



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

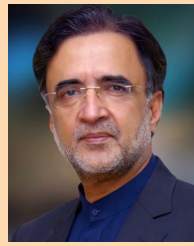
Price Rs. 20

Turkey pledges its full support for Palestine cause

Detailed News On Page-07

Challenges due to PTI govt incompetence

Detailed News On Page-08



Osaka ready to boycott Wimbledon

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

UN rights chief visits Xinjiang

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet was set to arrive at the Xinjiang region in northwest China on Tuesday. Beijing has been accused of unlawful treatment and forced labor of Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in Xinjiang. Washington labels the alleged years-long security crackdown as "genocide." China has repeatedly denied any mistreatment of Uyghurs. The UN rights chief is in China for a six-day trip. She is the first holder of the office to embark on such a visit since 2005.

Khawaja apologises to Justice (r) Nasira

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Tuesday apologised for the raid at the residence of Justice (retired) Nasira Iqbal, noting that the government had nothing but respect for her. In his speech during the National Assembly session, the defence minister apologised for the excessive use of force during the raid at the retired judge's residence. "But I want to say this with the utmost respect that condemnation should not be selective."

Asad Umar condemns crackdown

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: PTI general-secretary Asad Umar on Tuesday said to the PML-N-led coalition government that its crackdown on the party's leadership would not help run the country, but would instead bring it to a halt. "I want to tell you that what happened last night has just increased the enthusiasm and passion among our workers," Umar said at a news conference in Peshawar alongside the party's vice chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi, in the aftermath of police raids on the residences of several key PTI figures.

Arrests under 16 MPO continue

Govt mulls options as long march arrives today

PTI Chairman Imran Khan urges youth to remove all hurdles; says will not come back until demands are met

SHAHMIM SHAHID / DNA

PESHAWAR: PTI Chairman Imran Khan plans to carry on with the party's "Azadi March" despite the government's decision to stop the long march towards Islamabad, come what may. The PML N and its allies mulled various options to stop the march. On the other hand, Imran Khan, while addressing a press conference in Peshawar, said he will lead the "biggest procession in Pakistan's history" today. He said the march will reach its destination through thick and thin. The PTI chairman's speech comes after a countrywide police crackdown against members and leaders of the PTI. A policeman also lost his life in one of the raids after which the government said it would not allow the PTI to have its long march scheduled for tomorrow (May 25). Criticising the PML-N-led government, Khan said that he has been seeing the Sharif family adopting the same tactics that military dictators do since 1985. "They only remember democracy as soon as they leave power," he said, asking how many times these parties have taken to the streets throughout the PTI government's term. "They entered the houses of people and didn't care for the privacy of women," he said, adding that the PTI government never tried stopping the then opposition leaders from exercising their right to assemble and stage protests.

Continued on Page 06

March bound to fail: Interior Minister

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet has decided not to let PTI go ahead with its long march in order to avoid the spread of "fitna" and "fasad", Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah announced Tuesday, saying PTI's long march is not democratic. Addressing a press conference flanked by the leaders of coalition parties, Rana Sanaullah said that the participants of the long march will be stopped. Keeping the current political situation and PTI's 2014 long march in view, he said the federal cabinet has decided they will not allow PTI to spread "fitna" and "fasad" in the name of a "democratic long march." "The decision has been taken to stop them from spreading their agenda of manipulation and division," the interior minister said, adding that these people [PTI leadership] have moved from "abuses to bullets". The minister was referring to constable Kamal Ahmad,

Continued on Page 06

IHC orders halt to PTI workers' harrasment

The IHC adjourned the hearing till May 27

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday ordered police and the administration to stop harassing PTI leaders and workers following a crackdown by the Punjab police last night. During a hearing on PTI's petition against the ongoing countrywide crackdown and detentions of its activists ahead of its Azadi March, IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah said that the court cannot issue orders on the basis of mere concerns or fear. During the course of the proceedings, the IHC CJ remarked: "Even in a law and order situation, the rules laid down by the SC should be followed." At the outset of hearing, Ali Zafar, PTI's counsel, apprised the court that the government has launched a crackdown against the party since they filed the petition in court. "It is a classic case of violation of fundamental rights," argued Ali Zafar. He said the rules set by the SC are not being followed. At this, Justice Minallah remarked, "The SC has set rules in [the Faizabad] sit-in case and it should be followed." He added the court can say that the SC's judgment should be followed.

Shah Mahmood condemns police crackdown

PESHAWAR: Vice Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Tuesday strongly condemned harassment of PTI workers in Punjab and police raids on their houses during midnight in a bid to arrest them ahead of long march on May 25. Addressing a press conference along with PTI Secretary General, Asad Umar, he said that there was no justification of police brutality and crackdown on peaceful workers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. He said that PTI long march would go-ahead as per announcement and Chairman Imran Khan would lead a rally from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to Islamabad. "Protest is our legal and constitutional right", he said. He said that PTI did not want any confrontation in Islamabad but rather would tell the government legal, constitutional and democratic solution which was only holding fresh elections in the country. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of cabinet. - DNA

Cabinet approves Election Amend. Bill

It also approved PM advice for Punjab governor appointment

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Cabinet approved the Election Amendment Bill 2022 during a meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office said Tuesday. According to the statement, during the meeting, the cabinet also approved presenting the bill to the National Assembly. "The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will launch a pilot project for the overseas Pakistanis to cast their votes in by-elections," read the statement, adding that the project will be presented in the Parliament. The project will be launched for electronic voting and biometric verification, while the report will decide whether the voting procedure was workable for overseas Pakistanis and if the verification method was applicable. The results will then be presented before the Parliament.

Bilawal meets Romanian counterpart

DNA

DABVOS: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met his Romanian counterpart, Mr. Bogdan Aurescu, on the sidelines of the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, today. Minister of State Hina Rabbani Khar was also present during

Continued on Page 06

Maryam: Imran threatening establishment

"The person responsible for murder of constable is Imran", says Maryam

Political stability vital: Info Minister

SHUJAAT HAMZA



BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz, berating PTI Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan on Tuesday, said his "Azadi March" was not against the government, "but the establishment". "When he says that he has recognised the real faces of Mir Jafar and Mir Sadiq, then do you think he is referring to Maryam Nawaz, Nawaz Sharif, or Shehbaz Sharif?

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

KSA finalising extension of \$3 bn deposit to Pak

MONITORING DESK

DAVOS: Saudi Arabia is finalising the extension of the kingdom's \$3 billion deposit to Pakistan, Saudi Minister of Finance Mohammed al-Jadaan told Reuters. "We are currently finalising extending the \$3 billion deposit to Pakistan," he said on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos. Last year, Saudi Arabia deposited \$3 billion in Pakistan's central bank to help support its foreign reserves. Jadaan did not offer further details, but on May 1 the two countries said in a joint statement that they would discuss the possibility of supporting the deposit by extending its term "or through other options."

Pakistan is in dire need of external finances, hurt by high inflation, reserves declining to as low as less than two months' of imports, and a fast-weakening currency. Jadaan said Pakistan was an important ally and the kingdom would stand behind the South Asian nation. Uncertainty over the revival of an International Monetary Fund programme has compounded volatility in the economy and markets amid a political crisis since a new government took over last month from ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan. The IMF is likely to conclude ongoing talks over a 7th review in Doha.

Inside...

Experts call for preservation of natural resources - Page 02

Govt devises plan for Child Protection Institutes: Riaz - Page 03

Ahsan terms political stability vital for economic development - Page 04

Europe desperately wants Covid over, but is it? - Page 05

Pakistan thrash Indonesia 13-0 in Asia Hockey Cup - Page 06

Sherry urges world to fulfill commitments to tackle climate change - Page 07

Quad alliance states warn against 'change by force' - Page 08

Russia launches all-out assault in east Ukraine

"The enemy has focused its efforts on carrying out an offensive in order to encircle Lysychansk and Sievierodonetsk," said Serhiy Gaidai, governor of Luhansk province

CENTRELINE REPORT

KYIV: Russian forces were conducting an all-out assault on Tuesday to encircle Ukrainian troops in twin cities straddling a river in eastern Ukraine, a battle which could determine the success or failure of Moscow's main campaign in the east. Exactly three months after President Vladimir Putin ordered Russian forces into Ukraine, authorities in its second-largest city Kharkiv re-opened the underground metro, where thousands of civilians had sheltered for months under relentless bombardment. The move was evidence of Ukraine's biggest military success in recent weeks: pushing Russian forces largely out of artillery range of Kharkiv, as they did from the capital Kyiv in March. But the decisive battles of the war's latest phase are still raging further south, where Moscow is attempting to seize the Donbas region of two eastern provinces, Donetsk and Luhansk, and trap Ukrainian forces in a pocket on the main eastern front. The easternmost part of the Ukrainian-held Donbas pocket, the city of Sievierodonetsk on the east bank of the Siverskiy Donets river and its twin

France reassures Ukraine it will be part of European Union

NEWS DESK

PARIS: Ukraine will eventually be part of the European Union, France's Europe minister said on Tuesday, reassuring Kyiv that an initiative to forge closer ties between the bloc and aspiring members would not replace their bids to join. French President Emmanuel Macron earlier this month suggested creating a "European political community" that would create a new structure allowing closer cooperation with countries seeking EU membership.

Lysychansk on the west bank, have become the pivotal battlefield there, with Russian forces advancing from three directions to encircle them. "The enemy has focused its efforts on carrying out

"I am convinced that Ukraine will be part of the European Union," Clement Beaune told reporters. "We know with honesty that it takes time and in this time we can't allow ourselves to simply wait. We have to nurture the European hope." Beaune, who earlier this week said it could take 15-20 years for Ukraine to join added that the project "was not an alternative." Speaking alongside Olga Stefanishyna, Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, he said the next step would be to discuss the details of the initiative with European partners.

an offensive in order to encircle Lysychansk and Sievierodonetsk," said Serhiy Gaidai, governor of Luhansk province, where the two cities are among the last territory still held by Ukraine.

"The intensity of fire on Sievierodonetsk has increased by multiple times, they are simply destroying the city," he said on TV, adding there were about 15,000 people living there. Further west in Slovyansk, one of the biggest Donbas cities still in Ukrainian hands, air raid sirens wailed on Tuesday but streets were still busy, with a market full, children riding bikes and a street musician playing violin by a supermarket. Gaidai said Ukrainian forces had driven the Russians out of the village of Toshkivka just south of Sievierodonetsk. Russian-backed separatists said they had taken control of Svitlodarsk, south of Bakhmut. Neither report could be independently confirmed. Three months into a war that some Western experts predicted Russia would win within days, Moscow still has only limited gains to show for its worst military losses in decades, while much of Ukraine has suffered devastation. Around 6.5 million people have fled abroad, uncounted thousands have been killed and cities have been reduced to rubble. The war has also had massive international ramifications, including growing food shortages and soaring prices in developing countries that import Ukrainian grain.

Experts call for preservation of natural resources

BUREAU REPORT

MINGORA: The researchers and experts in the field of plants sciences and biodiversity urged collective efforts for preservation of natural resources in Pakistan, where high increase rate in population is the main cause of exploiting the natural resources, forcing the country to face the possible adverse impact of climate change and issues relating to biodiversity. The remarks came during an inaugural session of three-day 5th international conference on 'Advances in Biosciences: Bridging the Gap between Research and Sustainable Development Goals' which was held here at Wadudia Hall, Saidu Sharif, Swat on Tuesday. The conference has been organized by the Center for Plants Sciences and Biodiversity, University of Swat in collaboration with Higher Education Commission, Pakistan, Biological Society of Pakistan and Pakistan Science Foundation. Addressing the inaugural session as chief guest, secretary Higher Education Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dawood

Khan said that it was very unfortunate that human beings were involved in misuse of the natural capitals "biodiversity is critical for human existence, but it [biodiversity] is also under huge threats globally" he added. He said that biodiversity was source of healthy foods and medicines, "thus it secures our health and life" he maintained. Mr. Khan urged the participants and researchers to contribute their scholastic insights, motivating people for playing their role in preservation of natural resources, "giving the nature half the chance and it [nature] will bounce back with a lot of benefits to your life" he commented. In his inaugural speech, the Vice Chancellor, University of Swat Prof. Dr. Hassan Sher said that the entire world was facing enormous challenges relating to climate change and biodiversity, adding that Pakistan is one of the vulnerable countries, where high increase in population has been responsible for the exploitation of natural resources. Referring to local climate, he said that over-exploitation of the natural resources and lack of interest to preserve the nature, caused 'uncertain-weather' in the region.

The Vice Chancellor said that Swat university has taken initiative to host this important event, which is aimed at providing a platform to researchers and experts in the field of plants sciences and biodiversity, making it possible for them to share their expert views and research findings, "the conference, where researchers from 32 different universities of Pakistan and some renowned researchers from abroad are participating, will be helpful in devising strategies for meeting with challenges of climate change and biodiversity" he remarked. Speaking on the occasion, the Vice Chancellor of Agriculture University, Peshawar Prof. Dr. Jehan Bakht said that 2.5% increase in population is putting a lot of pressure on natural resources, turning Pakistan into 10th country of the world who have been badly impacting of the climate changes. "Unnecessary use of pesticides in the region are causing different diseases to human beings as well as the other inhabitants of the nature" he said and added that if exploitation of natural resources continue, it is expected that Pakistan would face a huge water shortage by the year 2025.

Four dacoits arrested

FAISALABAD, May 24 (APP)-Satiara police arrested four dacoits and recovered illegal weapons and looted cash from their possession. Police said on Tuesday that the dacoits were on their looting spree near Chak No.74-GB when on a tip-off SHO Satiara Qaisar Mukhtar Gujjar along with his team reached the spot but they managed to escape. The police cordoned off the area and arrested four bandits namely Aslam, Shakeel, Ali Nawaz and his brother Ali Raza. - APP

COURT NOTICE

In The court Khuda Yar Civil Judge Gujrat
Title Zafar Iqbal etc. versus: Province of Punjab.

