

Briefs PM holds meeting with Nawaz



stan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif in London. During the meeting, matters pertaining to country's economic situation and measures to improve economy came under discussion. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif arrived at Hassan Nawaz s office for a meeting with former PM Nawaz Sharif on third consecutive day. On the occasion, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said that the visit was extended for one day for further consultation. If Shehbaz Sharif could not reach the court tomorrow, he would apply for one day s absence. The minister said that the rising value of the dollar is the result of the economic devastation of the previous government, adding that Imran Khan is misleading the youth.

> 'Neutrals' were not actually neutral

Economic catastrophe **Govt holds** Imran Khan responsible

Info Minister says people facing 'economic terrorism' due to inefficient Imran govt

DNA

LONDON: Holding former prime minister Imran Khan for present economic catastrophe and US dollar's unprecedented flight against rupee, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Friday that the PTI regime plunged the country in the quagmire of problems.

Giving her reaction to the statement of PTI leader Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, she said that Imran was squarely responsible for the US dollar's historic flight against the Pakistani rupee.

The minister said that Imran Khan had signed the agreement with International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the people of Pakistan were facing high inflation as its result. The minister said that the people faced "economic terrorism" in the country due to inefficient and competent Imran government and cartels and mafia raj for nearly four years. Today the economic instability in the country was the outcome of Imran's policies, she said adding that in the case of **Violation of** IMF deal reason for inflation'

News Desk

LONDON: Finance Minister Miftah Ismail on Friday blamed PTI Chairman Imran Khan's deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and its violation as the reason for the rise in inflation.

Berating the PTI-led government, the finance minister, in a statement, said that the subsidy on petrol has put a strain on Pakistan's economy. "There has been a loss of Rs120 billion this month and no government can bear such a huge deficit,' he said. He added that it is not an easy



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Switzlerland Bénédict de Cerjat calls on Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. The ambassador congratulated the FM on assuming the charge of the office. -DNA

Rupee crosses 192-mark against dollar The rupee

was trading at Rs193 during the intraday

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The down-

Announce elections or face tsunami of people: Imran

Says that he along with former Shaukat Tarin had warned 'neutrals' about possible economic woes

MONITORING DESK

Khayam Abbasi



mer human rights minister Shireen Mazari on Friday said that "now everyone

for

knows the neutrals were not actually neutral," and went on to question whether they were "part of the conspiracy to derail Pakistan on the economic and democratic front". The word neutral is a reference to the military, which has consistently claimed it is neutral as the country goes through political upheaval since the filing of the no-confidence motion against former premier Imran Khan on March 8.

In a press conference in Islamabad, Mazari minced no words in her criticism of America and "those who supported it" to allegedly topple the PTI government.

Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday. – Editor

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OIC denounces India's delimitation exercise - Page 08 **Continued on Page 06**

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The UAE President Sheikh Khalifa dies Sheikh Khalifa took over as the UAE's second president in November 2004

News Desk

ABU DHABI: The United Arab Emirates' President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan died aged 73 on Friday, state media said, after battling illness for several years. "The Ministry of Presidential Affairs condoles the people of the UAE and the Islamic world... on the passing of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan on Friday, May 13," the official WAM news agency said.

The ministry announced 40 days of mourning with flags at half-mast from Friday, with work suspended in the public and private sector for the first three days.

Sheikh Khalifa took over as the UAE's second president in November 2004, succeeding his father as the 16th ruler of Abu Dhabi, the federation's richest emirate.

He has rarely been seen in public since 2014, when he had surgery following a stroke, although he has continued to issue rulings.

Pak announces 3 day national mourning

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani and other leaders of Pakistan have expressed their deep grief over the sad demise of UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan. Meanwhile, in solidarity with the brotherly people of UAE, the Government of Pakistan has

Continued on Page 06

trend in the Pakistani rupee continued Friday as the currency fell by nearly Re1 against the US dollar in the interbank market on the back of uncertainty over the resumption of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) loan programme and shrinking foreign exchange reserves. The rupee was trading at Rs193 during the intraday, however, at close the current settled at Rs192.53 with a loss of Rs0.76 or 0.4%. The slide of the local unit was weighed down by a surging trade deficit, dwindling foreign exchange reserves that dropped to their lowest level since December 2019 - and a delay in the release of the IMF tranche. Taking to his Twitter PTI chairman Imran Khan highlighted that the rupee was at an all-time low of Rs193 [per dollar] (from Rs178 per dollar on March 8); interest rates at 15% highest since 1998; stock market down 3,000 points or 6.4%; stock market lost Rs604 billion capitalisation; inflation 13.4% - highest since January 2020.

MARDAN: Former prime minister Imran Khan on Friday warned that a "sea of people" set to march towards Islamabad would "sweep everyone away" if the government did not announce a date for elections.

Addressing a huge public gathering in Mardan, Imran said an "absconder" sitting in London must realise that he would not be allowed to take decisions about Pakistan. emphasised that he was calling people to Islamabad for a "revolution" and not for politics. Referring to Shehbaz Sharif, Asif Zardari and Maulana Fazlur Rehman as the "three stooges", the PTI chief said they were slaves of America with their wealth stashed abroad. He alleged that the coalition government would

Continued on Page 06

Pak towards civil war'

'PTI pushing

DNA

LONDON: PML-N leader Ahsan Iqbal has said that PTI is pushing the country towards civil war by launching an organized campaign against national institutions. Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal did a press briefing along with Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah in London. Imran Khan is pushing the country

Continued on Page 06



Iran nuclear talks 'reopened': EU The 2015 deal gave Iran sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear programme The 2015 deal gave Iran sanctions re-

lief in exchange for curbs on its nucle-

WEB DESK

WANGELS, Germany: Stalled negotiations over Iran's nuclear programme have been unblocked after fresh talks in Tehran, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said Friday, adding that he believed a final deal was within reach.

Borrell said a mission by EU envoy Enrique Mora this week to help revive

the 2015 nuclear pact between Iran and world powers had gone "better than expected". "The negotiations had stalled and now they have been reopened," Borrell told reporters on the sidelines of a G7 meeting in Germany. "There is a perspective of reaching a final agreement." Mora held two days of meetings

with Iran's chief negotiator Ali Bagheri in Tehran this week. The emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, meanwhile met Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Ebrahim Raisi on Thursday to push for progress.

that it could not develop a nuclear weapon, something Tehran has always denied wanting to do. Formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the agreement was left on life support in 2018 by then-US president Donald Trump's unilateral decision to withdraw and impose punishing sanc-

tions.

This

ar programme to guarantee

prompted Iran to begin rolling back its own commitments. The departure of Trump from office has restarted bids to revive the accord, with Mora playing a key role during a year of on-off talks in Vienna.

Among the main sticking points in

the negotiations has been Tehran's demand for the US to remove Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps from a designated list of terrorist groups. Borrell said "these disagreements on what to do about the Revolutionary Guards" had hampered progress in the talks for two months. He said Mora had taken the EU's message to Tehran "that we couldn't continue like this". "The answer has been positive enough," Borrell said.

"These kind of things cannot be solved overnight. Let's say things were blocked and they have been deblocked." Borrell declined to comment on Mora's tweet that he had been briefly held at Frankfurt airport by German police, saying only that "the issue is over". Mora had tweeted earlier on Friday that he had been "retained by the German police" while travelling back to Brussels. "Not a single explanation. An EU official on an official mission holding a Spanish diplomatic passport," he wrote. After being released, he tweeted he had still not received "any explanation for what seems a violation of the Vienna Convention". There was no immediate comment from German police.

NATIONAL

Initial wheat procurement target achieved

The Secretary Archives Punjab also visited various centers in the district including Jaranwala and Sarshmir and checked the arrangements



ISHFAQ MUGHAL

02

FAISALABAD: Secretary Archives Punjab / Incharge Wheat Procurement Campaign Saqib Manan visited Faisalabad and presided over a meeting on implementation of Wheat Procurement Campaign at DC Office. Deputy

Commissioner Ali Shehzad briefed on the latest status of the campaign. Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Abid Hussain, Assistant Commissioners Muhammad Umar Sahibzada Muhammad Maqbool, Yusuf, DFC Waqar Yusuf, Deputy Director Agriculture Khalid Mahmood and other officers were also present.

Shazia Marri visits BISP's

Central Zone office, Karachi

Deputy Commissioner briefed the house that he initial target of 110,000 metric tonnes of wheat procurement campaign has been completed in the district while speedy steps are being taken to achieve the additional target of 26,000 metric tonnes and the cam-

paign is being closely monitored. He said that check posts were being carried out at motorway entry points and also on highways to check the smuggling of wheat and Stern action is being taken for any violation. The Secretary Archives Punjab expressed satisfaction over the ongoing progress of wheat procurement drive in the district and said that all out efforts should be made to meet the additional target. The Secretary Archives Punjab also visited various centers in the district including Jaranwala and Sarshmir and checked the arrangements.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah cutting ribbon to inaugurate 17th My Karachi-Oasis of Harmony Exhibition' organized by KCCI at Expo Centre. - DNA

Not to let bad times return to Karachi, says CM Murad the inauguration ceremony

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: While referring to last night's blast in which a 24-year old boy was killed and 10 others were injured, Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah vowed that the Sindh government would not let the bad times return to Karachi and would track down terrorists in every single area of Karachi to completely eliminate them. "Even a single murder in the province is unacceptable and cannot be tolerated. I strongly believe that terrorists have no religion or language. They aren't Pa-

kistanis or even humans".

he added while speaking at

on Friday, Sindh Minister for Industries & Commerce Jam Ikramullah Khan Dharejo, Sindh Minister for Labor Saeed Ghani, Special Assistant to Chief Minister Waqar Mehdi, Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Iqbal Memon, Chairman Businessmen Group ZubairMotiwala, Vice Chairman BMG Jawed Bilwani, General Secretary BMG AQ Khalil, President KCCI Muhammad Idrees, Senior Vice President Abdul RehmanNaqi, Vice President QaziZahid Hussain, KCCI Managing Committee Mem-

bers and a large number of of 17th My Karachi - Oasis diplomats along with senior of Harmony Exhibition here bureaucrats attended the inat the Karachi Expo Center

auguration ceremony. Chief Minister Sindh further stated that after 2013 when the city was ranked on 7th position as the most dangerous cities of the world, peace and stability had returned to Karachi and the city was on a better place in the crime index. The entire nation collectively fought against terrorism. While praising the leadership of Businessmen Group and paying glowing tribute to Late SirajKassamTeli for his commendable contribution, Murad Ali Shah also appreciated all the exhibitors, diplomats and other

participants, saying that the exhibition will certainly prove to be fruitful as Karachi is a vibrant city with tremendous potential.

Islamabad **POST**

Saturday, May 14, 2022

"Today's House full at the Expo Center and the presence of so many diplomats clearly indicates that they all believe in the people of Pakistan and the resilience of the people of Pakistan." CM said, "I know a lot of people won't agree with me but I am saying this from the bottom of my heart that Karachi, which contributes 70 percent to the national exchequer, has the potential to even contribute 90 percent. We want remaining Sindh and Pakistan to develop as well and pay taxes.



STAFF REPORT

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and & Ch

General, Benazir Income Support Programme, Central Zone, Karachi hereon today. Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and

ceived from beneficiaries of Benazir Income Support Programme on top priority. Ms Marri said that she is committed to visist the of Benazir Income offices

journalists. On the occasion, for an ideal working rela-

BISP beneficiaries. She directed the officers to ensure their attendence and to maintain punctuality during office timings. On this

Good news ahead of PTI Faisalabad show

DNA

FAISALABAD: A prominent lawyer's group from Faisalabad has announced to join Tehreek-e-Insaf Pakistan (PTI) ahead of their public demonstration. PTI has mounted a big victory ahead of their public demonstration in Faisalabad as a prominent lawyer group from the city has joined the party. Members of the lawyer forum held

meeting with PTI chair-

Qureshi. Senior Vice President PTI Fawad Chaudhry and Farrukh Habib also attended the meeting. Former President Faisalabad Bar Association Shehzad Cheema announced joining PTI and condemned the ouster of an elected government through

a foreign conspiracy. Lawyer leaders announced to follow Imran Khan in his vision of real independence and assured that they will participate in PTI's upcom-

son Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Shazia Atta Marri has visited the office of the Director

ANWAR CHOHAN

GUJRAT: The newly appoint-

cial Saftey, Shazia Marri during a review meeting on Friday directed to the concerned officers to resolve issues and complaints re-

DPO Gujrat holds

meeting with journalists

DPO Gujarat said that they

believe in the supremacy of

merit and justice.

Support Programme situated in whole Sindh and to meet people directly and also to check the system of

tionship between the media

and the police. On this occa-

sion, media representatives

Deput Rafique Ahmed Buller, Deputy Directors Abdul Hadi, Shazain Akhtar and others were also present.

