

Briefs **Nasreen Jalil** to be Sindh governor

NAZIR SIYAL



🔊 n o m i n e e Nasreen Jalil as the Sindh governor to President Arif Alvi, media reported Sunday. Nasreen has served as a Senator from March 2012 to March 2018. She would be the third female governor in the history of Pakistan after Dr Shama Khalid who served as the governor of Gilgit-Baltistan from March-September 2010.and Begum Raana Liaquat Ali Khan who was the Sindh governor from 1973-1976.

Saudi king in hospital for tests

WEB DESK

JEDDAH: Saudi Arabia's King Salman Abdu bin laziz was admitted to hospital on Saturday in the Red Sea city of Jeddah to undergo medical tests, the state-run Saudi Press Agency reported on Sunday, citing a statement from the roval court. He is undergoing the tests in the King Faisal Specialist Hospital, the statement said, giving no other details. "May God preserve the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and may he enjoy health and wellness," the statement said. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took to Twitter to pray for the "early recovery and complete health" of the monarch.

'ISPR: keep Army out of politics'

The practice of unsubstantiated, defamatory and provocative statements / remarks is extremely damaging

Imran vows to bring

2m people to Capital

PTI Chairman terms PM Shehbaz

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

RAWALPINDI: The military has warned politicians, journalists and analysts against dragging Pakistan Army and its leadership in the country's political affairs, saying that the practice is "extremely damaging".

"Recently there have been intensified and deliberate attempts to drag Pakistan's Armed Forces and their leadership in ongoing political discourse in the country," the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement on Sunday.

"These attempts are manifest through direct, insinuated or nuanced references to Armed Forces as well as their senior leadership, made by some political leaders, few journalists and analysts on public forums and various communication platforms including social media."

The military's media wing further said that this practice of unsubstantiated, defamatory and provocative statements /remarks is extremely damaging. "Pakistan Armed Forces take strong exception to such unlawful and unethical practice and expect all to abide by the law and keep the Armed Forces out of political discourse in the best interest

Continued on Page 06

FIA warns expats against offensive posts

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has warned all expatriates of Pakistani origin that their names can be put on the Exit Control List if they put up "offensive and seditious" social media posts that may lead to chaos in Pakistan. 'All Pakistani origin expatriates living outside Pakistan are advised to desist from spreading chaos in Pakistan while staying abroad. Their social media posts must not be offensive and seditious," the FIA spokesperson said in a statement. The agency directed the expatriates to read the "Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act

2016 (PECA)" to make sure that their social media posts "do not constitute any offence". "If they commit any offence, Red Notices through INTERPOL can be issued against them for their arrest. Their names can be put on Exit Control List.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurates the Saleem Memorial Trust Hospital. - DNA

Thousands vote for Khalistan referendum in Italy A large number

of Sikhs were present outside the polling

stations

News Desk

MILAN: The Khalistan independence movement from India has reached Italy where the Khalistan referendum has been organized by Sikhs for Justice. Voting for the Khalistan referendum took place in the Italian city of Brescia, with thousands of Sikhs exercised their right to vote in the referendum. A large number of people belonging to the Sikh community were present outside the polling stations. Voters demanded that India liberate Khalistan and the United Nations should take notice of the atrocities against Sikhs in India. One day before the Khalistan voting, thousands of Sikhs marched to highlight the importance of Khalistan

National interest priority, says **PM** Shehbaz

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Sunday stressed that national interests should be given priority while executing the public welfare projects including hospitals to serve the masses.

He was addressing an inauguration ceremony of Saleem Memorial Trust Hospital. The six-storey, 350-bed hospital is equipped with the latest

state of the art treatment facilities. The prime

minister praised the owners of the Trust and

expressed the hope that hospital would serve

the ailing humanity with world class treatment

facilities. He said the managers of the Trust

would not only earn prayers of the patients,

but also earn blessings in the world hereafter.

prime minister expressed the confidence that

the experienced hands in the hospital would

run the facility efficiently. The prime minister said they had set up PKLI hospital in Lahore

on this model to serve the masses with latest

treatment facilities and wanted it to function

like John Hopkins health facility. Hepatitis fil-

ter centers across Punjab province were set

up under its patronage and patients from all

over the country came for treatment, he added.

Continued on Page 06

PM directs for measures after GB lake outburst

Zelenskiv says evil has returned

DNA

KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr

that



to Ukraine but that Kyiv would prevail in an emotional address as Europe marks the surrender of Nazi Germany in World War Two. "Darkness has returned to Ukraine decades after World War Two... The evil has returned," Zelenskiy said. "In a different form, under

Inside.

different slogans, but for

the same purpose.'

Media houses show concerns on FIA's petition - Page 02

Civil work of Shanghai Thar Coal to complete this year

– Page 03 IFC has new country manager for

Afghanistan, Pakistan – Page 04

Daesh-K continues to threaten Afghanistan - Page 05

Syria gains victory in int'l war: Ayatollah Khamenei - Page 06

Ukraine war puts EU 'at crossroads on anniversary – Page 07

'Cover faces': UN slams Taliban order for women - Page 08



DNA

ABBOTTABAD: With the PTI's planned long march to Islamabad approaching, former prime minister Imran Khan told the Shehbaz Sharif-led government Sunday that two million people will come to the federal capital irrespective of how many containers are put up to create hindrances.

"Our opponents say if the temperature is high, then people will not come out. Put as many containers as you want, but 2 million

Continued on Page 06

Imran to address rally in Faisalabad on May 15

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Former Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Mian Farrukh Habib has said that Chairman Imran Khan will be received on his arrival in Faisalabad. Imran Khan will address the people at Dhobi Ghat Ground on Sunday, May 15. All arrangements have been made for the preparation of the meeting. He said this while addressing a consultative meeting of officials and workers. He said that the people of Faisalabad

Continued on Page 06

NA session today

on the occasion of Besakhi.

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi, under Article 54(1) of the Constitution, has summoned the National Assembly session on the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at 4 pm on Monday. As per the details, the NA session will be held at Parliament House and Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf will preside over the session. - DNA

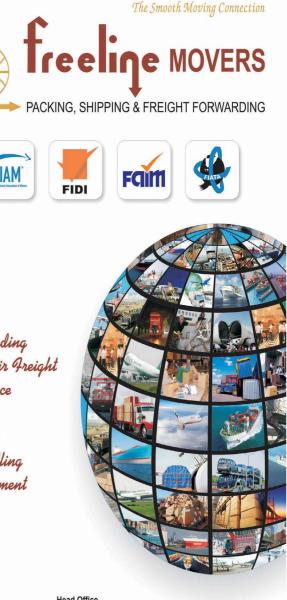
Our Services

- Packing
- Shipping
- Greight Gorwarding
- Land, Sea & Air Freight
- Custom Clearance
- Relocations
- Office Removals
- 9 Fine Art Handling
- Project Management
- Pet Relocation
- Warehousing
- Storage

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Sunday directed the authorities concerned to immediately put in place all the required emergency measures to cope with the situation arising out in the wake of glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) from the Shishper Glacier in Gilgit Baltistan. The directives were issued after damages were caused by the melting of Shishper glacier, gushing forth water in the downstream lake which inundated the surrounding areas. The prime minister directed for shifting of the affected families and their movable articles to the safe areas and the

Continued on Page 06









BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday announced that if the PTI's planned long march to Islamabad leads to bloodshed, then the government will take measures to stop it. Her comment came in response to former interior minister Sheikh Rasheed's statement when he expressed his fears that the PTI's planned long march might get "bloody" and demanded the "powerful quarters' to intervene.

Speaking during a press conference in Lahore, Aurangzeb criticised former prime minister Imran Khan and said

that nothing is bothering him more **FIA plea** than the fact that Shehbaz Sharif has about PECA a democratic process. withdrawn

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Hours after the FIA approached the Supreme Court for the restoration of section 20 in the PECA Act 2016, Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb announced that the plea has been "withdrawn immediately" as it goes against the government's policy for freedom of expression. "The prime minister and I learned a short while ago that FIA has filed a petition in Supreme Court against the Islamabad High Court judgment regarding PECA Act 2016 to seek restoration of section 20 of the Act. Please note that this petition stands withdrawn immediately, as it is squarely against the

Continued on Page 06

become the country's premier through "An incompetent, thief and corrupt prime minister was removed from power through a no-confidence mo-

Gogi corruption scandal.

tion," said Aurangzeb, adding that his

allies left him because he failed to fulfil

his promises. She further said that Im-

ran Khan, through his "independence

march", will not be able to distract the

attention of the masses from the Farah

Addressing Khan's alleged US-backed

conspiracy which, according to him,

led to his ouster from the government,

Aurangzeb asked: "What kind of atom-

ic bomb were you making that the

United States felt threatened by you

and sought to remove you from pow-

er?" "There was no conspiracy. Imran

Khan is not sad about his ouster but

he cannot tolerate Shehbaz Sharif

replacing him," she said, adding that

Shehbaz did not get a single vote from

She said that despite being in power

for almost four years, Imran Khan is

Continued on Page 06

a "turncoat" to become the premier.

$\mathbf{02}$

NATIONAL



LAHORE: President Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf Punjab Shafqat Mehmood chairing the meeting of districts presidents, secretaries. - DNA

Mothers' day function held in Faisalabad

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: On the movement of Director General Public Relations Punjab Saman Rai, a function was held at Divisional Information Office Faisalabad on the occasion of Mother's Day in which Director Information Muhammad Awais Abid highlighted the glory of mother. Liaquat Ali, Faiz Rasool, Muhammad Faisal, Muhammad Rashid, Muhammad Bilal Mustafa, Rizwana Latif, Mohammad Aslam, Zulfiqar Ali, Mohammad Hameed, Shahid Saleem, Fahad Fayyaz and others participated. Director Public Relations on this occasion, the greatness of the mother was paid tribute. DPR said that we have the honor of

great being like mother is the greatest blessing for human beings. He said that all the achievements of my life are due to the prayers of my mother. Other participants said that mother is the greatness and blessing of which there is no substitute in the world, we all want to always obey her orders while respecting the greatness of mother. They said that mother gives spring feeling in sorrow we are proud of mother. Meanwhile the function was also organized at Disitrict Information Office Toba Tek Singh, where the mother of staff



members were invited in the office and volunteers of Civil Defence paid salute to the greatest mother and flowers were thrown on them besides sat them as chief guest. Flowers were also

worn to them and mother, s day cake was also cut on this occasion. Staff members paid rich tribute to the mother and mothers of some staff member thanked the DGPR for gave honour.

PECA Act Media houses show concerns on **FIA's petition**

JAC was given personal assurances from the then leading members of the opposition that draconian law was not acceptable

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Media Joint Action Committee has shown serious concern on FIA's filing a writ petition challenging Section 20 of the infamous Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) Act 2016 before the Supreme Court against the stated policy of the present government. The committee, comprising of Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), All Pa-kistan Newspapers Society (APNS), Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), and Association of Electronic Media Editors and News Directors (AEMEND) is of the considered opinion that the petition was an attempt to once again invoke the "black law," which was put to rest by the honourable Islamabad High Court only last month.

JAC was given personal assurances from the then leading members of the opposition (Pakistan Muslim League (N) President Shahbaz Sharif, Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Mut-

'FIA withdrawing appeal against section 20 of PECA 2016 '

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) filed appeal in the Supreme Court regarding striking off a portion of section 20 of Prevention of Electric Crime Act (PECA) 2016. The FIA spokesperson said that the FIA filed the appeal without getting permission from the Ministry of Interior and the Government. "The appeal is being withdrawn immediately," the Spokesperson said. - APP

tahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and Jamaat-e-Islami Paki-stan Ameer Siraj ul Haq) that draconian law was not acceptable. While rejecting the amendments in PECA law the Federal Minister for Information Marriyam Aurangzeb had assured JAC that the government will review the original PECA Act after holding deliberations with all stakeholders. The media Joint Action committee has sought fulfilment of the assurances previously given by the coalition government. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has been asked to personally intervene and see this matter through and ask the concerned to hold discussions with

the JAC to address the gaping holes in the PECA Act 2016. The Joint Action Committee believes that any failure to do so would only lead to fingers being directed against the credibility of this government's commitment to freedom of speech.

Islamabad **POST**

Monday, May 09, 2022

The Joint Action Committee appreciated the Information Minister's statement that FIA had filed the petition without Government's knowledge and that it is being withdrawn. The JAC has also noted the statement of FIA. However, the Committee demands that a thorough investigation must be initiated to find out how FIA filed the petition without taking the relevant ministries into confidence.

Minor girl dies due to dog bite

KAMRAN GUJJAR

JHELUM: Five years old girl died due to lack of dog bite vaccine in Jhelum District Headquarters Hospital, while the doctor gave the child a Polyfax cream on the wound and gave evidence of her incompetence. According to the details, a five-year-old girl was bitten by a dog, on the last day, the child's father took the child to the emergency hospital where the doctor instructed to apply polyfax cream on

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: As many as 783 un covered manholes have been covered during last 105 days besides 129 City Council's are being made zero open manholes and 7 FIRs have registered and 2 were arrested for stolen covers. This was informed during the weekly review meeting regarding implementation on public initiatives. Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad informed that Zebra Crossing/speed breakers have been made out side 138 govt and 141 private schools. He further informed that District Education Authority has

been sensitized to educate teachers for safe road crossing to the school child and submitted report. He said that 6685 street lights have made functional and 18 bridges have repaired during the last 105 days. He informed that 1258 closed drains cleared and 140713 tons waste transferred to dumping site and 65 transports stands and public buildings were white washed. Green belts and play grounds are also being making rehabilitate.