Suit for Declaration with consequential Relief

Notice to: Province of Punjab through District Collector, Assistant Commissioner Sarai Alamgir, Tehsilidar Revenue Halqa Qasba Kariiali, Gardawar Halqa, Patwari Halqa Qasba Kariiali, ADLR Sarai Alamgir, Fazlan D/O Imam Din Mother of Noor Begum, Mazhar Iqbal, Muzafar Iqbal, Tasawar Iqbal, Munawar Iqbal, Sughran Bi Bi D/O, Abdul Khaliq, Sahibzada S/O, Nawab Bi Bi W/O. Kala Khan, Iftikhar Hussain, Ishfaq Hussain, Zameer Akhtar, Khalid Anwar Son, Shamim Akhtar, Shaheen Bi Bi, Najma Bi Bi, Shagufa Bi Bi, Ghazala Bi Bi D/O, Muhammad Anwar S/O, Jalal Din, Parvez Akhtar, Amir Iqbal Son, Azra Bi Bi, Maniza Bi Bi D/O, Maroof Bi Bi Widow of Muhammad Sarwar S/O, Jalal Din D/O, Dolo, Muhammad Ashraf, Muhammad Aslam Sons, Fatima D/O, Muhammad Fazal S/O, Nawab S/O, Shahamir, Muhammad Iqbal S/O, Sabran Bi Bi D/O, Muhammad Fazal, Nazeer Bi Bi, Rasheed Bi Bi, Imtiaz Bi Bi, D/O, Ghulam Sarwar, Munasif Riaz, Shamas Riaz Sons, Saiqa Riaz, Faiza Riaz D/O, Sakina Bi Bi D/O, Ghulam Sarwar S/O, Ameer Ali S/O, Noor Din, Munir Son, Sagheer Bi Bi, Irshad Bi Bi, Shahida Bi Bi D/O, Naik Alam, M. Riaz, M. Anwar, M. Idrees, Abdul Ghafoor, Khalid Mehmood, Mazhar Iqbal Sons, Maqsood Bi Bi, Maroof Bi Bi D/O, Bashir Ahmad, Muammad, Farooq, Muhammad Rauf Sons, Shabana Kousar D/O, Maqbool Bi Bi D/O, Bashir Ahmad S/O, Chanan Din, Arshad Mehmood, Rashid Mehmood, Sajid Mehmood Sons, Nazia, Sadiya, Farzana, Nahida D/O, Nazeer Ahmad S/O, Chanan Din, Muhammad Shareef S/O, Chanan Din, Fazal Hussain S/O, Baga S/O, Karma, Muhammad Farooq S/O, Muhammad Shafi S/O, Noor Din S/O, Fazal, Bashir Begum D/O, Muhammad Shafi, Cast Jutt R/O, Marhi Dakhli Qasba Kariiali Tehsil Sarai Alamgir District Gujrat. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendant is not being served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendant will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 25-05-2022. Otherwise case will be decided ex parte.

KMU holds 25th Academic Council meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: The 25th meeting of the Khyber Medical University (KMU) Peshawar Academic Council was held under the chairmanship of vice chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq in the senate hall. Pro VC and dean clinical sciences Prof. Dr. Lal Muhammad Khattak, dean basic medical sciences Prof. Dr. Jawad Ahmed, dean allied health sciences Prof. Dr. Haider Darain, dean health profession education Prof. Dr. Omar Hayat besides heads of various institutions, additional controller examinations Syed Hafeez Ahmed, additional director academics Muhammad Islam and other members attended the meeting. Welcoming the participants, Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq said that the academic council is a very important decision making forum of the University where issues and policies related to different levels of academics, examinations and admissions were discussed and important decisions were taken. He said that the leading and constructive role being played by the KMU ac-

ademic council in medical and allied Health sciences was commendable. He directed the concerned deans and heads to seek the approval of the respective institutional forums before bringing all matters relating to academics to the academic council otherwise such agendas would not be discussed in the academic council. Later on decisions were taken after detailed discussion on various agenda items. In the context of the construction of new purpose built building of KMU-Institute of Medical Sciences Kohat, it was agreed to increase the number of seats in the college from a minimum of 150 to a maximum of 200 and the principal of the college in this regard had directed to meet the needs of the faculty and infrastructure as per guidelines of Pakistan Medical Commission. The meeting also approved a post graduate diploma in Psychological Medicine at KMC / KTH, a certificate course in Diabetes at KMU-IPH and a professional diploma course in healthcare quality and risk management. The additional controller examinations also presented a number of TORs and guidelines regarding annual examinations, rescheduling of examination date sheets, appointment of examination supervisory staff and inspectors, prevention and control of unfair means during exams which were approved unanimously with minor modifications. However, regarding the semester system examinations, it was decided that since the guidelines of HEC are very clear in this regard, their implementation will be ensured. In accordance with the nature of the use of unfair means in exams, it was also decided that in addition to the traditional penalties, students will be required to plant at least 15 plants in their respective institution, donate blood, finance students in need as well as penalties ranging from confiscation of mobile phones, financial fines, cancellation of paper and even lifetime disqualification from examinations were also decided unanimously.



RAWALPINDI: Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President ICCI, is giving notification of Convener Sub-Committee for BOI to former president Zahid Maqbool. Senior VP Jamshed Akhtar Sheikh, VP Fahim Khan, Chairman Founder Group Khalid Iqbal Malik, former presidents Zafar Bakhtawari, Mian Shaukat Masood and other officials were present on the occasion. - DNA

924 policemen to remain alert at police lines

FAISALABAD: As many as 924 policemen at police lines have been put on alert to cope with any untoward incident in the wake long march call given by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan for March 25 in Islamabad. The City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi has ordered for a reserve police team comprising one Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI), two head constables and 18 constables from every police station to report police lines, keeping in view, the law and order situation. The reserve police which will report to police lines would set up their camps at the place of safe city project and its adjacent sites. The CPO warned that strict legal action would be initiated against absent officials. - APP

Panther squad constitutes to improve patrolling

FAISALABAD, May 24 (APP):City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi on Tuesday constituted a 'panther squad' to improve patrolling across the district in order to curb crime. CPO spokesman Muneeb Ahsan said on Tuesday that Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, newly appointed CPO Faisalabad, after taking charge of his office, reviewed the patrolling system of Faisalabad district and formed a Panther Squad for the sake of improved vigilance. - APP

DC chairs meeting to review anti-polio drive



ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Lt. (R) Sohail Ashraf chaired a

meeting to review the progress of ongoing Polio campaign. He directed that every effort should be made to make the anti-polio campaign a hundred percent success and complete

the daily target as per the microplan so that no child up to the age of five years could be deprived of vaccine. ACs Sahibzada Muhammad Yousof, Umar Maqbool, CEO DHA Dr. Bilal Ahmed, representative of the World Health Organization and officials from other departments were also present. Reviewing the progress of implementation on the campaign, the Deputy Commissioner urged the polio teams to fulfill their responsibilities in a more efficient manner and said that the presence of polio teams at public transport stands, railway stations and other important public places should be ensured and children should be vaccinated. He urged the health department to take immediate steps and address the issues raised by the World Health Organization (WHO).

A young girl's quest to reform government schools in AJK

The dignitaries, while lauding the splendid efforts of Dania, termed GGPS Dhoke as Model Primary School of Azad Kashmir and called heads of other government schools to follow in her footsteps

SHUJAT HAMZA

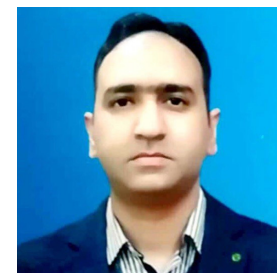
MUZAFFARABAD: A young girl from a remote village of Rawalakot has taken upon herself to improve government schools in Azad Kashmir which have not only lost the students strength but also failed to enhance the quality of education. "I believe that the only way to save government schools is to improve them, and they can only be improved by improving the quality of education, building capacity and skills of teachers, and increasing the community

engagement," Dania Javaid, who works as Incharge Government Girls Primary School (GGPS) Dhoke Dreak, Rawalakot told APP. In her quest to improve government schools, Dania initiated a project in August 2021 to gather up the alumni of GGPS Dhoke and raised funds for arranging the logistics needed for delivering quality education to about 120 students of this primary school. This school is located in a hilly area and all the students belong to an economically, socially and ethnically marginalized families, said

Dania, adding that this school was the only hope for these families to educate their children. "Regrettably, the school lacked even basic facilities imperative for maintaining conducive learning environment." With the help of overseas Kashmiris, who had earned basic education from this primary school, Dania was able to arrange a uniform distribution ceremony this week, where school uniforms were distributed among 120 deprived students. In order to acknowledge their contribution, people from

DC Gujrat Rizwan assumed charge

DNA



GUJRAT: Capt. (Retired) Rizwan Qadeer has assumed the charge of his office as Deputy Commissioner of Gujrat district. He visited the different departments of his office and called on his subordinates. He has, during a chat with local media, assured to take all steps to serve the community of Gujrat. Polio campaign launched in Gujrat district: A five-day polio campaign has been inaugurated in Gujrat district. Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Amir Shehzad

occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner) General (Amir Shehzad said that the polio campaign in Gujrat district would continue from May 23 to 27. "During the campaign, 494,444 children up to the age of 5 years would be vaccinated against polio", he said. He further said that 1,613 teams would take part in the polio campaign; 122 fixed and 32 transit points would be set up in the district. "All parents should cooperate fully with the teams of the health department to get their children under the age of 5 vaccinated against polio", he concluded.

Leading London agency lists luxury Lahore development



STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: In a first for Pakistan's real estate market one of London's leading luxury real estate agencies Fine & Country have listed apartments for sale at the super prime luxury development One Canal Road, Lahore. Headquartered on London's Park Lane with over 300 locations worldwide Fine & Country are a market leader specialising in super prime properties across the world.

One Canal Road by Diyar Homes is an Uber luxury development by Diyar Homes located in a super prime location on the main Canal Road, minutes away from M M Alam and the nightlife of Gulberg. The project is designed by Miami's leading celebrity architect Kobi Karp who said that the One Canal project will be amongst the best not only in Pakistan but the world. Commenting on the appointment a representative of Diyar Homes said, "At

Crackdown launched across district Gujrat

YOOSUF BHUTTA

GUJRAT: Police have launched a crackdown in Gujrat district against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership and activists. They have already arrested tens of dozens PTI workers across Punjab ahead of "Azadi March". Police raided the houses of PTI leaders Choudhary Saleem Jaura MPA, Muhammad Afzal Gondal, Usman Manzoor Dhudra, Iftikhar Samma, Ch. Zubair Tanda, Sajid Yousaf Channi, and many others on late Tuesday night. It is reported that Civil Lines Police raided the house of PTI City Gujrat leader and former vice chairman Faizan Khalid Butt with heavy contingent, broke the main gate and entered the house.

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COURT NOTICE

In The court Khuda Yar Civil Judge Gujrat

Title Iftikhar Ahmad etc. versus: Province of Punjab.

Suit for Declaration with consequential Relief

Notice to: Province of Punjab through District Collector, ADLR SaraiAlamgir, Revenue officer/ Tehsilidar, Gardawar, Halqa Khanpur Khamb, Patwari Khamb, Sajid Mehmood, Wajid Hussain Sons. Allah Lok Cast Jutt R/O, Khanpur Khamb, Ish-tiaq Hussain, Matloob Son, Zabaida Begum D/O, Sardar Khan D/O, FazalElahi W/O, Abdul Rauf, WaseemAkram S/O, Mushtaq Cast Jutt R/O Khanpur Khamb Tehsil Sarai Alamgir District Gujrat. Robina Akhtar W/O, Orangzaib, D/O, Ghulam Ahmad, Shakeel Ahmad, Jahangir Ahmad Sons of Ghulam Ahmad, Nazakat Ali, Ghazanfar Ali Sons, Ghazala D/O, Muhabat Khan, Tabasum S/O, Shafina D/O, Muhabat Khan, Imtiaz, Iftikhar Son, Shamim D/O, Ayesha D/O, Shair, Naveed, Habib Sons, Asima Sumaira D/O, Ayesha, Nasir, Waheed, Touseef Sons, TahiraBi Bi, D/O, Kaniza Bi Bi, D/O, Ayesha, Muhammad Boota, Muhammad Jameel S/O, Asmat Bi Bi D/O, Shair, Muhammad Awais S/O, Amlal Bi Bi, D/O, Asmat Bi Bi Cast Jutt R/O, Khanpur Khamb Tehsil SaraiAlamgir District Gujrat. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendant is not being served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendant will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 25-05-2022. Otherwise case will be decided ex parte. Given under my hand seal of the court this 24th May 2022.

National Days and Armed Forces Days

MAY

May 03 / Poland	National Day
May 06 / Bulgaria	Armed Forces Day
May 06 / UAE	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	National Day
May 25 / Lebanon	Liberation and Resistance Day
May 25 / Argentina	National Day
May 25 / Jordan	Independence Day
May 28 / Azerbaijan	Republic Day
May 28 / Ethiopia	National Day
May 31 / Brunei	Armed Forces Day



Hotels & Restaurants

Serena Hotel.....	111 133 133
Marriott.....	051-2826121
Monal.....	0334-5421812



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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Emergency

Rescue (Police).....	15
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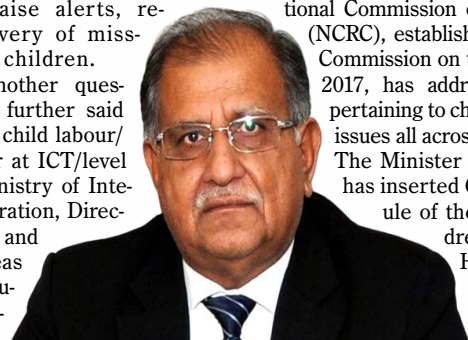
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Govt devises plan for Child Protection Institutes: Riaz

ISLAMABAD Federal Minister for Human Rights Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada on Tuesday informed Senate that the government has devised a plan to expand the Child Protection Institutes in all the major cities of the country. Responding to various questions during Questions Hour in the Senate, he said that government has taken various measures, including enforcement of laws and establishment of institutions. The minister said that National Commission on the Rights of Child has been established to monitor the children's rights' violations in the country. He said a Child Protection Institute has also been established, which provides protection and care to the street and vulnerable children in the Islamabad Capital Territory. He said that the Director General of the Institute has been appointed and the institute is functional, adding that 113 children have

been provided various protection services since its establishment. The minister said "The Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Agency" was established to raise alerts, response and recovery of missing and abducted children. Responding to another question, the minister further said that the subject of child labour/child forced labour at ICT/level is dealt by the Ministry of Interior (ICT Administration, Directorate of Labour) and Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development. As far as Ministry of Human Rights is concerned, the Child Protective Investigations (CPI), established



under the Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection Act 2018, is currently providing protection services to 39 children who were earlier subjected to child labour. Whereas National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC), established under the National Commission on the Rights of Child Act, 2017, has addressed 182 complaints pertaining to child rights/abuse related issues all across the country.

The Minister said that the ministry has inserted Child Domestic Schedule of the employment of Children Act, 1991.

