



# Islamabad POST

Friday, June 03, 2022

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**Queen's Platinum Jubilee: 70 years of record breaking**

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## Briefs

**PM Shehbaz warns Imran Khan**

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday warned his predecessor Imran Khan not to cross limits by giving statements about split of the country. "Do your politics, but don't dare to cross limits and talk about division of Pakistan," he said in a tweet from Turkey, where he is on a three-day official visit. PM Sharif mentioned that as he was making accords with Turkey aimed at bringing prosperity to Pakistan, the PTI chief was issuing threats against Pakistan. "While I am in Turkey inking agreements, Imran Niazi is making naked threats against the country," he said in a tweet.

**Fawad foresees Punjab CM election**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former information minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry said on Thursday that he was foreseeing an elected government taking over in Punjab following an election for the provincial chief minister next week rendered necessary after the de-notification of 25 PTI MPAs by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). He said there was a constitutional crisis in both the Punjab and Center.

**Hanif Abbasi resigns as SAPM**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PML-N leader Hanif Abbasi on Thursday resigned as special assistant to the prime minister (SAPM) after the Islamabad High Court (IHC) had stopped him "temporarily" from performing his duties. In a letter dated June 1, addressed to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Abbasi said that he would be "unable to perform at present" and requested the premier to accept his resignation while thanking him for the opportunity.

## Govt drops petrol bomb on citizens

Price of petrol moved up by Rs30 to Rs209.86; Diesel at Rs204.15, China agrees to refinance \$2.3 loan for Pakistan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Miftah Ismail announced Thursday that the price of petrol has been moved up by Rs30 to Rs209.86, a few days after increasing the rate of the commodity by the same amount. Ismail, in a press conference, said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has approved hiking the price of petrol, diesel, and light diesel by Rs30 per litre, while the rate of kerosene oil has been hiked by Rs26.38 per litre.

New price (per litre):	
• Petrol	Rs209.86
• Diesel	Rs204.15
• Light Diesel	178.31
• Kerosene oil	Rs181.94

"...kerosene oil is the only commodity which is not leading to losses for the government. However, we are facing losses of Rs8 on light diesel, Rs9 on petrol, and Rs23 on high-speed diesel," he said. The finance minister acknowledged that the lower-income segment of society would be affected the most as a result of the petrol price hike, but noted that the rate of oil has also sky-rocketed in the international market. In response to a question, the finance minister said he was

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## Promotion of foreign investment top priority: PM

DNA

ANKARA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif says promotion of foreign investment in the country is among the top priorities of the government. He was talking to a delegation of the Board of Turkish Sutas group, which called on him in Ankara on Thursday. The Prime Minister informed the delegation that the government is removing the obstacles created for investors during the past four years.

He said the government is ensuring the establishment of industries and creating job opportunities in the country. The Turkish Sutas group expressed keen interest for investment in Dairy sector in Pakistan. On the occasion, the Prime Minister directed the authorities concerned in Pakistan to cooperate with the Sutas group in the country. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has

Continued on Page 06

## Army Chief receives security briefing at Corps HQ Quetta

While visiting Command and Staff College, COAS appreciated faculty members



NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited Command and Staff College, Quetta, on Thursday. He was received by Corps Commander Lieutenant General Sarfraz Ali. COAS met the faculty and addressed participants of Command & Staff College Quetta. The COAS appreciated faculty members for honing professional skills of students.

COAS urged course participants to remain abreast with future battlefield challenges, latest technological advancements and focus on professional pursuits.

Later, COAS visited Corps Headquarters where he was given detailed briefing on security situation in the province and lauded the commendable efforts of formations deployed across the province for providing secure environment for socio-economic activities, including smooth conduct of Local Bodies elections in the province.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Advisor on Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira, Federal Minister for parliamentary affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi, NA Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani, Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese and others cutting cake to celebrate the National Day of Italy. A large number of guests hailing from various walks of life attended the reception. - DNA

## Rs7.91/kWh hike in power tariff

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The residential and commercial electricity consumers in Pakistan have been slapped with a whopping Rs7.91 per kilowatt-hour, or per unit, hike in the price of electricity. The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) approved the new tariff that would take effect after a notification from the federal government. After increasing the petroleum prices by Rs30 per litre, this increase in electricity prices will surely bring a tsunami of inflation in the country where the people are already feeling it hard to meet both ends. Nepra has sent the new tariff to the federal government to issue a notification in this regard. As per Nepra Act, the federation has a right to submit an application for the same tariff for all the DISCOs. The same tariff for the DISCOs is determined after including the amount of the subsidies in the tariff. The consumers will be charged as per new tariff after a notification issued by the government.

According to Nepra, MEPCO, HESCO, GEPCO, KESCO, and TESCO had applied for multi year tariff for fiscal year 2020-21 to 2024-25, whereas, IESCO, LESCO and FESCO had applied for their yearly adjustments as per the approved multi year tariff. Nepra said it has set the tariff for the fiscal year 2022-23.

Nepra has set the average national tariff at Rs24.82 per unit for fiscal year 2022-23 which is Rs7.91 more than the previous year's tariff of Rs16.91 per unit. Nepra cited devaluation of the Pakistan rupee and an increase in fuel prices in international market and production capacity.

## National day of Italy Pak, Italy ties on a positive trajectory: Kaira

Says Italy is one of Pakistan's largest trading partners in the EU

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira has felicitated the government and people of Italy on their 76th Republic Day. He was addressing the participants of a reception regarding Republic Day of Italy hosted by the Italian embassy here in Islamabad today.

The Adviser said that Pakistan regarded Italy as a reliable friend and partner. He said, Pakistan and Italy have commonality of views on broad range of regional and international issues. He said, the trajectory of Pakistan Italy ties is positive and we are determined to make every effort to maintain it. Qamar Zaman Kaira said, Pakistan looks forward to further strengthening its partnership with Italy for the achievement of its objectives of peace prosperity and development. He said Italy

is one of Pakistan's largest trading partners in the EU. Pakistan is firmly committed to further expanding and deepening our mutually beneficial relationship in economic and commercial spheres. Qamar Zaman Kaira said that considerable number of Pakistanis were living in Italy who also serve as a strong bridge between our two friendly nations.

Italian Republic Day, also widely known as 'Festa della Repubblica' for Italians, is nationally celebrated in Italy on June 2, every year. The historical day commemorates the institutional referendum of 1946 when Italians were called to take a vote and decide the form of their government after World War II. With a flood of votes, they chose to be a republic with a constituent assembly and sent the kingdom to exile. So, on this day, a massive celebration takes place in the city of Rome to celebrate the creation of the Italian Republic.

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## Inside...

Imran Khan's mental condition becomes threat: PPP - Page 02

Pakistan's stance on Kashmir unwavering - Page 03

Dr Pasha urges opposition to shun politics on economy - Page 04

A new plan for Palestine that may just work - Page 05

Depp celebrates defamation verdict, Heard 'heartbroken' - Page 06

Kazakh President stresses enhanced ties with Poland - Page 07

KP Cabinet approves subsidized flour for public - Page 08

## Imran Khan vows to remain undeterred till fresh polls

Says "puppets" of the US are now running the country after he was ousted through a "foreign conspiracy"



DNA

SHANGLA: PTI Chairman Imran Khan on Thursday vowed to keep holding rallies and continue his anti-government campaign till general elections are announced. Addressing a jalsa in Shangla, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the former prime minister said that he is staying in the province for two more days to prepare everyone for the "Azadi March" anew. "I am strengthening all my organisations in the province and planning everything," he said. Last week, Khan had abruptly called off the long march, saying the decision to continue it would have led to further chaos and bloodshed. Criticising the government's decision to increase the prices of petroleum products by Rs30 per litre, Khan said that the government cannot buy oil from Russia at 30% lesser prices because the United States "does not permit" them to do so. "Our government wanted to strike a deal with Russia,

Continued on Page 06

## PTI to face abrupt disintegration: Maryam



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz Thursday said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) would go burst and face abrupt disintegration, expressing the optimism that Pakistan would stay fully safe and sound, due to current leadership of the country. Lambasting the statement of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan about strategic assets and disintegration of the country, that came into being, after great sacrifices by Muslims of the Sub-continent. Addressing news conference, she said: "It is a condemnable statement of Imran Khan that Pakistan, will be divided into three parts,"

Continued on Page 06

# Imran Khan's mental condition becomes threat: PPP

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri while criticizing the recent statements of the former Prime Minister, Imran Khan, said Imran Khan has challenged Pakistan's existence by talking against the nuclear program of the country and Imran Khan's mental condition has become a threat for the country.

