast Asia. The \$150 million that Biden announced for ASEAN is far less than the amount of aid that the US Congress has planned for Ukraine. If it is averaged to ten ASE-AN countries, the amount will be even more insufficient. For comparison, in the first four months of this year, the bilateral trade volume between China and ASEAN reached nearly 290 billion US dollars, a year-on-year increase of 9.4%.

At present, the main concern facing ASEAN countries is still to achieve economic recovery and improve people's livelihood as soon as possible in the context of the epidemic. The above cooperation initiative undoubtedly outlines a promising prospect for the cooperation between the US and ASEAN, but it is also full of uncertainty as to what extent it can meet the practical needs of ASEAN countries in the short and medium term. In essence, this approach has not overcome the shortcomings of the US Indo-Pacific strategy, that is, it lacks a systematic and

pragmatic cooperation concept and feasible path in the economic field, and it is difficult to effectively connect with the development strategies of ASEAN countries. Among these initiatives, maritime and law enforcement, medical cooperation and higher education are mostly continuations and expansions of previous cooperation. Investment in smart infrastructure may be attractive to ASEAN countries, but in terms of improving infrastructure conditions, most ASEAN countries currently do not have the urgent need and economic guarantee to promote the development of smart infrastructure.

It is worth noting that maritime cooperation is presented as a separate item in the list of outcomes and the joint statement. In this area, Washington announced \$60 million for a new regional maritime program, most of which will be led primarily by the US Coast Guard (USCG), including personnel and equipment deployment, combating IUU fishing, equipment assistance and staff training. This reflects that the United States takes this as a key concern and indicates that the US Coast Guard will be more involved in maritime security affairs in the South China Sea in the future.

US maritime cooperation with ASEAN builds on US allies and partnerships in the region and has become a priority area of cooperation in recent years. During talks with ASEAN leaders, Harris also mentioned the importance of safeguarding freedom of navigation and international law. Considering that China and some countries have disputes over territorial sovereignty and maritime delimitation in the South China Sea, the US move also aims to contain China's activities in the South China Sea and win over other parties to the dispute.

From next month, China, Cambodia, Indonesia and Thailand will successively host the BRICS Summit, the Leaders' Meetings on East Asian Cooperation, the G20 Summit and the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, ushering in an Asian moment for the global governance.

For the past decades, the ASEAN-centered regional cooperation architecture has formed in East Asia, which is the key to maintaining peace and stability in the region. A week before the US-ASEAN summit, Cambodia, Indonesia and Thailand issued a joint press communiqué, stressing that the international community should meet challenges in solidarity and develop in an open and inclusive manner. This conforms to the unanimous will of all countries in the world to oppose bloc confrontation and promote stability and prosperity together. The world today is confronted with a choice between solidarity and division, between cooperation and confrontation. The Cold War mentality will only undermine the global peace framework, and bloc confrontation will only exacerbate the security challenges of the 21st century. In this sense, no matter what regional strategy is proposed, the purpose should be mutual benefit and winwin results rather than a zero-sum game.

- Courtesy: China Daily

Texas shooting: America and its complex love affair with guns

Fawaz Turki

Guns were there at the dawn of American history when they were used by White Americans to subdue...

EFORE Roberta Drury, the 32-yearold woman who was the youngest of the 10 black folks killed at the Buffalo supermarket two weeks ago, was laid to rest on Saturday, she received a final goodbye from friends and family at the stately brick Assumption Church in Syracuse. not far from where she had grown up in nearby Cicero, a small town of 32,000, whose name was assigned in 1790 by a clerk interested in the classics, honouring Cicero, the Roman statesman.

The memorial service was both solemn and sad - as well it might have been.

The racially motivated massacre in Buffalo was not the first nor, alas, will it be the last in the US this year - it just happens to be the 198th mass shooting of 2022. Last vear ended with 611 and the year before with 417, which statistically bring the numbers to roughly 10 a week. Three weeks ago, a lone gunman in my own neighbourhood of Cleveland Park here in Washington wildly fired hundreds of shots from an assault rifle into the surrounding streets - before he fired one into his own head – but since no one, miraculously, was killed or seriously hurt, the incident received, save for the local media, barely a blip on the national radar.

We are talking here about a uniquely American phenomenon - namely, a people so consumed by their love of guns and so protective of their right to own them, that attempting to separate a gun enthusiast from his gun would be akin to separating a parent from his child.

All of which raises this, well, loaded question: how to account for this phenomenon, one absent elsewhere in the Western world?

Look, clinches aside, gun culture is as American as apple pie. It is at the heart of the American people's archetype, encoded in their habits of spirit and the workings of their quotidian lives as it is encoded in their Bill of Rights, where the Second Amendment (ratified in 1791) affirms that "the right of the people to keep and bear arms that shall not be abridged". No question then about the

fact that Americans love owning and bearing guns. According to FBI records, nearly 40 million guns were purchased in 2020 alone though it should be noted that attitudes about gun violence and gun ownership differ widely by race, ethnicity, class, educational background and community type. But one thing is clear: The US is so awash with guns

that, statistically, every 100 Americans own 120 guns, with Yemen second - but far - behind it with 100 Yemenis owning a paltry 53 guns be-

tween them. Guns were there at the dawn of American history when they were used by White Americans to subdue Native Americans in order to colonise their ancestral land and to subjugate African Americans in order to keep them in their place as slaves. And guns were there for use two weeks ago by a young white nationalist with a grudge against folks whose skin col-

our he objected to. Gun control? Forget about it. Gun lovers always double down when they hear the word "control", demanding that laws regulating the purchase of guns be relaxed not restricted. Ask why they need guns and you will hear them say that, well, darn it, they need them to protect themselves against gunowners. Really? These folks are into surrealism? Yes, really! So hear ye.

Less than two weeks after Sutherland Springs First Baptist Church mass shooting in New Brautlets, Texas, in 2017, when 26 worshippers were killed and 22 others injured there, Texas House Representative Jason Villalba, an ardent gun lover, was interviewed by NPR about the issue of gun control. Sure, he said, it was the right time to "tackle the root causes of gun violence in America and what kind of solutions we might craft to address the situation".

One of the solutions ad-

vanced by the legislator from the state of Texas, putative home of American rugged individualism, where cowbovs roamed the prairies, packing a holstered Colt revolver on each hip - an iconic image so well portrayed in 1950s Hollywood Westerns, which, perhaps unwittingly, ended up glamorising gun culture - was to call for "the expansion of gun rights, perhaps". Then he told the interviewer, with a cute chuckle, seemingly as an afterthought: "Actually I'm armed at this very moment". Clearly, you will agree with me, a gun nut who needs to bring his gun with him for protection against an imagined deadly assault by a female interviewer at an NPR studio, needs less to pack a gun and more to see a shrink. And, Oh, yes, it's about time Americans learnt a lesson or two from, say Canadians and Europeans, who, when they have a grudge against people, throw eggs not fire bullets at them

- Courtesy: Gulf News

Briefs

Imran in Islamabad; wants...