He said that a Toll-Free Helpline 1099 of the Ministry of Human Rights is providing free legal advice to the victims of human rights violations. Riaz Hussain Pirzada said that a national

child labour survey was initiated in March 2019 by ministry in collaboration with UNICEF and is expected to be completed in December 2022, adding that the Survey Report of Gilgit-Baltistan has been launched. He said that the findings of the study will provide information for enacting evidence-based policies, along with legislative and programmatic measures for eradication of child labour.

The minister further said that NCRC has issued guidelines to provincial labour departments for the implementation of Provincial Child Labour Prohibition laws i.e formation and activation of provincial coordination committee on child labour and formation and activation of district vigilance committee under bonded labour system abolition Act of 2015 in line with ILO, Conventions on Bonded Labor and Child Labor C: 29 & 105 and C: 138 & 182. - APP

Otto Kurzendorfer appointed as Serena Hotels new GM

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Aziz Boolani, Chief Executive Officer Serena Hotels South & Central Asia announced the appointment of Otto Kurzendorfer as the General Manager of Islamabad Serena Hotel. Otto Kurzendorfer, a German national brings over 30 years of international hotel experience to the hotel. Prior to joining Islamabad Serena Hotel, Mr. Kurzendorfer has worked for luxury hotel brands including Regency, Kempinski, Inter-Continental, Le Meridien, Sheraton and several LHW



affiliate hotels in Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UK, Germany, and Taiwan. His professional emphasis focuses on team development, motivation, and engagement to ensure the hotel guests and visitors are always looked after in a friendly, professional, and personalized manner. Moving to Pakistan, Mr Kurzendorfer and his family are delighted with the opportunity to contribute positively to the hotel and community development while immersing in a new culture and country and look forward to contributing to the continuous growth of Serena Hotels.

China's investment in Rashakai SEZ to start new era

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chinese investors will soon start investing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, especially in the Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ), to start a new era of economic growth and prosperity in the region. According to Gwadar Pro, this was stated by CEO of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment & Trade Hassan Dawood Butt at a function held at China Window on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations.

He expressed confidence that this friendship would be further strengthened in the future. While addressing the function, the guests highlighted the importance of Pak-China friendship and cut a cake to mark the occasion. A large number of people from different walks of life were present. The speakers said that China has always maintained friendship with Pakistan and sincerely helped Pakistan in providing technology, investment and in overcoming various crises. The Commissioner of the Bannu Division, Arshad Khan, was the chief guest on the occasion. Provincial Secretary of Planning and Development, Shah Mehmood Khan, former Provincial Assembly member Dr. Muhammad Zakir Shah, minority leader Augustin Jacob and Deputy Director of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Youth Department Jawad Khan were also present on the occasion.

OIG, AsiaPak sign MOU to produce animal protein in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An MOU was signed between Optima Integration Group (OIG) headquartered in Shenzhen and AsiaPak Investments headquartered in Hong Kong, China to set up an end-to-end supply chain for agricultural products, especially animal protein products, which will be produced in Pakistan and transported to China for consumption. Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. According to the MOU, the two sides will complete feasibility studies in the first 2 months and they will start executing the project within the first 6 months. The signing ceremony was witnessed by Pakistani Minister of Board of Investments, Chaudhry Salik Hussain. He congratulated the partnership and was glad to see China's interests in Pakistan's agriculture and livestock sector, especially in the fish and seafood industry.

"Food processing is one of the priority sectors of Pakistan, where extensive and continuous

focus is required, and it is closely linked with the logistics sector, which is also nominated as a priority sector for Pakistan. The validation process of such a project will enable Pakistan to be part of the global supply chain. BOI is always committed to facilitating China-Pakistan cooperation," the minister said.

On the occasion, Shaheryar Chishty, CEO of AsiaPak, mentioned that China imports more than \$150 billion food annually, out of which only \$500 million is exported from Pakistan, and most of them is fruits and vegetables. Pak-China friendship is translating into economic benefits. The CEO added that the project objective is to increase export of animal protein, including fish, beef and mutton to China.

"This project begins with the pilot of fish export, and will expand after feasibility studies in Gwadar. Subsequently, we will expand the scope to include beef and mutton processing in our project," he noted. With a population of 1.4 billion in the growing and upgrading consumer demands, China has a huge market potential, especially in the food industry. Pakistan has a long history and unique advantages in agriculture.

IFC, KP Partner for healthcare project

STAFF REPORT

PESHAWAR: IFC signed an agreement today with the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (GoKP) provinceto help arrange a landmark public-private partnership (PPP) for the construction of a state-of-the-art hospital with up to 500 beds in provincial capital Peshawar. Peshawar's population has increased by 52 percent over the last two decades. That has increased stress on the city's healthcare facilities, which have been further exacerbated by the pandemic and an influx of patients from surrounding districts and neighboring Afghanistan. Under the agreement, IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, will support the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in structuring the PPP transaction. IFC's team will also assist the government in running a transparent, competitive bidding process to select a private sector developer and operator for the hospital, which will deliver tertiary care. "The new hospital is expected to serve over 150,000 people annually and will be Pakistan's first greenfield PPP in the healthcare sector. We believe it will serve as a model transaction allowing us to replicate the project for other much needed healthcare facilities," said Mahmood Khan, Chief Minister, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "This project is a monumental step towards fulfilling GoKP's promise of increasing accessibility to quality tertiary healthcare across the province.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for SAFRON Senator Talah Mahmood presenting a souvenir to Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov. - DNA

Baloch leader felicitates Chinese envoy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) leader Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri greeted the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong as Pakistan and China celebrate 71 years of friendly diplomatic ties. According to Gwadar Pro, the Baloch leader congratulated Chinese President Xi Jinping, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong, the governments and the people of both countries on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. In her congratulatory message, she said:



"Pakistan is proud of its everlasting and strong friendship with China. The Paki-

stan-China friendship is everlasting and unique and is getting stronger with time. The CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) project is a living example of our mutual commitment to a lasting relationship between the two brother countries."

She added: "The journey of Pakistan-China friendship spans decades and its scope has extended to all walks of life saying that China and Pakistan are two brothers. This is the happy day when the two countries sowed the seeds of friendship which has become a strong and fruitful tree in 71 years.

Whether it is war or peace or any natural calamity, China has given full support to Pakistan in every difficult time and on important occasions." Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri

acknowledged that the Chinese investment in Pakistan had played a significant role in economic development.

"Thanks to CPEC, billions of dollars are being invested in Pakistan and it is playing a key role in the development of Pakistan. At present thousands of Chinese are serving in Pakistan in various fields and are imparting knowledge to Pakistanis on administrative and technical skills," she mentioned.

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri emphasized that the protection of Chinese citizens in Pakistan "is our top priority and all resources are being utilised for this." She foresaw that the Pakistan-China friendship would last till the end of time and it would get stronger with the passage of time.

AIOU conducts first Board meeting for Iqbal Chair

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The first meeting of the board of management for Iqbal chair on Tasawwuf and Muslim Thoughts was held yesterday at main campus of Alama Iqbal Open University (AIOU). This meeting was chaired by Prof. Fateh Muhammad Malik, Iqbal chair, whereas, senior advisor, project management unit, Mohammad Rafique Tahir, Head, chair for Seerat-un-Nabi, Sahibzada Sajid ur Rehman, Director, Iqbal Academy, Lahore, Dr. Baseera Ambreen, Executive Director, Iqbal International Institute for Research and Dialogue, IIUI, Prof. Dr. Husnul Amin, Prof. Dr. Moinuddin Aqeel from Karachi University, Gholam Ali Haddad Adel from Iran, Dean, Faculty of Languages and Literature, IIUI, Prof. Dr. Najeeba Arif, Chairman, Department of Urdu, Prof. Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir, Director IET, Dr. Samina Awan and Dr. Safdar Rasheed participated in the meeting.

Prof. Fateh said that the new generation is not familiar with Iqbal and his philosophy, this chair will work on the ideology of Iqbal and we will arrange seminars and conferences in regional offices of AIOU. He added that Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum is very generous and assured us that University will provide all the resources to organize conferences and seminars. Mohammad Rafiq Tahir said that we have to go ahead and work out a plan of action to arouse the interest of youth in understanding Iqbal. Prof. Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir and Prof. Dr. Samina Awan emphasized on the promotion of Sufi literature in the context of Iqbal.

US embassy announces interview waiver

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The United States Mission to Pakistan is pleased to announce the expansion of interview waiver eligibility at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad and the U.S. Consulate General in Karachi for certain applicants of F (student) visas, J (exchange visitor) visas in academic programs, H (temporary worker visas), and non-blanket L (intra-company transferee) visas. Pakistani citizens who previously held U.S. visas are eligible to use this program. Expanding interview waiver eligibility in these categories will provide better customer service and support the efficient and timely processing of visas for qualified Pakistani citizens. As required by U.S. law, however, some eligible visa holders may still be required to appear at the U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate General for interviews after submitting their applications.

APHC leader urges world to rescue Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD: Illegally detained senior APHC leader and Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party Chairman Shabbir Ahmad Shah has called upon Pakistan to mobilize the international community to come for rescue of the people of Jammu and Kashmir from being exterminated at the hands of Indian occupation forces. According to Kashmir Media Service, Shabbir Ahmad Shah in a message from India's notorious Tihar jail made a passionate appeal to the justice-loving nations of the world to urgently intervene as Kashmiri leaders and activists are facing the lurking danger of being killed in the territory. He said that being an important party to the Kashmir dispute, Pakistan should take effective measures to apprise the world of the monstrous threat to the lives of millions of people in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. - APP

Briefs

'Amendment in laws possible through parliament'

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday informed the Senate that there is a legal way to amend any law in the parliament. "Only government cannot change from itself in any law as the parliament has the mandate to bring amendments in any law, Tarar said while replying to various queries during Questions Hour in the Senate. The minister said that the government has no authority to bring changes in any law. He said that parliamentarians should submit their suggestions for getting improvement in the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws. He said, "We believe in the true performance of public organizations instead of wasting time on advertisement for publicity." - APP

Dr. Atta terms 'science diplomacy' vital for peace

ISLAMABAD: The Patron-in-Chief of the International Center for Biological and Chemical Sciences, (ICBS) University of Karachi, Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman Tuesday termed 'science diplomacy' as extremely important for nurturing peace and harmony and good will amongst nations. He was speaking at an online webinar entitled "Neurocase Wilson's disease trials: chemical, gene, and organ/cell treatments", organised by the COMSTech. The webinar was delivered by Prof. Xiao-Ping Wang, Director, Department of Neurology, Shanghai TongRen Hospital, Shanghai Jiao-Tong University Medical School, Shanghai. Professor Dr. Atta, who is former federal minister for science and technology, introduced the speaker and said it is a real pleasure to introduce Prof. Xiao-Ping Wang and we are very fortunate to have him in Karachi at ICCBS. Prof. Atta said, Prof. Wang is a very distinguished scientist. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Wang said it is my pleasure and the topic of my talk is "Neurocase Wilson disease trials: chemical, gene, and organ/cell treatment". He talked about the history of Wilson's disease and modern neurology. He shed light on the discovery of this disease and discussed the research work of different scientists on this disease. - APP

Nisar Khuhro urges PTI legislators to come back in NA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People Party (PPP) Senator Nisar Ahmed Khuhro on Tuesday urged the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) legislators to come back to the National Assembly (NA) as they were part of Senate proceedings. Talking in Senate, he said the PPP had reservations about the results of the election but it came to the Parliament to further strengthen the democratic system and institutions. Nisar said the PTI legislators should create an environment of tolerance as the Parliament was the best forum to reach a consensus on various issues through dialogues. He said the PPP had gone through various critical phases in politics but it did not propose to throw an atomic bomb on the country. It is always of the view that 'Pakistan comes first and the democracy is the best revenge, he added. He said the PPP had never been part of any unconstitutional move throughout history but Imran Khan who was the first prime minister sent back to the pavilion through a no-trust motion, supported General Pervez Musharraf's referendum. He said it was the most disappointing move when a civilian administrator dissolved the National Assembly unconstitutionally. Nisar pointed out that the PTI government played with the Constitution by passing 32 legislations in 15 minutes during the joint sitting of the National Assembly and Senate. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Marriyam Aurangzeb shakes hand with Ambassador of Palestine Ahmed Rabei during a diplomatic function. - DNA

Ahsan Iqbal terms political stability vital for development

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal here on Tuesday said that political stability and continuity of economic policies were vital to achieve sustainable economic growth and social prosperity in the country. Addressing the fourth annual convocation of Pakistan Institute of Development Economic (PIDE), he said that Pakistan was blessed with huge natural resources and also endowed with vast human capital, adding that it was needed to exploit these resources to put the country on fast track of economic development. He said that we are living in the age of information and in this day and age, economic and social policy can no longer remain isolated from real-time data and robust research foundations. The new forces of technology, information, globalization and innovation are shifting de-

velopment paradigms, he said adding that this calls for fundamental changes in societies' social, political and economic behaviors and structures to create new capabilities and capacities. We need institutions that are proactive and alert and aware of the changing times, he said that in recent times, PIDE has proven itself a valuable resource to the nation as it has adjusted to the new norms during the pandemic that rendered the entire world nonfunctional was an impressive feat. The minister said that it is also encouraging that research think tanks responded promptly and unconventionally to unprecedented issues, adding that this demonstrates the amount of potential that is packed not only

within PIDE but within the country.

Ahsan Iqbal said that he was optimistic that PIDE had prepared today's graduates to be the leaders and policy-makers of tomorrow. Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor

PIDE, Dr Nadeemul Haque said that PIDE is a premier research and teaching institution, adding that it is a world-class economic development research center attracting the Planning Commission and the Government of Pakistan. PIDE is a specialized degree-awarding institution in significant economic and business fields

and internationally recognized research, he said adding that it produced PhDs, MPhils/MS and Masters in Business Administration, Economics, and related social sciences and help overcome critical shortages of highly trained economists in the public and private sector. The Vice-Chancellor said that PIDE students are sought after by the reputed international institutions and the top-rated institutions in Pakistan. Currently, PIDE alumni are doing very well in the World Bank, IMF, State Bank of Pakistan, and leading universities in Pakistan. Meanwhile, 1,582 students are being bestowed degrees in multiple disciplines in the fourth convocation this year as PIDE has produced about 2,133 graduates working at different national and international organizations total of 64 students were awarded Gold Medals for extraordinary academic prowess during their time at PIDE.