She said the Imran Khan has lost his senses after losing power and challenging the existence of the country and targeting the institutions. This she said while holding a joint presser along with Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leaders, Faisal Karim Kundi, Nadeem Afzal Chan and others at Islamabad here.

Ms Marri said Imran Khan is saying that if he will be in the power, the country and its institutions would exist however if he would not be in power, nothing would exist which is highly condemnable. She said that PPP was a party which raised the slogan of "Pakistan Khapay" at the time when Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was martyred and country was facing the situation of anarchy and chaos.

"PPP has rendered great sacrifices but continued its struggle for strengthening the democratic norms in the

country while the former Prime Minister Imran Khan is challenging the existence of Pakistan and talking of dividing the country only for the sake of losing power which reflects his unpatriotic thinking", she added. She vehemently said that former Prime Minister Imran Khan's recent statements are of serious nature and being criticized from all sides and she termed it a conspiracy against Pakistan. "Imran Khan sometimes comes forward to save Farah Khan and sometimes he speaks about the interests of those who benefited him", she added.

While talking about the recently announced relief package of Rs 28 billion to avert the affects of petroleum price increase on the poor, Shazia Marri said an increase in the prices of petroleum products was although a difficult decision to take but inevitable for saving the country's ailing economy due to the ineffective policies of the previous government.

"There was no option for the current government except increasing the prices of petroleum products when the country was facing with economic crisis, unemployment and increased poverty ratio ever inherited from the previous government", she said.

The relief package has been announced to provide relief to the poor people from the petroleum prices increase induced inflation. She said that

eight million existing beneficiaries of Benazir Income Support program (BISP) Kafaalat will be eligible to get additional Rs 2000 along with their quarterly assistance while six million more beneficiaries would be identified through the BISP National Socio Economic Registry (NSER) after sending their CNIC to a number which would be announced shortly.

She said that present government is aware of how increase in the price of daily used commodities has reduced the purchasing capacity of the common people. "We reminded the previous government again and again about the impacts of inflation on the poor but they created difficulties for the people in the name of Ehsaas", she added.

"Why we called Imran Khan 'selected' as none of his policies was pro-people and he is unable to tell the people in its speeches about his government's performance of the last four years", she said. Ms Marri said that the former PM had no answer to the corruption scandals like Peshawar BRT, Malamajbba, Rawalpindi Ring Road, Petroleum sector, Medicine, Farah Gogi etc in which his government was involved. She added Imran Khan was attacking on institutions since long time and he was threatening those institutions which were taking decisions as per the constitutional requirements instead of appreciating.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri holding a joint presser along with Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leaders, Faisal Karim Kundi, Nadeem Afzal Chan and others. - DNA

## FCCI stresses safe work environment for women

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Female friendly atmosphere will be created in private industrial, commercial and business entities enabling women workforce to play its productive role with their fullest potentialities towards the national economy, said Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI).

Addressing a launching ceremony of the joint working group of the FCCI and Women Workers Alliance (WWA) here today, he lamented that women are more than half of our population but their role in economic activities is quite negligible. He said that Faisalabad has become hub of national economy and new mega industrial estates are being developed here on scientific lines. He said that at least 65 industrial units with foreign collaboration are already working in M3 Industrial Estate while their number could jump to 150 during 2023-25. He said that the export related units are already providing necessary facilities to the workers in general and women in particular under different agreements, conventions and protocols. He said that FCCI is making efforts to convince industrialists to dole out these facilities voluntarily instead of taking it as a mandatory social compliance. He said that some major gender imbalances have been removed and women are now getting the same salary as enjoyed by the male workers. He said that export oriented are bound to provide separate toilets and washrooms for women workers but now industrialists are providing these facilities with their own free will just to facilitate their female workforce. Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh said that he was convincing the entire industrial sector to extend these fundamental facilities to their female employees as their social corporate responsibility. He said that the Former Governor State Bank of Pakistan upon his request had directed commercial banks to allocate a sizable share of loan portfolio for female entrepreneurs.

## KMU Marks Int'l Nurses Day

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Medical University (KMU), Peshawar-Institute of Nursing Sciences (INS) arranged international nurse's day 2022 to commemorate and pay tribute to the nurses who are working as front liners in the health delivery system. The International nurse's day is celebrated every year on the birth day of Florence Nightingale "the lady with the lamp" who is considered the founder of modern day nursing. The event was attended by delegates from different nursing institutes, dignitaries from Peshawar region and students and faculty of KMU-INS.

Speaking on the occasion, Registrar KMU, Professor Dr. Muhammad Saleem Gandapur appreciated the role of nurses in caring for the sick patients in hospitals. He stressed that nurse's care for the patients 24 hours a day while they are admitted in hospitals. He further emphasized that KMU was playing a key role in uplifting the standards of nursing education in Paki-



stan since 2008. He elaborated that KMU-INS is the first and only institute offering PhD program in the field of nursing.

Ms Mehr Mustafa, controller of the nursing examination board, KP asserted that international nurse's day is the day for nurses to appreciate the great work they were doing in hospitals to care for the sick patients and their families. She continued that nursing education has completely transformed over the years from a diploma in nursing program to a bachelor, master and doctor programs. Dr. Najma Naz, of KMU-INS mentioned about the trends and challenges of the nursing profession in Pakistan. Finally, Dr. Dildar Muhammad of

KMU-INS, stressed that the theme of 2022 of international nurse's day is "Nurses a voice to lead: invest in nursing to secure rights and global health". He asserted that Pakistan should invest in nursing human health resources to uplift healthcare service delivery.

The event was glorified by a lamp lighting ceremony wherein a pledge was taken from prospective nurses; the final year students of BS Nursing to care for the patients without any discrimination of color, creed, ethnicity, religion, race or domicile. Dr. Sabiha Khanum, Director KMU-INS, thanked all the students, faculty and delegates for their worthy presences on this occasion.

## DC inspects fair price shops across city

DNA

LODHAN: Deputy Commissioner Agha Zaheer Abbas Shirazi inspected Fair Price Shops at various places in the city for monitoring cheap flour under Chief Minister's Public Convenience Package. The Deputy Commissioner took stock of the stock register of arrival and sale of cheap flour. He directed the District Food Controller to set up fair price shops at important places across the city. He said that a 10 kg bag of cheap flour is available at the sale point for Rs. 490. The Deputy Commissioner said that the supply of cheap flour in the district is being ensured at government rates in all cases. He said that Punjab government was taking all possible steps for the welfare of the people and alleviation of the problems faced by them. Deputy Commissioner Agha Zaheer Abbas Shirazi also checked the weight of the flour bag on the occasion. He directed the food department officials to ensure uninterrupted supply of cheap flour. Deputy Commissioner Agha Zaheer Abbas Shirazi also organized Revenue Public Service Court on the second day. The Revenue Service Court was held at the Kanjo Hall of the District Council. Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Azuba Azeem and other revenue officers stayed in the service court to resolve public revenue issues. Deputy Commissioner Agha Zaheer Abbas Shirazi made a surprise visit and reviewed



the arrangements of Revenue Service Court. Deputy Commissioner Agha Zaheer Abbas Shirazi said that the purpose of Revenue Public Service Court is to provide immediate relief to the people. He said that revenue officers were present under one roof for redressal of grievances.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the rate of relief on the petitions filed in the Revenue Service Court is very high which is encouraging. He said that the traditional culture has been eradicated through the revenue court and all the revenue officers have been brought together under one roof. Deputy Commissioner Agha Zaheer Abbas Shirazi said that solution of people's problems is the first priority of district

administration. He said that he would serve the people through Revenue Court for two days every month. On behalf of Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz Sharif, Deputy Commissioner Agha Zaheer Abbas Shirazi addressed the gathering. Rubina BB, a resident of Lodhran Tehsil, presented a check for financial assistance of Rs. 50,000 to his wife Muhammad Mureed. Is taking practical steps. He said that step by step efforts are being made to help the orphans, widows and needy people not to feel alone. On the occasion, Rubina Bibi thanked Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz Sharif and Deputy Commissioner Agha Zaheer Abbas Shirazi for providing financial assistance.