From Page 01 He also appealed to the protesters not to damage public property and remain peaceful. PTI workers also allegedly set fire to trees and green belt in Blue Area of the federal capital. Earlier, the PTI chairman had denied rumours of a deal with the government and said "absolutely not" to any such prospects. He added the party leadership was not moving toward the federal capital.

"We will remain in Islamabad till the announcement of dates for dissolution of assemblies and elections are given." He further urged the people of the twin cities to join PTI's march. Imran earlier arrived at Wali interchange in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and later left for Islamabad. Other party leaders departed for the federal capital from their respective areas. Speaking to charged party supporters in Swabi, he told his supporters that they will go to Islamabad's D-Chowk and "no one can stop us".

PTI, govt accord was almost...

From Page 01 the Establishment-led talks. From govt side Ayaz Sadiq, Asad Mahmood and Yousaf Raza Gillani. Talks, which continued for at least three hours yielded positive result in the sense that both sides agreed to avoid violence and bloodshed. But then suddenly both sides issued messages that there was no such deal. The reason is that the government did not agree to step down immediately. The PML N leaders believed that PTI had failed to woo people to their long march therefore why they should negotiate with the PTI who had failed to put up a big show. On the other hand the PTI leaders warned the government that it had miscalculated PTI might. The apex court of the county also tried to make both parties sit and sort of the issue However the government reaction and miscalculation about PTI strength further aggravated the situation.

PTI's long march failed to...

From Page 01 people have come out on his [Imran Khan's] call," the minister told a news conference along with Minister for Information Marriyum Aurangzeb. He said the PTI chief had made tall claims of congregating two million people in the Federal Capital, but ironically he was marching with a crowd of around five to six thousand people from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "The PTI portraved a picture of huge crowd coming towards Islamabad, and we planned accordingly. Had we known it would be a small crowd we would not have made preparations on such a large scale. "We halted the Metro Bus operations and postponed the examinations, while commuters faced problems and patients also suffered. I apologize to the people on behalf of the government for the troubles," he added.

Rana Sana Ullah said he was aware of the problems suffered by the citizens due to the closure of roads in Punjab, but the measures were taken in the national interest and aimed at protecting the life and property.

He said the situation in Punjab had settled down and there was complete peace in the province at the moment. He lauded the people of Punjab for not becoming part of the violent long march. Similarly, the people of Balochistan also deserved congratulations as they even did know about Imran Khan's march. "In Sindh too, the people refused to support him," he added.

"It is only in Khyber Pakthunkhwa where some activity took place. As the PTI is in power there, they've utilized the entire government resources. They are using cranes, weapons, and other means to make their long march

successful. "But there they've failed to gather a reasonable crowd. Half of the crowd that assembled at the Swabi Interchange moved back after Imran Khan's speech," he added.

Xi stresses not to politicize human rights issues

Xi said China has "successfully found a path of human rights development in keeping with the trend of the times and China's national reality"

Foreign Desk

BEIJING: The "right to subsistence and development" are "primary human rights" of the developing world, but attempts to impose rights models from outside could be "disastrous," China's president told the UN human rights chief on Wednesday.

In a video chat, Xi Jinping told Michelle Bachelet that mutual respect and equality will form a basis to "actively conduct human rights dialogue."

On a weeklong visit to China through Saturday, Bachelet is set to meet several high-level officials at the national and local levels. "More efforts are needed to achieve development of higher

quality, efficiency, equity, sustainability and security, so as to provide strong safeguards for the

advancement of human rights," said Xi. On China's human rights development in the "context of China's history and culture," Xi said different countries' "paths of human rights development" should be respected.

"Human rights have historical, specific and practical contexts," he added. "With different national conditions, histories, cultures, social systems and levels of economic and social development, countries should and can only explore suitable paths of human rights development in light of national realities and people's needs," he said. However, in remarks seemingly aimed at Beijing's critics, Xi said any system or model "blindly copied from another country regardless of the situation on the ground will not only look out of place, but also bring disastrous consequences."

As Bachelet landed in China,



where she is set to visit Kashgar and Urumqi, northwestern cities with large populations of the persecuted Uyghur community, global rights defenders urged the UN human rights chief to "address crimes against humanity and gross human rights violations" when her team visits Xinjiang this week.

The cities of Kashgar and Urumqi are located in the Xinjiang autonomous region, which is home to ethnic Uyghurs. China has been accused of ethnic cleansing of Uyghurs in Xinjiang. Beijing has denied any wrongdoing, calling the allegations "lies." Xi said China has "successfully found a path of human rights development in keeping with the trend of the times and China's national reality." "We have been advancing whole-process people's democracy, promoting legal safeguard for human rights and upholding social equity and justice," he said.

Xi said China is "ready to actively conduct human rights dialogue and cooperation with all other parties to expand common understanding, reduce differences, promote mutual learning, seek progress together, and jointly adrights cause for the greater benefit of people across the world."

He said China will continue to support the UN "in making positive efforts for the international human rights cause.

According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Bachelet "expressed admiration for China's efforts and achievements in eliminating poverty, protecting human rights and realizing economic and social development, and commended China's important role in upholding multilateralism, confronting global challenges such as climate change, and promoting sustainable development across the world." Bachalet's office would like to "enhance communication and explore cooperation with the Chinese side to make joint efforts for the progress of the global human rights cause," the ministry added.

Finland MotoGP

protest at H-9 From Page 01

SC allows

workers in connection with the march. The court instructed the authorities to not make "unnecessary use of force" and not raid the homes and offices of or arrest other PTI leaders and workers. It also ordered the immediate release of detained lawyers as well as those arrested under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) Ordinance 1960, adding that those involved in "heinous crimes" and nominated in FIRs would be dealt with by the high courts. Furthermore. it ordered that the automobiles confiscated within the last 48 hours be returned to their owners.

three-member bench headed by Justice Ijazul Ahsan, and comprising Justice Munib Akhtar and Justice Sayyed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi, issued the orders after hearing the petition filed by Islamabad High Court Bar Association (IH-CBA) President Mohammad Shoaib Shaheen a day earlier, seeking the removal of blockades in the capital

ahead of the PTI's march. "While playing the role of the arbitrator, we pass the order that no raids should be conducted on the homes of PTI workers," the Supreme Court said. "The lawvers on whom there are not serious charges should also be immediately released." The SC bench, in its order, said it hoped that the top PTI leadership would also tell the party supporters to not take the law in their hands. The SC issued the or ders after the