Govt urged for withdrawing ST on hybrid seeds

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Hi-Tech Hybrid Seed Association (PHSA) on Tuesday urged the government to withdraw 17% sales tax on hybrid seeds for boosting agriculture production in the country in order to ensure food safety and security by increasing per-acre output of all major and minor crops. This was stated by Chairman PHSA, Shahzad Ali Malik, talking to a delegation of progressive women entrepreneurs led by Ms Shanneela Hayat from Gwadar, which called on him and discussed different issues related to economic development in the country, said a press release. Shahzad Ali hailed withdrawal of 17% GST on solar panels by dynamic Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He said Pakistan's agriculture sector plays a critical role in the economy as it contributes 20 percent to GDP and absorbs 42.3 percent of labour force in rural areas. He said majority of the population directly or indirectly dependent on this sector. He said agriculture is the lifeblood of Pakistan's economy which has linkage with other sectors that plays a significant role in the socio-economic development of the country. He said ST is making Pakistan uncompetitive in the international markets in Agri related products and also badly affecting the welfare of local farmers. - APP

Lighthouse launched for children's orphanage

ISLAMABAD: The Lighthouse, has recently been launched, aimed towards providing a loving home for orphans to nurture them into empowered and confident individuals. Located near the Srinagar Highway in Islamabad, The Lighthouse is a boarding and education facility for orphaned and less privileged children to provide them with a home that will ensure that they receive quality education, necessary life skills, and other emotional and developmental support without discrimination. This project was initiated by a non-profit organisation formed under the Beaconhouse Group. Founder and Executive Director Beaconhouse Amina Wattoo Kasuri, launched the project at The Lighthouse, and Project Director at Concordia College in Pakistan. As stated by Amina Wattoo Kasuri, Founder at The Lighthouse, "We have over the years worked tirelessly towards the development and uplifting of deserving members of our society. The Lighthouse is an extension of our efforts, and has been a dream of many years. Our vision is to invest in children's lives today in order to transform their future, while we work to create a safe and stimulating environment where they receive adequate nutrition and are healthy, and are given ample support for their education." "Positive changes inevitably take time, but we are committed to improving the lives of disadvantaged children for the long haul. As our name suggests, we aim to be the guiding light that safely leads children towards a secure future," she expressed. - APP

Drugs Addiction: A social problem

SALWA SIKANDAR

Addiction is something that can affect human's brain and behaviour. When someone is addicted to drugs, he/she can't resist the urge to use them, no matter how much harm the drugs may cause. In Pakistan, drug addicts are increasing day by day. As per UN report, there are 7.6 million where 78% are male while the rest 22% are female. Now the question is how is it increasing? According to research, mostly the addicts are the youngsters including college and university students. Once it starts at the beginning of university life, then it creates an unstoppable chain of getting more people into drugs. As it's illegal to export or import substances

publicly, so the companies has started smuggling them secretly throughout the world. Drug trafficking is one of the major source of revenue for organised crime groups. The money which they get from it, it's spiced to their other groups who expand other crimes in the nation including buying firearms and financing terrorism. The role of government is controlling it by stopping it by its cultivation, production, distribution, packaging and transportation. It should start punishing those who are involved in this disgusting act. Anti-Narcotic force also has to play its firm role to control it. Parents should be vigilant and keep eye on the company of their kids and activities as well. Awareness seminars also have to be organised at schools where experts recommend devastating effects of the drugs.

UK minister in Pakistan on 2-day visit

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The UK Minister for Armed Forces James Heappey MP is visiting Pakistan on a two-day visit to highlight the importance of Pakistan as a strategic partner to the UK and reiterate the long-standing deep people-to-people ties between the two countries. This year Pakistan and UK will be celebrating 75 years of partnership and bilateral ties. Minister James Heappey will be meeting senior government and military leaders, discussing the impact of the war in Ukraine across the world and UK's humanitarian response in Afghanistan. He also laid a wreath at the War Cemetery in Rawalpindi where hundreds of Commonwealth soldiers who lost their lives in the two World Wars are laid to rest. The last ministerial visit to Pakistan was in September when the then Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab held high-level meetings and discussed how the two countries can work closely together on the situation in Afghanistan. James Heappey MP said: "The



UK and Pakistan are close friends and partners. As we celebrate 75 years of our bilateral relationship, it is more important than ever that we continue to work together in an increasingly unstable world to tackle challenges and those who threaten global peace and security."

Section 144 imposed for two months in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: The district administration has imposed Section 144 in the federal capital for two months to avoid any untoward law and order situation besides prohibiting all kinds of gatherings in areas outside the Red Zone within a one-kilometre radius. According to a notification issued by Islamabad's additional district magistrate Rana Waqas on Tuesday prohibits 'all kinds of gatherings of 5 or more persons, processions/rallies and demonstrations inside the Red Zone'. The notification was issued by the Office of the District Magistrate - Islamabad Capital Territory ahead of PTI's 'Azadi March' scheduled on May 25. - APP

ICT administration to ensure citizens' safety

Criticizing the way PTI adopted while bulldozing the election reforms bills and passing in the National Assembly, he thanked the Chairman Senate for referring the matter to the concerned standing committee

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the House in the Senator, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday said that all legal powers of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration will be used in order to protect and facilitate the citizens of federal capital. "On behalf of the federal government I assure the house that law enforcement agencies will use their powers within limitations of law and constitution in the wake of PTI's long-march," Tarar said while replying to the point of order of Leader of the Opposition in the Senate Dr Shahzad Waseem. Tarar assured the house that constitution of Pakistan will never be violated and the use of powers with regard to maintaining law and order situation will be in accordance with the law. He however made it clear that the government will not allow any group to plan armed attack on the federal capital. He said that the Leader of the House should also condemn the plan of armed attack on the federal capital. He added he should present a resolution to stop making such plans while using resources of a province

and inviting people of that province. Criticizing the way PTI adopted while bulldozing the election reforms bills and passing in the National Assembly, he thanked the Chairman Senate for referring the matter to the concerned standing committee. He said that with the dedication and commitment of the chairman and members of Senate Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, 80 percent concerns have been addressed and now it was decided to pass it except two issues like use of EVM machines and internet voting for overseas. Tarar said, "We never opposed overseas vote and want to implement the way out as per order of the Supreme Court as Senate Standing committee report was also recommended this which was not further followed," he said and added that everyone knows what happened later in the joint session on the issue." He said that the basic fundamental rights of parliamentarians were fully violated during the tenure of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). He said that PTI fully ignored the rights of parliamentarians and

filed fake and illegal cases against leaders of opposition parties. He said that a mature democratic leadership was now running the affairs of the government. "They are true democrats who faced great troubles for sake of supremacy of constitution and democracy in the country." He said that the Leader of the Opposition truly said that before arresting parliamentarians, the authorities should first get permission from the Speaker. "Why they were silent during their tenure when many parliamentarians were arrested." Tarar questioned, "Why Dr Shahzad Waseem remained unable to raise voice when fake case was filed against Rana Sanaulah or when they sent Maryam Nawaz to jail in harsh weather." "Why he was silent when Ali Wazir was in the jail or PML-N leadership was even not allowed to get even medicines in the jail. They always created hurdles in releasing production order of Shahid Khaqan Abbasi or Rana Sanaulah during their time." He said that why PTI lawmakers failed to say any single word against all discrimination or violation of law and constitution dur-

ing the tenure of PTI government. Earlier, on point of order, Dr Shahzad Waseem raised the matter of police raids on the residences of PTI leadership and workers and arresting them across the country. He assured the house that the PTI long-march will remain peaceful same like previously held peacefully in different parts of the country. "This is our democratic right to hold rally, public gathering or long-march." Later, the opposition staged a walk out on raiding the residences of PTI parliamentarians. Senator Yousuf Raza Gilani said that PTI leadership should reconsider its conduct as they were blaming our elders as traitors, who actually contributed a lot for the prosperity of country. He said the PTI wants to make the federal capital as hostage city which shouldn't be allowed at any way. "They want to fulfill their all wishes including immediate holding of general elections in the country. They should wait for having general elections on due date after completion of present government tenure." - APP

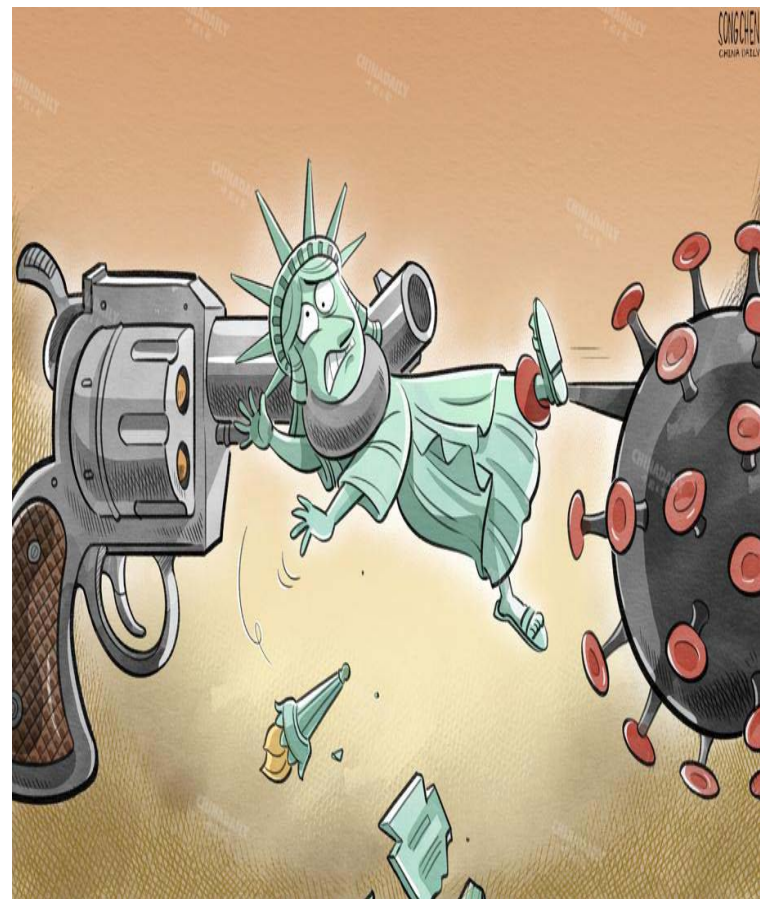
Youm-e-Takbeer - A glaring example of resolve

ISLAMABAD: The nation marks 24th Youm-e-Takbeer to commemorate the astounding success of its journey to become the seventh nuclear power of the world in May 1998. Detonation of nuclear devices on May 28, 1998 was culmination of a daring journey took on by former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto to make the nation's defense invincible against the arch rival India that orchestrated and convincingly separated the East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). The program was started though with limited resources but insurmountable will and passion to ensure that the country becomes a sovereign and strong state unable to be bullied by the hostile powers. - APP

Irresponsible behavior

Punjab Police late Monday raided the houses of several PTI leaders, including former energy minister Hammad Azhar, Usman Dar, and Babar Awan, while a police constable was also shot dead during a raid in Lahore. The development comes hours after PTI's Senior Vice President Fawad Chaudhry, in a press conference, warned the government against using force to stop the "Azadi March", set to begin on May 25. The former information minister told the government that it could arrest PTI leaders and workers if it wanted to, but it would not be in its favour. Meanwhile, despite Fawad's warning of using force against the PTI ahead of the long march, police raided the houses of PTI leaders across Punjab and Islamabad. Police raided Hammad Azhar's house in Lahore, however, he was not present at his residence. Lahore Police also raided the residence of PTI's former information secretary, Farrukh Javed, but he escaped via his home's back door, according to media. In Lahore's Jauhar Town, PTI MPA Sadia Sohail said her house had also been raided. "Police violated the sanctity of the four walls of the house," she claimed. Police raided the residences of PTI leaders Malik Ishtiaq and Yasir Gillani, but since they were also not present in their houses, no arrests could be made. Meanwhile, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday ordered police and the administration to stop harassing PTI leaders and workers following a crackdown by the Punjab police last night. During a hearing on PTI's petition against the ongoing country-wide crackdown and detentions of its activists ahead of its Azadi March, IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah said that the court cannot issue orders on the basis of mere concerns or fear. During the course of the proceedings, the IHC CJ remarked: "Even in a law and order situation, the rules laid down by the SC should be followed." The whole situation is dreadful. Irresponsible behavior from both sides can lead the country towards anarchy and worsen an already under pressure fragile economic situation. As the politicians care not about the outcome of their actions on situation on the ground, it is for the judiciary and establishment to keep things under control and avoid a looming crisis.

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Lessons for learners

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

The political situation of the country is turbulent, as always. This time, the confusion is at its peak. The one who was ousted from the office is gaining media traction. Those who replaced him are facing all sorts of troubles. Some say that the economic indicators are at their highest in recent memory while others consider Pakistan on the verge of bankruptcy. This confusion will remain until we do not stand together at one platform fighting for a single cause – Pakistan. This situation and the ones that transpired before are lessons for learners. Governing a country needs vision, resilience, foresight, and courage. One may have a vision but without foresight and courage, the vision will lay to waste. Those coming in power in the future must ascertain key points. They should 1) set their vested interests aside and work for the development of Pakistan's various sectors 2) not work for money, but to achieve the micro and macro goals 3) work together 4) monitor the resources they have in the form of land, labor, capital, and capitalize them in the best possible way 5) curb corruption and make all processes transparent 6) develop education, health, justice, and infrastructure 7) curb terrorism and malpractices 8) promote tourism. The problem is not with Pakistan, it is how it has been governed over the many decades. There is a dire need to establish a system of justice, truth, and resilience – one that is acknowledged and appreciated, pursued and followed by all those who are elected. The opposition should also not focus on winning the elections but work in unison with the government – so that a harmonious blend of resources, thoughts, and energy can be created for the betterment of Pakistan.

Europe desperately wants Covid over, but is it?