Deputy Commissioner informed that 1686 vehicles impounded and 6.6 million fine was imposed to smoke emitted vehicles. Likewise 10.9 million fine was also imposed to overloaded more than 3954 vehicles.

FAISALABAD: Seven officials of Punjab Highway Patrol (PHP) police including an Assistant Sub Inspector were suspended on the charge of habitual absence, negligence, delinquency and abuse of powers. A spokes-man for the PHP police said on Sunday that SSP Patrolling Faisalabad Region Mirza Anjum Kamal paid a surprise visit to PHP Post Sahianwala and checked crime control situation, attendance of Jawans and their discipline. He found 6 PHP Jawans absent from duty and indulged in habitual absence, negligence and delinquency as well.

Seven PHP

officials

suspended

Therefore, he immediately suspended ASI Adeel Mustafa, constables- Sohail Mubarak, Umar Farooq, Saddam Hussain, Muharrar Ishrat Naveed and Imdad Hussain. The SSP Patrolling also suspended incharge PHP police Tahira Abad on the charge of abuse of powers while further action against him was under way. - APP

waiver on import from Afghanistan welcomed

Extension of

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR, May 8: Vice President Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi has welcomed government's decision of

extending waiver on import Afghanistan in Pak rupees t June 30. 2022 and constitution of committee for initiation of barter trade with neighbourcountry. In a press statement here on Sunday, Zia-ul-Haq di who is also Chairman of tier Custom Clearing Agents sociation has termed both the decision as very welcoming ar positive development in reg

with improvement of commerce and trade in the region benefiting thousands of people on both sides of the border. He said due to extension in waiver for trade with Afghanistan in Pak rupee has saved

facing huge financial losses. The decision was very timely and need of the hour, providing time for businessmen of both the countries to continue trade and find out a suitable solution for commerce



business community of the country from

through barter trade system.

Zia also appreciated constitution of committee by Pakistan for initiating discussion to initiate barter trade between both the countries. He said Afghanistan government had already formed the committee and now talks will initiate between both sides after deci-

> sion taken by Pakistan government. 13 member committee contuted by Pakistan for barter :ade comprises members FPCCI, PAJCCI, Sarhad Chaman Chamber, ber, Chamber, All Pakistan Fruit and Vegetable Cham-Rice Export Association, maceutical Manufacturer Association, Cement Manucturer Association, Poultry ciation, Carpet Manufacturer and Exporters Association and

Meat Export and Processing Association.

The committees of Pakistan and Afghanistan will hold online meetings and submit suggestions to their respective governments for initiation of barter trade between both the countries. Zia said there are a lot of problems in barter trade system but consultation between businessmen of both the countries will find out suitable solution to these problems and trade and business in the region will continue to flourish.

check-up, while the dog's vaccine was not even present in the district headquarters hospital.

the child's wound after the

The condition of the fiveyear-old girl deteriorated due to alleged negligence and negligence, on which the doctor referred to Rawalpindi, where the child was brought from the market to the jhelum, the condition of the child was re-deteriorated, after which the child was taken to the district headquarters hospital, after which the child was drowned again, after a little while, the five-yearold resident of Karampur died after being beaten by a dog. Parents have said that instead of vaccinating in the DHQ hospital emergency, the doctor advised polyfax, which worsened our child's condition.

2 criminals held, contraband seized

FAISALABAD: The police

on Saturday arrested 22 criminals and recovered drugs and illegal weapons from their possession in the district during the last 24 hours. According to police, raiding teams nabbed 13 drug pushers and recovered 4.6 Kg hashish and 267 liter liquor from their possession. The police also held one gambler and recovered

138 power pilferers netted

MULTAN: Multan Electric Power Company (ME-PCO) have netted 138 power pilferers during separate operations launched throughout the South Punjab in a day, MEPCO official said on Sunday.

MEPCO teams accompanying task forces raided different places in Multan, Vehari, Sahiwal, Rahimyar Khan, Muzaffargarh, Bahawalnagar, Khanewal, and Dera Ghazi Khan and detected theft of 121,000 electricity units. A sum of over Rs 3.1 million

fine was imposed while FIR was registered against eighteen of them over Involvement in tampering, – $\boldsymbol{A\!P\!P}$

FCCI chief welcomes successful visit of PM to Saudi Arabia

Over 783 manholes

covered in Faisalabad

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) Atif Munir Sheikh, has welcomed the successful visit of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to Saudi Arabia.

He hoped that both countries would take initiatives to transform their excellent, brotherly and religious relations into strategic partnership. In a statement issued here on Saturday, Atif Munir Sheikh said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are enjoying best relations for the last many decades.

He said that Saudi Arabia is now ready to make huge investments in Pakistan due to the productive visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and as a result of it, our finance

minister is now negotiating with Saudi authorities to give final touches to the proposed investment plan. He said that Saudi Arabia is contemplating to set up a major petro-chemical plant in Pakistan while some sites have already been identified where Saudi Arabia will make huge investments.

Atif Munir Sheikh also welcomed the Kuwaiti offer to invest 75 billion dollars in Pakistan and said that oil rich Gulf States could fulfil our ever-increasing needs of oil and gas due to the newly infused warmth in our bilateral relations.

He said that availability of cheap fuel for thermal units would also help Pakistan to overcome the load shedding. He hoped that strategic partnership would pave the way for the stabilization of Pakistan's economy on a sustained basis.

Sindh, South Punjab wilting without water

DNA

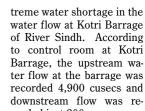
LAHORE: Sindh and South Punjab are confronting serious problem of water scarcity that is threatening crop harvesting and endangering lives of both the humans and livestock.

The water shortage is assuming alarming proportions in Sindh as agricultural economy is on the verge of annihilation. The harvest is withering away due to closure of canals.

The water scarcity has put a seriously damaging impact on the habitat conditions as people are compelled to migrate to other places due to non-availability of water. The situation is scarier in the riverine area of Sindh - district Sajawal - where crops have wilted owing to non-availability of water. It's giving nightmares to the growers whose produce is ruining. For the last three months, water has not been released to the canals in Sajawal. Not only the crops are dying but it has become difficult for humans and cattle to quench their thirst in the face of drought-like conditions in the district. Livestock has started perishing here and people have started migrating to other areas.

The Sajawal residents have appealed to Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah to immediately solve water problem in the area in order to save lives of both humans and livestock. Sindh CM Shah complained on Saturday that there was

unjust distribution of water resources between the federating units and Sindh was not getting its due share. He said he would talk to the federal minister on the issue. He, however, admitted that there was a water shortage in the entire country, and Sindh was no exception. He even suggested to growers not to sow rice crop this time round in order to preserve water. There is an ex-



corded just 200 cusecs. The Kotri Barrage is giving a spectacle of vast expanse of sand now. The South Punjab dwellers are also facing the similar problem of water scarcity. Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz took notice of the situation and directed the authorities to ensure water provision to the parched areas of the province. He vowed to help the growers saying he would not leave them alone in this time of crisis.

Islamabad **POST** Available in following cities

ISLAMABAD Qamar News Agency 03105460372

RAWALPINDI Asim News Agency 03435802610

> KARACHI Nazir Siyal 03337554016

PESHAWAR Zarbagh News Agency 03005412069

> FAISALABAD Ishfaq Mughal 03007689850

GUJRAT M. Yoosuf Bhutta 03338436820

<u>JHELUM</u> Iqrash News Agency 03005412069

KHARIAN Ijaz News Agency 03068863870

LALAMUSA Gulzar Ahmed Noshi 03359494788

SARA-I-ALMAGIR 0300 5428178

Curbing flour smuggling Centre's job not province's: KP minister

DNA

PESHAWAR: While reacting to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's statement that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government should stop the wheat and flour smuggling to Afghanistan

KP Food Minister Atif Khan has reminded the federal government that it is Centre's responsibility to end smuggling of the commodity, not the vice versa. In a video message on Sunday, KP Food Minister Atif Khan said first of all, flour was not being smuggled to

Afghanistan. And if at all the commodity is being smuggled out, then it's federal government's responsibility to curb it, he said adding that the premier should hold federal departments accountable for that. Atif Khan reminded the premier that the authorities which controlled the border and the province had enough stock of it. He denied any movement, they came under hike in the Atta price. the federal government's



control. He said earlier (in PTI stint) there was not any smuggling of the commodity. "But if the wheat and flour are being smuggled out, the federal government should

act to stop it," he added. He further demanded of Prime Minister Shehbaz to ensure the wheat transportation from Punjab after lifting an embargo on the provincial flour transportation. The provincial food minister said there was no dearth of flour

stake money. - APP



National Days and **Armed Forces Days**

MAY May 03 / Poland

National Day

May 06 / Bulgaria Armed Forces Day

May 06 / UAE Armed Forces Day May 07 / Kazakstan

Armed Forces Day

May 08 / Czech Republic National Day May 09 / European Union

National Day May 17 / Norway

Constitution Day May 21 / Hungary Armed Forced Day

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

May 24 / Eritrea National Day

May 25 / Lebanon Liberation and

Resistance Day May 25 / Argentina National Day

May 25 / Jordan

Independence Day May 28 / Azerbaijan Republic Day

May 28 / Ethiopia National Day

May 31 / Brunei Armed Forces Day



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines TurkishAirlines......8494949



Civil work of Shanghai Thar Coal to complete this year

As per Liu Chaoqun, Schedule Manager of the company, Warraich once studied at Harbin Engineering University, which is located in Harbin, the Ice City of China

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Civil works of the under-construction 1,320 MW Shanghai Electric Thar Coal Block-1 Power Generation Company (PVT) Ltd. project is planned to achieve its COD within this year. According to Gwadar Pro, once the projected is completed, the project's energy production will be enough to power four million households in Pakistan. 32-year-old Sufyan Ansar Warraich is among those who made these miracles possible. He was awarded as one of the outstanding Pakistani Staff of CPEC Projects in 2021 due to his excellent performance at work.

There is a saying 'Bridge the gap and get things done' this is story of CPEC's Pioneer

Helpline

setup to

facilitate hajj

pilgrims

ISLAMABAD, May 08 (AP-

P):Ministry of Religious

Affairs and Interfaith Har-

mony has established a

dedicated Hajj helpline for

prompt registration, guidance and resolution of the

complaints of intending pil-

According to official sources

in the ministry, the intend-

ing pilgrims would get quick

answers about their Hajj re-

lated queries by contacting 051-9216980; 051-9216981;

051-9216982; 051-9205696.

Pakistan had received a Hajj

quota of 81,132 pilgrims this

year with 40% under the

government scheme and

60% under private scheme.

The upper age limit for pil-

grims had been fixed at 65

years. Applications were be-

ing submitted via online and

grims of Hajj 2022.

32-year-old Sufyan Ansar Warraich who works as the Administrative Commissioner in Shanghai Electric Thar Coal Block-1 Pow-

er Generation Company (PVT) Ltd. He works with his teammates to take care of around 180 employees, like their living, their office, their food, their entry, their exit..." Together with his coworkers, Warraich devotes himself to the construction of Thar Coal Block-1 Power Plant, a combined coalmine and coal-powered energy generation project under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) located in Islamkot, Tharparkar District, Sindh, Pakistan.

The project cannot be built without excellent management and hardworking frontline Chinese and Pakistani staff, but it also needs bridges like Warraich to narrow the gap. Joined the company in December 2020, Warraich mainly cares about the administration, public relations and social responsibility work of the site. His life is filled with cultural differences, language differences and arrangement differences, but he loves to take on such challenges. As per Liu Chaoqun, Schedule Manager of the company, Warraich once studied at Harbin Engineering University, which is located in Harbin, the Ice City of China. This experience made Warraich know Chinese culture well and helped him take good care of both Pakistani and Chinese employees. "You can always count on Sufyan!" Liu Chaoqun said. According to the multinational corporation Shanghai Electric, it hires both Pakistani and Chinese workers. There are about 5,000 employees working at the site of Thar Coal Block-1 Power Plant, among which a large amount are Muslims. "I work on both sides - for the Chinese site and the Pakistani

side," Warraich tries his best to bridge different cultures. On top of that, Warraich is also a bridge between the company and locals living near the project site.

"Warraich once investigated the living conditions and needs of villagers around the site, and coordinated the company to carry out various CSR donations for them," recalled Jiang Zedong, Maintenance Manager of Production Preparation Department. Also, it was found that the nearby villages are qualified to provide drinking water to the site after investigation, and the villagers nearby also proposed to do so. "Through Warraich's communication, he

got this done and in this way local villagers got another source of income to support their family," Jiang Zedong said, adding that Warraich is definitely a great communicator and organizer.

Mubashar Tauqir appointed as acting PTV MD

ISLAMABAD: The govern-ment has appointed Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Additional Secretary Sayyed Mubashar Tauqir Shah as an acting Pakistan Television (PTV) managing director from April 30, 2022.

It is worth mentioning here that Tauqir Shah is also the ex-officio director of the PTV Board. Welcoming the government's initiative, the PTV union said Tauqir Shah, besides improving performance of the organization, would help run its affairs smoothly and resolve the issues of employees in a timely manner. The union also thanked Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Information and Broadcasting Minister Marrivum Aurangzeb for appointing him as acting PTV MD. – **APP**

JUI-F decides to launch mass contact campaign

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) has decided to launch a mass contact campaign for the sanctity of Masjis-e-Nabvi across the country.

According JUI-F Spokesman Muhammad Aslam Ghauri, the JUI-F was going to organize big public gatherings in Karachi and Peshawar.

The Karachi gathering would be held at the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam on Thursday, May 19 while the Peshawar one on Saturday, May 21, he added.

He said JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman would address the gatherings and central and provincial leaders. Aslam Ghauri said those who violated the sanctity of the Prophet's Mosque would be pursued on every front.