PTI assured that its workers would not cause damage to public and private properties. While the court allowed the protest to continue on Srinagar Highway, it also said that "the flow of traffic must not be affected, the citizens must not be bothered, and the protestors should remain peaceful." Attorney General Ashtar Ausaf opposed the court's decision to allow the PTI to hold its protest in the designated area. "[Their] request to hold the protest in G-9 area has already been rejected." The attorney general said the "PTI workers will be [numbered] in hundreds of thousands," adding that "[the site] where the JUI-F held its rally had the capacity of only 15,000." - **APP**



MINSK: Pakistan ambassador to Sajjad Haider visits "Belarusbank" and met with Alexander Paliuko, First Deputy Chairman of the Board. Mikhail Kulichkov, Executive Director & Alexey Amarin, Director of International Business also attended the meeting. Both sides discussed cooperation between the Belarusian and Pakistani banks. - DNA

I'll he at Livernool next season for sure: Salah

Salah's team-mate Sadio Mane said he would announce his decision on his own future after the final in Paris

LONDON: Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah says he will be at Anfield next season "for sure" but would not be drawn over whether he will sign a new contract. Salah's deal ends in June 2023, leading to speculation he could be sold if he did not sign a new one as he would leave on a free in a year's time. When asked about his future before Saturday's Champions League final, he said: "I don't want to talk about that. "I just want to see Hendo [Jordan Henderson] with the trophy." The Egypt striker, 29, added: "I don't focus on the contract at the moment. I don't want to be selfish. "I am staying next season for sure."

Salah's team-mate Sadio Mane said he would announce his decision on his own future after the final in Paris. The Senegal international, who has scored 120 goals in 268 games for the Reds, will also enter the last 12 months of his contract from June. He told Sky Sports News: "This question [about my future] I will answer after Champions League. If I'm staying or not, I'm going to answer after [the] Champions League." Salah joined from Roma in 2017 and has scored 156 goals in 253 games for Liverpool. He has helped the club win the Premier League in 2019-20, the 2019 Champions League, the FA Cup and League Cup this season plus the Fifa Club World Cup and Uefa Super Cup during his time at Anfield. In March Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said it was up to Salah whether he signed a new contract. The former Chelsea forward has previously said he wants to stay but his future is in Liverpool's hands and he is not asking for "crazy stuff". On Sunday Liverpool were beaten to the league title by a point by Manchester City, ending their hopes of a quadruple that is unprecedented in England. Saturday's match against Real Madrid in Paris will be a repeat of the 2018 Champions League final which the Spanish side won 3-1, with Salah going off injured in the first half after a controversial incident with Sergio Ramos. - DNA

Benzema can create legacy in UCL final

MADRID: Real Madrid's Rodrygo was asked on Tuesday what was the best piece of advice he had been given by Karim Benema, and he answered quickly: "To give him the ball". It has been a sensible for Real Madrid, strategy

whose number nine will be the most danger ous player on the pitch in Saturday's Champions League final against Liverpool and who has been arguably the finest player in

the world all season. Benzema's 49 goals in 52 games dwarfs Mohamed Salah's 33 in 59 while even Kylian Mbappe, whose rejection of Real Madrid has so dominated the early build-up to this final in Paris, is inferior, with 43 in 49. If Real Madrid beat Liverpool to win a 14th European Cup, the expectation is Benzema will also beat the likes of Salah and Sadio Mane to win his first Ballon d'Or.

This season, Benzema has scored the most goals of his career for Real Madrid and the most of his career in the Champions League. He has become the oldest player to score a hat-trick in the Champions League and the most prolific French scorer in history. If he scores two goals this weekend, he will equal Cristiano Ronaldo's Champions League record of 17 goals, the most ever scored by one player in a single tournament. Zinedine Zidane, whom Benzema described as like an older brother, said Benzema was "a gift to anyone who loves football", "a total footballer" and "the best".

Former Ballon d'Or winner Jean-Pierre Papin once said: "Benzema has the power of Ronaldo, the speed of Ronaldinho, the class of Henry and the instinct of David Trezeguet."

"We always look for him," said Rodrygo. "He's phenomenal." To score twice against Liverpool, in a final, might be improbable but who would put it past this Benzema, in this sort of form? He has scored 10 times in the knock-out stages, rattling the very best opponents, including a hat-trick against Paris Saint-Germain, a hat-trick against Chelsea and a brace

against Manchester City. "Madrid won because they have

Benzema and Chelsea don't," wrote the Madrid newspaper





him to fill the void, to reach such spectacular heights. "He is a player who feels more like a leader every day, he feels more important in the team." said Carlo Ancelotti. "This is makes the difference in him, this

Raducanu's Paris adventure cut short by Sasnovich

Sasnovich was hitting the ball early, moving the Briton across the court before 19-year-old Raducanu responded in kind with some aggressive hitting

SPORT DESK

PARIS: US Open champion Emma Raducanu was bundled out of the French Open in the second round on Wednesday, losing 3-6 6-1 6-1 to inspired Belarusian Aliaksandra Sasnovich.

The 12th seeded Briton, who had to dig deep in her opening match to come from a set down to beat Czech qualifier Linda Noskova, faded badly after a strong start as her inexperience on clay was exposed

by her opponent. "I still have got quite a long way to go on this surface," Raducanu, who played her first pro match on clay as recently as last

month, told reporters. "I had a good first experience on clay and definitely can improve a lot more than I play right now." "It just takes a lot more to

win the point on this surface. For the clay season I had no expectations. I put myself in four tournaments in a row thinking I will lose in the first round. I won a few matches in each." She was initially surprised by world number 47 Sasnovich's attacking power.

Sasnovich was hitting the ball early, moving the Briton across the court before 19-year-old Raducanu responded in kind with some aggressive hitting. After dragging her opponent wide of the court she



earned a key break to lead 4-2 and bagged the opening set when she fired a superb cross court winner.

Sasnovich Undaunted. raised her game in the second set to race into a 4-0 lead with a mixture of pow-

er and craft. The Belarusian, who had never gone past the second round in Paris, bagged the second with yet another break and then fought off multiple break points early in the deciding set before taking control, breaking for 3-1 when Raducanu sent a wild forehand five metres over the baseline.

Raducanu, who had been struggling with a back injurv in recent weeks, could do nothing to turn the tide.

A dominant Sasnovich put her out of her misery with a sizzling backhand down the line on her first match point after two hours.

Despite the defeat, Raducanu said she would take plenty from it.

Before I would let the losses affect me more than right now," she said. "Now I look at everything as a lesson and know exactly where I went wrong and where I can improve. "I definitely look at these matches as a way to improve my own game. I am playing good tennis, training well. "It might not show straight away. There is a little time lag between when they will actually produce results, you know, on a live situation.

Pakistan rejects life...