## Need stressed for awareness among masses about working of FTO

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO), Asif Mehmood Jah has directed all the regional offices to spread awareness about objectives behind establishment of FTO office and its working. He said FTO is responsible for redressal of complaints regarding mismanagement in the working of all subordinate offices of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) so that the problems being faced by general masses and business community are removed at the earliest. The complainant can lodge their complaint by writing it on a simple paper, or through email or whatsapp message, he informed delegation members.

Speaking on the occasion, Ziaul Haq Sarhadi said FTO office was established around 22 years earlier and it has benefited thousands of complainants by providing them free of cost justice. The appeal to the decision of FTO can only be made to President of Pakistan and people will be surprised to know that the percent of appeal is only one person, Zia added. Out of total number of appeals made to President of Pakistan, the decision FTO is withheld in around 95 percent of cases, he went on to say. On this occasion, Adviser Regional Tax Office said seminar should be held in different parts of the country for information of general public to benefit from the office of FTO.

tion including SVP Khalid Shehzad, VP Imtiaz Ahmad Ali, GS Mian Waheed Bacha and others. During the meeting, Adviser apprised delegation members about objectives behind establishment of FTO office and its working. He said FTO is responsible for redressal of complaints regarding mismanagement in the working of all subordinate offices of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) so that the problems being faced by general masses and business community are removed at the earliest. The complainant can lodge their complaint by writing it on a simple paper, or through email or whatsapp message, he informed delegation members.

## JI to launch countrywide protest

DNA

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami would launch a countrywide protest movement from Lahore on June 11 if the government had not taken measures to eliminate Riba and control inflation in the national budget scheduled to be presented in the national assembly on June 10, announced JI Emir Sirajul Haq at press a conference in Mansoorah on Thursday. The incumbent government, he added, had not only continued the policies of the PTI regime, it further burdened the masses with massive inflation. Sirajul Haq made it clear the poor people of Pakistan were no longer ready to become sacrificial goats on the dictation of the global lenders, asserting the time had come the ruling elite itself made some sacrifices. Around Rs42 billions per year were spent on protocol and VIPs life-style of the rulers, billions were used on other non-developmental expenses, he said, asking the rulers to take austerity measures, end luxurious lifestyle to prove they were the representatives of the people who were even deprived of the basic facilities. The JI chief said people in Cholistan had no access to even drinking water, hours long load-shedding continued throughout the country and amid the situation the government increased the petrol prices by Rs30 per liter and cooking oil rate by Rs250 per kg. He questioned the government's claims made before bringing no-trust movement against the PTI. The JI, he said, had already made it clear to the people that the ruling parties (the PML-N, the PPP and the PTI) were protectors of the status quo, having no interest in the welfare of the common man. The politicians' agenda, he said, was obvious as they only wanted to accumulate money and make properties for their generations and keep the masses to their service, he said, adding the rulers wanted to escape accountability to their deeds and pursuing their desire they clipped the wings of the NAB.

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- Use only the approved brands, imported, seamless brand New CNG cylinders.
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MAY

- May 03 / Poland National Day
May 06 / Bulgaria Armed Forces Day
May 06 / UAE Armed Forces Day
May 07 / Kazakhstan Armed Forces Day
May 08 / Czech Republic National Day
May 09 / European Union National Day
May 17 / Norway Constitution Day
May 21 / Hungary Armed Forces 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



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



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- Edhi Ambulance.....115
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WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
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Hospitals

- CMH.....5611111
MH.....5611116
Cantt Hospital..9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International.4603666



Departments

- CDA.....9221334-43
CDA.....9208301-04
Met Office.....9250360-6
RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

- Corporation.....9209224
Potohar Town.....9209224
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Pakistan's stance on Kashmir unwavering

"Pakistan had and will continue to extend diplomatic and moral support to its Kashmiri brethren for their struggle for self determination," NA Speaker says

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf on Thursday said the entire Pakistani nation was perturbed and strongly condemns the punishment of Yasin Malik by Indian courts.



Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf said that unilateral decision of Indian court could not stifle the spirit of freedom of Yasin Malik and Kashmiri people. He further said that Yasin Malik has raised the banner of truth by enduring the hardships of imprisonment.

He stressed on the need for electronic, print and social media to play a full role in highlighting the Kashmir issue. The speaker said the Kashmir issue would be fully highlighted in the international forums on behalf of the Parliament of Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Dr. Asjad Hameed The Diabetes Centre (TDC) Islamabad, Lt Gen Muhammad Haroon Aslam HI (M), SBT, (Retd), Chief Guest at 'World No Tobacco Day' celebrated at TDC. CEO TDC Mr Tahir M. Abbasi, HOD Marketing Mr Shahzad Lodhi and Executive Coordinator to CEO, Dr Sana Moazzam prior to beginning of event at TDC. - DNA

Imran using 'religious card' to mislead public: Zubair

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) senior leader Muhammad Zubair said on Thursday that ex-prime minister Imran Khan leading the country towards anarchy and using "religious card" in an effort to get public sympathies.



FIA Cyber Wing disposed of 100,986 complaints

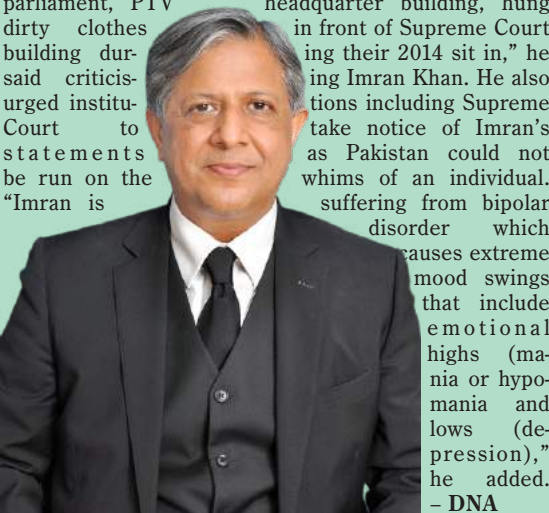
ISLAMABAD: Cyber Wing of Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has disposed of 100,986 complaints during a period of January 1, 2021 to January 31, 2022.

IT Ministry directs timely completion of all projects

ISLAMABAD: Ministry for Information Technology and Telecommunication has directed the heads of the attached departments of the Information Ministry to complete all the ongoing projects speedily and on time.

Tarar condemns Imran's statement

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the House in Senate Azam Nazir Tarar on Thursday strongly condemned Imran Khan's statement in which he (Imran) stated that the country would be divided into three parts if right decisions were not taken right now.



Govt to improve education sector, says Ahsan Iqbal

The future of the youth is in safe hands as empowering the youth

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal said that his government was committed to taking revolutionary steps for the bright future of the youth.