He said the JUI-F was always in the field for public interest including religious values. He said the IUI-F was the only religious political party which had to protect democracy and Islamic constitutional provisions and rites. He said the JUI-F's mission of making Pakistan an Islamic welfare state would continue. He said the struggle of IUI-F leadership and workers in sending back to pavilion an incompetent government would be remembered in golden words forever. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of France H.E. MR. Nicolas Galey hosted lunch for Daily Islamabad POST, Centreline and DNA News Agency Editor Ansar Mahmood Bhatti. Also seen in the picture are Deputy Head of Mission Mr. Yves Manville and the Head of the Press Section MS. Veronique WAGNER. - DNA

OIK mothers awaiting

Emergency

Rescue (Police)....15 Bomb Disposal.....15 Fire Services Rawalpindi/1122 & 16 Islamabad.... 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 CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

-	
CDA922	21334-43
CDA920	08301-04
Met Office92	250360-6
RDA	5555864
ТМА	5770886
Cantonment Board 9	270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank Islamabad.....0321-5744480 banks from May 1, to May 13 while the token money could be deposited from May 9, to May 13. Group based hajj balloting would

be conducted on May 15. Applicants were required to deposit token money of Rs50,000 with the application being submitted in scheduled banks designated by the ministry. As per the policy, pilgrims would be required to be fully vaccinated with a booster dose and have to undergo a PCR test at least 72 hours before the departure to make sure they were coronavirus-negative. - APP

ISLAMABAD: When International Mother's Day was observed today across the world, thousands of Kashmiri women continue to wait for the return of their sons subjected to enforced disappearance in custody by Indian troops in occu-

pied Kashmir. A report released by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service on International Mother's Day, pointed out that continued Indian ANF Punjab state terrorism had resulted in the recovers over killing of 96,025 Kashmiris including women and children from 1989 103 kg drugs to 8th May 2022. As many as 22,944 women have

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Anti Narbeen widowed by the Indian forces cotics Force (ANF) Punjab has seized 103.489 kg drugs while 11 persons including a woman were sent behind

the bars while conducting 12 counter narcotics operations across the province. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, the seized drugs comprised 34.439 kg heroin, 43.85 kg hashish and 25.2 kg opium. He informed that ANF North

also recovered 100.931 kg drugs in 12 operations, arrested 10 persons involved in drug smuggling including 3 foreigners while seized 3 vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 10.303 kg heroin, 61.562 kg hashish, 25.2 kg opium, 2.806 kg amphetamine, 0.035 kg methamphetamine (Ice) and 1.025 kg cocaine. All cases have been regis-

tered at respective ANF Police Stations under CNS Act 1997 and further investigations are under process. - APP

jailed, disappeared sons

and 11,255 raped, disgraced or molested during the period

It said, relatives including mothers, wives and daughters of illegally detained Hurriyat leaders, activists and youth have expressed serious concern over the health of their relatives languishing in different jails of India and IIOIK.

The report deplored that near two dozen women, including 62-year-old resistance leader, Aasiya Andrabi, Naheeda Nasreen Fehmeeda Sofi, Shazia Akhter and Insha Tariq were illegally facing detention in different jails, including India's infamous Tihar jail, on false charges.

The report pointed out that the troops had subjected about 8,000 Kashmiris to custodial disappearance during the period and the mothers of the majority of these disappeared people had been waiting for their return. Second Sunday of May is observed as Mother's Day since 1914 as a result of continued efforts by Anna Jarvis, daughter of Ann Reeves Jarvis, a peace activist in, West Virginia, the United States, for her mother's contributions towards the society.

It deplored that the Kashmiri mothers were bearing the brunt of Indian state terrorism as the Kashmiri women, including mothers, had taken the ultimate hit by losing their near and dear ones to Indian bullets. The report said thousands of Kashmiri mothers continue to wait for return of their sons imprisoned or subjected to enforced disappearances in Indian illegally occupied

Heat wave alert: Citizens advised to adopt measures

RAWALPINDI: The citizens in view of heat wave alert issued by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab have been advised to adopt precautionary measure during the next week. According to PDMA Punjab, the province would be in the grip of heat wave during next week. Therefore, the citizens should avoid leaving their homes unnecessarily. Special care should be taken particularly of senior citizens and children.

The citizens should consume water to keep their bodies hydrated to avoid heatstroke and cover their heads with a wet cloth while going out.

The PDMA Punjab has warned that the temperature in the province may rise by triggering a heat wave. In an advisory, the provincial authority said that high pressure is likely to grip upper atmosphere from Sunday, May 8. Due to this high-pressure day temperatures are likely to increase gradually in most parts of the country from Sunday. Day Temperature are likely to remain 07-09 degrees above normal in upper Punjab while Day Temperatures are likely to remain 06-08 degrees above normal in Central and South Punjab.

As per the PDMA advisory, the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has informed that the temperature in the province to increase gradually in most parts of the country from Sunday. It warned that the extreme weather could cause water stress to

SSC exams all set to begin from Tuesday

Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Sev-

eral Kashmiri mothers have, so far,

died in their quest to find their sons

disappeared in Indian troops' cus-

tody, it added. It lamented that the

Kashmir mothers were even not al-

lowed to mourn the deaths of their

sons martyred by Indian troops

and to bury them at places of their

choice. Meanwhile, several moth-

ers, including Haseena Begum died

whose son Syed Anwar Shah, a wall

painter by profession, went missing

on 21 July 2000, when arrested by

Mahtaba Begum, hailing from Kash-

mir's far-off village Karhama, died

while looking for her son who was

arrested during a crackdown in

1990. Her son Mohammad Yaqub

Indian troops in Srinagar.

Khan was a laborer.

RAWALPINDI: All arrangements have been finalized to start Secondary School Certificate (SSC) annual examinations 2022 which will commence in Rawalpindi division on May 10 (Tuesday).

According to spokesman of Rawalpindi Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (RBISE),

as many as 117,796 students would appear in the exams which would start in four districts of the division in accordance with the schedule announced earlier.

388 exam centers including 142 for boys and 139 for girls had also been set up besides 107 combined centers, he added. The board had made foolproof arrangements for transparent and smooth holding of SSC exams which would start on May 10. he said.

He informed that 60,868 male and 56,928 female students had been issued roll number slips to appear in the exams. The spokesperson said that special monitoring teams had been formed by the board chairman Dr Khalid Me-

'Enemies of Pakistan creating problems for CPEC'

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Saturday said the enemies of the country wanted to destabilise the country as they were creating problems in the way of successful completion of game changer project China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Pakistan would make ensure to provide complete security to the CPEC project, he said while talking to a private

news channel. He said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz last government had identified nine economic zonz but unfortunately the previous government of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-iNsaf did not paid any attention on this game changer project, adding where the PML-N had left the ML-1 project it was still there. The minister said the PTI carried negative propaganda so those governments had such type of agendas they could not make progress, adding PTI did not own the CPEC project. He said Islamabad Metro Bus project was started with worth of \$16 billion during previous government of the PML-N and it was big failure of the PTI which did not functional this project during its 4 years government tenure, adding it was the PML-N led government which functional Islamabad Metro bus during 10 days.

Replying to a question, he said Pakistan would inform to China about moving forward of the CPEC and would improve the coordination with China in this regard. – APP

hmood that would conduct surprise visits to the examseveral degrees during the next week, the standing crops, vegetables, and orchards. ination centres. APP Health experts advise against heat exhaustion Heat exhaustion is milder illness than heatstroke which is generally caused by imbalance or inadequate replacement of water and salts lost in perspiration due to thermal stress

ISLAMABAD: Health experts on Sunday advised the citizens to avoid unnecessary outdoor activities during the summer especially if they are diabetic as direct exposure to sun not only causes dehydration and heat exhaustion but also damages the skin.

"Water and salt intake should be increased during summer. Be sure to drink water frequently even if you are not feeling thirsty. Going outside during 11 am to 6 pm must be avoided if possible", Prof Dr Zafar Haider said while speaking to a private news channel. Drinking plenty of water remains the best way to stay hydrated in the summer, he said, adding, be sure to drink more water than usual and schedule regular "water breaks" during the whole day.

The elderly and those who have diabetes or heart disease may need more water to remain hydrated than others, he mentioned. While explaining the symptoms of heat exhaustion, he said that patient can feel faint or dizzy, tired and weak, decrease the blood pressure, cause muscle cramps, sweating, an intense third, a fast pulse and urinating less than usual. We should be mindful of the symptoms of heat stroke and take early precautions to avoid a situation that makes us vulnerable to one, he added. Parents should make sure children get plenty of opportunities to be cooled and are drinking liquids. In any heat exhaustion situation, public should go with water or keep themselves hydrated, he urged. Another physician Dr Seemi Iamali said that there was need to create awareness among public on key signs and symptoms of heat related disorders including heatstroke that might be life threatening in case of ignorance. Heat exhaustion is milder illness than heatstroke which is generally caused by imbalance

or inadequate replacement of water and salts lost in perspiration due to thermal stress. Dehvdration in Summer can be a serious heat-related disease and it is also a dangerous side effect of diarrhea, vomiting, and fever. Children and people over the age of 60 are particularly susceptible to dehydration, she mentioned. Dr Seemi said, take precautionary meas-

ures to avoid the harmful effects of dehydration, she said, adding, it is important for the person to be treated immediately as heat stroke can cause permanent damage or death. - APP

04

TWIN CITIES

Islamabad **POST** Monday, May 09, 2022

Briefs **PFC offers**

free skilled wood training

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) had offered free specialised training to convicts in Punjab jails to produce the best quality skilled wood workers. Talking to Inspector General of Prisons Punjab Mirza Shahid Saleem Baig on Sunday, Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq offered totally free training package and discussed its modalities and scope of enhancement of cooperation between public and private sector. He said that at present Pakistan is facing acute shortage of highly skilled wood workers so we decided in principle to meet this alarming scarcity of artisans by training the convicts on modern scientific lines to meet market driven demands

He further offered that on successful completion of proper training, all convicts after release, will be absorbed in furniture manufacturing factories with good pay packages. Dr Wagar Ch Advisor PFC present on the occasion said "PFC may also consider offering reasonable good monthly stipend to all convicts trainees to attract maximum number of participants".

Mian Kashif Ashfaq said initially 6 months short duration course will be lunched in Central Jails of Lahore,Bahawalpur, Faisalabad and Rawaplindi and PFC will provide the top class trainers. He said special lectures will also be delivered on the importance of growing more and more useful trees to offset the hovering threat of climate change and meet wood needs of the country.

Chilam Joshi Festival to start from May 13

ISLAMABAD: A four-day Chilam Joshi festival, will kick off from May 13 in Kalash Valley, the festival commemorates the arrival of summer and celebrates the

IFC has new country manager for Afghanistan, Pakistan

Sheikh, a British national, joined IFC in 2010. He has worked extensively on public-private partnerships and innovative infrastructure investments across the Middle East and North Africa

MAHNOOR ANSAR

SLAMABAD: IFC has named Zeeshan Sheikh as its new country manager for Afghanistan and Pakistan. Sheikh will aim to mobilize private sector investment across key sectors, building on IFC's global expertise and influence as a partner of choice for both public and private sector stakeholders. Sheikh, a British

national, joined IFC in 2010. He has worked extensively on public-private partnerships and innovative infrastructure investments across the Middle East and North Africa, often in frontier markets like Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq and Jordan. In 2018, he moved to Washington D.C. where he supported IFC's regional operations for Europe, Central Asia, and Latin America. Prior to joining IFC, he worked in London for several years in corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, and private equity investments.

"Zeeshan's diverse experience and expertise across different sectors and geographies will be critical in expanding IFC's work in the region," said Khawaja Aftab Ahmed, IFC Regional Director for the Middle East, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. "We are delighted to have him on board."

Sheikh steps into a region deeply affected by COVID-19 and years of geopolitical instability. Afghanistan is facing an economic and humanitarian crisis while one in five Pakistan residents live in poverty. Despite these challenges, the region also presents significant opportunities for enhancing private sector participation.

As country manager, Sheikh's priorities will be to expand IFC's engagement across key sectors, including

access to finance, climate, agriculture, export-oriented manufacturing, and infrastructure. IFC will also work closely with other World Bank Group members and external development partners to support strategic areas of policy reform.

"I am excited to have the opportunity to lead IFC's operations in this important region and work closely with our public and private sector partners towards the sustainable and inclusive development of Pakistan and Afghanistan," Sheikh said.

IFC has been an important player in Pakistan since 1956, with its committed portfolio standing at \$1.2 billion and pioneering investments in areas including renewables, private housing finance, port infrastructure, microfinance, chemicals, and agribusiness. IFC's engagement in Afghanistan has been focused on supporting the private sector through advisory services and investments in sectors with transformational impact on growth and job creation.

Sheikh graduated from the University of Leeds with an honors degree in corporate finance and accounting and is also a qualified chartered accountant from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in London.