57,593 Hajj

applications

received

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry

of Religious Affairs and Inter-

faith Harmony received total

57,593 applications for the

Government Hajj Scheme

through banks till Friday - the

last date and there will be no

extension in the deadline due

Balloting would be held on

Sunday (May 15) for the

intending pilgrims, who

wanted to perform the religious obligation through the Government Hajj Scheme,

Ministry's Spokesperson Muhammad Umar Butt told

APP. He said the bank offi-

cials would complete online

data entry and verification

of the Hajj applications on

Saturday. The spokesper-

son said for the conveni-

ence of overseas Pakistanis, the last date for submission

of passports was Zu al-Qa-

of the next year's budget"

he said and added that

it would also ensure in-

clusion of our maximum

proposals in this annual

dah 20. - APP

to time constraints.

man Imran Khan and Vice ing Azaadi March too.

Chairman FIEDMC lauds services of Dr. Wasif

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Chairman FIEDMC Zafar Iqbal Sarwar appreciated the industrial and commercial services of the outgoing Secretary Industries Punjab Dr. WasifKhurshid and said that Dr. WasifKhursheed has always played a vital role for resolution of the problems and issues faced by Punjab industry and especially FIED-MC, his services will always be remembered. Chairman

war welcomed to newly appointed secretary industries Punjab Dr. Ahmed JavedQazi and expressed the hope that newly appointed secretary industry will play a bridging role for immediate solutions to the problems of industries and especially for better relations between FIEDMC and Govt. of the Punjab. Chairman FIEDMC Zafar Iobal Sarwar further congratulated newly appointed secretary industries and assured his full cooperation.

FIEDMC Zafar Iqbal Sar-

03005412069

Zarbagh News

FAISALABAD Ishfaq Mughal 03007689850

GUJRAT M. Yoosuf Bhutta 03338436820

JHELUM Iqrash News Agency 03005412069

KHARIAN Ijaz News Agency 03068863870

LALAMUSA Gulzar Ahmed Noshi 03359494788

SARA-I-ALMAGIR 0300 5428178



Universal Service Fund NOTICE FOR INVITING BIDS FOR PROVISION





DIGITAL PAKISTAN

UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

SERVICES IN 1 NH&MW & 1 NG-BSD Main LOT Tender ID: NG-BSD/PHASE-19/2022/05

1. In accordance with the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) Act 1996 and Universal Service Fund Rules 2006, as amended, USF will conduct auction for the following lots under Next Generation Broadband for Sustainable Development (NG-BSD) program:

Sr. No.	Lot ID	Districts	Deadline for Registration	Bid Submission Date & Time	Bid Opening Date & Time	Information Packages Availability
1	NG-BSD/Lot9- NH&MW- N35/2022	Attock, Haripur, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Batagram, Kohistan	July 13,22	July 29, 22 1100 Hrs	July 29, 22 1130 Hrs	May 30,22
2	NG-BSD/Lot50- Gwadar-2/2022	Gwadar	July 22,22	August 8, 22 1100 Hrs	August 8, 22 1130 Hrs	May 30,22

- USF will conduct a reverse auction bidding process for the award of subsidy to be paid to the successful applicant, to assist in meeting the costs of providing Telecommunication Services in identified areas for a contractual period of 10 years. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the open competitive bidding procedure provided in the bidding documents.
- з. Only USF Contributors are eligible to participate in the bidding process under the Universal Service Fund Rules 2006, as amended. The bidder must be an Active Taxpayer (verifiable through ATL) and have a valid NTN and Sales Tax registration. NTN and Sales Tax registration certificates are mandatory and must be provided within the technical proposal.
- Information regarding Lots, auction process, services to be provided, eligibility to participate in 4 auction, registration instructions, mode of auction, event schedule and other necessary information is available in the respective "Information Package" placed on the USF website.
- Information packages of NH&MW and G-BSD main Lot shall be made available as mentioned in 5. the above table.
- Detailed bidding documents (RFA/SSA/Information Packages) can be received from the office of 6. the undersigned after registration and payment of PKR 1,000, for each lot/small lot, nonrefundable, in the shape of Demand Draft or Pay Order in favor of "Universal Service Fund".
- Registered participants must submit their bids, along with a bid bond of Pak Rs. 10 million for each NH&MW and NG-BSD main Lot in the manner and mode prescribed in the RFA, to the undersigned at the address mentioned below.
- Any bid received after specified date and time shall be returned un-opened.
- This advertisement is published on USF and PPRA websites.
- 10. USF may reject all bids or proposals any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal

Chief Technical Officer Universal Service Fund 3rd Floor, Evacuee Trust Complex, Agha Khan Road, F-5/1, Islamabad. Phone: +92 51 9212308 & 9212309, Fax: +92 51 9214261

Email: projects.tenders@usf.org.pk Website: www.usf.org.pk

PID (I) No.7925/21

ed DPO Gujarat held an in-Eradication of crime from welcomed DPO Gujarat in the district is the top priortroductory meeting with the the district and assured journalists at the DPO Comity. He further said that the him that the media would role of media is very imporcontinue to play its full role plex, which was attended by representatives of electronic tant for maintaining law and in eradicating crime from and print media, national and order in the country. DPO the district and providing local newspapers and senior Guiarat stressed the need justice to the citizens.

FCCI to submit result oriented budget proposals

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Federal budget is a key document for the integrated economic development and Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) in line with its previous traditions will submit a comprehensive, workable and result oriented budget proposals to be included in the upcoming federal budget for the financial year 2022-23, said Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh President FCCI. He said that the ulti-

mate objective of this exercise is to make the budget business friendly so that it could help the business community to continue its

Addressing a joint meeting of the business leaders representing all local trade and industrial organizations in addition to the chairmen of the FCCI standing committees, he said that government of Pakistan, Ministry of Commerce and FPCCI are repeatedly sending reminders to send budget proposals without any further

activities without any hic-

coughs.

delay as budget formulation was in the final stages. He said that most of the associations have no adequate resources or expertise to prepare the budget propos-

> ment's approved format. He requested the representatives of the associations and standing committees to provide their sector specific budget proposals in written form so that it could be discussed with a team of chartered accountants to give it a proper shape.

"It will help the MOF to immediately make it a part

we have decided to share our proposals before forwarding the same to the Ministry of Finance. "It will create much needed harmony among the budget proposals presented by different chambers", he added. Quoting his meeting with former Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce Mr. Abdul RazakDawood, he said that we had discussed with him all economic related problems and issues with their



document. He further said that he has discussed als according to the governbudget related issues with the leading chambers and

workable solutions including schemes of Kamyab-Jawan, Women Entrepreneurs and SME which must be continued in best interest of the economy.



National Days and **Armed Forces Days**

APRIL

April 04 / Senegal National Day

April 07 / **W. H. O.** World Health Day

April 12 / Somalia Armed Forces Day

April 15 / DPR Korea The Day of the Sun

April 16 / Denmark National Dav

April 17 / Iran Army Day

April 17 / Syria Independence Day

April 18 / Zimbabwe Independence Day

April 24 / **Holy See** Anniversary of His Papacy of his Pontificate

April 25 / DPR Korea Armed Forces Day

April 26 / Tanzania National Day

April 27 / Sierra Leone Independence Day

April 27 / South Africa Freedom Day

April 30 / Sweden Birthday of His Majesty





Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines Turkish Airlines......8494949

The US Embassy supports Pak Women-led start-ups

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Nine Pakistani women entrepreneurs left for the United States this week under a program funded by the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad and launched by The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Islamabad. The Accelerator Program for Women Entrepreneurs is an innovative training program and competition which connects women-owned Pakistani startups with American business tools, coaching and mentoring.

The program received an overwhelming response from 450 women-led businesses. 75 shortlisted start-ups then went through a rigorous process of mentoring workshops and pitching competitions, out of which the top 12 start-ups were selected for a 15-week Founders Institute Acceleration Program. Out of these 12 start-ups, nine women entrepreneurs were selected for an in-person acceleration exchange.

During the visit, the women entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to attend major conferences and visit offices of major companies such as Microsoft,

Amazon, Facebook, Twitter, and PayPal. They will also visit local U.S.-based incubators such as 9 Mile Labs, Kiwi Tech, Angel Pad and Alchemist. The participants will be provided with multiple networking opportunities throughout the eight-week period and will be pitching to selected U.S. based investors present in both the east and the west coast.

Addressing a ceremony, organized by the TIE Islamabad chapter before the departure of the Pakistani women entrepreneurs to the United States, the Minister for Information Technology

and Telecommunication Sved Amin-Ul-Haque said this program provides Pakistani women entrepreneurs with access to international incubators and foreign Investors. "I am particularly excited about the role the Pakistani diaspora in the U.S. will play in supporting our women-led enterprises," he added.

U.S. Embassy's Minister Counselor for Public Affairs Raymond Castillo said, "We at the U.S. Embassy have been impressed by the commitment to excellence that all of the original 500 applicants showed throughout the virtual program. These

efforts will lead to a brighter future for Pakistan and the world. As the finalists here at this ceremony, you should be extremely proud. Your persistence has paid off, and you will now represent Pakistan in the United States. You are the future women entrepreneurs of Pakistan.'

The Accelerator Program for Women Entrepreneurs funded by the U.S. State Department not only provides growth stage start-ups with necessary tools, coaching and mentoring, but also provides women entrepreneurs with access to global investors and venture capitalists.

Pakistani activist gets **Commonwealth** Award

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani lawyer and activist Tahera Hasan received the Commonwealth Points of Light Award for her efforts promoting the wellbeing of orphaned, abandoned and stateless children. Points of Light Awards are given to outstanding individual volunteers who are making a positive

change in their community. Having been a strong supporter of adoption, Hasan specialises in family law and custody cases. She founded the Imkaan Welfare Organisation in 2012, which now runs a shelter and recreational centre



for orphaned and abandoned children in Karachi's Machar Colony, a squatter settlement home to nearly 700,000 people. Hasan has also set

up a mother and child healthcare centre there.

In addition, Hasan helps in the adoption of orphans and stateless children, helping reduce both infanticide and child abandonment. Imkaan, she says, was found on the principle that "each and every child not only has the right to live but to thrive".

Tahera Hasan said: "It is an honour and privilege to receive the Points of Light Award. It is a recognition for the work of all those involved on a day-today basis, highlighting and fighting for the rights of stateless and margin-

alised communities in Pakistan The right to citizenship, identity and more specifically children's rights, is a neglected subject. This award goes a step forward in bringing these issues to the forefront."

UK High Commissioner to Pakistan Dr Christian Turner said: "Tahera is making a big impact on the lives of some of the most vulnerable children in Pakistan. This recognition of her work is a testimony to the long-standing and deep ties that UK, Pakistan and other Commonwealth nations share." - APP

> PR retrieves over 529 acres land from occupants ISLAMABAD: Pakistan

Railways has retrieved over 529 acres land worth billion of rupees from illegal occupants under its anti-encroachment operation across the country during the last four years.

"The encroachment operation has been launched with the assistance of railway police and district administrations," an official in the MinAhsan Iqbal to visit Gwadar next week can further accelerate the

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal will visit Gwadar next week to review CPEC projects

"I intend to visit Gwadar next week to personally see the progress of CPEC projects and also to see what the deficiencies are so that the government can take steps to rectify those shortcomings," he said while taking to Gwadar Pro.

As per the minister, Gwadar is the entry gateway of CPEC. "I understand that there is a need to develop water resources, as well as electricity resources there to meet the needs of the development of Gwadar. We are working on fast track basis to bridge the gap there," he added. Personally, he hoped that his visit to Gwadar will help him meet the local people and also the Chinese working in Gwadar so that both sides

iects in Gwadar. "CPEC is very dear to my heart", said the minister, adding that ever since the holding of his office, he has

implementation of CPEC pro-

held a number of meetings on CPEC and he promised to work in close coordination with all stakeholders.

"I had meeting with all the Chinese companies in Pakistan, along with the government ministries and departments, and we figured out the problems they are faced and directed government ministries to solve problems of them on fast track,'

he pinpointed. Ahsan Iqbal told the reporter, "Both Pakistan and China enjoy iron-clad brotherhood. We hope to implement CPEC in a partnership and in a team spirit. In that spirit, we will implement CPEC with complete confidence and trust in each other and in very close cooperation.'

Opening ceremony solo exhibition 'In Search of the Miraculous' held



Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15 Bomb Disposal.....15 Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16 Emergency Ambulance..1122 & Rescue Services.4451122 Motorway Police....9266044 Motorway Police..9270601-20 Women Police Stations ..9222596 Islamabad..... Rawalpindi......9270601-20



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115 PIAFlightInfo.....114 PIACargo......9280979 Railway Inquiry.....117 Railway Exchange9270831-5 WASA Rawalpindi..5555489 ..9281092 CAA.



Hospitals

-	
СМН	5611111
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital.	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa Internatio	nal.4603666



Departments

CDA9221334-43
CDA9208301-04
Met Office9250360-6
RDA55555864
TMA5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation......9209224 Potohar Town......9209224 RawalTown.....5773343

Water Tank Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Satrang Gallery Friday organized an opening ceremony of a solo exhibition titled "In Search of the Miraculous," by Rakhshanda Atawar. In Search of the Miraculous has been curated by the esteemed curator Aasim Akhtar, with whom we have had the pleasure of working a few times over the history of Satrang Gallery. I share his description of Rakshanda's works: "The longer we look at Rakhshanda Atawar's work, the more clearly, we see before our eyes, its special power of regeneration - a power that extends to elements located far back, to previously unremarked features that re-emerge under the guise of new findings," said a press release issued here. Atawar's work is replete with moments of

covert and overt anticipation. A complex web of diversity is not only evident within individual paintings but also stretches retrospectively between works that might otherwise appear to be temporal and poles apart, aesthetically. Atawar sets traps that some interpretations would appear to walk straight into her work, particularly those operating within their own set limits, even though the work in question may, in fact, breathe limitlessness.