From Page 01

the judiciary in the outrageous execution of political vendetta against the Kashmiri leadership. The abhorrent Indian attempts seeking to defile the legitimate struggle of the Kashmiris for their right to self-determination as "terrorism" only substantiate India's deeply etched credentials as a 'serial violator' of human rights and usurper of the fundamental freedoms of the Kashmiris.

The Cd'A was told that the Government of Pakistan remains deeply concerned over the inhuman conditions under which Mr. Yasin Malik has been detained in Tihar Jail since 2019. Recalling the martyrdom of Hurrivat leader Ashraf Sehrai, last year in brutal Indian custody after his victimization and arrest under the draconian Public Safety Act (PSA), the Indian Cd'A was conveyed Pakistan's grave apprehensions regarding Mr. Yasin Malik's well-being especially given the ruthless treatment meted out to him in the Indian jail despite his chronic ailments which has resulted in a sharp decline of his health. The official was further asked to advise his government to acquit Mr. Yasin Malik from all baseless charges, ensure his well-being and arrange for his immediate release from the prison. Moreover, the Government of India must release all Kashmiri leaders incarcerated on trumped-up charges, halt forthwith the gross and systematic persecution of Kashmiris in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), cease the use of state-terrorism as a policy tool, and let the people of IIOJK determine their own future through a free and impartial plebiscite under the United Nations auspices as enshrined in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. The international community, cognizant of the worst

human rights violations and the atrocities being perpetrated by India in the IIOJK, must take immediate stock of the aggravating situation in the IIOIK and press India to fulfill its obligations under the international humanitarian law and the Charter of the United Nations.

Azerbaijani.

Kazakh FMs

discuss

cooperation

News Desk BAKU: Azerbaijani and Kazakh Foreign Ministers Jey-

hun Bayramov and Mukhtar

Tleuberdi respectively have

discussed cooperation and

regional issues, Azernews

reports, citing the ministry.

In a phone conversation on

May 25, the ministers ex-

changed views on the broad

bilateral cooperation agenda

between the two countries.

At the same time, the issues

of cooperation on multilater-

al platforms were touched

The sides exchanged views

on regional issues, especial-

ly in the economic, trans-

port, and logistics sectors,

as well as other issues of

Earlier, Kazakh Ambassa-

dor to Azerbaijan Serzhan

Abdykarimov stated that

new opportunities are open-

mutual interest.

upon, the ministry said.

Briefs

Monkeypox: 'too early to call it an epidemic'

PARIS: While it is still too early to talk about a monkeypox epidemic, despite the increase in reported cases recently, the emergence of the phenomenon should act as an alert, according to Antoine Flahault, Director of the Institute of Global Health at the University of Geneva.

Q: Cases are on the increase in North America and Europe: can it be called an epidemic?

A: We're seeing the emergence of an unusual phenomenon, but it's still difficult to know whether it will explode into an epidemic, or whether its spread will be more contained. In recent days, the number of cases has doubled every three or four days, which could signal the exponential growth of an epidemic wave.

However, it can also be questioned whether the recent media coverage of the phenomenon has encouraged patients to consult their doctor, and their doctor to discuss the diagnosis more and notify the cases detected. It is therefore still a little early to speak of an epidemic, but the start of an epidemic would indeed resemble what we are currently observing. - APP

Another mass shooting, another US gun control debate

WASHINGTON: A mass shooting that left 19 schoolchildren dead in the deeply pro-gun state of Texas on Tuesday increased pressure on US politicians to take action over the ubiquity of firearms - but also brought the grim expectation of little or no change. It was the eighth mass shooting this year, according to the Everytown gun control group, and came 10 days after another 18-year-old murdered 10 African Americans at a supermarket in New York.

But nearly 10 years after a man slaughtered 20 children and six others in an attack on the Sandy Hook elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, and four years after 17 were killed at a Florida high school, restrictions on gun purchases and ownership have not significantly changed.

"I had hoped, when I became president, I would not have to do this, again," a distraught President Joe Biden said as he led national mourning, vowing to overcome the US gun lobby and find a way to tighten gun ownership laws.

"Another massacre... an elementary school. Beautiful, innocent, second, third, fourth graders," he said. "I am sick and tired of it. We have to act. And don't tell me we can't have an impact on this carnage." But guns of all kinds, especially high-powered assault rifles and semi-automatic pistols are cheaper and more widely available than ever across the United States. - APP

'Palestinian teen killed by Israel army in West Bank'

JERUSALEM: A Palestinian teenager was shot dead by Israeli soldiers in clashes that erupted during a Jewish pilgrimage to the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian health ministry said Wednesday. The ministry identified the youngster as Ghaith Yamin, 16, who died of a head wound "after being shot by Israeli forces" during clashes near Joseph's Tomb, outside the northern city of Nablus. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli army, which provides security for monthly pilgrimages to the site, revered by Jews as the burial place of the biblical patriarch Joseph.

The Islamic Jihad militant group issued a statement praising the "ambush" its fighters prepared for Israeli forces securing the pilgrimage, saying there was an exchange of fire between the two sides. Tensions have been high in the West Bank for the past three months following a wave of attacks on Israelis that led to arrests and clashes. Nineteen people, mostly civilians - including 18 inside Israel and a Jewish West Bank settler - have been killed in attacks in Israel by Palestinians and Israeli Arabs which began in late March. - APP

Chinese companies to invest \$6b in Pakistan

First Sino-Pak International College under CCTE model welcomed

ISLAMABAD: Chinese companies have opportunity to invest \$6 billion in alternative renewable energy (ARE) projects in Pakistan, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday, quoting Shah Jahan Mirza, CEO Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB). According to the report, world needs more and more energy and natural energy sources are dwindling, Pakistan is coming up with new ways to meet its growing needs - via free wind and sun! To meet its growing needs, Pakistan plans to generate 10,000 megawatts of alternative renewable energy (ARE) by 2030 with an investment of over \$6 billion, for which bidding will take place later this year. Shah Jahan Mirza, CEO Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) in an interview with Gwadar Pro highlighted investment

vestors especially Chinese companies and banks in Pakistan's ARE sector. "Pakistan and China are already in coordination in AED (wind/ solar) projects, we have 300 MW solar power projects in operation under the umbrella of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).' "We have the target of hav-

ing 10,000 MW during the next eight to nine years, which means we need \$ six billion investments in these power plants," Mirza said, adding that the country needs to bring in the foreign investment and foreign financing. Shah Jahan Mirza said. "Chinese companies and banks are best suited because we are already working with them in coal and hydropower projects. They are familiar with the country's environment". According to Mr. Mirza, $\ensuremath{\mathsf{EPC}}$ contractor, the equipment and the solar panels for most

of these projects will most



likely come from China, so more and more loan contributions from Chinese banks

will be welcomed. Regarding setting up industrial manufacturing facilities in Pakistan, Shah Jahan Mirza said that they were currently working to develop a proper policy and to create some incentives for the manufacturers of solar panels and related equipment in the country.