Jon Van Housen and Mariella Radaelli

In many developing countries, poor public health and administration systems were clearly unable to provide an accurate count. As well, due to the stigma attached, many citizens of poorer countries simply stayed home with no medical care when sick with the virus. Of course, not all survived

French President Emmanuel Macron removed all remaining Covid-19 restrictions in the country on Monday, joining most other European nations on a continent desperate for a return to normalcy. Yet the number of infections and deaths from the virus remains significant. The week before France lifted all rules, no longer even requiring masks on public transport, the country recorded nearly 200,000 contagions and more than 500 deaths. Germany, Italy, the UK and the rest of Western Europe also continue to see large numbers, even though the recorded cases are falling as the weather warms and higher levels of immunity possibly take hold. Is it too much too soon to pull down all the rules? WHO Europe Director Hans Kluge told an earlier press conference that he is "optimistic but vigilant" about the pandemic in Europe, yet countries including Germany, France, Italy and the UK lifted their Covid curbs too "brutally". Kartik Aaryan gets candid ahead of 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' release But citizens have clearly had enough. Most followed guidance, did the "correct" thing, got vaccinated, wore masks and stayed home. Yet more than two years on, the virus is still a major fact

stubbornly high, but the reality is not nearly as alarming as it once was. In many developing countries, poor public health and administration systems were clearly unable to provide an accurate count. As well, due to the stigma attached, many citizens of poorer countries simply stayed home with no medical care when sick with the virus. Of course, not all survived. Even in Europe, there seemed to be a wide disparity in reporting. Some nations only reported a Covid-19 death if it came as the primary cause while others listed it as a Covid fatality if a person with an underlying condition died while positive for the virus. Suspiciously, cases and deaths in many countries could over the weekends – days set aside for rest across the continent. Of course, death didn't take a holiday, the healthcare staff did, so not all numbers were recorded. And surely some countries de-emphasized testing and counting after making the policy decision to prioritize the economy, which is also crucial to people's lives. So the questions for Europe are how far nations have really come in fighting Covid-19 and how prepared the continent is to move forward as all restrictions are lifted.

If one wants to see if the situation has improved, an honest appraisal of how bad it was is necessary. Using statistical analysis and other methodologies, the World Health Organization (WHO) recently estimated that the true death toll worldwide by Dec. 31, 2021 was in the range of 13.3 million to 16.6 million, nearly three times the number in official statistics on that date. But could it have gone even higher without the intervention of medical science? A study by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control late last year estimated that 470,000 lives were saved among those aged 60 years and over since the start of vaccination programs in 33 countries across the European region. That estimate does not include lives saved by vaccinating people younger than 60 years nor lives saved from the indirect effect of vaccination because of a possible reduction in transmission. Dr. Kluge of the WHO said "Covid-19 has exacted a devastating death toll in our region, but we can now categorically say that without vaccines as a tool to contain this pandemic, many more people would have died." And as Europe takes a much-needed breath of fresh air to enjoy some semblance of what life was like before the virus, can people really relax and let down their guard? Perhaps take some time to celebrate the lives saved along with counting those that were lost? Antoine Flahault, director of the Institute of Global Health at the University of Geneva, says strong surveillance can help in anticipating future risks posed by a mutating virus. "We know that the virus transmits in indoor areas that are poorly ventilated and accommodate the public," he said. "One of the main issues to work through is better ventilating these areas without sacrificing energy use." Any resurgence will likely depend on the population immunity in a country due to the vaccination rate and history of previous illness. The pandemic is not over, many people surely sense, but warm weather, blooming spring flowers, short-sleeved shirts and sunglasses seem to have lightened the mood. Local street markets are back in full swing and tourists have returned in significant enough numbers to be noticed. *Courtesy: Khaleej Times*

The reasons behind Gulf states' neutral policy on Ukraine

Mohammed Al-Sulami

The West now perceives a serious threat in Ukraine, with this new crisis possibly changing its own threat perception. This should automatically lead to a genuine understanding of the Arab region's grave concerns about the equally serious Iranian threat

The Russian military campaign in Ukraine has thrown Europe's geopolitical landscape into disarray. This crisis also overshadows the global order, with countries worldwide adopting various positions toward the crisis, including the Gulf states, which have adopted a policy of neutrality. But why have the Gulf states acted in this way and what are the justifications for their position? Throughout history, the Gulf states have always been known for embracing a position which is harmonious with international legitimacy and in line with international law, and opposing any armed invasion or violation of the sovereignty of an internationally recognized state. This has been and remains the Gulf states' stance toward the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Although the UAE, along with China and India, abstained from voting in favor of the US-Albanian resolution in the UN Security Council condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine and calling on Moscow to withdraw its forces, this position should not be misconstrued as indicating approval of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It seems more probable that the Gulf states wish to send a message to the West that both Russian and Iranian geopolitical expansion violates international law, and that the West should address the Iranian threat in the same way it is addressing the threat posed by Russia. It seems that the Western powers have now begun to adopt a nervous posture toward the positions of some Gulf, Arab and African states on Russia, and it seems some have invoked the statement of former US President George W. Bush, who said: "Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists." This position is somewhat unfair as it implies some sort of opportunism on behalf of countries adopting a more neutral position and places unjustified pressures on them. Many countries worldwide hope that the West will pursue a position similar to the one that it is now adopting on Russia when it comes to other conflicts and crises in the world, more specifically toward the Iranian regime's regional proxy war project. Given the West's paradoxical position toward Iran's expansionism, via its proxy militias, which pose a grave existential threat to most governments and nations in the Arab region, it has failed to reassure the leaders and peoples in the region. On the contrary, many Arab peoples see the West as being supportive of Iran's malign behavior, trivializing or at least downplaying it using the argument that its actions are geographically distant from the West and mostly avoid targeting Western interests, despite skirmishes and limited-scale operations with Western forces here and there. The Gulf states do not want to engage in the Russian-Ukrainian crisis for several reasons. Experiences in both the recent and distant past have presented them with many lessons that have made them reconsider their political positions and the need to focus primarily on their own

political, economic and geopolitical interests, adopting a realist foreign policy standpoint. Their own international standing and economic resources do not allow them to align politically and economically with one camp against another. It should also be noted that the Gulf states are more connected to the East than the West, especially in the field of energy, sharing major economic interests with China in particular, and to some extent with Russia. Despite these ties, however, the Gulf states do not want to politicize energy prices at the expense of their own national interests, especially since they need revenue inflows to support their national budgets to continue with the implementation of development plans in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is also true that the Gulf states share political and military interests with the West and do not wish to consider undoing ties in the near future, whether at the political, cultural or economic levels. The Gulf states also believe that they can act independently of the Western and Eastern camps in such a way that their policies serve mutual interests. It may also be that the Gulf states wish to abandon the former model of forming alliances of a more unipolar nature (forging alliances with one predominant global power while distancing themselves from the other). Instead, the Gulf states prefer to adopt a more flexible multipolar model so that they can benefit from forming multiple positive and well-balanced alliances, through which they can forge balanced relations with all the major world powers according to assessments of common benefits and the convergence of interests. This is an approach that many countries worldwide have already begun to pursue within the framework of the multipolar world order which is now taking shape. At the popular level, meanwhile, there is also clear resentment among the region's peoples toward the West's withdrawal – however symbolic – from the Arab region and the Middle East in general, which has created a predictable vacuum that was equally predictably quickly filled by other world powers, especially in light of the crises, wars and constant threats posed by Iran against the region. In the words of an old Arab proverb well-known worldwide: "A friend in need is a friend indeed." Conversely, anyone who abandons you in your hour of need is no friend. This friend did not learn from their mistakes and failed to rectify them, whether in the case of the disastrous 2015 nuclear deal between the P5+1 and Iran, or the withdrawal of military equipment at a time when it was seriously needed. The West now perceives a serious threat in Ukraine, with this new crisis possibly changing its own threat perception. This should automatically lead to a genuine understanding of the Arab region's grave concerns about the equally serious Iranian threat. With these Western countries now better able to put themselves in the shoes of the Gulf states in particular and the region's countries in general, they will be better able to understand that they disastrously miscalculated the threat perception in the Arab region when it comes to Iran. So, is the West ready to rectify its past mistakes, impartially address the crises gripping the world and respond satisfactorily to the flagrant violations of international norms without resorting to justifications devoid of political commonsense? And is it ready to calculate its policies on a fair and just basis? I sincerely hope so. *Courtesy: Arab News*

Monkeypox is a political issue that requires facts

Dr. Theodore Karasik

The World Health Organization confirms a very tiny 80 confirmed cases so far and 50 pending investigations. More cases are likely to be reported as medical surveillance expands. To be sure, WHO is working with the affected countries to expand disease surveillance to find and support people who may be affected, and to provide guidance on how to manage the disease. WHO's Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on Infectious Hazards with Pandemic and Epidemic Potential met to discuss the disease and response strategies

The monkeypox outbreak is drawing attention from international medical surveillance professionals and health practitioners because of key elements present in this latest event, originating from the African continent. Indeed, the international environment is heated and weary of disease and warfare. News reports say that about 130 confirmed or suspected cases of monkeypox, a rare viral disease seldom detected outside of Africa, have been found in at least 12 non-African countries in the past week. The emergence of the virus in separate populations across the world where it does not usually appear has alarmed scientists – and sent them racing for answers. Monkeypox triggers enlarged lymph nodes and, eventually, distinctive fluid-filled lesions on the face, hands

and feet. Most people recover from monkeypox in a few weeks without treatment. With a "hot political Fall 2022" expected in different corners of the world, strained health care systems do not need the extra drama coming from social media accounts about monkeypox. A methodological approach to the current "news" is to understand some facts. Medical surveillance is catching the hard information correctly without inflating the significance of the monkeypox spread. Monkeypox is not new but it is not old either. According to researchers, it is a species of large double-stranded DNA viruses belonging to the genus Orthopoxvirus. It is the etiological agent of a zoonotic disease, the first human case being identified in the present-day Democratic Republic of the Congo in the 1970s. In an average year, a few thousand cases occur in Africa, typically in the western and central parts of the continent. But cases outside Africa have been limited to a handful associated with travel to Africa or with the importation of infected animals. The number of cases detected elsewhere in the world in the current monkeypox outbreak alone has already surpassed the total number of cases outside Africa since 1970. This fact is why some professionals are expressing concern at the latest eruption as it is more communicable by being airborne and has a five- to nine-day incubation period. The largest West African monkeypox outbreak in history began in Nigeria in September 2017. No exported cases were reported for almost the first year of the outbreak. However, within a three-week period in September 2018, three unlinked travelers infected with monkeypox left Nigeria and arrived in two

countries. Seven months later, a Nigerian national became ill with monkeypox in Singapore. These "exportations" represent the first time a human host was documented to transfer monkeypox from the African continent. However, there have been a handful of examples of monkeypox outbreaks in animals within laboratories and zoos with no clearly identified source of infection since monkeypox was identified in monkeys in 1958. The source of the 2003 monkeypox outbreak in the US was determined to be a shipment of rodents from West Africa. At the time these outbreaks did not cause the "mass psychosis" about a monkey disease that has appeared since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the lessons-learned from COVID-19, some countries are already implementing guidelines to keep "safe" during this period. The procedures are really no different from COVID-19 protocols in terms of remaining as sanitary as possible. Washing hands and masks still may be required if you so choose. Yet, here is the rub: Scientists have been keeping an eye on monkeypox ever since an eradication campaign for smallpox, a "cousin" virus, decreased significantly in the 1970s. Once smallpox was no longer a threat thanks to worldwide vaccinations, public health officials stopped recommending smallpox inoculation which also kept monkeypox at bay. With each year that has passed since smallpox's eradication, the population with weakened or no immunity to these viruses has grown. The worry, not confirmed, is that the spread is among those who need a smallpox vaccination. To be sure, WHO is working with the affected countries to expand disease surveillance to find and support people who may be affected, and to provide guidance on how to manage the disease. WHO's Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on Infectious Hazards with Pandemic and Epidemic Potential met to discuss the disease and response strategies. Given the outbreaks that appear so far to occur in very small clusters, the strategy for a greater spread is to "ring" the area. Healthcare workers would probably instead use a method called "ring vaccination" to contain the spread of monkeypox: This is to vaccinate the closest contacts of people who have been infected with monkeypox to cut off any further routes of transmission. Now monkeypox is a political issue that requires facts, not hype. Probabilities are low with containment strategies but health officials are right to be highly attentive to monkeypox's spread patterns this summer. *Courtesy: Arab News*

Briefs

Govt mulls options as...

FROM PAGE 01

The former prime minister then asked if the PTI government made any arrests when PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and JUI-F Cheif Maulana Fazlur Rehman marched towards Islamabad.

Khan condemned that the police entered the house of a retired army major while referring to a video that surfaced on social media, in which a girl could be in seen tears and claiming that the cops had "harassed" her.

"Do we want to make the country Quaid-e-Azam's Pakistan or the Pakistan of these thieves and robbers?" Imran Khan asked and said that 60% of the federal cabinet comprises criminals who are roaming freely after attaining bails, while they still have cases of corruption worth Rs24 billion against them. "The crime minister and his son had to be sentenced but now they are making decisions for the country," he said and claimed that the PTI has not broken any law in its 26 years of political history.

The PTI chairman said that it was the democratic right of his party to carry on with the said that PTI's "Azadi March" is the party's democratic right. "We are marching to Islamabad because it was proved in the National Security Council (NSC) meeting that a foreign conspiracy was hatched and the [PTI] government was toppled," Khan said, adding that those who have been criminals for the last 30 years were brought into power. Calling out to the judiciary of Pakistan, the PTI leader said that the courts' reputation would be tarnished if it permitted what was happening in the country and their silence would "prove that there was no democracy in the country".

"We are noting the names of each and every official and bureaucrat. Our message to the bureaucracy is that action will be taken against them if they follow illegal orders," he said. Khan asked the bureaucracy of Punjab how they could follow the orders of Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz, saying "he [Hamza] doesn't have a majority vote".

He also warned the authorities of action against every unlawful order they follow. The PTI chairman asked his supporters to "break the chains of fear" while citing the example of how the Afghans fought foreign powers. Khan said that the government could not put a sea of people, who were willing to march to Islamabad in his support, in jail.

The former prime minister then said that the entire nation was "looking towards the neutrals" to intervene. "You will also be responsible if the country moves towards destruction," he said. "I have a message for the neutrals, judges, and lawyers: it is a decisive time. I ask the judiciary and neutrals what kind of a government they want". He then asked, "what kind of treason was being committed in Pakistan that PTI's MNAs had to be arrested".

March bound...

FROM PAGE 01

who was gunned down last night during a police raid at a PTI leader's house in Lahore's Model Town.

Sanullah claimed that the PTI leadership has disappeared from their residences and has gathered in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He claimed that they [PTI leadership] are planning to use the province's resources and personnel to "come and attack the federation".

"They want to come as a mob that has no legal or constitutional status...this cannot be allowed."

The interior minister said that former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan wanted to divide the nation. Warning the PTI supporters, he said: "Don't be misled by Imran Khan. He directed his party members during rallies to call people from other parties robbers and traitors. This is how he wants to spread chaos and disorder."

"Everybody has the right of freedom of expression and peaceful protest; however, the PTI did not want a peaceful protest," he said, adding that if they hadn't called it a "bloody march", the government wouldn't have stopped them.