Teachers resent over delay in their promotion

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government College teachers have expressed their displeasure over the undue delay in their promotions. According to an official source, the promotion of the Assistant Professors of Federal Government Colleges is being delayed since the meeting of the Departmental Selection Board (DSB) is not convened even after the lapse of over a year. The last meeting of DSB for F.G College teachers was held on March 5, 2021. After that two meetings were held but unfortunately the promotion cases of F.G colleges were turned down while the teachers of other setups under FDE got promotion. Talking to APP, an Assistant Professor at Islamabad Model College for Girls(Postgraduate) F-7/2 on the condition of anonymity said, "The promotion meetings for other setups are convened timely and promotions are granted to other teachers skipping the promotion cases of F.G setup which is discriminatory act. The authorities are keeping tight-lipped over this issue and no policy has been framed for promotion of Assistant Professors of F.G setup so far. The pace of promotion is already slow in F.G setup. They are least likely to be promoted and wait longer for promotion when compared to other setups under FDE. The Federal Government College Teachers (FGCTA) has taken a stern notice of the dilly-dallying attitude of the authorities towards the promotion of F.G College teachers. . – $\ensuremath{\mathbf{APP}}$

FIA initiates inquiry against Sami Ibrahim

ISLAMABAD: Federal Investigation Agen

Pindities facing acute water shortage

RAWALPINDI: The water shortage meet their demand of water supply has perturbed the residents of various areas including Mubarak Line, Munawar Colony, Dhoke Jumma, Ghakar Street Mehmoodabad at Adiala Road and its adjoining areas as no substitute arrangements were made by the Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) to meet shortage of water in the area.

The locals namely Rizwan Chatta, Zahoor, Adalat, Rab Nawaz, Ghulam Abbas, Riaz, Fayyaz, Said Rasool, Ali Nawaz, Shakeel Ahmed, Sheikh Tasleem, Muhammad Javed, Muhammad Aslam, Muhammad Akram, Wasiq Razzak and Sajjad Sadiq showed their grievances and asked the quarters concerned to

be registered against him through a FIR. He will be arrested whenever possible and prosecuted in court of law," it further said.

The Spokesperson said, "Since he (Sami) is abroad, a Red Notice will be issued against him through Interpol. His name will be placed in Exit Control List(ECL)"

The FIA advised all Pakistani origin expatriates living outside Pakistan to desist from spreading chaos in Pakistan while staying abroad. "Their social media posts must not be

offensive and seditious. They must read Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act 2016 to make sure that their social media

on priority. They said they would go for protest if they were not provided with uninterrupted water supply. One of the complainant Inam Ullah told APP that there was no pipeline in the street while the adjoining streets were getting proper water that was totally unjustified.

Another complainant said, "We have to fetch water from far flung areas to meet the daily needs. We can't afford a water tanker that is costly and unaffordable and we have to pay Rs2,000 to buy water from private water tankers," he added.

The residents of the area demanded to ensure regular supply of water during hot summer season.

The area tubewell operator said that the residents should approach and asked officials concerned to lay down the pipeline in the area, after that the issue would be resolved.

An official of WASA said that they Agency was working out proper plan to cope with the issue.

He said the WASA had already initiated to lay down water pipelines in different areas of Adiala Road including Kehkashan Colony, Munawar Colony, Dhama Syedan, Sanjoli Street, Bank Colony, Hill View Lane, Sadiq Town, Jarahi, and Janjua Town to provide pure drinking water round the clock at the cost of Rs 400 million. - APP

Govt to boost national economy, reduce poverty: Mian Javed

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader Mian Javed Latif Sunday said that PML-N government was committed to progress and development of projects across the country to boost national economy, generate employment and reduce poverty. Talking to a private news channel, he said the inflation and unemployment in the country have broken all records under the previous Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government. He said the PTI govt was responsible for the economic mess and hoped that the present set up will salvage the sinking economy. PTI has left massive current account deficit, he said, adding, they did nothing for the welfare of common people. He claimed that the country's economic performance during the PTI era had been the worst as compared to other governments. Replying to a question, he said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will remain top priority of the new government, adding, PTI instead of speeding up work on CPEC had always criticized it. "A multi-billion dollar CPEC was an economic project started in the region and it must not be politicized anymore as it is a game changer which will transform the lives of the billions of people of the region", he added. - APP

AIOU hosts third General Assembly of **CINVU**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The third General Assembly of the COMSTECH International Islamic Network on Virtual Universities (CINVU) will be hosted by Allama Iqbal Open University on May 11 and 12. President, CINVU and Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum in a statement said that this event will be attended by members of the Executive Board from Syria, Ivory Coast, Malaysia, Iran, Turkey, Tunisia and other member countries.

The focus of this event will be on evaluating the process of developing e-learning in the days of the epidemic Covid19, exploring new educational opportunities, especially in the field of skillsbased training and virtual skills-enhancement workshops, identify challenges in the field of educational empowerment, strengthen specialized committees and define new missions.

It is pertinent to mention here that the second General Assembly of CINVU was held last year at Anadolu University Turkey, in which the president proposed that the third general assembly will be held at Allama Iqbal Open University, Pakistan. Management of the AIOU

has formed various committees for the preparations of this event. AIOU is working hard to make this meeting memorable and believes that collaborations with international educational institutions will enhance the quality of education and facilities for students. The summit will pave the way for new partnerships with other international universities

Int'l Families Day to be marked on May 15

ISLAMABAD: International Day of Families will be marked on May 15 (Sunday) across the globe including Pakistan, celebrates the importance of families and the work started during the International Year of Families. International Day of Fam ilies promotes the importance of a healthy and well-balanced family. A wide range of events are organized at local, national and international levels. These include: workshops, seminars and policy meeting for public officials; exhibitions and organized discussions to raise awareness of the annual theme; educational sessions for children and young people; and the launch of campaigns for public policies to strengthen and support familv units. - APP

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. The people of Kalash adore the music and dance to the beat of drums Both men and woman share these moments of dancing together during the festivities. The Kalash are for their music and dance festivals. -APP

Calligraphy classes in full swing at PNCA

ISLAMABAD: Calligraphy classes is in full swing at Pakistan National Council of the arts (PNCA) under the supervision of instructor Shabbir Ahmad Zia.

A large number of students had been registered to present their abilities in calligraphic art or other writing instruments and contem porary ideas related to the theme ,said a press release issued here. A calligraphic student Faiza Hassan sharing her remarks about calligraphy said modern calligraphy ranged from functional inscriptions and designs to fine-art pieces. Classical calligraphy differed from type design and non-classical hand-lettering, though a calligrapher might practice both, she said. – **APP**

Lok Virsa museums open after Eid-ul-Fitr

ISLAMABAD: Two Museums administered by Lok Virsa including Pakistan National Heritage Museum and Pakistan National Monument Museum has opened after Eid-ul-Fitr. A ccording to Lok Virsa, the museums has reopened with routine summer timings 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., said a news release issued here. - APP

(FIA) has initiated inquiry against anchorperson Sami Ibrahim for transmission of anti-state videos and statements on various Social Media Platforms. Sami was involved in spreading fake news regarding state institutions and has made imputations which were glaring attempts to incite armed forces personnel to mutiny," said the FIA spokesperson in a press release issued here Sunday. The Spokesperson said he (Sami) has attempted to create chaos in Pakistan through media while staying abroad. He has the opportunity to defend himself in inquiry and if he was able to defend himself, the inquiry would be closed. "If offence is made out, case will_

posts do not constitute any offence. If they commit any offence, Red Notice through Interpol cans be issued against them for their arrest. Their name can be put on ECL.'

"They need to avoid commission of any electronic offences. Advice is only for offenders. Law abiding people should not worry," if further said. The spokesperson said, "any attempts by anyone staying anywhere in the world to create disturbance in Pakistan or to defame dignity of a natural person or to act against modesty of a natural person through fake news or fake videos are against the laws of Pakistan. Such attempts are punishable under Pakistani laws." Offenders would be prosecuted in Pakistan whenever possible, it added.- APP

Pak has potential to capture share in \$3 trn halal industry

ISLAMABAD: The strict compliance of certification can help Pakistan to take halal products exports to US \$5 to 6 billion annually and capture a sizeable share in the \$3 trillion world halal food industry. Speaking at a Round Table Conference on "How to boost halal food exports?" Meher Kashif Younis former senior Vice President Lahore Chamber said in Lahore on Sunday that Pakistan can increase manifolds food exports by formulating and implementing policies in association with the private sector. He said there is a need to increase Pakistan halal food production and exports of semi cooked meat which holds high de-

mand in China and other Far East countries. He said Europe is currently generating 80 % of global halal revenue. He said that demand for halal products had increased manifold because of the growing Muslim population worldwide. Therefore, the government should encourage exports of such products and asked the exporters to continue to explore the world market and focus on research and compliance, which is a must while doing business in the global marketplace.

He said the strict Halal compliance, quality certification, and state support could help halal export Pak products to \$5 to \$6 billion. He said the government should offer basket of incentive to boost the export of good quality halal food. He said unfortunately no Muslim country features among the top 10 halal meat exporters, although Pakistan and other Muslim countries can export meat on a large scale.

He said China, Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia and Central Asian States should be targeted instead of relying on only Arab countries for halal meat exports. He said to take advantage of such big potential markets, Pakistan urgently needs to fully mobilise all institutions working for promotion of halal food exports to achieve the desired results. - APP

Accountability courts convict 1405 from 2017 to 2021

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Chairman Justice Javed Iqbal has said that NAB has convicted 1,405 accused

persons by Accountability Courts during 2017-2021. The Operational and Prosecution Division of NAB was providing legal assistance to all regional bureaus for investigation of complaints and disposal of investigations in accordance with the law.

He said the NAB was using all its resources to conclude mega-corruption cases like money laundering, misuse of power, disproportionate assets, massive fraud from the public, fake and illegal housing societies and Mudaraba. NAB's some 1,237 cases of corruption worth Rs. 1335 billion were still under trial in various ac-

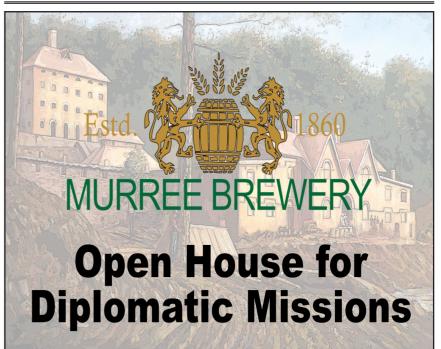
countability for All". He said NAB has set up the Pakistan Training and Research Academy, which focuses on providing modern and up-to-date training 93 mega-corruption cases are pending in the relevant investigative officers to



accountability courts.The in money laundering and NAB was the UN's focal white collar crime cases. body under the UNCAC. An anti-money laundering which was committed to cell has also been set up eradicating the scourge of at the NAB headquarters. corruption in order to make implementation, Liaison, monitoring and analysis Pakistan corruption free, following the policy of "Acwith the National Financial

Action Task Force (FATF) Secretariat and relevant stakeholders were the main responsibilities of this cell. NAB has introduced a Combine Investigation Team (CIT) system in order to benefit from the experienced and collective wisdom of senior supervisory officers and to improve inquiries and investigations on the basis of solid evidence and documentary evidence. NAB has also set up Witness Handling Cells in all regional bureaus. As a result of this move, the NAB was pursuing its cases in the courts on the basis of solid documentary evidence. He said that NAB has set up a state-of-the-art forensic science laboratory with digital forensics, questionnaires and fingerprint analysis facilities. NAB has devised a comprehensive quantified grading system to improve

its performance.



Murree Brewery Company Limited located in Rawalpindi is an icon reflecting the past and the present history of the subcontinent.

Murree Brewery Company is pleased to invite friends from diplomatic missions to visit us and share the experience of our efforts towards keeping it afloat for over 160 years of operation.

We cordially invite diplomatic missions to visit us on any Saturday from 10 am to 1:30 pm to enjoy our hospitality and our products tasting. However, since, we are located in the Red Zone / Prohibited area and it will be mandatory to obtain No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs well in advance of the intended visit date. We look forward to welcoming you all soon.

For further information please contact the following. Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman Mobile: 0300 8553342

countability courts. Out of the mega-corruption cases, 66 such cases have been brought to a logical conclusion while

Early elections

HE senior PML N leader and former Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, in a TV interview yesterday disclosed that PML N supremo Mian Nawaz Sharif was in favour of early elections, maybe in October this year. He further said that it was a party decision that the interim set up will not last for long. He however did not responded to questions regarding incumbent Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif statement that his government will complete the rest of the tenure.

The former Prime Minister and head of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Imran Khan has announced to spearhead a long march towards Islamabad most probably in the last week of the month. The political parties, by and large, do not choose the month of May for long marches and rallies because of scorching heat that restricts public mobility. However, the PTI had to do it now for it cannot afford to delay its movement anymore. There is no doubt that PTI, after the unfolding of the so-called 'lettergate' issue, has sought to improve and strengthen its popularity, which at one point seemed to have touched the lowest ebb. It was just a month ago that even the die-hard PTI workers had resolutely announced not to vote for Imran Khan keeping in view the three years and seven months performance of the PTI government. The youth; women voters and supporters especially seemed greatly disturbed with the PTI performance. Price hike; free ride of the dollar; lawlessness and so on and so forth were the key issues that had made all and sundry disappointed. In the light of the above, if the PTI government would complete its five year term, its defeat in the elections would have become certain. But then surfaced the Lettergate issue and things dramatically turned into PTI's favour.

Another important development that presumably has forced PTI to have an early long march relates to a possible smear campaign being launched against the PTI chairman by making public some videos that may contain indecent materials. The purpose of the campaign, as claimed by the PTI leadership, is to disparage the respect and credibility of the party chairman in the eyes of his voters and supporters and even the general

Islamahada

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

Member APNS / ABC Certified Vol: 02 Issue: 305 Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960 Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



public. This reported campaign may be launched before the long march in order to make sure that people do not take part in this drill. Only time will tell to what extent the anti-Imran Khan forces are able to cause a potential dent to the credibility of the ex Prime Minister, one thing is for sure the PTI chairman has successfully sold his narrative of foreign intervention or conspiracy that led to removal of his government. The PTI leadership is quite hopeful about the success of its venture and announcement of the date for the next elections as a result of it. According to its plans, elections in September or October would greatly help the PTI to return to power with an even bigger majority. The government on the other hand has its own plans. It wants to complete the remaining term come what may. There is a consensus that the government can counter long march plans only through its good governance and resolution of problems faced by the common people. It needs not to repeat the mistakes of the PTI government. It needs to immediately bottle the inflation monster if it really wants to make its rule sustainable. While the dollar still remains out of control, the wheat and water shortages across the country have started taking a heavy toll on the government. The PTI leadership has to work on all fronts including improvement of its relations with the international community, in order for its long march to meet with success. Imran Khan also has to keep in mind that if his theory of foreign intervention is true, then forces responsible for his removal would never like him to return to power any time soon. The PTI leadership has to admit the reality that it is simply not possible to survive in isolation. And particularly when Pakistan's economic and defense related needs are directly linked to brotherly and friendly countries.