"Within this year, we'll announce this policy and we welcome Chinese companies to come and set up their manufacturing facility here," he said and added that apart from large power projects, people were individually installing small solar projects on their rooftops. "I think Pakistan is becoming a big market, so we invite Chinese companies to come and set up solar manufacturing facilities here," he said. First Sino-Pak International College under

CCTE model welcomed. On the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the establish-

ment of the diplomatic ties between Pakistan and China, Sindh welcomed the first Sino-Pak International College under "CCTE" model as a four-party cooperation agreement of joint vocational and technical education training project between China and Pakistan was signed and the Sino-Pak International College was inaugurated recently. "CCTE", short for "China Cooperation", "Chinese Commercial Culture", "Technology Training", and "Education Employment", is a model developed by Tang International Education Group. According to China Eco-

nomic Net (CEN), Sino-Pak International College is the first branch set up by a Chinese vocational college in Sindh. "In the next step, we will upgrade the curriculum with Pakistani partners. About 25 students in computer technology will be recruited", Que Haitao, Vice

Director of Overseas Operation Center, Tang Interna-

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Sweden eager to sort

out any issues with

Turkiye: Premier

ANKARA: Sweden is "eager to sort out" any issues that

may block its bid to join the NATO alliance, the nation's

prime minister said Wednesday. "We have bilateral and

trilateral discussions with Turkey right now and of course,

we are eager to sort out any questions or issues that are at hand from the Turkish side," Magdalena Andersson told

a joint press conference in the capital Stockholm with his

Estonian counterpart Kaja Kallas. "So, I look forward to

continuing this dialogue," she added. Asked if Sweden

has any intention of changing its stance and acknowledg-

China Economic Net (CEN). Teachers in China will provide online courses, and training will also be provided to Pakistani teachers." Sindh Technical Education & Vocational Authority (STEVTA), Government Polytechnic Institute, Dadu, Tang International Education Group, and Hebei Professional College of Political Science and Law, China participated in the online ceremony.

In his address, Feng Jun, Chair of Hebei Professional College of Political Science and Law expressed his hope that more talent in computer and information technology shall be cultivated under this program. According to Dr. Ghulam Mustafa Suhag, Director General of STEVTA, the multiple CPEC projects in Sindh have resulted in a deficiency of a large number of talents with technical skills, which is far beyond what local vocational institu-

ing up to strengthen Azerbaijan as a regional center. "New opportunities are opening up that will strengthen Azerbaijan's regional role in the post-conflict period. In this sense, the Zangazur corridor opens new doors for economic cooperation," he said. Some experts are of the opinion that Kazakhstan is willing to use international

transport routes passing through Azerbaijan. Azerbaijani Center for Analysis of International Relations Board Chairman Farid Shafiyev said that the importance of the Middle Corridor [Trans-Caspian International Transport Route] is growing due to the current geopolitical situation in the region.

"The Middle Corridor - the route from China to Europe, plays a big role in the current agenda. The importance of this project is growing, especially in connection with the current geopolitical situation in the region," he added.

Russia claims shooting down Ukraine's helicopter

MOSCOW: Russian air defense systems shot down Ukraine's MI-8 military helicopter and 11 drones last night, Russia's Defense Ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

Also, the railway carrying Ukrainian troops to Donbas, a key region in the east, was also destroyed, said Igor Konashenkov at a press

briefing in Moscow. Over the past day, key targets across Ukraine were hit with high-precision weapons, he said, dealing a

blow to Ukrainian troops. "In total, since the beginning of the special military operation, 178 aircraft. 126 helicopters, 1,006 unmanned aerial vehicles, 322 anti-aircraft missile systems, 3,258 tanks and other armored combat vehicles, 430 multiple rocket launchers, 1,671 field artillery guns and mortars, as well as 3,155 units of special military vehicles have been destroyed,' Konashenkov said refer-

ring to the war. - DNA

BAKU: MoU on cooperation in the Fields of Labor, employment and social protection was signed between Pakistan and Azerbaijan. Ambassador Bilal Hayee and Sahil Babayev, Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of Azerbaijan signed the document. - DNA

Pakistani handicrafts to get market space in China

SHANGHAI: Pakistani handicrafts have rich potential to get more market space in China, with having proper packaging. This was stated by Hussain Haider, Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai at a webinar on Packaging Strategies and Requirements for Handicrafts in China held by the Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai in collaboration with the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan

(TDAP), Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday. The Consul General pointed out that Pakistani handicrafts have rich cultural heritage and are well-known for their exquisite craftsmanship and long history. Through the meticulous design and packaging of traditional handicrafts, Pakistan can show its unique cultural connotation and give handicrafts more market space. In this way, packaging is a key to exploring the Chinese market.

To equip Pakistani handicraft suppliers with the best practices in packaging and to make their products competitive in the Chinese market, Haider gave an overview of China's import regime with special reference to the laws and regulations on product packaging and labelling.

Packaging has been integrated into the development, design and production of all kinds of modern goods, and has become a powerful weapon in the competition among various merchants. - DNA

Sino-Pak cooperation propels Pakistani auto industry

BEIJING: "As for the automotive industry, Pakistan is about to usher in a golden age of development. Chinese brands including BAIC Motor, Changan Auto and SAIC Motor, have set up their own assembly plants in Pakistan. Other brands like GWM, BYD and Geely are likely to open plants in Pakistan too," Philip Jian, Pakistan's Honorary Investment Counsellor in China said in an interview with CEN.

Now, increasingly more Chinese brands, with positive prospects on Pakistan's

cherishing Pakistan as an important destination of their strategic plan. "Chery's market of right-hand drive cars covers seven countries. Especially in South Africa and Nepal, etc., we have already been listed, but these are the market for complete vehicles. Pakistan is the first

market for CKD vehicles among them, and the vehicles will be assembled and produced locally," Felix Hu, Director of Chery Automobile Pakistan told CEN. Automobile manufacturing

in Pakistan through Sino-Pak collaboration will improve local employment and tantly, "as we will manufacture our latest model here, therefore our technology and management skills will be integrated into the project in Pakistan, which will have an extremely positive impact on the improvement of the entire industry in Pa-

kistan," Felix said. "You will see there're always advantages for IV because both sides save time and money. We can in very short time, start production and go forward. It's great," said Zubair Aamir, Head, Three-Wheeler Project Team of Sazgar Engineering Works Ltd.

In 2020, the Pakistani

Electric Vehicle Policy 2020-2025, aiming to seeing electric vehicles capture 30% of all the passenger vehicle and heavy-duty truck sales by 2030, and 90% by 2040.