Collective political will imperative to address challenges

The solution to some of the main governance challenges lied in developing people-centric policies and approaches instead of needless political point scoring

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Absence of collective political will was at the heart of governance challenges in South Asian countries, in particular Pakistan, asserted a panel of experts and academicians addressing an event titled Issues of Governance and Developments in South Asia with a Focus on Pakistan's Political and Social Developments.

and frameworks to improve their livelihoods. The solution to some of the main governance challenges lied in developing people-centric policies and approaches instead of needless political point scoring.

HEC asks students to apply for Law-GAT till June 15

ISLAMABAD: Higher Education Commission (HEC) has announced Law Graduate Assessment Test(Law-GAT) for eligibility to seek enrollment as an advocate with bar council. The test is being conducted on the directions of Supreme Court vide its Order dated March 6, 2018.

HEC/PBC are eligible to apply. The test will consist of Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs). The revised curriculum of Law-GAT can be downloaded from: https://www.hec.gov.pk/english/HECAnnouncements/Pages/Syllabus-LGAT.aspx.

Applicants who register through HEC online registration process will download their Roll Number Slip through http://etc.hec.gov.pk a week before the test date.

Court Notice

In The Court of Khuda Yar Civil Judge Gujrat Title Sitara Jabeen, versus: Muhammad Asghar Suit for Specific Relief with permanent Injection Notice to: Muhammad Asghar S/o. Muhammad Ashraf R/o. Lahorian P/o. Dolat Nagar Tehsil & District Gujrat.

Court Notice

In the court of Miss Mehwish shazadi Civil Judge Jhelum Title of case: MUHAMMAD ALYAN BUTT et VS REHAN UL'HAQ DAR Respondent: Rehan ul'haq dar s/o Ahsaan ul'haq dar R/o Dar house dar Colony near islamia high school jhelum Claim: Suit for Declaration etc In each case, the respondent are informed through advertisement As there is not possible to call the respondent through Summon in the instant case so through proclamation in Newspaper, you are directed to appear or legal advisor in the court on 04-06-2022 at 8:00AM, otherwise ex-parte proceedings will be initiated.



## US, EU moves likely to escalate Ukraine war

THE US and its allies have maintained in the past four months that Ukraine will only get defensive arms that help the embattled nation to defend itself. As the world looks for ways to end the Ukraine conflict, already in its fourth month, the past two days saw the United States and the European Union taking decisions, purportedly aimed at 'punishing' Russia, that will only escalate the conflict, and widen its scope. Just few days after he said Ukraine would not be provided with missiles that could be used to hit Russia, US President Joe Biden said Washington will in fact give Ukraine advanced rocket systems and other US weaponry "to better hit targets". According to US officials, the system includes missiles that will allow Ukrainians "to strike locations as far as 80 kilometres away." In other words, offensive rockets that can hit locations inside Russia. The US and its allies have maintained in the past four months that Ukraine will only get defensive arms that help the embattled nation to defend itself. The new US military aid is a serious shift in policy that will not sit very well in Moscow. Russia will likely interpret this move as an escalation that it would have no choice but to respond to – taking a harder attitude and potentially leading to further escalation in the conflict. According to the EU leaders' summit, they agreed "in principle to cut 90 per cent of oil imports from Russia by the end of 2022", thus ending weeks of speculations about the EU's toughest sanctions on Moscow since the war began in the last week of February. Imports of Russian crude will be phased out in over six months. The new Western moves are unfortunate. They go directly against the declared goal of seeking an end to the war that has left nearly 4,000 dead, according to the United Nations, and forced more than 14 million people to flee their homes. It is hoped that Russia, the US and the EU adopt a rational stance in a conflict that threatens to turn, because of these increasingly aggressive moves, into another global war.

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## Economic future of Pakistan

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKAR

THE current economic situation is no less than a burden on the common man. The continuous rise in commodity prices is making life more challenging for those who are from the middle-lower and the lower class strata of the population. There needs to be a solution to this predicament. It seems that the IMF will not go easy on Pakistan. The bailout program will not resume any time soon. Perhaps, IMF will be keeping a close eye on the budget that will be presented later in June. The government's targets for expenditures and targets will be closely scrutinized. In essence, the common man is bearing the brunt of the economic instability. They are not able to meet their ends. Such economic insecurities also lead people to pursue immoral activities to earn an easy and fast income. Some opine that the previous IMF program was halted because of the previous government. IMF wanted Pakistan to accept all conditions. However, the former Prime Minister did not want to burden the people with such distress. Pakistan is standing at yet another turning point as far as its economic future is concerned. The present government should make a plan to ease the financial burden from the shoulders of the common man. The IMF plan will bring constraints resulting in even stringent policies for the public. This cycle is expected to continue until Pakistan remains economically weak as compared to the standards of the IMF. At this point, we must wait and see if the current government will follow the IMF's plans. The demands are tough and the government has accepted to tackle some pretty serious issues. In another scenario, the current government – in a desperate move – can call for elections where the economic matters will be handed over to the caretaker government that will eventually give it to the next government that is elected in the elections.

## A new plan for Palestine that may just work

Daoud Kuttab

Segal's book calls for a UN General Assembly resolution endorsed by Palestine and submitted by respected member states (possibly Norway and Germany) reestablishing the UN Special Committee on Palestine. The original UNSCOP gave birth to the Partition Resolution of 1947, which became the basis for both the Israeli and the Palestinian declarations of independence. The new one, UNSCOP-2, would propose an end-of-conflict/end-of-claims plan based on the two-state solution, the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination...

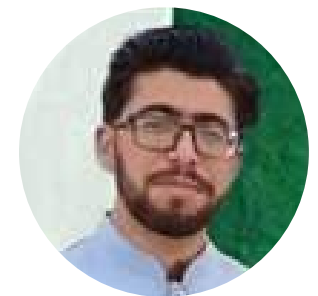
THE killing of Palestinian TV journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and the appalling Israeli police assault on her funeral appear to have temporarily shifted attention back to the issue of Palestine and the Israeli occupation. Palestinian efforts to end the decades-long occupation in the context of a two-state solution appear to have international legal and popular support, but there has been no effective mechanism to implement it. Although the UN has been

a major theater of operations for Palestinians to pursue their cause, it has so far failed to deliver. However, a window of opportunity involving the UN may be available if the Palestinians agree to open it. The plan proposed in "The Olive Branch from Palestine," a new book by the American philosopher and conflict-resolution specialist Prof. Jerome M. Segal, would activate a UN mechanism that has been in the deep freeze for decades. Segal's book calls for a UN General Assembly resolution endorsed by Palestine and submitted by respected member states (possibly Norway and Germany) reestablishing the UN Special Committee on Palestine. The original UNSCOP gave birth to the Partition Resolution of 1947, which became the basis for both the Israeli and the Palestinian declarations of independence. The new one, UNSCOP-2, would propose an end-of-conflict/end-of-claims plan based on the two-state solution, the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and maximum feasible respect for the rights of Palestinian refugees. Segal believes UNSCOP-2 would propose an independent Palestinian state with a shared Jerusalem, as envisioned by Bill Clinton's parameters – and, most importantly, would recommend the new approach to the refugee issue that he has developed in his book. Unlike the original UNSCOP, which the Palestinians boycotted in 1947, Segal expects UNSCOP-2 to be boycotted by the Israeli government. He views that as a good thing, since it would enable substantial Palestinian influence on its terms. Like its predecessor, however, UNSCOP-2, would not include any of the permanent members of the UN Security Council. It would report its proposals to the General Assembly, which would then call on Israel and Palestine to negotiate for three months to see if they could agree on any improvements to the peace plan, after which each country would put the plan to a referendum of its people. For the Palestinians, this would include all refugees, even those living outside Palestine. The UN would administer the Palestinian referendum. Segal's refugee idea, which he hopes UNSCOP-2 will consider, is based on John Kerry's endorse-