In the current body of work on show, Atawar spells out to us the alphabet of modern art: curlicues, splash, line, over-painting to emphasise a corner, lilac as a subtle hint (or is it the proverbially heavy variety) of her latest extensive preference for violet. In this work, there is unmistakable early evidence of her delight in intersecting, cutting up, revealing and uncovering motifs that are both elemental and willfully whimsical, and which, later on, abetted by unbridled curiosity, will lead her painting to artistic terra nova and realms of great complexity and potential for renewal" says Aasim Akhtar. Rakhshanda Atawar was born and raised in Sialkot. She graduated in Fine Arts from Government College, Lahore, in 1981 and earned a Masters degree in Fine Arts from the Punjab University, Lahore, in 1984.

With a portfolio spanning more than three decades, Atawar has shown with both national and international galleries, and has been part of the Taj Mahal Project 2004 in Agra, India.

istry of Railways told APP. Giving details, he said, the department retrieved 267 acres land in Punjab, 133 acres from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 106 acres from Sindh and 23 acres from Balochistan. The official said that out of the total land, 91 acres were commercial, 309 acres were residential and 104 acres were the agricultural land of the Pakistan Railways. He said that Pakistan Railways was taking several steps to retrieve encroached land from the land grabbers including detailed survey was being carried out to identify the encroached land, occupied by the individuals and under illegal occupation of various government departments. The official said the campaign was being monitored by the Divisional Superintendents, Headquarters office and Ministry of Railways. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and joint procedure orders have been issued since for strict implementation of this policy, the official add-He said that First ed.

Information Reports (FIRs) were being lodged and cases were registered and sent to **PBM Call Center** inaugurated Shazia Marri formally inaugurated the new building of the PBM Head Office Call Center

New building of

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division, Shazia Marri has inaugurated the new building of Pakistan Baitul Mal (PBM) Head Office Call Center during her visit to the department. The federal minister visited the PBM head office where she was given a detailed

briefing on the ongoing projects of the department. The minister was briefed by the officials of PBM about all such schemes being implemented to help the poor people across the country. These public welfare projects include provision of free medical treatment to poor people, scholarships for deserving students, accommodation and education facilities for orphans, steps

for relief and rehabilitation of poor and disabled people, initiatives for making women self-reliant and empowered, ending child labor etc. The federal minister termed the initiatives of PBM as very effective for alleviating poverty and emphasized on increasing their usefulness and scope to ensure the resolution of the problems of maximum needy people. Shazia Marri formally inaugurated the new building of the PBM Head Office Call Center. She praised the work of the differently-abled women call center employees. The people across Pakistan can contact the call center of PBM to seek help while those already submitted requests for help can get quick information about their applications. - APP

Kyrgyz envoy meets MOFA DG for Central Asia

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kyrgyz Republic to Shah Faisal Kahar.

eration this year, as well as other joint events. Special attention was paid to the importance of intensifying trade-economic and cultural-humanitarian cooperation between the two countries. In order to develop cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Mr. Ulanbek Totuiaev proposed to intensify bilateral political contacts, as well as pay special attention to holding events within the framework of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Mr. Shah Faisal Kakar confirmed his readiness to deepen and intensify relations between the two countries, emphasizing the need to consolidate efforts in promoting topical issues of bilateral cooperation.

APHC-AJK condemns sedition charges against Yasin, others in jail termination under the UN



ISLAMABAD: AJK All Parties Hurrivat Conference Convener Muhammad FarooqRehmani has said that sedition and other charges against Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front Chairman Muhammad Yasin Malik and other Kashmiri detainees were revengeful and speak a lot on New Delhi's mock democracy in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Rehmani said this in response to the stand taken by Muhammad Yasin Malik in a Delhi Court on concocted allegations framed by Indian police against him. He said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir were fighting for their right of self-de-

Charter and resolutions,

while Indian regime was acting against them in most authoritarian harrowing ways to impose her neo colonial settler policy. Muhammad FarooqRehmani strongly condemned imprisonment of Jammu based top APHC leaders Muhammad Sharif Sartaj and Jutinder Singh Baboo whose whereabouts were unknown. He said many political detainees had been given electric shocks and not allowed to sleep during horrific interrogations in different centres.

He also expressed serious concern over life of Kashmiri vouth and students. on whom 3rd degree methods of torture in interrogation centres are being used by police to divulge false thing and accept guilt.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Ulanbek Totuiaev met with the Director General of the Department of Central Asian Countries and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan Mr. Shah Faisal Kahar. - DNA

the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Ulanbek Totuiaev met with the Director General of the Department of Central Asian Countries and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan Mr.

During the meeting, the parties discussed topical issues of Kyrgyz-Pakistani bilateral cooperation, including organizing mutual visits at the highest and high levels, holding a regular meeting of the Kyrgyz-Pakistani intergovernmental commission on trade, economic and scientific and technical coop-

04

TWIN CITIES



Briefs

President approves reconstitution of CCI

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PresidentDr Arif Alvi Friday approved the reconstitution of the Council of Common Interests, on the advice of the prime minister.

Approved by the president under Article 153 of the constitution, the CCI would be headed by the prime minister and would comprise the chief ministers of four provinces besides three federal ministers.

Three federal ministers would also be part of the Council who were nominated by the prime minister. The federal ministers include Planning Minister AhsanIqbal, Commerce Minister Naveed Qamar, and Railways and Aviation Minister Khawaja Saad Rafiq.

NHA maintaining road section from Lahore to Rwp on N-5

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Asad-Mahmood on Friday said that National Highway Authority (NHA) is maintaining the road section from Lahore to Rawalpindi on N-5. In a written reply during Questions Hour in National Assembly, he said that the total length is 280 kilometers (dual carriageway) which are 560 km in linear length.

The minister said that out of 560 km, 158 km (Linear length) have been improved cost of Rs. 6,019 million.

He said further improvement of 122 km Linear Length of Rs. 3,137 million is in the procurement stage and shall be completed by end of December 2023.

AsadMahmood said that the Lahore Gujranwala section is a 50 km dual carriageway (6 lanes), adding that its linear length is 100 km and out of which improvement works on 39 km are in process. He said that the gen-

Alvi asks HEC to encourage **Associate Degree Programmes**

President expressed these views during a briefing on Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology (GIKI), Topi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has asked the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to actively encourage universities to introduce and increase the number of Associate Degree Programmes as the market desperately needed more educated and skilled professionals.

He underscored that HEC must ensure fast decision making on such an important issue and regretted that the decision-makers were slow to fully comprehend the requirements of the fast-changing global market.

The President expressed these views during a briefing on Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology (GIKI), Topi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. The meeting was attended by Rector GIKI, Prof Dr Fazal A. Khalid, Executive Director of the Society for Promotion of Engineering Sciences and Technology (SOPREST), Mr Shakil Durrani, members of the senior management of GIKI, representatives of HEC and Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training. Addressing the meeting, the President emphasised the need to in-



crease access to higher education and produce more highly qualified and professional graduates. He also underlined the need for enhanced collaborations among universities and the industrial sector to meet the requirements of the market. He stated that universities were required to introduce and promote online and hybrid

modes of learning to impart in-demand skills to their graduates. Rector GIKI briefed the meeting about the various new initiatives taken by the university for the promotion of education. It was informed that GIKI was introducing a comprehensive online education system to increase the number of graduates.

It was further apprised that the institute would offer new programmes in Computer Science and Cyber Security in the academic vear 2022-23, besides introducing MS and PhD programmes in Artificial Intelligence, Data Science and Civil Engineering. It was highlighted that GIKI was

developing research collabora-

tions and international linkages with local and international organizations to promote research and development in the country, besides enhancing the quality of education. The meeting was also briefed about the future programmes as well as the infrastructure development and up-gradation plans of the university.

Memorial service held for Chinese victims

ISLAMABAD: A memorial service was held to remember the Chinese victims of the recent Karachi University attack, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. The event was attended among others by Pakistani federal ministers Shazia Marri and Khurram Dastgir Khan. The Pakistani ministers vowed to punish the perpetrators of the attack that also killed a Pakistani national. "Attended memorial service of the victims of terrorist that took precious lives of Chinese nationals Mr Huang Guiping, Ms Ding Mufang, Ms Chen Sai and driver Khalid Nawaz," Shazia Marri, the minister for poverty alleviation, later tweeted.

She added: "Pakistan and China have always stood together in challenging times and will continue this tradition of mutual respect." Minister for Power Khurram Dastgir Khan said the perpetrators of the Karachi University (KU) terror attack would be punished. Addressing the event, he expressed his deepest condolences to the families of the victims, and the government and the people of China. The minister said Pakistan condemned terrorism in its all forms. On April 26, at least four people, including three Chinese nationals, were killed while four others were injured in a suicide attack outside the University of Karachi Confucius Institute. The incident happened as a van, carrying staff members, was about to enter the Confucius Institute, located next to the commerce department. Television footage showed a white

van in flames with plumes of smoke rising from its remains.

The windows of nearby buildings were also seen shattered

from the impact of the explosion. CCTV footage of the

attack showed a burqa (veil)-clad woman standing outside

the entrance of the Confucius Institute. - DNA

Chilam Joshi Festival kicks off

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A four-day Chilam Joshi festival, kicks off on Friday in KalashValley,the festival commemorates the arrival of summer and celebrates the abundance of dairy products during the season.

The people of Kalash love music and dance to the beat of drums. Both men and women partake in dancing festivities, where they make circles and enjoy the sound of music. This festival gives an excellent opportunity to celebrate the beginning of summer and to give a message of peace to the world. During this festival, the people of Kalash pray for the safety of their fields and animals.

World migratory birds day to be marked tomorrow

ISLAMABAD: World Migratory Bird Day will be marked today on May 14 across the globe including Pakistan which is a two-day event annually held on the second weekend of May to highlight the need to protect migratory birds and their habitats. The United Nations is one of the many organizations that support this global awareness campaign.

On the second weekend each May, people around the world celebrate World Migratory Bird Day by organizing public events such as bird festivals, education programs and bird-watching excursions. Although the event is usually on the second weekend of May, the first World Migratory Bird Day was launched on the weekend of April 8-9, 2006. The event was created to help turn the world's attention to the wonders of bird migration and the need for their conservation.

Each year, the total number of registered World Migratory Bird Day events has steadily increased along with the number of countries in which these events occurred. - APP

eral condition of this section is not good condition, therefore. NHA has got approved its PC-II from CDWP and presently consultants are mobilized for its detailed design and preparation.

The minister said that road maintenance is a continuous process and its deterioration is a regular phenome non. He said that to assess the damages, NHA regularly conducts annual condition surveys of its roads, adding that as such no assessment has been done in the present government. - APP

Post office to be established in I-11 sector

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Communication here on Friday informed the National Assembly that a Post Office in the I-11 sector would be established subject to the availability of funds for the construction of the building in the annual budget grant for the financial year 2022-23.

In a written reply, the ministry said, the proposal of establishing a Post Office in the I-11 sector in Islamabad was already under consideration. The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has also allocated land measuring 1400sq.ft to the Pakistan Post office department on lease in the area for the purpose. - APP

ECP arranges students voters' awareness session

ISLAMABAD: Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday organized students voters' education and awareness session at Associate Government College for Women Tehsil Chakwal. Ms. Zile Huma, Public Relations Officer of Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan apprised the female students about the role of gender in the electoral process and the importance of casting vote.

She highlighted the constitutional obligations of the Election Commission of Pakistan and the purpose of organizing these awareness sessions. Sved Abid Hussain Shah. District Election Officer explained the local government system while talking to the young students. - APP



on the latest situation in Afghanistan. - DNA

CDA should pay attention on acute shortage of parking

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The capital city is facing an acute shortage of parking space while the growing population and the number of vehicles registered in Islamabad is adding to the situation. It has become almost impossible to find a parking stall, particularly in Blue Area, F-8 Markaz which houses the district courts, Karachi Company, Aabpara Market, Jinnah Super Market, Super Market, and F-11 Market etc. Similarly, finding a parking space in other shopping centres and markets is not an easy job. One has to roam around the Centre for quite a long time to grab a parking stall. Advo-

cate Ehtisham Raja told APP that parking lots in F-8 Markaz get filled very quickly in the morning. "I never get a parking space for my car in F-8 whenever I reached my office located inside the Katcherv after 9:30 a.m. in the morning." On the other hand, about 1.3 million vehicles have so far

been registered in Islamabad. This indicates that the city, which has a population of 2.6 million, is under an unprecedented burden of vehicular traffic. This load of vehicular traffic will increase manifold in the coming years as some 2,500 to 3,000 more vehicles are registered every month in Islamabad. Explaining about the growing number of vehicles, an official of the Islamabad Excise said multiple factors were increasing the need for personal vehicles such as the limited public transport and expensive cab rides. Besides, he added, "A large number of people have leased cars from banks to register them with online cab services.