There is a wider consensus that the early elections are the only way to deal with the emerging challenges. PML N top leadership sans the incumbent prime minister does want early elections because it believes the longer it remains in power the greater the risks of incumbency factor that may cause a dent to its popularity in the elections knowing it very well that it is simply next to impossible to set the house in order in a year or so. The parties such as PPP and JUI F would certainly like to stay in power till the end because in normal circumstances and through elections it was not possible for them to get so many ministerial slots.

As the West looks to Ukraine, Daesh-K continues to threaten Afghanistan

Giorgio Cafiero

The West's Afghanistan policy: This brings us to the point that Washington's financial warfare against post-US Afghanistan is set to boost Daesh-K's ability to grow

NHE dangers posed by the terror group should be worrying for countries in Afghanistan's neighbourhood and beyond. Since the Taliban took over control of virtually all of Afghanistan last year, it has failed to curtail terrorism waged by Daesh Khorasan Province (Daesh-K, ISK, or ISKP), which has increased its attacks in recent weeks. Founded in 2015 as an offshoot of Daesh, Daesh-K continues spilling blood in Afghanistan. Last month, the terror group was particularly gruesome with its deadly attacks in Mazar-e Sharif, Kunduz, and Kabul, killing at least 100 people The Taliban's difficulties establishing a stable order in post-occupation Afghanistan stem from various factors, including Daesh-K's terrorism. The extremist group is working to undermine the Taliban's narrative about bringing peace to Afghanistan following the withdrawal of US/NATO forces. By the same token, the Taliban's Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) will probably find itself benefiting from the Daesh-K threat in certain ways too.

al powers sharing the Taliban's determination to prevent Daesh-K from successfully pursuing its local and global agenda will not guarantee formal recognition of the IEA as a "legitimate" government any time soon. For that to occur, the Taliban would need to make major changes to its governance that demonstrate a true commitment to ruling the country in more inclusive and tolerant ways. Local and regional capacity: In contrast to Daesh franchises in the Levant and Libya, it is unlikely that Daesh-K will manage to establish a de facto state on Afghan soil. Isaia Galace, a global Security Analyst at RANE, explained in an interview with TRT World that "since the Taliban takeover, ISKP has not demonstrated the capability or near-term intent to durably hold territory in Afghanistan and establish local governance structures, which would be necessary for the group to claim the establishment of a so-called 'caliphate." Anatol Lieven, a Senior Research Fellow at the Quincy Institute and a former British correspondent in Afghanistan, explained that the range of local and regional actors aligned against the group would also limit

The stabbings at the revered Imam Reza shrine in Mashhad last month by an Uzbek national who entered Iran illegally via Pakistan contribute to Tehran's growing fears of such hardline groups like Daesh-K that target Shia Muslims in countries bordering Iran. Given that Khorasan refers to territory in parts of Iran, it is only natural for Tehran to view Daesh-K as a direct national security threat. Neighbouring countries also have concerns about potential refugee flows stemming from increasing instability in Afghanistan brought about by the terror group, as well as recruitment efforts that could lead to growing radicalisation among their own marginalised citizens. Yet the dangers posed by Daesh-K should be worrying for countries beyond Afghanistan's neighbourhood. The West should also be concerned about the extremist group's international agenda. If chaotic conditions on the ground permit Daesh-K to gain greater influence and members, it is not difficult to imagine the organisation plotting attacks against the West from Afghanistan.

The West's Afghanistan policy: This brings us to

Debating the debate over the Russian war in Ukraine

Marwan Bishara

It is on this particular point that Putin finds a strategic ally in China's strongman, Xi Jinping, who has also been unhappy with constant US prodding and interference in Chinese as well as wider...

NNHE war in Ukraine, like all wars, was born of sin - a terrible sin that has so far led to the death of thousands, the destruction of entire cities and the displacement of millions, with untold ramifications for global security. But whose sin was it? It was certainly not Ukraine's. The insistence of its inexperienced president on NATO membership may have been unwise, but it was no crime. It must have been Russia's, obviously. Or was it - albeit not so obvious – America's sin? Washington and its pundits regard Putin's Kremlin as the source of all evil. They accuse the Russian president of harbouring authoritarian and imperial ambitions reminiscent of those seen in 19th century imperial Russia, and waging a bloody war to dismember or annex large parts of a sovereign state, Ukraine. They claim in the process he is destabi-

lising Europe and chang-

Quite the feat. Moscow

and its pundits, on the

other hand, see Washing-

ton as the source of all

international malevolence,

interfering in Ukraine pol-

itics and using Kyiv to un-

dermine Russia's security.

They claim the expansion

of NATO right up to its

borders left Moscow with

no choice but to intervene

to defend its vital interests

and protect Russian nation-

als against Western sup-

ported "Ukrainian Nazis".

Quite the stretch. So, who

is right and who is wrong

here? The answer lies in

an old parable about a man

who goes to the village el-

der to complain about his

neighbour. "You are right,"

says the elder. And when

the neighbour comes to

make similar complaint,

the elder declares that he

is "right, too". But "how

could both be right?"

protests the elder's son,

'when only one can be!"

"You are right too, my

son," proclaims the elder.

Though not an elder, I

also reckon both sides

may be right, as I too

hope to be. Russia has in-

deed invaded under false

pretences. If it had any

real grievances against

ing the world order.

Kyiv or Washington, Moscow could have taken the UN or the international legal route. It had the clout to do so effectively. Instead, it chose war a crude and antiquated

Growing regional and international perceptions of Daesh-K as a grave threat can help the Taliban convince more foreign countries that they have no choice but to engage Afghanistan's only de facto government for counter-terrorism purposes.

In the case of Russia, this has already become somewhat of a reality. Moscow's recent decision to establish diplomatic relations with the IEA largely stemmed from concerns about Daesh-K. Likewise, Iran is avoiding hostilities in its relationship with the IEA despite its concerns. However, regional and glob-

its ability to rule in the country.

"China would certainly give help, though not military intervention, to the Taliban to prevent this happening, perhaps via Pakistan," he added.

But even without creating a "caliphate" on Afghan soil, Daesh-K can be expected to remain a persistent threat to IAE's rule by exploiting a sense of alienation on the part of Afghan Salafists, which has increased because of the Taliban's campaign to crush the terror group. The Taliban's decision to engage China, Iran, Russia, and other foreign powers that Daesh-K considers enemies will also advance the group's narratives about the IAE being insufficiently Islamic as defined by these extremists. It is difficult to imagine states bordering Afghanistan not becoming increasingly worried about Daesh-K's activities in the future. "It is only a matter of time that Daesh-K gets emboldened enough to expand its target areas and reach Afghanistan's larger neighbourhood," Rabia Akhtar, a non-resident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's South Asia Centre, told TRT World.

Although denied by the Uzbek government, Daesh-K recently claimed that it carried out a cross-border attack against an Uzbek military base. The group has also been responsible for attacks against Pakistan, including a mosque bombing in Peshawar.

the point that Washington's financial warfare against post-US Afghanistan is set to boost Daesh-K's ability to grow. "The poorer and more desperate ordinary Afghans become, the better for ISK," according to Lieven. "That is why present US policy towards Afghanistan is extremely counter-productive.'

It would behave officials in the US to realise how such stringent sanctions and the seizure of Afghanistan's sovereign wealth are strangling Afghanistan and worsening its already grave humanitarian disasters.

On April 25, UN experts called on Washington to "take into serious consideration the growing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and to re-assess its decision to block the Da Afghanistan Bank's foreign assets...and to decisively contribute to the international efforts in addressing the growing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan." The further exacerbation of these horrifying conditions will provide extremists like Daesh-K much fertile ground as they seek to overthrow the Taliban and pursue their global Daesh agenda.

To deny Daesh-K further opportunity to grow in Afghanistan, the US would be wise to revisit its sanctions policy towards Afghanistan. But now, as Washington and European capitals have all their eyes on Ukraine, post-troop withdrawal Afghanistan is off.

- Courtesy: TRT World

conventional war. The Kremlin knows all too well that a good deal of the trouble in Ukraine is of its own doing. It helped trigger this episode by annexing Crimea, and encouraging secession in the eastern provinces to destabilise the country after Kyiv turned westward in early 2014. The Russian leader has made clear on a number of occasions that Ukraine holds a particularly special place in Russia's heart, and that he was not going to let go of it. The real reason hides in plain sight: they are addressing the public, not the generals or even the decision makers; normalising the US support for the war and molding the public opinion in its stead. That is a self-inflicted crime against journalism that undermines public trust

in liberal democracy. Likewise, when President Biden calls Putin a war criminal and that he has to go, media pundits outdo him by calling Putin evil - pure evil - and urge the white House not to walk back Biden's comment on regime change, insisting that the slip is a

necessary slap down. None of this is to say that media pundits should not advocate for the principle of resistance, liberation and justice. They must. Or, that journalists have not excelled in their coverage of the war tragedies. More than a few have. When it comes to war, the media is indispensable to shine a light, not turn on the heat; provide more fact, less hype; offer analysis of the war, not battlefield strategies; and, yes, promote peace, not incite violence. Weaponising the media is more fitting of an authoritarian regime than it is for a democracy. It weakens the chances for diplomacy and makes it ever harder to reach or accept а peaceful settlement when the time comes, as it must. For the sake of all Ukrainians. For all our sakes.

- Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Time for West to end its double standards

Chris Doyle

The International Criminal Court has rightly started an investigation into potential Russian war crimes in Ukraine with additional funding from major powers. But when the ICC dared to consider starting an investigation into the possible crimes...

NE of the great challenges in addressing European and American politicians is to open their eyes to the blatant double standards in their contrasting handling of Ukraine and other crises, such as Palestine. What is as clear as the sun in the sky to those in the developing world seems to be alien to the worldview of so many in Washington, London, Berlin and Paris.

This is why Prince Turki Al-Faisal was spot on to chastise the hypocrisy of the West. Across the world, right-thinking people agree that the Russian invasion of Ukraine is a blatant aggression on a peaceful neighbor, a violation of international law and something that needs to be opposed.

But what so many Western politicians fail to comprehend is that, in the rubble of Mariupol, Palestinians see Gaza, Syrians see Aleppo, Ragga and Homs, and Iraqis see Mosul. Palestinians in Gaza still navigate the rubble from not just one but at least five major Israeli bombardments of their open-air prison this century. When Arabs see Ukrainian refugees crossing into Poland, they think of Syrians fleeing into Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. Palestinians think of their Nakba, or catastrophe, 74 years ago, when 70 percent of their people became refugees. They shudder at the overt racism on display when various members of the European commentariat welcome Ukrainians because they are "like us" - blond-haired and blue-eyed, watch Netflix and have Instagram accounts.

Yet, perhaps most jarring of all is what Prince Turki focused on: The speed and toughness of the sanctions imposed on Russia, strengthened every other day, contrasted with the complete lack of accountability that Israel benefits from vis-a-vis its oppression of Palestinians. This was clear even before the latest Russian invasion of Ukraine; after all, it took just a few days for the EU to impose sanctions on Moscow back in 2014 for its invasion and annexation of Crimea.

Any talk of sanctions on Israel is not only not entertained but, in many cases, almost criminalized. Israel has occupied the West Bank including East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights for close to 55 years. Just as Russia has been accused of the war crime of transferring citizens into occupied Crimea, Israel has transferred more than 650,000 of its citizens into occupied territory. Russia and Israel have apparently transferred Ukrainians and Palestinians, respectively, out of occupied territory, also a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. And Israel has bombed civilian targets in Gaza, frequently using many of the lame excuses we now find trotted out in official Russian propaganda.

The International Criminal Court has rightly started an investigation into potential Russian war crimes in Ukraine with additional funding from major powers. But when the ICC dared to consider starting an investigation into the possible crimes committed in Palestine by any party - in other words both Israeli and Palestinian groups - the Trump administration sanctioned not Israel but ICC officials.

Quite naturally, no Western power is selling arms to Russia. Rightly so. Yet practically every Western

power has a thriving arms trade in both directions with Israel. The US provides billions of dollars of military aid every year.

Major international companies have, within weeks, packed up their businesses in Russia. Woe betide any company that considers doing so regarding Israel. Ben & Jerry's, the ice cream company, last year took a principled decision to stop selling its products in illegal Israeli settlements. The outcry was heard around the globe.

Why should Israel continue to exercise a get out of jail free card? Anger could be assuaged with some modicum of effort to hold Israel to account, even if it fell far short of the draconian measures implemented against Russia. The international consensus is, for example, that Israeli settlements are illegal. EU statements say this routinely. Why then does the EU continue to trade with settlements? This is trade in the proceeds of crime. At best, governments have issued guidelines to ensure the labeling of such products. Israeli leaders are laughing.

One would love to think that Israel will alter its behavior and end its occupation and systemic discrimination against Palestinians without sanctions and legal measures. One hopes that, one day, Israeli leaders will realize that true peace and security can only be achieved by ending these. The evidence thus far is that this is not happening, no more than the Russian leadership has comprehended the folly of its Ukrainian gamble.