ment of the right of Palestinians to 100 percent of their land through land swaps. However, instead of land swaps with desert areas (as in the Trump/Kushner plan), Segal suggests the annexation to the Palestinian state of about 50 villages that were abandoned in 1948, the right of Palestinian refugees from the remaining 350 villages to have a veto on what happens in those villages, and the possibility of a Nakba memorial in Palestinian villages that remain in Israel. His plan also calls for \$400 billion in compensation to Palestinian refugees as part of an end-of-conflict settlement. Following the referendum, and hopefully with affirmations of respect for its results, the UN secretary-general would formally present the plan to the president of Israel as an offer of lasting peace from the Palestinian people to the Israeli people. President Mahmoud Abbas told the UN in September 2021 that the Palestinians would change course if Israel did not withdraw from the Occupied Territories, but he gave no hint as to what the new direction would be. The ideas presented by Segal represent what exists in the real diplomatic track to which Abbas is theoretically committed, but the president has done little to try to push the issue forward in innovative ways. No plan on its own will make much of a difference if not accompanied by a full strategy of liberation that must include genuine unity among Palestinians and a process that allows for new ideas and new personnel to implement them. Ideas alone will not move the dial unless there is a fully thought out, practical and doable plan that can get people excited. Palestinians can't be expected to live under occupation for ever while the rest of the world pays lip service to plans that they are not willing to support – but what the world will respond to are ideas that are serious, effective, and workable. The sad conclusion is that the Palestinian leadership has run out of new and creative ideas. Segal's plan maybe a good one, but what is needed today is not just innovative ideas. We need national unity, new blood, and a unified national strategy for liberation that the vast majority of Palestinians and friends of Palestine can support. – Courtesy: Arab News

## The Cave of Plato

Altaf Kumail



The people of our society are living in the allegorical cave of Plato. Their minds have lost the ability to think and question and they have succumbed to the fate of mental slavery imposed by the system

THE metaphor of the cave, also called the story of the cave, was presented by the ancient Greek philosopher Plato in his popular book "The Republic". It describes a fictional scenario that sheds light on the effects of intellectual slavery on the human mind. In this parable, Plato mentions a cave in which some people are imprisoned from birth with their hands and feet tied. Their heads are also tied in such a way that they constantly look at only the inner wall of the cave. Behind them is a blazing fire inside the cave and behind this bonfire is the mouth of the cave between the flames of this fire and these bound human beings, some people or other animals pass by carrying some objects in their hands and their shadows fall on the wall of the cave which these prisoners have been seeing because of their special condition, these prisoners have acknowledged that these shadows are the only reality and this is the only truth because they have spent their lives just looking at these flickering shadows. They have never seen real life outside the cave. Then one day one of his companions somehow frees himself from the chains. When he turns around, he realizes the flames of the fire and the people passing by, whose shadow he has seen all his life on the wall, then he walks toward the entrance of the cave and finally exits the cave to observe the facts, and is shocked to see the real truth. He thinks that it is now his responsibility to free the rest of his comrades from the chains and convince them that they have been fooled all their lives and that the real truth is out there. When he enters the cave and tries to convince them of the truth, the prisoners make fun of him and refuse to believe him. They have become so accustomed to the false reality of shadows that they ruthlessly deny the real truth, call their free companion insane, and refuse to change their condition. Plato's allegory of the cave is an excellent allegorical

statement that best reflects the social attitudes that grew up under the shadow of modern-day intellectual slavery. If this parable is applied to our society today, then the prisoners of the cave are like the majority of us who have been deprived of intellectual freedom, free thought, and social and political consciousness. The shadows of the cave reflect the false reality that has been instilled in the minds of our nation through the education system, the media, and other social institutions. Therefore, they believe only in what is stated in the official statement and do not try to reach the real truth by using reflection and free-thinking. They have become so accustomed to this artificial truth, outdated customs, and social customs that they cannot even feel the chains that have suffocated their minds. The freed prisoner of the cave represents one of today's curious, conscientious, and critically-minded people who, when questioning the current customs and trying to make people aware of the truth, our society shakes and silences. The people of our society are living in the allegorical cave of Plato. Their minds have lost the ability to think and question and they have succumbed to the fate of mental slavery imposed by the system. It is now the responsibility of the awakened, conscious and critical people of the society to unite themselves under the banner of a common ideological struggle for political, social, and economic change. A change that can free people from the black cave of mental slavery, poverty, and injustice

The people of our society are living in the allegorical cave of Plato. Their minds have lost the ability to think and question and they have succumbed to the fate of mental slavery imposed by the system. It is now the responsibility of the awakened, conscious and critical people of the society to unite themselves under the banner of a common ideological struggle for political, social, and economic change. A change that can free people from the black cave of mental slavery, poverty, and injustice

## Interview with Peter Mandaville, editor of Wahhabism and the World

James M. Dorsey

Interest in Saudi religious influence goes far beyond Middle East and Islam scholars and policymakers, journalists, and analysts, particularly given the dramatic social change in Saudi Arabia since King Salam ascended to the throne in 2015, and his son, Mohammed bin Salman, became the country's effective ruler. However, social liberalization, including enhanced professional and personal opportunity for women and the creation of a Western-influenced entertainment sector...

SAUDI global export of an ultra-conservative strand of Islam and its impact on Muslim countries and communities across the globe has been a hotly debated topic for more than two decades. The rise of jihadist groups like Al Qaeda and the Islamic State and their attacks in the United States, Europe, Asia, and Africa fuelled the debate, particularly since the September 11, 2001, strikes in New York and Washington. Critics of Saudi Arabia charge that Wahhabism and Salafism, the ultra-conservative interpretations of Islam associated with the kingdom, created the theological and ideological incubator and the breeding ground for jihadism. Wahhabism and the World constitutes one of the few, if not the first comprehensive, impassioned interrogations of the impact on the faith of Saudi financial and other support for the global spread of what Mr. Mandaville calls Saudi religious transnationalism and is more colloquially referred to with catchall phrases such as Saudi funding or support for ultra-conservatism. Mr. Mandaville's volume with chapters that provide fresh insights into the Saudi export drive and

a set of case studies illustrates that the reality of the campaign is far more complex and layered. Interest in Saudi religious influence goes far beyond Middle East and Islam scholars and policymakers, journalists, and analysts, particularly given the dramatic social change in Saudi Arabia since King Salam ascended to the throne in 2015, and his son, Mohammed bin Salman, became the country's effective ruler. However, social liberalization, including enhanced professional and personal opportunity for women and the creation of a Western-influenced entertainment sector has much to do with socio-political factors and little, if anything, to do with religious reform. As a result, understanding Saudi Islam and the impact of its export that outlives the Salmans' steep cutbacks in the funding of its global propagation coupled with their effort to alter its austere and puritan image and give it a more moderate, tolerant and outward-looking makeover remains key to understanding the geopolitics of the Middle East and the broader Muslim world. Mr. Mandaville's volume makes a ground-breaking contribution to that understanding.



## Briefs

## Profit rates on national saving certificates rise

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Finance Ministry on Thursday notified meager increase in profit rates on national saving certificates. As per the notification, the profit margin on regular income certificates has been increased from 12 percent to 12.36 percent. The profit margin on saving certificates has been increased from 10.75 percent to 12.25 percent. However, the 12.40 percent profit on the defence saving certificates remained unchanged. The profit margin on the pensioners, martyrs, and welfare certificates have also not been changed which stayed at 14.16 percent. The finance ministry has notified the nominal increase on long-term national saving certificates. Earlier, the Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) on Monday increased profit rates on all national savings schemes amid higher policy rate of the central bank's and recent surge in cut-off yields of secondary market coupons.

## CNG stations closed in Sindh for 72 hours

DNA

KARACHI: The Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGC) announced on Thursday the closure of all Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations across Sindh for 72 hours. A spokesperson for the gas utility said that all the CNG stations will stay closed for 72 hours from 8 am on June 3, till 8 am on June 6, Monday. According to SSGC, the gas supply to industrial units will also remain closed on Sunday. The spokesperson said CNG stations are being closed as per the gas load management plan to meet gas shortfall. "In compliance with sectoral priority order in force for gas load management, all CNG Stations in Sindh (including those being operated on RLNG), will remain closed," the statement read. "Keeping in view the short supply of gas in SSGC system, the availability of gas has decreased resulting in depletion of line pack / low pressure in the system," the statement added.