To tackle the situation, Capital Development Authority (CDA) is working on constructing six multi-story parking plazas in different areas of Islamabad. However, according to the inside information, construction work on the Blue Area parking plaza has not been started yet.



ISLAMABAD: With \$3.1 billion inflows during April 2022, the overseas Pakistani workers' remittances continued strong trend and crossed the \$3 billion mark in a month for the first time ever. In terms of growth, during April 2022, remittances increased by 11.2 percent on month-onmonth basis and 11.9 percent on year-on-year basis

Cumulatively, at \$26.1 billion, remittances grew by 7.6 percent during 10 months of FY22 compared to the same period last year. According to data released by SBP on Friday, remittances' inflows during April 2022 were mainly sourced from Saudi Arabia (\$707 million), UAE (\$614 million), UK (\$484 million) and the USA (\$346 million). During the corresponding month, the overseas Pakistanis living in Bahrain sent \$51.5 million, from Kuwait \$89 million, from Qatar \$103.7 million whereas \$114.6 million were dispatched from Oman. – APP

Screen addiction leading to psychological health challenges He added that social net-ISLAMABAD: Health experts on Friday warned for working sites are now

uncontrolled use of social networking sites among voungsters which can lead to exposure for risky content, changes in behavioral patterns, feeling of inferiority, cyber bullying, resulting in grave mental health challenges and illnesses.

"Prolonged screen time is not only effecting children's physical activity levels but could also have long-lasting effects on their eyesight," experts said while speaking to a private news channel. Motivational Speaker DrJavedIqbal explained that social media has become a daily habit in most people's lives and individuals across different age groups are becoming an addiction for using social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Twitter for communication and networking sites.

more addictive than cigarettes and alcohol and it can have an overall negative effect on young people's mental health.

Social media can create unrealistic views of people's lives, leading to peer pressure and unhealthy comparisons for kids, he said, adding,Internet use has likely increased for kids during the COVID-19 pandemic. He urged that the parents give their children must be balanced against the need to monitor their activities without violating their privacy. Mostly, parents are not required to track everything their children do online, he said, adding, parents, however, must be on the lookout for signs that their child's social media usage is negatively impacting their mental health.

Children and youngsters' mental health can be ad-

versely impacted by social media usage, he mentioned. He said there is a range of consequences, including anxiety, childhood depression, body image concerns, self-harm, and substance abuse. A Psychologist Dr. FaredaZeab said that no doubt today's children have grown up with a vast array of electronic devices at their fingertips and they can not imagine a world without using long hour screen time.

Too much time engaging in sedentary activity, such as watching TV and playing video games, can be a risk factor for becoming overweight and aggressive behaviour issues.

The use of electronic devices prior to going to sleep makes it not only more difficult to fall asleep, but also disrupts sleep during the night, and causes poorer quality sleep, she mentioned. - APP

community about the contribution

of CDM Smith in construction of

schools, hospitals, energy efficien-

cy projects in Pakistan and its fu-

ture plans to address environmen-

tal and infrastructure challenges

in our country. Jamshaid Akhtar

Sheikh Senior Vice President,

Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice

President ICCI, Khalid Iqbal Malik

Chairman Founder Group, Muham-

mad Ejaz Abbasi former President

ICCI, Fasee Ullah Khan and others

also spoke at the occasion and laud-

ed the positives contributions of

CDM Smith in Pakistan's economy.

PNCA arranges puppet show

ISLAMABADL Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on Friday organized a puppet show aimed at entertaining families that featured folk dances, stories, theme-based speeches, and skits for children and adults". The colourful puppet show revolved around current issues including gender disparity, discrimination in education, and environmental challenges and an exclusive infotainment show for kids based on the theme. Due to COVID-19, the puppet shows were being cancelled, but now the shows were scheduled four times a month as a regular feature by the National Puppet Theatre (NPT) of PNCA, said a press release issued here.

Tthe role of such events in providing the required boost to puppetry and spreading awareness among people especially the younger generation regarding this craft. The "traditional art of puppetry was dying" and PNCA has been struggling for a long time to revive this art, adding that such events would help in reviving this traditional art form. "The art of puppetry and

puppet shows have been a part of Pakistani culture for years and an effort to bring back this art form can be useful for both entertainment and education purposes". - APP

Lack of quorum leads to adjournment of NA session

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Lack of quorum on Friday led to adjournment of National Assembly session to meet again on Monday at 04:00 pm. SairaBano of Grand Democratic Alliance pointed out the lack of quorum. Deputy Speaker ZahidAkramDurrani who was chairing the session, adjourned the session to meet again on Monday. However, the House was not in order which led to suspension of session till Monday.

CDM Smith USA delegation visits ICCI hammad Shakeel Munir, Presand support to CDM Smith in its

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of CDM Smith, USA led by Jeff Montera, Senior Vice President visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and assured to contribute to reducing environmental and infrastructure challenges in Pakistan. Keith F. Williams Associate Delivery Leader for Asia-Pacific Region, Tahir Shamshad Chief of Party CDM Smith Peshawar and Dr. Mohammad Tufail Chief of Party, Energy Infrastructure Monitoring Services Project, CDM Smith Islamabad were in the delegation. Speaking at the occasion, Jeff Montera said that CDM Smith, USA was a global privately owned engineering and construction firm providing smart solutions in water, environment, transportation, energy and facilities and was celebrating its 75th anniversary worldwide as it was established in 1947. He said that CDM

Smith has already made useful contributions in mitigating the miseries of people during the devastating earthquake in 2005 and flash floods in 2010 in Pakistan. He said that Pakistan was an important country for them and they wanted to learn about how they can expand their operations here. Welcoming the delegation, Mu-

Commerce & Industry lauded the initiatives of CDM Smith to solve the world's environmental and infrastructure challenges. He said it was encouraging that CDM Smith was providing legendary services and smart solutions in various fields including water, environ-

ident, Islamabad Chamber of

ment, transportation & energy. He said that Pakistan needed betinitiatives in Pakistan that could ter solutions in these fields and help address the environmental and infrastructure challenges in hoped that CDM Smith would conour country. He also lauded the tinue to work to addressing challenges in these areas in Pakistan services of Tahir Shamshad, Chief that would help our country to of Party at CDM Smith Peshawar, achieve better economic growth. who has held many prestigious po-He assured that ICCI would exsitions in Pakistan. Tahir Shamshad, Chief of Party at tend all possible cooperation CDM Smith briefed the business



05

Justice for Shireen Abu Akleh

he murder of Shireen Abu Akleh during a raid by the Israeli army in the West bank, which sparked rage worldwide, must not go unpunished.

The Palestinian journalist was killed by a bullet that Israel has now hinted came from a weapon used by its soldiers. Calls for an independent transparent investigation have come from dozens of countries including the United States, the European Union, Arab countries, the Gulf Cooperation Council as well as the United Nations.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas at Shireen's funeral held the Israeli army "fully responsible" for her death. The Palestinian Authority called it an "execution".

President Abbas said he has rejected an Israeli offer to conduct a joint investigation into Shireen's death, and he has the right. How many previous similar incidents, including the killing of journalists and activists, were swept under the rug by the Israeli army?

Shortly after Shireen was declared dead by the hospital, the Israeli army claimed that it "was "investigating the event and looking into the possibility that the journalists were hit by the Palestinian gunmen."

But later it backtracked and said it was not possible to determine the source of the fire but sources said the bullet likely came from a weapon used by the army.

US State Department spokesperson Ned Price called for "an immediate and thorough" investigation, insisting, "those responsible must be held accountable. Her death is an affront to media freedom everywhere.³

The murder of Abu Akleh indeed is a heinous crime and blatant violation of international laws that protect journalists in conflict zones. In the viral footage of Shireen's murder, she can be seen wearing a blue flak jacket clearly marked with the word "PRESS". She was also a prominent reporter, very well known to the Israeli army.

It is also not the first time the occupation army shot directly at a journalist and activist. We are reminded by the senseless killing of American activist Rachel Corrie who was crushed to death by an Israeli army bulldozer in Gaza in 2003 during a peaceful protest.

According to Palestinian official figures, more than 50 Palestinian journalists have been killed by Israeli fire since 2001. Global organisation Reporters Without Borders says more than 144 journalists have also been injured in just the last four years. Less than a handful of the perpetrators of those killings have been prosecuted. It is upon the international community to ensure justice for Shireen Abu Akleh.

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Afghan women under Taliban rule

wo decades ago, photographs of blue burqas became perhaps the totemic image of life under the Taliban, as Afghan women's rights were invoked and exploited to justify the country's invasion. On Saturday, the Taliban once more ordered women to cover their faces in public. While Afghan women have courageously protested against the injunction, the reaction internationally has this time been muted. That it follows other punitive restrictions creating what some have called "gender apartheid" - preventing teenage girls from studying and women from working outside healthcare or education, or travelling outside their home town without a male guardian makes it all the more appalling. Ukraine is absorbing the world's attention. Though the Taliban justify the burqa as a matter of tradition, this has only been the case in the most conservative rural areas. For many Afghan women, this is a wholly alien and unwelcome imposition. Yet, equally, their greatest concern may not be the edict to cover their faces per se, but the fact that this is the latest blow removing their ability to work, earn, or be present in the public sphere, and handing control of their bodies to the men in their families. Authorities also suggested that women should not leave their homes if possible, emboldening enforcers on the ground. The growing repression demolishes Taliban claims to have changed since they last ruled Afghanistan. Even when they swept to power last August, some outsiders entertained the idea that this was a more moderate "Taliban 2.0", given the promises to protect the rights of women and not seek retribution. At stake is not only women's freedom, but also the survival of families amid economic collapse. While the Taliban increase their repression, they show little interest in or ability to tackle the immense humanitarian catastrophe. People are starving. In March, the World Bank halted \$600m-worth of development projects, saying women's rights were not being respected. UN Women says that restrictions on female employment have cost up to \$1bn, or 5% of output. Other countries have limited scope for action, but must clearly and consistently reiterate their support for women's rights as a necessity and priority for Afghan women themselves. They should not send all-male delegations to meet the leadership. And they should consider how funding can offer leverage: paying for education where teenage girls can attend school, for example, may help to generate pressure in neighbouring communities. Afghan women will not be "saved", in the narrative once propagated by western leaders. But nor must they be abandoned. They must be heard, and given every element of support that can be mustered.

Killing of Abu Akleh shows Israel targets Palestinian journalists

Yumna Patel

Abu Akleh's killing immediately brings back memories of our colleague Yaser Murtaja, a young Palestinian journalist in Gaza who was shot dead in 2018 by Israeli snipers while covering the Great March of Return protests

trembles and falls but, beyond all expectations, rises to pursue its flights and dreams." Now, 20 years later, Abu Akleh was killed in the same place where she so valiantly told the stories of Palestinian resistance under occupation for so many

tinian spirit that sometimes

years The videos that have surfaced of the moment Abu Akleh was shot are bone-chilling. The piercing screams of her colleagues ring through the screen as Abu Akleh, still wearing her helmet and blue flak jacket marked with the words "PRESS", lies face down near a tree. A young Palestinian man from the area manages to hop a fence and pull

et. Palestinian human rights group Al-Haq found that during the Great March of Return protests, Israeli forces deliberately targeted Palestinian journalists with live fire. As journalists covering the occupied West Bank, we have become accustomed to Israeli attacks against us. When covering demonstrations or confrontations in the West Bank, journalists are often shot at with tear gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition. In cases where Israeli aggression against

journalists is not lethal, it can lead to life-threatening injuries and lifelong disabilities. In 2019, Palestinian journalist Muath Amarneh lost his eye after Israeli forces shot him with a rubber-coated steel bullet.

clearly marked as press, and was

killed while wearing his blue flak jack-

According to the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS), since Israel's occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza in 1967, an estimated 86 Palestinian journalists have been killed. More than half have been killed in the years since 2000. Between 2020 and 2022 alone, PJS says that six Palestinian journalists were killed in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. It is devastating enough to know that Abu Akleh is not the first Palestinian journalist to be killed by Israel, but it is even more distressing to live with the knowledge that she surely will not be the last and that justice for her and her family is but a faraway dream, unlikely to ever be achieved. Any expressions of "sadness" or calls for an "investigation" into her death by Israel or any of its supporters - including the United States - are just lip service and most certainly are not expressed in good faith. Israel's propaganda machine is already working in overdrive to deflect and reassign blame. The government is circulating unverified videos, claiming that it was in fact Palestinian gunfire that killed

Murtaja, like Abu Akleh, was also Abu Akleh; this despite countless witness testimony from journalists at the scene stating that they were stationed far away from Palestinian fighters, and that it was Israeli gunfire that killed her. The Israeli government has already positioned itself as a benevolent figure, with Prime Minister Naftali Bennett saying it "has called on the Palestinians to conduct a joint pathological analysis and investigation, which would be based on all of the existing documentation and findings, in order to get to the truth. So far, the Palestinians have refused this offer". But how can Israel be expected to carry out a proper investigation when it has already absolved itself of the crime? We have seen these same tactics employed time and time again. In the few instances where Israel launches an investigation into the killing of a Palestinian, those "investigations" are almost always closed.