Post-Ukraine, the international order needs to be revitalized. It is outdated, unfit for the 21st century. One thing in particular must change: The era of one rule for some and another rule for the rest has to end. Principles have to be applied evenly and fairly. The West and its friends such as Israel have to submit themselves to exactly the same rules as everyone else. As we all long to see the end of the Russian aggression and occupation of Ukraine, we must also push for and demand the end of the Israeli occupation and aggression against Palestine.

- Courtesy: Arab News

06

WORLD / SPORTS

Briefs

Keep Army out of politics; ISPR warns

FROM PAGE 01

of the country," it added. The statement comes amid the heightened political activity in the country triggered by the ouster of PTIled government through a vote of no-confidence last month with both former PM Imran Khan and ruling PML-N kicking off mass public campaigns.

Punjab Governor Omar Sarfraz Cheema has also refused to endorse election of Punjab chief minister and sought military's intervention to resolve the 'constitutional crisis' in the province. "If army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa can provide me just one subedar and four soldiers, I will arrest this 'unconstitutional, illegal and fake' chief minister [Hamza Shehbaz] and send him to jail," he said in a statement. Similarly, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) also detained those allegedly involved in running smear campaigns on social media to defame the military and its top leadership after Imran Khan lost no-trust vote and PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif became the prime minister.

PM directs for measures after GB lake outburst

FROM PAGE 01

supply of edible, medicines and other emergency equipment to the affected area, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. Expressing his deep grief and sorrow over the losses, the prime minister said that all possible steps would be taken for the rehabilitation of the affected residents. He also summoned a re-

port over the incident and directed for full assistance to the government of Gilgit Baltistan. A directive was also issued for the provision of substitute access to the Hasan Abad bridge. The prime minister directed for making of estimate regarding disruption of agriculture and potable water system in the area besides, two powerhouses which had also been affected. He directed for immediate restoration of 700MW and 250MW powerhouses on war footing and said that its expenditures would be borne away by the federal government.



LAHORE: CPNE delegation in a meeting with Prime Minister. - DNA

Syria gains victory in int'l war: Ayatollah Khamenei

Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamenei received and held talks with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Tehran, Iran, on Sunday evening

News Desk

TEHRAN: Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei told the Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Tehran that Syria gained more credibility after the victory in an international war on that country. Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei received and held talks with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Tehran, Iran, on Sunday evening.

Referring to Syria's great successes in the political and military arenas, Ayatollah Khamenei said that Syria today is not like Syria before the war, although there were no destructions then, Syria's credibility and prestige are much higher now as compared to the past, and everyone looks up to this country as a power. Ayatollah Khamenei further noted that while nations in some states in the region condemn their rulers for normalizing relations with the Zionist regime, the people of these states poured into the streets in large numbers on International Al-Quds Day and chanted anti-Zionist slogans, which shows the reality of the region today.



Pointing to the several factors that influenced the resistance and victory of Syria in the international war, Avatollah Khamenei described President al-Assad as a deter-

mined ruler wishing more success for him in the reconstruction of Syria in the postwar era with God Al-Mighty's help. Avatollah Khamenei further recalled Martyr

Qassem Soleimani, saying that Lieutenant General Soleimani paid special attention to Syria and its war on terrorists similar to the sacrifices he made during the Iraqi-imposed war against Iran by Iraq's Baath regime. Ayatollah Khamenei stressed that the relations between the two nations of Iran and Syria need to be further expanded.

Referring to the claims on the friendship of some states that have been against Syria over past years, he added that the future must be clarified from the past experiences. Ponting to the special attention of the Iranian president and his administration to Syria, Ayatollah Khamenei called on the Syrian government to seize the opportunity to enhance the mutual ties between the two states. The Syrian president, for his part, lauded the Iranian resistance over the past four decades and expressed his appreciation to the people and government of Iran due to their support for Syria.

He also recalled the sacrifices that martyr Soleimani made for Syria. Bashar al-Assad noted that Iran's firm stances over past four decades on regional issues, especially the issue of Palestine, showed every nation in the region that the path showed by Iran is a right and principled one.

imran vows to bring 2m people to Capital

Islamabad **POST**

Monday, May 09, 2022

FROM PAGE 01

people will come to Islamabad," the PTI chairman said while addressing a public gathering in Abbottabad. The former prime minister told his supporters that the incumbent government "fears" their passion and added that 11 parties had gathered to remove him from power. The PTI chairman claimed that when he and his supporters will come to Islamabad, the federal capital will fill up with the chants of "imported hukomat na manzoor" (imported government unacceptable) and "we want real freedom".

Continuing his claim that the United States conspired to remove him from power, Imran Khan said that the incumbent leaders were involved in the process.

"The Pakistani nation will not accept these leaders,' the PTI chairman claimed.

The former prime minister went on to say that he was "never ready to be part of the war on terror with the US and neither was he willing to give air bases to Washington."

"Americans wanted a leader like Pervez Musharraf who would have obeyed them upon receiving a single call," Khan claimed.

Turning his guns towards PM Shehbaz Sharif, the PTI chairman claimed that he was a "beggar, servant, and a thief".

"The lies that Sharif family have told, I have not seen anyone spread such lies ever before," claimed the PTI chairman.

He added that when the imported government came to power, the prices of all goods increased.

Khan also requested the media to go to shops and ask about the prices of ghee like they used to do when he was in power.

The former premier said that the value of the US dollar against the Pakistani rupee increases when stolen money is sent abroad, adding that ever since the new government assumed power, the rupee's value has been decreasing.

Imran to

Govt warns PTI against bloodshed in long march

FROM PAGE 01

still hurling accusations against his opponents. Shedding light on Imran Khan's foreign policy and the decision of his government to allow the International Monetary Fund to sway over the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) by giving it autonomy, the information minister said that it was PM Shehbaz Sharif who broke the country free of shackles and approached friendly countries for the sake of Pakistan's development.

National interest...

FROM PAGE 01

PML-N government was changed and what happened during the last four years was a painful story, he said, adding that the national wealth belonged to the people. The prime minister referring to the economic constraints said that the government was hardly meeting its expenses. He said 1122 was an initiative of Pervaiz Elhai but he had expanded it throughout the province. The prime minister urged the philanthropists to come forward and execute such public welfare projects across the country. Earlier, Chairman Trust Shehzad Saleem gave an overview of the project. The prime minister visited different sections of the hospital and was briefed about the provision of treatment facilities including oncology, cardiology and OPD.

Alcaraz says he is ready for the big league

SPORTS DESK

MADRID: Carlos Alcaraz is no longer allowing nerves to get the better of him and said that he is ready to regularly go toe-to-toe with the top players after the Spaniard rallied past world number one Novak Djokovic to reach the Madrid Open final on Saturday.

The 19-year-old prevailed 6-7(5) 7-5 7-6(5) over the Serbian in an absorbing contest that lasted more than three hours, becoming the first player to beat Djokovic and Rafa Nadal at the same claycourt event,

read more Alcaraz was into the top 10

120 in the world year ago but has

on the back of three titles this season. Asked what was different about his game now, Alcaraz said: "I would say that I am more mature to manage the tough moments, the nerves, everything. I mean, to manage everything on court. Well, I think I am able to play long rallies." In a see-saw clash that could have gone either way, Alcaraz used his aggression to great effect as he smashed a series of winners past Djokovic in the tie-break to take the match and set up a meeting with Alexander Zverev on Sunday. "As I have always said, you have to try to go for the match. In those decisive moments is when you see the good players and the top players, I want to make a difference on that," added Alcaraz, who will move up to sixth when the new rankings are released on Monday

Ex-security chief John Lee becomes Hong Kong's leader

FOREIGN DESK

HONG KONG: A former security chief who oversaw the crackdown on Hong Kong's democracy movement was anointed the business hub's new leader by a small committee of Beijing loyalists. John Lee, 64, was the only candidate in a Beijing-backed onehorse race to succeed outgoing leader Carrie Lam. His elevation places a security official in the top job for the first time after a tumultuous few years for a city battered by political unrest and debilitating pandemic controls.

Despite the city's mini-constitution promising universal suffrage, Hong Kong has never been a democracy, the source of years of public frustration and protests since the 1997 handover to China. Its leader is instead chosen by an "election committee" currently comprised of 1,461 people - roughly 0.02 percent of the city's population. After a brief secret ballot on Sunday,

ranked

ed

just

clim



1,416 members voted for Lee while eight voted against according to officials. The rest did not cast ballots.

"I declare that the only candidate Mr John Lee Ka-chiu is returned in the above mentioned election, congratulations," returning officer Justice Keith Yeung Kar-hung, announced.

Protests have been largely outlawed in Hong Kong, with authorities using an anti-coronavirus ban on public gatherings of more than four people as well

PBF holds General Council meeting

as a new national security law. Police ringed the exhibition centre with security, and 6,000 to 7,000 officers had been placed on standby, according to local media. The League of Social Democrats - one of the only remaining pro-democracy groups - held a three-person protest before polls opened, chanting "Power to the people, universal suffrage now". 'This is what John Lee's new chapter

looks like, a shrinking of our civil liberties," said protester Vanessa Chan as dozens of police officers looked on. "We know this action will have no effect, but we don't want Hong Kong to be completely silent," she added.

Under President Xi Jinping, China is remoulding Hong Kong in its own authoritarian image after huge and sometimes violent democracy protests three years ago. Beijing deployed a sweeping security law to stamp out dissent and rolled out a new "patriots only" political system for Hong Kong to guarantee anyone standing for office is considered suitably loyal.

enter into more ventures with D.H.A Lahore for organisa-

tion of Boxing events commending the support rendered

by them. The Council members congratulated Zohaib Rash-

eed for securing Bronze Medal at ASBC Asian U22 Boxing

Championships held at Tashkent, Uzbekistan. "The meeting

approved future programs of Boxing and PBF at national and

international levels. The meeting decided that holding of com-

petition(s) allocated to member units of PBF is mandatory,

noncompliance of which will deprive the concerned unit with

certain rights including the right of vote. - APP

address rally in Faisalabad on May 15

FROM PAGE 01

have always played a historic role and this time too they would force millions of people to attend the meeting of Chairman Imran Khan and force the imported rulers to flee.

He said that the ocean of people making fun of Mianwali rally has made it clear that whenever Chairman Imran Khan calls, the nation will come out for Islamabad. He said that Imran Khan sacrificed his power but he Has proved to be a bold, self-reliant leader by rejecting foreign pressure on national independence and security.

He said that those who have offered Eid prayers in security forces and closed rooms will come out tomorrow to serve the people. He said that the imported rulers coming through the back door are afraid to face the people and whenever they come out of any siege, they face public reaction.

FIA plea about PECA withdrawn

FROM PAGE 01

Bivol stuns Alvarez to retain WBC title

LAHORE: The General Council of Pakistan Boxing Feder-

ation, which met here on Sunday, discussed in detail the

registration mechanism of pugilists and officials of boxing

as well as adopted procedures to certify clubs at basic tiers.

The Council considered various options to streamline affairs

of boxers, said a spokesman of the PBF after the meeting.

"The Council approved the Activity Report of the Federation

and in particular lauded the befitting conduct of the National

Boxing Championship in collaboration with D.H.A Lahore,"

he said. He said the meeting authorised President PBF to

AGENCIES

LAS VEGAS: Unbeaten Dmitry Bivol retained his WBA light-heavyweight world title with a unanimous points decision over Saul "Canelo" Alvarez on Saturday, handing the Mexican superstar just the second defeat of his career. Russia's Bivol, 31, improved to 20-0 with 11 knockouts while multiweight champion Alvarez, the pound-for-pound king who went in a heavy favourite, fell to 57-2 with two draws.

weather at light middleweight in 2013. Alvarez made boxing history in November

when he stopped Caleb Plant to become the first man to unite all four super middleweight world title belts.

stopping Sergey Kovalev in the 11th round to win the WBO 175-pound title in November 2019. But there would be no late heroics against Bivol, who pressured Alvarez relentlessly throughout the bout and never appeared to be hurt seriously by the Mexi-



can, who struggled to get past Bivol's guard. "He hurt my arm," Bivol said, displaying a bruised upper arm that absorbed a string

of punches. "I felt his power, you can see on my arm. He beat my arm up - but not my head." All three judges - Tim Cheatham, Dave

Moretti and Steve Weisfeld - scored the bout 115-113 for Bivol. "I prove myself today, I'm the best (in my division)," Bivol said.

"Thank you, Eddie Hearn," he added in a nod to the promoter, "sorry I broke your plans with Gennadiy Golovkin." That was a reference to the planned third fight between Alvarez and Golovkin, which had been tentatively planned for September. It was a massive disappointment for the pro-Alvarez crowd at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, who were pulling for a Mexican victory on the Cinco de Mayo holiday weekend.

While Alvarez was feted with Mexican flags and Mariachi music, the Russian national anthem wasn't played and Russian flags were banned inside the arena because of the country's invasion of Ukraine.

Bivol said the crowd's partisan cheers whenever Alvarez seemed to be gaining ground "gave me more energy." Alvarez landed a big uppercut to Bivol's chin to end the fourth round. But his aggressive start to the fifth vielded little as Bivol turned the tables with a big flurry in the middle of the round and closed with a punishing left hand.

government's stated policy and principle of standing for and ensuring freedom of expression," tweeted the information minister. Aurangzeb said that PM Shehbaz Sharif has "taken strict notice of the filing" of the petition. She shared that the news of the petition had reached to them a "little late" as they were in Bisham for the public gathering "during the day where there were no signals". A spokesperson of the FIA also confirmed that the appeal has been "withdrawn immediately".

The Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), which was made part of the petition welcomed PM Shehbaz Sharif's order for withdrawing FIA's petition.