ISLAMABAD: Players of Rising Stars hockey club posing for a picture before a pool match during Chief of the Army Staff Inter club hockey tournament. - DNA

Pakistan thrash Indonesia 13-0 in Asia Hockey Cup

Pakistan skipper Umar Bhutta said the win against Indonesia had boosted team's confidence. Yesterday's match [against India] was good

DNA

JAKARTA: Attacking moves brought rewards for dominant Pakistan as they thrashed hosts Indonesia 13-0 in their second pool match of the Asia Hockey Cup 2022 at the GBK Sports Arena, Jakarta on Tuesday.

According to information received here, Pakistan got off to a flying start, scoring four goals in the first quarter to put Indonesia under pressure, who earlier on Tuesday conceded a 9-0 defeat against Japan in their opening match. Pakistan in their inaugural fixture had held defending champions India to a 1-1 draw.

Rizwan Ali put up a splendid show, scoring thrice in the 15th, 25th and 43rd minutes while Ajaz Ahmad (2', 49') and Abdul Rana (4', 17') were also standout performers.



Mubashir Ali (16'), Ali Shan (19'), Ali Ghazanfar (35'), and Moin Shakeel (45') netted a goal apiece in Pakistan's huge win.

Pakistan skipper Umar Bhutta said the win against Indonesia had boosted team's confidence. "Yesterday's match [against India] was good. We'd the chances to win but could not convert them into goals. We are here with a young side and drew against India. Now, the big win against Indonesia is a morale booster for them," he added.

He said Pakistan was eyeing a podium finish in the Asia Cup to earn a spot in the World Cup in India. "Indonesia is a lower-ranked team, and we tried our best to score as many goals as we could against them to better our position," he added.

The Green Shirts will play their third match against Japan on Thursday.

A big concern: Rising poverty In Pakistan

LAIBA IHSAN

Poverty is a state in which a person or community lacks the financial resources to cope with day-to-day expenses. It means that the income level from employment is so low that basic human needs cannot be met. Some years ago, many countries were dealing with poverty but after gradual remedial measures by developing countries, they managed to decrease poverty. When a country increases its production level and works on its political issues and economic development, poverty is controlled.

In Pakistan, poverty rose to over

5% in 2020. In 2021, poverty in Pakistan was 39.2% which decreased to 37.9% in 2022 as estimated by the World Bank. The Agricultural and production sectors of Pakistan has the potential to grow and help in creating new job opportunities and these sectors need to be heavily worked on by Government and people.

Majority of population can't afford University education as it is very expensive and they don't have money. Gender discrimination in rural areas create conference for female education. Education is the most important part of a nation as it helps in thinking diverse and productive.

Our country needs creative, educated and optimistic. In Pakistan, people face issues of conflict, instability, inequality, or social injustice. Pakistan needs to work on its agricultural potential with optimism and persistence and making education a priority by reserving more budget can help us cope with poverty. The creation of strict rules, regulations, and laws can help. Islam is a beautiful religion and it has suggested beautiful ways to cope with every issue like zakat and fair opportunities to decrease poverty. We need to work as a nation by lifting each other. Let's try to play our part, it will make a difference one day.

Quad alliance states warn against 'change by force'

NEWS DESK

TOKYO: Leaders of Japan, India, Australia and the United States warned Tuesday against attempts to "change the status quo by force" as concerns grow about whether China could invade self-ruled Taiwan. A joint statement by the so-called Quad bloc avoided any direct mention of China's growing military power in the region, but left little doubt about where its concerns lie. The carefully worded document also made reference to the conflict in Ukraine, but without offering any joint position on the Russian invasion that India has pointedly declined to condemn.

The Quad's other members have been less coy about their view that a strong response to Russia's war is needed, one that would message that will deter other countries, including China. "As Russia's invasion of Ukraine is shaking the fundamental principles of the international order... (we) confirmed that unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force will never be tolerated anywhere, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region," Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said, using another term for the Asia-Pacific.

Osaka ready to boycott Wimbledon

PARIS: Former world number one Naomi Osaka is prepared to boycott Wimbledon over the decision to strip the Grand Slam tournament of ranking points, admitting: "I'm leaning towards not playing". "I would say the decision is kind of affecting my mentality going into grass, like I'm not 100% sure if I'm going to go there," said Osaka after her 7-5, 6-4 loss to Amanda Anisimova in the French Open first round on Monday. The ATP and WTA tours last week removed ranking points from Wimbledon after the All England Club banned Russian and Belarusian players in response to the invasion of Ukraine.

"I'm leaning more towards not playing given the current circumstances. I'm the type of player that gets motivated by seeing my ranking go up," added the four-time major winner. "The intention of this measure was good, but the execution is all over the place. I'm sure there will be a bit of back and forth with the whole point situation. Then I guess I'll make my decision."

"I feel like if I play Wimbledon without points, it's more like an exhibition," added Osaka, who has never got beyond the third round at the All England Club. Wimbledon chiefs branded the move by the two tours, which threatens to reduce the sport's most prestigious tennis tournament to the status of an exhibition event, as "disproportionate". Defending champion Novak Djokovic would lose 2,000 points and his world number one spot as a result. - Agencies

Emma Raducanu wins thriller in Roland Garros

PARIS: Emma Raducanu showed fight and spirit to come back from a set down and win on her senior debut at the French Open against Czech teenager Linda Noskova. British number one Raducanu, 19, twice trailed by a set and a break, but dug deep to eventually win 6-7 (4-7) 7-5 6-1 on the Roland Garros clay. "It was an absolute battle. I'm proud of the way I fought," Raducanu said. The US Open champion will face Aliaksandra Sasnovich of Belarus in the second round. Raducanu, seeded 12th, sealed a memorable victory on her first match point with a forehand winner that wrong-footed 17-year-old Noskova. It left the Briton jumping for joy in celebration after coming through a scrap that ranks as one of her finest victories since winning the Grand Slam title in New York last year. "Linda really came out there firing and as soon as I dropped my ball speed she was all over me," Raducanu said. "It was really challenging in the second set - I'm really proud of how I fought but all props to Linda." Raducanu feeling "physically good" despite caution over slipper surface

While Raducanu has achieved so much already in her short professional career, she continues to break new ground and the latest is playing among the world's best at Roland Garros.

The 19-year-old only made her top-level debut on the clay during Great Britain's Billie Jean King Cup tie against the Czech Republic last month, following that up with some positive performances in Stuttgart and Madrid. This was Raducanu's best win on the surface yet. Not only because she came back from a losing position against a talented opponent but also considering a back injury had "thrown into doubt" her participation at the clay-court Grand Slam. Raducanu broke serve in the first game of the match and threatened to move into a 3-0 lead before Noskova held off three break points to escape with a gritty hold. Noskova, who won the 2021 girls' title at Roland Garros, levelled at 2-2 after a poor service game meant the Briton's encouraging start was not reflected on the scoreboard. - DNA

Dollar rate touches New highs against Rupee

MUSTAFA LAEEQ

THE Economy of Pakistan has endured decades of domestic political unrest, a fast growing population, deteriorating industry situation, varying levels of overseas investment, and a huge expensive military setup to run in order to support our friendly neighbors and keep others within their limits. Recently Pakistani rupee depreciated to an all-time low Rs. 200 against per

dollar mainly due to prevailing political uncertainty (Investors become more conscious for making any investment in the country and exporters held their earnings outside the country amid a consistent fall in rupee value) and high demand for import payments (Importers have engaged in panic buying, provisional figures for balance of trade as per data released by Pakistan Bureau of statistics for the month of April 2022 was (-)697,590 million in terms of Rupees and (-) 3,782 million in US dollars* dollar rate taken as 1\$=Rs.184.48) For the sake of calculating impact of dollar rate change on Balance of trade we just assume that imports & exports remain the same in the current month of May 2022 and given the present day dollar rate of 1\$=Rs 200 the balance of trade figures would then be (-) 756,400 million in terms of Rupees, this means without even adding a single new import we will be paying more for our imports. This may look simple but this has a trickledown effect on economy, depreciation

of Rupee against dollar not only inflates import bill it also increases domestic price level, thus reducing the purchasing power of people and thus causing inflation in the country. On the other hand, rupee exchange rate depreciation with respect to the US dollar will also add billions of rupees in public debt. This rise in public debt would increase interest payment, will reduce room for development spending and would lead to higher budget deficit. The result would be even more accumulation of public debt (more re-

strictions from the IMF with harder and harder terms to comply with). Current Government has decided to take immediate actions for stabilizing the economy and to put a hold on dollar uprising and in an attempt to do so has announced to put ban on imports of all non essentials luxury goods. This would certainly help in reducing the import bill. On the other hand IMF in its bailout package would demand a lot of subsidies to be removed like subsidy on fuel, discontinuing the

tax amnesty scheme, power tariff increase and additional taxes. The Monetary Policy Committee of SBP will meet on Monday, May 23, 2022 at SBP Karachi to decide about the Monetary Policy. Later on, SBP will issue the Monetary Policy Statement through a press release on the same day. Let's hope and pray that we get out of this economic turmoil soon but as long as we are divided into groups and pursuing our own petty goals, we as a nation cannot succeed. The writer is a student at SZABIST

Bilawal meets Romanian counterpart

FROM PAGE 01

The Foreign Minister underscored that Pakistan attached high importance to its relations with Romania, both bilaterally and in the context of the European Union.

The two Ministers discussed areas of mutual cooperation including in the areas of trade and investment, development and education as well as collaboration at multilateral forums. The two Ministers also discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Maryam: Imran...

FROM PAGE 01

Our faces are etched on his heart. He does not sleep because our faces keep [revolving in his mind]. The threat he is issuing is not to us, but the establishment," she said in a press conference. Continuing her tirade against Khan, Maryam said the PTI chairman also launched "a malicious campaign targeting the judiciary, in which abusive words were used against the judges" as they issued a historic verdict of restoring the National Assembly - after President Arif Alvi had dissolved the lower house.

"But when the Supreme Court took a suo motu notice against Shehbaz Sharif, then you started praising them. I want to request the courts to not lay the tradition of giving verdicts in favour of the person who abuses the courts," she said. The PML-N vice president asked the courts to issue decisions in favour of the people and the nation and advised the judiciary to "refrain from monitoring social media and the traditional media as well".

Speaking further about the long march, Maryam said the government was worried about PTI's "heinous designs", and it has intel about the party amassing weapons for use against law enforcement agencies (LEAs). "They have amassed weapons, shells of tear gas, and planned other things against the law enforcement agencies. The Interior Ministry has intel regarding this," Maryam said.

Maryam said it became evident that the party had amassed weapons after the police constable Kamal Ahmed was shot dead in Lahore during a crackdown against PTI leaders the night before. "I think the person responsible for the murder of the constable is Imran Khan. But the person who took the like of the constable and their mastermind - Imran Khan - will not be spared," she added. The PML-N vice president also asked the PTI chairman to call his children to Pakistan for leading the "Azadi March", instead of instigating Pakistan's youth to lay their lives for him.

Political stability...

FROM PAGE 01

a 'straight line' has been drawn, no one will be allowed to cross that line. The minister said those who have destroyed Pakistan could not be allowed to wreak further havoc. She said that there will be no compromise on the economy and the safety of the people. "Whenever the economy starts to take off, Imran's mischief becomes an obstacle in its path", she remarked.

She recalled that when the China Pakistan Economic Corridor was planned and Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan was scheduled, the PTI started a sit-in at D Chowk. "Today we have started to revive the economy of Pakistan and provide relief to the people and no interference will be tolerated", she said.

Revival of the economy and relief to the people was a one-point agenda, she said and added that there would be no compromise on it and any effort to subvert this agenda would not be tolerated. She said that now the people also would have to decide whether to stand with the 'looters and rioters gang' or with the development and construction of the country. The people's priority was construction, development and prosperity, she maintained. Every step was being taken to save the people from these miscreants and rioters, she assured.

Briefs

Deadly gas explosion in Abu Dhabi injures many

ABU DHABI: The authorities gave no indication of foul play in the blast that killed at least two people, wounded 120 others and damaged several buildings and stores. Pictures released by Abu Dhabi police showed first responders tending to a person on a gurney, and debris and broken glass strewn across the pavement. At least two people have been killed and 120 injured in a gas cylinder explosion in a restaurant in the United Arab Emirates capital, Abu Dhabi. Initial reports after Monday's incident "showed that 64 people sustained minor injuries, 56 others were moderately wounded, and two people died", police tweeted. The blast set off a fire that damaged the facades of six buildings and a number of stores before being brought under control, they added. Four of the damaged buildings were "safely" evacuated, with efforts underway to find their residents temporary housing "until the buildings are completely secured", the police said. A witness told The National newspaper that he heard two explosions around lunchtime in the Khalidiya district of Abu Dhabi. "The first sound was small and people started calling the fire and police," said the man, who was not identified. "Then soon, there was a big blast. It was a really big sound. The windows shook and in some offices, the windows shattered." - Agencies

Police raid leaves 11 dead in Rio favela: Brazil authorities

RIO DE JANEIRO: A police raid in a Rio favela early Tuesday left 11 people dead, authorities in the Brazilian city said. Military police said they came under gun fire as they planned to enter a slum called Vila Cruzeiro in the north of the city with the mission of locating and arresting "criminal leaders." In the ensuing gunbattle 10 alleged criminals died, as did a female resident of the favela who was hit by a stray bullet. Police often carry out raids in Rio's teeming slums to fight drug trafficking. They said that this time they were looking for gang leaders hiding out in Vila Cruzeiro that were from other parts of Brazil. This was the deadliest police raid in a year in Rio. Last May a police raid in a favela called Jacarezinho left 28 people dead including a police officer. It was the largest such toll in the city's history. - Agencies

Zouma pleads guilty to kicking pet cat

LONDON: West Ham defender Kurt Zouma admitted kicking and slapping his pet cat at a London court hearing on Tuesday after disturbing footage posted online by his brother caused public outrage across Britain. The 27-year-old France international pleaded guilty to two counts under the Animal Welfare Act at Thames Magistrates' Court in east London. Zouma was said to have targeted the male Bengal cat after blaming it for damaging a chair at his home. Two cats have since been signed over to be rehomed. The court was told that the "premeditated" attack was filmed by Zouma's younger brother, lower-league footballer Yoan Zouma, 24, who sent it to a woman he was due to go on a date with. But the woman was so shocked that she called off their meeting, telling him: "I don't think hitting a cat like that is OK - don't bother coming today." Yoan Zouma admitted one count of aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring his older brother to commit an offence. The court was told about the disturbing video of the incident, filmed at Zouma's home and posted on Snapchat on February 6. The clip contained laughing, and featured laughing emojis. - Agencies