Ukraine and Syria: Understanding the differences in US military aid

Omer Ozkizilcik

hy was Washington quick to provide political and military support to Ukraine, while it hesitated with Syria, also resisting Russia's attacks? At the start of the Ukraine-Russia conflict, Washington initially pursued a policy of strong rhetoric and sanctions, combined with trying to convince other countries to take action against Moscow. But with the growing successes of the Ukrainian army and increasing domestic and interna-

tional pressure, the mood changed. The US announced two arms packages to support the armed forces of Ukraine in its efforts to protect their soil.

While the US shift to be more active was well-received in the transatlantic community, it raised questions, particularly among Syria watchers, about why Syrians who fought and continue to resist a Russia- and Iran-backed Bashar al Assad regime did not see similar political and military-financial nobilisation. The different approach of the US to Ukraine and Syria is grounded in three aspects: the levels of geopolitical priority Washington assigns to the two countries, the international zeitgeist, and cultural affinity. The US recently announced a new weapons package for Ukraine worth \$150 million, as the war-weary country entered its eleventh week of conflict with Russia. This was preceded by a military aid package worth \$800 million authorised in late April. President Joe Biden has also requested a \$33 billion Ukraine aid package from Congress. He reiterated his request last week by saving that for Ukraine to succeed against Russia, the US and its allies have to ensure the continued flow of weapons and ammunition into the country. On the other side, Syrians fighting against Russia, Iran and the Assad regime in Syria received much less military aid and it mainly focussed on the fight against Daesh. Yet, even in this context, instead of supporting the

t is the gruelling reality of life under occupation that, most mornings, Palestinians are awakened with the news of Israel arresting or killing their people. Today was another one of those devastating mornings.

Palestinians were shocked by the news that veteran Palestinian journalist and Al Jazeera correspondent Shireen Abu Akleh was killed by Israeli forces while covering an Israeli army raid on the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank. Abu Akleh was a Palestinian icon whose familiar face and voice had entered the homes of millions of Palestinians and Arabic speakers around the world for more than two decades, as she covered the Israeli occupation. She was one of the brave Palestinian voices who covered Israel's deadly incursion on the Jenin refugee camp in 2002, which she wrote about last year, saying:

"To me, Jenin is not a one ephemeral story in my career or even in my personal life. It is the city that can raise my morale and help me fly. It embodies the Pales-

her body to safety, as gunfire rings in the background. According to the journalists who were stationed around Abu Akleh, the group was clearly marked as press and made themselves known to Israeli forces in the area. Despite their clear press markings, Abu Akleh was shot in the face, and another Palestinian journalist was shot in the back. Despite Israeli claims that Abu Akleh was hit by Palestinian gunfire, journalists present at the scene say it was an Israeli sniper that targeted them. Abu Akleh's killing is devastating, but it is not surprising.

For decades, Israel has targeted Palestinian journalists covering the occupied Palestinian territory, killing dozens of reporters and injuring and imprisoning hundreds more.

Abu Akleh's killing immediately brings back memories of our colleague Yaser Murtaja, a young Palestinian journalist in Gaza who was shot dead in 2018 by Israeli snipers while covering the Great March of Return protests.

As B'Tselem, Israel's leading human rights organisation, put it previously, "other than a handful of cases, usually involving low-ranking soldiers, no one has been put on trial for harming Palestinians". Israel consistently violates international human rights laws in the occupied territory, but rarely is accountability ever demanded by third-party states and the global institutions responsible for ensuring and implementing justice.

The lack of political will among world leaders, institutions, and agencies to hold Israel to account for its crimes was on full display last year when Israel bombed the al-Jalaa tower in Gaza, home to the media offices of Al Jazeera and The Associated Press. So long as Israel continues to operate with impunity and commit human rights violations with no accountability from the international community, we will inevitably see more of what we witnessed today.

Courtesy: Al Jazeera

This was preceded by a military aid package worth \$800 million authorised in late April"

A hungry world is a more dangerous place to govern

Mohamed Chebaro

The disruption of wheat exports from Russia and Ukraine is not the only reason for the price hikes, which have led to similar increases in the price of soya, rice and other grains as buyers have sought alternatives. The International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems report points

to constraints on counting on Russian and Ukrainian wheat that have pushed the competition for wheat orders into the wider market

y shopping basket costs have, like everyone else's in the UK and beyond, rocketed over the past year. The cost of my household gas and electricity is likely to multiply and peak next winter. The first increase, we were told, was due to the pandemic, disruptions to the global supply chain as a result of COVID-19 and, for the UK, Brexit too. Fuel price increases were due to the conflict in Ukraine, which has increased speculation about possible disruptions and less secure sup-

This led the global oil and gas market to shoot up, as it normally does when peace and stability in the world are brought into question.

plies, at least in Europe,

for the foreseeable future.

It seems to me though that higher food prices and an increased cost of living globally will be a mainstay in our post-pandemic world. Conflicts, higher energy prices and deficiencies in the global entente point to an unprecedented crisis that will only get much worse before the world can rebalance its agenda and cooperate to end conflicts, as well as agree on a sustainable growth agenda and on how to save the planet from climate change and provide affordable basic staples for all.

A new report by the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems underlines just that. The report details how food prices around the world have soared to record levels recently, as the Russia-Ukraine war has reduced the supply of wheat and fertilizers to global markets. This, coupled with recent droughts, floods and heat

waves fueled by climate change, has complicated matters further. Many countries are struggling to pay

for key food staples, as wheat prices have hit a 14-year peak and maize is at the highest price ever recorded, leading to a domino effect that pushes the basic loaf of bread further away from the tables of many.

The disruption of wheat exports from Russia and Ukraine is not the only reason for the price hikes, which have led to similar increases in the price of soya, rice and other grains as buyers have sought alternatives. The International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems report points to constraints on counting on Russian and Ukrainian wheat that have pushed the competition for wheat orders into the wider market. This has led to higher costs for this essential commodity, increasing the pain for poorer, debt-ridden countries that rely heavily on imports, such as Lebanon and many African states. Additionally, international aid organizations have been grappling with making food staples available in conflict zones and in nations that rely on aid to feed the dispossessed, from Svria and Yemen to Afghanistan and South Sudan.

Most importantly, the world must work to limit the role of financial speculators, who have been capitalizing on trading in grain futures and maybe artificially inflating prices as they seek to make quick profits on the back of a volatile market. This primarily hurts the poor and needy in developed countries.

Raising or curbing food production and supply globally cannot be done at short notice, unlike the pumping or refining of oil. Providing wheat and grain staples is a long game that relies heavily on weather conditions, the climate, the availability of farmland and adversities such as heat waves, drought, pests and floods. Hence, maybe the world should endorse the calls made by the G7 agriculture ministers for traders to refrain from "artificially" hiking prices for gains.

Meanwhile, the world's poor are unlikely to ride the wave of shortages of essential staples indefinitely, raising the possibility of further discontent in an increasingly precarious world.

Guaranteeing food production and supply in the years to come will require sacrifices and behavioral adjustment by all, such as changing our diet and ending our addiction to cheap meat and wheat. By doing so, the world could have a chance to transition to a more climate-considerate existence. Experts have long argued that feeding livestock consumes a large share of the world's grain, so persuading people to eat less meat and dairy could boost grain supplies dramatically.

For example, if Europeans were to cut their intake of animal products by only 10 percent, it would mean an extra 18 million to 19 million tons of cereals would be available on the market. This would be nearly enough to plug the global shortage, which is estimated to be between 20 million and 25 million tons this year, as was detailed by France's Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations. Investing in grain storage capacity in countries highly reliant on imports and helping them grow more staple foods at home instead of cash crops for export could also help.

All of the above are just a few examples that experts have long campaigned for in the hope of achieving a more food-secure world but, as usual, their pleas have often fallen on the deaf ears of a reluctant world leadership.

Food security deserves more attention, as it is an existential challenge and should not be dealt with in the same way the world deals with the questions of managing our eternal peace deficiency, markets and economies' permanent exposure to corporate greed and the lukewarm approach adopted by most countries to working toward reducing global warming.

People with unfulfilled dreams and aspirations can usually be appeased by promises, elections or programs for change, but people with empty stomachs and pockets are harder to govern for those constantly vying for power and hegemony to preserve and extend their world dominance status at any cost.

Syrian opposition against the Assad regime and its allies, the US preferred to support the YPG/PKK terror group under the guise of fighting Daesh. According to a train and equip programme approved by the US Senate, the US approved the spending of \$1.95 billion for the period from 2017 to the end of 2023, which amounts to about \$279 million per year. US military aid allocated to counter Russia, Iran, and the Assad regime, was about half the amount set aside to fight Daesh. US intelligence had established a \$1 billion covert programme named Timber Sycamore to support the moderate armed Syrian opposition against the Assad regime and Iran. When Russia intervened in the war in 2015, this covert programme managed to halt any initial Russian offensives by supplying the rebels with TOW anti-tank guided missile systems. Combined with the White House's uncertainty about what would await them in Damascus should the Assad regime fall, the Obama administration hesitated to take action then-President Barack Obama did not even follow up on his "red line" of a chemical weapons attack after the 2013 nerve agent attack in Ghouta.

But a Russian military victory in Ukraine, particularly in the 2022 context, would create significant geopolitical and security challenges for NATO and the US. Whilst the international outcry over Syria was framed as humanitarian in nature, in Ukraine it is framed as geopolitical and security-based nature – thus much more effective from a policy selling standpoint. A similar hesitation would not be tolerated by European states and NATO allies of the US, as well as the domestic audiences who would punish such a decision with adequate measures. The international atmosphere and the Zeitgeist vis-a-vis Russia changed massively since the Ukraine War. More states and more actors now would be open to the idea of limiting Russia in other spheres of the world and more people understand that the inaction over Russian crimes in Syria helped facilitate the Russian attack on Ukraine. The cultural affinity of Ukrainians to Europe is also of great importance. Though more difficult to measure, the repeated 'blonde hair and blue eyes' discourse in mainstream media coverage of the conflict in Ukraine not only symbolises the difference in attitude to refugees, but also one in military solidarity. That said, the question still remains as to why the Biden administration continues to have such a low interest in Syria and does still not see the value of Syria in confronting and limiting Moscow. It is understandable why both conflicts are perceived differently in Washington. Yet, what is not clear is why the difference is as big as it is. It reflects the incoherence of US foreign policy to have such a low profile in military aid to Syrians resisting regime aggression facilitated by Russia.

06

WORLD / SPORTS

Briefs Govt holds Imran Khan responsible

FROM PAGE 01

G7 allies vow to support Ukraine 'until victory'

AGENCIES

petroleum, the former PM had done irreparable damage to the economy only to divert attention from his failed politics. "Imran sahib is responsible for difficult decisions being taken now", she said and added that the PTI chairman had (once again) climbed on the container to cover up his anti-people economic crimes. She reminded Imran Khan that putting the country's economy and people's future at stake for political purposes was tantamount to treason. Marriyum said that it was ironic that PTI regime's incompetence and bad economic policies were the reason behind the inflation being faced by the people, but now they were making the noise about inflation. She advised Imran Khan that instead of making hue and cry, he should hold himself accountable for inflation and economic crisis. Four years of incapable, inefficient and incompetent rule accompanied by cartels and mafias carried out economic terrorism against the people.

WANGELS: Leading democracies on Friday pledged unwavering support for Ukraine in its war with Russia while the European Union promised to hike military support for Kyiv by more than half a billion dollars. Foreign ministers of the Group of Seven (G7) met on the second day of a three-day meeting in the Germany resort of Wangels, joined by their counterparts from Ukraine and Moldova. French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said the G7 were "very strongly united" in their will to "continue in the long term to support Ukraine's fight for its sovereignty until Ukraine's victory.'

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said the bloc was pledging an extra 500 million euros (\$520 million) in military aid.

The cash will raise the EU's total military aid for Ukraine to two billion euros, he said. "The recipe is clear -- more of the same," Borrell said. "More pressure on Russia, with economic sanctions. Continue working on international isolation of Russia. Countering the disinformation about the consequences of the war... And presenting a united front to continue supporting Ukraine." British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss also called for further support for Ukraine. "It is very important at this time that we keep up the pressure on Vladimir Putin by supplying more weapons to Ukraine, by increasing the sanctions," she said. They were joined on Fri-



day by their Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba, who praised their resolve to help Kyiv but also urged them to go further.

"Today I asked G7 countries to adopt legislation and put in place all necessary procedures needed to seize Russian sovereign assets and give them to Ukraine to use this money to rebuild our country," he said.

Kuleba also urged the EU to ensure that an embargo is placed on Russian oil, warning that an omission of the ban on the bloc's next package would mean its unity was "broken". The war in Ukraine had led to greater unity among Western allies, the minister said. "It is Ukraine who made the G7 strong again. It is our struggle that brought back confidence in the G7 to lead, to shape international affairs and to counter attempts of authoritarian regimes to defeat democracy," he said. 'Repugnant form of war'

The ministers were also joined by Moldovan Foreign Minister Nicu Popescu, whose country is facing a huge influx of refugees from Ukraine. Separately in the southwestern German city of Stuttgart, agriculture ministers of the G7 as well as their Ukrainian counterpart gathered on Friday to discuss how to head off a looming international food crisis sparked by the war.