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Benefitted from the support from the Pakistani government, in recent years, the electric vehicle industry in Pakistan is growing strongly, and the cooperation between Chinese and Pakistan enterprises is springing up like mushrooms.

"China has developed standards for electric vehicles including electric storage, batteries, etc.

Kazakhstan all set to hold referendum on June 05

The present administration aims to correct the political course as well as regulate financial and economic matters so that past tendency could be reversed and held in check

DNA

NUL SULTAN: Kazakhstan is conducting a referendum on June 5, to seek approval for amending the constitution to redefine the powers of different pillars of power and to safeguard the political and economic rights of citizens. The amendments will change the status of the parliament and also expand people's participation in running the affairs of the government. Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokavev, who assumed office in 2019 is proceeding to revise the constitution to remove and reverse provisions adopted during the 28-year tenure of his predecessor Nursultan Nazarbayev. Since the adoption of the first constitution in 1995, it has been amended four times in 1998. 2007, 2011, and 2017,

Out of the current 99 articles in the constitution, 33 are proposed to be amended. The amendments will also make a departure from the powerful presidential system to a democratic presidential form of government. President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who headed Kazakhstan for almost three decades and abdicated office in 2019 retained a package of privileges to avail a special status as the first president of the country. They were enshrined in the clauses adopted in 2000. In 2017 Nazarbayev bulldozed 91 amendments to entrench his influence over the country's political landscape asserting privileges for himself as the founder of the state, the first president, and eventually the father of the nation.

The present administration aims to cor-

rect the political course as well as regulate financial and economic matters so that past tendency could be reversed and held in check. The constitution, in its amended form, will prohibit the president from holding membership of any political party during office. It will also curtail the power of the president to wholly or partly limit/overrule the authority of a provincial governor, mayor, or district commissioner deputy who does not fulfill his election promises. More powers to parliament

Instead of the earlier 15 members, the president will now nominate 10 members to the senate. Five of those candidates will be nominated by the assembly of Kazakhstan's ethmunities.Six members of the constitutional court will be nominat-

ed by the pareach liament, three by the national assembly and the senate, and four will be appointed by the president. All the changes will affect about one-third of the country's constitu-tion. The chairman of the constitutional court, as well as the supreme court, can no longer be appointed solely by the president. The amendments will also

simplify the registration of parties.

They will prohibit chairmen and judges

of the constitutional court, the Supreme

Court and other courts, chairmen and members of the central electoral commission, the parliament's auditing committee, military personnel, employees of national security agencies, and law enforcement agencies from being members of political parties, trade unions, or from canvassing in favor of any political party. The amendments will also create a right balance between the different branches of power and establish an effective dialogue between the government and the people. According Nurbolat

Gabbasov. expert at Kazakhstan's Institute of Eurasian Integration, the referendum a major step to transform the political course in Kazakhstan. The new changes are aimed at bringing systematic transformation to the country's political setup and will bring a balance between different pillars of the states. The constitutional reforms also mark systemic measures to eventually enable a transition from the super-presidential model to the presidential republic, the redistribution of several powers, strengthening the role and status of the parliament, expanding the participation of the population in governing the country, and strengthening the constitutional mechanisms for protecting the rights of citizens, says Kazakh politician Erlan Karin. Redistribution of power

One peculiar feature of the forthcoming

referendum in Kazakhstan is that the president has initiated constitutional reforms which are not intended for concentrating his powers but rather redistributing them to other institutions, said Karin. He hoped that upcoming referendum constitutional reform will create the legal basis for an effective and more balanced model of relations between the state and society. The parliament's audit committee, which oversees expenditures, will be given additional prerogatives and its chairman will report to the parliament twice a year.

Additionally, the constitution will ban the president's immediate family from holding political and leadership positions in the public sector. Moreover, when it comes to ownership rights, the land, and its subsoil will be declared the property of the people of The parliament's audit committee,

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a year. Additionally, the constitution will ban the president's immediate family from holding political and leadership positions in the public sector. Moreover, when it comes to ownership rights, the land, and its subsoil will be declared the property of the people of Kazakhstan. For the first time, the set of amendments does not pursue the goal of strengthening the executive power marking a crucial difference from the past's practice, says Kazakh member of parliament, Aidos Sarym. "On the one hand, this is an attempt to create the right balance between the different pillars of power, while on the other, the role of the parliament will be strengthened by establishing the auditing committee. It may be seen as a new measure for asserting accountability. The chamber will keep all budgetary activities in check. Additionally, the constitutional court is being creat-

ed at the top of the judicial system, where citizens will be able to appeal," said Sarym. Restructuring governance system On March 16, Tokaev proposed a program for political reforms. On April 22, a task force of leading law experts and jurists prepared the draft of changes and amendments to the constitution for pursuing political reforms.Kazakh political scientist Daniyar Ashibaev described the referendum as a vote of confidence in President Tokavev. who has been advancing democratization and reforms through the exercise.







THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2022 | WWW.ISLAMABADPOST.COM.PK

Briefs

First-ever Pak-Japan Center inaugurated at **NUST**

DNA ISLAMABAD: The first-ever Pak-Japan Centre was inaugurated in Pakistan at National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) to strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries. The centre was inaugurated jointly by Lt Gen (Retd) Javed Mahmood Bukhari, Rector NUST, and Mitsuhiro Wada. Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan. The facility has been established through the collaborative efforts of NUST and Plus W Inc. a Japanese company working on behalf of the Government of Japan. The event was also attended by the Ex-Ambassador of Pakistan to Japan, Imtiaz Ahmad, First Secretary Economic and Development Section Embassy of Japan in Islamabad Mr Tsuchiya Taiji, and Ms Ismat Hassan Sial, the Charge d' Affaires, Embassy of Pakistan in Tokyo. The Center will primarily focus on promoting exchanges between Pakistan and Japan to foster cooperation in the fields of human resource development and

Commerce Minister visits France to boost trade ties

joint research, especially

in the IT sector. It will also

facilitate Japanese and Paki-

stani companies in setting

up businesses in each oth-

er's country by familiarising

individuals with respective

cultures, business princi-

ples and basics of language.



PARIS: Federal Minister for Commerce Sved Naveed Qamar said that Pakistan enjoys historic friendly and cooperative relations with France and wishes to strengthen and diversify bilateral trade and economic linkages in the years to come.

He was talking to Mr. Franck Riester, France's Minister for Foreign Trade and Attractiveness here. Charge d'Affaires Mr. Muhammad Amjad Aziz Qazi was also present during the meeting. The Minister said Pakistan-France trade has witnessed a steady growth in recent years. He emphasized that Pakistan's strategic location, fast developing infrastructure and liberal investment policies of the government make Pakistan an attractive destination for foreign investors.