World is on the verge of climate disaster: Sherry

DNA

DAVOS: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Tuesday underscored that there was little recognition of the persistently growing inequality throughout the world as there was a dangerous chasm between the Global South and the West. Senator Sherry Rehman spoke in a discussion entitled "The Future of Democracy" held at the annual meeting of global leaders at the World Economic Forum 2022 in Davos, said a media release received here. Senator Sherry said, "We are sitting in the antechamber of climate catastrophe." While raising the issue of gross inequality between the developed and underdeveloped world, Minister Sherry stressed, "The response of the developed world to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, for instance was timely and clear. Compare that to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan or after the invasion of Iraq or "brown" cultures, and these have been somewhat alienating, given that we worked from assumptions of liberal democracy that say a response to any humanitarian crisis should be the same, equal for everyone. Unfortunately, that has never been the case, depending on who the victim is or what is the colour of their skin." On the importance of democracy for countries like Pakistan, Federal Minister opined, "Authoritarian systems might appear like they are addressing issues but for complex, heterogeneous countries like Pakistan where many different ethnicities and languages compete with each other, the only

COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE STATE OF THE WORLD

way the vulnerable get protected is through a more inclusive approach. Democracies ultimately challenge the system to include the vulnerable, whereas authoritarian governments mobilise populism and sentiment for channelling power, but provide no answers to real problems. The developed world has often found au-

thoritarian governments in fragile countries convenient funnels for diplomatic and other interchanges. These are inconvenient truths. Democracies are like women in the world; two step back and one forward, but they are the only way forward for the disempowered. "She said democracy cannot be reduced to one linear experience or model

in history. "Democracies are inherently not linear in their experience, and countries experience democracy quite differently from each other. No one-size-fits-all theory works in this context. Therefore, it is high time that we move away from this notion that there is one set pattern for democracy or that all parliaments work in the same fashion. The idea should be to have tolerance for the models we all navigate or manage as long as they are in the struggle to be representative and inclusive." In the context of pressing global agendas that need to be addressed with equity and justice, she talked of the global climate change issue as a joint but proportionate responsibility for the big emitters of the previous and current century. "We are sitting in the antechamber of climate catastrophe. It is highly unfortunate that our leaders' vested interests have overshadowed the real changes needed in the world. Transitions from fossil fuels are the need of the hour but the developed world is still the highest emitter of greenhouse gases, putting their short term national stakes and corporate interests above the safety and survival of our world. Instead of pressing the countries most at risk, the big emitters should act responsibly and do more. Perhaps then all of us will be better motivated to act faster to build a more sustainable and resilient future. At the same time, no democracy, even a climate-vulnerable one like Pakistan can afford to sit back and not act for their own community. The costs of inaction are too high."

NATO chief acknowledges Turkiye's concerns

NEWS DESK

BRUSSELS: NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg acknowledged on Tuesday the relevance of Turkiye's concerns on Sweden and Finland's membership bids for the defense alliance, reiterating that it is an "important NATO ally." "I also recognize the importance of addressing the concerns that Turkey has raised," Stoltenberg told the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. He said Turkiye "is an important ally" that has played a "key role in the fight against ISIS/Daesh" and has a "strategic geographic location," which "is important for the whole Alliance." Stoltenberg pointed out that "no other NATO ally has suffered more terrorist attacks than Turkiye." "We have to sit down and find a way forward," he said. Sweden and Finland formally applied to join NATO last week, a decision spurred by Russia's war on Ukraine, which began in February. But Turkiye, a longstanding member of the alliance, has voiced objections to the membership bids, criticizing the countries for tolerating and even supporting terrorist groups such as the PKK/YPG. The accession requires unanimous approval from all 30 NATO member states. In its more than 35-year terror campaign against Turkiye, the PKK - listed as a terrorist organization by Turkiye, the US, and EU - has been responsible for the deaths of over 40,000 people. The YPG is PKK's Syrian offshoot.

Afghan Taliban hand over 4 key airports to UAE

WEB DESK

KABUL: The Afghan Taliban interim government on Tuesday signed a deal to hand over the country's four key airports to a state-run United Arab Emirates company. Under the deal, the control and management of four international airports - Kabul, Kandahar, Herat, and Mazar-e-Sharif - will be handed over to the UAE aviation company, according to the state-run Bakhtar News Agency. The ceremony was attended by acting Deputy Prime Minister Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar and the Afghan and United Arab Emirates officials. Speaking at the ceremony, Baradar said the Afghan government wanted good relations with all countries, according to a statement by the deputy premier's office.

Putin should be isolated from int'l community

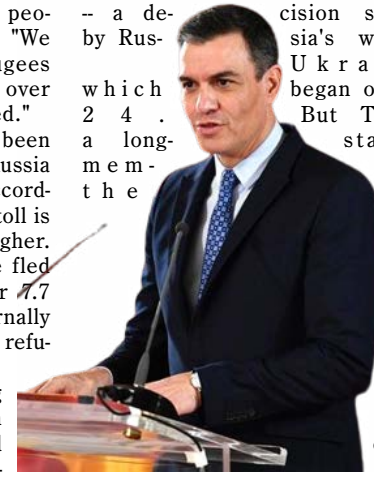
FOREIGN DESK

MADRID: The Spanish prime minister on Tuesday said it is "important" to isolate the Russian president from the international community due to the war he launched on Ukraine and its global effects. "It's important to isolate (Russian President Vladimir) Putin from the international community, and this is something that we are doing. ... I think it is very important to keep in mind that this is a global challenge," Pedro Sanchez told the World Economic Forum in Davos. "Russia is a permanent member of the UN Security Council and what is now at stake is international order that it is fulfilling or respecting." Sanchez also underlined the need for the EU's "open strategic autonomy" to create new ties on trade with other regions, such as Latin America. Reiterating the need to move towards energy independence following the war launched by Moscow,

he explained the 16-billion (\$17.1 billion) package unveiled by Spain to mitigate the consequences of the war by putting a cap on the price of gas and a discount on fuel in his country. On Ukrainian people seeking refuge, he said: "We will welcome Ukrainian refugees in our country - now totaling over 100,000 - for as long as needed." At least 3,930 civilians have been killed and 4,532 injured since Russia launched its war on Feb. 24, according to UN estimates. The true toll is believed to be significantly higher. Nearly 6.5 million people have fled to other countries, while over 4.7 million people have been internally displaced, according to the UN refugee agency. Regarding the NATO meeting that will be held in late June in Madrid, the prime minister said Finland and Sweden, which recently applied to join the alliance, will be among the participants as well. "We are going to welcome two new countries into NATO and of course, I

think this is also very important for the European Union's stability and for NATO's future."

Both countries formally applied to join NATO last week - a decision spurred by Russia's war on Ukraine, which began on Feb. 24. But Turkiye, a longstanding member of the alliance,



ance, has voiced objections to the membership bids, criticizing the countries for tolerating and even supporting terrorist groups.

Sri Lanka hikes fuel prices amid crisis

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's government on Tuesday announced an increase in fuel prices as the South Asian island nation is facing its worst-ever economic and political crisis. Announcing the decision, Energy Minister Kanachana Wijesekera said the price hike was approved by the Cabinet. "Fuel Price will be revised from 3am today. Fuel pricing formula that was approved by the cabinet was applied to revise the prices. Price revision includes all costs incurred in importing, unloading, distribution to the stations and taxes. Profits not calculated and included," Wijesekera tweeted. Petrol prices were increased by 82 Sri Lankan rupees (\$0.23) per liter and diesel by 116 rupees (\$0.32).

The Cabinet also approved the revised prices of public transportation and other services, he added. Moreover, work from home will be encouraged, he said, to minimize the use of fuel and to manage the energy crisis. He said 1,044 fuel stations have been supplied with petrol and diesel over the last three days. Last week, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said the country has only a day's stock of petrol left. "The next couple of months will be the most difficult ones of our lives," he added. People took to the streets at the end of March, protesting hours-long daily power cuts and shortages of food, fuel, and other vital goods after a for-

exchange shortage led to Sri Lanka's worst-ever economic crisis. The weeks-long protests culminated into clashes. As protesters gathered around the Prime Minister's Office earlier this month, military units were called to the capital Colombo. Amid growing pressure from the opposition, Mahinda Rajapaksa stepped down as prime minister. The government declared a nationwide curfew and ordered troops to open fire on anyone looting public property or causing harm to life. In nationwide protests, eight people, including a ruling party deputy and two police officers, lost their lives and nearly 250 people were injured. - Agencies

Turkey pledges full support for Palestine

NEWS DESK

RAMALLAH: Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu pledged full solidarity with Palestine and said Turkey will support its struggle for independence and sovereignty, in a joint news conference with his counterpart Riad al-Maliki in Ramallah on Tuesday. "Turkey stands with Palestine and Palestinians in their struggle for an independent and sovereign state," Çavuşoğlu said, adding that Ankara will support this cause. He continued by noting that the vision for a two-state solution needs to be kept alive, as he said Israel's unilateral steps in Palestine, including clashes, illegal settlements, forced evictions and demolishment, destroy the grounds for peace. The Turkish foreign minister highlighted that the Palestinian cause is a priority for Turkish people and noted that it is seen an extra-party matter, as all political parties in the Parliament support this cause. Regarding a two-state solution, Çavuşoğlu said it is necessary to establish a Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. "This is the only way the Palestinian issue can be solved," Çavuşoğlu said. While noting that Turkey was pleased about the fact that the violence in Gaza which took place last year did not take place in 2022, the foreign minister noted that Ankara was worried about the clashes at Al-Aqsa Mosque, as he commemorated the Palestinians killed by Israeli forces. Regarding Turkey-Palestine relations, Çavuşoğlu said he discussed ways to further enhance bilateral relations and strengthen Palestinian institutions and the economy



with his counterpart al-Maliki. The two ministers signed 10 agreements, which Çavuşoğlu said would enhance bilateral relations and improve living conditions for Palestinians, who live under dire economic conditions. He also said relevant ministers of Turkey and Palestine will meet at the end of June to discuss economic ties. Turkey's Maarif Foundation will also provide support to education in Palestine, and contribute to the Palestinian state's investments in education. Meanwhile, al-Maliki said Turkey's stance on Palestine is consistent with aspirations, cause of Palestinian people. Noting that relations with Turkey are "distinguished, authentic and strong," al-Maliki

said the two top diplomats discussed Israeli violations and other concerns. On Wednesday, he will hold meetings with Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid and Tourism Minister Yoel Razvozov, the first visit by a Turkish official in the past 15 years. Before meeting with his Palestinian counterpart, Çavuşoğlu chaired the second meeting of the Joint Committee of the Palestinian and Turkish Foreign Ministries which was established in 2010. He is also expected to visit Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem during his trip. On Monday, the Palestinian top diplomat said Israel might oppose Turkey's well-intentioned approach toward the concretization of a two-state solution

and political negotiations with Palestine. Al-Maliki said that Palestine welcomed the visit of a big delegation from Turkey and that agreements are expected to be signed following the second round of the Turkey-Palestine Joint Committee. Similarly, Palestine's Ambassador to Turkey Faed Mustafa said that the recent rapprochement between Turkey and Israel is no concern for Palestine and highlighted that the support from the Turkish government and people for the Palestinian cause will continue. Meanwhile, Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesperson called Çavuşoğlu's visit to Israel "very important." "This is a very important visit and part of a process to warm up relations between the two countries," Lior Khayyat told Anadolu Agency. Ties between Turkey and Israel froze after the death of 10 civilians in an Israeli raid on a Turkish flotilla carrying aid for the Gaza Strip in 2010. The two countries once again expelled their ambassadors in 2018 after another bitter falling-out and relations since remained tense. In recent months, the two countries have been working on a rapprochement, with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, a vocal supporter of the Palestinian cause, holding telephone talks with his counterpart Isaac Herzog and other Israeli leaders. Despite the recent rapprochement, Turkish officials continue to criticize Israel's policies targeting Palestinians, including the illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, and the humanitarian situation in Gaza. Turkey has said there would be no change to Ankara's position toward the Palestinians despite the normalization efforts with Israel.

Baku, Tashkent discuss economic cooperation

NEWS DESK

BAKU: Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan aim to further expand economic cooperation in priority areas. The remarks were made during a meeting held between Advisor to Azerbaijani Economy Minister Emil Majidov and Uzbek Investment and Foreign Trade First Deputy Minister Laziz Kudratov, Azernews reports, citing Uzdaily. The parties discussed a wide range of cooperation issues in such areas as investment, mutual trade, industrial cooperation, transport, and logistics. During the meeting, the sides agreed to hold a regular meeting of the joint intergovernmental commission on cooperation between Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan and the Business Council in the second half of 2022 in Tashkent. Following the talks, the sides agreed to accelerate the implementation of joint initiatives and projects aimed at further expanding economic cooperation between the two countries. Diplomatic relations between the two nations got established on April 22, 1994. The volume of trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan amounted to \$111.9 million in 2021. Presently, around 195 Azerbaijani enterprises are represented in Uzbekistan, 69 of which have joint capital and 126 of them have 100 percent Azerbaijani capital.