Accusing Russia of theft from Ukrainian farmers, Germany's agriculture minister Cem Oezdemir said this was "an especially repugnant form of war that Russia is leading, in that it is stealing, robbing, taking for itself grain from eastern Ukraine. Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24 but Ukrainian forces managed to push Moscow's forces back from Kyiv, and the conflict

is now well into its third month. Western countries have supplied Ukraine with weapons, including artillery, anti-aircraft missiles, anti-tank weapons and other powerful material, but Kyiv has been pushing allies for more support.

Le Drian pointed to the global effects of what he called a "lasting conflict... particularly in the area of food security".

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock had also on Thursday highlighted the growing impact of the war on poorer countries. "We as the strongest industrialised democracies have a special responsibility" to help poorer nations weather the food and energy squeezes caused by the war, she said.



Islamabad **POST**

Saturday, May 14, 2022

FROM PAGE 01

towards chaos by launching an organized campaign against institutions, he said. He added that the country is under severe financial and political crisis, and immediate and effective actions need to be taken. Economic revival is the government's first priority and all necessary decisions would be made by taking Alliant parties into confidence, Ahsan said. Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said that they have come to London to take a guideline from their leader Mian Nawaz Sharif. Some things can only be discussed face to face and not via video link, he added. No decision would be made without taking alliants into confidence, he added.

All government and party officials have travelled and are staying in London out of their own pocket. Rana clarified He added that Imran Khan derailed the country's economy and political norms. The PTI chairman is misleading the youth of the country, he added.

Pakistan announces 3 day national mourning

FROM PAGE 01

announced three days national mourning from 13-15 May 2022. The National Flag shall also fly at halfmast during the mourning period. President Dr Arif Alvi expressed grief over the death of the President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, remembering him as a "great friend of Pakistan". The president conveyed his condolences to the royal family and the people of the UAE, saying that the people of Pakistan shared their grief.

He also praised the late UAE president for his services to the Muslim Ummah as well as the Pakistan-UAE friendship. "Today, Pakistan has become deprived of a great friend," President Alvi remarked. In his condolence message on Iwitter, the prime minister said with the death of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Ak-Nahyan, the UAE had lost a visionary leader and Pakistan lost a great friend. "We send our heartfelt condolences & sympathies to the government & people of the UAE. May Allah rest his soul in peace," the prime minister remarked. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan served as the president of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi since November 3, 2004. Born in 1948, Sheikh Khalifa was the second President of the UAE and the 16th Ruler of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed grief and sorrow on the sad demise of UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan. In a condolence statement, he said the role of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan in the development of the United Arab Emirates is commendable and unforgettable. He said with the demise of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, the Arabian region lost an extra-ordinary ruler. The Foreign Minister said he shares the grief of the people and the royal family of UAE on the death of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan. Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa and all ranks of Pakistan Army have expressed heartfelt condolence on the sad demise of UAE President Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan. "Pakistan has lost a great friend. May Allah Almighty bless his soul and give strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss, Ameen", the COAS said in a condolence message shared by the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General on his official Twitter handle. Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, on Friday expressed deep sorrow over the sad demise of UAE President, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. In his message, the Chairman Senate said that Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan had played an important role in the development and prosperity of the UAE. His services were also invaluable for the unity and solidarity of the Muslim Ummah, he underlined. Due to his economic and people-friendly policies, the United Arab Emirates had grown by leaps and bounds and made significant strides.

'Violation of IMF deal reason for inflation

FROM PAGE 01

task to stabilise the economy that Imran Khan has left behind in shambles. "There is a difference between the petrol prices in the world market and the selling price in Pakistan," added Ismail. The finance minister said that the petrol subsidies are the reason for the rise in inflation and the turmoil in the market. "If the government gives subsidies without having money, then it has to take more loans, increasing the interest rates, and putting pressure on the rupee," he said. The PML-N said that the former premier took the "biggest loan in the country's history during his tenure, which was 80% of the total debt of 71 years. "Khan borrowed Rs20,000 billion,³ he said, adding that Khan left Rs10.4 billion in the foreign exchange reserves which are equivalent to 45 days of imports. "The foreign exchange reserves should be double the amount," he said, adding that the PTI chairman created issues in relations with all the countries, including China and Saudi Arabia.



SHUSHA: Pakistani group representing colors of Pakistan in 5th "Kharibulbul" International Folklore Festival being held in Shusha. - DNA

Ailing Rafael Nadal falls

Amir Khan retires from professional boxing

KARACHI: Pakistani-British the love and support they boxer Amir Khan,

have shown me." now 35 years old, took to Twitter on Friday to announce his retirement from profesouts.

In his tweet, he said that it was time to leave the sport. "It's time to hang up my gloves," wrote Amir

sional boxing.

Khan

Amir Khan, currently hold a record of 34 wins and six losses. Meanwhile, he won 21 out of the 34 fights through knock-Amir Khan's claim to fame was his silver medal the

Announce elections or face tsunami of people: Imran

FROM PAGE 01

soon approach the US for help, adding that Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was also set to hold a meeting in America in this regard. "It is the same America that had tapped your phone call with your mother when she was sharing the details of your family assets abroad," Imran said, referring to Bilawal. He continued that the PPP chairperson would "beg for more money" from the US on the pretext that Imran would return [to power] if the money was not provided. "I know Americans very well ... they say there is no free lunch. Everything has a cost and in the context of Pakistan, the cost is to provide them [military] bases," the ex-PM said. Imran said his government was set to procure wheat and oil from Russia at a 30 per cent discount, adding that "the current government cannot trade with Russia due to US pressure." He said Pakistan, under the new regime, would have to give statements against Russia because the US wanted it. The PTI chief claimed he was also told the same. "But I refused it as we are a sovereign country and not slaves of anyone." The former prime minister took to the Twitter to react to the historic fall of Pakistani rupee against US dollar said, "Rupee at all-time low Rs193/\$ (from Rs178 on March 8); interest rates at 15 per cent highest since 1998, stock market down 3,000 points or 6.4pc; stock market lost Rs604 billion capitalisation; inflation 13.4pc highest since Jan 2020.

in Italian Open third round

nately and my day by day is difficult. am trying hard but of course it is difficult for me. A lot of days I can't practice, "I don't want to take anything away from Denis... today



is for

part at Roland Garros. "I'm not injured, I am a player living with an indone to him." jury. That's it," Nadal told reporters. Nadal has won an all-time record "It's something that is there unfortu-

21 Grand Slam titles in a glittering

two-decade career which may now finally be reaching its downturn. World number 16 Shapovalov, who had pushed Nadal all the way when knocked out at this stage of the tournament last year, will now face Casper Ruud in the quarter-finals.

"It definitely sucked to see him in pain at the end... He brings so much to our sport so hopefully he's fit and ready to go for the French," said Shapovalov. "It's super satisfying to beat the best player on clay of all time."

Last year's Rome runner-up Novak Djokovic swept past Swiss veteran Stan Wawrinka 6-2, 6-2 in one hour, 16 minutes to reach the quarter-finals as he bids for a sixth Italian Open title.

Djokovic is in his record-extending 369th week as the world number one and must reach at least the semis to avoid losing his top ranking spot to Daniil Medvedev. Wawrinka, whose first-round victory over Reilly Opelka was his first win in 15 months, was no match for top seed Djokovic and beyond a few classic passing shots he offered little resistance.

in his tweet. He continued thanking all the people

who were involved in his boxing journey throughout the years. "I feel blessed to have had such an amazing career that has spanned over 27 years. I want to say a heartfelt thanks and to the incredible teams I have worked with and to my family, friends and fans for

Olympic medallist for Britain. Amir Khan is

at

age

of 17 in

the 2004

Olympics.

This feat

made

him the

youngest

boxing

a former unified light-welterweight world champion, having held the WBA (later Super) title from 2009 to 2012. He also held the IBF title in 2011.

At the regional level, he won the Commonwealth lightweight title both in 2007 and 2008. - APP

Real's Benzema equals with Raul

MADRID: Real Madrid's French forward Karim Benzema leveled with Raul Gonzalez as the Spanish football club's second all-time top scorer late Thursday. A Real Madrid regular since 2009, Benzema, who scored in the Whites' six-goal romp against Levante on Thursday, tallied 323 goals in total. Real Madrid's Spanish legend Raul, 44, hit 323 goals in 1994-2010. The Spanish club's all-time highest scorer is Cristiano Ronaldo as the Portuguese superstar now a Manchester United forward - scored 451 goals for the Whites. An ex-Olympique Lyon forward Benzema, 34, has a contract with Real Madrid until June 2023. - APP

AC Milan on brink of Serie A title

SPORTS DESK

News Desk

ROME: Defending champion Rafael

Nadal crashed out of the Italian Open

in the third round on Thursday with

the record 10-time Rome winner com-

plaining of a recurring foot problem

after a shock 1-6, 7-5, 6-2 defeat by

Defeat in Rome for 'King of Clay' Nad-

al casts doubt over his prospects at the

upcoming French Open, where he has

been crowned champion 13 times

but faces a threat from teenage

The 35-year-old, who had

reached at least the quarter-fi-

nals every year in Rome since

2008, had been out for six weeks

with a rib injury before return-

ing for last week's tournament in

Madrid. Nadal began limping in the

third set, later telling reporters that

a foot problem had flared up dur-

ing the second set but couldn't say

whether he would be able to take

phenomenon Carlos Alcaraz.

Canadian Denis Shapovalov.

ROME: AC Milan welcomes Atalanta to the San Siro on Sunday knowing this could be the weekend that they snatch the Scudetto from local rivals Inter Milan.

Needing four points from their final two games of the season, Milan stand on the brink of a first Serie A title since 2011 and they could have one of the six teams still fighting relegation hand them the crown. Stefano Pioli's Milan will extend their lead on reigning champions Inter to five points if they beat Atalanta, who are still in the hunt for Europa League football.

Inter would then have to win at Cagliari to ensure that an enthralling title race enters a final week, a theoretically simple task given the gulf in class between the two sides.

Simone Inzaghi's side are fresh from a thrilling, extra-time Italian Cup triumph over old foes Juventus on Wednesday and will be hoping to use that wave of enthusiasm in the climax to the campaign. "Whenever I've needed a response from the team I've got one, from July to today," Inzaghi said after lifting the cup at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome. "It's been one long emotional rollercoaster.'

Cagliari are scrapping for their Serie A lives and showed that they still have plenty of fight last week by snatching a point at Salernitana thanks to an equaliser in the ninth minute of stoppage time.

Stuck just inside the drop zone a point behind Salernitana, Cagliari saved themselves from almost certain relegation in Salerno. Now the Sardinians face Inter and then bottom side Venezia on the final day hoping for a way out. Last week's results con-



spired to leave over a quarter of the division at the risk of the drop, with Genoa's shock win over Iuve and Venezia's dramatic 4-3 victory over Bologna closing the gap on Spezia and Sampdoria, who sit in 15th.

Venezia are five points behind Salernitana and will go back down to Serie B if they don't win at Roma on Saturday evening. They would be the first team relegated after Dennis Johnsen saved their skins with

a last-minute winner last weekend. Tonali took a pay cut to make his move to Milan from Brescia permanent last summer, and the Italy international has come of age in the Rossoneri midfield this season.

BUSINESS / WORLD

Briefs

07

Russia claims shooting down Su-27, **15 UAVs**

WEB DESK

MOSCOW: The Russian Defense Ministry said on Friday that one Su-27 fighter jet and 15 unmanned aerial vehicles were shot down in night strikes at Ukraine's military infrastructure.

Also, the air defense svstems intercepted two shells Smerch multiple from rocket launcher, ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said at a press briefing in Moscow. Besides, an oil refinery and tanks with gasoline and diesel fuel were destroyed with high-precision air- and sea-based weapons, Konashenkov added.

The aviation hit 153 areas of concentration of manpower and military equipment, two Grad multiple launch rocket systems, and a US-made radar station while the rocket forces struck 15 control points, 520 areas of concentration of manpower and military equipment, six artillery units in firing positions, as well as a warehouse of mis-

sile weapons, he noted. "In total, since the beginning of the special military operation, 165 aircraft, 125 helicopters, 842 unmanned aerial vehicles, 304 anti-aircraft missile systems, 3,032 tanks and other armored combat vehicles, 368 multiple rocket launchers, 1,491 field artillery and mortar guns, as well as 2,869 units of special military vehicles have been destroyed," the spokesman also said.

Fed chair terms US inflation 'painful,'

WASHINGTON: Describing the US' record-high inflation as "painful," Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said a soft landing for the economy will be "challenging." "We understand that inflation is very pain-

Eighth session of Europe-Asia symposium held in France



Famous city hall - famous because the city was bombed during WW II and then rebuild with a completely new architecture at the time

DNA

PARIS: The University of Le Havre, the largest port in France (and ranked ninth largest port in Europe) hosted the eighth session of a Europe-Asia symposium devoted to the emergence of Eur-



asia (under the title: " The completion of Eurasia?"). From session to session, this symposium becomes a more significant and broader academic event, at a time when the idea of Eurasia is becoming more pregnant in the diplomatic circles and in the media. For the first time, representatives of Pakistan were invited, including a representative of the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Four Pakistanis, two women and two men, two online and two in physical presence. participated in the event: a diplomat, a president of a think-tank, an independ-

ent analyst, a businessman. The symposium of May 11-12 brought together in four workshops 42 speakers from 21 countries, representing 35 institutions and 13 academic fields. Uzbekistan's ambassador to France and other diplomats also contributed. The participants came from all the countries of post-Soviet Central Asia plus Afghanistan and Mongolia, many neighboring countries of this large Central Asian group, and other more distant regions. including North America and the 'West Africa. Seven French people, some post-

ed abroad, intervened in the debate. Three topics dominated the contributions: Eurasian identity and its ongoing reconstruction since the end of the USSR / connectivity and new transcontinental routes / the consequences of the end of the Afghan conflict and the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine.