He said since its launch in 2014, the GSP Plus scheme has helped in creating an enabling environment for the implementation of 27 international conventions on human rights, labour rights, environment and good governance in beneficiary countries, besides increasing employment opportunities, especially for women and highlighted its importance for Pakistan's economy, par-

ticularly the export sector. Syed Naveed Qamar appreciated support of European member states especially France in securing the GSP Plus status in 2014 and hoped that the upcoming GSP Plus 2024 would further strengthen the mutually beneficial trade ties between

Pakistan and the EU. Pakistan wishes to remain constructively engaged with the EU and its member states to further enhance our commercial relations and to cooperate in terms of protection and promotion of social, economic, and other rights of the people of Paki-

stan, he added. He mentioned that Pakistan's exports to France are dominated by the textile sector, and there is immense potential to diversify trade to other sectors such as agriculture, dairy, clean energy, dig ital economy and startups.

Marriyam assures APNS of rates' increase, ads quantum

Sarmad Ali, President and Ms. Nazafreen Saigol Lakhani, Secretary General apprised the minister on the issues faced by the newspaper industry

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ms. Marium Aurangzeb, Federal Information Minister assured the APNS that the present government strongly believes in the freedom of expression and will safeguard freedom of press and address the problems faced by the print media. The Information Minister was speaking at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the APNS held at Islamabad wherein Mr. Sarmad Ali, President and Ms. Nazafreen Saigol Lakhani, Secretary General apprised her on the issues faced by the newspaper industry. They stated that the 8th Wage Board had enhanced the wag-

es of newspaper employees by minimum

146% and had recommended the federal

government for increase in the advertise-

Crisis-hit Sri

Lanka appoints

PM to helm

finance ministry

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's Prime Minister

Ranil Wickremesinghe was on Wednesday

given the additional responsibility of run-

ning the finance ministry as the island na-

tion grapples with its worst-ever economic

crisis. The South Asian island nation has

suffered months of dire shortages and an-

ti-government protests, with importers una-

ble to finance vital food, fuel and medicines.

Wickremesinghe, 73, was sworn in as fi-

nance minister after two weeks of wrangling

among coalition partners for the crucial posi-

tion ahead of bailout talks with the Interna-

tional Monetary Fund. His appointment was

delayed by a dispute between Wickremesin-

ghe and the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna

(SLPP) party of President Gotabaya Rajapak-

sa over who would take the post. "The pres-

ident's party had wanted the finance portfo-

lio, but the PM insisted he wanted it if he

is to lead the country out of the economic

chaos," a top politician involved in the nego-

tiations told AFP, on condition of anonymity.

Wickremesinghe is expected to soon unveil

a revised budget promising relief for poorer Sri Lankans suffering through record inflation

and spiralling food prices. Staff-level talks

with the IMF concluded on Tuesday, but it

is expected to take six more months for the

Washington-based lender to agree on a bailout

ment rates of newspapers.

ted that the Federal Govt has not increased the rates which has resulted acute liquidity crunch for newspaper industry. They requested the govfederal ernment to enhance advertisement

rates in proportion with the increase in inflation. They also briefed the Minister on the reduction in the quantum of print advertising and requested that the quantum of Govt ads in newspapers be increased

They regret-

newspapers pertaining to the periods 2008 to 2013, 2013 to 2018 and from 2018 onwards despite various assurances. They stated that during the previous tenure the APNS was assured that the WHT refunds of newspa-

pers will be released but despite remindby 100% so that the ers these have not been paid. The APNS newspaper inalso requested the government to exempt dustry could GST on imports of consumables of newspaper industry. Ms. Marium Aurangzeb assured the crisis. APNS office

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APNS Executive Committee that she fully supports and agrees with the APNS demands of enhancing the advertisement rates and increase in the quantum of government advertising. She assured that the long outstanding dues will be cleared as early as possible. She also stated that the issue of exemption of GST and refund of WHT will be taken up with the Finance Ministry.

The meeting of the Executive Committee was also attended by Secretary Information, Shahira Shahid and Mr. Mubashar Hasa, the PIO and other officials of the Information Ministry.

PAF trainer aircraft crashes

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A trainer aircraft of the Pakistan Air Force crashed near Mianwali during a routine training mission, a statement issued by the PAF spokesperson said Wednesday. However, no loss of life or property occurred as the pilot ejected from the aircraft safely. "A PAF trainer aircraft has crashed near Mianwali during a routine training mission. Pilot ejected safely while no loss of life or property was reported on the ground," the statement said. It further stated that a Board of Inquiry has been ordered by Air Headquarters to determine the cause of the incident.

MoFA celebrates Africa Day

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan extends its heartiest felicitations to the people of Africa on the occasion of "Africa Day," marking the 59th anniversary of the African Union. This Day is a celebration of the African nations' heroic struggle against colonialism, racism, and apartheid, as well as the richness of their civilization and the gigantic strides they have made since achieving emancipation from colonial rule.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs commemorated the Day by organizing a virtual event in collaboration with the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI). Over 500 guests from 35 African countries attended the event, with representation from the African Union Commission and three Regional Economic Communities (RECs) namely the East Africa Community, the Economic Community of West African States and the Intergovernmental Authority

for Development. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari opened the proceedings with his keynote address. The Foreign Minister said Pakistan was proud of the political and diplomatic support it had extended to freedom movements of African nations in the past. He reiterated Pakistan's resolve to enhance its engagement with the African Continent, particularly in the economic and trade domains. The Foreign Minister stressed that the revitalization of diplomatic outreach to the African Continent was an important pillar of Pakistan "Engage Africa" initiative.

Secretary General East Africa Community Dr. Peter Mathuki was the Special Guest of Honour on the occasion. In his remarks, Dr. Mahutki recalled the historic bonds of friendship between Pakistan and Africa. He appreciated Pakistan's diplomatic and economic support for African countries through the decades, making particular note of Pakistan's contributions to UN peacekeeping operations in Africa. Representing the Armed Forces of Pakistan, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Nadeem Raza, highlighted growing defence and counter-terrorism cooperation between Pakistan and African countries.



ISLAMABAD: German Special Representative for Afghanistan & Pakistan Dr Jasper Wieck on his day-long visit calls on Foreign Secretary Sohail Mehmood. German Ambassador is also present on the occasion. - DNA

Pakistan-Iran resolve to further strengthen health cooperation

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Health Abdul Qadir Patel held a meeting with Dr. Bahram Einollahi, Minister of Health & Medical Education, Iran on the sidelines of World Health Assembly in Geneva. Minister said Pakistan and Iran enjoy long-standing brotherly relations. Both countries have commonality of views on global public health issues. Enhanced consultation and coordination would be useful, he said. Iran has carried out excellent reforms in the health sector specially in terms of improving health care services. Iran has done commendable work in extending health insurance coverage, he said. The situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic necessitates stepped up bilateral cooperation and exchange of views. Achieving international public health security remains a key objective. It will however face challenges of funding sources and priorities, he said. Pakistan believes that there is a need for enhanced international cooperation and assistance to strengthen national health systems and to ensure all people enjoy the basic right to health.