Death toll from building collapse rises to 11

BAGHDAD: The death toll from a building collapse in southwestern Iran rose to 11 on Tuesday, with officials fearing more people could still be trapped under the rubble. Mohammad-Hassan Nami, chairperson of the Crisis Management Organization, said 11 bodies have been recovered so far while the number of injured people increased to 32. Efforts are under way to rescue people still trapped under the wreckage of the 10-story building that collapsed in the city of Abadan on Monday, he added. More than 150 people are said to inside the Metro Pol commercial building on the busy Amiri Street when it collapsed. Mentioning that they are vacating all the nearby buildings which risk collapse, the official said rescue teams are trying enter the basement through tunnels dug around the collapsed building. Meanwhile, the number of people taken into custody amid an investigation into the incident has also risen to 10, Khuzestan Prosecutor General Sadiq Jafari Chegeni said in a statement. - Agencies

Monkeypox outbreak containable

NEW YORK: The World Health Organisation (WHO) has said there have been 131 confirmed monkeypox cases and 106 further suspected cases since the first was reported on May 7 outside the countries where it usually spreads. While the outbreak is unusual, it remains "containable" and limited, the WHO said on Tuesday, convening further meetings to support member states with advice on how to tackle the situation. "We encourage you all to increase the surveillance of monkeypox to see where transmission levels are and understand where it is going," said Sylvie Briand, WHO director for Global Infectious Hazard Preparedness. Speaking at the World Health Assembly in Geneva, Briand said it was unclear if the cases were the "tip of the iceberg" or if the peak of transmission had already passed. She reiterated WHO's view that it is unlikely that the virus has mutated but said that transmission may be driven by a change in human behaviour, particularly as people return to socialising as Covid-19 curbs are lifted. Slovenia reported on Tuesday its first case of monkeypox infection in a traveller who had returned from the Canary Islands in Spain, Slovenian N1 television reported. The man was reportedly not hospitalised. - Agencies

Briefs

Human rights should not be politicized: China

FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: China's foreign minister on Tuesday in a meeting with UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet called for refraining from "politicizing human rights." Wang Yi met with the visiting UN high commissioner for human rights in Guangzhou, a sprawling port city northwest of Hong Kong. Bachelet is on a week-long visit from May 23-28 to China where she will meet several high-level officials at the national and local levels. Wang called Bachelet's visit of "landmark importance for both sides," the country's Foreign Ministry said in a statement. "This trip would help enhance understanding and cooperation, and clarify misinformation," Wang noted. The Chinese foreign minister said multi-lateral human rights institutions "should serve as a major venue for cooperation and dialogue rather than a new battlefield for division and confrontation." "China stands ready to carry out constructive cooperation with the OHCHR on the basis of mutual respect and equal treatment," he told the UN human rights chief. The high commissioner is in Guangzhou and will also visit Kashgar, and Urumqi, cities where a large population of the persecuted Uyghur community lives. In order to "advance the international cause of human rights," Wang told the visiting UN delegates: "We must first respect each other and refrain from politicizing human rights." As the visit gets underway, global rights watchdog Amnesty International also called on the UN rights chief to "address crimes against humanity and gross human rights violations" when her team visits Xinjiang this week.

UK's Afghan withdrawal a disaster: Inquiry

WEB DESK

LONDON: The UK's withdrawal from Afghanistan last year was a "disaster" and a "betrayal" that will damage the nation's interests for years, an inquiry by MPs has found. The Foreign Affairs Committee said there had been "systemic failures" of intelligence, diplomacy and planning. Chairman Tom Tugendhat said there had been a failure to lead "at a time when lives were quite literally being lost". The UK government said "intensive planning" went into the withdrawal. A spokesperson for the FCDO defended its handling of the withdrawal and said it would review and respond to the committee's findings. The cross-party MPs who carried out the inquiry said "mismanagement" of the evacuation as the Taliban quickly took over the country "likely cost lives". They added they had lost confidence in the department's top civil servant, Sir Philip Barton, and urged him to consider his position. The report said the fact Sir Philip, the then-Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab and Prime Minister Boris Johnson were all on leave when the Taliban took Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, "marks a fundamental lack of seriousness, grip or leadership at a time of national emergency".

10 dead in attack on hotel in central Mexico

CELAYA: Gunmen killed 10 people in an attack on a hotel and two bars in the city of Celaya in central Mexico, security officials said Tuesday. The attack late Monday claimed the lives of seven women and three men and left two people injured, according to the security secretariat in Celaya, in the central Guanajuato state. Officials found the dead bodies upon arrival in the neighborhood of Valle Hermoso after reports of gunfire, the unit said in a statement. Witnesses said the victims were shot, after which the attackers poured gasoline to set the establishments on fire. - APP



RAWALPINDI: A delegation of All Pakistan Newspapers Society called upon the Director General ISPR Maj Gen Babar Iftikhar at Rawalpindi. The delegation included Sarmad Ali, Naz Afreen, Mujeeb ur Rahman Shami, Kazi Asad Abid, Shahab Zuberi, Imtinan Shahid, Umar Shami, S K Niazi, Gauhar Zahid Malik, Mumtaz Tahir, Mehtab Khan, Awais Khushnood, Syed Ayaz Badshah, Haroon Shah, Waqarudeen, Waseem Ahmed, Younas Mehar, Zahida Abbasi, Ansar Mahmood Bhatti, Fauzia Shaheen, Ruksana Saulat, Sayed Nadeem Qadri. - DNA

PAF lauds Iranian firefighting aircraft helping in Balochistan



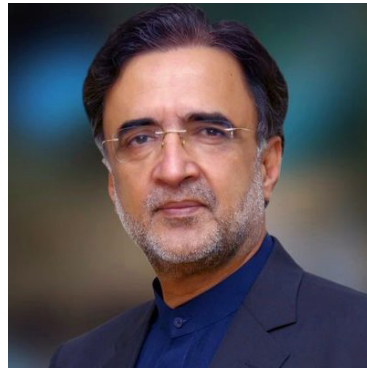
DNA

RAWALPINDI: An Iranian firefighting tanker aircraft arrived at PAF base, Nur Khan and has started aiding in efforts to extinguish the forest fire in Koh-i-Suleman range. The inclusion of Ilyushin-76 aircraft will prove significant in fire extinguishing operation in Sherani district of Balochistan, since it is one of the biggest firefighter aircraft in the world. Keeping the tradition of being the front-line responder to natural calamities, Pakistan Air force is providing all-out support to the Iranian firefighting tanker aircraft. Pakistan and Iran enjoy cordial relations and are always forthcoming to help out each other during the calamities. The fire in the Shirani forest started a week ago after the area was struck by lightning and has since engulfed hundreds of trees in mountain range, home to the world's largest pine nuts forest and connecting Balochistan, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces.

Country facing challenges because of former regime

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira said that the country was facing many challenges due to the incompetency of former regime but Chairman PTI Imran Khan was blaming the incumbent government. Addressing the joint press conference after federal cabinet meeting here on Tuesday, he said the federal capital as well as Punjab were still uncertain about political situation prevailing due to the non-political activities (Long March) of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Kaira asked the PTI



Chairman to provide some evidence to law enforcement agencies if he had any life threats or else stop telling lies and misleading people.

Qamar Zaman Kaira strongly condemned the conviction of Kashmiri-Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik on fictitious grounds and termed it gross violation of human rights and fundamental rights by Modi's regime. "Yasin Malik has been constantly fighting against atrocities like extrajudicial killings, rape of women, etc. committed by the Indian government in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK)," he added. He also strongly condemned the grave human rights violations in IOJK and urged the international community and human rights organizations to take practical steps to stop India from carrying out this unjustified and unilateral trail against Yasin Malik.

Hamza visits family of deceased policeman

- Says PTI chiefs wants to launch into 'politics of bullets'

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz Sharif Tuesday visited the family of Lahore police constable Kamal Ahmed who was shot dead as the police raided the house of a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist and father-son duo opened fire. Speaking to reporters after condoling with the relative of the deceased, with Kamal's young son on his side, Hamza Shahbaz the blood of the policeman was "not so cheap" and Imran Khan would be held accountable for the death. He said Imran Khan was launching into "politics of bullets" after years of "politics of expletives". The law would take its course to protect the lives of the people, he said.

Hamza apologized to the people of Punjab for the "tough measures" the government has taken to stop PTI long march on Islamabad as roads leading to Islamabad from Lahore and others cities were blocked by shipping containers on Tuesday. Hamza Shehbaz said that government will not allow Imran Khan to use undemocratic tactics and will stop this 'bloody march' by every constitutional method. CM Hamza said the decision to start crackdown against PTI's members was difficult but PTI was threatening the institutions and challenging the state's writ. Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz Sharif Tuesday visited the family of Lahore police constable Kamal Ahmed who was shot dead as the police raided the house of a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist and father-son duo opened fire. Speaking to reporters after condoling with the relative of the deceased, with Kamal's young son on his side, Hamza Shahbaz the blood of the policeman was "not so cheap" and Imran Khan would be held accountable for the death. He said Imran Khan was launching into "politics of bullets" after years of "politics of expletives". - DNA

NA speaker visits UAE embassy to offer condolence

Appreciating the invaluable contributions of Sheikh Khalifa in strengthening bilateral ties between Pakistan and the UAE, the Speaker said that Pak lost a sincere friend and a great leader of Muslim Ummah with his demise

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly on Tuesday visited the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates to express condolences on the sad demise of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The Speaker was received by the Ambassador of UAE to Pakistan, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, said a news release. Appreciating the invaluable contributions of Sheikh Khalifa in strengthening bilateral ties between Pakistan and the UAE, the Speaker said that Pakistan lost a sincere friend and a great leader of Muslim Ummah with his demise. Paying tributes to the life and legacy of Sheikh Khalifa, the Speaker fondly recalled his services to the nation and country, which will forever remain etched in history. Referring to the existing bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries, the speaker emphasized the need to further strengthen the long-standing fraternal ties between the two countries through regular contacts and interaction at every level. He added that Pakistan and the UAE enjoyed close political ties over the years; however, the bilateral trade does not commensurate with the depth of the political and security engagements between the two countries. Talking about the Pakistani diaspora in the UAE, the Speaker said that UAE was considered as a second home by Pakistan and its people. Due to religious and cultural commonalities, there was great love and affection in the people of Pakistan for the brotherly country. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf visits UAE embassy to offer condolences to UAE Ambassador on the sad demise of HH Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan. - DNA

No Monkeypox case reported in Pakistan so far: NIH

Although the natural reservoir of Monkeypox remains unknown, however, African rodents and non-human primates like monkeys may harbor the virus and infect people

ISLAMABAD: The National Institute of Health (NIH) has clarified that no case of Monkeypox has yet been diagnosed in Pakistan. According to the spokesperson of NIH, the news circulating on social media about Monkeypox cases was incorrect. He added, the situation was being closely monitored by the health authorities. He said that all the national and provincial health authorities had been advised to remain on high alert for any suspected case of Monkeypox. Concerned health authorities and professionals at all levels, stakeholders, especially the Central Health Establishment including monitoring points of entry were also asked to remain vigilant. He added timely detection and notification were important for prompt implementation of preventive measures and all public and private hospitals had been directed to ensure readiness for isolation and treatment. He said that the Centre for Disease Control, NIH was monitoring the situation and would keep the stakeholders updated.

'No need to panic': expert

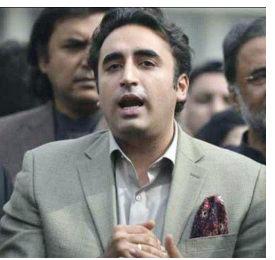
MONITORING DESK

KARACHI: As rumours spread about the monkeypox virus, a leading medical professional from the Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) has urged the public to 'not panic' as the virus does not spread 'easily' when compared to the highly contagious Covid-19. "Monkeypox does not spread as easily as Covid as yet," said Section Head of Infectious Diseases at AKUH Dr Faisal Mahmood in conversation with a private media organization and strongly recommended patients seek help from doctors if any symptoms show. Shedding light on the symptoms of the new disease, Dr Faisal clarified that fever, aches and bumpy rashes are what people needed to be wary of. "These are

the main symptoms. Fever followed by a bumpy rash," he emphasised. He maintained that monkeypox is not as dangerous as Covid in terms of fatalities. "The current strain has a mortality of 1%," he said, adding that the virus was first found in a patient with exposure to a monkey. The infectious disease expert elaborated that the main host of the poxvirus are rodents, mostly mice and rats. "The virus is spread through close contact with lesions. Also, it can spread through the air, but the person needs to be closer and also for longer. Prevention is therefore aimed at preventing these exposures," the doctor added. He highlighted that precautions included staying in a separate room, handling laundry with care and that no specific medications were recommended for the disease.

A recent surge of Monkeypox disease cases were reported by non-endemic countries, including the UK, Spain, and Canada, and a total of 92 confirmed and 28 suspected cases were reported till date, he added. Monkeypox is a rare viral zoonotic disease that is caused by infection with the Monkeypox virus. Although the natural reservoir of Monkeypox remains unknown, however, African rodents and non-human primates like monkeys may harbor the virus and infect people. The patient develops a rash within one to three days after the appearance of fever, often beginning on the face and then spreading to other parts of the body. Other symptoms include headache, muscle aches, exhaustion, and lymphadenopathy. The incubation period is usually seven to 14 days but can range from five to 21 days. The illness typically lasts for two to four weeks. The alert said that the transmission occurs via contact with an infected animal, human, or materials contaminated with the virus. - APP

Bilawal demands acquittal of Yasin Malik



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday strongly condemning the Indian court's fallacious conviction of Yasin Malik on fabricated charges demanded his acquittal and immediate release. "Yasin Malik is the most prominent and respected voice among Hurriyat leaders in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK). His firm resolve against decades of Indian oppression cannot be shaken by such travesties of justice," Bilawal Bhutto said in a statement issued here by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "I demand acquittal of Yasin Malik. The fabricated charges against him must be dropped. And he must be released forthwith and allowed to reunite with his family. India must also release all political prisoners and stop egregious human rights violations in the IOJK," he maintained. The Foreign Minister said, India must not allow to keep the Kashmiri people from exercising their right to self-determination, given to them by the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council. "I call upon the international community, the United Nations and the human rights and humanitarian organizations to exhort India to stop this grave injustice against Yasin Malik," he added. The Foreign Minister said, the international community must realize that there will be grave humanitarian consequences if India was allowed to continue violating international laws in the IOJK, with impunity. - APP

Beijing reports 23 new Covid infections

BEIJING: Beijing reported 23 new locally transmitted COVID-19 infections during the first 15 hours of Tuesday, according to the municipal disease prevention and control center. The 23 infections were distributed in seven districts in Beijing, including eight in Haidian, and five in Fengtai and Fangshan, respectively, said Liu Xiaofeng, deputy head of the Beijing municipal disease prevention and control center. A total of 1,591 COVID-19 infections had been reported in Beijing from April 22 to 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday. More than 15.2 million samples were collected during a citywide nucleic acid testing in Beijing on Monday, in which four tubes of mixed sampling for COVID-19 that were collected in districts of Xicheng, Fengtai and Shijingshan were found positive, Wang Xiao'e, an official with the Beijing municipal health commission, told a press briefing on Tuesday. - APP

Saudi Arabia bans citizens from travelling to India

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RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has banned its citizens from traveling to sixteen countries, including India, following the re-outbreak of Covid-19 and the rapid surge in the number of daily Covid infections over the past few weeks. The sixteen countries where the citizens of Saudi Arabia are banned to travel apart from India include Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Indonesia, Vietnam, Armenia, Belarus, and Venezuela, reported News. Abdullah Asiri, Deputy Minister of Health for preventive health has said that the Kingdom has the capability to monitor and discover any suspected monkeypox cases and also to fight against the infection if any new case emerges.