This symposium will lead to a publication, like the previous sessions; the most recent of these publications, in April 2022, focused on the link between Logistics and Diplomacy https://www.sefacil.com/logistics-diplomacy-keeps-mov-

ing-forward The University of Le Havre wishes to continue the reflection on the Eurasian thematic, from both political and economic (cross-border logistics movements) standpoints; and plans to hold its next sessions in countries participating in the workshops, in particular Turkmenistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan Pierre Chabal Sc. Dr.Habil in political sciences and international relations, Le Havre University, Sciences-Po Europe Asia Campus / Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (Almaty) visiting Professor.

Islamabad **POST**

Saturday, May 14, 2022

Mine blast kills Azerbaijani civilian in Karabakh

BAKU: Azerbaijani civilian Rashad Bakhtiyarov, 40, was killed in a mine blast in the liberated Aghdam region, Azernews reports per the Prosecutor-General's Office. Bakhtiyarov, who was engaged in agricultural activities, died of shrapnel injuries received as a result of an explosion of ammunition in Aghdam's Chamanli village at about 1600 on May 12, the report specified. As the Chamanli village community head, Rabil Guliyev said, the explosion went off while Bakhtiyarov was grazing sheep. The victim was placed in the Aghdam region Central Hospital with serious injuries, but his life could not be saved.

The case is now being investigated by the Aghdam regional prosecutor's office. Similarly, Capt Suleyman Heydarov, chief of the fortification and pyrotechnic training department of the Special Risk Rescue Service of the Emergencies Ministry, was injured in a mine-clearing operation in Aghdam, the ministry said on May 13. The victim is being provided with necessary medical care, the report added. Although about 18 months have passed since the 44-day war between Azerbaijan and Armenia, mines of different types planted by Armenia in the formerly occupied territories continue to endanger human lives in the liberated lands. Almost every day, there is news of civilians or military personnel being injured or killed as a result of mine explosions in Azerbaijan's liberated lands. This once again proves that Armenia continues its mine warfare against Azerbaijan's an and military personnel. – Ager



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan, Ulanbek Totuiaev calls on Deputy Chairman Senate Mirza Muhammad Afridi. – DNA

Russia expels 1 Bulgarian, **10 Romanian** diplomats

The Organizer

MOSCOW: In a retaliatory move, Russia on Friday declared a Bulgarian and 10 Romanian diplomats persona non grata. Cristian Istrate and Atanas Krastin, the ambassadors of Romania and Bulgaria, were summoned by the Russian Foreign Ministry and handed notes ordering the expulsion of their diplomats from Moscow. The measure was taken in response to Bulgaria and Romania's "unmotivated decision" in April to expel Russian diplomats from embassies in Sofia and Bucharest, the Foreign Ministry said. Regarding Romania, the ministry said Moscow "resolutely rejects" what it termed Bucharest's "groundless attempts ... to lay the blame for war crimes in Ukraine on Russia. It condemned Romania for "whitewashing the atrocities perpetrated by nationalist (Ukrainian) battalions against the civilian population," as well as for supplying "weapons, equipment and other assistance to the regime in Kyiv." - Agencies

ful, that the Fed is accountable to get inflation down to 2%, and that we have the tools and the strong desire to get inflation under control," he said on American radio program Marketplace on Thursday.

"I will also say that the process of getting inflation down to 2% will also include some pain, but ultimately the most painful thing would be if we were to fail to deal with it and inflation were to get entrenched in the economy at high levels.

Powell repeatedly said last year that inflation in the US is "transitory," but consumer prices have continued to climb up, eventually reaching 8.5% in March - the highest annual increase in more than 40 years. Behind the curve in getting inflation under control, the Fed start ed raising interest rates with a hike of 25 basis points in March and another 50 basis points last week .- APP

Death toll rises to 6 in blast in Slovenia

BELGRADE: The death toll from an explosion at a chemical plant in southern Slovenia rose to six, local media reported Friday. Two workers at the plant in Kocevje, a town of roughly 8,000 people about 55 kilometers (30 miles) from the capital Ljubljana, suffered severe burns, and two others are missing from the Thursday explosion. Firefighters at the scene found at least five lifeless bodies at the facility. At least 20 people were also injured. "Unfortunately our fears have been confirmed.' Srecko Stefanic, the factory's manager, told reporters. About 200 people were employed at the facility.

Residents in the surrounding area said the explosion occurred around 8.30 a.m local time (0630GMT) and shook the entire area. Regional broadcaster N1

television said a local emergency council met for an urgent session as firefighters and emergency crews rushed to the plant.

The Slovenian Press Agency described the explosion at the plant, which produces the industrial chemical melamine, as the worst industrial fire in the country's recent history. – Agencies

Israeli forces attack mourners at Abu Akleh's funeral in East Jerusalem



JERUSALEM: OCCUPIED Israeli police assaulted Palestinian mourners in the funeral procession of slain Al-Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh on Friday in occupied East Jerusalem. Eyewitnesses told Anadolu Agency (AA) that the Israeli police attacked the funeral procession as it started from the French hospital in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood.

They added that the Israeli police surrounded the mourners and used stun grenades and batons to as-

sault the pallbearers carrying Abu Akleh's casket. The Israeli police allowed a few Palestinians to accompany her casket to Jerusalem's Old City, where she will be buried at the Mount Zion Protestant Cemetery. Veteran journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was covering Israeli military raids near the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank when she was shot dead on Wednesday.

Doha-based network say she was targeted by Israeli forces.



has drawn widespread condemnation. Video footage from the moments after she was shot showed Abu Akleh, 51, wearing a blue vest marked "Press". At least two of her colleagues who were with her said that they had come under Israeli sniper fire and that they were not close to militants. Israel, which has voiced regret at Abu Akleh's death has proposed a joint investigation with the Palestinians, asking them to provide the bullet for examination. – Agencies

Hamas hails Jenin's resistance DNA

GAZA: Hamas spokesperson Abdel Latif al-Qanoa hailed the determination and strong will of Jenin's resistance fighters, who are still fighting Israeli occupation forces (IOF) since the early morning hours on Friday. Jenin is still fighting and bravely resisting the occupation. It will never be broken and will be victorious, he added.

A comprehensive intifada and confrontation with the occupation is inescapable to stop Israeli attacks, al-Qanoa stressed. Earlier Friday, the IOF

blew up a Palestinian house in Jenin refugee camp, after storming and besieging the area. At least six people were injured during the events. The PIC reporter confirmed that IOF soldiers stormed the camp and surrounded a local house belonging to Mahmoud al-Daba'i, which led to the outbreak of violent clashes.

Israeli snipers were also deployed in large numbers in the surrounding areas.

Germany warns of global food crisis due to Russia's war on Ukraine BERLIN: Global food crisis is on the horizon due to Russia's war on Ukraine, Germany's foreign minister warned on Friday. In her opening speech at the G7 foreign ministers' meeting, Annalena Baerbock accused Russia of conducting

a "hybrid war" and preventing grain exports from Ukrainian ports. "Russia is not allowing millions of tons of grain being exported. This is a big, big danger," she said. "And we can only see the tip of the iceberg, at the moment. We all know that if climate crisis hits in summer around the world, the situation will get even worse. she added. Baerbock said the G7 of leading industrial nations up their responhas agreed to take

sibility and act ast to address this upcoming crisis.The German liplomat is hosting threeing in the Balsort of Weis-Ukrainian Minister Kuleba and Moldovan Foreign Minister Nicu



Erdogan, Qatari emir discuss bilateral ties

ISTANBUL: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday received the Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in Istanbul's Vahdettin Pavilion to discuss bilateral ties and regional issues. Emir's visit to Turkey will bring continuous coordination and great rapprochement on bilateral relations and important issues, Qatar's ambassador to Ankara said Thursday.

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Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed bin Nasser bin Jassim Al Thani told Anadolu Agency (AA) that the emir's visit to Turkey coincided with a period when the world is going through great challenges and difficult times at all levels, and that requires constructive cooperation and exchange of views on regional and international developments in order to face and counter these challenges.

Emphasizing that the visit takes place in the context of continuous coordination on important issues with bilateral relations and a great convergence in attitudes toward these issues, the envoy praised the durability and sustainability of Qatar-Turkey relations, strategic cooperation in all sectors, as well as the great harmony in many international and regional issues.

Turkey and Qatar in December signed 15 different agreements to enhance cooperation between the two countries, while President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the ruling emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, met in Doha to cochair the seventh meeting of the Turkey-Qatar Supreme Strategic Committee. Ankara and Doha enjoy strong relations, particularly since the 2017 blockade of the Gulf country by Saudi Arabia and others. The two countries have strengthened military and economic ties in recent vears. - Agencies

Baku, Yerevan to set up border delimitation body

News Desk

BAKU: Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bavramov has said that the chairmen and format of the Azerbaijan-Armenia border delimitation commissions have been determined, Azernews reports, citing the ministry. Bayramov made the remarks at the CIS Council of Foreign Ministers' meeting in Dushanbe on May 13, the ministry added. The Azerbaijani top diplomat briefed the participants in on the post-conflict situation in the region, adding that the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict was over and that the nation's major focus today is on reviving its liberated lands and ensuring long-term peace and stability through the restoration of economic and communication ties. The minister reiterated Azerbaijan's determination and readiness to normalize ties with Armenia, including the signing of a peace treaty and the beginning of the border delimita-

tion procedure. Steps have been taken in this respect to begin the process of drafting a peace deal, Bayramov was quoted as saying. The top diplomat emphasized that Azerbaijan is committed to the efforts of bolstering regional peace, stability, and security. Furthermore, the minister thanked Kazakhstan for its effective chair-

manship of the organization and Tajikistan for organizing a high-level meeting to discuss issues of cooperation within the CIS in a spirit of mutual understanding, as well as exchange views on topical issues of the international agenda. Bayramov underlined the successful development of friendly relations between the member countries in the

CIS format. He reminded the participants that several of the union's member nations are commemorating a key event in 2022: the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties. This occasion is viewed as an excellent chance to reflect on the nations' paths, learn from the past, summarize the outcomes of long-term collaboration, and make

top

plans for the future. Bayramov stressed that the passage of a variety of papers fostering future collaboration between the CIS member states, notably in the humanitarian domain, is on the agenda, and Azerbaijan considers that the frameworks for cooperation in education, research, culture, health, tourism, youth work, and other sectors are useful.









Briefs Rapid antigen tests for inbound flights from **Gulf states**

OIC denounces India's delimitation exercise

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has decided to start COV ID-19 screening tests for the inbound flights from the Gulf countries and Saudi Arabia after identifying the new sub-variant of Omicron.

The screening process through the Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) will come into effect on May 14 at 12:01am in Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore airports.

Initially, 10 to 15 passengers travelling via small aircraft, carrying up to 150 passengers, will undergo the tests. Meanwhile, planes with a capacity of 250 passengers will test 15 to 20 passengers.

The Civil Aviation Au-thority (CAA) and the National Institution of Health's Centre for Disease Control (CDC) are implementing these measures following the directives of the health minister. These will remain in effect until further notice by the CDC.

SC rejects pleas about presidential system

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has set aside petitions seeking to hold a referendum on the presidential form of government in the country after declaring them not maintainable.

The apex court on Friday released its written judge ment on the petitions seeking referendum on the imposition of presidential system

The Commission said this is a nefarious attempt by India to alter the electoral demographics and dynamics in a manner that could influence the sham electoral results to install puppet regimes of its choice in the occupied territory

DNA

JEDDAH: The Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has strongly condemned the Indian Government's recently concluded illegal exercise to redraw and delimit the electoral constituencies in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The IPHRC in a statement termed India's move as violative of numerous OIC and UN Security Council resolutions as well as international human rights and humanitarian laws. "IPHRC accordingly supports the unanimous rejection of the Kashmiri political leadership of these illegal measures, which are continuum of the host of other 'Hindutva' inspired illegal steps taken by the Indian occupation regime in IIOJK in the aftermath of the 5th August 2019," it said.

The Commission said this is a nefarious attempt by India to alter the electoral demographics and dynamics in a manner that could influence the sham electoral results to install puppet regimes of its choice in the occupied territory. These wicked measures are aimed at converting the indigenous

Narendra Modi regime depriving minorities of right to education

JAMMU: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, All Parties Hurriyat Conference leader, Advocate Devinder Singh Behl, has said that the RSS-backed Bharatiya Janata Party government led by Narendra Modi is using various illegal tactics to deprive the students belonging to minorities in India and Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir of their right to education. Advocate Devinder Singh Behl in a statement issued in Jammu said, sometimes banning hijab on Muslim girls in schools and sometimes banning Sikh turbans under the guise of religion and banning education has become the norm of Modi regime. He said now the ban imposed by the Indian government on higher education in Pakistan is in fact a clear violation of international law and the right to education.