The journalists' body said that it has been appealing for an "urgent meeting" of the Joint Action Committee to review the PECA act.

His only other defeat was to Floyd May-

He had fought at light-heavyweight before,

N7

BUSINESS / WORLD

Briefs

Turkish president to visit Azerbaijan

BAKU: The Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will visit Azerbaijan, the

Turkish media report. Recep Tayyip Erdogan will take part in TEKNOFEST International Aviation, Space and Technology Festival to be held on May 26-29.TE-KNOFEST in Baku is organized by the Azerbaijan Ministry of Digital Development and Transport. At the same time, the TEKNOFEST production office operates in Baku. The full staff of the office consists of Azerbaijani specialists. The event has been held annually since 2018, with the joint organization of the Turkish Technology Team Foundation, which is managed by the Turkish Ministry of Industry and Technology and the technical director of Baykar Makina, in partnership with more than 60 Turkish state institutions, universities, and private companies. The goal is to popularize such areas as aviation, space industry, and digital economy, to encourage entrepreneurship in these areas, to identify the knowledge and skills of young engineers through competitions organized within the framework of the festival, as well as to present national technologies to the general public. - APP

Uzbek-Kyrgyz FMs discussed bilateral ties

TASHKENT: Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan Vladimir Norov held a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan Jeenbek Kulubaev, reports "Dunyo" IA correspondent. According to Uzbekistan MFA, Vladimir Norov congratulated Jeenbek Kulubayev on his appointment and wished him success in his professional activities. The parties discussed current issues of Uzbekistan - Kyrgyzstan relations of good neighborliness and strategic partnership in various fields. It was noted that thanks to the political will of the leaders of the two countries, cooperation between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan has risen to a qualitatively new level in recent years, being filled with new content. The importance of timely and high-quality implementation of the agreements reached during the summit meetings and the adoption of effective measures to further enhance cooperation in political-diplomatic, trade-economic, transport, cultural-humanitarian and other fields was emphasized. - Agencies

Ukraine war puts EU 'at crossroads' on anniversary EU is also challenging an assertive China, and it learned bitter lessons from Brexit and four years of Donald Trump in the US

BRUSSELS: As the EU poises to mark its anniversary on Monday, it is morphing into a more muscular global actor, a transformation accelerated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "(The) war in Ukraine is fundamentally challenging our European peace architecture," European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen declared on Friday. That can be seen in the EU's evolution.

What began seven decades ago as a trade bloc binding formerly warring nations together, is today a political heavyweight funnelling weapons to Kyiv and imposing unprecedented sanctions on Russia.

The EU is also challenging an assertive China, and it learned bitter lessons from Brexit and four years of Donald Trump in the United States. But analysts say it still has a long way to go to become the strate-

gically autonomous goliath championed by French President Emmanuel Macron, who currently holds the EU presidency.

"Fundamentally, for Europe to morph into a geopolitical actor, this requires more than some policy fix or institutional fixes," said Luuk van Middelaar, a Dutch political theorist who served in the cabinet of former European Council president Herman Van Rumpuy. The EU indeed "crossed a Rubicon" by deciding to finance 1.5 billion euros (\$1.6 billion) of arms deliveries to Ukraine, he said, a "striking" turnaround from its pacifist history. Yet it has a poorly defined common strategy towards its near neighbours, whether they be Russia or the "grey zone of countries" aspiring to join, including Ukraine, he said.

Newly re-elected Macron is expected to

pursue his agenda more vigorously, backed by some other leaders this week and a blocwide citizens' consultation for ground-up changes to the EU's underpinning treaties. The EU needs "pragmatic federalism" which would see member states lose their ability to veto decisions agreed by a super majority, Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi argued to MEPs on Tuesday. If there is any treaty revision, it should be embraced "with courage and confidence", he said.

Current EU institutions and processes were "inadequate" to address the fall-out from the Ukraine war, he added. Fabian Zuleeg, head of the European Policy Centre, told AFP: "We are at a crossroads, that for me is unquestionable." When Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, "everything changed," he said. "Many taboos have fallen

and countries are doing things which they never thought they would do," said Zuleeg. Not only was EU foreign and security policy affected, but also its agriculture, migration, industrial policies and other areas, he added. "We can decide to use this as a moment when the European Union gets equipped with the kind of decision making processes, the kind of competences, the kind of laws it needs. "Or we try to go down the route of individual countries doing things by themselves, which in my opinion is going to fail." Treaty change was one option, he said. Another was for EU countries to band together and exclude dissenting member states from their decisions. Zuleeg said certain decisions would still need to be taken together, and where that was not possible, groups could work in smaller intergovernmental formats. - APP



Islamabad **POST**

Monday, May 09, 2022

ROME: Italy's Prime Minister Mario Draghi has tested posfor itive COVID-19, the government said in a state-

ment on Monday, according to Xinhua. Draghi, 74, who is fully vaccinated, "is asymptomatic," according to the statement.

His schedule has been curtailed, including a planned trip to Angola and the Republic of the Congo scheduled for April 20-21. The statement said Draghi will be replaced by Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio and Ecological Transition Minister Roberto Cingolani for the trip. Draghi's positive test comes as coronavirus infection rates in Italy are on the rise compared to recent lows from early March, though mortality and hospitalization rates remain low. The most recent data, from Sunday, showed nearly 52,000 new infections nationally, the sixth consecutive day with more than 50,000 new cases

Fiji seizes vacht of sanctioned Russian oligarch

MOSCOW: Russian Oligarch Suleiman Kerimov's \$300 million yacht was seized in Fiji at request of the US, the US Justice Department said on Thursday. "Fijian law enforcement executed a seizure warrant freezing the Motor Yacht Amadea (the Amadea), a 348-foot luxury vessel owned by sanctioned Russian oligarch Suleiman Kerimov," the department said in a statement. According to the statement, Fijian law enforcement, with the support and assistance of the FBI, seized the yacht after a US district court found the yacht was subject to forfeiture based on probable cause of violations of US law, including money laundering. - APP

India reports

Crowds jeer SL PM on outing COLOMBO: Sri Lankan

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa was booed and heckled Sunday on his first public outing since protests erupted across the country demanding his ruling family resign over the worsening economic crisis.

Months of blackouts and acute shortages of food, fuel and medicines have caused widespread suffering across the South Asian island, which is enduring its worst-ever economic downturn. Sunday saw the premier, brother of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, visited one of the holiest Buddhist temples - housing a reputedly 23-century-old tree - in

Anuradhapura. But dozens of men and women carried hand-written placards and chanted

slogans demanding that "thieves" be banned from the sacred city, which lies 200 kilometres (125 miles) north of Colombo.

"We will worship you if you stand down (as Prime Minwere behaving in a "provoca-

Xi warms up economy, virus narrows options

BEIJING: President Xi Jin-ping has offered state back-shaved off that figure. ing for tech, infrastructure "We remain deeply conand jobs to revive China's cerned about growth," economy, but analysts warn Nomura analysts said this growth will continue to wilt week. "We believe the Omiuntil Beijing drops its rigid cron variant and zero-Covid virus controls. strategy represent the dom-Two and a half years inant challenges to growth stability." Yet China's Comsince the coronavirus first emerged in Wuhan, munist leadership insisted China is the last major Thursday that the country economy still closed off will stick "unswervingly" to to the world, despite its zero-Covid, with a meeting relatively low death toll. chaired by Xi declaring that Lockdowns across dozens "persistence is victory". of cities - from the man-To curtail the growing ecoufacturing hubs of Shennomic damage, Beijing has zhen and Shanghai to the offered words of respite to breadbasket of Jilin - have the tech sector from rolling wreaked havoc on supply regulatory crackdowns and chains over recent months, promised to pump prime the crushing small businesses economy with an "all-out" and trapping consumers at infrastructure campaign. But home. That has imperilled observers say rallies may Beijing's full-year growth be temporary as long as the target of about 5.5 perstate's reflex remains to hammer down the virus caseload cent, with forecasters anticipating that around one at all costs. - APP

ister) and leave," one man shouted. Heavily armed Special Task Force (STF) commandos were deployed while police moved to clear the road for Rajapaksa's convoy of six vehicles. Officials said the premier would return to the capital by helicopter. Several major roads in the country are blocked by people protesting the lack of cooking gas, petrol and diesel. The defence ministry in a statement said demonstrators

tive and threatening manner" and disrupting essential services. - Agencies



BAKU: Azerbaijan FM Jeyhun Bayramov and Chairman of Supreme Assembly of the Nakhchivan

Autonomous Republic Vasif Talibov witnessing exhibition on the occasion of the 99th birthday anniversary of Heydar Aliyev. - DNA Kushner's new fund plans to invest Saudi money in 'Israel'

MONITORING DESK

WASHINGTON: Jared Kushner's new private-equity fund plans to invest mil-



Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the kingdom's de facto ruler. Since leaving the White House, Kushner has tapped his White House contacts across the Middle East to devel-

lions of dollars of Saudi Arabia's money in Israeli startups, The Wall Street Journal reported on Saturday.

According to people familiar with the investment plan, The Wall Street Journal reported that the plan is a sign of warming ties between "two historic rivals."

Affinity Partners, which has raised more than \$3 billion, including a \$2 billion commitment from the kingdom's sovereign-wealth fund, has already selected the first two Israeli firms to invest in, these people said.

The decision marks the first known instance that the Saudi Public Investment Fund's cash will be directed to 'Israel', a sign of the kingdom's increasing willingness to do business with the occupation state, even though they have no diplomatic relations.

This could help lay the groundwork for a breakthrough normalization pact between the two, the Journal reported. 'Israel' is deepening business and se-

curity ties with Arab states, including the United Arab Emirates, nearly two vears after the U.S. brokered historic normalization deals.

Kushner, former President Donald Trump's son-in-law and a former senior White House adviser, played an instrumental role in the so-called Abraham Accords. He has also established strong ties with Saudi Arabia's Crown

op his private-equity firm. As part of the negotiations to secure the kingdom's funding, Saudi officials agreed that Affinity Partners could invest in Israeli firms, the people familiar with the firm's plans said.

The kingdom could also open its economy to Israeli businesses via work with Kushner, they also noted. In an interview, Kushner said he viewed his investment plans as an extension of his work in the White House in advancing ties between 'Israel' and

Arab neighbors, which have long refused to normalize relations with 'Israel' until its leaders agreed to the creation of a Palestinian state. "If we can get Israelis and Muslims

in the region to do business together it will focus people on shared interests and shared values," he said. "We kicked off historic regional change which needs to be reinforced and nurtured to achieve its potential." Source: The wall Street Journal

3,451 new COVID-19 cases

NEW DELHI: India's COVID-19 tally rose to 43,102,194 on Sunday, with 3,451 new cases registered during the past 24 hours across the country, showed the federal health ministry's latest data.

Of the new cases, 1,407 were reported from Delhi. Presently there are 5,955 active cases in the capital city, and the positivity rate stood at 4.98 percent. Besides, as many as 40 deaths across the country due to the pandemic since Saturday morning took the total death toll to 524.064. There are still 20,635 active COV-ID-19 cases in the country, a rise of 332 active cases during the past 24 hours. So far 42,557,495 people have been successfully cured and discharged from hospitals, out of which 3,079 were discharged during the past 24 hours. – APP

S Korea's new

president set

to get tough

France's Macron inaugurated for second term

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron was on Saturday inaugurated for a second term after his election victory over the far right, facing immense challenges in foreign and domestic policy following a first term which had often polarised the nation. In a ceremony at the Elysee Palace, Macron was confirmed by Constitutional Council chief Laurent Fabius as the winner of April presidential election and then signed the formal re-investiture document. Attended by a few hundred people including his wife Brigitte and his only surviving predecessors Francois Hollande and Nicolas Sarkozy, the ceremony was relatively modest but marked the first time a French leader is serving a second term in 20 years. Macron faces a daunting agenda of implementing the reforms he vowed when he came to power as France's youngest-ever president in 2017, as well as dealing with the Russian assault against Ukraine. He is also indicating a more inclusive and understanding style of ruling after his first term saw critics com-

gant methods. "I vow to build a planet that is more livable, a France that is more alive and a stronger France," he said in a speech at the Elysee Palace,

plain the former investment banker had abrasive and arro-

vowing a "new method" to govern. – APP

'New era' starts in N. Ireland with Sinn Fein victory Sinn Fein, once referred to as IRA's political wing, is now biggest party

AGENCIES

LONDON: A "new era" has started in Northern Ireland with a historic election victory of Sinn Fein, the Irish nationalist party once referred to as the political wing of the Irish Republican Army. In last Thursday's election. Sinn Fein won most of the seats in the 90-seat local parliament, otherwise known as the Assembly or Stormont, for the first time since the foundation of Northern Ireland as a state in 1921.

The nationalist party won 27 of the 90 seats and the DUP won 24 according to results as of Saturday evening, with the results of two more seats pending.

The party's victory means the end of the rule of the Royalist Protestants who forever want to be part of the UK, unlike Sinn Fein. the representatives of Irish Catholics who would like to see their country unified with the Republic of Ireland.

"This has been an historic election," Michelle O'Neill, Sinn Fein's vice president, said in her victory speech on Saturday.

Hailing "an election of real change," she signaled a change for the country, which may now fast head to unification with the Republic of Ireland. On Twitter, O'Neill wrote that "a new era begins" in response to a congratulatory message from Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, who has had ideas of her own of separating her country from the UK after Brexit and came out victorious, too, in the recent elections.