## Pakistani rupee's rise plummets value of US dollar further

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The winning streak of the Pakistani rupee has continued to maintain its momentum on Thursday also as it was pushing the US dollar down towards Rs197 mark in intrabank trading. The US dollar lost 47 paise in its value and reached Rs197.40 at the start of the interbank trading on the second-last day of the current business week. On Wednesday, the Pakistani currency roared hard all day long by rocketing up by nearly one rupee but settled at 59 paise up as the business closed. The US dollar plummeted to Rs197.87 in the intrabank trading, the forex dealers said. The rupee, which had been struggling against the US dollar for the last three weeks, gained strength when the government in order to revive its loan programme with the IMF started implementing its directives and heavily increased the prices of petroleum products on Thursday last. The government announced a whopping increase of Rs30 per litre in the prices of petroleum products. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) had delayed the revival of the stalled \$6-billion programme under the External Financing Facility (EFF) for Pakistan. The Fund, in a statement, emphasised the abolition of subsidies on petroleum products and electricity, among other conditions, as a prerequisite for the programme's revival.



NUR SULTAN: Media people being briefed about the culture and history of Kazakhstan during their visit to the National Museum. – DNA

## Kazakh President stresses enhanced ties with Poland

"Bilateral trade last year has been increased by 12%, reaching \$ 760 million. I think that we have good opportunities to increase mutual trade," the leader of Kazakhstan believes

NEWS DESK

NUR SULTAN: Welcoming Zbigniew Rau, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev noted that his visit is important for strengthening Kazakhstan's cooperation with Poland and the OSCE. The Head of State spoke about the preparations for the upcoming national referendum and welcomed the deployment of an ODIHR Referendum Assessment Mission. "The referendum is the beginning of a process of important political transformations in our country. The work to promote democracy in Kazakhstan will be continuously carried out," the President noted. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Zbigniew Rau reviewed in detail cooperation in all three areas of the OSCE: in military-political, economic-environmental and human dimensions. Speaking about bilateral cooperation with Poland, the President noted that he regards Poland as an important partner in Central Europe. "Bilateral trade last year has been increased by 12%, reaching \$ 760 million. I think that



we have good opportunities to increase mutual trade," the leader of Kazakhstan believes. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office commended the efforts made under Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's leadership in implementing large-scale political and economic reforms. "In my understanding, the upcoming referendum is a real breakthrough in terms of your Constitutional amendments and your approach to social structure and promotion of market oriented reforms. The referendum is a very important sign on political will to change things for the better. I must say that the constitutional reforms in your country are aimed at strengthening the principles of democracy, freedom and the rule of law," the Polish diplomat believes. Zbigniew Rau informed about his meetings with representatives of religious communities and civil society of our country. He highly valued the Kazakh model of interethnic and interfaith harmony and expressed gratitude to President Tokayev for the constant support of the Polish diaspora living in our country.

## 7th CPEC Media Forum eyes fruitful results

DNA

BEIJING: The 7th China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Media Forum was held both offline and online, along with the Book Presentation Ceremony of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Stories Behind and the awarding ceremony of the annual "CPEC Communication Award", with high-spirit and enthusiasm. According to China Economic Net (CEN), Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Pakistan-China Institute made a welcoming remark, saying that in

the last few years, the first phase of CPEC has been completed; 75,000 Pakistanis got jobs; about 10,000 megawatts electricity was added to the national grid... CPEC has united Pakistan through infrastructure development and industrial development and it also led to women's empowerment and changed the lives of marginalized people of the poorest area, he added. Nevertheless, he noted that there are certain voices coming from some western countries which talk of containment of China. "We reject such talks and mindsets. Journalists in both

countries and other journalists should unite to promote the truth about CPEC." Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Pakistani Foreign Minister, conveyed a video message to the forum to wish it a big success, adding that Pakistan-China relationship is indeed a special relationship that has no parallel in contemporary international relations. He also expressed his sincere thanks to the participants and all the friends in China and Pakistan for their efforts and contribution to promote China-Pakistan relations and CPEC. Addressing the meeting, Raja Pervez Ashraf, Speaker

National Assembly and Chief Guest of the forum, emphasized the resilience of CPEC despite the COVID-19 pandemic. As CPEC moves forward, the exchange of news and journalists' interaction between Pakistan and China will be the need of the hour, he added. Pang Chunxue, Charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, noted that under the strategic planning of Chinese President Xi Jinping and with joint efforts of the two governments, enterprises and all sectors of society, CPEC has achieved fruitful results and entered a new stage of enrichment and expansion.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf addressing the participants of 7th CPEC Forum. – DNA

## Pakistan's rice export to China crossing \$ 225 million

China imported more than 601,574.052 tons of different varieties of rice (worth more than \$225.52) from Pakistan, up 12.45% by volume while last year in the same period it was 534,946.42 tons, sources told Gwadar Pro

BEIJING: Pakistan's rice export to China crossed \$ 225.52 million in the first four months of this year, while Broken rice witnessed an increase of 40.27% as compared with last year in the same period, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday quoting General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC). Although the COVID-19 pandemic affected the months of April and May, bilateral trade has increased significantly during the first four months of 2022. China imported more than 601,574.052 tons of different varieties of rice (worth more than \$225.52) from Pakistan, up 12.45% by volume while last year in the same period it was 534,946.42 tons, sources told Gwadar Pro. Michael (Gao), sales manager of Hefei Meyer Optoelectronic Technology International told Gwadar Pro that Chinese technology helped Pakistan increase yield in rice processing and maintain high quality. "To date, nearly 1,000 Meyer color sorters are in operation in Pakistan. Our sales volume has been rising every year", Michael added. He further said that almost all main Pakistani rice exporters to China used their sorter machines and showed satisfaction by using their products, added that this also indicates the export of rice to China is increasing every year. "We have authorized agents in Pakistan; they have a professional service team. Meanwhile, the machine can be connected by WIFI, and we offer remote service, we can even check problems on computers in China," Gao mentioned. Pakistani enterprises also said that they are getting the best quality raw rice and installing the latest milling machines to get the best output recoveries; Chinese technologies help them get upright results. It is worth mentioning that 53 Pakistani rice enterprises are on the approval list of the General Administration of Customs P.R.C. – DNA

## Pakistan-Canada trade will be promoted: Envoy

Private sector to be encouraged in a push to boost trade ties, says Ambassador Zaheer Aslam Janjua

DNA

VANCOUVER: The High Commissioner of Pakistan to Canada Zaheer Aslam Janjua has said that bilateral trade between Pakistan and Canada will be increased and private sector would be encouraged in a push to boost trade ties. Pakistani business community should focus on Canada for exports which offer excellent business opportunities, he said. High Commissioner Zaheer Aslam Janjua said this while speaking at a ceremony held in connection with the inauguration of the new premises of the Consulate General of Pakistan in Vancouver. Consul General Janbaz Khan, President of the Pakistan-Western Canada Trade Association (PWCTA) Bushra Rehman, former Chairman of POF Wah Lt. Gen (Retd) Farooq Durrani, leading businessmen and Secretary-General of the US-Pakistan International Chamber of Commerce (USPICC) Malik Sohail Hussain were also present at the occasion. He said that the political leadership of Pakistan want to capitalize on the

trade potential between Pakistan and Canada and we will extend cooperation to the private sector of both the countries in this regard. Zaheer Aslam Janjua said that both countries enjoy exemplary ties but the bilateral trade needs to be increased for which

linkages, information, exchange of trade delegations and holding exhibitions are of vital importance. Pakistan-Canada relationship is robust and underpinned by strong people-to-people ties, he said, adding that Pakistan was the

fourth-largest source of immigration to Canada, with more than 250,000 Pakistanis living in this country, he added. Malik Sohail Hussain said that the Pakistani business community should explore opportunities in Canada and students should try to get higher education in Canadian universities with world-class education in various subjects. He said that USPICC will hold a food and cultural festival in Western Canada which will go a long way in improving ties between both the countries as a sizable number of Pakistani expatriates are living there and playing important role in the development of Canada. Malik Sohail said that different Pakistani associations in Canada will be brought together so that they can serve in a better way. The Ambassador also inaugurated the official website of the Consulate General and PWCTA and hoped that the trade association will try its best to promote the cause of Pakistan. He also gave away a certificate of appreciation to Ms Bushra Rehman, founder and first President of PWCTA who is a dynamic businesswoman with a lot of experience and is well known in business circles.