The APHC leader said education is a basic human right. He said, education can be obtained anywhere so it is unreasonable to restrict Indian and Kashmiri students from getting higher education in Pakistan. He said the move by the Indian government has created further distance between the two neighboring countries. Advocate Behl urged the Indian government to immediately reverse the illegal move. He said that New Delhi was using such illegal tactics to divert attention of the world community from the Kashmir dispute. The APHC leader said Kashmir is an internationally-recognized dispute, adding that Pakistan and India should come

forward to resolve it through dialogue in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. Meanwhile, APHC-AJK leader, Abdul Majeed Malik, in a statement issued in Islamabad strongly condemned the Indian order banning the Kashmiri students from pursuing higher studies in Pakistan. He termed the order as anti-Kashmir and anti-Muslim. He said that according to this order, any Kashmiri youth who obtains a higher degree from any Pakistani institution would not be eligible to get any government job in India or IIOJK. - DNA

Muslim population into minority within their homeland and obstruct the exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination. The IPHRC further stated that these measures manifest violations of the human rights of the Kashmiri people, guaranteed under well codified international human rights treaties including Fourth Geneva Convention, which clearly prohibits any change in the demographics of the occupied areas and resultant disenfranchisement.

The Commission, while rejecting these measures as illegal, reiterated its oft repeated call to the UN and the international community to play their due role to pressurize India to abide by the relevant UNSC and OIC resolutions and refrain from any administrative and legislative actions, which tantamount to altering the geographic and demographic status of IIOIK.

It stressed for restoration of all fundamental freedoms of Kashmiris and repeal of all discriminatory laws. The Commission demanded that the Kashmiri people be allowed to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination through a free and fair plebiscite, as provided in the relevant UN Security Council and OIC resolutions.

Search inside border points assigned to Customs

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Ministry of Interior has issued directives for assigning body search of pedestrians inside immigration centers and border points to Pakistan Customs.

A notification in this regard was also issued by Secretary Interior, restricting other departments for performing the same duty at borders.

The decision has been welcomed by Vice President Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Ziaul Haq Sarhadi. In a statement issued here on Friday, Zia Sarhadi termed the decision as very appropriate as search by different departments was not only creating problems but also delay in border crossing by pedestrians and goods laden trucks.

Restriction of search to a single department will prove as ease for people crossing borders and also safe time of business community who waited for hours due to search and scanning of goods by different departments.

He thanked Interior Ministry for accepting the long standing demand of business community of the country which was facing a lot of problems due to search by separate departments at immigration centers and border points of the country.

Beijing reports 51 new Covid infections

DNA

BEIJING: Beijing reported 51 new locally tr



Govt approves amnesty scheme for multiple passports holders

ISLAMABAD: The government has approved an amnesty scheme for Pakistani citizens holding more than one Pakistani passport. Summary sent by the Interior Ministry to the federal cabinet for amnesty scheme was approved in the last cabinet meeting, said a statement issued here Friday. The amnesty scheme would be applied to all Pakistani citizens who possessed more identity or passports than one. Under the federal government decision,

the amnesty scheme would remain in force till December 31, 2022. Section 6 (1) (j) of the Passports Act reads:

"A person shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to three years, or

with fine, or with both, if he: obtains more than one passport for himself either in the same or different names by concealing the fact of his already being in possession of a passport." The scheme was approved keeping in view the common interest of local nationals and overseas Pakistanis. Earlier, the federal government had an-

nounced such six schemes during 2006 to 2016 and as a result over 12,000 multiple passports had been cancelled.

As per the interior ministry statistics, it would be help cancellation of over 38,000 multiple Pakistani passports. It was also decided to advertise the scheme abroad to make it more effective.

in Pakistan. Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial authored the verdict.

The judgement says the court does not hold jurisdiction to order for holding referendum on presidential system. In the petitions, political question was raised regarding presidential form of government.

The court does not find directions/guidance any on the subject in country's constitution and law. In the absence of any constitutional guidance, the court is not in a position to give its decision on a polit ical question.

The verdict says two questions were asked from petitioner and his lawyers. The court is not authorized to give its decision on the change of political system in the country. The SC verdict further says that the objections raised by the registrar office were right. The petitions are not maintainable it concluded.

10 killed in deadliest recent Syria rebel attack

BEIRUT: Syrian rebels killed 10 soldiers in northern Syria Friday, in the deadliest such attack since a truce deal reached over two years ago, a war monitor and state media said. Nine soldiers were also wounded in the attack, Syria's official news agency SANA reported, quoting a

military source. "Around 9:30 this morning terrorists targeted an army bus" in the west of Aleppo province, SANA said, quoting the source.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights had report ed earlier on Friday that "pro-regime fighters" died in the assault.

It was not immediately clear whether it was carried out by the area's dominant militant group, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), or other rebel forces, the monitor said. The attackers fired an anti-tank guided missile at a bus carrying pro-regime fighters back to their home villages, Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman told AFP. He said six rebel fight ers were killed this month in similar attacks conducted by regime soldiers or allied militia. - Agencies

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi enquires after the health of Police constable Raees Khan at PIMS hospital. - DNA

China's Mars rover finds water evidence on red planet: study

The findings contribute to a growing body of telltale signs that suggests liquid water activities may have persisted much longer on Mars than previously thought

ISLAMABAD: Chinese scientists have found new evidence that there was water on Mars in the past and there were hydrated minerals on the red planet, which could be potentially exploited during future crewed Mars missions. The study published in the journal Science Advances revealed that a large impact basin on Mars contained liquid water during the Ama zonian epoch, the planet's most recent geologic epoch. The findings contribute to a growing body of telltale signs that suggests liquid water activities may have persisted much longer on Mars than previously thought, China news agency reported. The study also indicated that in this particular site, there are currently considerable stores of water in the form of hydrated minerals and possibly ground ice. The researchers led by those from the National Space Science Center under the Chinese Academy of Sciences used data gathered by China's Mars rover Zhurong on the sedimentary and mineral characteristics of southern Utopia Planitia, a vast plain in the northern hemisphere of Mars. They interpreted the bright-toned rocks Zhu rong's camera caught as a layer of "duricrust" that would have been sculpted by a substantial quantity of liquid water, perhaps rising groundwater or melting subsurface ice. That solid sulfate mineral crust contrasts with thinner, weaker duricrusts observed by other Mars rovers which may have formed through the actions of water vapor, according to the study. - DNA

PPP to urge ECP to postpone Sindh LG Polls

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and other major parties of Sindh are reportedly planning to urge the ECP to postpone the first phase of the Sindh LG polls.

According to a private television channel report Friday, the Pakistan Peoples Party and other major parties are planning to urge the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to postpone the first phase of the local body elections. Sources say they made the decision after the PPP faced difficulties in allotting tickets to candidates across Sindh.

All major parties including Pakistan

Petrol prices likely to increase by Rs21 from May 16

ISLAMABAD, MAY 13 (DNA) - The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has prepared a summary of withdrawing subsidies of Rs21 on petrol and Rs51 on diesel that will be increased the prices of petroleum products for the next 15 days from May 16. According to a private television channel report, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has completed working to withdraw the subsidy of Rs21 on petrol and Rs51 on diesel. The sources in the Ministry of Energy have confirmed that the work to withdraw subsidies on petroleum products has been completed and a summary of increasing prices will be sent to the government tomorrow (Saturday, May 14).

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Muttahida Qoumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P0 and Jamat-e-Islami (JI) want the elections to be postponed. PTI wants the Sindh government to make amends to the Sindh local body bill before moving to elections, while Jamat-e-Islami wants rectification of old voter lists before the local body elections. Another reason for the postponement appeal is incredibly high temperatures, which will affect the election campaign. PPP and all other major parties of Sindh will discuss urging the ECP to postpone the first phase of the LG polls. The ECP had announced the detailed schedule for the first phase of LG polls in Sindh. The

LG polls will be held on June 26, 2022. If the Shehbaz Sharif-led government approved the summary of ending subsidy then it is expected that the prices of petroleum products will increase. As per the report, petrol is being subsidized at Rs21.30 and diesel at Rs51.52 at the moment and after withdrawing of it, the petrol price will increase by Rs21.30 and diesel by Rs51.52. Earlier, Finance Minister Miftah Ismail has said that the terms of the deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and fuel subsidy have caused the economic turmoil in the country. The PML-N leader said the country's economy will take off as soon as we rid ourselves of the IMF's trap. It is not easy to revive the economy from the disastrous condition the PTI left it in, Miftah said. He said that subsidising petroleum products is causing severe stress on the finances of the country. The government has to take more loans to maintain the subsidy over pe-

troleum products, he added. - DNA

ted COVID-19 infections between 3 p.m. Thursday and 3 p.m. Friday, Pang Xinghuo, deputy head of the Beijing municipal disease prevention and control center, told a press

briefing on Friday. By 3 p.m. Friday, a total of 979 infections had been reported in Beijing in the latest COVID-19 upsurge since April 22. Among all the cases, 358 were reported in Chaoyang District, 276 in Fangshan, 88 in Haidian, and the remaining cases were detected in 12 other districts across the city.

China to work with SL in restoring stability: Zhao Lijian

DNA

BEIJING: Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian Friday said that the China would continue to work with Sri Lanka in restoring political, social and economic stability at an early date.

"As a traditional, friendly country to Sri Lanka, we closely follow the latest development, and we also support Sri Lanka government's effort to sustain stability," he said in his regular briefing while reacting to the appointment of the new Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

"We hope all parties in the country will maintain solidarity, sustain stability, and overcome difficulties together," he added. The spokesperson remarked that for the debt issue, China's position has been made very clear on multiple occasions.

'We will continue to work with Sri Lanka to stay in communication, and help Sri Lanka in restoring political, social, and economic stability at an early date," he added. Five-time former Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was reappointed Thursday by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in an effort to bring stability to the island nation, engulfed in a political and economic crisis.

N. Korea reports first Covid death as fever spreads Roughly 350,000 people have shown signs of that fever, including 18,000 who newly reported such symptoms on Thursday, KCNA said. About 162,200 have been treated, but it did not specify how many had tested positive for Covid-19

Agencies

SEOUL: At least one person confirmed to have COVID-19 has died in North Korea and hundreds of thousands have shown fever symptoms, state media said on Friday, offering hints at the potentially dire scale of country's first confirmed outbreak of the pandemic. The data represents an unprecedented admission of an "explosive" outbreak in a country that had reported no previous confirmed cases since the pandemic began, and could mark a grave public health, economic and political crisis for the isolated regime. South Korea's new president, Yoon Suk-yeol, who took office this week, plans to provide COVID-19 vaccines and other medical support to North Koreans, and his government would discuss details with Pyongyang, his spokeswoman said on Friday, without elaborating. Yoon told reporters later on Friday he plans to propose holding work-

ing-level talks with North Korea via the country's unification ministry which handles inter-Korean affairs, South Korea's News1 said. Experts said that given North Korea's limited testing capabilities, the numbers released so far probably represent a small fraction of the infections, which could lead to thousands of deaths in one of only two countries in the world without a COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

About 187,800 people are being treated in isolation after a fever of unidentified origin has "explosively spread nationwide" since late April, the official KCNA news agency reported. Roughly 350,000 people have shown signs of that fever, including 18,000 who newly reported such symptoms on Thursday, KCNA said. About 162,200 have been treated, but it did not specify how many had tested positive for COVID-19. At least six people with fever symptoms have died, with one of those cases confirmed to have contracted the Omicron variant of the virus, KCNA said.

Harvard Medical School's Kee Park, who has worked on health care projects in North Korea, said the country has been testing about 1,400 people each week, which is not nearly enough to survey 350,000 people with symptoms.

"What is more worrisome is the sheer number of symptomatic people," he added. "Using a conservative case fatality rate of 1% and assuming the surge is due to an Omicron variant of COVID-19, North Korea can expect 3,500 deaths from this outbreak." North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visited the anti-virus command centre on Thursday to check the situation and responses after declaring a "gravest state of emergency" and ordering a national lockdown, KCNA said. State media has said the outbreak began in the capital, Pyongyang, in late April, without elaborating on potential causes. The city hosted several massive public events on April 15 and 25, including a military parade and large gatherings where

most people did not wear masks. Kim, who attended some of those events, "criticised that the simultaneous spread of fever with the capital area as a centre shows that there is a vulnerable point in the epidemic prevention system we have already established," KCNA said. Kim said isolating and treating people with fevers is a top priority, while calling for scientific treatment methods and tactics, and measures to supply medication. In another dispatch. KCNA said health authorities were trying to organise testing and treatment systems and bolster disinfection work. The rapid spread of the virus highlights the potential for a major crisis in a country that lacks medical resources and has refused international help with vaccinations while keeping its borders shut. Analysts said the outbreak could worsen the country's already tough food situation this year, with the lockdown hampering its "all-out fight" against drought and the mobilisation of labour.

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