Both dignitaries consider areas of cooperation including enhanced cross border cooperation for infectious diseases control, exchange of experts for technical assistance on Universal Health Coverage focusing on strengthening public health and primary health care delivery, Exchange of healthcare financing experts for lesson sharing and guidance for developing healthcare financing policies, cooperation in medical training and research, and assist medical professionals by granting fellowships from respective institutions and cooperation in developing mental health infrastructure and trainings regarding mental health services in outreach facilities. During the meeting it was highlighted that in the global health context, both countries should work closely with other EMRO Member States and WHO to ensure that realization of tangible measures to promote health remains at the forefront of the global development agenda.

For this purpose it was agreed that respective Missions of both countries in Geneva may work closely especially on important matters like the upcoming negotiations on proposed pandemic treaty, International Health Regulations amendments, and sustainable finances of WHO. Pakistan has recently been selected as one of the recipients of mRNA technology. Once this arrangement matures, we would help expand vaccine supply to EMRO region and beyond, the Minister shared.

Texas gun atrocity

Biden channels personal losses to console families

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit,' So many crushed spirits"

WASHINGTON: "To lose a child is like having a piece of your soul ripped away," said US President Joe Biden - a twice-bereaved father channeling his own heartache to console a nation devastated by another mass shooting on Tuesday. Over his long years in public office, the 79-yearold Democrat has often spoken about the tragic death of his infant daughter.

Naomi, aged one, died in a 1972 car crash, which also took the life of Biden's first wife Neilia. Biden has also publicly mourned the 2015 death of his eldest son Beau, taken by brain cancer at just 46 years old.

But on Tuesday, he reached for those two instances of life-changing grief to comfort a new set of families whose lives have been torn asunder. Hours after a teenage gunman killed at least 19 young children at an elementary school in Ulvade, Texas, Biden stepped up to a presidential lectern in the Roosevelt Room of the White House. Like his successors, Biden was being called on to deliver remarks that would explain the

But his thoughts, and his remarks quickly turned to a much narrower audience.

"There are parents who will never see their

child again, never have them jump in bed and cuddle with them. Parents who will never be the same," he said. "There's a hollowness in your chest, and you feel like you're being sucked into it and never going to be able to get out," he said, eyes occasionally flitting downward and his hands tightening. "It's suffocating. And it's never quite the same." When Biden has given speeches after such shootings - most recently after a racist massacre in Buffalo, New York - or after disasters, he has often reached for words of hope, as well as condolences. He has promised bereaved families that a day

will come when their pain would ease, when the memory of a loved one will bring smiles and not just tears. But on Tuesday, he offered no such a horizon. Instead, this devoutly Catholic president turned to his wife of more than four decades, first lady Dr Jill Biden, and to a faith that has comforted him over the years. "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit,' So many crushed spirits," he said. "So, tonight, I ask the nation to pray for them, to give the parents and siblings the strength in the darkness they feel right now." "Our prayer tonight is for those parents, lying in bed and trying to figure out, Will I be able to sleep again? What do I say to my other children? What happens tomorrow?"

FM Bilawal meets FMs of Saudi Arabia, Austria

FM Bilawal underlined that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had historic and deep-rooted fraternal ties that stood the test of time. He appreciated consistent support of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan and its steadfast solidarity for the Kashmir cause

DNA

DAVOS: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto

Zardari and his Saudi counterpart Prince

Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on Wednesday ex-

pressed the resolve to deepen mutual coop-

eration in all fields including economy, trade

and investment as well as at multilateral fora.

In a meeting held on the sidelines of the World

Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, the two

foreign ministers reviewed various aspects

of bilateral relations and exchanged views on

regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Minister of State Hina Rabbani Khar and

Minister of Climate Change Sherry Rehman

The Foreign Minister paid tribute to the Cus-

todian of the Two Holy Mosques His Majes-

ty King Salman bin Abdulaziz and His Royal

Highness Crown Prince Mohammad bin Sal-

man for achieving new heights of progress

were also present during the meeting.

Bilawal calls on GCC Secy General

News Desk

DAVOS: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met H.E. Dr. Nayef Falah M. Al-Hajraf, Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), on the sidelines of the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, today. Minister of State Hina Rabbani Khar and Minister of Climate Change Sherry Rehman were also present during the meeting. The Foreign Minister and the Secretary General reviewed the status of Pakistan's cooperation with GCC and its member states. Recalling the historical linkages, geographical proximity and cultural affinities between Pakistan and the GCC, the Foreign Minister un-

derscored that Pakistan attached high importance to its fraternal relations with member states of the GCC, both bilaterally and in the context of the GCC. The Foreign Minister and the Secretary General agreed to explore further avenues for enhancing bilateral trade and economic ties between Pakistan and the GCC as well as to strengthen institutional linkages, in line with the Joint Action Plan for Strategic Dialogue. On Pakistan-GCC Free Trade Agreement (FTA), the two sides expressed determination to conclude the negotiations at the earliest possible. Pakistan and the GCC enjoy long-standing cordial relations. Pakistan's relations with the Member States of the GCC are rooted firmly in shared faith, values and culture.

and development of the Kingdom under their visionary leadership. Recalling their earlier interaction in Jeddah last month, the two foreign ministers expressed satisfaction over the excellent bilateral partnership between the two countries and resolved to strengthen this partnership to mutual benefit.

FM Bilawal underlined that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had historic and deep-rooted fraternal ties that stood the test of time. He appreciated consistent support of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan and its steadfast solidarity for the Kashmir cause. Noting the commonality of views between the two sides on international issues, the two foreign ministers agreed to jointly explore avenues for improving collaboration and coordination amongst developing countries including through the OIC platform. Seperately, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met his Austrian counterpart, Alexander Schallenberg on the sidelines of the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos.

IHC adjourns Sheikh Rasheed's plea

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday asked former interior minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed to appear in person before the court on Thursday (Today) if he wants to seek protective bail. Chief Justice Athar Minallah heard the case filed by Awami Muslim League (AML)'s leader. The petitioner's lawyer said

that there was exemption of biometric for citizens of more than 70 year old. He said that his client

couldn't reach the court as he was above 70. The chief justice remarked

that the petitioner had been giving statements for a 'blood shedding revolution' but he didn't appear before court. The court said that the petitioner had to appear before court if he wanted to continue his case. The hearing of the case then adjourned till today. - APP