## Shanghai Covid curbs drag on despite declaring victory

SHANGHAI: Locked in their homes as neighbours celebrate freedom, hundreds of thousands of Shanghai residents are finding the path out of lockdown more complicated than the victory trumpeted by Chinese state media. The metropolis of 25 million people was closed in sections from late March after becoming the epicentre of China's worst Covid outbreak in two years. After gradually relaxing some rules over the past few weeks, authorities on Wednesday began allowing residents in areas deemed low-risk to move around freely again. But while many celebrated with boozing street parties and shopping sprees, swathes of the city remained dormant with multiple neighbourhoods returning to lockdown on Thursday over new infections. Liu, a 29-year-old woman in Shanghai's Minhang district, told AFP her apartment compound had been hastily resealed on Thursday morning after a man in one of the buildings returned an "abnormal" Covid test result. She said shocked neighbours bombarded the compound's group chats with complaints that the lockdown was "never-ending", while many waited at the gate for couriers to deliver laptops they had left at offices on Wednesday – the first day back at their desks. – APP

## 2 killed, 4 missing after landslides in central China

CHANGSHA: Two people were killed and four remain missing after heavy rain triggered two landslides early Thursday in the city of Huaihua in central China's Hunan Province, local authorities said. One landslide occurred at around 3 a.m. Thursday at Tonglingxi Village in Mayang Miao Autonomous County. The landslide caused two houses to collapse and left four people missing. The other landslide happened at around 4 a.m. at Dahuaping Village in the county, claiming the lives of two victims. Rescue work is still underway. – APP

## Over 12,000 Sri Lankans affected by bad weather

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's Disaster Management Center said that one person was killed with over 12,000 others affected by heavy rains and gale-force winds in many parts of the country by Thursday morning. The affected people belong to 2,672 families in Ratnapura, Kandy, Kalutara, Gampaha, Colombo and Matara districts. The worst affected district was Gampaha, where 8,517 people from 2,448 families had been affected, said Assistant Director at the Disaster Management Center Pradeep Kodippili. The deceased was a disaster relief officer who died when he was carried away by strong currents. Heavy rains were reported in many parts of the South Asian country in the past week. The Department of Meteorology announced that showers or thunderstorms will occur through this week in the country and warned that the threat of floods will continue. – APP

## Texas town mourns teacher killed in school shooting

UVALDE: The Texas town of Uvalde on Wednesday laid to rest one of the two teachers gunned down in last week's elementary school massacre, along with her husband who died days later, leaving their four children orphaned. Irma Linda Garcia, 48, was killed when a teenaged gunman went on a rampage at Robb Elementary in an attack that left 19 young children dead and convulsed the United States with shock and grief. Compounding the tragedy, Garcia's 50-year-old husband, Joe, died two days later. They had been married for more than 24 years. – APP

**Briefs**

**ECP announces schedule for Islamabad LG polls**

**DNA**  
ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has announced the schedule for local body polls in the capital territory of Islamabad. According to a statement issued by a spokesperson of the ECP, the LG polls in Islamabad would be held on July 31, 2022. The date for submission of nominations would be from June 13 to 16, he added. The ECP would scrutinize the nomination papers from June 20 to 22. A ban has been implicated over posting and transfers after the announcement of the schedule of the local bodies' polls. Earlier in May, the Islamabad High Court had ordered to postpone the LG polls in Islamabad. The federal cabinet had presented its summary to the court pleading that the government has decided to form 101 union councils in the city and that the ECP should be asked to implement it. Earlier, the ECP retracted the schedule for the LG polls in the capital city. According to a statement issued by the ECP, the schedule had been retracted due to some technical reasons and the new schedule will be issued on Monday. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had announced the schedule on Friday, according to which, polling will take place on July 17, 2022.

**PHC approves three-week transit bail of Imran Khan**

**DNA**  
PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Thursday approved the transit bail of former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan until June 25. The court ordered Imran Khan to submit Rs50,000 surety bonds for the three-week transit bail. PHC Chief Justice Qaiser Rashid heard the former prime minister's application for transit bail. Imran Khan's counsel Babar Awan informed the court that there were 14 FIRs lodged against his client in which it was written "on the instigation of Imran Khan." The chief justice approved bail for three weeks. "You can come back to the court again if you want," the chief judge remarked. The PHC chief justice also directed Imran Khan not to deliver any speech on the high court's premises. "It's okay, Sir," Imran Khan assured the court. Earlier, the Peshawar High Court admitted for immediate hearing the petition filed by Imran Khan for transit bail.

**KP Cabinet approves subsidized flour for public**

Sales points and shops will be established and specified the province over to provide Atta to the public on subsidized rates and wheat supply to the Flour Mills too will be started during the current month

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cabinet in a meeting held here Thursday with Chief Minister Mahmood Khan in the chair approved the provision of subsidized Atta to public at the rate of Rs.980 per 20kg bag and Rs.490 per 10kg bag during the current month, which will cost a sum of approximately Rs.30 billion as subsidy. Sales points and shops will be established and specified the province over to provide Atta to the public on subsidized rates and wheat supply to the Flour Mills too will be started during the current month. The meeting besides the cabinet members was also attended by the Provincial Chief Secretary, Senior Member Board of Revenue, Additional Chief Secretary and Administrative Secretaries of various Government Departments. Minister for Higher Education Kamran Khan Bangash while briefing media persons about the decisions of the cabinet meeting at ITLA' Cell informed that the cabinet also approved the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Medical Officers of Health Department (Regularization of Services) Bill, 2022 to

regularize as many as 675 contract doctors who have been serving in various health facilities of the province during Corona. The regularization of the contract medical officers will contribute towards improving further the health delivery services in the province and benefit the ailing humanity. The provincial cabinet, he said, also approved the regularization of remaining 210 project employees of the Livestock Department who were working in various projects in the erstwhile FATA. Similarly, the cabinet accorded approval to the creation of 34 IT-cadre posts in the Excise & Taxation Department which included the posts of Director, Deputy Director and Assistant Director as well. The cabinet, he said, also approved regularization/adjustment of 296 employees of the community based CDLD project in Malakand against the vacant posts in Local Government Department. The employees include Engineers, Sub-Engineers and other staff. The Minister for Higher Education further informed that the cabinet also approved the absorption of 33 Khasadars and 77 levies of South Waziristan Tribal District and District Lakki Marwat respectively in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police as per provision of the