However, unlike the Scottish bid for a second independence referendum, which requires approval from Westminster, a public vote in Northern Ireland on merging the two Irelands is guaranteed by the internationally-signed Belfast Agreement.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who saw his Conservative Party vote share drop sharply across England,

Scotland, and Wales, congratulated all the winners in Northern Ireland and urged them to work together to form a new devolved government. "Over the coming days I will be meeting with all the party leaders and will urge them to restore the Stormont institutions at the earliest possible moment, starting with the nomination of an Assembly Speaker within 8 days," he said in a statement. "A new power-sharing Executive is vital for progress and prosperity for all in Northern

Ireland," said Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Micheal Martin, also urging Sinn Fein and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) to work together to form a new government. Both premiers underlined their commitments to the 1998 Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement as co-guarantors of the deal, which ended the Troubles, the decades-long era of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland. However, the DUP has yet to announce that they will nominate a deputy first minister who would work alongside O'Neill.

According to a unique arrangement based on the Good Friday Agreement, the first minister and deputy first minister must be nominated and work together with equal powers. But if the DUP does not nominate a deputy, Sinn Fein will not be able to form a new Executive.

When and if the new Executive is formed without any delays, the first bump on the road will be the Northern Ireland Protocol, a deal signed between the UK and EU as an addendum to the EU Withdrawal Agreement.

on North SEOUL: South Korea's hawkish new president will be sworn in Tuesday, and he looks set to get tough with Pyongyang, departing from what he has called the "subservient" approach of his predecessor.

For the past five years, Seoul has pursued a policy of engagement with North Korea, brokering summits between Kim Jong Un and then-US president Donald Trump while reducing joint US military drills Pyongyang sees as provocative.

But talks collapsed in 2019 and have languished since, while the nuclear-armed North has dramatically ramped up weapons tests, conducting 15 so far this year, including the launch of its largest-ever intercontinental ballistic missile.

Unlike outgoing President Moon Jae-in, who saw North Korea as a negotiating partner, incoming leader Yoon Suk-yeol sees the country as an adversary, said Cheong Seong-chang of the Center for North Korea Studies at the Sejong Institute. - APP









Briefs **Iran says** Ukraine crisis has political solution

'Cover faces': UN slams **Taliban order for women**

"This decision contradicts numerous assurances regarding respect for and protection of all Afghans' human rights, including those of women and girls' UNITED NATIONS: The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has criti-Taliban representatives during discussions

MONITORING DESK TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said on Sunday that the Ukraine crisis has a political solution, adding that Iran is against the war in Ukraine as opposed to the war in Yemen .Amirabdollahian met and held talks with his Polish counterpart Zbigniew Rau in the Iranian capital on Sunday. In a press conference with Polish Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Amirabdollahian said that Iran and Poland have a long-standing and historical relationship that dates back to 540 years ago, and this is a great asset in the relations between Tehran and Warsaw.

He added that Poland played an important humanitarian role in the Ukraine crisis in recent months, both for the displaced people of Ukraine and on the issue of the immediate transfer of Iranian nationals at the onset of the crisis from different parts of Ukraine to Poland and from there t o Iran.

Afghanistan receives 32mln USD cash aid

KABUL: Afghanistan received a batch of 32 million U.S. dollars in humanitarian cash assistance on Sunday, the country's central bank said."Following a series of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan, a shipment of humanitarian aid worth 32 million dollars reached Afghanistan on Sunday. The cash aid was delivered to a commercial bank," Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) said in a statement. The central bank welcomed "the arrival of currencies into the country through principled and legal means." While appreciating the humanitarian assistance of the international community, the Afghan central bank called for better relations with its partners in the financial and banking sectors. - Agencies

will lead to the punishment of their male the country evokes similar restrictions from relatives," the Mission said in a statement. the Taliban's previous rule between 1996 and 2001. It also follows the reneging on an According to information received by UNA-MA, this is a formal directive rather than a earlier promise to appease their hardline recommendation, any violations of which will rule at the expense of further alienating the lead to the punishment of male relatives. international community, which has been eager for signs that the de facto authority "This decision contradicts numerous assurances regarding respect for and protecis ready for positive relations with the wider world. After seizing power, the Taliban tion of all Afghans' human rights, including confirmed in September that secondary those of women and girls, that had been provided to the international community by schools were reopening, but that only boys

AMA said. Following the Taliban takeover in

August 2021, the Taliban assured that wom-

en would be afforded their rights, whether

News reports on the decree, which calls for

women to only show their eyes and recom-

mends they wear the head-to-toe burgas, say

that this latest whittling of their rights in

in work, education, or society at large.

would be returning to the classroom. and negotiations over the past decade," UN-Women teachers throughout the country were also unable to resume work.

Six weeks ago, the de facto authority decided again to postpone secondary schooling for Afghan girls -drawing wide international, regional, and local condemnation.

This latest decision by the Taliban threatens to further strain engagement with the international community. "UNAMA will immediately request meetings with the Taliban de facto authorities to seek clarification on the status of this decision," the statement continued, adding that UNAMA would also engage in consultations with members of the international community regarding the implications of this latest decree. Intense push-back against the Taliban have led to nations cutting development aid and enforcing strict sanctions on the country's banking system, pushing Afghanistan towards economic ruin, it was pointed out. On August 30, 2021, the Security Council passed a resolution calling on the Taliban to provide safe passage for all those seeking to leave the country. During a high-level meeting in Geneva the following month, the international community pledged more than \$1.2 billion in humanitarian and development aid to the Afghan people.

Meanwhile, the nation is becoming the world's largest humanitarian crisis, with needs surpassing those in Ethiopia, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen, leaving nearly 23 million people facing acute food insecurity. In January, the UN and partners launched a more than \$5 billion funding appeal for Afghanistan, in the hope of shoring up collapsing basic services there. Throughout, the UN has pledged to stay and continue to deliver lifesaving humanitarian aid to the Afghan people across the country. - Agencies

Chinese plans for Taiwan affected by **Ukraine war: CIA chief**

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: China is closely monitoring Russia's conflict in Ukraine and that it is affecting Chinese leaders' calculations for Taiwan, the self-ruled island claimed by Beijing, CIA Director William Burns said Saturday.

Burns, speaking at a Financial Times event in Washington, said the Chinese government had been struck by Ukraine's fierce resistance to Russia's invasion and by the economic costs Russia is bearing."I thin k the Chinese leadership is looking very carefully at all this - at the costs and consequences of any effort to use force to gain control over Taiwan,' -Burns said.

He cautioned, however, that it would not shift Chinese leader Xi Jinping's long-

term goals for Taiwan. "I don't for a minute think that this has eroded Xi's determination over time to gain control over Taiwan," said Burns. "But I think it's something that's affecting their calculation about how and when they go about doing that." China has refused to condemn Russia's war in Ukraine and has criticized Western sanctions on Moscow. Beijing and Moscow declared a "no-limits" strategic partnership several weeks before the Feb. 24 invasion, and have been forging closer energy and security ties in recent years to push back on the United States and the West .But Burns said the United States believed China was unsettled by the reputational damage of being associated with the "brutishness" of Russian President Vladimir Putin's military action."I think what the bitter experience, in many ways, of Putin's Russia in Ukraine over the last 10 or 11 weeks has done is demonstrate that that friendship actually does have

some limits," Burns said.

PM desires to further enhance Pakistan-EU multi-faceted ties The prime minister also underscored the importance of regular high-level

exchanges between the two sides to deepen bilateral collaboration



Mumbai mosques turn volume

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Saturday highlighted the strong economic, trade and investment ties between Pakistan and the European Union and expressed the desire for further strengthening of this multi-faceted relationship in diverse sectors including climate change and legal migration. The prime minister also underscored the importance of regular high-level exchanges between the two sides to deepen bilateral collaboration and enhance mutual cooperation on issues of peace and stability in the regional and international context. The prime minister was talking to Thomas Seiler, Charge d' Affairs, Del-

egation of the EU to Pakistan, who called on him, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The charge d' affairs congratulated the prime minister on assuming the office and conveyed best wishes of the European Council president and the president of the EU Commission. The prime minister thanked the charge d' Affairs for his felicitations and underlined the importance Pakistan attaches to its relations with EU and its member states. Thomas Seiler affirmed EU's commitment to further deepening of bilateral cooperation with Pakistan. Pakistan and EU are celebrating the 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations this year. Events marking this milestone are envisaged to be held both in Islamabad and Brussels.

Turkey hosts over 4 mln refugees in total: official

WEB DESK

ANKARA: Turkey currently hosts 4,082,693 refugees, 3,762,686 of whom are Syrians, Turkish deputy Interior Minister Ismail Catakli was quoted by daily Hurriyet as saying on Sunday.

As many as 323,859 irregular migrants have been deported during the last 5 years, he said.

In 2022, a total of 21,087 people from 113 different nationalities were deported, topped by Afghanistan with 9,654 people, and Pakistan ranks second with 4,206, he added.The number of Syrians that voluntarily returned to the "secure" areas in northern Syria is 497,926, Catakli said.

"Turkey is the only country that can manage its immigration policy in line with the law and humanitarian values," he noted.

down after Hindu's demands MUMBAI: Sitting in an office lined with

books overlooking a giant prayer hall, Mohammed Ashfaq Kazi, the main preacher at the largest mosque in Mumbai, checked a decibel meter attached to the loudspeakers before he gave the call to worship.

cized an announcement made by the Talib-

an ordering all women to cover their faces

in public in the country. "UNAMA is deeply

concerned with today's announcement by

the Taliban de facto authorities that all wom-

en must cover their faces in public, that wom-

en should only leave their homes in cases of

necessity, and that violations of this directive

"The volume of our azaan (call to prayer) has become a political issue, but I don't want it to take a communal turn," said Kazi, one of the most influential Islamic scholars in the sprawling metropolis on India's western coast. As he spoke he pointed to loudspeakers attached to the minarets of the ornate, sand-coloured Juma Masjid in Mumbai's old trading quarters.

Kazi and three other senior clerics from Maharashtra where Mumbai is located said more than 900 mosques in the west of the state had agreed to turn the volume down on calls to prayer following complaints from a local Hindu politician.Raj Th ackeray, leader of a regional Hindu party, demand-

Militant attack kills 11 Egypt troops: Army

CAIRO: Eleven Egyptian soldiers were killed on Saturday attempting to thwart a "terrorist" attack on the Suez Canal zone abutting the Sinai peninsula, a hotbed of militant activity, the army said. It was the heaviest loss of life the army had suffered in years in its long-running campaign in and around the Sinai against militants loyal to the Islamic State group. Five soldiers were also wounded in the firefight on the eastern bank of the canal, the army said, adding security forces were "continuing to chase the terrorists and surround them in an isolated area of ed in April that mosques and others places of worship kept within allowed noise limits. If they did not, he said his followers would chant Hindu prayers outside mosques in protest. Thackeray, whose party has just one seat in the state's 288-member assembly, said he was merely insisting that court rulings on noise levels be enforced.

"If religion is a private matter then why are Muslims allowed to use loudspeakers all 365 days (of the year)?" Thackeray told reporters in Mumbai, India's financial hub and capital of Maharashtra. "My dear Hindu brothers, sisters and mothers come together; be one in bringing down these loudspeakers," he said. Leaders of India's 200 million Muslims see the move, which coincided with the holy festival of Eid, as another attempt by hardline Hindus to undermine their rights to free worship and religious expression, with the tacit agreement of the ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). - Agencies

the Sinai"."These terrorist operations will not defeat the determination of the country and the army to continue uprooting terrorism," President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi pledged on n. - Agencies

Pak condemns attack in Egypt

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has condemned the heinous terrorist attack in Sinai, which resulted in death of eleven security personnel. In a statement, Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the Government and people of Pakistan extend deepest condolences to the bereaved families. The stat ement prayed for early recovery of those injured in the attack.It further said that Pakistan condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We also reaffirm our solidarity with the brotherly people of Egypt. - DNA

60 feared dead after school bombed in east Ukraine

AGENCIES

KRAMATORSK: As many as 60 people were feared to have been killed in the Russian bombing of a village school in the eastern Ukrainian region of Luhansk, the regional governor said on Sunday. Governor Serhiy Gaidai said Russian forces dropped a bomb on Saturday afternoon on the school in Bilohorivka where about 90 people were sheltering, causing a fire that engulfed the building for four hours.

"Thirty people were evacuated from the rubble, seven of whom were injured. Sixty people were likely to have died under the rubble of buildings,' Gaidai wrote on the Telegram messaging app, adding that two dead bodies had been found. Reuters could not immediately verify the report.

Ukraine and its Western allies have accused Russian forces of targeting civilians in the war, which Moscow denies. The Russians were continuing their intensive shelling of the Azovstal steelworks, last bastion of Ukrainian resistance in the ruined southeastern port city of Mariupol, a deputy commander of Ukraine's Azov regiment said on Sunday. "We will continue to fight as long as we are alive to repel the Russian occupiers," Captain Sviatoslav Palamar told an online news conference, pleading with the international community to help evacuate wounded soldiers from the plant.In a week-long operation brokered by the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), scores of civilians who had taken refuge in the plant's underground shelters have been evacuated. Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Sunday that evil had returned to Ukraine but that Kyiv would prevail in an emotional address as Europe marks the surrender of Nazi Germany in World War Two. His video address, filmed in front of charred Ukrainian apartment blocks with footage of Russian missile strikes, comes a day before Kremlin leader Vladimir Putin marks the Soviet victory with a vast military parade. "Darkness has returned to Ukraine decades after World War Two... The

evil has returned," Zelenskiy said. "In a different form, under different slogans, but for the same purpose."



Iaprintsbylala f Iaprintsbylala f Ialaprints Ialaofficial

Published by Ansar Mahmood Bhatti, Printed at Rohani Art Press, Islamabad Ph: 051-2266165, Email: newsroomisbpost@gmail.com