Khasadars Force (Absorption in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police) Rules, 2019 and the Levies Force (Absorption in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police) Rules, 2019. The cabinet, he further said, approved additional funds of Rs.265 million for the ongoing Greater Water Supply Schemes Mingora and Kohat under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cities Improvement Project. Similarly, a sum of Rs.200 million as seed money was approved to set up fund for the development of Wildlife and National Parks, public awareness and research etc. in the Wildlife sector during the financial year 2022-23. He further informed that the cabinet approved a Grant-in-Aid of Rs.200 million for University of Chitral to enable the university, which is in an embryonic stage, meet its operational expenses. Kamran Bangash further said the cabinet expressed its deep concern over reducing the number of National Assembly seats in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as instead of reduction they were required to be enhanced further on the basis of population ratio. The cabinet, he said, also expressed its annoyance over the public complaints with regard to alleged alternation in the voters' lists, which may pave the way for rigging by the Federal Gov-

ernment and decided to take this matter up with the Election Commission of Pakistan. In case the alternations are not stopped, then the judiciary will be approached in this regard, he informed. The cabinet, he said, observed that the legislation carried out by the PTI-led Government could have paved the way for holding free, fair and transparent elections in the country had that not been abolished by the incumbent government. The cabinet, he further said, also approved the posting of Mr. Asad Ali, District & Sessions Judge as Judge, Anti-Terrorism Court, Swat as recommended by the Chief Justice, Peshawar High Court. Similarly, the cabinet approved taking the matter with regard to handing over the Pakistan Hunting and Sporting Development Company to the province and its merger in SMEIDA up with the relevant Division of the Federal Govt. It merits to mention that the arms business in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is as much old as 150 years and there are more than 300 arms manufacturing units in Peshawar and Dara Adam Khel where thousands of people are working. The transfer of the company to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will not only benefit thousands of people but also boost the industry.

**Saudi Arabia introduces visit visa for Umrah in 24 hours**

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia's Minister of Hajj and Umrah Dr. Tawfiq Al-Rabiah on Thursday announced the launching of an electronic service to apply for Umrah visa for individual from outside Saudi Arabia. "The visit visa for Umrah will be issued now within 24 hours. Applications for Umrah visas can be submitted from outside Saudi Arabia, away from Umrah campaigns," he said. Al-Rabiah said the Kingdom's Vision 2030 aims to facilitate the reception of Umrah pilgrims in larger numbers, Saudi Gazette reported. The minister said one million people will perform Hajj this year. The pilgrims include 850,000 (85 percent) foreign pilgrims and 150,000 (15 percent) domestic pilgrims. He said the ministry and other related agencies are working to ensure the health of Hajj pilgrims. "The Hajj smart card will be implemented this year," he said while noting that digital technologies would help organize this year's Hajj in the perfect manner. - APP

**SC returns PTI's plea seeking protection for march**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan Thursday returned the PTI's plea seeking protection from the law enforcement agencies (LEAs) as the Imran Khan-led party planned on holding a second long march - after the first one ended abruptly last week. The Supreme Court's registrar raised objections to the petition, noting that the top court had already issued an order on the matter, and the PTI had not moved the relevant forum. "The petitioner (PTI) has not approached any other appropriate forum available under the law for the same relief and has also not provided any justification for not doing so," the SC's registrar said while raising the objection.

**Zahir Shah becomes acting NAB chairman**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Zahir Shah becomes acting chairman of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) as the extended tenure of chairman Justice (retired) Javed Iqbal ended on June 2. Zahir Shah is currently serving as NAB's deputy chairman, and now he would assume the additional charge till the appointment of the new head of the anti-graft watchdog. The retired judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan was in office since October 8, 2017 and appointed by then prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi for a four-year term.

**French diplomats strike over plan for their 'extinction'**

PARIS: French diplomats staged a one-day strike Thursday to protest a plan by President Emmanuel Macron to strip foreign envoys of their distinct status, a move they say will weaken Paris's influence abroad. France has the third-biggest foreign service in the world after China and the United States. And it is only the second time in the foreign ministry's history that the institution, which prizes discretion and compromise, has staged an open revolt over a government project. The decree calling for the diplomatic corps' "extinction" was unveiled in April by Macron, who wants to create a single pool of elite "state administrators" capable of transferring smoothly throughout the public sector. Diplomats say removing their special status fails to acknowledge their experience and expertise in defending French interests, by making posts available to all senior civil servants and not just those specifically trained for the foreign service. "The reform says that agents are, in a way, interchangeable," Olivier Da Silva, a diplomat and union chief, told media. - APP



ANKARA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif being presented a guard of honour upon departure after concluding his visit to Turkiye. - DNA

**Azerbaijan envoy, PIA CEO mull cooperation**

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov met with Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Amir Hayat, CEO of PIA. During the meeting they had a substantial exchange on recently launched direct flights from Pakistan to Azerbaijan and its benefit for both countries in terms of further deepening of brotherly relations, esp. in trade & tourism. - DNA



**Pak-born artist wins Fukuoka's Arts and Culture Prize**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On May 26, Japan's Fukuoka Prize Committee has announced the Fukuoka Prize 2022. Shazia Sikander, Pakistan-born miniature artist, has won this Fukuoka Prize in the category of Arts and Culture for introducing innovation in the traditional art forms using latest digital technology in the world of miniature painting, which follows conventions dating back to the Mughal Empire. This Fukuoka Prize was established in 1990 by Japanese Fukuoka city and Fukuoka City International Foundation and is given to individuals, groups or organizations for their splendid work in preserving Asian culture. The prize aims to increase awareness of Asian cultures and to institute a broad framework for exchange and mutual learning among the peoples of Asia. This year marks the 32nd anniversary of the inception of the Fukuoka Prize. Over the last 31 years, prize has been presented to 118 leading figures in their respective fields. Fukuoka Prize is awarded in three categories



that include Grand Prize, Academic Prize and Arts and Culture Prize. Besides Ms. Shazia Sikander, this year's Prize laureates include Japanese Taiko Drummer Mr. Hayashi Eitetsu for Grand Prize and Historian Prof. Timon Screech from U.K for Academic Prize. In September this year, the laureates will be invited to Fukuoka, Japan officially for receiving their respective award. There were three Pakistani recipient of the Fukuoka Prize in the past. Late Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, the legendary qawwali maestro, Dr Uxi Mufti, specialist in the preservation of folk heritage and Ms. Yasmeen Lari, architect, architectural historian, heritage conservationist. Born in Lahore, Ms. Shazia Sikander earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1991 from the National College of Arts (NCA) in Lahore.

**Pakistan heading towards civil war under global conspiracy**

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid tweeted that Pakistan was heading towards a civil war under a global conspiracy. "Zardari himself has admitted in an interview that Biden (US President) is his personal friend," said Sheikh Rashid, adding that Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif were pushing people towards inflation. "Unemployment will increase; theft and robbery will be common; there will be suicides. All these things will create bad law and order situation and political fears in the country," he said. "Imran Khan had a plan to get gas, wheat and petrol from Russia at 30 per cent lower price," Sheikh Rashid claimed. "Today, India is purchasing gas and petrol at 30 per cent discount from Russia," he added. "The imperialist powers made the no-confidence motion plan against Imran Khan to spoil this project with Russia," he asserted. "They [imperialist powers] have installed their agents in power in Pakistan," he alleged. He also demanded that the Supreme Court should take suo motu notice of police's violence against procession in Islamabad on May 25. "It is very

dangerous that 'murderer' Rana Sanaulah wants centre and provinces to fight with each other," Sheikh Rashid flayed, adding that provincial chief ministers were being barred from entering the federal capital. "Only the Supreme Court can expose the forces that have plunged the country into chaos, disorder and economic crisis," he pointed out. "Who is behind the efforts for recognizing Israel? What are the goals behind that?" Sheikh Rashid questioned. "By betraying Kashmiris, trade with India is being started at the behest of whom?" Sheikh Rashid questioned further. "Who is spoiling relations with China and Iran?" he raised another question and asked: "Is there a conspiracy to make Pakistan a second Ukraine?" He said that Pakistan was an Islamic nuclear power, and therefore, its economy was being destroyed. "The pressure on our nuclear assets will increase in the days to come. Indian lobby will be behind this act," Sheikh Rashid claimed. "The current government has the support of the imperialist powers," he said. "Only media programmes are being aired in Islamabad. In actuality, the government is being run from London," he clearly hinted at Nawaz Sharif.

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